

7 Field Regiment Association

Yandoo

Royal Australian Artillery

1992

Vol 1 No 6



7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION
WARRANE ROAD WILLOUGHBY 2068

Dear fellow gunners,

It is with great pleasure that I submit to you my report for the conclusion of another very busy and successful year.

I would like to thank your committee for their loyalty and for the enthusiastic manner in which they have carried out their duties. I especially wish to thank our Secretary WO2 John Balfour for his great support and assistance, to Barney Flanagan for his assistance and to Laurie Hindmarsh (our collector of things!) what can I say?, other than a big thank you and keep up the good work.

On Sunday 28th July 91 members and their families enjoyed a day at the Holsworthy range during the Regiments' direct shooting competition. We had a good roll up and saw some good shooting.

On Friday 2nd August 91 myself, Owen Saville, Barney Flanagan and Keith Leek represented the association at a Dungeon luncheon at the Willoughby depot.

On Saturday 10th August 91 representatives of the association again attended an Artillery Assembly at the School of Artillery. The assembly was well attended and many attendees stayed to enjoy the Gunner dinner.

Another successful reunion was held on Friday 27th September 91 at the Willoughby Legion Club with a good roll up, (5 guests, 46 members) with some new faces attending. Our questionnaire confirmed this function is to your liking.

On Saturday 16th November 91 my wife and I were guests at Lodge Ubique, Willoughby where our member Laurie Hindmarsh gave the Remembrance address and unveiled a fully restored "Cohorn Mortar". We are now exchanging information with the lodge.

On Sunday 1st December 91 members attended the RAA Associations' annual church service at the Garrison Church.

On Australia Day 26th January 92 association member WO2 Peter Muir was awarded the OAM for services rendered. Congratulations Peter.

On Tuesday night 18th February 92 at the Willoughby depot we presented to L/Bdr Anthony Gaspardis of HQ Battery our second award for "The most proficient soldier" for the year ended 31/12/1991.

On Friday night 21st February 92, 24 people from the association attended the Commanding Officers function, to receive the thanks of LtCol Fairless for the support given to the Regiment in 1991.

On Sunday 15th March 92, 22 people from the association, members of the Regiment and other guests attended the associations' first annual church service at St John's Anglican Church, Willoughby. Our oldest member Ken Lewis-Hughes who turned 96 on the day was also in attendance. An enjoyable morning was had by all and my thanks to Mrs Balfour and Mrs Falconer for their assistance with preparing the morning tea.

My wife and I, together with committee members Barney Flanagan and wife Joyce, Keith Leek, Alec Burke, Danny Toplis and Owen Saville represented the association on Sunday the 7th June 92, when our Regiment and especially 113 Field Battery was granted Freedom of Entry to the City of Newcastle.

This day was another unforgettable one, the organisation superb, the weather fine and cool, the council staff outstanding and the ceremonial skills of the Regiment were on full display for all to see.

The 6th August 92 is the 25th anniversary of the award of the MC to our ex unit member N.J. (Nobby) Clarke and Nobby was invited to be guest of honour at the next reunion but due to work commitments he is unable to attend.

Your Association has donated \$100.00 to the RAA Association (NSW) to assist with its programme of supporting the serving gunners.

Congratulations were passed on to Mr Tom Hyslop, President of the Willoughby Legion Club for his receipt of the "Premier of New South Wales Community Service Award".

Membership now stands at 193 with 26 life members, and 1 Hon. life member, please keep trying to locate other interested gunners.

In conclusion, I thank you again and offer the continuance of my support.

Max Falconer President.

YANDOO - 7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY J.BALFOUR

FROM THE DESK OF LTCOL J.A.L. FAIRLESS
CO 7 FD REGT

I offer my congratulations to all Gunners past and present on the occasion of the Corp birthday on 1 Aug 92.

1992 started with a rush and has continued ever since. It is hard to believe we are in August with less than two months to AFX. During the first part of the year several live fire exercises have been conducted at both Holsworthy and Singleton ranges. These have varied between Battery and Regimental level.

Also during this period the Regiment celebrated its 76th Anniversary with a Church Service at the Willoughby Church of England Church. The service was followed by tea and coffee back at RHQ. Thankyou to all the association members who worked so hard in the preparation of the morning tea. A new L119 Hamel Gun was on display for the Association members to peruse. A side note to this story is that Reverend Jason Page who conducted the service was so impressed he has enlisted in the Reserve and has officially been posted to the Regiment.

The Regiment once more had a large bill for the commitment to ANZAC Day services. A total of nine catafalque parties and numerous other support tasks were conducted in 11 different locations. Unfortunately the level of support was such that it stretched our resources beyond a reasonable limit. A review is being conduct to establish a priority of effort for our support next year. This lowering of support will be beneficial as I intend to conduct a Regimental Dawn Service in 1993. The venue will probably be 28 Field Battery depot at Dee Why.

Another highlight was the trip by Hercules transport aircraft to Puckapunyal in early May to view the El Alamien fire power demonstration. A party of 13 personnel mainly Officers and SNCO witnessed an awesome display of the ADF's weapon systems.

By far the biggest activity the Regiment has undertaken this year is the Freedom of the City of Newcastle. All personnel especially the Adjutant and RSM in preparing for the parade are to be congratulated. I considered it a great honour to be the Commanding Officer of the Regiment especially during the drive past of the City Hall. The Mayor and Town Clerk were extremely impressed.

A review of the parade card indicates that the remainder of the year is set to be just as busy. The August and September weekends are to be used for the conversion courses to the Hamel Gun. At this stage it is hoped that at least six new guns will be issued by the end of August. (only time will tell as the Q system is fickle). This aside however, the Regiment will deploy to AFX with Hamel. If need be, with borrowed guns from 23 Field Regiment. The camp promises to be enjoyable with the emphasis in the first week on individual soldier skills followed by a Regimental Exercise to familiarise the soldiers with the new Gun.

In closing I would like to wish all the Association members my best for the remainder of the year and thankyou for your continued support, it is truly appreciated.

LIEUTENANT NEVILLE JOHN CLARK MC

1992 is the 25th anniversary of the action by which Lt N.J.(Nobby) Clark (formerly of 7th Field Regiment) was awarded the Military Cross.

Lt Clark joined the CMF (Sydney University Regiment) in October 1958 and served in 7th Field Regiment (Q Battery) from February 1961 to March 1966 where he was promoted Bombardier (Nov 62), Sergeant (Feb 63) and Lieutenant (Feb 64).

In March 1966 he volunteered for full time duty and joined 4th Field Regiment RAA for service in South Vietnam.

The following is an extract from the Citation for the Military Cross;

"On 6th August 1967, during Operation Ballarat, Lieutenant Clark was supporting A Company, 7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment. At about 1100 hours, the Company contacted an enemy force and immediately came under heavy and accurate fire, sustaining several casualties almost at once. Lieutenant Clark, although under fire himself, quickly brought rapid and accurate artillery fire onto the enemy positions. At this stage the enemy continued to press closely on A Company who sustained further casualties.

Lieutenant Clark calmly, methodically and with complete disregard for his own safety, and in the full knowledge of the danger to himself, adjusted the fire of his battery to within 50 metres of his own position. The enemy was forced to break contact and further casualties were prevented.

Lieutenant Clark's bravery, his calmness in action and his professional skill were of the highest order, reflecting great credit upon himself, his Regiment and the Australian Army."

Lt Clark is now the Headmaster of Mentone Grammar School in Victoria and although he will not be able to join us at the Annual Reunion in September as originally planned, we are hopeful that we will be able to meet him and exchange stories in the not too distant future.

Editor

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIGHTING OF WORLD WAR ONE

(Continued from last issue)

1915

Jan	8	Germans make slight gains against Allied lines at Soissons.
Jan	31	Germans renew attack on Warsaw.
Feb	12	Germans invade Russia.
Feb	19	Allied naval squadrons bombard Dardenelles; are repulsed.
Feb	26	Heavy fighting at Champagne; the battle is a stand off.
Mar	20	Zeppelin raids on Paris.
Apr	22	Second Battle of Ypres; Germans introduce poisonous gas.
Apr	25	British and ANZAC troops land at Gallipoli.
May	1	Turks attack British beach-heads at Gallipoli.
May	7	Lusitania sunk by German U boat.
May	9	to
Jun	18	Second Battle of Champagne; no gain for either side.
May	23	Australians attack Italian forces.
May	25	Winston Churchill resigns as First Lord of British Admiralty.
May	26-31	Zeppelin raids on London.
Jun	21	to
Jul	1	Heavy fighting at Gallipoli.
Jul	1	Heavy fighting in Argonne sector.
Jul	15	Conquest of German South Africa completed.
Aug	5	Germans take Warsaw.
Aug	12	to
Sep	8	Severe Zeppelin raids on London.
Sep	23	Big Allied offensive opens on Western Front.
Oct	2	Worst Zeppelin raids to date on London.
Oct	13	English nurse Edith Cavell shot as a spy by Germans.
Dec	7	Siege of Kut-al-Imara by Turks.
Dec	8	British begin retreat from Gallipoli

1916

Continued next issue.

(MLF 10/8/92)

CASUALTY

The following article appeared in Jim MacDougall's column in "The Sun" of Wednesday 18 March 1953 after the Annual Field Exercise.

"The CMF in camp at Singleton last week was a typical 1953 Army, geared to all the latest horrors of War.

There was one casualty which stressed the hazards of Military training. A fellow was holding a biscuit out as a target for a bow and arrow shot.

The archer missed the biscuit and all but whipped the finger off"

The Victim would like to know who the archer was. Can anybody help ?

The Scroll



The City of Newcastle

On the Seventh day of June 1992
we extend to the
Commanding Officer and Men of the
7th Field Regiment
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

IN PRESENCE OF

Whereas many of our Citizens have served with pride in your Distinguished Regiment which by its achievements in times of peace and war, has built up honourable traditions the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Newcastle meeting in Council on the Twenty-sixth day of February 1991 HAVE RESOLVED in appreciation of your great services to Our Sovereign, Our Country and Our City to confer upon the Regiment by this Deed and in perpetuity the privilege, honour and distinction of

The Freedom of the City

with the right of entry on Ceremonial Occasions in full parol with guns in train, swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and The Banner flying and that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to such Deed.



IN WITNESS

whereof the Common Seal of the Council was hereto affixed on the Seventh day of June 1992 in the presence of

J. W. Mayhew
Lord Mayor

J. A. P.
Town Clerk



The Scroll granting
Freedom of Entry to the
City of Newcastle
to 7th Field Regiment,
Royal Regiment
of Australian Artillery

**THE REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL PROJECT
AND COLLECTION OF REGIMENTAL ARTEFACTS**

Very little progress has been made with the Historical Project since the last issue of Yandoo. I make no apology for this; the reasons are easily explained. One is my continuing involvement in the work force and the other is my involvement with the RAA Association (NSW). This is not to say that the project has lapsed, far from it; research continued in one particular direction during the year and data continues to flow in.

The collection now consists of many valuable and irreplaceable items. Following my strong recommendation to the Committee it was agreed that the collection be offered as a Regimental Collection to the National Artillery Museum. I am pleased to say that the offer has been accepted in principle. Needless we are still collecting data and look forward to your further assistance.

The following contributions to the project and to the collection are gratefully acknowledged;

- Maj R.M. Corbett - A collection of publications which are collectors items plus various papers.
- Mrs F. Cullen-Ward - Extracts from the papers of her Grandfather, the late Brig J.C. Selmes DSO, VD
- Mrs P. Grant - The papers of her father the late Capt G.E. Mason relating to his service in the 7th, 1924-1940
- LtCol C.R. Lord ED - A memoir of his first experience at the OP.
- Mr R.C.M. Toplis - Various historical papers

Laurie Hindmarsh

DECEASED MEMBERS

Michael Sven Arlington RFD - 26 June 1992 - aged 48

Michael was appointed a Lieutenant in the RAAMC (UNSWR) on 1 Jan 1965 and later served for nine years in the ARA before transferring to the ARES. He served with 1 Field Ambulance and was RMO of 7 Field Regiment from Nov 1976 to May 1979 before serving in various other medical appointments. At the time of his death he was a Lieutenant Colonel, in the position of SO1 (Health) Medical HQ 2MD.

To his loved ones and relatives, the members of the Association extend their heart felt sympathy.



ANNUAL REUNION
Sept 1991
(Clockwise from
top left)

Dick Lord,
Harry Taylor,
Jack Gwilym,
Karen Aiston,
Grahame Smith,
Bill Bailey,
Brig Fred McAlister
Col Bob McEvoy,
Gen Rodney Fay,
Dene Nelson,
Fred Bastock





Presentation of
Soldier of the Year Award
to LBdr Anthony Gaspardis
HQ Bty - Feb 1992



Ken Lewis-Hughes on his
96th Birthday at the
Regimental Church Service
15 March 1992

Gunner Dinner - 8 August 92

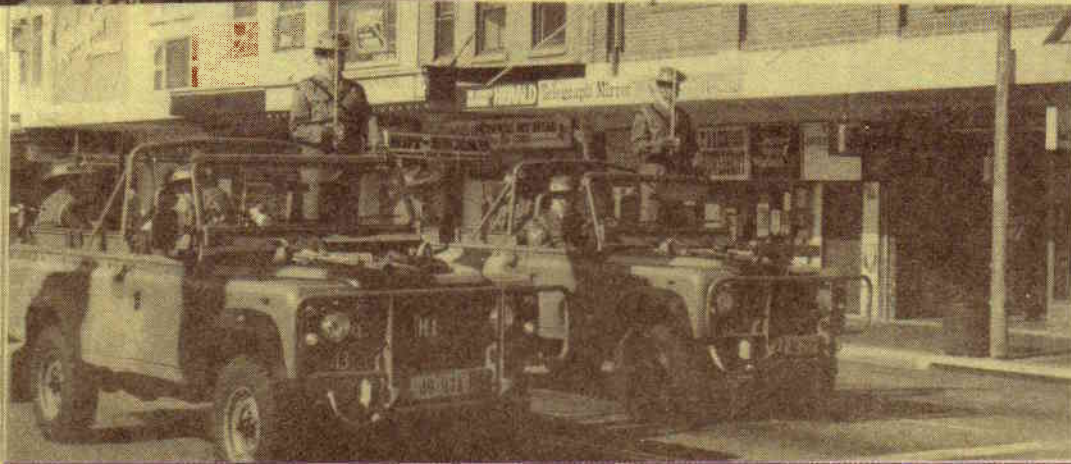
Keith Leek, Ian Haylen,
Max Falconer, Danny Toplis,
Harry Taylor





FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE
7 June 1992





PASSCHENDAELE. OCTOBER 1917

In the course of our Military careers we have all experienced periods when we have thought that the going was tough and that we were being hard done by. The documents on the following pages from the War Diary of the 7th Field Artillery Brigade will cause us to think again.

The documents were written during the fourth stage of the third Battle of Ypres. I have no hesitation in saying that Passchendaele was the greatest trial experienced by the 7th in the 76 years of its history.

The reference to a group in the documents is to a very practical and flexible method of controlling the large concentrations of Artillery employed at that time. Field Brigades were grouped usually in pairs for specific operations. The Senior CO commanded the Group and was under the command of the CRA, directing the Artillery Battle on the Division's front.

Readers who would like to know more about the Third Battle of Ypres are referred to "The Official History of Australia in the Great War, the AIF in France" by C.E.W.Bean, "ANZAC to Amiens" by C.E.W.Bean and "In Flanders Fields" by Leon Wolff.

Laurie Hindmarsh

4
No. 2 Group Artillery
Headquarters,
15th October 1917

To
Officer Commanding,
No. 2 Group Artillery.

In consequence of the number of men at the Gun positions parading sick, I feel myself justified in drawing your attention to the physical condition of the men of this Group.

You must know that these Gunners have been subjected to a test extending over more than five months calculated to break down the strongest physique; they have been engaged in major and minor operations under heavy shell-fire and with many casualties, since 1st May 1917 and have had no rest whatever. Added to this, since 20th September they have been living under most adverse conditions in water-soaked bivouacs, in shell-holes, exposed to intermittent rains with no possibility of change to dry clothing; and at the same time enduring heavy shell-fire.

As a result, I can definitely state that the majority of the men are approaching a point at which they will no longer be efficient. Men personally known to me have lost weight, reinforcements new to me are rapidly becoming unfit. The figures of Sick wastage (331 in one Brigade alone) are no true guide; for at least 30% of the men at the Guns would be evacuated but for their determination to hold on. Over 50% of the men have colds; some are running slight temperatures; many have sore feet due to constant immersion in mud; diarrhoea is prevalent; cooking conditions are necessarily of the worst, three cook-houses have already been blown to pieces.

I submit that the mere fact of living for three weeks under these conditions would make a fit man sick; add to this continual physical toil of a severe nature, and constant loss of sleep, coupled with the nerve shock from concussion of heavy howitzer shells and it will become apparent that these men are being driven beyond endurance and should be withdrawn at a very early date in lack of fighting efficiency due to overtired bodies and overstrained nerves is to be avoided.

~~W. J. ...~~
B.M. SAMSON

Captain,))

A.O. No. 2 Group Artillery.

1/7/286.

No. 2 Group Artillery,
15th October 1917.

To

G. R. A.,
3rd Australian Division.

In forwarding the attached Report of the Medical Officer of this Group, I wish to add that, in my opinion, if the Group remains in the line for any considerable length of time, it will, from pure exhaustion, materially lose its fighting efficiency.

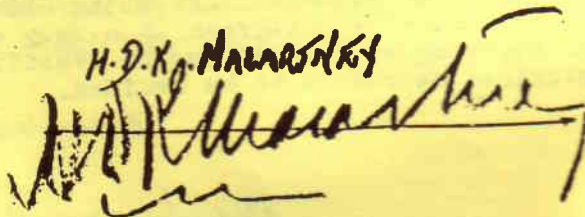
The troops, on the whole, are in a very low condition of health; a great many have influenza and severe colds, and it is only the hardiest of them who are still, by sheer determination, sticking to their work.

In the 25th Battery there are now only 2 Sergeants who are fit for duty, no Corporals at all, and 3 Bombardiers. The telephonists number 5 and the qualified Gun-layers 3, the remainder having been evacuated sick or wounded, or killed in action. The Officer Commanding this Battery states that the Battery, as a whole, is in a very bad state of health.

When the 26th Battery arrived in this area, there were approximately 25 telephonists on the strength. Of this number only 2 now remain, the work having to be carried on with men almost totally untrained and inexperienced. The Battery only has 5 qualified layers, their places having to be taken, during long periods of firing, by Gunners who have never had an opportunity of properly trained. On one occasion, in order to keep the Guns in action and give relief to Layers, two Officers had to take their place at the Guns.

The figures given with regard to the 25th and 26th Batteries give some indication of the shortage in Specialists throughout the Brigade and of the low condition of the personnel physically.

Batteries of the 8th F.A. Brigade are alike deficient in N.C.Os. and specialists, and the health generally is very poor indeed.

H. D. K. MALINSKY


Lieut-Colonel,
Commanding No. 2 Group Artillery.

Note- the 7th was relieved on 22 Oct 1917

7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION 7th Field Regiment RAA
1992/93 COMMITTEE Key Postings - 1992

President	M.L.Falconer MBE	CO	LtCol J.A.L.Fairless RFD
Vice- Presidents	K.E.Flanagan	2IC	Maj R.M.Corbett RFD
	Maj R.M.Corbett RFD	Adjt	Capt G.G.Potter *
Secretary	WO2 J.G.Balfour	RSM	WO1 K.F.Schoene OAM*
Treasurer	P.J.Truelove	QM	WO2 D.F.Griffin *
Publicity	L.P.Hindmarsh ED	BCHQ	Maj M.Dutton *
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	A.R.Burke	Rec Offr	WO2 J.G.Balfour
	T.J.Gwilym	OCTST	Capt M.J.Brisbane
	I.A.Haylen	ASM	WO2 W.W.Hausman
	H.J.Hungerford ED	BC 28	Maj J.V.Wilson
	K.C.Leek	BK 28	Lt F.A.Ientile
	D.B.McVay	BSM 28	WO2 S.W.Noakes
	O.R.Saville	BG 28	SSGT D.R.Leek
	R.C.M.Toplis	SMIG	WO2 P.A.Matthysen
Patron	Brig A.G.Hanson	BC 113	Maj G.K.Milic
	DSO,ED		
Legal Advisor	J.A.Nelson	BK 113	Capt C.Walder
Hon Auditor	W.J.Neill	BSM 113	WO2 A.L.Ward *
		BG 113	Vacant
		SMIG	WO2 A.L.Ward *

*** ARA**

ANNUAL REUNION

Friday 18 September 1992 - Willoughby Legion Club

BE THERE***BE THERE*****BE THERE*****BE THERE*******

AGNEW	Charles	GILKINSON	Lance	MOORE	Dennis
AISTON	Karen	GILL	Greg	MORGAN	Robert
ANDREW	John	GLADEN	Noel	MORISON	Jim
ANGUS	John	GODFREY	Anthony	MOYSEY	David
BAGSTER	Mark	GRESLEY	Wal	MOYSEY	Robert
BAILEY	Norman	GRIFFITHS	David	MUIR	Gayle
BALDWIN	Murray	GWILYM	Jack	MUIR	Lawrence
BALFOUR	John	HALL	Barry	MUIR	Peter
BANHAM	Mike	HAMER	Colin	McALISTER	Fred
BASTOCK	Fred	HAMMOND	Arthur	McDONALD	Ken
BATEMAN	Ray	HANSFORD	Jes	McDONOUGH	Paul
BAYNIE	John	HANSON	Arthur	McLEAN	Russ
BENNETT	Lloyd	HARGREAVES	Thomas	McVAY	Donald
BIBBY	Vic	HARLE	Charles	NASH	James
BIRCH	David	HARRISON	Allan	NEALE	Geoffrey
BOWEN	Chris	HARROWER	David	NEILL	William
BRADLEY	Herb	HAWKE	Phillip	NELSON	Dene
BRADLEY	Leo	HAWKINS	Neil	NELSON	John
BREWER	Charles	HAYLEN	Ian	NICHOLAS	Philip
BRINCAT	Alex	HECKENBERG	Brian	NICHOLLS	Eric
BROADHEAD	Ken	HICKS	Ian	NOAKES	Steven
BROWN	Ed	HILL	Robert	OVERTON	John
BRYANT	Kevin	HINDMARSH	Laurie	OWENS	Robert
BURNETT	Jerry	HOEY	Ian	OWENS	Robyn
BURKE	Alec	HOGAN	Christopher	PINNINGTON	Laidley
BUZACOTT	David	HOGGE	Richard	POSENER	John
CARLSSON	Jim	HOPKINSON	Fred	POWER	Phil
CARMENT	David	HORTON	James	PRIMROSE	Brian
CARRODUS	Michael	HOWARTH	Sue	PRYOR	Alan
CARSTENS	John	HUNGERFORD	Bruce	RICHARDSON	Robert
CARROLL	Gordon	HUNGERFORD	John	ROGAN	Robert
CASHMORE	John	IRELAND	John	ROSEVEAR	Oswald
CHAD	Allan	JACKSON	Neville	RUSSELL	Robert
CHRISTIE	Carl	JAMES	Ian	RUSSELL	Ross
CLIFTON	Alfred	JAMES	Ken	SABER	Stanley
COLE	Mick	JEFFRESON	Alan	SAFTICH	Rolf
COLLINS	Don	JEFFRESON	Edward	SAINSBURY	Maurie
COOTE	Glen	JEFFRESON	Norman	SAVILLE	Owen
COPPARD	Doug	JOHNSTON	Warwick	SCOTT	Ian
CORBETT	Robert	JONES	Michael	SENGOS	Patrick
COTTLE	Victor	KEEFE	John	SMITH	Colin
CROUCH	Robert	KEEN	Kenneth	SMITH	Grahame
CROWE	John	KEPT	Barry	SMITH	Roger
CUNNEEN	Stephen	KELLY	Wal	STANFORD	John
DAWSON	Roy	KENTWELL	Wilfred	STARK	Glyn
DAVEY	Gregor	KIELY	Douglas	STARKE	Bill
DAVIDSON	Ross	KILKELLY	Graeme	STAZIKER	Stuart
DICK	Anthony	KIRKWOOD	John	STEDMAN	James
DOUGHERTY	Robert	KISS	Alex	STCNE	Peter
EAGLETON	Harold	KOINA	Jeffrey	SULLIVAN	Kevin
EDWARDS	Hugh	LANE	Bill	TAYLOR	Harry
ELDERTON	Frederick	LAURENCE	Michael	THOMPSON	Reg
ELSLEY	Graham	LEEK	Keith	TIMBS	Christopher
EWAN	David	LEWIS-HUGHES	Ken	TOBIN	Philip
FAIRLESS	John	LIFU	Patrick	TOPH/M	Raoul
FAIRLEY	Jack	LONGFELLOW	Virginia	TOPL'S	Danny
FALCONER	Max	LORD	Dick	TRANTER	Peter
FISCHER	Henry	MASON-JONES	Nicoll	TRUELOVE	Peter
FITZPATRICK	Roy	MEAKINS	Ron	WALKER	John
FLANAGAN	Kevin	MEGGATT	Thomas	WATKINS	Kenneth
FLIPPENCE	Addie	MENDL	Peter	WATSON	Alex
FRAZER	Ian	MILHAM	Glenn	WHEATLEY	Murelia
FULCHER	Sharon	MILIC	Karl	WHITE	Peter
GABRIEL	Reginald	MILLAR	Anthony	WHITFIELD	Timothy
GATES	Graham	MITCHELL	Frederick	WILLIS	Kenneth
GIFFNEY	Desmond	MOONEY	Ronald	WILSON	John
				WRIGHT	Colin