"SAPPER SUMMIT"

RAE CORPS NEWSLETTER

VICTORIAN ENGINEERS

December 2006 *ISSN 1325 – 7676* *Number 56*

Merry Christmas to all our readers.

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EDITORIAL

What? Changes again?

This issue of Sapper Summit has articles which shows that the Army is changing again.

The position of Commander Land Command Engineers has gone, and 22 Construction Regiment is now under command of the 4th Brigade within 2 Division. Earlier issues of Sapper Summit have also recorded reorganisations involving both the Oakleigh and Ringwood Regiments.

In the recent Sir Clive Steele Lecture, one of the speakers explained his involvement in Iraq in installing what can loosely be described as defensive walls in urban areas to restrict the impact of vehicle bombs and rockets on personnel and infrastructure. Whereas we were trained years ago on defences based on being underground, and having simple sandbag type defences, the current Sapper has to be involved in providing 3m high walls to separate a vehicle bomb or hand held rocket from a target in a built up area or along a highway . . . a temporary wall, something like our current concrete highway median divider, but four times as big!

This example of an enlargement of the Sapper tasking is one of an extensive list of recent changes or involvements that range from shifting to satellite survey systems, to engineer tasks in Aceh to anti-terrorist activities at the Commonwealth Games. Larger engineering resources seem to be required to support Army activities.

All these mean that organisations have to change. Whilst the absence of a red hat Head of Corps is a concern, I am sure that if we ever go back to having 28,000 Sappers in the AMF, as in 1945, then we will go back to a Major General as CE!

... the Editor.

Sapper Summit is produced four times a year by the RAE (Vic) Historical and Heritage Association Inc. (Reg No. A0046126U.)

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We need Your Articles!

Our deadlines for articles for the 2007 issues are:

- March issue by 23 February
- May issue by 27 April
- August issue by 10 August
- November issue by 26 October

We are looking for news items, suggestions, letters to the editor, etc, including any constructive criticisms. For the next issue, send them to either:

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Note that articles or opinions of authors or contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Association. The format and clarity of the articles is the responsibility of the contributor.

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RECENT EVENTS

RAE OFFICERS GOLF DAY

Last year, the Golf Day was rained out. However, this year there was only an occasional spring shower at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club on 20 October. A dozen golfers held a successful tournament and enjoyed the camaraderie.

Once again, players came from both metropolitan and country areas. Bob Scorse journeyed from the LaTrobe Valley.

Col Sir John Holland AC was present to declare the start of play. The winners were Brig David Noble and Col Ian Stewart who won by 6 strokes. Congratulations!

However , the word BANDIT comes to mind, particularly as one of the winners oversees handicap submissions.

Unfortunately the winners could not be presented with the Zoller Trophy, as it appears to be languishing somewhere in Gippsland on the mantle pierce of one of the 2004 winners. The Golf Day organizers are about to issue an ORDER TO DELIVER UP on a Lt Col called "Hutch".

. . . *Information from Maj David Taylor*

* * * * *

SIR CLIVE STEELE LECTURE

The Sir Clive Steele Lecture was held on Wednesday night, 29 November at the Oakleigh Barracks. It was a joint arrangement by the RAE and the Engineers Australia Society for Defence Engineering.

Lt Col John Raike, CO 22 Const Regt, welcomed everyone and introduced the evening with a short rundown on Sir Clive Steele, and on his leadership of Engineers during World War 2. By the end of the War, there were 28,000 sappers in the AMF.

Maj Shaun Higbid gave a rundown on his tour in Iraq. In layman's terms, his job involved in the provision of "separation". That is, wall barriers primarily to prevent vehicles loaded with explosives and rockets from killing people or damaging infrastructure.

It is a significant change from the simple sandbag walls of historical FE training! We are not talking trench warfare, but surface protection in built-up areas or beside highways. Pictures showed early attempts to use freestanding sandbag walls around buildings and camps . . except the walls were 3m high and 1.2m thick. They proved almost impossible to maintain and were often built "under contract"!

The most significant change is to the use of concrete dividing walls. The smallest of these are what we call New Jersey barriers . . . the ones used in Victoria as concrete median walls on freeways. In Iraq, these precast barriers have become seriously larger, and carry names such as Colorado, Texas, etc. The larger the State, the larger the barrier! 3m and 4m high barriers are common. They also use rubble or sand filled flexible containers over 2.5m high. These are quick & absorbent, but they require on-going maintenance.

Cpl David Cooper then gave a presentation on his involvement in the management of dog teams in Afghanistan. The teams are used for explosives and mine detection.

Both the dogs and handlers were initially trained in Australia, or the USA. On deployment to an overseas theatre, the handler / dog combination has to become acclimatised to local conditions and to the local enemy explosives and techniques. After a tour of duty, the handler goes, and is replaced by a

new handler. Cpl Cooper was involved in managing the system and in ensuring there was an adequate handover system as new handlers came in and had to become proficient with "an old dog" and with the local "rules".

EXCURSIONS

VISIT TO ADI, BENALLA

An excursion to ADI Benalla was held on 3 October. It was organised in association with the RAA Association and was a success. Approximately 12 RAE personnel were in the party. Visitors were shown the munitions production system.

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SOUTH CHANNEL FORT EXCURSION

Jim Newlands organised an excursion to the South Channel Fort and the Point Nepean Forts on Sunday 26 November. It was a joint H & H Association and RAA Association event. There were 33 in the party.

We departed on the launch Moonraker from Sorrento Pier at 1000hrs and arrived at the South Channel Fort about 1030hrs. The fort was started in 1879 to protect Victoria from attack. The threat at the time was seen as the Russians. The fort is a man-made island consisting of circle of heavy rock and a sand filled core. The defence structures are a mix of masonry, concrete, brick and heavy timbers. Roof timbers in some of the underground chambers are between 250mm and 300 mm square. They appear in excellent condition after 130 years.

The fort could accommodate 6 guns with ranges to 9km, and could electrically detonate pre-laid mines under ships in the adjacent shipping channel. ... not bad for the 1880's!

By the early 1900's, longer-range guns were available at Fort Nepean, and the need for the South Channel Fort diminished. It was lightly manned during the two world Wars.

The guns are long gone, and seabirds ane the current inhabitants. Parks Victoria manage the site, which has a Historical classification. They are slowly restoring components.

After returning to Sorrento, the party moved on to Point Nepean for lunch and then looked at the old defences. The Point Nepean defences date from the 1880's, but were maintained until after World War 2. Guns at Point Nepean fired the first Allied shot of World War 1 when they intercepted a German vessel trying to depart Port Phillip just after the declaration of War in 1914. In 1939 they fired on a local ship which failed to identify itself as it entered the heads just after the declaration of war. No other shots were fired in anger! The two gun barrels are on display at site. The area is under Parks Victoria and is being well maintained.

Altogether a great day!

NEWS FROM THE UNITS

22 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT

22 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT AFX 2006

By CPL Paul Cunningham

This year's AFX for 22 was run as a Courses Camp so that some much-needed skills were learned and the capability of the Regiment enhanced.

Held from the 6-22 October, 105 Const Sqn deployed to Puckapunyal for the duration of the exercise. All members were accommodated at Tobruk Barracks Block 6 with breakfast and dinner in individual messes and hotbox lunches.

Having the only operational heavy crusher in the Army, a strong emphasis was placed on Quarryman skills. ARA members from 21 Const Sqn joined 105 Sqn for one week's instruction on the Jaques crusher where all of the students quickly learned the difficulties of working in a hot and very dusty environment, with visibility at times being reduced to less than two metres.

After the conclusion of the Crusher course the group was split into two with one group going off to complete a drilling course with the Atlas Copco Air Track rock drill and the other group doing a shot firers course. These three courses between them, taught the soldiers how to design a blast pattern, drill, load, and fire the holes, then crush the rock produced. With full civilian accreditation from Box Hill TAFE, the students also came away with skills they can use outside of the Army. The students of all three courses extended their appreciation to the civilian instructors who made these courses such a great success.

Other courses run were a Civil Construction Plant course, for the unit's plant operators on the Cat 130G Grader, John Deere 270 Skid Steer Loader and Bomag and SP-56 rollers. The course manager, WO1 Gary Lewis received excellent instructor support from 39 Const Sqn and 21 Const Sqn members with the military trade testing being conducted by WO2 Aaron Watts from SME. Such strong instructor support allowed the students to qualify on the machines they were trained on. Many tasks were

completed by the course as operational training including the hardstand within the Mill Site, roads into the Anti-armour ranges and PR support within Puckapunyal.

SGT Andrew Gill managed, coordinated and tested members on a MR2 (Unimog) course, which was conducted over the two-week period. SGT Gill was assisted by instructors from 39 Const Sqn and 8/7 RVR, and had maintenance support provided by the Regt's RAEME personnel with assistance from 3 Recov Coy.

Other notable events were work on the Donovan Joynt VC building which was handed back to Mr. Michael Pollock, Base Manager, Corporate Services Infrastructure (PMA) by the CLCE COL Michael Kavanagh and CO 22 Const Regt LTCOL John Raike. A job well done by all members who have worked on the building over the past 18 months.

The Change of Formation Day parade was conducted at Oakleigh Barracks on Saturday 14 October with all members of 22 Const Regt redeploying back to the depot to participate in the parade where the unit's command status changed from under command LCEng to under command 4 BDE.

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22 Construction Regiment Courses Camp 06 Newborough Depot

By SPR Luke Arber

In early October '06, 15 newly qualified privates and a small team of instructors and support staff descended on the Newborough Engineer Training Depot and the surrounding regions and readied themselves for the commencement of a RAE Module 1 Initial Employment Training course. The course was run at 39 Const Sqn's training depot over the period 7-22 October as a part of the Regiment's Courses Camp that aimed at boosting the skills and qualifications of the Regiment as well as providing training to members of other Engineering units throughout Australia.

Students on the course traveled from as far as 3 CER in QLD and 13 Fd Sqn in WA to undertake training. The course saw the aspiring Sappers being instructed in the use and maintenance of hand and power tools, construction of field defences and operation of water purification equipment. The course also included a watermanship phase where students learnt to operate the RAE's new 6 and 10-man zodiac watercrafts and culminated with a night navigation exercise on the nearby Lake Narracan.

There was also the opportunity for the students to engage in several real-time engineering tasks over the conduct of the course which allowed the students to practice and sharpen their newly acquired skills. The course formed-up and laid concrete footpaths within the Newborough Depot and also assisted the local community in felling trees in nearby parklands. Course manager LT Dale Hopcraft said, "The course at Newborough was overall very successful where the students not only learnt the basic skills quintessential to the Sapper that have been tried and tested over the years, but clearly enjoyed themselves and made lifelong friends in the Corps."

Also over the two-week period the Newborough Depot hosted a Portable Sawmill Operators course. The course consisted of instructing students in practical saw operation and included a timber grading component allowing operators to be able to select appropriate timber for construction tasks.

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22 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT CHANGE OF FORMATION PDE 14 OCT 06

The Army continuously undergoes change. For the last few years 22 Construction Regiment has been part of the Commander Land Command Engineers' Organisation. (The CLCE).
The CLCE position has disappeared, and in the subsequent reorganisation, 22 Construction Regiment has come under command of 4 Brigade, which is part of 2 Div. There was a disestablishment parade held at Oakleigh on Saturday 14 October to affect the handover from the CLCE to the Commander 4 Brigade. This was followed on the Saturday night by a formal dinner held in the dining hall at Ormond College.

Below is the CLCE's address at the Parade. . . . Editor

Address by CLCE at Disestablishment Parade.

"Good afternoon to the members, families and friends of the 22nd Construction Regiment. It's an honour for me to be here this afternoon as your Commander Land Command Engineers and the Head of Corps for the Royal Australian Engineers. Today we mark the next phase in the proud history of the Regiment, as you become part of the 4th Brigade and the 2nd Division.

The 22nd Construction Regiment of 2006 has come a long way from the unit that was established in 1950. Not long after World War Two the Engineer leadership of the day under that famous Sapper General, MAJ GEN Sir Clive Steele, identified the need for tradesmen and plant operators

who could provide skilled labour for defence works on the home front in time of war but were low maintenance and didn't cost much during times of peace. The solution was to link with state government authorities such as the Country Roads Board, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.

22 Construction Regiment was raised as a Supplementary Reserve unit which was a concept pioneered in the United Kingdom where employment in the Army simply reflected the skills and qualifications that members already possessed from their civilian occupations. Conditions in the Supplementary Reserve were designed to minimise the impact of service on civilian careers so there was no requirement to attend week night or weekend training. The only requirement was a two week Annual Camp where job skills were adapted to military requirements so it's not unusual that Annual Camps have a very special place in the history of the Regiment.

I think its fair to say that what happens on Annual Camp stays on Annual Camp but it is obvious that the engineer motto of 'work hard play hard' is alive and well in the 22nd Construction Regiment. On the work hard side, the vast array of skills resident within the Regiment have been put to good use with an impressive range of construction tasks completed over the years including the upgrade of Army Training Areas at Puckapunyal here in Victoria and Buckland in Tasmania. Moving further a field, the Regiment has been called upon to build roads and bridges in Papua New Guinea and even deployed a troop to the Vietnam War. More recently, the Regiment has provided much needed support to the construction of RAAF Base Scherger on Cape York and a number of Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Programs in remote indigenous communities in Northern Australia. Members of the Regiment were also selected for operational service in East Timor, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands. The Regiment supported the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and this year's Commonwealth Games here in Melbourne. Last month three members of the Regiment returned from Papua New Guinea where they provided support to 17th Construction Sqn at Kiunga on Exercise PUK PUK with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force Engineer Battalion.

These outstanding results and many others were achieved under a range of commands. Over the past 56 years, the Regiment has been under the command of Southern Command, the 6th Engineer Group, the Logistic Support Force and Land Command Engineers. Changes such as today's move to the 2nd Division are nothing new. In the late 1980s, the regiment changed from Supplementary Reserve to normal conditions Army Reserve. In 1991, the Regiment relocated from Swan Street to this Multi-User Depot here at Oakleigh. Some thought that the move from Swan Street would be the Regiment's Swan Song but the unit continues to prosper and goes from strength to strength.

So my message to the Regiment and their valued supporters here today is that while it may be a sad day for me as I pass responsibility for one of my premier Construction Regiments over to the 4th Bde and the 2 Division, it is not the end of the world. The regiment will continue to produce outstanding results as you have so ably demonstrated over the past 56 years. With the pace of activity, more will be asked of you in the future and I know that you stand ready to answer the call.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the key role that families and friends play in supporting our Reservists. I don't need to tell you that its' a difficult task trying to juggle the competing demands of reserve service with civilian employment and time with family and friends. But our reserve soldiers are a very real bridge to the civilian community and without your support they would not be able to do what they do. So on their behalf, thank you.

I wish you all the very best for your future with the 2nd Division.

Thank you."

. . . *Col Michael Kavanagh.*
CLCE

WARNING ORDER

22 Const Regt is organising an Officers Mess Dinner with the title "BACK TO 22"
The date is Saturday 3 February 2007.
Put the date in your diary.
There will be a flyer circulated in January.

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4 CER UPDATE – Nov 2004

Top Shots. Excellent results were achieved at the CO's Marksmanship range weekend at the end of July. Two crossed rifle qualifications were achieved (LTCOL Westphalen and SPR Childs) and five first class qualifications were achieved. A first class pass is a score which is within 5% of the Marksmanship qualification. The Marksmanship qualification is extremely difficult to achieve and it is unusual to have so many personnel so close to the qualification. Another CO's Marksmanship Range weekend is planned for early December and it is envisaged that more crossed rifle badges will be awarded.

EX HAMEL Ex HAMEL was a 4 BDE coordinated field exercise in the Cultana Training Area in South Australia conducted over the period 02-17 Sept 06. Although not a true BDE exercise, rather a number of major units exercising in the same area, it was a great learning experience for all concerned and provided a chance to see how other units operate in an 'all arms' environment. Elements of Regimental HQ and 10 CE Sqn deployed to provide combat engineer support to the BDE units and to conduct sub unit training. Training included watermanship, demolitions, field defences and minor construction tasks for Range Control. 4 CER also constructed a number of targets for the firepower demonstration. The exercise was such a success that we will be returning next year to do it all again!

New Squadron. The former 8th Field Squadron is being re-raised as 8 Combat Engineer Squadron as of 01 Jan 07. Led by OC, MAJ John Hutchings, the new squadron will provide Combat Engineer training to new recruits. 38 Spt Sqn, which is currently managing these personnel, will revert to the Regimental Support Squadron containing the Regiment's support elements, including cooks, medics, Q-staff, plant and transport etc. 10 CES will remain as a Combat Engineer Squadron with an increased focus on training and retaining fully qualified personnel for Brigade Ready Reaction Force Tasks, deployments and High Readiness Reserve. The new Regimental organisation enables more rigorous management of the training continuum of Sappers through the Regiment and provides a greater variety of SNCO and Officer roles within the unit.

2007 Postings Out and In. 2007 will see a markedly different Regiment to 2006. Postings Out include:

a. LTCOL Westphalen (CO)
b. MAJ Shanks (OPSO)
c. MAJ Tadich (OC 38 Spt Sqn)
d. CAPT Goddard (ADJT)
e. CAPT Coates
f. CAPT Mercoulia
g. LT Halls-Loft
h. LT Courtice
i. LT Covey
j. WO2 Cox (RQMS),

Postings In include:

a. LTCOL Don Hogben (CO)
b. CAPT Bailey (XO)
c. CAPT Cuijpers (TRG Offr)

. . . More details to follow.

To farewell the current CO, 4 CER will conduct a Commanding Officers handover parade at the Ringwood East Depot on **09 Dec 06.**

Best Christmas wishes from all at 4 CER

Training. Training activities for the remainder of the year are focussed on RRF training in support of 4 BDE and bridging at Puckapunyal.

2007 Waterloo Dinner. The Waterloo Dinner is scheduled for 16 Jun 2007. Details will be released in Sapper Summit issue in 2007. Point of Contact from 23 Jan 07 will be new Executive Officer at 4 CER, Captain Bailey, on tel: (03) 9870 7073.

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MEMORIAL PLAQUE AT SITE 17, SEYMOUR

Over the last 2 years, the Historical and Heritage Association has been attempting to finalise the wording of a commemoration plaque to be installed on the memorial wall established at the old SITE 17 Camp, Seymour.

There is a range of plaques on the wall and these list the various units which trained locally. The wall plaques relate to units which trained anywhere in the East Seymour area, and not just Site 17.

Bruce Campbell has spent a considerable amount of time trying to ensure all RAE Units have been included. The text of the plaque is detailed below. It includes Survey Units, as Survey was then, and is now, back with RAE.

If you have any comments, please contact Bruce Campbell:

Proposed wording:

"This Plaque commemorates Units of the Royal Australian Engineers known to have trained in this area during the following periods:

WORLD WAR II UNITS -- 1939 to 1945:

- RAE 3 Division.
- 2/2, 2/8, 2/9, 2/10 and 2/16 Field Companies.
- 4, 10 and 15 Field Companies.
- 53 Field Park.
- 2/1 Corps Field Survey Company, RAE.

ARMY RESERVE UNITS -- 1948 to 1960:

- 3 Field Engineer and 5 Corps Engineer Regiments.
- 16 and 22 Construction Regiments.
- 41 Railway Squadron, 91 Forestry Squadron.
- 10 Independent Field Squadron (Armd).
- 13 Postal Unit.

UBIQUE"

ORBITUARIES

CAPTAIN DAVID NICHOLSON
24 September 1925 – 29 September 2006

We are sorry to report the death of Dave Nicholson, a former member of 22 Construction Regiment.

Dave's first military experience was during the war with VDC in the western suburbs when Japanese reconnaissance made occasional visits to the area.

After graduating BCE, Dave joined the Country Roads Board and spent his early years on bridge construction. He was site engineer for the Johnston Street Bridge in the 1950's.

Dave joined 22 Construction Regiment in 1958 and was commissioned in 1960. He was an outdoors man with skills in shooting, fishing and diving. On one occasion his rifle skills were used to persuade some cattle to cease grazing on the range where a practice was about to be fired.

Dave had a stint with West Shell Piling in the 60's before returning to the Board where he was road construction and maintenance engineer and then State Highways Maintenance Engineer from which he retired in 1986.

During the construction of the Westgate Freeway, Dave was involved in the planning and design of the west side of the freeway. From 1970 to 1986 he was Chief of the Equipment Division for the State Disaster Plan (DISPLAN), and was responsible for coordinating the assistance of the various State Authorities where engineering type resources were required.

Dave's wife, Beth, sadly died in 1983, and in retirement, Dave moved to Tocumwal where his siblings are.

On Thursday 28 September, Dave had a good day fishing and happily retired to read a book in the evening. He died overnight. He was farewelled on 6 October in Tocumwal by a large crowd of family and friends.

... *Les Malseed.*

* * * * *

Bill Goodall
Died 28 November 2006, Aged 85

Just as this edition was going to press, we learnt of the death of PO William John (Bill) Goodall. Bill was instrumental in the success of the RAE Historical and Heritage Committee when it was set up in 1992.

He was involved in the early production of Sapper Summit, and has remained a contributor. He frequently forwarded useful articles and snippets of information.

He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Society of Military Engineering within the Institution of Engineers, now called the Society for Defence Engineering.

We will publish a full obituary in the next edition of Sapper Summit.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to his wife Shirley and to his family.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

WOODPECKERS RAE ASSOCIATION

The Woodies held their AGM at the Downtowner Motel in Lygon Street on 9 Sep 06. There has been a change to the committee, which now consists of:

President: Oliver Raymond. Nominated by M Murray, 2nd J Morey. Oliver accepted position.

Vice President: Mick Murray Nominated by John Goss, 2nd O. Raymond. Michael accepted position.

Treasurer: Bob Brasher Nominated by J Morey, 2nd O Raymond. Bob accepted position.

Secretary: Graeme Ford. Nominated by M Murray, 2nd A Webb. Graeme accepted position.

Committee Members: Tony Jackson, John Goss volunteered, Both elected unopposed.

Mick Murray and John Morey stepped down from their positions as President and Secretary after many years of sterling service. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and the Woodies are definitely amongst the best organised veterans' organisations. A vote of thanks was moved and carried for all the work the old committee had undertaken on behalf of the members.

A reunion weekend was held on 11/12 Nov 06 at the new President's home at Tyers. Luckily, there are two hectares, so there was plenty of room for tents and vans!

.. *Oliver Raymond*
President

22 CONST REGT ANNUAL GET TOGETHER

22 CONST REGT ANNUAL REUNION WARRNAMBOOL OCT 2006

The annual get together of the "old and bold" took place at Warrnambool and was very well organised by our secretary Jenny Eaton and I think perhaps we broke some records as to the number of people in attendance

Friday 27th October from lunchtime onwards, we began to arrive at the Downtown Motel and as the afternoon progressed the crowd grew. At about 1600hrs drinkies and nibbles were taking place in the dining room of the motel and at about 1800 hrs we moved across the road to Macys Hotel for a casual meal.

We had our own semi private room and about 65 people attended.

Mid-morning Saturday the 28th, Jenny had organised a mystery tour in which 45 or so took part. The coach took in some of the highlights of Warrnambool, i.e. Allansford cheese factory (Devonshire Tea supplied) and Port Fairy. Lunch under our own steam at Port Fairy and an hour or so to wander, then it was back through Tower Hill State Park where we spent time at the aboriginal centre overlooking an inactive volcano surrounded by kangaroos, emus etc.

On arrival at the motel most of us volunteered to set up the dining room for the dining in night. One of Jenny's many surprises was she had been buying candelabra on ebay. Added to which, Brian Chirgwin had lent a couple which made the tables looked extremely resplendent.

That night, 76 people sat down for dinner with Keith Bennett as Dining President; Grace was said by Norm Dodgson, the toast to the Queen was made by Barry Carboon, the Toast to the Corps was made by Maurice Squirrel, Fallen Comrades by Bill Fry, the Toast to the Regiment by Rod Olsen and the Response by Brian Chirgwin. We had some new faces this year – Chick Martin, Crunchy Merrigan just to name a couple, the meal was a great success ending with the singing of Inverary Inn, the words of which were printed on the back of the placemats this year.

The 29th saw us having a late brunch and departing Warrnambool to various parts of the state, everybody knowing that next year we will meet again in Yarrawonga. Motels and temporary bookings have all been made so put this date aside. The weekend of 26, 27, 28 October 2007.

. . . *Tony Bourke.*

VIETNAM VETERANS

The RAE Vietnam Association had its AGM on Sunday 29 October. The main topic of the meeting was the upcoming 25th reunion on Anzac Day 2007. It is planed to have a bigger than usual function on the day at the Turf Club Hotel in North Melbourne. Everyone is invited. It starts after the march and ends when it ends. Members get 5 beer tickets and non-members get drinks at a reduced price. Meals are available. Its a family day so partners are most welcome. Raffle prizes will be extra special this year.

The election of office bearers was very easy as everyone took up their old positions. This committee has worked very well together for many years with little change to its structure. Everyone is a friend and all know each other from their time in the Army, and as Engineers we stick together.

. . . *Loraine Livingstone*

A Reflection on Things to Come

I was flicking through the channels on T.V. recently and came across an interesting program on the ABC's "Compass". The show was about how survivors of the holocaust, who now suffer with dementia, are coping with the memories of the war and how that affects their quality of life now.

The main point that I picked up on was the correlation between PTSD and Dementia. The Jewish community is finding out the hard way that the dementia patients are reliving the horrors that they endured those many years ago. The smallest thing can trigger an episode for these dementia patients. The smell of the detergent that is in the floor-washing bucket can remind them of the camp horrors. Staff are being educated about the holocaust so they have a better understanding of what happened. Care givers are able to talk with the patients about the memories that they are reliving. The care giver and the patient are better able to cope.

My question is ***what strategies are in place for the veteran community that have PTSD, given the number that have this terrible complaint.*** Our veterans are coming up to the age when dementia will become an issue. Let us learn from this Jewish experience and take the knowledge to the veteran community. They are learning in hindsight, we should be pro-active and be implementing strategies now that will make the transition into dementia less stressful than it would otherwise be. The example is already there, there is a connection between PTSD and dementia, the dementia takes the Patient back to the traumatic time in their life.

Let **US,** the care givers, the wives, families, support groups, Government and DVA start looking ahead, this problem is nearly upon us. ***What are we going to do?***

. . . *Loraine*

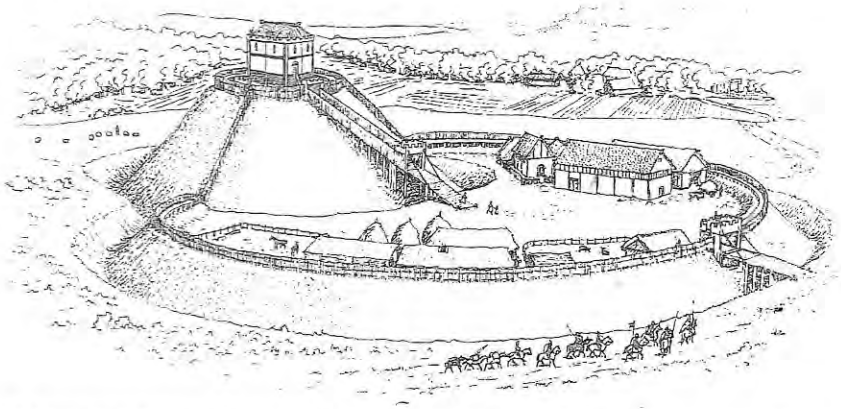
THE HISTORY OF FORTIFICATIONS

This is Jim Newlands' fourth instalment on the history of fortifications.

`EPISODE 4 - THE COMING OF THE NORMANS

When the Romans left Britain, they left behind an orderly and well organised number of communities. Unfortunately, all of the troops which had protected the populace, left the island. The people had been protected by the Roman Armies, and had little idea of protecting themselves, their families and their properties. The forts built along the so-called Saxon Shore fell into disrepair and were no longer garrisoned effectively.
The whole country was open to the invading "Saxons" which were in reality a combination of Jutes, Norsemen, Danes, Franks and of course, the true Saxons.
The locals did not have the skills to repair the defensive structures, and the structured law and social system disappeared. Britain entered the so called "Dark Ages". Some figures did appear, eg King Alfred and the legendary King Arthur. Any fortifications which were built were earthen walls. Some may still be seen, but the country became benighted.
This changed in 1066, when William of Normandy landed near Hastings on the South coast. The Normans quickly overcame the local forces, and William allocated territories to his Knights. Many constructed fortifications based on the Norman system of the Motte and Bailey design. This basically involved building a large artificial hill, the Motte, on which a wooden structure, surrounded by a wooden palisade was built. A forecourt, the Bailey, was constructed with a palisade and a deep ditch. This could be used as accommodation for the Knight's retainers, and a refuge for their livestock when danger threatened. Many mottes are still visible in Britain, as far north in Aberdeenshire where the Peel of Lumphanan, to the west of Aberdeen, is still a tourist attraction, but the associated wooden structures have all disappeared.

Diagram 1 A typical Motte and Bailey construction.



47 Reconstruction of an early motte-and-bailey castle, showing the hall, chapel and farm-buildings in the bailey, a drawbridge over the motte ditch, and a wooden keep raised on stilts crowning the motte.

The wooden structures were gradually replaced by a stone central structure, which became known as the Keep. Later, the wooden palisade was replaced by a masonry wall, but the ditch remained.
William adopted the title of King William the First, and became widely known as William the Conqueror. Irreverent Scots and Irish later claimed that he was the first English WC. He also started to build the earliest buildings of what became known as Square Keeps. He introduced the square or rectangular keep to England, in all- masonry castles. Possibly the two best known examples of these were the Keep at the tower of London and that at Rochester to the south-east of London. Dover also had a large square keep

Diagram 2 (below) The Keep in the Tower of London

The prominent tower in the forefront is the White Tower of the Keep in the Tower of London. Begun by William I (The Conqueor), in 1078, it is part of an irregular rectangular keep. The towers are 27.7 m high, and the thickness of the walls of the keep vary from3-4m to4.6 m.

Over the next two centuries, the structure of castles became more complicated, according to the circumstances. The masonry walls became higher, to provide extended range to the defensive fire of archers. The battlements were crenellated.
(Diagram 2). The Merlons provided protection for the archers, while the embrasures allowed them a wide field of fire.

Diagram 3 The developments on the Battlements of a castle, designed to protect archers.
Hogg, Ian The History of Fortification Orbis Publishing (London) 1981 p45

The elements of medieval battlements. The outer wall is crenellated; the high-standing merlons contain v-shaped recesses or loops ending in arrow slits, ensuring that defenders do not expose themselves at the embrasures Arrow slits and loop holes were also built in the walls and towers.

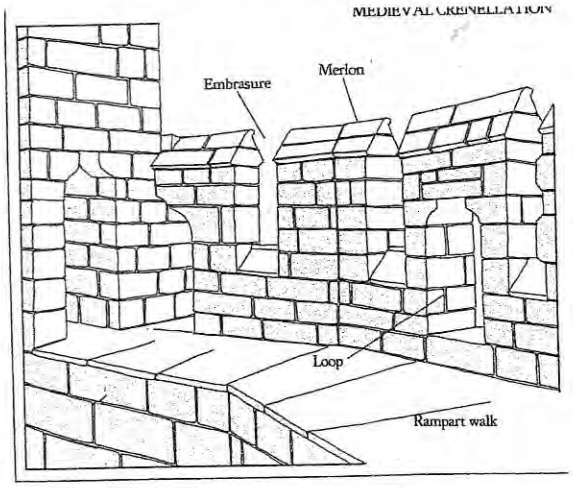


Diagram 3

Hoards (Diagram 5) were also built to allow archers to fire vertically at soldiers attacking the base of the walls. These wooden structures were added to provide added protection to the defenders, especially the archers. Unfortunately they were vulnerable to fire. They were later replaced by stone machiolations
Diagram 4 Schematic Diagram of Battlement Protective structures
Diagram 5 Wooden Hoard – Depicted under construction - showing details of the supporting timbers.

Diagram 4 Machiolations

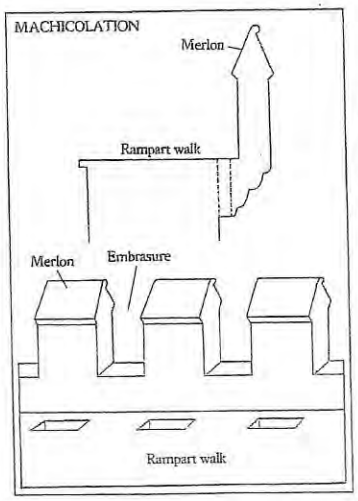
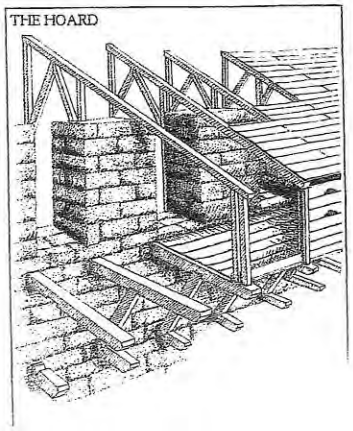
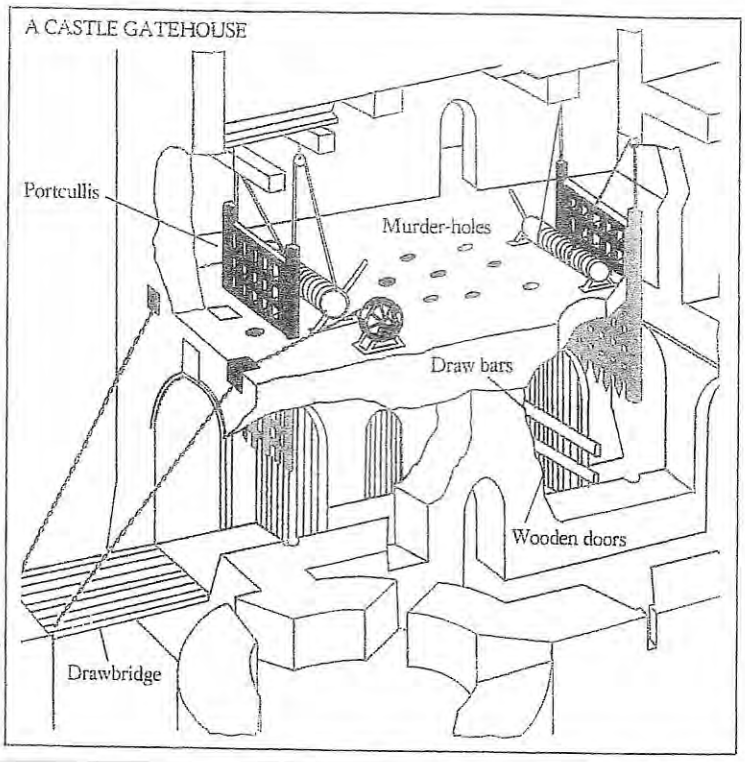


Diagram 5 A Hoard under Construction



From Hogg, The History of Fortification (see above) Page 47

Several developments related to the structures associated with the entrance to the castle. The gateway to the castle was the weak point in the defence of the castle. The ditch was protected with the retractable drawbridge, which could be raised when necessary. Several other features were added. Iron grilles, (the Portcullis), were prominent. Murder Holes (Meurtrieures) above the entrance allowed molten lead or hot oil to be poured on assailants. These features can be seen at Walmer Castle, the residence of the Warden of The Cinque Ports.



This diagram shows the features used to make entry difficult for those assaulting a castle.

These developments were to be further advanced under the Crusaders and the Plantagenet kings of England.

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From all at Sapper Summit ---

A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.