

7 Field Regiment Association
Yandoo
Royal Australian Artillery

1989

Vol 1 No 3



7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION
WARRANE ROAD WILLOUGHBY 2068.

PRESIDENT MAX FALCONER'S YANDOO REPORT 1989.

Dear fellow gunners,

In this, my final term as your President, we look back at the Association's activities during the last year and approaching our next Annual General Meeting.

We have had an active year and some of the highlights were :-

In August 1988 representatives of the Association again attended an Artillery Assembly at the School of Artillery. The Assembly was well attended and many of those present stayed and enjoyed the annual Gunner Dinner in the evening.

Another successful re-union was held in October 1988 at the Legion Club at Willoughby, there was a good roll up and a number of new faces were noted in the gathering. We look forward to seeing more and more ex members of the Regiment at our Annual Re-union.

In January 1989, on a pleasant Saturday morning a presentation was made to Ken Lewis-Hughes, bestowing upon him Honorary Life Membership of the Association. Ken is the oldest surviving original member of 7 Field Brigade R.A.A. which was formed in France in 1916 during W.W.I., at least he is the oldest survivor we have so far located. If anyone knows of any others out there we would be very pleased to know of them so that contact can be made.

On Tuesday night the 14th March 1989, at Willoughby Regimental H.Q. in the presence of 10 past Commanding Officers or their representatives, and the present C.O. Lt Col Rick Main and your committee, the Association presented our Regiment with an excellent Commanding Officers Honour Board. This Board lists the Commanding Officers of the Unit in order from it's inception, with their rank at that time, and has ample space to record details of Commanding Officers for many years to come. All those present were invited to join your committee in the Officers Mess for supper afterwards and an enjoyable time was had by all.

19 members attended another great outing, in fine sunny weather, on Saturday the 15th of April 1989, as guests of 7 Fd Regt RAA at their field firing weekend at Holsworthy Range. A big thank you to Lt Col Rick Main and his Staff for a very enjoyable day.

Membership now stands at 142 with 11 Life Members, please keep on trying to locate any other past members of the Regiment and get them interested in becoming active members of our Association

Thank you all for your support during my term as your President. In accordance with our Constitution, no one can continue as President for longer than three successive years. I wish your new President and the Association well in the years to come and be assured that as Immediate Past President I will still be maintaining a very active interest in your committee and the Association's functions.

Max Falconer
President.
25th May 1989.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of The 7th Fd Regt RAA Association will be held at:-

WARRANE ROAD DEPOT WILLOUGHBY.

On the 27th of July 1989 at 7.30 p.m. in the Sergeants Mess.

All members are invited to attend this, our 3rd Annual General Meeting.

PLEASE ATTEND.

PLEASE ATTEND.

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Exercise Northern Drive was the Regimental Annual Field Training Exercise for 1988. It was conducted at Singleton during the period 15-19 October. The exercise was an ambitious attempt to combine the necessary 'normal' training with activities that provided added interest, variety, and a challenge.

Northern Drive commenced with a short period of infantry minor tactics designed to allow everyone to 'switch on' their basic soldier skills - getting familiar with carrying rifle and webbing everywhere, living in the bush and eating ration packs. Captain John Wilson was responsible for this first phase which was most successful and set the standard for the following phases.

Following this, the regiment turned to an intensive period of gunnery training in preparation for the Commander 2nd Divisional Artillery's (CDA) Assessment. This phase of the exercise included periods of fire and movement designed to exercise the gun line and technical shooting to finely tune the skills of the forward observers and their parties. The gunnery phase of AFT culminated in the CDA's Assessment. The regiment fired a total of 1356 rounds of various types during the exercise.

With the gunnery phase complete, the regiment turned to other soldier skills. A small arms practice was conducted with everyone firing the SLR, M16, pistol, and SMG. Grenades were also thrown and a large number of personnel were fortunate to fire the M60 machine gun and the soon to be introduced into service STEYR assault rifle. 26,000 rounds of small arms ammunition were fired to good effect by the regiment. By his planning and organisation of the range practices, Major Max Coaster-Garton ensured that the last phase of AFT 88 ended as the first had done - on a high note!

Annual physical training tests were conducted as was a 15km route march. As well, chemical defence instruction was undertaken with the highlight (?) being a gas chamber exercise. Not a pleasant experience but necessary in our training for war.

Amidst the training, the regiment did, however, find time to pursue some of the more social aspects of service. The old adage "work hard - play hard" was certainly adhered to. All in all the exercise was highly successful, especially given the hottest October weather for many years, demonstrating our ability as that elite group of soldiers known as Gunners.

Since last writing, there have been few changes in our Manning. Two changes which should be mentioned are the arrival of Major John Fairless as Regimental Second-in-Command and the departure, after 10 years, of Bombardier 'Kimbo' Kimberley. Kimbo has transferred to RAEME and is now posted to Adelaide.

* * * * *

DECEASED MEMBERS

We report with sincere regret the passing of two members.

Vincent CARRICK - December 1987

John BRADLEY - 29 June 1988

The President and members extend sincere condolences to their families, relatives and friends in their sad loss.

PERSONAL PROFILES.

OUR OTHER VICE PRESIDENT.

Lieutenant Owen SAVILLE. (R).

Owen Saville was born at North Sydney on the 8th of February 1916. He lived at The Spit, Mosman, until he joined the Regular Army in 1938. Owen's father had a boat shed at Pearl Bay near The Spit and then moved to The Spit about 1928, where he ran a fishing business.

Owen was educated at Mosman Public School, North Sydney Tech and Mosman and Manly Evening Continuation Schools. He left school in the Second year, as an economic necessity (The Depression) and then he fished, prawned, caught lobsters, worked in boat sheds and in fact did anything in that line that paid money and often as not paid nothing. During this period he continued his education and he remembers obtaining his Evening Continuation School Certificate.

His first job away from The Spit was with the Maritime Services Board, still on the water, which he commenced in 1935. In 1937 he left the M.S.B. and went to work for The Colonial Sugar Refining Company.

In 1938 he joined The Regular Army in 1st Field Cadre R.A.A. He had been a volunteer in the A.M.F. prior to this as a part time soldier, and his Army service is recorded as follows:-

- 1932 Joined 7th Field Brigade R.A.A. as a Cadet.
- 1934 Promoted to Bombardier.
- 1935 Promoted to Sergeant.
- 1938 Enlisted in the Regular Army posted to 1st Field Cadre R.A.A.
- 1939 Promoted to L/Bdr when 1st Fd Cadre was upgraded to "A" Fd Bty. R.A.A.
- 1939 4th September volunteered for overseas service in the A.I.F.
- 1939 17th November posted to 2/1 Fd Regt R.A.A. A.I.F. and promoted Sgt.
- 1940 10th January sailed in Troop Ship "Orford" destination unknown.
- Owen served with 2/1 Fd Regt RAA. 6 Aust Div A.I.F. during the whole of its existence, rising from Sgt to W.O.1 R.S.M., in the WW2 theatres of Palestine (Israel), Egypt, Western Desert, Greece, Ceylon, Papua-New Guinea in the Wau-Salamua and Aitape-Hewak campaigns.
- 1946 6th February, Owen returned to Sydney from the war in a poor state of health and was admitted to Concord R.G.H. in April where he remained until November of that year.
- 1947 Appointed B.S.M. of 53 Battery R.A.A.
- 1948 Qualified at the No 1 Artillery Course and was posted to 5 Fd Regt R.A.A. as an A.I.G. when that unit was raised at Marrickville as a unit of 2 Div R.A.A. (C.M.F.)
- 1949. Posted to National Service as a Platoon Cdr in 12 N.S. Battalion. Here persons called up for National Service received their initial full time training before being posted to C.M.F. units.
- 1952 Posted to R.H.C. Duntroon as an A.I.G.
- 1954 Posted to 7 Fd Regt R.A.A. as R.S.M. with odd periods as Adjutant.
- 1960 Posted to the School of Artillery at North Head.
- 1961 Was discharged and appointed Lieutenant (R).
Owen then joined the staff of T.C. Whittle P/L, Multi Storey Builders, and remained there until he retired from the work force in 1979.
- 1979 Retired and has been enjoying life since then.
- 1947 Owen says was the greatest of all his years when, on the 17th of May, he and Nell were married and their union was blessed with one son, Bill.
- 1988 Nell, a very courageous Lady, passed away after a long illness and Owen has had to rearrange his life accordingly. He says he has begun to feel a little aged.
(Owen hasn't said much about his war service which was very meretorious as there would be few who could say they started as a Sgt and ended as W.O.1 R.S.M. of their unit, nor that his appointment as an A.I.G. at various times made him a member of that elite corps once known as The Australian Instructional Corps before W.W.2.



ANNUAL REUNION - OCT 88

3. Pat Sengos, Lance Gilkinson, Herb Bradley,
Bob Hill, Ken Broadhead, Karen Birch,
Gayle Brooker, Peter Muir, Bob Corbett

4. Jack Gwilym, Don Collins, Harry Taylor





ANNUAL REUNION - OCT 88

1. Laurie Hindmarsh, Ken Lewis-Hughes (obscured),
Ken Broadhead, Karen Birch, Bob Hill,
Chris Bowen, David Moysey
2. Mark Bagster, John Andrew, David Buzacott,
Jim Nash, Graeme Kilkelly, Gerry Hammond





PRESENTATION OF HON.LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO KEN LEWIS-HUGHES

Max Falconer, Laurie Hindmarsh, KenLLewis-Hughes
and WO2 John Balfour

LIVE FIRING EXERCISE - HOLSWORTHY - 15 April 89

Ray Bateman, Dick Lord, John Hungerford, Bob
Richardson, Alec Burke, and Fred Bastock all
watching the fall of shot from the OP.





PRESENTATION - COMMANDING OFFICERS HONOUR BOARD

COL S.G.LANE, LT COL A.R.MAIN, MAJ O.N.ROSEVEAR,
COL J.P.KEEFE, LT COL G.S.STAZIKER, LT COL N.
HAWKINS, COL C.B.J.HOGAN, BRIG A.G.HANSON

Below - Lt Col Main, Col Lane, Brig McAlister
and Max Falconer at the presentation



* 7TH FIELD REGIMENT RAA

* KEY POSTINGS - 1989

7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION

1988/89 COMMITTEE

President M.L.Falconer MBE
 Vice-Presidents Lt Col G.S.Staziker RFD ED
 O.R.Saville
 Secretary WO2 J.G.Balfour
 Treasurer K.E.Flanagan
 Publicity L.P.Hindmarsh ED
 Committee F.J.Bastock
 Sgt K.S.Birch
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 Capt R.M.Corbett
 D.W.Collins
 Col J.L.Crowe ED
 S.A.Fulcher
 J.A.Nash
 R.C.M.Toplis
 Patron Brig F.G.McAlister CBE ED
 Legal Adviser J.A.Nelson
 Hon Auditor W.J.Neill

CO LT COL A.R.MAIN *
 2IC MAJ J.A.L.FAIRLESS *
 ADJT CAPT K.S.DELANEY *
 RSM WO1 B.E.JOHNSTON *
 QM WO1 K.E.WILLIAMS *
 BC HQ MAJ P.R.WIDELEWSKI *
 BSM HQ WO2 S.W.NOAKES *
 REC OFFR WO2 J.G.BALFOUR *
 OC TST CAPT M.A.SCULLY *
 ASM WO2 W.W.HAUSMAN *
 BC 28 MAJ M.J.COASTER-GARTON *
 BK 28 CAPT S.CONDON *
 BSM 28 WO2 P.D.MUIR *
 SMIG WO2 R.J.DEANE *
 BC 113 CAPT G.K.MILIC *
 BK 113 CAPT J.A.HARLAND *
 BSM 113 WO2 R.V.COLGAN-GORE *
 SMIG WO2 A.G.ABEL *
 * ARA *

"THIS IS YOUR NEW CITIZEN ARMY" - 1948

Daily Pay & Allowances

Private (Minor)	: 8/6	Sergeant	18/-
" (Adult Recruit)	10/-	Staff Sergeant	19/6
" (3 star)	15/-	" "(2 years)	21/-
Lance Corporal	16/-	Warrant Officer 2	21/-
Corporal	17/-	" "(2 years)	21/6

A SHORT HISTORY OF ARTILLERY - PERIOD 20TH CENTURY.

The 20th century again produced rapid changes , making possible the modern guns that are now available.

Such things as:-

- Motor transport
- Signal communications
- Mass production
- New Tactics

improved artillery.

The guns used in both world wars were similar , but improved carriages, sights , operating equipment and target locating devices increased their efficiency.

For example the French "75" in World War 1, had a range of about 7,500 yards and its mount was designed for very little elevation and for towing by horses at about 6 mph. The same basic gun in World War 2 had a range of over 13,000 yards and a split-trail mount capable of 40 degrees of elevation; with its rubber tyred wheels , it could be towed by motor truck at speeds up to 50 miles per hour.

In 1914 the Germans used heavy Howitzers to advantage especially "Big Berthas" that could fire a 1,570 lb shell six miles from a 16.5 inch barrel. The record for long range artillery was established in 1918 by the "Big Bertha" guns that bombarded Paris with 265 lb shells at a range of 76 miles.

Light aircraft were adopted in 1942 by the United States as aerial observation posts and to direct artillery fire.

Enemy aircraft were responsible for the extensive employment of anti-aircraft artillery and dramatic results were achieved during the air defence of the British Isles.

During World War 2 improved anti-tank weapons were introduced with velocities up to 5,000 ft/sec , in some specially built small bore guns.

In mounting guns up to 90 mm on tanks, the muzzle brake, a new recoil feature, was added, principally in German and Russian weapons. The muzzle brake was made in several shapes and sizes and it was basically an attachment to the muzzle of a gun barrel that pocketed some of the gas from the discharge so that its forward thrust on the brake would reduce the recoil of the gun.

To be continued in the next News Letter.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY PROJECT.

Good progress has been made since our last report and there is now a very detailed draft narrative of the 1916/1917 period approaching 50,000 words. The Committee gratefully acknowledges the assistance received from the following sources since the last issue of "YANDOO" :-

Ms G. Berning, Director , Local History Museum , Durban.
Major D.M. Carment R.L.
Lieut. Col. C.S. Harle R.L. J.P.
Mrs M. Keogh.
Mr L.C. Pinnington.
Captain E. Pye R.L.
Major O.N. Rosevear. E.D. R.L.

An error appeared in the previous list of acknowledgements, for which the writer is pleased to apologise and to correct. "Lieut.Col. Begg" should have read "Lieut. Col. W.K. Beck".

The requirement for information and memorabilia is a continuing one. If you want your name to be handed down to posterity in the historical records of the Association, act now and contact Laurie Hindmarsh, 5 McRae Place, Turramurra, 2074, or phone (02) 449 1169 (A.N.).

ENLISTING IN 1948.

In October 1948 I decided to join 7 Field Regiment R.A.A. thereby reversing a previous irrevocable decision never to have anything to do with the Australian Army again! I went up to Willoughby by tram on the traditional Tuesday night and after walking all over the Municipality, I eventually located the drill hall in Warrane Road.

As I walked up the ramp into the drill hall I met Lou Muxtable, immaculate in the dress of a Warrant Officer II. Recognition was mutual as I had been meeting Lou in the commercial world throughout the preceeding year. The initial greeting was mutual too; "What the.....are you doing here?" It was obvious what Lou was doing but not quite so obvious what I was doing. Lou directed me to the orderly room (still the orderly room), where Staff Sergeant Norm King quickly produced the familiar forms and arranged for jeep transport to the local medical officer for my medical examination.

Who remembers Norm King and is he still with us?

Having sailed through the most elementary of medical examinations with flying colours, Staff Sergeant King introduced me to the Adjutant, Captain J.W.Turpie, in his office. I had previously held the substantive rank of Sergeant in another corps and therefore Captain Turpie offered me immediate advancement to Bombardier on enlistment. I pointed out that my knowledge of artillery was confined to a six weeks' course on the 2 pounder Q.F. anti-tank gun in 1944 which was then an infantry weapon and that I felt that the best thing to do would be to start as a gunner. Captain Turpie put forward many reasons why I should start as a Bombardier and only those who knew Jim Turpie would know how persuasive that silver tongue could be. I continued to hold out and finally Jim said; "You are doing the right thing Mr Hindmarsh". It was the last time that I was addressed as "Mr Hindmarsh" in that environment for two and a half years. Captain Turpie then administered the oath of allegiance and I was in again! I must say in passing that it was the third time within six years that I had taken the oath so surely there can be no doubt as to my loyalty.

All that remained then was to be issued with a parade card and to be kitted out. The regimental quartermaster, Captain Clarrie Richards (a former R.S.M.) and the R.Q.M.S., Warrant Officer 1, Bert Stevens, kitted me out. Kit consisted of:-

Kit Bag.

Hat, puggaree and chin strap.

Service dress, later pattern (a good fit).

Khaki drill trousers, two pairs (one not a good fit).

Khaki drill shirts, two.

Brown boots, two pairs.

Socks, three pairs.

Tie.

Webbing belt and anklets.

Hat badge and "collar dogs" (I continued to wear the badges from my previous service for old time's sake).

So began a relationship with 7 Field Regiment that has endured, off and on, for more than forty years and as I write I am proud to recollect that my family has now been associated with the Australian Volunteer Forces for over one hundred years.

My overwhelming impression of that first night at Willoughby was that there were so few people about. I was the only enlistment that night. Coming from a previous military environment where no movement seemed to take place unless there were about five hundred bodies involved, this was rather a shock to the system. Lack of numbers was a problem that continued to bedevil 7 Field Regiment for the remainder of my service with it and I suspect continues to this day. Is there anything that the members of this Association can do to help recruiting???

Laurie Hindmarsh

7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION
MEMBERS AS AT 1 JULY 1989

AGNEW	Charles	FLIPPENCE	Addie	MOORE	Denis
ANDREW	John	FULCHER	Sharon	MORGAN	Robert
ANGUS	John	FRAZER	Ian	MORISON	Jim
ARLINGTON	Michael	GATES	Graham	MOYSEY	David
BALDWIN	Murray	GIFFNEY	Desmond	MOYSEY	Robert
BALFOUR	John	GILKINSON	Lance	MUIR	Lawrence
BASTOCK	Fred	GILL	Greg	MUIR	Peter
BATEMAN	Ray	GWILYM	Jack	MCALISTER	Fred
BAYLES	Robert	HAMER	Colin	MCLEAN	Russ
BAYNIE	John	HAMMOND	Arthur	MCVAY	Donald
BIBBY	Vic	HAMMOND	Gerald	NASH	James
BIRCH	Karen	HANSFORD	Jes	NEALE	Geoffrey
BOWEN	Chris	HANSON	Arthur	NEILL	William
BRADLEY	Herb	HARGREAVES	Thomas	NELSON	John
BRADLEY	Leo	HARLE	Charles	NOAKES	Steven
BREWER	Charles	HARRISON	Allan	OVERTON	John
BRINCAT	Alex	HAWKE	Phillip	OWENS	Robert
BROADHEAD	Ken	HAWKINS	Neil	OWENS	Robyn
BROOKER	Gayle	HECKENBERG	Brian	POSENER	John
BRYANT	Kevin	HENRY	Robert (Mac)	PRIMROSE	Brian
BURNETT	Jerry	HILL	Robert	PRYOR	Alan
BURKE	Alec	HINDMARSH	Laurie	RICHARDSON	Robert
BUZACOTT	David	HOEY	Ian	ROGAN	Robert
CARMENT	David	HOGAN	Christopher	RUSSELL	Robert
CARRODUS	Michael	HOPKINSON	Fred	RUSSEL	Ross
CHAD	Allan	HOWARTH	Sue	SAVILLE	Owen
CHRISTIE	Carl	HUNGERFORD	Bruce	SCOTT	Ian
CLIFTON	Alfred	HUNGERFORD	John	SENGOS	Patrick
COLE	Mick	IRELAND	John	SHORTUS	Dennis
COLLINS	Don	JACKSON	Neville	SMITH	Roger
COOTE	Glen	JAMES	Ken	STARK	Glyn
CORBETT	Robert	JOHNSTON	Warwick	STARKE	Bill jnr
COTTLE	Victor	JONES	Michael	STAZIKER	Stuart
CROUCH	Robert	KEEFE	John	STEDMAN	James
CROWE	John	KENTWELL	Wilfred	STONE	Peter
CUNNEEN	Stephen	KIELY	Douglas	SULLIVAN	Kevin
DAVIDSON	Ross	KILKELLY	Graeme	THOMPSON	Reg
DICK	Anthony	KOINA	Jeffre	TOBIN	Phillip
DOUGHERTY	Robert	LANE	Bill	TOPLIS	Danny
EAGLETON	Harold	LAURENCE	Michael	TRANTER	Peter
ELDERTON	Frederick	LEEK	Keith	TURNER	Robert
EDWARDS	Hugh	LEWIS-HUGHES	Ken	TAYLOR	Harry
EWAN	David	LORD	Dick	WATKINS	Kenneth
FAIRLESS	John	MEGGATT	Thomas	WHITE	Peter
FALCONER	Max	MENDL	Peter	WHITFIELD	Timothy
FITZPATRICK	Roy	MILIC	Karl	WILKINS	Reginald
FLANAGAN	Kevin	MILLAR	Anthony	WILLIS	Kenneth
		MOONEY	Ronald		