



7th FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE/7 FIELD REGIMENT/

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

A HISTORY

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Formation

7th Field Artillery Brigade, 3rd Division, A.I.F. was formed at the "Warren" a one-time convent, in the suburb of Marrickville, NSW on 17 March 1916, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel R. St. J. Pearce, VD.¹ The Brigade comprised Brigade Headquarters, 25, 26, 27 and 28 Field Batteries (each of four 18 pounder guns) and 7th Field Brigade Ammunition Column.

The Brigade embarked at Sydney on HMAT Argyllshire on the 11 May 1916. It arrived at Portsmouth, England on 11 July. Training took place at Larkhill, Salisbury Plains where on the 5th of September the 23rd Howitzer Brigade² was abolished. 28 Field Battery absorbed elements of the 7th Field Artillery Brigade Ammunition Column and was designated 107 Howitzer Battery with the 4.5-inch howitzer being transferred. The 107 Howitzer battery in the 23rd Field Artillery Brigade was renumbered 28 Field Battery guns and titles being exchanged and not the men.

The brigade disembarked at Le Havre, France on 31 December 1916. At Stazeele on 6th January 1917 a further reorganisation of the Brigade occurred. The batteries were reformed and made into six gun batteries. The original 27 Battery was cut up and its personnel allocated amongst the other batteries. A new 27 Battery was formed out of 36th Field Battery and a section of 28 Field Battery of the now disbanded 23 Field Artillery Brigade. A section of 109 Howitzer Battery of the Brigade was absorbed by 107 Howitzer Battery. This reorganisation was to economise on battery commanders, who were in short supply.

The Brigade went into action on 17 January 1917 at Armentieres and took part in the battles of Messines, Menin Road, Broodseinde, Passchendaele, Morlancourt, Mont St. Quentin and the Hindenburg Line. Towards the end of the war, in 1918, the Brigade served with the 27th United States Division. (See Appendix B)

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 2nd Division Artillery and 7th Field Artillery Brigade ceased to function. The remaining personnel were formed into one battery (26 Field Battery) and attached to 4th Field Artillery Brigade for demobilisation and returned to Australia. On 18 August 1919, the Brigade was removed from the line of battle.

Between the Wars

On the 31st of March 1921, VII Australian Field Artillery Brigade was formed under the command of Lieutenant Colonel C.A. Callaghan, CMG, DSO at Mount Street, North Sydney, NSW. After a divisional reorganisation the Brigade was formed from the following units:

¹ Lieutenant Colonel Pearce was appointed Commanding Officer of the Brigade on the 17th March 1916 and would appear to have been responsible for forming the Brigade

² At the time of the arrival of I Anzac Corps in France the British organisation was in the process of change, howitzer brigades being abolished, and their batteries being distributed to the 18 pounder brigades, each howitzer battery displacing one field battery. The displaced 18 pounder batteries (which in the A.I.F. were the last batteries of each brigade) were formed into new brigades (which in the A.I.F. took on the numbers of the old howitzer brigades).

In the case of the 3rd Division Artillery the above reorganisation did not occur. 28 Field Battery became 107 Howitzer Battery and guns and titles exchanged. (Note 3 Page 681 Vol 5, Official History of Australia in The War of 1914-1918. C.E.W.Bean).

New Units

HQ VII A.F.A. Brigade
(North Sydney)

25 BTY A.F.A.
(North Sydney)

26 BTY A.F.A.
(North Sydney) Disbanded 1st July 1922

27 BTY A.F.A.
(Hornsby transferred to North Sydney
1st January 1926)

107 (Howitzer) Bty A.F.A
(North Sydney)

Formed from Existing Unit

HQ 3 A.F.A. Brigade
% HQ 4 A.F.A. Brigade
% HQ 5 A.F.A. Brigade

% 13 A.F.A. Battery - 5 A.F.A. Brigade
% 20 A.F.A. Battery - 4 A.F.A. Brigade

% 14 A.F.A. Battery - 5 A.F.A. Brigade
% 22 A.F.A. Battery - 4 A.F.A. Brigade

% 15 A.F.A. Battery - 5 A.F.A. Brigade
% 25 A.F.A. Battery - 4 A.F.A. Brigade

% 48 (H)A.F.A. Battery - 4 A.F.A. Brigade

In November 1929 the Brigade was moved into the depot at Warrane Road, Willoughby. The new depot was officially opened on the 24th of May 1930 by Colonel J.C. Selmes DSO, VD. The Menage (riding school) and stables were situated between Tyneside Avenue and Eastern Valley Way opposite the depot and was run by the Remount Section, Army Service Corp with assistance from the Veterinary Corp. Also attached to the unit were members of the Corp of Signals. The Brigade was now known as 7th Field Brigade AFA.

From 1921-1939 annual camps were held at Liverpool, Holsworthy, Greta, Aberglasslyn and Williamtown. Guns and remounts were obtained at depots in the area.

The Brigade designation is shown in the gradation lists of 1937 as 7th Field Brigade Royal Australian Artillery (Militia). 26 Field Battery was raised in 1 July 1939 at Holsworthy, when the Brigade was also mechanised. The Brigade being the last field Brigade to be mechanised.

World War II

On the declaration of war on the 3rd September 1939, each battery was equipped with four guns. Many individual members of the Brigade joined the A.I.F in the first twelve months of hostilities, including 39 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. (See Appendix C)

In early 1940 recruits were trained at the depot during the week from 9 A.M to 5 P.M, because of a lack of artillery training camps, before allocation to A.I.F units. This resulted in the 2/9th Field Regiment being designated "A Friend of the Regiment" on 4 October 1977. Many of its members first military training was received at the Willoughby depot.

By the time of annual camp in April 1940 at Greta and Largs in NSW, Mechanisation was with impressed civilian vehicles and the issue of two Marmon Harrington gun tractors to each battery.

In the three gun batteries (25, 26 & 27) the Q.F. Mark IV 18 Pdr Guns were shod with pneumatic tyres, but the solid iron tyres of the Quick Fire (Q.F.) 4.5 Howitzers of 107 (H) Battery were not replaced until the end of this camp.

On the 1st of February 1941 the Brigade was designated as the 7th Field Regiment, RAA (Militia). 27 Field Battery was disbanded and absorbed as B Troop 25 Field Battery. 107(H) Battery was also disbanded and absorbed as D Troop 26 Field Battery. The Regiment now being 2, eight gun batteries

Camp, in April 1941 was held at Ingleburn, Warwick Farm and Narellan. On the 1st of October 1941, 7 Field Regiment consisting of 25, 26, Field Batteries was allocated to full time duty, along with signals and a Light Aid Detachment (L.A.D). At this time the 18 pounders and the 4.5-inch howitzers were withdrawn and 25 pounder gun howitzers were issued in their place. Each battery was split into two troops of four guns. During 1941 and 1942 training of the Regiment and of replacement officers was carried out at Wallgrove and Greta. The Regiment was also used to defend the beaches at Narrabeen, Manly, Coogee and Wollongong.

By 20 March 1942, 27 Field Battery had been raised at Narellan. On the 29 May 1942 the regiment was designated as 7th Australian Field Regiment.

The Regiment, with strength of 600 men, was transferred to Western Australia by train, arriving on 14 July 1942 as part of the 8th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Division, 3rd Australian Corps, serving at Chidlow, Gin Gin, Bellevue, Geraldton, Dandaragan, Mingenew and Nangulu.

It was said there was a toss of coin as to which Regiment was to go to New Guinea or Western Australia, between 7 Field and 14 Field Regiments. 14 Field won the toss and went to New Guinea. They fired the first Artillery rounds on the Japanese from Owers Corner, with an Observation Post (O.P.) at Imita Ridge on the 20th of September 1942.

On the 1st of January 1943 the Regiment was redesignated as an A.I.F. regiment. All the officers and 75% of the other ranks volunteered for overseas service. These personnel were allotted NX numbers. The Regiment became known as the 7th Australian Field Regiment (A.I.F).

On 21st September 1943 the Regiment sailed from Fremantle on H.M.A.T. Nieuw Amsterdam to Melbourne and then train to Greta. The Regiment was returned to Wallgrove NSW on the 30th of October 1943, where it was disbanded on 17th November 1943, as the Corp had too many artillery units in existence for the operational requirements at that time. The members of the Regiment were allocated to artillery and other units and services.

During the period the Regiment was on service and after disbandment, the Willoughby depot was used as Head Quarters for 62 Australian Army Search Light Company/Battery.

Post War

On the re-raising of the CMF on the 1st of April 1948, 7 Field Regiment, RAA was reformed at Warrane Road, Willoughby under the command of Lieutenant Colonel C.E. Chapman, ED as part of 2nd Infantry Division. Recruiting began in June 1948 to form P and Q batteries with attached signals and L.A.D. Ordnance being 25 pounder gun/howitzers.

With the introduction of National Service, R Battery was raised in Hornsby on 7th December 1951

under the command of Major O.N. Rosevear, ED. On 11th March 1952 this battery became the nucleus of 21 Field Regiment, RAA. On the disbandment of 21 Field Regiment on 7 August 1957 some members joined 7th Field Regiment. R Battery was again reformed at Willoughby on 1 July 1955 and was disbanded on 1 July 1960 on the running down of National Service.

Following the winding up of the National Service scheme, 14 Field Regiment, RAA at Addison Road Marrickville was absorbed on the 1st of July 1960 and became Q Battery 7 Field Regiment. P Battery and RHQ remained at Willoughby with L.A.D. detachments. Head Quarter Battery was formed on 1 July 1965. The Regiment reorganised on Tropical Establishment as a field regiment Pentropic (DRA Liaison Letter July 1960).

During the Colonel Commandants meeting on the 24th of October 1965 the batteries were renamed. P Battery became 26 Field Battery, Q Battery became 27 Field Battery, and 28 Field Battery was not raised until 1st November 1973.

26 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 27 Field Battery was transferred to Willoughby.

During 1973 the 25 pounders were finally replaced by L5 howitzers. 26 and 27 Field Batteries were disbanded on the 1st of November 1973 and were reformed as 28 Field Battery at Willoughby. A new battery, 5 Field Battery was created from the disbanded 9 LAA Regiment at South Creek Road, Dee Why. 113 LAA Battery at Bruncker Road, Adamstown was attached to the Regiment. The Battery was redesignated as a field battery on the 30th of June 1975, becoming 113 Field Battery.

Following the Millar Committee Report on the C.M.F. a recommendation was made to make more use of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (W.R.A.A.C.) personnel in the C.M.F. The first W.R.A.A.C., PTE M.F. Pamment was attached on the 2nd of October 1974. The first W.R.A.A.C. soldier to be made up to the rank of Sergeant was SGT P.L. Vincent on the 22nd of June 1977. The first W.R.A.A.C. Officer LT M.G. Wheatley was appointed on the 5th of September 1982.

In 1975, the Regiment was reorganised as a R.A.A B Type A.RES Unit. 5 Field Battery was disbanded in 1976 and absorbed into 28 Field Battery, which then moved to Dee Why.

On 1st October 1976 113 Field Battery became part of the Regiment. At Willoughby the Regiment comprised RHQ, HQ Battery, a detachment of 113 Battery and Technical Support Troop R.A.E.M.E.

The L5 Howitzers were withdrawn at this time and replaced with M2A2 105mm howitzers. During this period annual camps were held at Holsworthy, Singleton, Tianjara and Ingleburn.

On the 1st of October 1979, 1 Field Ambulance R.A.A.M.C. moved into part of the Willoughby depot. The detachment of 113 Field Battery was disbanded, and the personnel and their equipment were transferred to 28 Field Battery at Dee Why.

On the 31st of December 1981, the Regiment became a R.A.A. C type ARES unit with 12 guns. Between the 10th and 23rd September 1983, the Regiment combined with 23 Field Regiment to form P Battery for an exercise at Cultana Range, El ALAMEIN Training area, South Australia.

On 29th July 1990 the Regiment was granted Freedom of Entry to the City of Willoughby.

On 7th Jun 1992 the Regiment was granted Freedom of Entry to the City of Newcastle.

In January 1995, 113 Field Battery moved to a multiuser depot in Bruncker Road Adamstown.

On the 16th of March 1996 the Willoughby Depot closed and HQ Battery and T.S.T. moved into a new depot to be shared with 2/17 Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment in Suakin St Pymble. In June 1996 a troop of 113 Field Battery was established at Erina.

On 6th November 2004 the Regiment was granted Freedom of Entry to Warringah Shire.

Since the 1980's both the Army and the Regiment have been involved in many changes in both training and manning.

The following chronological order outlays these changes. I have also included the significant ceremonial events the Regiment has participated in as well as other Regimental highlights.

1980

During the early 80's the Regular Army allocated positions within their regular batteries whilst on their British exchange exercise "Northern Star". This integration allowed some members of the Regiment to be attached on this 4-6-week exercise.

1983

Regiment combined with 23 Fd Regt (1 Battery) for a two week exercise at El Alamein Training area Cultana South Australia.

1984

New enlistees are no longer given the 2105--- 7 Fd Regiment series service number. 2 Division allocate a 2305--- series number.

1988

The Regiment combined with 23 Fd Regiment and formed a Battery for Tasman Link, a two week week exercise in New Zealand.

1990's

The Army introduced Common Induction Training (CIT); this increased the basic competency of the reserve recruit soldier to that of a regular Army member.

This new training regime saw the end of the two week reserve course structure and introduced an 11 week recruit course. This also allowed easier transfer of reserve soldiers to the ARA stream. Currently the Recruit course has been reduced to 4-5 weeks.

1990's

During the 90's the Army began streamlining their Employment Category Codes (ECN) to be more Corp specific. This meant non-Artillery positions in the R.A.A Corp, such as drivers, storeman, clerks, cooks etc had to swap their white lanyards for their specific Corp colour, thus future members joining Artillery Regiments had no Artillery knowledge.

During this phase we also saw the demise of ECN 361, Signaller Artillery and saw the introduction of a more structured R.A.A progression line which meant all members of the of the Corp must first

complete a basic gunnery course and Basic Communicators Course (BCC), some 5 weeks training as well as completing a future Specialised Communicators Course (SCC), another 2 weeks training.

1990

With the increased tempo of the Regular Army overseas deployments saw rotations to Rifle Company Malaysia (RCB) open to reserve soldiers. Butterworth, in northern Malaysia, is used by the Australian Army as a training facility for its regular and reserve army. Over the years, the Regiment has been fortunate to send many members on this three month training exercise.

1991-93

RHQ also manned a gun, thus the Regiment deployed 13 guns on some weekend exercises.

1992

Regiment received the L119 105mm Hamel gun.

1995

The Regiment deployed a 3 gun section and Regimental Command Post to Tindal, Northern Territory for exercise Kangaroo 95.

2000

OP Gold Sydney Olympics saw the Regiment provide many members for periods of 2 to 12 weeks duration. Members performed operational search duties as well as manning some command positions, to alleviate any potential terrorist threat.

2001 1 Jan

Fired the Centenary of Federation Salute, Centennial Park, Sydney.

2001 Sept Regiment fired it's first L118 Abbot ammunition.

2002 28 Feb Fired the funeral salute for Sir Roden Cutler, VC.

2003

Exercise Crocodile saw 22 members deployed to Townsville and attached to regular Army units.

2004

The Army introduces the Hardened Army concept. This sees the reserves perform a broaden range of new roles. This sees the reserves are trained to be ready to serve on operations that demand high levels of individual and collective military proficiency.

2004

Australian Defence Force transfers all members to the Personal Management System, PM Keys. All soldiers are now issued a PM Keys number and no longer recognise the Army service number.

2004

Storeman PTE Graham Atkinson 113 Battery, deployed on Operations to Iraq. This being the first member to deploy on active service since the Vietnam war.

2005

28 Bty forms Gun detachment at Pymble depot.

2006

The Army introduced the Reserve Response Force (RRF) which has significantly expanded Army's capacity to respond to domestic security or natural disaster requirements utilising trained members of the Active Reserve (AR). Personnel are required to complete the nine day RRF Course. These members are signed to a yearly agreement and receive a \$700.00 (Nov 09) untaxed payment for meeting their RRF obligations. The Regiment currently has some 20 members signed up in 8 Brigade's RRF Companies.

2007

Operation Resolute. ADF's contribution to Australian whole-of-government efforts to protect Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The Regiment is still currently providing members to assist on this operation.

2007

The Army introduced High Readiness Reserve (HRR), this allows specified individual and collective capabilities to support, sustain and reinforce Army's operational forces. These members are signed to a two year contract and receive a payment of \$10,000.00 (Nov 09) untaxed, for 2 consecutive year's efficient HRR service (must serve 32-50 days per year including a 16 day continuous training period). The Regiment's obligation is 2 x Joint Offensive Support Teams (JOST).

2007 Sept

OP Deluge Australian Defence support to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2007. The Regiment provided various members to assist on this operation for the security of the world leaders visit to Sydney.

2007 Oct

Introduction of Project Focus across 8 Brigade saw the Regiment lose many of its non-corps positions such as drivers, cooks, clerks and TST from the Regimental manning. This accounted for the loss of some 29 positions from both the ARA and Reserve. These positions were transferred to Brigade Operational Support Cell (BOSC) at 8 Bde Dundas. The BOSC members can then be allocated to any Bde unit

2008

Operation Outreach, ADF's support to the Northern Territory Emergency Response Task Force.

2008

Operation Anode, Regional assistance mission to Solomon Islands. The Regiment has and still is providing members to this deployment.

2008

Operation Testament, Defence assistance to the World Youth Day and Popes visit.

2009 March

OP Vic Fires Assist. Members of RRF deployed to assist in the searching of Victorian bushfire damaged areas.

2009

July - HRR members deploy to ex Talisman Sabre (Joint Australian and American exercise) at Shoalwater Bay Qld.

2010

Mar - To align with changes to ARA all ECN 245 Command Post Operators are converted to ECN 162 Gun.

2011

Nov - Project Beersheba released implementing changes to many Reserve units, 7 Field Regiment is to dis-establish in December 2012 and both 28 and 113 Batteries to amalgamate and become 7 Light Battery using 81 mm F2 mortars under ECN 161. 7 Lt Battery will be come under the command of 2/17 Battalion RNSWR, and is broken up into 3 troops, B.H.Q and 25 Troop located at Erina, 28 Troop located at Dee Why and 113 Troop located at Adamstown. Each troop having 2 mortars and 1 x JOST party.

2012

Jun 17 - 105 mm L119 Hamel guns fired for last time during Regimental LFX at Singleton range.

2012

Ju1 - 105 mm Hamels guns are returned to storage and Regiment receives their new allocation of 6 81 mm F2 Mortar tubes. Members begin attending courses for the transition to Mortars.

2012

Aug - CAPT S. Flower appointed first BC and WO2 A. Cartwright BSM of 7 Lt Bty.

2012

Nov 24 - First LFX completed by 7 Lt Bty using 81mm F2 Mortar at Singleton range.

2012

Dec 1 - CO officially hands over unit to command to CO 2/17 at the last 7 Field Regiment Dinner function at Harbord Diggers club.

2012

Dec 14- 7 Field Regiment R.A.A is dis-established and becomes 7 Lt Battery 2/17 Battalion R.N.S.W.R. 25 Light Troop located at Erina,

2013

Jan 26, 7 Lt Bty fires Australia Day salute, using borrowed 105 mm Hamel guns from storage

Appendix A

COMMANDING OFFICERS

7th FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE A.I.F.

LTCOL R. ST. J. PEARCE, V.D. (1)	17 MAR 1916 – 23 SEP 1916
LTCOL T. A. SPENCER, V.D. (2)	7 AUG 1916 – 1 OCT 1916
LTCOL H. D. K. MACARTNEY, D.S.O.	2 OCT 1916 – 17 JAN 1918
LTCOL W. CHURCHUS, D.S.O. (Killed in action Mericourt, France)	17 JAN 1918 – 1 APR 1918
LTCOL T. B. W. JAMES, D.S.O. (3)	1 APR 1918 – 20 AUG 1918
LTCOL G. H. M. KING, C.M.G, D.S.O. (4)	21 MAY 1918 – SEPT/OCT 1918
LTCOL W. H. ST. CLAIR, D.S.O.	11 NOV 1918 – 6 JAN 1919
LTCOL H. D. K. MACARTNEY, D.S.O	7 JAN 1919 – 12 JAN 1919
MAJOR R. E. FANNING, D.S.O.	20 JAN 1919 – 1 MAY 1919

VII A.F.A. BRIGADE

LT COL C.A. CALLAGHAN, C.M.G, D.S.O, Chevalier Legion D'Honneur	31 MAR 1921 – 30 MAR 1926
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VII A.F.A. BRIGADE / VII BRIGADE A.F.A / 7th FIELD BRIGADE A.F.A.

LTCOL J.C. SELMES, D.S.O., V.D.	31 MAR 1926 – 17 NOV 1929
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7th FIELD BRIGADE A.F.A.

LTCOL J.W. BAXTER, V.D.	18 NOV 1929 – 17 NOV 1933
LTCOL R. SYNNOT, M.C.	18 NOV 1933 – 15 DEC 1934

7th FIELD BRIGADE A.F.A. / 7th BRIGADE R.A.A. (MILITIA)

LTCOL E.J.W. POPE	1 JAN 1935 – 14 MAY 1938
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7th FIELD BRIGADE R.A.A. (MILITIA)

LTCOL K.A. FLAVELLE	15 MAY 1938 – 14 NOV 1938
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LTCOL R. DALY	1 JAN 1939 – 25 APR 1940
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LTCOL R.C. OSBORNE, M.C., Croix de Guerre 6 MAY 1940 – 31 JAN 1941

7th FIELD REGIMENT R.A.A. (MILITIA)

LTCOL R.C. OSBORNE, M.C., Croix de Guerre 1 FEB 1941 – 30 SEP 1941

MAJ J. KELSO (Adm Comd.) 1 OCT 1941 – 18 FEB 1942

LTCOL J. KELSO 19 FEB 1942 – 28 MAY 1942

7TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD REGIMENT

LTCOL J. KELSO 29 MAY 1942 – 31 DEC 1942

7TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD REGIMENT (A.I.F.)

LTCOL J. KELSO 1 JAN 1943 – 16 NOV 1943

7 FIELD REGIMENT R.A.A.

LTCOL C.E. CHAPMAN, E.D. 1 APR 1948 – 10 MAY 1952

MAJ O.N. ROSEVEAR, E.D. (Adm Comd.) 12 MAY 1952 – 5 JUN 1952

MAJ E.D. THOMAS, D.S.O., E.D. (Adm Comd.) 6 JUN 1952 – 10 JUL 1952

LTCOL A.G. HANSON, D.S.O., E.D. 11 JUL 1952 – 11 MAY 1956

MAJ H.F. PERRY (Adm Comd.) 15 JAN 1956 – 15 APR 1956
12 MAY 1956 – 9 JUL 1956

LTCOL H.F. PERRY, E.D. 10 JUL 1956 – 30 JUN 1958

LTCOL J.L. CROWE, E.D. 1 JUL 1958 - 30 JUN 1961

LTCOL D.S. JOHNSTON, O.B.E., E.D. 1 JUL 1961 – 30 JUN 1964

LTCOL S.G. LANE, E.D. 1 JUL 1964 – 30 JUN 1967

LT.COL. J.W.B JOHNSON 1 JUL 1967- 31 JUL 1969

MAJ R.T. SMITH (Adm Comd.) FEB 1967

LTCOL R.T SMITH 1 AUG 1969 – 31 JUL 1972

LTCOL H.A.F. BENSON, D.F.C. 1 AUG 1972 – 31 JUL 1975

LTCOL C.B.J. HOGAN 1 AUG 1975 – 1 OCT 1978

LTCOL J.P. KEEFE 1 OCT 1978 – 25 JUL 1980

LTCOL N. HAWKINS	25 JUL 1980 – 1 JUL 1983
LTCOL G.S. STAZIKER, R.F.D., E.D.	1 JUL 1983 – 1 JUL 1986
LTCOL R.J. HILL, R.F.D.	13 AUG 1986 – 10 MAY 1988
LTCOL A.R. MAIN	11 MAY 1988 – 13 NOV 1990
LTCOL J.A.L. FAIRLESS, R.F.D.	14 NOV 1990 – 30 NOV 1993
LTCOL A.J. KARIKS, R.F.D.	1 DEC 1993 – 31 DEC 1996
LTCOL R.J. BRENNAN, R.F.D.	1 JAN 1997 – 31 DEC 1999
LTCOL P.I. BROAD, R.F.D.	1 JAN 2000 – 31 DEC 2001
LTCOL J.V. WILSON, R.F.D.	1 JAN 2002 - 31 DEC 2004
LTCOL C. TAGGART	1 JAN 2005 – 31 DEC 2006
LTCOL M. SHADAY	1 JAN 2007 – 5 DEC 2009
LTCOL G.N. PALMER	6 DEC 2009 - 14 DEC 2012

7 Light Battery R.A.A 2/17 Battalion R.N.S.W.R

CAPT S.A. FLOWER 14 DEC 2012 – 31 DEC 2014

MAJ P. WONG 1 JAN 2015

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1. LTCOL Pearce would appear to have been responsible for forming 7th Field Artillery Brigade.
 2. Despite the overlapping of dates of appointment of LTCOL Pearce and LTCOL Spencer, both officers are shown as "To Command". It would appear that LTCOL Spencer was administering command until 23 September 1916 on which date LTCOL Pearce left England to return to Australia. He had been ill for some time prior to his departure. It is emphasised however, that there is no evidence to substantiate the foregoing statement.
 3. There is differing information concerning the dates of LTCOL James relinquishing command. Records in the Australian War Memorial state 19 May 1918. 7th F.A.B. "Yandoo" Volume III records the date as 21 May 1918. Gradation lists show LTCOL James commanded 7th Field Artillery Brigade 1 Apr 1918 – 20 Aug 1918 and commanded R.B.A.A. A.I.F. 21 May 1918 – 16 Jan 1919.
 4. There is differing information concerning LTCOL King's command. Records in the Australian War Memorial state 19 May 1918 – Sep/Oct 1918. 7th F.A.B. "Yandoo" Volume III command passed to LTCOL King on the 21st of May 1918 with no details of relinquishing command. Central Army Records Office (C.A.R.O.) states "no record can be found of LTCOL King actually commanding 7 F.A.B. although he was apparently on the strength of that unit for a short period in 1918. It appears that LTCOL King administered command.

Appendix B

7TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE A.I.F. ENGAGEMENTS 1917 – 1918

FLANDERS (France, Belgium)

Armentieres	17 Jan 1917
Ploegsteert	17 Mar 1917
Messines	7 Jun 1917 and Jul 1917
Ypres	11 Sep 1917
Passchendaele	7 Oct 1917

SOMME (France)

Franvillers	30 Mar 1918
Villers Brettoneux	2 Jun 1918
Fouilloy	16 Jul 1918
Hamel	8 Aug 1918
Morcourt	9 Aug 1918
Bray	22 Aug 1918
Clery	30 Aug 1918
Mont St. Quentin	1 Sep 1918
Peronne	4 Sep 1918
Bony	3 Oct 1918
Hindenburg Line	5 Oct 1918
Wiancourt	6 Oct 1918
Premont, Montrehain, Brancourt	8 Oct 1918
Busigny	13 Oct 1918
Escaufourt, La Haie Menneresse	17 Oct 1918
Bazuel	24 Oct 1918
Mazenheim	3 Nov 1918

Casualties on Active Service

Deaths	129
Deaths – attached personnel:	
Signals	1
Medical Corp	2
Wounded	416
Gassed	162
Total Casualties	710

Decorations on Active Service (All ranks)

DSO	7	MC	14	Bar to MC	2		
DCM	7	MM	52	Bar to MM	1	MSM	7
Belgian Croix de Geurre				5			
Medal Militaire				1			
Mentioned in dispatches				26			
Highly Commended				6			

7 FAB Deaths on Active Service

ALFORD M.	DRENNEN G.L.	LEATH P.S.	REDMAN A.
ALLAN E.A.	DRURY W.	LEPLASTRIER C.V.	RICHARDS C.S.
ANDREW H.G.	FARRANT O.C.H.	LEWINGTON R.	RICHARDS W.E.
BALDWIN H:	FERRIS E.R.	LONG A.B.	ROBINSON D.T.
BARBER R.S.	FERRIS W.R.	LOVE C.H.	ROFF T.
BARBLETT C.C.	FLOWER E.M.	LUCK E.J.	ROGERS A.
BAYLIS V.N.	GALE J.W.D.	McCARTHY J.D.#	RUTLEDGE H.P. RYAN
BEE J.	GARDNER P.	McCOLGAN W.	O.J.
BERCHDOLT A.	GENTLE C.G.	McGREGOR G.	SAVAGE F.
BEZER H.J.	GEORGE L.	McPHERSON D.	SCOTT L.B. %
BIGGAR J.	GIBBS R.E.	McROBERT J.W.	SEALE F.L.
BISHOP G.H.	GILLESPIE M.M.	MACAULAY N. #	SHIPWAY C.
BISSET A.E.L.	GILSON J.N.	MANN J.P.	SMITH E.G.
BROSNAN P.J. *	GOLDFINCH A.E.	MARSH C.C.	SMITH F.W.
BROWN E.M.	GREENSHIELDS G.J.	MEATCHEM H.	SPENCER G.G.
BULLEN A.W.	HARRIS F.#	MORLEY F.W.	STIMSON L.N.
BURTON H. #	HARRY C.	MOSS W.	TALBOT A.E.
CADE J.F.	HEPBURN T.F.	MOUNTER A.W.T.	TERRY F.
CAMERON G.G.	HERBERT H.A.	NETHERCOTT H.G	TINSDALE J.E.W.
CAPEL R.	HEWITSON G.	NEWMAN R.A.	TOMPKINS W.E.
CAPPER J.H.V.	HIATT N.E.	O'KEEFE T.	TULLY J.K.
CHALMERS J. #	HILL S.N.	OLLIS N.V.	TURNBULL McM.
CHERRIE W.	HILL W.H.	PATTERSON G.H.	UTHER F.
CHURCHUS W.	HOLMES J.F.	PAYNE R.S.	WALKER T.
CONE H.H.	JACOBSON R.E.	PEMBER R.M.	WALTERS H.V.
COOPER W.S.	JOHN H.D.	PETTERD H.A.	WARDROP A.G.
CORMACK J.A.	JONES F.M.	PETTET F.J.	WELCH E.F.
COWIE G.G.	JONES G.A.	RADFORD K.C.	WHITECROSS F.T.
CRAIG A.R.W.	KENDALL H.	RANSOM C.G.	WILKINSON L.L.
DALE S.G.	KNOX L.J.		WILLCOCK C.C. #
DALTON W.L.	LADD B.		WILLIS H.R.
DEWHURST H.S.J.	LAKIN F.H.		WOODGATE S.G.
DOHERTY J.	LAWRENCE J.		
DOUGHTY C.#			
DOWLING F.G			

Attached Personnel

Finlay.L (Sigs)
Tillet L.R (A.M.C)
Williams E.G(A.M.C)

* Buried Sri Lanka

Buried England

% Buried Australia

All others buried in Belgium
and France

Decorations on Active Service (Officers)

LTCOL E.S. Evers, O.B.E. LTCOL R. Daly, M.I.D.
LTCOL A.G. Hanson, D.S.O and Bar M.I.D. (3 times)
MAJ E. Woodall, M.I.D. MAJ G.R. Thwaites, O.B.E. MAJ C.C. Thomas, M.I.D.
CAPT R.H. Dawson, M.C, M.I.D. LIEUT G.L.McElroy M.I.D
CAPT J.E.Flynn Bronze Star (U.S.A)

SGT A.T. Johnson transferred to 2/6 Field Regiment and was commissioned as LT A.T. Johnson and was awarded the M.C. in Syria, for actions between the 14th of June and 12th July 1941.

GNR J.R. Bryant transferred to 2/6 Field Regiment and was commissioned as LT J.R. Bryant and was awarded the M.C.

Other Ranks known to have transferred to A.I.F 1939-1945

2/1st Field Regiment A.I.F

R.H Jorgenson (Lieutenant 1943) Sgt O.R Saville

2/9th Army Field Regiment A.I.F

Gnr J.B Butz L.K. Huxtable

13th Australian Field Regiment (Jungle Division) A.I.F

Capt O.N Rosevear

2/15th Field Regiment A.I.F

Lieut J.R Shearer K.I.A. 15 January 1942 Maur River Malaya
Sgt A.R Crostan Sgt R.G Robertson Gnr N.H Jeffreson
Gnr H.G Smith Died P.O.W Burma 1943

2/3rd Anti-Tank Regiment #F

WO2 H.O Kentwell M.I.D.

3rd Anti-Tank Regiment 111 Tank Attack Regiment 130 Tank Attack Regiment A.I.F

K.G Leek

2/3rd & 2/11th Infantry Battalion A.I.F

Pte P.A.L Rickard K.I.A 27 January 1941 Derna Libya

2/43rd Battalion A.I.F

J.Fairley

Formation of 2nd /6th Field Regiment A.I.F

Following is a letter received by members of 7th Field Brigade RAA (M) in 1940 requesting that they enlist in 2/6th Field Regiment A.I.F. The names of those who joined and in some cases the results of their service are shown on the next page.

HQ 7 Fd Bde Arty Drill Hall Willoughby 28.4.40

Re Enlistment – A.I.F 7th Division

Lt Col R Daly has been recommended for appointment as CO of the 2nd /6th Field Regiment A.I.F with Major FB McAlister as 2nd I/C.

Many of the other Officers of the Brigade have also been recommended for appointment in the Regiment.

It is desired that as many as possible of the present NCOs of the 7th Brigade should enlist in the 2/6th Field Regiment, and it is requested that if you are interested you should report at Willoughby Drill Hall on Tuesday night 30 April 40 at 7.30 pm for interview.

It is likely that the Regiment will go into camp at Ingleburn on Monday 6th May 40. If you cannot attend, you should ring the Drill Hall on Tuesday night.

(Sgd) Lieut SD Heriot AIC

Adjutant

7 Field Brigade

Members of 7th Field Brigade RAA who transferred to 2/6th Field Regiment A.I.F

NX16091	ARMSTRONG G W	NX 19212	LLOYD G A
NX12395	McELROY JL (M.I.D) #	NX13803	LEE S
NX20804	BARRY C (B.E.M)	NX421	MASON G E
NX13788	BARKAS I	NX12323	McALISTER F B
NX13826	BELLWOOD-SMITH J (M.I.D)	NX 19213	MARKS H N
NX13780	BAXTER C J	NX24566	MULHOLLAND B N (M.I.D) %
NX13783	BRYANT J (MC)	NX13793	NIX A P
NX12396	COLLINS G R B	NX13776	O'NEAL N
NX30443	CLARKE C D	NX 13777	O'NEILL J M
NX16980	CROGAN J S K.I.A	NX12464	PROBIN H W J
NX21218	CREAGHE R F	NX 28210	PINNINGTON L C
NX14362	CAHILL M	NX25366	PRIMROSE R D
NX16024	COWLISHAW A	NX17646	PAYNE H C
NX13770	CARMENT D M	NX13807	PAGE J B
NX28209	CHRISTOE H	NX88908	ROSEBY J L
NX56525	COLLINS W A	NX12303	STARK L G V %
NX20261	CHASELING B	NX17328	SMYTHE C J
NX12463	DAWSON R H MC(M.I.D.)	NX19306	SCOTT J S %
NX377	DALY R MID	NX15916	SPARKES G H
NX18230	DOLMAN J A	NX23000	STEWART D %
NX21218	CREAGHE R F	NX32451	STENHOUSE L *
NX12259	EYERS E S (O.B.E)	NX12240	THOMSON R S
NX13809	ELIOTT L	NX13795	TAYLOR H D #
NX13773	SCANDRETT R	NX13781	TONKIN H
NX23284	FRANKS D W E	NX13784	TINLEY N N

NX20068	FORSYTH R F (M.M) %, #	NX 19844	TRAIN R J
NX16988	FITZSIMONS J M	NX13792	TREBECK E P
NX13327	GATES G H (M.I.D)	NX94930	VAUX R
NX13829	GOOD J S	NX16981	VALLENTINE T R
NX24034	GOMME B G D	NX32427	VERCO E
NX13782	TILBURY C E	NX24567	VINCENT J F
NX12491	HUTTON J W	NX12397	WALKER D F
NX13794	HUGHES R E	NX12325	WOODALL E(M.I.D) %
NX13790	HARRINGTON J N +	NX14363	WARBY J A #
NX14709	HARROWELL J	NX13828	WARDLE HW
NX13791	IREDALE J R	NX13805	WINLEY J W
NX34979	JOHNSON A.T (M.C)	NX13775	WALSH J V %
NX13822	LANHAM J E	NX21216	WELCH R G
NX13774	LLOYD J C	NX31480	WHIDDON M F
NX28279	LORD W B	NX13797	WYLIE E P
NX 34977	LORD C.R		
	* Killed in Action		% Wounded in Action
	# Accidentally Injured on Active Service		+ Died of Illness

2/6th Field Regiment A.I.F Died on Active Service

Bdr J.S.Crogan	(KIA)	Jezzine Syria/Lebanon	24 June 1941
Sgt J.N.Harrington	(DOI)	Port Moresby New Guinea	4 July 1943
Sgt L.Stenhouse	(KIA)	Salamau New Guinea	3 September 1943

K.I.A. Killed in Action D.O. I. Died of Illness

2/6th Field Regiment A.I.F Wounded in Action

J.Bryant	Salamau New Guinea	16 August 1943
C.D.Clarke	Mazboud New Guinea	6 July 1943
R.F.Forysth	Finschhafen New Guinea	December 1943
G.H.Gates	Jezzine Syria/Lebanon	24 June 1941
B.N.Mulholland	Mudjay Syris/Lebanon	12 June 1941
J.S.Scott	Mudjayoun Syria/Lebanon	12 June 1941
L.G.V.Stark	Kumusi River New Guinea	25 February 1943
D.Stewart	Jezzine Syria/Lebanon	18 June 1941
J.V.Walsh	Mersa Matruh Egypt	3 may 1941
E.Woodall	Mudjayoun Syria/Lebanon	12 June1941

2/6th Field Regiment A.I.F Accidentally Injured on Active Service

R.F Forsyth	Metulla Syria/Lebanon	8 June 1941
J.L.McElroy	Mid Syria	1 July 1941
K.D Taylor	Port Moresby New Guinea	November 1942
J.A.Warby	Toowoomba Qld Australia	7 May 1944

2/6th Field Regiment A.I.F Decorations and Awards

O.B.E

Lieut Col E.S.Eyers
Major G.R Thwaites Salamau New Guinea

MC

A.T.Johnson	Syria
R.K Dawson	Salamau New Guinea
J.R.Bryant	Finschhafen New Guinea

BEM

C.Barry	Syria
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MM

R.F Forsyth	Syria
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M.I.D

B.N Mulholland	Syria
G.H Gates	Syria
C.C Thomas	Syria
R.K Dawson	Salamau New Guinea
J.L McElroy	Salamau New Guinea
E.Woodall	Finschhafen New Guinea
J.Bellwood-Smith	Finschhafen New Guinea
R.Daly	New Guinea

Appendix D

ACTIVE SERVICE OVERSEAS

Vietnam

LT Neville Clark transferred to the A.R.A. for full time service in Vietnam and was awarded an M.C. while serving with 106 Battery, 4 Field Regiment R.A.A. on 6th August 1967 during Operation Ballarat.

The following volunteered for full time National Service while serving with 7 Field Regiment RAA:

David Amies, 1 Field Regiment RAA	May 1969 – April 1970
Gary McKay (MC) 4 RAR	May 1971 – October 1971
Graham Quinton, 1 ARU ¹ , 5RAR ²	May 1969 - June 1969 ¹ June 1969 – March 1970 ²

Iraq 1st Gulf War

PTE G. Atkinson a Storeman from 113 Battery deployed with the ARA in 1992

Operation Anode – Solomon Islands

8443790 BDR T.A Strategos (113 Bty) Rotation 16	Aug-Dec 2008
8517121 GNR A.C Vowell (28 Bty) Rotation 16	Aug-Dec 2008
8238106 MAJ S O. Nicholson (113 Bty) Rotation 19 & 20	Aug 09-Apr 2010
8246161 BDR K.J. Greenwood (113 Bty) Rotation 19	Aug-Dec 2009
8245289 LBDR J.J. Chaseberry (28 Bty) Rotation 19	Aug-Dec 2009
8506186 GNR C.J Dawson (113 Bty) Rotation 19	Aug-Dec 2009
8530616 CAPT G.E. Prosper (Regt Padre) Rotation 19	Aug-Dec 2009 (3 x 10-day blocks)
8213084 BDR S.M. Fender (28 Bty) Rotation 25	Aug-Dec 2011
8551332 GNR D.J. Dunn (28 Bty) Rotation 25	Aug-Dec 2011
8218513 MAJ D.M. See (RHQ) Rotation 29	Dec 2012-Apr 2013
8442474 LT T.J. Egan (28 Bty) Rotation 29	Dec 2012-Apr 2013
8237253 CPL M. Beard (28 Bty) Rotation 29	Dec 2012-Apr 2013

8551334 GNR W.Ammoun (28 Bty) Rotation 29	Dec 2012-Apr 2013
8552057 GNR N.J. Bennett (28 Bty) Rotation 29	Dec 2012-Apr 2013
8562874 GNR N.T. Claypole (28 Bty) Rotation 29	Dec 2012-Apr 2013
8520837 LBDR C.L Smith (113 Bty) Rotation 29	Dec 2012-Apr 2013
8546863 GNR M.J Barker (113 Bty) Rotation 29	Dec 2012-Apr 2013
8551136 GNR C.J Smith (113 Bty) Rotation 29	Dec 2012-Apr 2013

Operation Asute - Timor Leste JTF 631

8258231 BDR P.K Fridolfsson (28 Bty)	TLTG 3 Jun-Nov 2011
8440096 LBDR J.P Leigh (28 Bty)	TLTG 3 Jun11-Feb 2012
8527598 PTE C.Y Yeung (RHQ Medic)	TLTG 3 Jun 11-Jan 2012
8268527 BDR R.A Wagland (28 Bty)	TLTG 3 Nov 11-Feb 2012

Border Protection

OP RELEX II

8245289 GNR J.J Chaseberry (28 Bty)	Nov 04-Feb 2005
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OP RESOLUTE

8506186 GNR C.J Dawson (113 Bty)	
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Appendix E

7th FIELD BRIGADE/REGIMENT CHANGES OF DESIGNATION

7 March 1916	7 th Field Artillery Brigade, A.I.F.
31 March 1921	VII A.F.A. Brigade (1)
1927	VII Brigade A.F.A.
1 Mar 1930	7 th Field Brigade A.F.A.
1 Jan 1936	7 th Field Brigade R.A.A. (Militia) (2)
1 Feb 1941	7 th Field Regiment R.A.A. (Militia)
29 May 1942	7 th Australian Field Regiment
1 Jan 1943	7 th Australian Field Regiment (A.I.F)
1 Apr 1948	7 th Field Regiment R.A.A
14 Dec 2012	7 Light Battery R.A.A. 2/17 Battalion R.N.S.W.R
15 Jan 2018	7 Battery, 9 th Regiment RAA

The above are as shown in “Gradation lists of officers of the Australian Military Forces”.

1. Australian Field Artillery
2. Royal Australian Artillery

Appendix F

7 FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE/REGIMENT ORDNANCE

QF 18 Pounder	1916 – 1941
QF 4.5-inch Howitzer	1916 – 1941
QF 25 Pounder	1941 – 1973
105mm L5 Pack Howitzer	1965 – 1966 2 Mar 1973 – 1976
105mm M2A2 Howitzer	1976 – Sep 1992
105mm L119 Howitzer (Hamel)	Sept 1992 – Jul 2012
81mm F2 Mortars	Jul 2012 -

Appendix G

HORSE DRAWN DETACHMENT

In 1973 under the direction of LTCOL H.A.F. Benson, D.F.C., a horse drawn detachment was formed, which made its first appearance on Her Majesty's the Queen Mother's birthday, 4th August 1973.

The detachment comprises a six horse team drawing a 15 pounder gun and limber. Three of the horses are ridden. Two members ride on the limber and two members ride on the gun. The detachment commanders and second-in-command ride independently.

The gun, a Breach Loaded (BL) 15 pounder No. 1007 made in 1899/1900 was obtained from 12 Field Regiment R.A.A. at Coral Lines, Ingleburn.

A second gun was obtained from the Australian War Memorial Storehouse at Duntroon Military College, Canberra. This gun was cannibalised to restore the first gun.

The war memorial also loaned an axle and wheels for a limber, harness and saddles.

The saddles were General Sir John Monash's and also the saddle presented to Major C.F. Cox on the day of his departure for South Africa on the 16th March 1901, by the staff of the Railways Department, Sydney, N.S.W.

The equipment was restored to its present condition by the R.A.E.M.E. detachment attached to 7 Field Regiment.

The uniform worn comprises black boots, black leggings, barathe blue officer type trousers and coat, tan bandolier, white gloves and white pith helmet with a brass spike and gold chain chin strap. On occasions a tan Sam Browne belt is worn.

LTCOL Benson was assisted in the formation of the detachment by CAPT J.C. Rappell and the second-in-command SGT H. Taylor, A.M.

The horses used were obtained from Mr G. Ware's stables at Leichhardt. Mr Ware also took part in the riding of the horses when the detachment was on display.

It is a point of interest that a 15 pounder gun similar to the gun used by the detachment was fired at reveille each morning at "The Warren", Marrickville by 7th Field Artillery Brigade while in training in 1916. Also, this type of gun was used in the Boer War.

Appendix H

HONOURS

Known Honours awarded to members of the Regiment for service in the Regiment, such as New Year Day Australia Day and Queens Birthday Honours.

This list does not include Long Service decorations or awards.

1971	W.O.2 M.L.Falconer, M.B.E (Member British Empire)
1976	Sergeant H.Taylor A.M (Member of the Order of Australia)
1992	W.O.2 P.Muir O.A.M (Medal of the Order of Australia)
1996	Major G.K.H.Milic C.S.M (Conspicuous Service Medal)
2002	W.O.1 I.Kilgour O.A.M (Medal of the Order of Australia)

Appendix I

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This history was compiled to July 2010 by
Mr R.C.M (Danny) Toplis (ex WO 2) from information furnished by
7th F.A.B. "Yandoo"
Volumes I, II, III and V Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18 by C.E.W. Bean
Gradation Lists of Officers of the Australian Military Forces 1919-1956
Australian War Memorial
Central Army Records Office (C.A.R.O.)
Department of Defence
United Services Institution of N.S.W.
2nd Military District Library
BRIG A.G. Hanson, D.S.O., E.D.
BRIG F.B. McAlister C.B.E., E.D.
LTCOL J. Kelso E.D.
LTCOL S.G. Lane E.D.
MAJ O.N. Rosevear, E.D.
MAJ L.G.V. Stark, E.D.
LT C.H. Brewer
LT (R.L.) O.R. Saville
Mr A.R. Burke (ex WO 2)
Mr K.E. Flanagan (ex WO2)
Mr J.R. Butz (ex WO2)
Keith Glyde
Sgt Glenn Milham
Mr K.Browning O.A.M (ex WO1)
Major G.K.Milic C.S.M, R.F.D
WO2 P.Sengos

"The 25 Pounders" from Egypt to Borneo by John Warby
And with the assistance of the cadre staff 7 Field Regiment R.A.A.