

VII

THE
PLANET 7
EXPRESS
ANNUAL JURNAL
2003

Foreword

By Bombardier P. Scope

Hello to all the members of the Regiment and welcome to the final issue of the Planet 7 Express for 2003. It was with surprise and delight that I accepted the offer of writing a Foreword for this illustrious publication, I had thought that this honour would befall some person of immense significance to the Regiment such as BDR Harry Peck or a person of similar stature, but alas, it was me.

This fine magazine follows in the footsteps of the great Yandoo Magazines first published on the Western Front in France in 1917. Over time, the terms and references made by the soldiery of today may differ, but the same spirit survives; and that is good to see.

I have watched with great interest the activities conducted by the Regiment this year, and have been greatly impressed with the 'can-do' attitude that you have approached all challenges with. The greatest of these challenges is that of individual training in today's Reserve climate. Since we have been afforded the opportunity to complete the same training courses as our ARA brethren, the time taken to get a Reserve Soldier to the basic IET level has increased by 200%. It is a credit to you, the soldiers and young officers of the Regiment, that you have made yourself available to the ARA staff to complete these courses in a timely manner; well done to you all.

Individual Training is not the only challenge you have faced, the RRF, the requirement to reinforce 4 FD REGT with a Section (LT) and the ever challenging Exercises designed to maintain your proficiency in your trades have been met with stoic vigour by most members of the Regiment. I was particularly impressed with the performance of those personnel who deployed on EX Crocodile 03; well done lads and lasses, not a bad word said about anyone!

Anyway, enough of my senile ramblings, get on with the reading of this wonderful magazine and enjoy the experience; you have earned it.

Keep your powder dry,



FROM THE COLONEL'S DUGOUT

Welcome to the first edition of the 7th Field Regiment Journal published for many years. The 7th Field Regiment was first raised at "The Warren" on 17 Mar 1916 and saw service in WW1 where a journal known as "Yandoo" first appeared. "Yandoo" was adopted as the title of the 7th Field Regiment Association's Newsletter upon its formation some years ago and so we have not repossessed that historic name. A similar journal for the regiment has not been published since WW1 to the best of my knowledge, and certainly not since 1979 when I first joined the regiment.

In an early edition of "Planet 7 Express" our monthly newsletter, I wrote:

"I do not subscribe to the view that Reserve soldiers cannot reach the "standards" of a regular full-time soldier. To do so neglects the lessons of history and the more recent experience of our own and overseas countries who have deployed reserve personnel on operations. We must all spend some of our own time in the study of the military art at whatever level is appropriate to our rank. By this I mean at least "getting into the books" and ensuring that we know the drills and procedures which govern our jobs in the Regiment.

As a Reserve soldier you have been selected for service and have undertaken recruit and initial employment training at identical standards to your full-time brothers. It may take longer to reach operational standard, but reach it you can if you set your mind to it."

Our progress towards demonstrating this truth over the past two years culminating in our reinforcement of 4 Field Regiment has been intense and demanding of each individual involved, but our success has proved the point. Each soldier in this Regiment can be justifiably proud of their achievements over the period.

Training for Operations

The past two years have been challenging for the Regiment with restrictions on all classes of resources and the impact especially of ammo problems. Despite the constraints and limitations imposed on us, I firmly believe we have achieved a great deal in the period

"Getting the basics right" is the foundation of capability development and so the Regiment has concentrated on the achievement of individual employment qualifications for both soldiers and officers, including all corps skills such as weapon handling and shooting. These skills were then combined and honed through collective training focused at an appropriate level throughout the period.

The unit has been the leading provider of individual training for RAA personnel in the 2nd Division over the past two years. The following table shows the extent of training provided by the unit, not only to our own soldiers and those of other 2 Div RAA units, but also to 1 and 4 Fd Regt personnel.

7 FD REGT Course Training Schedule

Feb 02 – Jul 03

Month/Year	Course	No of Students attended	7 FD REGT students
Feb 02	Advanced GNR	16	9
Feb – Jun 02	Advanced OPCP	3	3
Jul 02	OPCP Module 1	2	1
Jul 02	OPCP Module 2	9	9
Jul 02	GNR GD 1 Module 1		
All Corps Soldier Training		23	16
Jul 02	GNR GD 1 Module 3		
Gun Course		24	16

Jul 02	SCCC	12	12
Jul 02	ROBC Module 1	5	4
Nov 02	GNR GD 1 Mod 3		
Gun Cse		6	6
Feb 03	GNR GD 1 Module 1		
All Corps Soldier Training		16	14
Feb 03	GNR GD 1 Module 2		
Communicators Course		24	14
May-Aug 03	Detachment Commander	3	3
Jul 03	ROBC Module 1	12	6
Jul 03	SCCC	33	13
Jul 03	Detachment Commander	7	5
Jun - Dec 03	SPVR (OS)	6	6

In summary, a total of 184 soldier students and 17 officers successfully completed training. Of interest is that 7 Fd Regiment was the only organisation outside of the School of Artillery to be authorised to conduct young officer training. On the last ROBC we ran in July this year, we had a full time officer from 1 Fd as a student on the course. This is a testament to the quality and professionalism of the training the unit has provided during the period.

None of this magnificent effort would have been possible without the total dedication of our full time staff, in particular my two Adjutants, the RSM and our SMIGs, and of course the hard work of our students.

An examination of the table above will indicate that the biggest beneficiary of the conduct of these training courses has been the soldiers and officers of 7 Fd Regiment, and as a direct consequence, we now have more people fully trained for their position than has previously been the case.

In fact I believe we are second to none in respect to achieving full individual qualification. Of the effective strength of the Regiment, 74% are fully qualified, and a further 15% have completed part of their IET. This has enabled us to produce the operational capability which our higher headquarters have tasked us with producing, within the severe resource limitations (particularly ammunition) which have been imposed.

Support to Training Command

Apart from the obvious effect of the unit conducting the individual training courses outlined above, the Regiment provided support for the conduct of two Forward Air Controller courses last year (one scheduled in March, the other a non-scheduled course for SAS personnel deploying to Afghanistan.). This year, due to a redesign of the FAC course, our normal support in March was not required. The provision of this type of support is of great benefit to the Regiment as the resources including ammunition come from Training Command and are a welcome supplement to our own allocation.

Field Training

Collective training was conducted in a number of weekend activities as well as at the conclusion of IET courses where possible. This training consolidated skills learnt and involved the Regiment firing a variety of missions, conducting many deployments, and working in a Combined Arms environment with 12/16 Hunter River Lancers (APC) Regiment on a number of occasions. Our JOSTs now have experience under live firing conditions in both mounted and dismounted deployment and observation, skills which came in handy when members deployed to Exercise CROC 03. Fire planning became the focus in the latter part of the period with a good basic standard being achieved. This was further developed with our best JOST deploying as a whole to Ex CROC where they worked with both 8/12 Medium Regiment and 4 Field Regiment, gaining valuable experience in the process.

Recruiting

One of the "downsides" from a unit perspective of our success in individual training, is that we have transferred a very large number of our personnel to the Regular Army (some 40 odd in the past year alone). I say a "downside" but really it indicates that the unit is producing happy well trained and enthusiastic

soldiers. This high transfer rate has made the job of recruiting new members even more important. In this we face considerable challenges, with a longer recruit course reducing the pool from which we can recruit and the "civilianisation" of the actual processing of applicants proving a major stumbling block to those wishing to join. The latter is a major problem for the unit, particularly in Sydney where the process is simply failing to deliver the required outcomes in both timeliness and actual output. We must increase our efforts in this area if we are to survive as a regiment and I look forward to good results in 2004.

Organisational Change

Legislative change has brought with it a barrage of change in the unit. Business systems have undergone massive upheaval with the introduction of new computer programs and increased accountability reporting for all aspects of equipment and personnel. In addition we are now required to be part of the Australian Training Framework which brings with it the requirement to qualify all our instructors of SNCO and Officer rank as Workplace Assessors. We also have the introduction of the Reserve Response Force concept now and a revision of the Force Protection Company Group in the near future. With "*Hardening of the Army*" will come changed, and I believe enhanced, roles and tasks for the Reserve.

The Regiment has accommodated all this change albeit with some angst and is well placed for the future change, but the staff effort now required places considerable strain on our under manned RHQ. It also highlights the importance of the filling of our full time positions either through ARA staff or reserve members on full time duty.

The Future

In a Reserve unit we will always face the same challenges each year. New people to train as a result of success in recruiting, therefore we will still be conducting a variety of IET and trade progression courses, continuation training for our qualified soldiers to maintain their individual skills, and the continued development of our collective operational capability. This will continue to be achieved through a "parallel" training regime so that each group is not neglected for the benefit of one particular part of the unit.

2004 will see three periods of collective training being conducted rather than the old "2 week AFT" type exercise. This is in direct response to your feedback and should provide greater flexibility in meeting the conflicting demands of civil work, family and the Army. In addition a number of weekend activities are planned as well as a consolidated courses period in February.

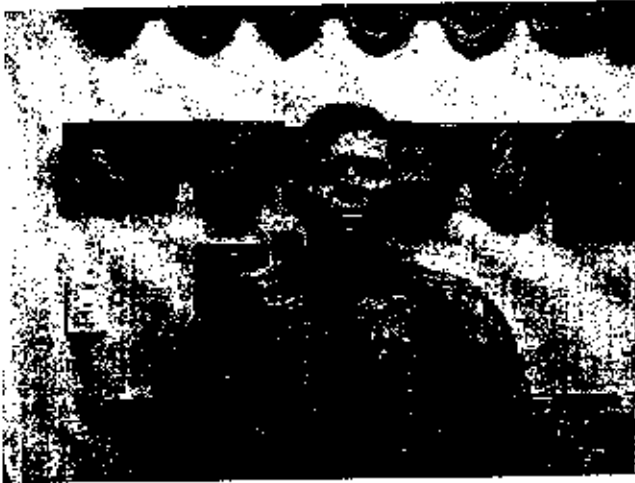
We will continue to emphasize the basics including "low level ops" and rear area security tasks whilst enhancing our primary role of providing all arms combat support in a medium level conflict setting. Combined exercises with our fellow 8 Bde units and those of 3 Bde where possible will be one mechanism used to achieve this. I look forward to seeing a far greater degree of cooperation and participation in exercises in 2004, with 4 Fd Regiment and the JOSTs from 4 RAR (Cdo) in particular.

In the past two years we have very clearly demonstrated the professionalism and dedication of this unit and I have every confidence that all members will do their utmost in the coming year to enhance this well deserved reputation for excellence.

UBIQUE

LTCOL John Wilson
Commanding

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR'S REPORT



As I near the completion of my tenure as your RSM and I reflect on the last twelve months, I cannot believe how fast this year has gone. The training year commenced in January with the conduct of the OS Advanced Gunners Course held at Dee Why and the tempo has continued each month right up until early December.

Like all postings there were a number of personal goals and collective unit goals that I have endeavoured to achieve and through your commitment I believe we have done this.

One critical area that required urgent attention has been individual trade and All Corps Promotion training. During the last two years we have focussed on individual training and have successfully conducted internal trade courses and prepared members from the Regiment prior to attending All Corps Promotion courses.

This has resulted in 80% of the unit's effective strength being fully qualified for rank and trade. The bonus of having members fully qualified has allowed us to fulfil our operational capability brief, (Force Protection Company Group), which culminated in successful individual reinforcement of 4 Field Regiment during EXERCISE CROC 03.

The Regiment's participation in EX CROC 03 provided individuals the opportunity to gain experience working in a collective environment and test their skills working alongside their ARA counterparts. The participating members did very well and the Regiment now looks forward to providing similar interaction with the ARA in the future.

We have also ensured that any soldier attending promotion courses has been given every opportunity to do well by providing appropriate levels of pre-course training. This has resulted in a 100% success rate and ensured that the unit can grow within its command and leadership ranks.

All this training would not be possible without the dedicated support I have received from the WOs, SNCOs and JNCOs of the Regiment for which I thank you.

I am leaving the Regiment at the end of the year to take up the appointment as RSM 4 Field Regiment. I take this opportunity to thank all of the Full Time Staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure that all activities run smoothly and to ensure that the day to day running of the Regiment is maintained. To those who continue to parade and fulfil your commitment to the Regiment, well done your effort is greatly appreciated.

As Christmas and a New Year nears spare a thought for all ADF members serving on operations around the World in particular our own PTE Atkinson in IRAQ. I sincerely wish you all the best in both your military and civilian careers.

UBIQUE

VIEWS FROM THE ADJUTANT

2003 has been a busy year for 7 Field Regiment and in terms of live fire exercises, a much more fruitful year than 2002. Nevertheless, shortages in ammunition will continue to prevail until such time as the screening of certain batches can be optimised, and or completed after last years ammunition incident in Townsville. Despite a "rough" start to the year due to a lack of live training, the unit has been able to re establish a good technical standard.

The gunline and the JOST's often face challenges in terms of manpower shortages when we exercise and I have been very happy to see that all of these challenges have been met. The positive attitude of most unit personnel and a significant dose of enthusiasm have allowed us to continue with all of our live fire activities without too much disruption. This is a credit to the standard of instruction imparted by the SMIG's, the NCO's and by the School. The units ability to demonstrate a good depth of knowledge is also due to many individuals being able to step up into greater positions of responsibility when required.

The contingent that deployed on Ex CROC 03 should be happy with their performance. All reports from members of A Bty and from 108 Bty have been very positive. The exposure to a prolonged exercise involving intense periods of live firing has many benefits to individuals and to the collective experience and knowledge of the regiment. I would encourage wider participation if this opportunity is open over the next few years. Well done to those who participated.

We will continue to panel people to attend career courses and will run some courses internally again next year. The number of courses required to be qualified by rank and trade have increased, and opportunities to attend them should not be passed up if you have time available.

The level of commitment around the unit to assist in recruiting and ceremonial activities has been good. I would like to thank all those who give their time to assist the unit in these areas. I would hope that if you cannot actively participate in recruiting days that you would all be encouraging your mates and associates to look at the GRES as a viable option. The unit needs more people to remain viable.

Many people are not AIRN compliant due to a failure to meet Medical and Dental readiness standards. If you are not AIRN compliant the unit will have no choice but to commence administrative action. I encourage all of you to remain AIRN compliant and seek advice from your battery hierarchy if you are in doubt. If you cannot attend a unit training activity that leads to readiness in an AIRN component you have other options. Individuals are responsible for maintaining their readiness. If you are in the RRF you will not receive any bonus, nor deploy anywhere unless you are compliant.

It is encouraging to see a good sense of "team" continues around the unit. Without the dedication of many members, the unit would cease to operate. You know who you are. I would like everyone to continue to serve when they are able. Whether you can volunteer 14 days or 100 Days is not necessarily the issue. Maintaining communication with the battery and asking for leave is something we can improve. We appreciate that many people have competing priorities, but you should realise that every time you cannot deploy to the field, or attend Tuesday night training that you indirectly make the task harder for the individuals that do show up. Please keep that in mind.

I wish everyone a happy festive season and would like to thank WO2 Decble (and his family) for his dedication over the last two years at 113 Battery. I would also like to recognise the service that WO2 Nicholls provided at 113 Battery and wish him well. I hope everyone looks forward to a new training year commencing with the unit courses camp starting on 7 Feb 04.

AN EDITORIAL FAREWELL

Welcome one and all to my final issue of the Planet 7 Express as the Editor in Chief. Can I start by saying what a glorious two years it has been as the editor of this prestigious publication. When I was given this job, I was almost overcome with a feeling that is hard to put words to. Let me just say that it was emotional, physical and spiritual all at once!

Many words have scrolled across my screen since that day in February, words that sometimes made sense, but mostly didn't.

The one disappointment I had as editor was that you, the members of the Regiment, didn't submit a whole lot of articles. The regular submissions of BDR Harry Peck, GNR Miller and GNR Jeffreys were the only articles that were received by me from the soldiers. It is your magazine and more effort is required from you to ensure an action packed and thoroughly interesting read is had by all.

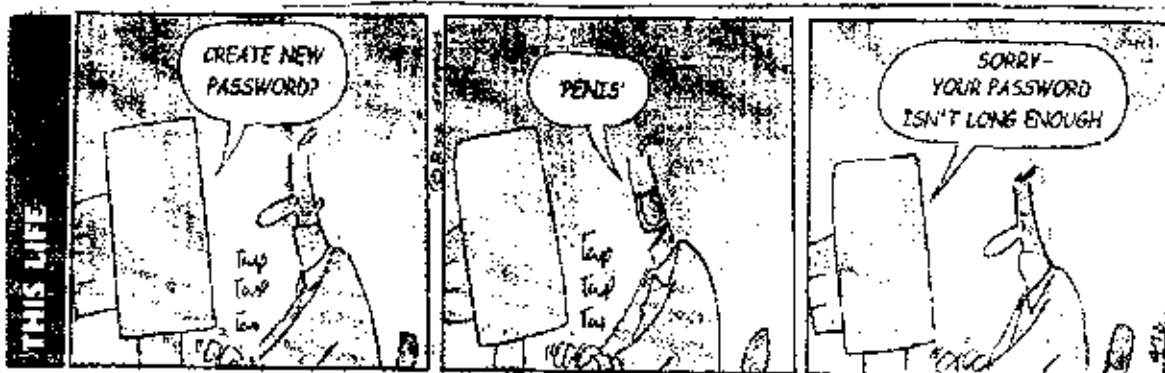
To my successor as Editor, I say keep up the publications high ethical and moral standards; I know a publishing award is not far off!!! We have a huge reputation as a quality product that is eagerly awaited every month by its readers.

You will no doubt have noticed that this publication is a high quality standard with regard to materials etc. This would not have been possible were it not for the sponsors who participated in the publishing of this issue. You will see their advertisements scattered throughout the magazine and I encourage you to support their businesses as they have supported the Regimental Magazine. My thanks and appreciation goes to those businesses who appear in this magazine. This would not have been possible were it not for you.

Finally, I say goodbye to you all and all the best wishes for the continued success of 7 FD REGT in the future. Despite my sometimes grumpy demeanour, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with you and look forward to running into you all in the future. Seasons greetings to you and yours and all the best with your future endeavours.

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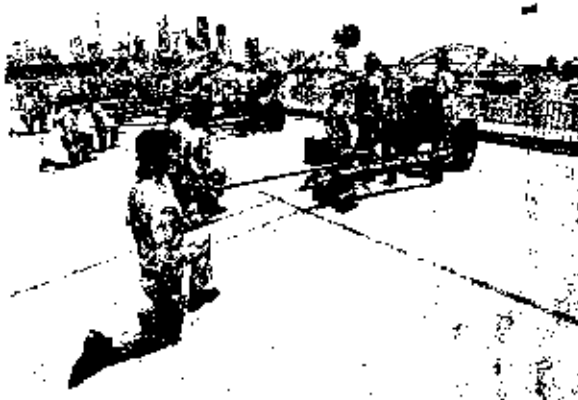




REGIMENTAL SALUTES 2003

Australia Day Salute

For the men and women of Australia waking in the early hours of Sunday, 26 January 2003, the clear blue sky and the cool fresh air suggested that Australia Day was going to be good. For the members of 7 Field Regiment and the gunners supporting 7 Field, the smooth rehearsals of the 21 gun salute and the approving eyes of the Battery Guide suggested that Australia Day was going to be very good. And it was.



With the sun not yet high overhead, the 7 Field Regiment departed the Dee Why depot for the Garden Island Naval Dockyard with six guns in tow. The guns were in place and ready to go in no time, all that was needed was the appearance of the Young Endeavour. The gunners happily looked out over the sparkling waters of Sydney Harbour, basking in the sunshine and watching the numerous ships bobbing around in the water. Some of the public were enjoying the day on watercraft while others lined the foreshore to watch. Still others were no doubt spending the day at countless barbeques around the country. For one day, it seemed, it was possible to put aside – though not to forget, for that would be

disrespectful – the sobriety of the recent bushfires, the potential conflict in the Middle East and the spectre of terrorism, in order to celebrate the birth of the Nation. In all things, this nation has met adversity with grit, loss with remembrance, and hardship with a wry smile of good humour, peculiarly Australian. On Sunday, 26 January 2003, Australia showed once again how well it can celebrate.

As the Young Endeavour finally wound its way out of Sydney Harbour towards Garden Island, the Regiment diligently took post and at the appropriate time fired the twenty one gun salute with a professionalism that did justice to the occasion. At the conclusion of the salute, the smiles and waves from the public captured perfectly the mood of the day.

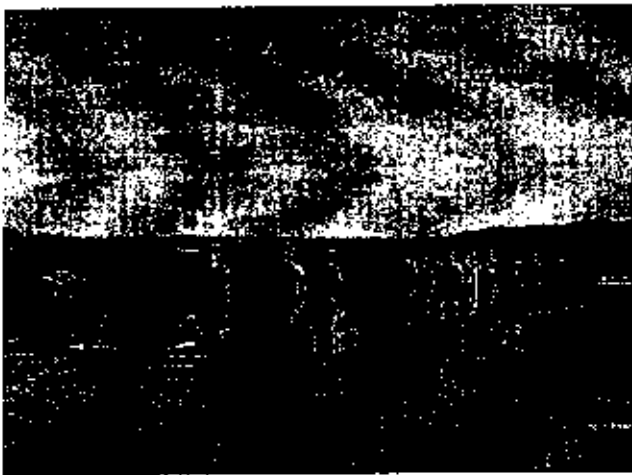
Queens Birthday Salute

The Regiment congregated together at the North-fort Museum on 7 Jun 03 to conduct the 21 Gun Salute to celebrate the Queens Birthday. We manned 6 guns for the salute and it was a spectacular view from the Head.

It began with a Regimental Concentration at Dee Why Depot on the Friday evening, where a OR's Mess committee meeting was conducted. After Breakfast on Saturday, we moved up to North Head and conducted rehearsals for the Salute. We then changed into Dress Order 2A and fired the Salute.

The view was spectacular, and we had an audience of about 50 - 60 people. An awesome activity.

Queens Birthday Salute Montage



HOLDING GROUND FOR 12/16 HRL PRESENTATION OF NEW 16 LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT GUIDON

Saturday, 3 Nov 03, saw 7th Field Regiment proving a small number of personnel to "Hold Ground" for our friends 12/16th Hunter River Lancers Regiment's mounted parade at which they were presented with a new Guidon for the 16th Light Horse Regiment.

The weather was excellent and as I understand it rehearsals went well in the morning with our chaps standing for several hours whilst 12/16th went through their rehearsal.

On the final parade a slight delay occurred whilst we eagerly awaited the arrival of the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency M. Bashir, who duly inspected the assembled troops by a vintage light vehicle. The old guidon, originally presented to the unit by Princess Alexandra in 1959 was then trooped and marched off the parade.

The new guidon was marched on and duly consecrated, blessed and dedicated by a "flock" – I think that's the correct collective noun – of chaplains (six to be precise).

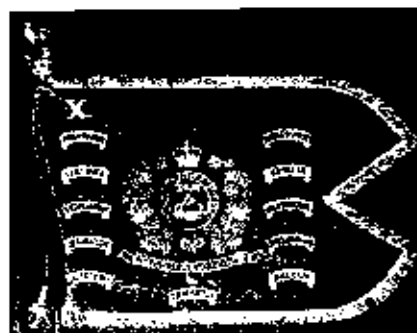
This overkill, I was reliably told that night by the Senior Chaplain – Army, was to ensure no one was offended.

The whole affair went well, but was a real effort for those holding ground, as they had to remain either "at ease" or "attention" for 3 ½ hours, whereas at least the armoured crews were able to mount and dismount during proceedings!

The Beersheba Reception followed that evening with a sumptuous fork supper of BBQ and seafood with dancing to the Army Band Newcastle. My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed that bit!

The old guidon was laid up in St Alban's Anglican Church Muswellbrook on Sunday in a well attended and enjoyable service followed by a typical country morning tea in the grounds of the historic church.

The CO 12/16th HRL expressed his great appreciation for the effort and performance of our soldiers during the event and as your CO, so do I. Well done to all who took part.





SMIG STUFF **FROM SMIG 28 FIELD BATTERY**



I had this idea of what it would be like posted to a GRES unit. I thought it would be a respite posting for the previous 18 years of service, was I wrong. The year started at a frantic pace, I was to be the Course Manager for the Advanced Gunners, thanks to WO2 Deeble it was a smooth transition with him doing all of the work. At the completion of the Advanced Gunners Course the Regiment conducted a 21 Gun Salute at Garden Island for Australia Day. This was my first salute as a BG (Battery Guide), the salute was conducted to a very high standard and the photo that followed gave some unwanted PR to the Regiment.

Due to the ban on ammunition the previous year, the battery was at a level of training that needed to be improved, and we did that with our first exercise. Once again I had this idea of what it would be like in the field, my expectations were centred on 4th Field Regiment RAA but in actual fact that had to change as I deployed with the Regiment as the GPO. With many thanks to the members in the CP, specifically SGT Robinson, we shot relatively well with minimal staff.

The Courses Camp in February qualified most of the battery which has only left a few members not fully qualified. This should hopefully be rectified by February 2004.

In January, a task was given by the RSM to build a memorial at DEE WHY with minimal cost to the unit and to be constructed during the Junior NCO and SNCO training weekend. This task I thought would be near impossible but with the help of the "SCROUNGER" (CPL Fear), and a few phone calls from PTE Warmingier, GNR Jeffreys and myself and the help on the odd day or two from members of the battery all stores were ready for the construction of the wall. BDR Porter, the regimental renderer and LBDR Fender, the paver, paid a big part in the construction and without their help it would not have turned out as well as it did.

ANZAC Day was the next big effort from the Regiment, we had to provide a number of catafalque parties around the North Shore. It also meant that I had to dust off my service dress for a number of parades. All reports from all the RSL clubs confirmed that what I had seen in practice, that the Regiment held their heads high and performed very well. The Regiment then held its first unit ANZAC day dawn service at DEE WHY which turned out to be a memorable event and I hope this will be a continuing event in the Regiments calendar.

The ERCC held at Holsworthy Barracks was to fill a hole in training for Detachment Commanders and Specialist Combat Communicators (SCCC) within the Regiment. Nominations went out across the country and course panels were full. It was a successful courses camp which has lead to members of the Regiment selecting ECNs other than 162 (Gun Number) within the Regiment.

Exercise Crocodile 2003 was a large part of the units training this year with members volunteering as reinforcements to 4th Field Regiment and 8 CSSB. The Regiment held its head high and nothing but praise was received by everybody that myself and WO2 Deeble spoke to at the completion of the Ex. This was a valuable part of training and hopefully this will continue into the future.

Last but not least was the support for 12/16 Hunter River Lancers (HRL), where we fired Direct and Indirect Fire Support. Some members of the Regiment had not fired direct fire, and if they had, it was a long time ago. But once again with some revision and training and some help from BDR Porter's VECTOR (Laser Binoculars) we showed that target rounds were the call for the day that impressed the CO of 12/16 HRL.

The year has been full of activities and some memorable moments. GNR Sadeghi (Compass) ventured in the wrong direction to a sentry point and was geographically embarrassed for at time. As for excuses I have heard why people cannot parade. I can't help but remember the TV show MASH, some of the members in the Regiment are akin to CPL Max Klinger.

Members of 28 FD BTY who have ventured overseas (LT Whittaker, GNR Fudali) and some have transferred to the ARA (GNR Wong, STA Bty, PTE Hoole Unit TBA) and regrettably some have gone inactive (GNR Fridolffson, LBDR Vardy, PTE Marjoram).

As you can see members not being able to parade, transfer or who have gone inactive effect the BTY but it has held its head high and has always been able to, at times with limited numbers, provide a presence in the Regiment.

As you are all aware, the Regiment has moved some 40 personnel into the ARA this year alone. Remember that these people are not lost to us, they have simply moved on and we wish the best to them in their future careers.

I have enjoyed my first year as the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery of the 28 FD BTY and I thank those members for their commitment, patience and enthusiasm throughout the year. I hope we can improve in all aspects and recruit more members so we can have a larger presence within the Regiment.

UBIQUE



A young BDR Hall, circa 1995

The Logistic Cell

The year 2003 has been one of great change in the logistics stream. The change over from Auto Q to SDSS has been and will be quite a hand full until all unit are on line and more importantly the logistic personnel nation wide become competent in the use of the SDSS system.

The great thing about the logistic stream is that it opens many doors, We currently have one member over seas in Iraq, PTE Graham Atkinson; and one member on Subject One for Corporal Course PTE Martinez. Welcome to our newest member; PTE Dale Eccles. As well as Q-Staff, Logistics includes a wide and varied mix of personnel, these include:

Transport Supervisor SGT MARK LINNEY

Our reserve Logistic personnel PTE Richard Wark 113 FD BTY, PTE Simon Welsh, Pte/REC Robert Seaton 28 FD BTY.

Transport 113 FD BTY SGT MICK BULLEY AND STAFF

Catering PTE RICHARD SHEDING AND PTE NATHIN TOMKINS

Your key logistic staff for 2004 is as follows:

QM: SGT STEPHEN MASON

RQM: CPL GAVIN FEAR

MAIN Q: PTE DALE EELES

REGT TRANSPORT: SGT MARK LINNEY
PTE RICHARD CLEMENTS
PTE FIONA SPINKS
PTE SHAUNA TAYLOR
PTE RENAE DUMAS

CATERING: PTE RICHARD SHEDING (CSS)
PTE NATHIN TOMKINS(113)

113 FD BTY Q: PTE GRAHAM ATKINSON
PTE RICHARD WARK

113 FD BTY TRANSPORT: PTE BOB PEDUZIE

28 FD BTY Q: PTE JUAN MARTINEZ
PTE SIMON WELSH
PTE/REC ROBERT SEATON

28 FD BTY TRANSPORT: PTE NATALIE ADAMS

The QM would like to thank his entire staff for a job well-done and looking forward to working with you all in 2004.

Special mention to Sgt Mark Linney and Sgt Mick Bully for their initiative in training and updating of qualification / competency of our unit drivers

Your logistic staff would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

REGIMENTAL LFX's

LFX 23 - 25 May 03

The trip began on a bitterly cold Friday night. 28 FD BTY, CSS BTY and Erina Tp departed for the Adamstown MUD to be ready for an early AM departure. Upon arrival, the pers requiring M18A1 Claymore APW training undertook it in preparation for the Claymore qualification practice. After the training was complete, everyone bedded down for the evening.

The Regiment hosted five members of 4 RAR (CDO) for the exercise and everyone seemed interested in their sexy weaponry, M4 carbines. These soldiers assisted us with the training of the JOST's and CP personnel and were of great assistance in this task.



At 0500h, Recon departed for the Range to prepare the Gun Position for occupation. After the position was ready, everybody departed for DFSW 1 and the Claymore Practice.

The Claymore practice was conducted well with 64 personnel being qualified. GNR Chaseberry was almost a star again as a miscreant piece of flying debris sailed over his head while he was observing from outside the safe distance.

From DFSW 1 we returned to the Gun Position to begin the LFX proper. The first Registration mission of the EX went down range and so it continued for 29 rounds. The longest Registration mission ever known to man had begun.

At the eventual completion, the Trajectory Danger Area Validation calculation was completed and it was determined that it was unsafe to fire CVT HE as we had a 200 Knot headwind. For those that were there, this was ludicrously impossible. So began another Registration Mission. TDA validation was again conducted with a headwind speed of 170 Knots being determined on this occasion. Again unsafe.

So we packed away our CVT and continued with the Exercise. Off to Vere for a Deliberate Night Deployment we went.

When the Gunline moved, it was dusk. "Red sky at night; soldiers delight," said WO2 Deeble, and off we went. We arrived at the Ammunition Point and offloaded all our ammunition and proceeded to the back gate a Singleton Range. We drove onto the Broke Rd and towards Vere. We had the keys to gate 14 and we arrived shortly at gate 15. It was here we discovered that 3 Gun Tractors can be fitted into a space that is normally allotted to one civilian car. While we attempted to gain entry into gate 15, a dim set of blackouts appeared in the distance, It was the BG. He told us to turn around and go to gate 14 and promptly disappeared.

After many 2000 point turns, the Gun Group turned around and headed to gate 14 where we met the BG to guide us into the position. The Sandakin Death March began. For what seemed an eternity, the vehicle commanders walked; guiding their vehicles to the RV. Up hill and over dale we proceeded.

When we finally arrived at the RV, the emaciated No 1's and the drivers were taken on a tour of the position by the BG. The Guns were rotated and one at a time went onto the position. We recorded and went to bed. Sadly, our sleep was interrupted by some fools attempting to breach our defences. This ineffective probe was repulsed with much vigour and disciplined fire control on the part of the good guys.

In the AM, we prepared to fire the remaining 50 rds of HE. All the missions were conducted in High Angle and to the best of my knowledge, no No 3 was harmed from "bucking trails syndrome".

After the last rd had been fired, we packed up and headed for the REGT concentration point to conduct Range Clearances and stores checks. Along the way we conducted a Dry Fire Hasty Deployment, (Quick Action in old speak.). The Sect Comd learned a lot from this exercise. From there, it was off to the Ammo Point, and then Home.

LFX 13-15 Jun 03

The Regiment departed for Singleton Range on the evening of 13 Jun 03. Two guns and a CP from 113 FD BTY departed at 1000h Fri and deployed in the vicinity of Docra Airfield. The Sydney component and the remainder of 113 FD BTY arrived at the Gun Position late on Fri evening. The aim of this EX was to concentrate on Detachment Firing Drills at the Gunline and the OP; consequently we were stationary for the weekend.



GNR Miller lets rip during assessment

We managed to fire 468 rounds of all natures during the weekend and this stood us in good stead for our upcoming commitment to EX Crocodile 03.

During this EX we also qualified SGT M. Fairbairn, GNR N. Hannah, and GNR L. Miller as Detachment Commanders when they completed the final Live Fire Assessment of their non-continuous course.

The achievement of the EX aims complete, we packed up and returned to our home localities to prepare for the upcoming Regimental Courses Period.

LFX 01-03 Aug 03

The Regiment deployed again to the Singleton Range facility early in the morning of the 2nd of Aug 03 after concentrating at the Adamstown MUD on the Friday night. We deployed into the EX area via the scenic route through the Hunter Valley Wineries and into the back gate of the Range.

After conducting a DP, we deployed to the western side of the Range and things began to happen quickly.

The first deployment was into a position that would afford the SMIG's an opportunity to assess the newly qualified Detachment Commander's in their Live Firing Drills, and to also assess the ROB trainees and the SPVR (OS) trainees as Section Commanders during Live Firing. Of immense benefit to this phase of the EX was the Verify Mistake drill that was ordered by the OP when BDR Atchison was undergoing assessment. This enabled him to additionally undergo another assessment under Live Firing conditions.



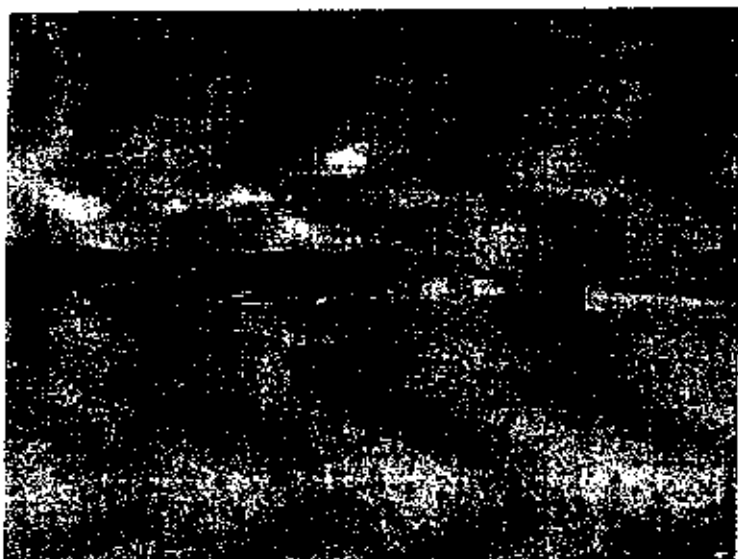
LBDR Hannah & GNR Robinson await orientation

From here, we conducted a move to the Alternative and then a Deliberate Night Deployment. We completed the EX late Sunday morning and returned to our bases. Everyone passed their assessments and we began concentrating on the preparation for EX Crocodile 03.

LFX 17-19 Oct

Ex Mennin Road began, as usual, on a Friday night. We departed our home locations for Singleton Range and arrived at the Ammunition Point at varying stages of the night. At 0700, we departed the Ammunition Point for Firing Point 14 to begin the EX.

The EX was centred around us supporting 12/16 Hunter River Lancers in their Live Fire Practices. Initially, we set up two guns in a direct fire role and supported the defence of a Forward Patrol Base. We engaged targets of opportunity out to distances between 900 - 1500m. BDR Porter, having a little assistance from a Vector, managed to achieve a first round target round three times. This phase of the EX also allowed us to assess our newly qualified Detachment Commanders in their Direct Fire Competencies. I am happy to say that all passed their assessments.



Set up ready to engage

commenced after firing maintenance and moved to the respective Messes to watch South Africa play England in the Rugby World Cup. This proved to be a disappointing affair with the hairy backed yarpies being used as speed-bumps in the second half.

After the Rugby ended, off to bed we went to prepare for a full maintenance day on the Sunday. Breakfast was had and straight to work on the guns and vehicles we went. We downed tools at 1200h for a Regimental gathering where PTE's Cooper and Adams were presented their Soldiers Medallions for the exemplary work they had done that year.

Both of these members were performing the jobs of a Transport Corporal for their Batteries and thoroughly deserved their awards.

After these awards, WO2 Hall was also presented with his Warrant.

After this ceremony, 28 and CSS BTY personnel climbed into their vehicles and commenced the drive back to Sydney and then home.

From Firing Point 14, we moved to a position near Docra Airfield so as to allow us to support 12/16 HRL Live Fire Attacks. The attacks were supported by by a component of our JOST with the assaulting troops, and our guns firing in support guided by our JOST.

After the completion of our combined activity, the Regiment concentrated at the Docra Airfield Range Gate to conduct controlled store checks, dispose of unused charge bags and then move to Adamstown.

After we arrived at Adamstown, we

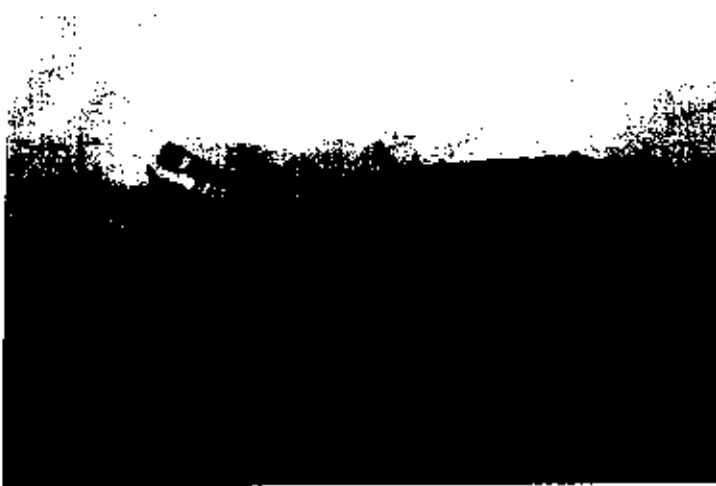


Bombs Away!!!!

Exercise Crocodile 03, A 7 FD REGT Perspective

For EX CROCODILE 03 (CROC 03), 7 FD REGT deployed 22 personnel with 4 FD REGT and three personnel with 8 CSSB. The three personnel with 8 CSSB were drivers to assist them with their commitment to the 8 BDE Force Protection Company Group. The 22 personnel who deployed with 4 FD REGT practised the role of our REGT, which is to reinforce 4 FD REGT in time of war.

The 22 people were made up from a complete JOST, (1xOFFR, 1x JNCO, and 3 soldiers); one medic; 2x Safety Officers, 1x Driver and 13 Gunners.



The View during Stand-To

On arrival at 3 BDE HQ, the reinforcements were handed over to 4 FD REGT for disbursement to the Batteries.

The LFX began on 17 Sep 03. Eight of our soldiers went to A FD BTY and six of our soldiers went to 108 FD BTY. Our JOST was allocated to BC 103 MDM BTY and given C/S 44. I am unsure as to the exact ammunition allocation, however B Sub A FD BTY fired 124 EFC in a 24 hour period; more ammunition than our soldiers had ever seen before.

The LFX continued at a frantic pace until 25 Sep 03. Our soldiers enjoyed the challenge of working with the ARA and were surprised at the little or no difference between them and their

ARA counterparts in the technical aspects of gunnery. Reports from 108 and A FD BTY's reflected a positive attitude towards our soldiers' presence and many enquiries as to whether this would become a regular occurrence in the future.

It was a very good exercise all round from our perspective. It presented us with an opportunity to become familiar with the personnel from 4 FD REGT and the way that they conduct business and to rehearse our combat role in an appropriate environment.

The soldiers with 8 CSSB departed with the Road Party on 03 Sep 03 for Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA). All said that it was an exciting adventure driving so far at 80Kph all the way and sincerely wished that they could do it again. During the EX, they spent most of their time moving stores and rations to the COY from 2/17 RNSWR. They returned from the EX on 21 Sep 03.

The EX for our Gunners began on 13 Sep 03. Everyone concentrated at Pymble Training Depot and then to RAAF Richmond. From there it was a joyous flight to Rockhampton by Wallaby Air C-130J. At Rockhampton Airport, the soldiers were met by WO2's Deeble and Hall, (the intrepid Safety Officers who had driven up earlier), and moved to SWBTA by bus.



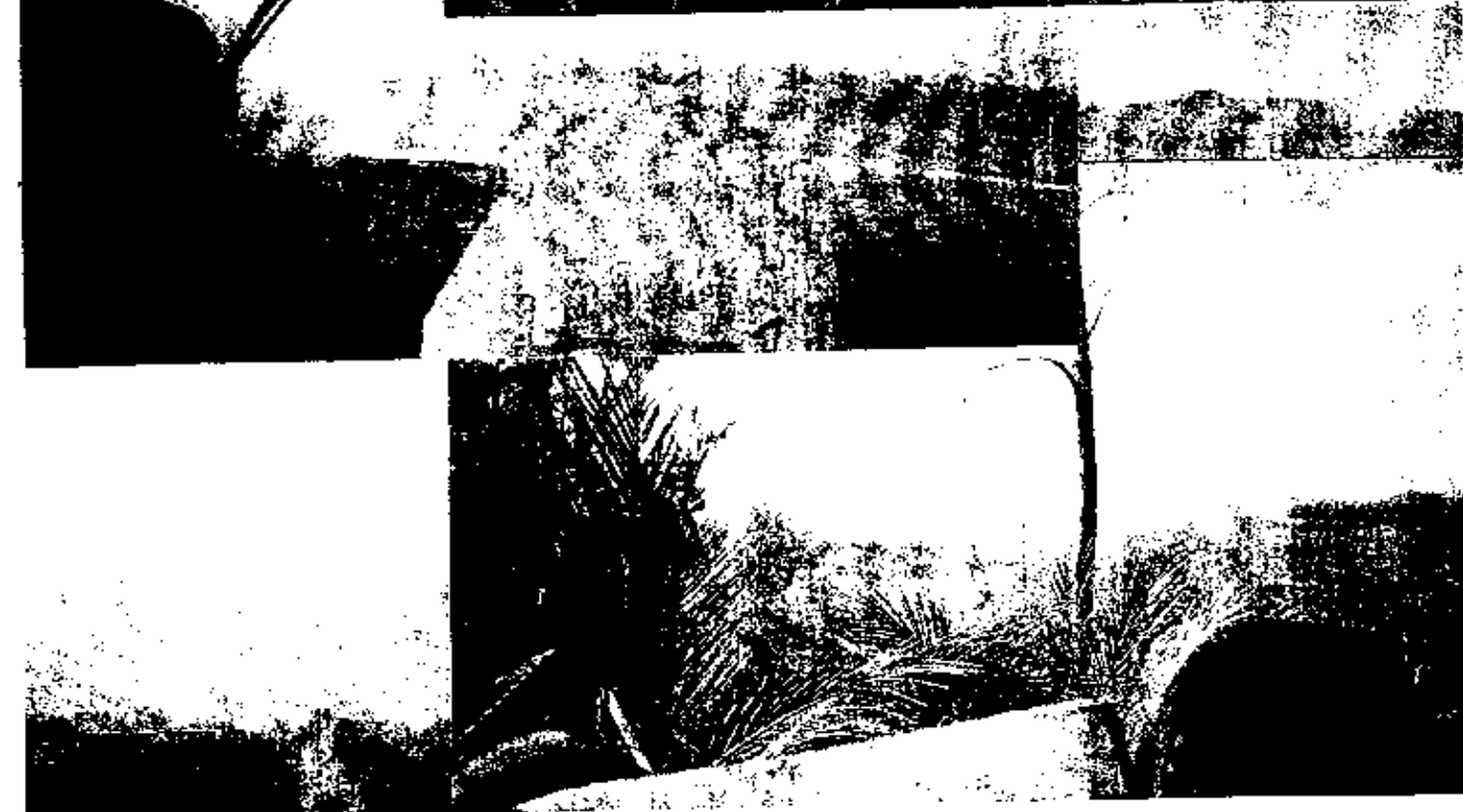
C Sub 108 FD BTY in action during CROC



CROC 03



C/S 44 CROC 03





CXIII

TRICERETOPS TALES

The 113 Year

2003 has been a very good year for the mighty Triceretops Troops. Most of our soldiers are at least partially trade qualified with a very high percentage being fully qualified for Rank.

Congratulations go to SGT A. Cartwright, BDR N. Hannah, and LBDR L. Miller on their promotions this year; best wishes for your future part-time careers.

We also have something that has not been around for a while, three fully qualified officers of the LT type. Well done on the efforts of these people to become qualified and all the best for the future.

As you know by now, the Battery has managed to hold on to the Regimental Shooting Trophy again. Best advice we can give to our Sydney competition is to move west and see how they shoot out there, any tips you may pick up from the drive - by's can only help your cause when next competing against us!

You will also know that there will be a new SMIG 113 next year, WO2 Ian Armstrong. He is keenly awaiting his tenure with the Battery and I hope that you show him the same level of support as I have received these last two years.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone in the Battery for their support, loyalty and friendship. I have enjoyed my time in "Newy" immensely and have learnt a lot about Reservists and from Reservists. In particular I would like to thank WO2 Pete Linsley, SGT Dave Conway and SGT Jon Lowe (J-LO). Without your efforts on FTS, my job would have been much more difficult.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of PTE Graham Atkinson who is currently in Iraq. He has done everything in his power to extricate stores from the Q-Nazi, (The Spanish Fascist), for the Battery. I wish him a safe return and all the best in his future military career. A little known fact is that Atko is the first soldier posted to 113 FD BTY to be Operationally Deployed overseas. This came about as the Battery has always been a Coastal Defence BTY or a CMF / GRES BTY and people who deployed overseas for war service were posted out of the BTY to other Regiments.

In October this year, the BTY saw another member receive a Soldiers Medallion. This was presented to PTE Cassandra Cooper, who is now a Regular Army Soldier. Congratulations and best wishes for a successful career in the ARA.

My congratulations also go to GNR Leo Moers and BDR Chris Porter for their awards for 2003, well done to you both as you deserve them.

Finally, to all the members of the Regiment and their families, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and the very best of fortune in 2004. Please stay safe over the holiday period and move into 2004 and all the challenges it presents well rested and ready.

Live long and prosper!!!!

Deebs

28 Field Battery 2003 Battery Commanders Report

Once again the year has passed away relatively quickly, and as always the Battery has proven that although under the strain of the current defence climate, in terms of training requirements, and the constant evolution of our role in the ADF, we have been able to supply a contingent of well trained and motivated professionals who seek to do the very best that they possibly can.

The beginning of the year saw us deploy to the field and fire for the first time after a very long hiatus. Naturally the cobwebs needed to be shaken out, and the lack of numbers in key areas did not help, but all things considered we acquitted ourselves, and the areas that needed work became apparent.

With the usual commitment and fervour we set out to ensure that the obvious inadequacies we had identified were eliminated, and that we once again became as proficient in our trade as possible. We set ourselves a standard that had to be met, and by the end of the year we had achieved what we had set out to do. This was clearly apparent when members of the Battery deployed to Ex Crocodile, whilst on this deployment they proved without exception that they were equal to the standard set by their ARA brothers. It was with great pride as the 7 Fd contingent commander, that I received the reports of praise for our members from the CO 4 Fd Regt, amongst others.

It is impossible to achieve the things we do without the support of some key individuals. We have been fortunate to have had the presence of the newly commissioned BK, CAPT Greg Applewhite. He transferred to us as a WO2 from the ARA and was posted as the BSM. Due to the vacancy of the BK and BC positions he soon became the first WO2 BK in the history of 28 Fd Bty. In October he was successful in his application to become an officer. His tireless efforts have been supplemented by our SMIG, WO2 Keith Hall. As the only ARA member of our Battery, his professional attitude and commitment has ensured that the training needs of the Battery are not left wanting.

I would like to make mention that we have had the honour of our very own PTE Donnelly receive the 7 Fd Regt association award for most improved soldier.

Finally, the Battery is continuing to develop, and with the coming year hopefully we will swell our ranks with some more recruits. As you will all know by the time this goes to publication. My tenure as an FO has ended and the vacant slot of BC has been filled. I do not take the honour of being the commander of 28 Fd Bty lightly, and will do my very best to serve your needs during the period that I have the privilege of this position.

To the members of the Battery that we farewell we wish you God's speed and the very best of luck in your future. To the remainder, I wish to borrow the Queensland state motto; "Onwards to greater heights."

7Fd Regt JOST Croc 03

Sunday morning 7Fd JOST and our gunline comrades boarded a C130 at Richmond RAAF base bound for Rockhampton where we were greeted by the SMIG's and the dust and heat of Central Queensland. A two hour coach trip NE to SWBTA brought us to 3 BDE HQ where we were bombed up with ammunition, rations and comms(C/S 03).

After nightfall we were given our orders and were to be attached to 24AFDS to control fire support in defence of Williamson airfield. CAPT Young and GNR Thew were to stay at 24AFDS HQ while BDR Porter, GNR Hart and PTE Orr were sent forward to a section on the outer perimeter of Kapyong DZ. The AFD blokes were more than happy to have us feeling secure under our guns. These blokes were heavily armed and liked to dig. Our stay with the AFDS consisted of recon patrols to confirm DF list target information, removing ticks and digging our own stage 2 fighting pit with sleeping bay, PTE Orr displayed youthful enthusiasm with an entrenching tool completing our sleeping bay before nightfall.



During the night we then received orders to be at 0C location at 0600 and were withdrawn to endure a 6hr road trip south-east to a concentration point on the other side of the range which signified the commencement of the live firing component of the exercise. By this time we all agreed that "the madness" was a good thing, it was to our favour and had to be nurtured for the big push against Gerry.

4 Fd Regt and attachments concentrated to reorganise, resupply and conduct admin tasks before moving out for the live fire part of the EX. C/S 03 moved out to 0C's location to marry up with 103 MDM Bty FO's 8/12 MDM Regt which were mounted in APC's. BC and FO parties of 103 Bty welcomed us as a part of their team and we became their fourth JOST, C/S44. Throughout the next five days we moved around the range in the buckets firing missions, fireplanning, rehearsing break-contact drills and also managed to wet a line. Shooting was into the Mount Hummock Sector and we found it not as easy as Singo. The combination of full zone and undulating features presented us with a lot of slope and the heavily treed target area made fall of shot sometimes difficult to distinguish. Nevertheless rounds fell timely and accurate and showed the enemy no respite. 12000 rds 5.56mm blank worth of break-contact drills was very romantic with drills such as the 'tunnel of love' and 'the peel' being brought to an end with 40mm illum and flares. A mornings fishing was good, bream fillets and fresh mud crab for lunch was superb. Tuesday morning before first light we moved from our night hide and raced up to the end of mountain track for 103Bty BC's event based fire plan which was exciting; very fast with large weights of fire.



Concluding the fireplan meant that our 103 Bty friends were eagerly going home after seven weeks away. We mounted and travelled back down mountain track where we said our farewells and married up with the JOST's from A Bty and 108 Bty.

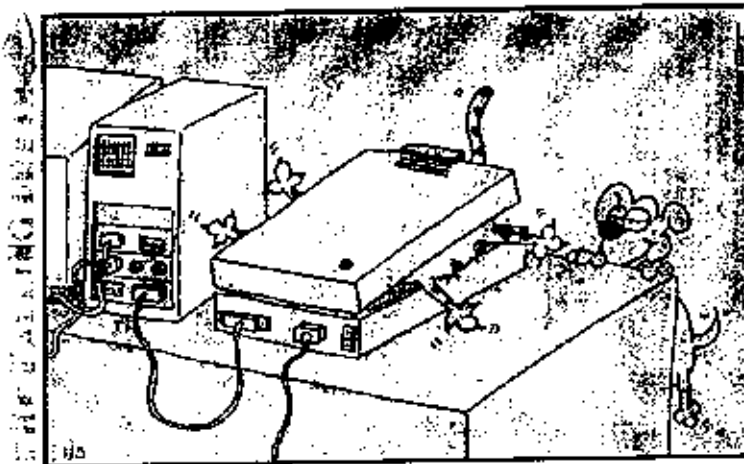
CO 4Fd Regt gave us some Regimental Missions that afternoon and over the next three days we were involved in A Bty BC's fireplan, shot some co-ordination illumination and adjusted targets for CAS and an American event based type engagements.

Throughout the week or so on the hill, 7Fd JOST saw butt loads of air support, F-18's, F111's dropping



Mk84 500lbs bombs by day and by night, AH-1 Cobra gunships firing 20mm rockets, American TOW anti-tank missiles heaps of Yanks and a couple of Abhram Tanks.

Ex Croc 03 was for 7Fd Regt JOST a profitable experience. The size of the exercise, its constituents and the assortment of equipment employed gave us a greater view of how a fully manned fire support unit would be deployed in support of a combined arms group whilst having full rear echelon support and attachments such as 131 Div Loc Bty. It is also always a pleasure catching up with old and meeting new friends within the Corps. I am sure that all 7 Fd Regt members that attended Ex Croc 03 will look back at it as a memorable experience.



"Cat Scan"



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REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR 2003

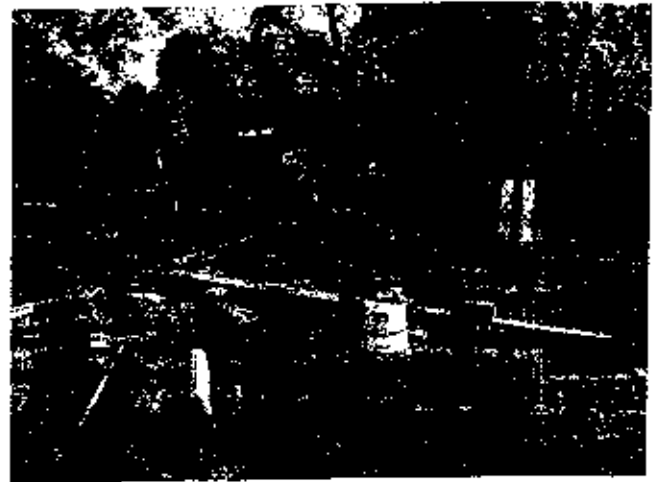
During 2003, the Regiment has conducted a number of activities that were not LFX or Ceremonially oriented. The first of these was the Regimental Wall.

As dawn broke on Saturday 12 Apr 03 at the the 28 Field Battery depot at Dee Why, sleepy-eyed NCO's of the 7th Field Regiment wearily shuffled about dutifully attending to an NCO's typical morning routine. After much activity consisting of yawning, scratching, fidgeting, skylarking, smoking, brewing and shaving, the gaggle of the Regiment's finest peered meekly into the early morning light as the very model of modern day soldiers to which the ordinary digger can only aspire. The biggest task of all was at hand - the construction of the cenotaph.



2 PM Sunday

The working day was finally declared at an end and the RSM cordially invited the JNCO's to the Sergeants' Mess for an evening of conviviality to which only SNCO's are accustomed. On Sunday morning, attention was redirected once more to the cenotaph. After some final touches and cleaning up, the weekend's activities came to a close. But before departing through the gates of the depot, SNCO's and JNCO's alike momentarily stood silently together to admire a permanent memorial to the men and women who served this nation and paid the ultimate sacrifice.



10 AM Saturday

Under the supervision of the RSM, the NCOs were divided into two work groups capably led by well qualified foremen. LBDR Shane Fender coordinated the paving and BDR Chris Porter directed his group to complete the cement rendering. For the remainder of the morning, throughout the afternoon and at the setting of the sun, a small corner of the parade ground became a hive of industrious activity. Without interruption, there were NCO's labouring, shovelling, mixing, wheelbarrowing, pave-cutting, measuring, levelling, laying, rendering, cleaning, sweeping and hosing to ensure the cenotaph's completion by the end of the weekend.



Dawn ANZAC Day

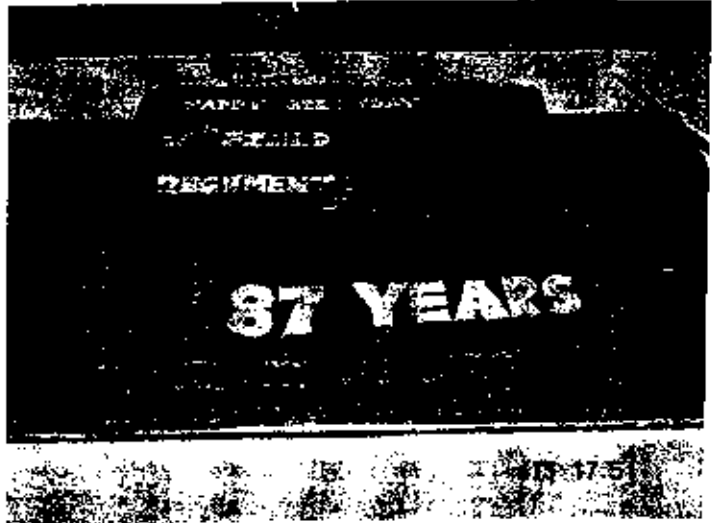
REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR 2003 (cont'd)

The Regiment also conducted and attended a number of dinners for the year. The first of these was to celebrate the Regimental Birthday.

7 FD REGT Birthday Dinner

The 7th Field Regiment celebrated its 87th birthday with a regimental dinner on 15 March at the 28th Field Battery Depot in DEE WHY.

Attending were MAJ GEN R. P. Irving, Commander of the 2nd Division, COL J. Fairless (former CO of 7 Field Regiment), COL S. Goltz (Colonel Commandant Land Command Artillery), LT COL J. Wilson, CO of 7th Field Regiment, WO1 Darren Callaghan (Master Gunner Land Command) and members from the 113 Fd Bty and 7 Field Regiment Association, and the officers and personnel of the Regiment. The evening began with



pre-dinner drinks, which were enjoyed by all, including a few nervous personnel who had yet to attend a Regimental dinner. The traditional marching on of the banner marked the formal start of festivities. The banner party ensign was 2LT Jones and the two escorts to the banner were SGT Conway and SGT Robinson.

The dinner was lively as personnel from all three battery's mixed easily in an atmosphere of camaraderie. All participants thoroughly enjoyed a delicious menu of food and drink, which included Filet Mignon and Roast Chicken. Both MAJ GEN Irving and LT COL Wilson made speeches with insightful thoughts on the role of the Regiment and the significance of its birthday.

THE RAA GUNNER DINNERS

On 09 Aug 2003, The NSW RAA Association again held the annual Gunner Dinner at the Willoughby Legions Club. The dinner was well attended by members of 7 FD REGT and a good evening was had by all. Prior to the dinner commencing, the RAA Banner was marched in by the 23 FD REGT Banner Party and then the dinner began.

The dinner commenced at 1930h and continued through to 2300h. This didn't leave much time for merriment post dinner as the club closed the bar at midnight, much to the distress of the 'younger set'. During the dinner, the RSM received a Divisional Commanders Commendation from the Commander 2nd Division, MAJ GEN Irving. This was for the work he has done with 7th Field Regiment in the past 18 months. In the words of the CO, 'Well done RSM'.

The Newcastle Dinner

On Saturday 23 Aug 2003, the Newcastle Branch of the RAA Association held its Annual Dinner at the Adamstown MUD. The dinner was attended by 65 members and guests. WO2 Deeble was the Dining President and Col Steve Goltz was the Official Guest.

Prior to going into the dining area, COL Goltz unveiled the 25pdr gun donated to the BTY by the RAA Historical Society, Fort Scratchley.

Despite the best efforts of 8CER, the concrete was ready for the gun by the 23rd, and the gun was mounted. A lot of work was done to the gun by 113 FD BTY personnel, and a big



The Head Table

thanks goes out to SGT Conway and all the soldiers involved in the restoration of the gun.

After the unveiling, we joined the official guest for dinner. WO2 Deeble conducted a very quick dinner and we were out by 2245. Here the night really kicked off. I do not think that the Adamstown Officer / SGT Mess has seen that much bar trading for quite a while.

Another successful Gunner Dinner was concluded by 0500, (by some), and the next one should be even better.



2003 OFFICER & SERGEANTS MESS FAREWELL DINNER

The combined farewell dinner for the Officer and Sergeants Mess was held on Saturday 8 Nov 03. The evening began at Dee Why Depot when the Progressive Mystery Dinner departed for Chowder Bay for pre-dinner drinks and some of the farewells. WO2 Lentfer was farewelled here and then we moved to HMAS Penguin for the Main Course. At Penguin, WO2 Deeble was farewelled after a delicious meal of chinese style beef and chicken.

From here we moved to the Manly Pacific Hotel for a cocktail and to watch the beginning of the RWC Quarter Final between the Fantastic Wallabies and the Sour Scot's.

After cocktails, we returned to Dee Why for the toasts. It was here that the former WO2 Applewhite and now CAPT Applewhite was farewelled from the Sergeants Mess and welcomed to the Officers Mess. We also farewelled the RSM. After the toasts, everyone retired to the Officers Mess for post-function festivities.



The Head Table at HMAS Penguin

8 Nov 03 Farewell Dinner



The Regimental Tight 5



Decble, WO2 Deeble. Shaken not stirred!



WO2 Lentfer. A Recruiters Recruiter



The tall & the short of 7FD REGT!



Out with the old & in with the new!

What
can you
say;
RAEME



**7 FIELD REGIMENT
SGTs MESS
A LETTER FROM THE PMC**

2003 was again a very productive year with regards to ongoing Mess refurbishment and continued revenue raising that enables the Mess to grow. I would like to thank all members who have contributed during the refurbishment. In particular I would like to thank GNR Fudali and SGT Birrell who have voluntarily provided their civil trade skills to assist us with mess improvements. I call on other members of the mess, that if they have any ideas or can provide skills to improve the mess to come forward.

Mess membership is currently 25 and this year we welcomed the following new members to the Mess;
WO2 Keith Hall, SMIG 28 FD BTY,
WO2 Glenn Ryan, OPS WO,
SGT Wayne Piggott, CC,
SGT Stephen Mason, QM,
SGT Mark Linney, TPT SPV, and on promotion
SGT Andrew Cartwright. GUN SGT 113 FD BTY.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Mess to wish CAPT Greg Applewhite all the best in the future after he took commission on 06 December 2003 and WO2 Lynn Lentfer who at the end of the year will be posted to 8 CER. .

The SGT's Mess is trading well and operating very efficiently. This would not be possible without the efforts of the Mess Committee, in particular our Treasurer, WO2 Hall who has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Mess financial position is sound and has coordinated most mess refurbishment projects under strict budget constraints. NIL COST!

Overall the past two years the Mess has had a productive and enjoyable period which could have only occurred with the members continued support. I thank you. At the end of the year I will be handing the Mess to the new PMC, WO1 Greg Metcalfe and I am sure he will enjoy the Mess as I have over my two years as your PMC.

UBIQUE



7 FD REGT ANNUAL AWARDS

As we all know, the Regiment competes for a number of individual and sub-unit awards annually. Below are the 2003 winners and I congratulate all the winners on a job well done.

7 FD REGT Shooting Trophy

113 FD BTY

7 FD REGT Military Skills Trophy

Not contested 2003

7 FD REGT Most Proficient Officer

LT Chandler

7 FD REGT Most Proficient Senior NCO

SGT A. Russell

7 FD REGT Most Proficient Junior NCO

BDR C. Porter

7 FD REGT Most Proficient Soldier

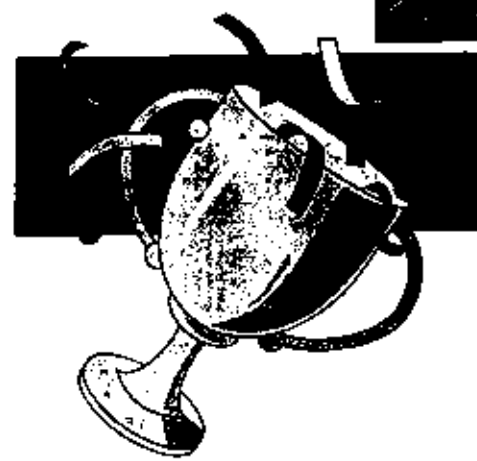
PTE G. Atkinson, and

7 FD REGT Most Improved Soldier

PTE S. Donnelly

Runners - Up

GNR L. Moers and PTE R. Clemence.



Well done to all.

