



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 4 / 05

December 2005

Gunners Day 2005



The Flag Party followed by the Associations' Members



Wreaths at the Artillery Memorial



Notice Board

Mark these dates in your calendars

Sunday 12 March 2006

AGM's at HAP

Timings will be published in the Feb Newsletter

ANZAC DAY

**Dawn Service & Gunfire Breakfast at HAP followed by
Anzac Day March**

RAAHS BUSY BEES 2006

28 th Jan	25 th Feb	25 th Mar	29 th Apr
27 th May	24 th Jun	29 th Jul	26 th Aug
30 th Sep	28 th Oct	25 th Nov	30 th 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

Gunners Day photos – Russell Square – Guildford ~ See also page 4 & 15

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Next Issue – February 2006

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 2005 Gunners Day March and Services were well supported and on the Reviewing stand were:

Brigadier Doug Collins – the Reviewing Officer
Colonel Commandant RAA Western Region – Brigadier Richard Lawler
Brigade Commander 13th Brigade – Brigadier Geoff Hand
And Your President

We appreciate all who attended including the VIP's who make this Day.

The Service and the Memorial was conducted by the Rev. G Boyle with the layering of wreaths and the Last Post. Unfortunately Rev, Boyle was due to depart by air later in the day to attend a Church Conference in Brisbane but was able to be present for the majority of the Service. The proceedings were concluded by the Rev. J. Wright – a Naval Chaplain and He gave a most interesting address on the History of Artillery. Many Thanks to You.

The Cooperation by Major Andrew Dunjey and 7th Field Battery plays a very important role on this day. Again we appreciate your support. The Cadets provided the standard and Flag bearers with others joining the Parade. To each and everyone the presentation was to be commended.

Again Bill Johnston from the Standard Bearers Association provided a high level of training for the cadets within the Flag Party Display. The Army Pipes and Drums provided the stirring music and the Bugler was very clear and professional for the Last Post.

The 'new' Parade Marshall was the Vice President Peter Rowles who ran a very smooth operation.

The support of the Committee Members, Volunteers, St. Matthew's Church, the caterers, etc, once again made this day. On behalf of the Association, your support is commended.

On behalf of all Members of the Association I extend to you A Merry and Happy Christmas and all the best for 2006.

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 2005



Battery Commander Major Andrew Dunjey leads 7 Fd Bty



The Cadet Contingent

Everywhere Where Right and Glory Lead



TAKE POST

3 Field Regiment RAA Association

President's Message:

Greetings to our last edition for this year.

Gunners Day was celebrated on Sunday 6 November was again a success.

The details will be covered later in the magazine but it would be remiss of me for not mentioning the excellent address given in the church by the guest Minister. His understanding of Gunners and things Artillery was outstanding especially considering he is the Navy Chaplain.

Next year promises to a busy one so if you into New Year promises; make one to become active in the Gunner scene.

From Marie and I best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Ubique

Peter Rowles



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**Proud to be Associated with Artillery W.A.
And
Gunners— Past—Present and Future**

THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MEDAL

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Directorate of Honours and Awards within the Department of Defence is responsible for timely and appropriate recognition of service by members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the ex-service community. This responsibility includes the policy and administration of the proposed award. The policy aim is to provide this recognition in accordance with extant and developing Government and Defence policy. The administration process includes formal assessment and the implementation of processes that enable the award to be produced and dispatched.

1.2 The Australian Defence Medal (ADM) has been instituted to recognise service in the ADF by awarding this medal to those members who have served for a total of six years service in the regular or Reserve Forces since the end of World War II. Other exemption clauses will also enable certain groups to qualify for the award without completing the 6 years service.

1.3 It is estimated up to 450,000 individuals may be entitled to the medal, such a total including currently serving ADF personnel and those to be awarded retrospectively to ex-service personnel. After the initial issue to: a. currently serving personnel; and b. the significant number of ex-serving personnel that have applied for the award of the ADM; There will be an ongoing requirement of up to approximately 2,500 per year to current serving personnel as they continue to become eligible.

2 THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MEDAL

2.1 General -The ADM must be a silver coloured cupro nickel medal 38 millimetres in diameter with a thickness of 3 millimetres. A rim, one millimetre thick surrounds the outer edge of the flan. The medal is suspended by a 32 millimetre riband passed through a sealed cupro nickel ring, 1.6 millimetres thick with an inside diameter of 12 millimetres which in turn passes through the

connector piece in the manner and fashion depicted in the attached design drawings and addressed in the Specifications. The riband is 32 millimetres wide consisting of the colours black, red and white. The ribbon specifications will be provided to the successful tenderer. The medal and connector piece shall be struck as one piece in cupro nickel. Whilst the connector piece and medal is struck as one piece, the definition of the two pieces needs to present as separate pieces, and the medal showing the Designs and forming part of the Supplies under the Contract.

2.2 Obverse – A stylised version of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. The top outer edge is inscribed with the words 'THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MEDAL'. A sprig of wattle surrounds the bottom edge of the flan. This stylised version of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms provides an historical link to the end of World War II from when the medal takes effect. The six wattle flowers represent the primary purpose of the medal to recognise six years service.

2.3 Reverse - The words 'FOR SERVICE' lie central to the flan surrounded by a wreath of wattle with the top edge of the flan ensigned with St Edward's Crown. The use of the wreath acknowledges the sacrifice of those who have died in service or been discharged due to injury resulting from service, a secondary qualification for the medal. The St Edward's Crown acknowledges the link with the Sovereign as the 'Fount of all Honour' from which awards in the Australian System of Honours and Awards flow.

2.4 Riband Bar – The black and red colour of the Flanders poppy represent the Anzac spirit of the Australian Defence Force. The white stripes divide the red into three, denoting the three Services. The white stripes also denote service in the peace of Australia.

3 MINIATURES

3.1 The Miniature of the Australian Defence Medal must be a silver coloured cupro nickel halfsized replica of the main medal. The Miniature Medal must be mounted and suspended from a 16 millimetre wide ribbon in the same fashion as the main medal. The Contractor shall source the ribbon.

DEFINITIONS

"Main Medal" means a round disc 38 millimetres in diameter and 3 millimetres in thickness measured at the rim. A rim, one millimetre thick surrounds the outer edge of the flan. The medal is suspended by a 32 millimetre riband passed through a separate sealed cupro nickel ring, 1.6 millimetres thick with an inside diameter of 12 millimetres which in turn passes through the connector piece in the manner and fashion depicted in the attached design drawings and addressed in the Specifications. The riband is 32 millimetres wide consisting of the colours black, red and white. The ribbon specifications will be provided to the successful tenderer. The medal

and connector piece shall be struck as one piece in cupro nickel. Whilst the connector piece and the medal is struck as one piece, the definition of the two pieces needs to present as separate pieces, and the medal showing the Designs and forming part of the Supplies under the Contract.

"Miniature Medal" means a round struck disc being a half- size replica of the Main Medal. The Miniature Medal is suspended from a 16 millimetre riband by a connector piece in the same fashion as the main medal, the whole being struck in one piece and made of cupro nickel and showing the Designs and forming part of the Supplies under the Contract.

"Riband Bar" consists of a strip of ribbon, 32 millimetres in width and ten millimetres in vertical width, of the relevant award attached to a metal brooch, which is pinned on the uniform.

"Medal Set" consists of one Main Medal together with one Miniature Medal, Riband Bar, and extra ribbon as described in the SOW.



Artillery from around the world



Stripped for action and comfort, members of the 105 mm battery of the 1st Battalion provide supporting artillery fire for an operation in the Rang Sat area, near Vung Tau – Vietnam -



THE AIMING POST

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

President's Report:

The Society has had an interesting year and reflects the sound groundwork laid in the past. Our 'Gun' restoration teams output is to be commended and the efforts by each and everyone set an example of dedicated achievement.

Our visitors to the Tunnels and the Volunteers Guides and management under the Vice President David Carter continues to produce results which is commendable, to all of you the Society appreciates the contribution.

The 'office' and its volunteers has a continuing challenge to keep the records, books and ever increasing DVD requirements. They are indeed fortunate to have as our special catering person Ronnie Roach whose efforts at Morning Tea are well in excess of expected. You all contribute in various areas, which keep the show on the road.



Many Thanks

We have the advantage of Curator Don Rae in his input, strong support and guidance to all areas of the Society. These represent a most important part in the Societies success.

At this time it is desired to express appreciation to the Committee Members and all who support us.

Whishing all a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year for 2006

Bruce G. Campbell
President

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Artillery from around the world



Artillery pieces from yesteryear guard the Royal Palace in Monaco



Detail of the Guns

LEIGHTON TUNNELS UPDATE

The average annual number of visitors is 1,260, and to date we have improved on this amount and will exceed it by the end of the year. The Society thanks its dedicated group of guides and cashiers for their continued efforts presenting 'the tunnels' to the public. We meet a wide range of interested groups and individuals of all ages and both sexes.

The feedback we receive continues to be highly encouraging.

In the Command Post three changes have occurred. Our tunnel audio system is operating smoothly and adds a very effective dimension to our tours. The second change has been the installation of a multi slide presentation covering the construction of Leighton Battery and its role as part of Fortress Fremantle. The final small but most eye catching addition has been the mounting of a Rising Sun replica above the names of our West Australian A.I.F enlistees from 1941.

Within the tunnels several cosmetic changes have happened. Currently work is progressing on creating a three dimensional effect on the breech of the six inch barrel model.

Moving above the tunnels, members may recall the mass of tea tree that blocked some of the view seawards. The council has now removed a large amount of it. In addition hundred of native plants in bio-degradable plastic wraps adorn the hilltop; these will soften the sites contours as they grow.

Looking towards the future, we have a plan to enhance a number of the above ground displays all of which are subject to the necessary approvals and sourcing of funds.

**David Carter
Vice President RAAHS**

RAAHS RESTORATION WORKSHOP

By Harvey Everett

The workshop now in use by the Society is a far cry from the one first established in the Radar Shack at the Leighton Battery WW2 Coast Defence Site in 1989. The site had been closed by Army in the 1960's and designated as part of an A Class Reserve when the land transferred to the State Government. The Developer of the Buckland Hill Residential Estate elected to restore the facility that had become derelict and extensively vandalised. The Society was invited to participate in the restoration and was eventually granted permissive occupancy by the State Government to operate the site as a Militaria Museum. The project was launched by the Society in 1989 to restore the Battery site to something of its WW2 condition and then open it for display to the public. At that time the facilities were sparse, a workbench (built on site) with an engineers vice, an electric welder, personally owned portable power and hand tools, the minimum of electric power, and the shack doubled up as a store for materials and expendables.



The workshop at that time was mainly engaged assisting with the restoration of the tunnel complex and buildings as well as the provision, maintenance and restoration of artefacts, displays and exhibits to a condition suitable for public viewing, however the biggest problem was vandals who habitually broke into the complex. As soon as one entrance was thought to be secure it would be forced, this would be repaired and improved only to be damaged again or the vandals would transfer their attentions to another way of gaining entry. This continued for some considerable time was very frustrating and time consuming and only after the installation of twin steel doors at the entrances (built on site), the provision of high quality padlocks protected by steel shrouds, the installation of an alarm system and other security measures was the vandalism reduced to the occasional bout of graffiti.

The workshop continued to provide ongoing improvements to the complex at the site for some time, but in 1994 an opportunity became available to move to Irwin Barracks into a large timber framed iron clad building about to be vacated.

Through the recommendation of Lt Col Jack McRoberts, who was SO1 Joint Operations Defence Centre Perth and President of the Army

Museum at the time, the building was secured for the Society with part to be occupied by the Army Museum. Assisted by 7Field Battery there followed a moving in period, the provision of facilities, setting up equipment, improvement of the electrical services etc before the return to the prime task of restoration could be contemplated.

About this time the Society Curator, Don Rae, met Mr Colin Barnett, at that time a WA Government Minister, who, on having explained to him the aims of the RAAHS, offered to provide the Society with assistance that lay within his portfolio. This was very fortuitous for at that time (1994) the WA Railway Workshop at Midland had equipment surplus to requirements, and a party of Society members were sanctioned to visit the Workshop and select items that might be of use and which could be made available. This resulted in the acquisition of a centre lathe, radial arm drill, power hacksaw, heavy-duty twin head pedestal grinder, storage cupboards, handling equipment, and an assortment of tools, all for a modest outlay.



Donation of various other equipments followed. Floor and gantry cranes plus a shaping machine were donated by the then State Energy Commission. Air compressors, hand tools and materials too numerous to itemise came from many sources. Some discarded equipment has been salvaged and returned to a useable condition by the workshop, a small sand blasting machine, and portable power tools have been bought, worn out personal tools have been replaced by the Society and the workshop is also equipped with oxy acetylene gas, and electric welding sets.

The Society workshop is now in a position to carry out very nearly any restoration work that may be offered, however there are some limitations. Major sandblasting has to be sourced commercially, and it is fortunate that the company Total Corrosion Control has generously carried out this work with minimal outlay by the Society. Some other work is carried out commercially from time to time but kept to a minimum where possible. Mention must also be made of the Society's "Landlord", 7Field Battery and staff, who within the constraints of their Military obligations have provided assistance in many ways.

The following is a sample of the restoration work carried by the workshop:

25Pdr FIELD GUNS (WW2 vintage)
Vic Park RSL *major restoration*

7FD BTY Officers' Mess x 2 *minor repairs & paint*

Desert Gun 7 FD Bty
Official Collection *major restoration*

Kirup Memorial Gun *do*
St Matthews Garrison Church x 2 *do*
Coorow Memorial Gun *do*
Rats of Tobruk Memorial Gun *do*
South Perth RSL Memorial Gun *do*
"Short" 25Pdr 7 FD BTY Official Collection *do*
RFBYC Hobbs Memorial Gun *do*
77mm FIELD GUNS (German, WW1 vintage)
York Memorial Gun *do*
Boulder Museum Display Gun *do, in hand*

170mm TRENCH MORTAR (German WW1
vintage) City of South Perth Memorial
major restoration (see completed project photos below)



2PDR ANTI TANK GUN
RAAHS Collection *do*

4.2 INCH WHEELED MORTAR
RAAHS Collection *minor repairs and paint*

3 INCH ARMSTRONG WHITWORTH
NAVAL CANNON –
Navy League x 2 *major restoration, in hand*

15PDR FIELD GUN 1898 Vintage
7 FD BTY Official Collection *major restorations, in hand*



Gun restoration is now the workshop's major task, but from time to time work is still carried out for the Leighton Battery Complex, and reciprocal cooperation with our neighbours, the Army Museum has proved beneficial to both parties. Not every restoration project has attracted a sponsor's financial assistance, however the income has been enough for the workshop to cover costs and make a contribution to the Society's finances.

To conclude, none of the above would be possible without the skill, experience, hard work and dedication of Harvey Everett and Kevin Hamilton who "parade" every Wednesday, Busy Bee Saturdays, and Friday half days and who are assisted by equally dedicated Team Members.



"The 'A' Team with Society President Bruce Campbell"

Artillery from around the world



These photos show what is left of the prefabricated harbour near Omaha Beach (D-Day Landings) in Normandy and the Anti-Aircraft Guns that once stood upon them to protect the harbour



THEY SERVED WITH DISTINCTION

By Bob Glyde

Australian and New Zealand Gunners provided Direct and General Fire Support (DS & GS) to the Units of 1 Australian Task Force (1 ATF) in South Vietnam from July 1965 until December 1971 during which period they demonstrated great skill and determination in most of the engagements during the conflict including the major battles of Long Tan and Coral/Balmoral.

The following chronological summary details the periods during which the Regiments and Batteries were deployed:

July 1965 161 (NZ) Bty arrives in DS 1 RAR

September 1965 105 Bty arrives in GS 173 (US) Bde

December 1965 161 Bty in GS 173 (US) Bde
105 Bty in DS 1 RAR

May 1966 1 FD Regt arrives
105 Bty in DS 5 RAR
103 Bty arrives in GS 1 ATF

June 1966 161 Bty in DS 6 RAR

August 1966 103 Bty to DS 5 RAR

105 Bty	to GS 1 ATF
September 1966	101 Bty replaces 105 Bty in GS 1 ATF
November 1966	161 Bty to GS 1 ATF 101 Bty to DS 6 RAR
May 1967	106 Bty replaces 103 Bty in DS 7 RAR 4 FD Regt replaces 1 FD Regt 108 Bty replaces 101 Bty in DS 2 RAR
December 1967	161 Bty to DS 3 RAR
March 1968	102 Bty replaces 106 Bty in DS 1 RAR
April 1968	12 FD Regt replaces 4 FD Regt
May 1968	104 Bty replaces 108 Bty in DS 4 RAR

December 1968	161 Bty to DS 9 RAR	March 1971	12 FD Regt replaces 4 FD Regt
February 1969	105 Bty replaces 102 Bty in DS 5 RAR	May 1971	104 Bty replaces 107 Bty in DS 4 RAR
March 1969	1 FD Regt replaces 12 FD Regt		161 Bty withdrawn from South Vietnam
May 1969	101 Bty replaces 104 Bty in DS 6 RAR	October 1971	"A" Bty returns to Australia
December 1969	161 Bty to DS 8 RAR	November 1971	12 FD Regt returns to Australia
February 1970	106 Bty replaces 105 Bty in DS 7 RAR	December 1971	104 Bty returns to Australia
March 1970	4 FD Regt replaces 1 FD Regt		The Detachment Divisional Locating Battery (Div Loc Bty) remained in South Vietnam almost to the end of the Australian commitment, its personnel being replaced each twelve months.
May 1970	107 Bty replaces 101 Bty in DS 2 RAR		Throughout the Conflict Australian Gunners and their New Zealand counterparts maintained the proud heritage that had been established during WW1. In fact, they raised the standard and set the parameters upon which current doctrine is based.
December 1970	161 Bty to GS 1 ATF		
February 1971	"A" Bty replaces 106 Bty in DS 3 RAR		

Reproduced from statistics issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Gunner History - A Message from the RAA Representative Colonel Commandant – Major General Tim Ford, AO (Retd)

The RAA Regimental Committee meeting on 26th October at the School of Artillery, Puckapunyal accepted the first report from their Historical Sub-Committee (HSC) which was formed on 19th August, 2005.

The HSC Report dealt with some amendments to its Terms of Reference (TOR), the concept of a series of projects covering the span of Gunner history, comments on the RAA network and publicity, contacts which may usefully assist, how the "product" may be presented, the need for oral histories, aspects of research, finance, the importance of RAA and unit associations in this endeavour, RAA museums and collections. Recommendations were made and a list of identified projects presented.

This report was accepted by the Regimental Committee.

The need to inform the Gunner community of this initiative was deemed to be a priority task. This, therefore, is an "initial release".

It is hoped that it will be given a wide exposure in our various Gunner newsletters and journals and throughout the Gunner family. It is appreciated that releases such as this will need to be succinct, informative, consistent and regular.

The HSC has a fairly wide spread from the point of view of artillery experience and geography: David Brook (field, proof and experimental, ARA and ARES, SA), Kevin Browning (locating and field, instructional, ARA, NSW), Arthur Burke (field, ARA and ARES, QLD), Graham Farley (field, ARES, VIC), **Don Rae (field, ARES, WA)** with John Whitelaw (field and coast, ARA and ARES, ACT) as chairman. To these will be added ex officio members from the RAA Historical Company and the National Artillery Museum (Army History Unit).

There are others who have agreed to assist with their expertise, knowledge and talents such as Keith Glyde (TAS), Alan Smith (NSW), and Don Tier (ACT) hopefully to be joined by David Spethman (QLD) and others who feel they may contribute. We hope to give more about contributors in future releases.

The important message is that the HSC has taken a broad look at the history of artillery in Australia; its nature, personnel, locations, guns, equipment, technology, records, publications, museums and collections, contributors, associations, the Gunner network, lineage, dress, customs and traditions, and other aspects.

This overview was made with the intent, as expressed in its Terms of Reference, "that the history of the Australian Artillery is fully and accurately recorded." It also took account of the aims, the guidance and the provisions of Defence Instructions (Army) No 34-1 "Management of Army History" and 34-2 "Management and Operation of Army Museums and Heritage".

The HSC concluded that the five branches in the Regiment (coast, field, air defence, anti-tank, locating) each had a technical and a personal side. Some aspects were "overarching" in the sense that they affected more than one branch. HSC took the view that the overall field should be covered by a series of manageable interlocking projects. Some duplications would be acceptable such as dealing with radar in a discrete project and with the particular application of radar in fields of coast, air defence, searchlights, locating and meteorology in other projects. Hopefully gaps would be avoided.

From this review twenty six projects have evolved and are being further defined. It is the intention of the HSC to have a team leader for each project who will contact others with a like interest to gather material and information about the designated project. Already some team leaders have been identified, the HSC hopes the interest of others will be sparked as news of this initiative spreads through the Gunner network.

A list of the Projects and contacts has been made available to the Colonels Commandant in each region, to RAA units, the RAA associations, RAA Historical Company, RAA Historical Society of WA, The National Artillery Museum (AHU), and throughout the known Gunner network. Contact and comment will be welcome.

18 November 2005

HSC Project List

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An RAA Bibliography2. Australian Gunners3. Australia's Forts and Batteries4. The national Artillery Register5. Australia's Coastal Guns6. Australia's Air Defence Guns and Missiles7. RAA Historical Publications8. RAA Unit Histories9. RAAA Lineage10. Australian Artillery Dress11. RAA Oral History12. Artillery Trophies13. RAA Electronic Records | <ol style="list-style-type: none">14. RAA Counter Bombardment15. RAA Pictorial16. Anti-tank Artillery17. Moving the Guns18. Australia's Field Artillery19. RAA Honours and awards20. RAA Communications21. RAA Ammunition22. Air Observation23. Meteorology for Artillery24. RAA Radar25. Searchlights26. RAA Traditions and Customs |
|--|--|

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Gunners Day 2005



"Old Gunners enjoying the Day"



Bill Johnston and the Flag Party

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!

**!!A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR 2006 TO ALL!!**

(And Thank You to all that contributed to this year's issues! Ed)

Everywhere Where Right and Glory Lead