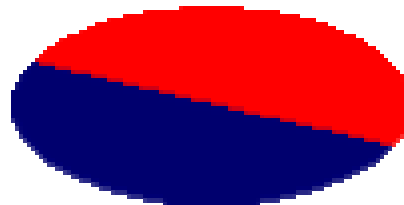


7th Field Regiment

Royal Australian Artillery

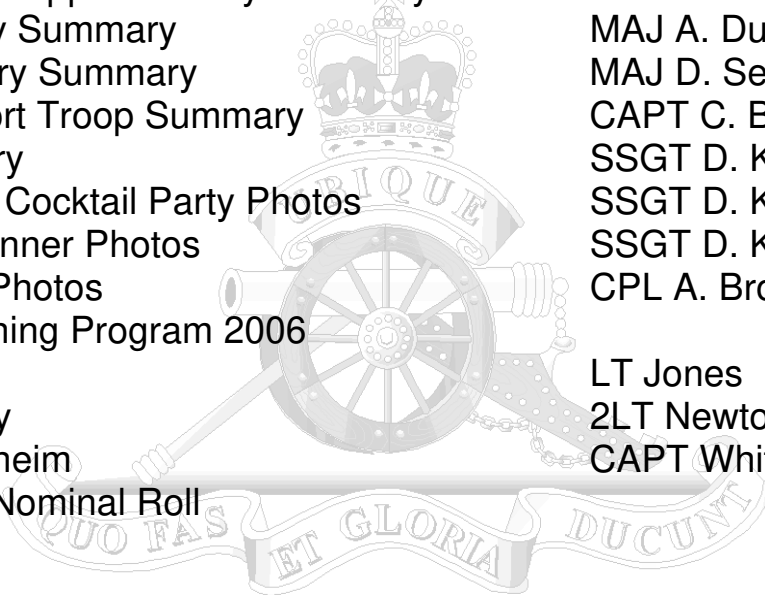


90th Anniversary
Journal

7th Field Regiment
90th Anniversary Journal
2006

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7th Field Regiment Unit History



Formation

The 7th Field Regiment lineage was established with the 7th Field Artillery Brigade. In 2006, the Regiment celebrates its 90th anniversary. The 7th Field Artillery Brigade, 3rd Division, AIF, was formed at the "Warren", a one time convent, in the suburb of Marrickville, NSW, on 17 March 1916. The Brigade comprised of Brigade Headquarters, 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th Field Batterys (each of four 18 pound guns) and 7th Field Brigade Ammunition Column. The Brigade embarked at Sydney on HMAT Argyllshire on the 11 May 1916 and arrived at Portsmouth on 11 July 1916.

Upon arrival in England, the Brigade commenced training at Larkhill on the Salisbury Plains. During this time, the 23rd Howitzer Brigade was abolished and 107th Howitzer Battery, with 4.5 inch howitzers, was allocated to 7th Field Artillery Brigade. 28th Field Battery was allocated to a new artillery Brigade, the 23rd Field Artillery Brigade.

The Brigade disembarked at Le Havre, France on 31 December 1916. A further reorganisation of the Brigade occurred at Stazeele in January 1917. The batterys were reformed and made into six gun batterys. The original 27th Battery was broken up and its personnel allocated amongst the other batterys. A new 27th Field Battery was formed out of the now disbanded 23rd Field Artillery Brigade. This reorganisation was to economise on battery commanders, who were in short supply across the AIF.

The Brigade first went into action on 17 January, 1917, at took part in the battles at Armentieres and Ploesgsteert. It was not until the battle at Messines on 7 June 1917, that the Brigade first fired in

support of its parent division, the 3rd Australian Division.

Messines was to be the 3rd Divisions first major attack. The 3rd Division as part of the II ANZAC Corps of the Second Army, was allocated 120 x 18 pounders and 30 x 4.5 inch howitzers including those of the 7th Field Artillery Brigade. All up, the Second Corps had more than 2000 guns and mortars and over 144,000 tonnes of ammunition had been dumped providing 1000 rounds per 18 pound gun.



13 October 1918 - Men of the 7th and 8th Brigades of Australian Field Artillery enjoy a meal break in the process of moving along a road near Brancourt, to engage in the advance beyond the Hindenburg Line.

Towards the end of the war in 1918, the Brigade served with the 27th United States Division. On 3 April 1919, the 7th and 8th Field Artillery Brigades were amalgamated. By the end of April only about 250 men remained in both Brigades and on 1 May 1919, the 7th Field Artillery Brigade was disbanded. The remaining personnel were formed into one battery (26th Field Battery) and attached to 4th Field Artillery Brigade for demobilisation. On 18 August 1919, the Brigade was removed from the line of battle.

Between Wars

On 31 March 1921, the 7th Australian Field Artillery Brigade was re-formed at

Mount Street, North Sydney. The Brigade comprised of Brigade Headquarters, 25th and 27th Batterys AFA and 107th (Howitzer) Battery. 26th Battery AFA was not raised at this time. In 1929, the Brigade was moved into a depot at Warrane Road, Willoughby and was then known as 7th Field Brigade AFA. From 1921-1939, annual camps were held at Liverpool, Holsworthy, Greta, Aberglassyn and Williamtown. Guns and remounts were obtained from depots in the areas. In 1937 the unit was renamed 7th Field Brigade Royal Australian Artillery (Militia). The 26th Field Battery was later raised in May 1939.

World War II



27 Fd Bty 7 FA Bde RAA (Militia) Coming into action at Fingal Bay – Oct 1938

Many individual members of the Brigade joined the AIF in the first twelve months of WWII, including 36 regimental officers and the medical officer. The majority joined 2/1st, 2/6th, 2/9th and 2/15th Field Regiments. More officers and other ranks joined later, especially in response to recruiting campaigns during annual camps in 1940 and 1941. In the early 1940's, recruits were trained at the Willoughby depot because of a lack of artillery training camps, before allocation to AIF units. This resulted in the 2/9th Field Regiment being designated "A Friend of the Regiment" on 4 October 1977. Many of its members received their first military training at the Willoughby depot.

By the time of the annual camp in April 1940 at Greta and Largs in NSW, motorisation with impressed civilian vehicles and two Marmon Harrington gun tractors per battery was complete. In the three gun batterys (25th, 26th & 27th) the guns were shod with pneumatic tyres, but the solid iron tyres of the Q.F. 4.5 Howitzers of 107th (H) Battery were not replaced until the end of this camp. The Brigade was now designated as the 7th Field Regiment, RAA (Militia).

The next year's camp was held at Ingleburn, Warwick Farm and Narellan in April 1941. On 1 October 1941, 7th Field Regiment consisting of 25th, 26th, 27th Field and 107th (H) Batterys was allocated to full time duty. Late in 1941, the 18 pounders and the 4.5 inch howitzers were withdrawn and replaced with 25 pounders. 107th (H) Battery was disbanded and the personnel were allotted to 26th Field Battery. Each battery was split into two troops of four guns. During 1941 and 1942, training of the Regiment and including replacement officers was carried out at Wallgrove and Greta. The Regiment was also used to defend the beaches at Narrabeen, Manly, Coogee and Wollongong.

During July 1942 the Regiment, with a strength of 600 men, was transferred to Western Australia as part of the 8th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Division, 3rd Australian Corps. It served at Chidlow, Gin Gin, Bellevue, Geraldton, Dandaragan and Mingenew. On 18 July 1942, the Regiment was redesignated as an AIF regiment. All of the officers and 75% of the other ranks volunteered for overseas service. The Regiment became known as the 7th Australian Field Regiment (AIF).

In October 1943, the Regiment was returned to Wallgrove, NSW, where it was disbanded as there were too many artillery units in existence for the operational requirements of the time. The members of the Regiment were allocated to other artillery units.

Post War WWII

On the raising of the CMF in 1948, 7th Field Regiment, RAA, was reformed at Warrane Road, Willoughby, on 1 April 1948. Recruiting began in June 1948 to form P and Q Batterys. R Battery was formed in 1950 and was transferred to Hornsby in December 1951 and on 11 March 1952 became the nucleus of the 21st Field Regiment, RAA, (later disbanded). Following the conclusion of the National Service scheme, 14th Field Regiment, RAA, was absorbed into the Regiment on 6 May 1960 and became Q Battery, 7th Field Regiment. P Battery and RHQ remained at Willoughby.

In 1964 the batterys were renamed. P Battery became 26th Field Battery and Q Battery became 27th Field Battery. 26th Field Battery's 25 pounders were withdrawn in 1965 and were replaced with 105mm L5 pack howitzers. The L5's were themselves withdrawn late in 1966, for use in Vietnam, and replaced by the return of 25 pounders. During 1969, the Marrickville depot was closed and 27th Field Battery was transferred to Willoughby.

During 1973, the 25 pounders were finally replaced by L5 howitzers. 26th and 27th Field Batterys were disbanded on the 1st November 1973 and were reformed as 28th Field Battery at Willoughby. A new battery, 5th Field Battery, was created from the disbanded 9th LAA Regiment at South Creek Road, Dee Why and 113th LAA Battery at Brunner Road, Adamstown was attached to the Regiment.

The 5th Field Battery was disbanded in 1976 and absorbed into 28th Field Battery, which then moved to Dee Why. On 10 August 1976, 113th LAA Battery became part of the Regiment as 113th Field Battery. At Willoughby the Regiment comprised RHQ, HQ Battery and

Technical Support Troop. In 1994, 113th Field Battery moved to a new Multi User Depot in Military Road, Adamstown. In January 1996, the Regiment moved from its Willoughby depot to take up residence in a refurbished Multi User Facility, located at Pymble, NSW.

7th Field Regiment today

In 2006, the role of 7th Field Regiment is to provide specified individual and collective offensive support capabilities to support, sustain and reinforce Army's operational forces. The Regiment comprises of CSS Battery at Pymble, 28th Field Battery at Dee Why and 113th Field Battery at Adamstown and continues to proudly serve the nation on numerous domestic and operational tasks as it has done for the past 90 years. Current and former members of the Regiment have served in Timor Leste, Rifle Company Butterworth and supported operations RELIX, SUMATRA ASSIST and ACOLYTE.



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2006 IN REVIEW

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Craig Taggart

This year the Regiment celebrated its 90th anniversary with a Birthday cocktail party at North Head on Saturday, 11th March 2006. The highlights for the evening included the dedication of the Association's, 7th Field Regiment paver in the Memorial Walk and my cutting of the birthday cake by our youngest soldier, Gunner Hubbard-Potter of 113th Field Battery.

Throughout my command, I have held the heritage of the Regiment in pride of place and it is fitting that we reflect on the origins of the Regiment. The 7th Field Artillery Brigade was formed on the 17th March 1916 in Marrickville and first went into action on the 17th January 1917 at Armentieres. The Brigade remained in action continuously for the remainder of World War One before being removed from the order of battle. The Brigade was reformed in 1921, was redesignated 7th Field Regiment and served in World War Two and later disbanded again. The Regiment was re-raised in 1948 and has served continuously to this day.

Throughout the tenure of command, my intent has always been that we re-establish and maintain two separate firing units based on each of 28th and 113th Field Batterys. I was most pleased that this was achieved on the firing exercise conducted at Singleton during the period 17th-19th March 2006. It was most fitting that this success was to occur on our 90th Anniversary. Both gun batterys deployed as two separate (albeit small) firing units each with their own command posts, safety parties and Joint Offensive Support Teams. The importance of every individual soldier cannot be understated as any one person can be the difference between deploying one or two fire units. This achievement was brought about by

a continuous effort from past and current members who have assisted to rebuild the Regiment over the last two years.

The Army Reserve continues to be given increasing opportunities to promote the interests of our country and our people. However, along with these opportunities comes a responsibility to deliver higher readiness and capability. As Army becomes *Hardened and Networked*, the focus on training within the Regiment needs to adapt to delivering Joint Offensive Support Team (JOST) outcomes. In particular, the Regiment needs to prepare to deliver up to two High Readiness Reserve (HRR) JOSTs. In order to achieve this, we need to develop our individual and collective, operator command post and observation of fire capabilities. This will require all RAA soldiers and officers to take up the challenge of moving beyond the gunline, through the command posts and onto the observation posts to establish a pool of JOSTs. Equally important will be the need to continue to develop our logistic support capability in the workshop, Regimental Aid Post, orderly rooms, Q store and transport sections.

My time as commanding officer is closing and I will soon be handing over command to Lieutenant Colonel Max Shaday. I have thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of commanding the 7th Field Regiment and I would like to thank each and every member of the Regiment and your families for your support and dedication.

Good luck and good shooting in the future.

Craig Taggart
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

2006 IN REVIEW

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

Warrant Officer Class One B. Franklin

As I start to write this article I look back on the year and cannot believe how fast it has gone. The training year started off quickly with Safety Training Weekend, General Training, Induction Training, Regimental Cocktail Party and then off to Singleton for the first LFX followed by the JTAC week. I don't think it has slowed too since then.

This year I have been very proud being your RSM. It has been very rewarding and personally satisfying seeing the Regiment continue to grow to a posted strength of 157 personnel in such a short time. The focus for the year was set early with a high emphasis placed on recruiting and retention along with continuing to raise the skill levels of our existing members through realistic training and expectations. A decisive two-year planning training cycle for future employment will enable the Regiment to maintain and grow the two individual firing units. In the civilian world there is much talk about corporate knowledge and the effect of losing it. The same applies to us with in the Regiment. There is a wealth of knowledge within the Regiment and every time we exercise and train together this knowledge and teamwork grows. So it behoves every individual no matter how small your part is at the moment to maintain your enthusiasm and continue to support all the weekend exercises and strive to improve your own skill level.

A lot of work goes into organising these exercises and it is very disappointing when our numbers are low. I ask that next year you look at the commitments that you have made this year and if you have been inconsistent then next year I ask you to make a bigger commitment to the

Regiment. A reminder to all Warrant Officers, Senior and Junior Non Commissioned Officers that soldiers need a role model. You need to be professional and dedicated in everything that you do. Soldiers need to be led; they do not need mates. You must lead from the front. For those members of the Regiment who did make the effort to attend the majority of the training activities throughout the year, you are all better soldiers for it. I also take the opportunity to remind you that you are a part of the ADF and have made a commitment to maintain your soldier skills and to be (and remain) AIRN compliant.

I would also like to thank all 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. Without these efforts the Regiment would cease to function. To those of you who continue to parade and are making every effort to fulfil your commitment agreed upon when you signed on the dotted line, I thank you for your endeavours and sincerely wish you all the best in both your military and civilian employment in 2007.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

UBIQUE

COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT BATTERY

2006 SUMMARY

Major David Ellson

As 2006 draws to a close, I reflect upon a demanding year that has in some way impacted upon each and every element of CSS Battery, and seen much growth and change.

On assuming my position as Battery Commander, it was clear that the year would hold some unexpected challenges, and many rewards. I did not feel as confident in dealing with ACMS, TRF, SDSS, TRAMM, ASAS, MAS, and OHS as I would have in dealing with SMIGs, FOs and Fire Plans.

Whilst it was a pleasing to have a gun detachment under my command, it was disappointing to see the other sections of the Battery were undermanned and often dealing with antiquated equipment. This did not otherwise deter the levels of enthusiasm and commitment that was consistently displayed by most members of the Battery, who continually strived to produce results which they can be proud of.

The Battery had clearly been through a period of growth under the previous Battery Commander, MAJ Seabrook, but an identity had not yet fully evolved. The success of any Regiment in achieving its mission is the direct result of CSS Battery's ability to provide support, and unlike an otherwise weak gun battery in a strong Regiment, a poor CSS Battery has nowhere to hide. The Commanders intent that I set at the commencement of the year (CSS Bty is to provide first class

support to 7 Fd Regt through trained and motivated personnel), was taken to heart and it was pleasing to see that as the year progressed a distinct Battery identity started to evolve, with the success of the Regiment in meeting it's training objectives and tasks imposed upon us, being a reflection of how well the Battery performed.

It is significant that CSS Battery has been able to continue this level of support through out the year, without interruption, even as changes have been imposed on the way most sections do business. The year has additionally seen the Regiment conduct a diverse range of training, and all activities have been supported by CSS Battery, some at extremely short notice.

Whilst it has been a productive and successful year for the Battery, much more remains to be done, and both the unit and Battery can expect to continue to develop their professional mastery of arms next year. What has been achieved this year has been due to the considerable efforts of the long-serving members of the Battery with their wealth of experience, and the new and enthusiastic members who are willing to tackle new challenges. As you read this article and look back upon the year, I thank you for your efforts and ask that you consider your commitment to the Regiment in 2007, which promises to be another demanding, interesting yet satisfying year.

28TH FIELD BATTERY

2006 SUMMARY

Major Alain Dunand

2006 was the 90th Anniversary for the Regiment as well as the 50th Anniversary of the Dee Why Artillery Depot. The tempo at the beginning of the year saw us conducting mandatory training, planning conferences, LFX, JTAC support, Safety Course and Regimental Cocktail party all before the end of March. This pretty much set the tone for the remainder of the year but to our credit, the Battery was able to have sufficient skills and personnel to fire as a separate call sign during the year.

At the same time, 2006 could be considered a building year in that we had a number of new additions to the battery (officers, soldiers and recruits) as well as some that returned to the battery after postings away or re-enlisting. This has placed a large demand for training on individuals and Training Command. I like to think we continue to make constant progress developing and training all our soldiers for trade and rank.

Deploying to the field has had its challenges during the year with key positions having to be taken on by a number of individuals already performing key roles. In some cases, people wearing two and three hats. With the exception of the July Concentration Exercise, 28 Bty was always able to provide a CP, Gun, JOST, Safety party and Command Group thanks to the dedication of those familiar faces.

We supported the local community through a number of activities during the year commencing with ANZAC Day where we provided Catafalque parties and guards for Pittwater and Forestville RSL Sub-branches. Dawn Services at both locations were well supported by the

Battery and the hospitality shown by the RSL's to our soldiers and the local community was greatly appreciated. Some members went on to support the main march in the City as well as other reunions and traditional ANZAC day activities.

The inaugural Messines Dinner was hosted at Dee Why for the Officers and SNCOs of the Regiment. The Dinner was held in the drill hall with guns, silverware, camouflage nets and candles for atmosphere. A sumptuous 3 course meal was provided by local caterers after which members withdrew to their respective messes for after dinner drinks. It is hoped that this becomes the signature dinner of the year for members of the Regiment and their partners.

50th anniversary of Dee Why Artillery Depot

The Dee Why Depot celebrated its 50th Anniversary with an open day and commemoration ceremony. This was an opportunity to raise the awareness of the RAA and ARES in the local community and to invite previous serving members of the Dee Why Depot back to their old training location. Relying on word of mouth through the various Artillery Associations (Field, Anti-Aircraft and Historical Company), local letterbox drops and local advertising we drew a crowd of over 200 visitors and guests to the depot on Saturday 24th June.

Previous serving members from 16 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regt, 9 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regt, 9 Light Anti-Aircraft Regt, 5 Field Battery and 28 Field Battery all participated and enjoyed recounting stories with fellow gunners, past and

present. The Anniversary was well supported by both Pittwater and Forestville RSL Sub-Branched and the 50th Anniversary cake was sponsored by Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch. The 2 Div RAA Band provided support for the service and light entertainment during a sunny and warm winter's day.



A display of all the guns used by units who occupied the depot over the previous 50 years was made possible by the strong support of the RAA National Museum at North Fort. The equipment on display comprised:

- 3.7" Heavy Anti Aircraft Artillery Gun
- 40mm Bofors Medium Anti Aircraft Artillery Gun
- 105mm M2A1/2 Field Artillery Howitzer
- 105mm L5 Pack Howitzer
- 105mm L119 Hamel Gun
- Vehicles, weapons and equipment in current service within the RAA.

There were also a number of unique pieces of memorabilia donated to the Battery by previous gunners and local residents. Old newspaper clippings of the opening of the depot in 1956, a signed copy of a book by its author, an engraved cartridge case from a local resident who was 92 years of age, an ex digger/gunner from WWII who served in Crete, Palestine, Egypt, Lybia, and New Guinea, to mention a few.

A Sausage sizzle was held to satisfy the hunger of the visitors as well as provide some fund raising for Suzanne Donnelly's special school. Assisted by members of the 7 Field Regiment RAA Association who did the cooking and serving, we raised over \$120 towards the Vern Barnett School for Children with Autism.

Upgrading of facilities

The depot itself has seen a number of structural and cosmetic improvements over the year with the installation of new washers & dryers, a fire alarm system, electric roller doors to the drill hall, painting of the front offices and entry, revitalisation of the lecture room/recruiting office with DRN access and audio visual facilities. In the Drill Hall, small tricon containers were acquired for storage, security and easy access of guns.

Adventure Training

On the maintenance weekend in October, the Battery took some time off to get their feet wet (and just about everything else) with some adventure training on the Narrabeen lakes. After a refreshing plunge into the Pittwater House Schools pool to confirm we can all swim, we headed for the lakes and took to the water like ducks. Kitted out with kayaks, life vests and sunscreen we headed out to explore the Narrabeen lakes. During the course of the day we conducted some team activities and competitions. Above all, everybody had fun and some found they had muscles where they didn't know they existed and were feeling sore for a day or two afterwards.

Overall a successful and busy year with LFX's, maintenance, training and supporting the local community. Thanks again to the dedicated and professional soldiers that sacrifice their time and energy to support the ADF and the Regiment.

113TH FIELD BATTERY

2006 SUMMARY

Major Dhugald See

For the first time in a number of years the Battery was able to deploy and fire as an individual call sign. This was due in no small part to the members of the Battery being prepared to step into unfamiliar and sometimes junior roles. Some of the roles performed throughout the year were:

- WO1 Wicks (RAINF) as SMIG
- WO2 Linsley as BK, Recon officer and BG
- SGT Lowe as FO, Recon Officer and BG
- SGT Cartwright as GPO and FO
- SGT Fairbairn as OPCP
- SGT Porter as Recon officer and OPCP
- Sgt Atchison as Recon officer and OPCP

Further to this there were a number of Gunners who stepped up to the signals role both in the CP and in the JOST.

The Battery's numbers have grown significantly over the year thanks to the work of LBDR Nicholson and the recruiting team. A more focused and targeted approach has enabled us to balance recruiting and training. We also welcomed back CAPT Worboys and WO2 Nicholls. We have also provided a

recruiting pool for the regular forces with a number of soldiers either transferred and or in the process of transfer.

Unfortunately the Battery has had to say goodbye to a couple of long serving members, namely SGT Clarke and SGT Bulley. They have both made significant contributions to a number of Newcastle ARES units they have served in. They will be sorely missed.

The battery's activities over the year have been many and varied. An increased tempo and a continued change of focus of ARES roles and tasking has seen the Battery focus on supplying JOST capability as well as individuals to mutli Corps tasking. The Battery has provided GNR Strategos and GNR Allanson to Rifle Company Butterworth and Reserve Response Force volunteers have been:

- CAPT Pigneguy
- BDR Thomas
- GNR Stewart
- GNR Stratgos

With the ongoing training and Qualification of our Soldiers and Officers the Battery can look forward to an even more prosperous 2007.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TROOP

2006 SUMMARY

Captain Caroline Bohlsen
Warrant Officer Class Two Lindsay Vella
Corporal Kirk Scott

It has been my privilege to be the Officer Commanding the 7th Field Regiment Technical Support Troop for the past 2 years. During this time the troop has grown from a personnel strength of 6 to 14 and has helped form probably the largest echelon on field firing weekends that the Regiment has seen.

General Engineering - Comprising WO2 Skeg Vella (ASM), SGT Mark Cederblad (ARA Fitter SGT), SGT Al Russell, LCPL Steve Caban and ARTAP apprentices CFN Rob Caddy and CFN Calum Clark. Our Armourers have kept the guns pre-fired, firing and conducted so many weapon inspections and conversions that they will be glad to see the door of the armoury closed for the year. The GMV has been a fixture on the gun line as usual and I think it only got bogged the once (we do our bit to help CPL Collins keep up his skills).

Vehicle Maintenance - Comprising CPL Kirk Scott (ARA VM CPL), CPL Steve Balfour, 2nd year ARTAP apprentices CFN Mark Andrews & CFN Will Cleland, and 1st year ARTAP apprentices CFN Chris De Souza & CFN Chris Pellew. Not only have the VM's formed the bulk of echelon numbers, the appys have also put their hands up to fill around half of the RRF positions. Domestic security ... and repair capability in one hit!

The guys have had most of their urgent tasks occur on the way to and from Singleton range, and have usually got the vehicles on the way again. When that hasn't been possible... see the next section.

Recovery - Comprising CPL Pete Collins. We've begged, borrowed and stolen to have a recovery vehicle most firing weekends. Most of the time we haven't needed to call on CPL Collins...but if you give one water crossing lesson, just once..... CPL Collins has towed guns, gun tractors, even TST vehicles (sad but true) and 23 Fd Regt have been awfully glad to see us at the twin Caltex on more than one occasion to help them out. It will be a great day when we have a recovery vehicle to call our own, love and care for. Until then... loan pool it is.

Activities - Firing weekends, JTAC support, RRF and Brigade EME courses... you name it the TST had a presence. Presence...hmmm.. Without us many of these activities simply wouldn't go ahead...who else would do all the range sentry duties? I thought it was infantry types that went by "Duty First". Next year it is hoped we will get to support other units in the Brigade to expose the apprentices (and maybe the odd qualified tradie) to how other units operate and the different bits of kit they have.

We also made a decent showing at the annual ARTAP dinner held in Newcastle with CFN Andrews coming 3rd in the TAFE award. The achievement made even more outstanding when you factor in that he is a 2nd year apprentice competing against 3rd and 4th year apprentices. Also well done to CFN Cleland who was 1 point behind him...next year 7 Field plans to scoop the pools with regard to awards...with Cpl Scott still believing he is a shoe in for "7

Field VM Apprentice Supervisor of the Year"...don't worry about a trophy...he brings his own cork.

Farewells - This year we farewell SGT Gary Clark. SGT Clark has transferred to the Standby Reserve to concentrate on his career and grandchildren and we wish him all the best.

ASM's comments - I would like to thank all members of the brotherhood for their efforts this year. I wish you all an enjoyable Xmas break and ask for your continued support in 2007.

Sadly 2006 sees the OC and SGT Cederblad depart to fairer and maybe greener pastures. We thank you for your dedication in keeping the TST afloat over the last couple years and more importantly making my job as pain free as possible. We wish you every success in the future and expect to see you back at Pymble when you are in the area.

The future - Already we have apprentices thinking of transfers to the ARA, so to keep our numbers and capability healthy, we need to continue to keep new members coming in at a steady but sustainable rate. ARTAP is a great opportunity - ARA and industry recognised training in the local area, and the privilege of belonging to 7th Field Regiment all the way through. Anyone in the Regiment who knows of a young person this would appeal to is strongly encouraged to pass their details on to SGT Francis.

Next year the Regiment will have its accreditation as an Authorised Maintenance Organisation reviewed. Without this accreditation, the TST will not be able to carry out unit equipment maintenance. Batteries contribute to our accreditation through Non-Technical Inspections and the timely submissions of EMEFIX's. So everybody, we need you to play your part!

Q STORE

2006 Summary

SSGT Donald Kennedy

This year we have seen a few new faces in the Q Store, one being the QM, WO2 M.J Benson. Since joining us he has made some big changes in the Q with accountability of unit equipment. With the training he has given to his staff, he has made a big difference in the day to day running of the Q Store. Things have improved greatly, but we are only halfway. With a lot more stocktaking and adjusting the unit account we will see the light at the end of the tunnel soon

This year we see CPL Emsley leave us to return to 1 JSU in Queensland, LCPL Eeles leaves us for 9 CSSB in Adelaide and we wish them all the best on their new postings and they will be missed.

We would also like to make welcome in the New Year SGT Andrew Salcole who is joining us from sunny Kapooka, a welcome back to CPL Gavin Fear, who is coming from UNSWR and CPL Patricia Barnsley who is travelling a long way from Darwin (1CSSB). We also have a new Reserve soldier, PTE Darren Boulter, straight from Koopooka to the Q-Store.

I have seen a big improvement within the Q system this year with the assistance of WO2 Benson. With the training and knowledge he has given us, he has helped make this year a successful one.

SSGT Don Kennedy



Pictures by SSGT Donald Kennedy

Yt+r@D - i-@t+X000 U00Y+r-B-@t+r-@t+000





602C RON-D OCSO r r f f O

Pictures by SSGT Donald Kennedy



Photos by CPL Andrew Brooks

60-52 SMDY DS-CRDL

EXERCISE YPRES

Lieutenant Marcus Jones – 113th Field Battery

Exercise Ypres was conducted at Singleton Range Training Area during the dates 21 July to 23 July 2006. The objective of the exercise was to develop individual and collective competencies within the battery and to provide Offensive support to 8 Brigade in defence of vital and strategic resources in the Singleton area.

The stage was set for Australian Forces to conduct offensive operations against Musorian Special Forces elements and Divisional and Brigade strength Recon Groups.

Manning for the weekend was sufficient enough to enable two operational call signs to fire, manned by 113, 28 and CSS Bty's. Each call sign had its own FO Party, Command Post and a single gun detachment.

Over the course of the weekend multiple deployments were conducted involving live fire of HE, WP and smoke. In total approximately 120 rounds were fired. Local defence was tested during the

Saturday night when the position was probed by the enemy and the wagon lines again proved difficult to defend.

The exercise was enjoyed by all personnel with little incident. The weather was fine and of a moderate temperature which was well regarded.

Some of the difficulties experienced by the fire units involved communication equipment and gun orientation drills. The personnel concerned took advantage of the experience to identify vulnerabilities that could be improved upon during future missions.

The exercise was followed by the Regimental AFX and provided an excellent platform for preparation. Some vigorous activity conducting the deployments was well received by the soldiers and Officers in anticipation of the decompression of the AFX which was to follow.

M. JONES
Lieutenant



EXERCISE BUSIGNY

Second Lieutenant Guy Newton – 28th Field Battery

During mid October 7 Fd Regt deployed to the Singleton Range Training Area (SRTA) to undertake a live fire exercise (LFX) EXERCISE BUSIGNY. The exercise was named after the 1918 battle to the east of the French town of Busigny in which Australian Artillery units successfully undertook close and intimate indirect fire support to aid the advancing infantry.

The conduct of the exercise was in two parts, the LFX itself and the JTAC support which was undertaken during the week after the LFX.

Upon deployment to SRTA on the night of Friday 13th of October, both 28 and 113 Field Battery's each moved into individual gun pits within Fire Support Base (FSB) Barbara overlooking the impact area. Once the Bty's settled in to their respective locations and they were able to get a couple of hours sleep to prepare for the weekends activities.

With Saturday came an early start and high temperatures. The temperature and the fierce westerly wind proved too high and strong and resulted in a complete fire ban and therefore live firing. The fire ban was a disappointment to all as the main activities planned for the day could not be undertaken. Saturday also saw the visit of a number of veterans and members of the 7 Fd Regt Association and the RAA Association to be given a tour of the gun positions and also give them an opportunity to speak with and view the soldiers working. Unfortunately due to the fire ban they were unable to see a live fire demonstration of the L119 Hamel guns in action.

As Saturday came to a close, further orders were given and both 28 and 113 Battery's undertook a direct deployment

by night, moving to another position with the hope of the fire ban lifting so as to commence firing, which was not an eventuality.

The Sunday, and final day of the LFX saw some lower temperatures and another

deployment to a new position. Thankfully no fire ban was in force, which therefore allowed the firing to begin with all elements of the Battery's undertaking their individual tasks so as to engage the targets. At the conclusion of days firing the rest of the Regt who weren't staying behind to support the JTAC returned to their respective depots.

On Sunday and Monday, a number of RAA personnel from 23 Fd Regt and A Fd Bty arrived to support the Regt for the JTAC shoot. Amongst the positions filled were, additional manning for the three guns, the CP, and the JOST, which was provided by A Bty.

JTAC saw the soldiers of the REGT engage targets within the impact area to support close air support for students on the JTAC. The fire missions primarily involved marking the various targets with either HE, WP or Smoke enabling the RAAF jets to identify the targets so they could engage the designated targets with their various weapons systems, which were mainly 500 pound bombs or 20mm canons. These fire missions ran day and night with the guns also providing illumination of the impact area.

As with all LFX's the numbers of those personnel attending needs to be increased so as to allow the Regt to further develop its capability. Both the LFX and JTAC provided members of the Regiment with an excellent opportunity to practice their technical skills and to practice routine on the gun position. Those who stayed for the JTAC had further opportunities to hone their skills as well as to witness how members of another Army Reserve Field Regiment and a Regular Army Field Battery perform their tasks, thereby allowing a greater understanding of how RAA units operate.

Second Lieutenant Guy Newton
28th Field Battery

EXERCISE MAZENHEIM

EX Mazenhien was the last LFX for the calendar year. It included a few “firsts” as well as a “last”. For the first time the JOST parties utilised the Singleton IFOT on Saturday morning as dry training. This was the also the first step in the development of the JOST troop system to be established at Pymble utilising the IFOT and developing the JOST capability in support of the 2 DIV battle group training plan within HNAR.

The regiment also fired in support of 12/16 HRL by providing Illumination and HE for their combined Infantry small arms and APC 50 Cal. Shoot. This required close coordination and liaison by the JOST with the manoeuvre arm commander and proved to be a valuable training exercise. The attack was deemed to be a success and the JOST should take credit for the effective application of offensive support as a vital part of the manoeuvre arm commander’s plan. The 7 Fd Regt JOST will benefit greatly from

this experience and should look to capitalise on similar opportunities in future.

The Regt also conducted the Navigation component of the Pre-recruit training package. The package was conducted by CSS Bty in the Echelon area with all six recruits in attendance qualifying in their navigation component by the end of the exercise with the aid of daylight saving. Approximately 6km was navigated during the stifling heat of Saturday afternoon with another 3km navigated in darkness. All check points were located (or so they say) but they all made their way back to the Echelon so the aim was achieved.

The LFX was the last exercise for the LTCOL Taggart with 7 Field Regiment and he was sent off by the Regiment by firing the last round of the Fire Plan and the last round for the Year.



FINALLY, SOME HUMOUR

You know you are a Gunner when:

1. You don't know what number comes after 7.
2. You go to ground when you are delayed in traffic, put scrim on your windscreen and get your four year old son to stand in the sun roof to act as air sentry.
3. You don't understand why your civilian mates want their own plate at dinner.
 4. Your sprinkler is orientated in centre of arc.
5. You think the Bee-Gee's is a collective term for a group of Warrant Officer's.
 6. All the lamps in your house have a cart case for a base.
7. It takes two people to go to the ATM. One person to enter the pin and the other to press "Enter".
8. You keep yelling 'Fire Mission' when your partner summons you to the bedroom.
9. You verbally repeat the winning numbers during the lottery draw on TV.
 10. You stand at the 1st tee awaiting safety.

