

"SAPPER SUMMIT" RAE CORPS NEWSLETTER

SOUTHERN REGION

DECEMBER 1994

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4

Editorial

"The times, they are a'changing"

The Editorial in the September issue, as well as referring to our new multi-user depot, also announced the concept of an "umbrella" role for the Corps Committee. Just as the multi-user depot gives a more efficient use of resources, so the "umbrella" role of the committee should also do that.

Since World War II, the unit associations have functioned continuously to the satisfaction of their members, although some officer-bearers are feeling their greyhairs and look to the future with some concern of its outcome. In addition, there are new associations being formed and undoubtedly there will be more as time goes by. These will look to the "umbrella" and the form that it takes to ensure that the esprit-de-corps is maintained.

It is short term planning to say or think "Leave it to the serving soldier". Their aim must be to train for and to win a war so that any assistance they may give to the "umbrella" is for the duration of their posting. The past low key involvement of the corps committee is a fruit of this thinking. I must admit, in the past, I was never clear what the corps committee did and it never thought it necessary to tell me. My RAE esprit-de-corp stems from my war service. The present situation requires the "umbrella" to be continuously generating such esprit-de-corps and into the foreseeable future.

It should avoid getting bogged down in committees and projects that are only state based but must provide the inspiration and muscle to achieve its aim for everyone in Australia and into the distant future.

It would seem that the proposed set up when activated should not fall into the hands of a "Colonel Blimp" but of course, the appointment of "individuals and small groups" to work and contribute in their own way should go far to prevent this.

CASTLE CHIT CHAT CHRISTMAS 1994

As another year draws to a close, it's time to reflect on the achievements of the last 12 months. For the LSF Engrs, and the broader Sapper family in Southern Region, we have gone from strength to strength. The Combat Engineers, 10Fd Sqn (under comd 4th Brigade) and 38 Fd Sqn (the LSF's combat engineer capability), are highly likely to be combined in 1995 to become Victoria's Combat Engineer Regiment (CER). This follows the successful introduction of CERs into 1 Division, and provides a significantly enhanced capability for the 4th Brigade.

The exercise period in October saw Victorian Sappers in the Northern Territory and widely dispersed throughout Victoria. The new Sapper training facilities at Puckapunyal are coming along well.

Christmas also brings the 'moving on' of many of our people: Capt Richard Ager as Plant Tp Comd 17 Const Sqn; our RSM, WO1 Tony Smith, to SSM 21 Const Sqn; Capt Brent Maddock to LWC Canungra; WO2 John Brown to 2 CER; WO2 Doug Brismon and Sgt Bob Treadway to PNG; Sgt Herb Hermann to SA; WO2 John Knox to SME, and Sgt Glenn Bridges to LFSU.

Welcomes include: Capt Greg Jenkins from being OC Apprentice Troop at SME, as the new SO3 Pers/Log on the Headquarters; Capt Craig Madden from Headquarters Logistic Command to 2IC 38 Fd Sqn; WO1 Chris Reeves from SME as the new RSM; WO2 Neil Goodburn as the Plant WO; WO2 Jock Turner to 39 E&M Sqn, and WO2 Bob Kudyba OAM as the TRG WO at 38 Fd Sqn. Welcome aboard fellas, you have joined the formation at a great time. We have never had so many resources, such a well defined role, and the right people to get on with the job.

Within the formation, numerous appointments will be taken up in the New Year: in particular, we welcome LTCOL Ian Campbell as the new S01 Ops and LTCOL Greg Burnham as CO 7ESR. To all new appointees, and those 'on the move', we wish you a **hearty Christmas and a prosperous New Year!**

UBIQUE

VALE

LT GEN SIR MERVYN BROGAN (Basher)
K.B.E.

born 10.1.1918 died 8.3.1994

LT. COL. DESMOND OTTO MULLER
(Dooley) D.S.O., M.C.

born 17.8.1913 died 2.11.1194

THE TRIP TO CERBERUS AND HASTINGS

On 20th November, a party of Gunners and Sappers and guests embussed at the Depot for a Tour of the Cerberus Naval Depot with some proceeded by car. Bill McCawley, a former member of Cerberus, gave us an entertaining commentary as the bus toured the Depot grounds. We didn't go in by the front gate but by the gangway!! We visited the Cerberus Museum, and it was "shipshape and in Bristol fashion", after which Gordon Jamieson, also a former member of Cerberus, gave a "hands on" description of the workings of a Mark1 1945 40mm Bofors and then a 4.5" Twin Turret gun from the WWII destroyer, "ARANTA".

The party then "steamed" - ahem embussed! to the club bar of the Hastings Hotel for a light lunch. Then a short stroll, downhill, to the Hastings Historical Museum.

Doug Thompson, the Historical Society's secretary, gave us a conducted tour, the highlight of which was the viewing of the recently restored 40lb Armstrong Rifled breech loading towed gun. This gun was one of a battery of four towed by bullocks in the area, at the end of the 19th Century during the "Russian scare". The OC of the battery was a Capt Ham giving the local wags to christen it the "Ham and Beef" battery. After the tour at the "Fisherman's" Cottage to end a pleasant day, we boarded the bus for home and it poured with rain. Lucky Us!

Bill Atkins

"Victoria's Guns - A Field Guide"

The eighty-six page publication by Major Bill Billett (RL) (produced by the Museum of Victoria - his employer) - Curator of Arms and Armour is the first published survey of Victoria's pre-federation large

guns. Strictly speaking, it is centres upon the gun barrel; the all important mounting which regulated the firepower is somewhat ignored. The book is of interest to both sappers and gunners. The survey identifies and describes the known surviving gun barrels and their known locations throughout many municipalities. They are the legacy of naval and land service. All originated from the UK, although quite a number were of non-imperial service pattern being manufactured specifically for Victoria.

The author recognises and states that additional research is needed "To build a data base of the remaining guns to which details of new finds can be added". It behoves each sapper to be aware of the significant place the guns have in Victoria's cultural heritage. Quite a number can be closely viewed at Williamstown, Point Nepean and Queenscliff.

Guns and Projectiles are the works of engineers and their tradesman; propellants and associated explosive charges that of the chemist. Installation of these military type guns, construction of their emplacement with accompanying fortifications was the responsibility of the sapper or his equivalent, thus the gunner way very much dependent on the sapper.

It should be noted that the illustration No. 29 on page 41 is an error. The 10inch x 26 ton shown was mounted only at and recovered from Eagles Nest Fort. There was 10inch x 25 ton gun mounted at Fort Franklin, Portsea, which had been removed from the gun board "Victoria". It has not survived.

Copies of the book are available on sale at the Victorian Museum cost \$19.95 (postage extra).

W. Goodall

Mary Rose adds more romance to Shipwreck Coast

It is particularly appropriate that the Mary Rose Exhibition should spend three months on Victoria's Shipwreck Coast, itself a region of significant maritime history and disaster - although of somewhat more modern vintage.

It shows the time of Henry VIII's Tudor England with its display of a rich collection of everyday items and weapons of war.

In life, the Mary Rose was the pride of the King's fleet. Her death came suddenly and dramatically, before the King's own eyes, as she sailed to defend England against French invaders.

Built of solid oak, and speedy, Mary Rose was described by Henry's Admiral, Sir Edward Howard, as "the noblest ship of sail". Bristling with cannon, she heralded a new era of naval warfare - the shift from battering ram and boarding parties to long-range gunnery broadsides.

Built in 1509-10 in the first years of Henry's reign when he was barely 18 years old, the four masted carrack was named after the King's sister Mary and the rose, the floral emblem of Henry's royal house.

In the decades leading up to the fateful day in July 1545, the Mary Rose had been refitted and kept at the cutting edge of contemporary maritime warfare standards. The 700-ton ship now sported 91 guns and was a potent weapon of war.

It was a hot, calm English summer's day when Henry VIII took his vantage point on Southsea Common in Portsmouth to observe the battle between his fleet of 100 ships which awaited a flotilla of 225 French ones. The first strong gust of offshore breeze signalled the English fleet to head for the vastly superior French fleet.

Suddenly, disaster! Mary Rose, combing about as the wind hit, heeled over and sank in minutes.

Most of Mary Rose's unusually large complement of 700 died and Henry and his party could hear the cries of drowning soldiers and soldiers from the Common. Almost certainly, the heavy weight of her extra cannon and low-level gun ports left open to allow cool air below decks during the battle combined to let water rush in and upset her stability.

The Warrnambool Art Gallery, where the exhibition will be shown, is the only Victorian venue on the Mary Rose Exhibition's Australian itinerary. It will be at the Art Gallery from 10 December 1994 until 26 February 1995.

The Preservation of the Aussie Man

*The Horse and Mule live thirty years
And nothing know of wines and beers
The goat and sheep at twenty die
With never a taste of scotch or rye*

*The cow drinks water by the ton
And at eighteen is mostly done
The dog at sixteen cashes in
Without the aid of rum or gin*

*The cat in milk and water soaks
And then in twelve short years it croaks
The modest, sober, bone dry hen
Lays eggs for nogs and dies at ten*

*All animals are strictly dry
They sinless live and swiftly die
But, sinful, ginful, rum-soaked men
Survive for three score years and ten*

*And some of us, the mighty few
Stay pickled till we're ninety two.*

At short notice, two of our Victorian Sappers; Major Don Hughes (LSF Engrs), and Warrant Officer Wayne Hay (10 Fd Sqn), were deployed just prior to Christmas to Mozambique. They will assist the United Nations in de-mining operations in that war-ravaged country.

The two Victorian Sappers will be in Mozambique for 6 months and have promised some detailed articles for both SAPPER NEWS and SAPPER SUMMIT.

To wet your appetite, I have included some geographical details of Mozambique. Originally a Portuguese colony, Mozambique has been ravaged by civil war for the past 16 years. Recent elections appear to have gone well. The country's first priority however, is to ride the danger of land mines. Hence the deployment of our sappers along with others from numerous countries subscribing to the UN.

If you wish to offer support to our Sappers "in the field", please write to:

MAJ HUGHES/WO2 HAY
DEMINING TEAM
ONUMOZ
PO BOX 1915
MAPUTO MOZAMBIQUE AFRICA

An information service has also been provided at no cost. Please ring 008 801026 for an update on the operations in Mozambique. Note that this service also includes Cambodia.

The Editor.

Mozambique

Mozambique is a large, irregularly shaped country on Africa's south-east coast. It is bordered by South Africa and Swaziland to the southwest, Zimbabwe and Zambia to the west, and Tanzania to the north; southern Malawi is sandwiched between western and northern Mozambique. The east coast faces the island of Madagascar across the Mozambique Channel.

Environment

The wide coastal plain occupies most of the south, but becomes narrower farther north. Away from the sea the land rises in a series of steps to the tablelands of the High Veld. The granite plateaus of the north, beyond the Zambezi river are higher than the sandstone plateaus of the south. In the far northwest, the land drops sharply to the shores of Lake Malawi.

The coastal plan is crossed by numerous rivers. These include the great Zambezi, the Lurio, the Save and the Limpopo. The capital, Maputo (formerly Lourenco Marques), lies in the far south on Delagoa Bay, which is the finest natural harbour on Africa's east coast. North of here the coastline features sandbars and mangrove swamps, but beyond the Zambezi river it is lined by sandy beaches interspersed with rocky cliffs and small islands.

The climate is subtropical, with a very marked division between rainy and dry seasons. However, it is surprisingly dry in view of the prevailing onshore winds and the warm offshore Mozambique current. Many areas suffer from drought, especially south of the Zambezi river, and high temperatures increase water loss. Plateau areas enjoy cooler temperatures and higher rainfall, especially in the north of the country.

Savanna woodland and grassland are the dominant vegetation types, with mangroves and palms (especially coconut palms) along the coast. Typical trees include ironwood, ebony and khaya, with napani and baobab on the dry savanna. Bamboo and spear grass are common in river and swamp areas. Wildlife is still abundant despite excessive hunting. Mammals include white rhinoceroses, zebras, warthogs and various species of monkey. Bird life is similarly varied, with flamingoes, cranes, ibis and many other species.

4 GUNSITE EXCURSIONS

Following the successful excursion to Cerberus and Hastings, the following excursions are organised for 1995. The costs, where quoted, are exclusive of bus fares which are being currently negotiated.

12 February 1995 - A weekend excursion to Warrnambool, Portland and Port Fairy to visit the gun sites, the museums and the exhibition of the artefacts of the MARY ROSE. Overnight accommodation (twin share) D.B.B. \$60 per person. Acceptances by 1st February.

Sunday, 4 March 1995 - Boat to Retreat, Fort Queenscliff. Gates open 1700hrs. No tour of the fort. Performance 1830hrs to 2030hrs. Seats may be booked. Light meal at Queenscliff R.S.L. 1700hrs. Bus leaves Depot at 1400hrs. Contact Sappers and others W. Atkins Gunners R. Morrell.

April 1995 - to be announced. West Head Naval Base during the week to witness firing. Numbers limited to 25.

Spring 1995 - to be announced. A day trip to Hobsons Bay gunsites and Fort Gellibrand. Binoculars desirable.

Further enquiries Sappers and others - W. Atkins (059) 96 1013
Gunners - R. Morrell (03) 562 9552

THE REUNION OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION AT RINGWOOD

On Saturday, 12 November 1994 the above association held a reunion at the Dublin Street Depot East Ringwood of 48 members with Col B. Wadeson, their Patron, and Lt Col Rob Youl CO of the 7 Engineer Support Regiment.

The committee prepared the bbq and the Sappers Mess served the drinks.

Eddie Vial had numerous photos on display and Lindsay Mitchelson showed a film of the Regiment at work in the Jamison Area 1966.

The Regiment's esprit-de-corps was evident with members renewing friendships with old mates.

Any enquiries for the 1995 Reunion or any other matter may contact the Secretary:

Arthur Gole
53 South Street
Ascot Vale Vic 3032
(03) 376635

W. Atkins

**MAJOR W. G. BOTHAM DCM
- SAGA OF SOLDIER
(Continued)
BY LTCOL J.E. SLEE,
HISTORICAL AND
HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

In the previous "Sapper Summit" Bill Botham's story told of his escape from Rabaul and arrival at Kiep for Day Twelve of his party's difficult trek down the New Britain coast.

The saga concludes...

With better weather prevailing during Day Twenty-Seven a change of course was made to SSW as we considered we had travelled too far Eastwards during the first night. "Maria" was becalmed for a while whilst a new hot bulk was installed in the engine by Elton and Potter. During the night the light in the compass failed. Whilst I tried to get the lamp working again, the course was set by The Southern Cross. Before nightfall, debris on the sea and birds in the sky gave cause for belief that land was near. A watch was maintained during the night.

At dawn on Day Twenty-eight, the first of a number of islands was sighted - we had

reached the Trobriands! A landing was made at Losuia on Kirwana Island. The party stayed in the Methodist missionary's bungalow at Oiabia. The missionary had departed, but the educated natives made us welcome with food and a cookboy to prepare it.

Day Twenty-Nine was spent in cleaning ourselves and working on "Maria" for a continuation of the journey. The civilian party of Fisher, Knight and company reached Losuia, had a meal, then departed. A Catalina flying boat - on reconnaissance - circled over about midday at 1000 feet. Then the mission launch "Ulele" arrived from the Methodist mission at Salamo with natives aboard.

The "Maria" left Losuia next morning at 0715 hours - Day Thirty, with myself and six men, also two natives off "Ulele" to act as steersmen to Salamo on Fergusson Island. Captain Nicholls and the other three were in "Ulele" with the native crew. Rough seas and rainstorms were encountered before the two boats passed into the D'Entrecasteau group later.

With the two natives as a pilot and a steersmen in the darkness, "Maria" reached Salamo at 0400 hours, Day Thirty-one accompanied by "Ulele". At the Mission, medicine, stores and food were obtained. Men requiring treatment visited the hospital. At the Mission we met the Tongan missionary David and teacher Peter. The "Maria" and "Ulele" left Salamo for New Guinea at 2145 hours to anchor off Fergusson Island about midnight as a rainstorm was approaching.

Leaving the temporary anchorage at 0130 hours, Day Thirty-two in "Maria", we lost sight of "Ulele" before arriving at East Cape - the N.E. tip of Milne Bay at 1130 hours. Signalmen Holme and Leeson were the only persons there - the wireless set was out of action. The "Ulele" arriving earlier, had proceeded along Milne Bay to Giri-Giri seeking another wireless station. CPL Arnold of Fortress Sigs. came in the launch "Mascot" at 12.45 from Kuiaro on the N.G. mainland, just west of Samarai

Island, to inquire why the East Cape transmitter was not working and he stayed the night.

Next morning, Day Thirty-three, after giving the "Maria" to the two natives to enable them to return to Salamo, CPL Arnold, the six men and I sent in the "Mascot" to Kuiaro. There we met Mr A. Timperley, ADO, with his detachment of Pauan Police. There was no accommodation at Kuiaro, so the launch took the men across to Samari to stay in the bungalows vacated by the civilians earlier. I sent a signal by Corporal Arnold to Port Moresby requesting provision of sea or air transport urgently. Captain Nicholls arrived later in the "Ulele" - he sent a further signal.

As ordered from H.Q.N.G. area, the men at Samari began demolition by fire of the principal buildings on Samari.

Day Thirty-Four - the civilian party - Fisher, McGowan and company arrived at Kuiaro from Salamo. After receiving food and fuel they crossed the China Strait to spend the night in the Samari bungalows. Returning next morning, day Thirty-five, and although informed that we expected an airlift they left in their whale boat for Port Moresby. A signal was received with information that a Catalina flying boat would pick us up. The launch "Mascot" brought the men from Samari to wait at Kuiaro. The civilian party, having had second thoughts, returned also. A further signal received stated that a Catalina would arrive at 0600 next day.

The pre-dawn wait on day Thirty-six, before the flying boat landed on the China Strait, seemed endless. On arrival, the army men and civilians, 21 in all, went in the "Mascot" to the Catalina A24-14-Pilot Officer Bolitho in charge with a crew of 8. We were crowded together in the body of the hull for the take-off. A long run over the waves was required before the laden machine became airborne and then cruised westwards to Moresby. We were allowed to spread around so I relaxed in the Starboard rear gun turret. After landing

on Fairfax Harbour at 0930 hours a launch conveyed the passengers from the aircraft to the R.A.A.F. Jetty. In trucks we passed through Port Moresby - almost deserted after air attacks daily - to Area HQ at the Twelve Mile.

so the Odyssey across land, sea and in the air ended.

A lengthy statement to the G.O.C. MAJGEN Morris followed. It was the first report given in person about the events at Rabaul by anyone there on the day of the Japanese invasion. With Captain Nicholls, I also reported the perilous condition of the men on the South Coast of New Britain and the necessity to provide assistance forthwith.

Subsequently, Alan Timperley A.D.O. and W.O. Marsh, Signal Corps, went to Jacquinot Bay in the launch "Mascot" to advise the troops in the area about plans for relief. Later the Government vessel "Laurabada" went to Palmalmal.

Leaving New Britain under cover of darkness with 128 troops and civilians aboard, a safe return journey was made to New Guinea, thence to Australia.

It is fair to claim that the successful effort of the men on the "Maria" in saving themselves from captivity or worse, was also the prime factor initially and instrumental to the rescue operation of the "Laurabada".

ANYONE FOR A "LARF"

Article by Fred Durnham from the same magazine

Wife Questioning Her Husband
When I die will you still live in this house?

Yes

Will you re-marry?

Probably

Will you still sleep in this bed?

Yes

Will you let her use my golf clubs?

No - she's left handed!!

EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED

From an Article by Bruce Collard

Fitting and Machining Teachers Association Magazine, The Rule, Oct 94

Everything is further away than it used to be. It is twice as far to the corner, and they've added a hill, I noticed. I have given up running for the bus, it leaves faster than it used to.

It seems they are making the steps steeper than they did in the old days. And have you noticed the smaller print they use in newspaper?

There is no use asking anyone to read aloud. Everyone speaks in such a low void, I can hardly hear them. And its almost impossible to reach my shoelaces.

Even the people are changing. They are so much younger than they used to be when I was their age. On the other hand, people my own age are so much older than I am.

I ran into an old work-mate the other day, and he had aged so much he didn't recognise me. I got to thinking about the poor thing while I was combing my hair this morning, and in doing so, I glanced at my reflection in the mirror.

They don't make mirrors like they used to do either.

How many of our over 60's can identify with this piece of "wisdom"?

SQUADRON UPDATE 55 RESOURCES SQUADRON, 7 ENGINEER SUPPORT REGIMENT

By CAPT Clint Rodgers

The members of 55 Resources Squadron are keen readers of "Sapper Summit" and look forward to each issue.

We also recognise the value of the "Summit" as a means of keeping in touch with fellow sappers, both past and present, and take this opportunity to update readers on our activities.

Our Corporate Plan has been released and war warmly received by COMD LSF Engr as the framework of a program to realise our vision of achieving excellence in engineer resource production and management.

AFT this year was Exercise Equine Endeavour, conducted during October at Puckapunyal. After successfully converting to the F88 rifle, various engineer resource production tasks were undertaken. Quarry Troop crushed 1990 cubic metres of rock for consumption by 22 Const Regt, whilst Forestry Troop continued milling its popular timber products including CP packs. Plant Troop (Heavy) provided crucial support to both these tasks with their Komatsu dozers and other equipment.

The exercise took place within a low-level operational environment which escalated in the second week, providing valuable training. BFAs and CFAs were also undertaken successfully.

COMD LSF, COL Peter Martyn, COL ENGRS LHQ, COL Geoff Pearce, COL CMDT John Wertheimer and COMD LSF Engrs, COL Howard Ellis were visitors to Exercise Equine Endeavour and were briefed on the sub-unit's activities and future plans, which generated enthusiastic discussion.

We look forward to maintaining contact periodically through the pages of "Sapper Summit". Best wishes to all readers for the festive season from 55 Resources Squadron: "at the cutting edge...".

THE SOCIETY OF MILITARY ENGINEERING NEEDS VICTORIAN SAPPERS

Introduction

The Society was inaugurated on 1 May 1991, as a constituent Technical Society of the Institution of Engineers, Australia. The principal aim of the Society is to foster the exchange of information relating to the theory and practice of military engineering.

The membership of the Society comprises serving and retired members of the Australian Defence Force (i.e. Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force) with an interest in military engineering and interested people from government, industry, defence research establishments and academic institutions. The Society currently has four regional branches and approximately 400 financial members.

National Committee

The membership of the Society's National Committee for 1994 is:

Bill Collins	Chairman
Ian Gilmore*	Deputy Chairman & Chairman, Victoria Branch
Garth Morgan	Chairman, South Australia Branch
Dick Maitland	Chairman, Sydney Branch
Rod Golding	Chairman, Queensland Branch
John Twyford*	Membership Secretary
Bob Macdonald*	Honorary Treasurer
John Bitcon*	Honorary Secretary

The National Committee met in Melbourne on 30 March 1994. The main item of business was the Committee's decision to conduct the Society's first National Conference on 22 March 1995. It was also decided that this National Conference would be held in Melbourne, would be hosted by Victoria Branch and that the theme of the Conference should be 'Defence and Australian Industry'.

To enable the necessary planning decisions and executive actions to occur, the National Committee decided that the Melbourne based Office Bearers (indicated by an *) and John Pilbeam (Convener of National Conference) should form a National Executive. This Executive met frequently through the year and planning for the National Conference is well advanced. An outline program and registration form will be sent to all members of the Society in early December.

The Executive also met regarding a new initiative to produce a national newsletter (The Military Engineer). The first issue of this newsletter was published in July 1994 and three issues per year are planned for the future.

Victoria Branch

During 1994, Victoria Branch held six meetings which covered the following topics:

- UN Peacekeeping - The Recent Canadian Experience
 - HMVS Cerberus - Battleship to Breakwater
 - Space Flight Training, Preparation and Execution
- This meeting proved to be a fascinating evening with Colonel Carl Meade, USAF and NASA Astronaut. Colonel Meade was in Australia at the Institution's invitation to deliver a keynote address to the 1994 National Engineering Convention. He had already logged 450 hours in space and in September he became the first person to venture into space without a lifeline whilst testing a NASA rocket backpack.
- Recent Advances in Defence Technology
 - The Coastal Minehunter Project
 - Fast Ships - The Next Step in Marine Technology

In addition to the above meetings, Victoria Branch held its annual dinner at the Naval and Military Club on 30 March, at which members and their spouses were privileged to hear of the experiences of our Guest of Honour, Lieutenant General John

Sanderson, AC while he was commander of the UN Force in Cambodia. On 25 May 1994, Branch members attended a site visit at the Aeronautical Research Laboratories at Fishermen's Bend.

The 1994 Victoria Branch Committee consisted of:

Ian Gilmore	Chairman
Lionel Boxer	Branch Secretary
Bob Koger	Branch Treasurer
John Bitcon	Committee Member (also National Honorary Secretary)
Tom de Voil	Committee Member
Bob Macdonald	Committee Member (also National Honorary Treasurer)
Don Hughes	Committee Member
John Pilbeam	Committee Member (also Convener of the 1995 National Conference)
Bob Slater	Committee Member
John Twyford	Committee Member (also National Membership Registrar)

WILLIAMSTOWN'S PLACE IN MILITARY HISTORY FORT GELLIBRAND RESTORATION - LTCOL John Slee

Jim Newlands' articles "Fortifications Explained", several reminiscences by Fortress Engineers, and the announcement about proposed Gunsite Excursions make it timely to report on progress with the restoration of Fort Gellibrand, on the site of one of the earliest defence works for the Colony of Victoria, dating back to the 1860s.

We are indebted to "Roll Call", Newsletter of the Fort Gellibrand Restoration Society, October 1994, for the following story.

Two years after what was 'no more than a good idea' was proposed, August-September 1994 saw the idea turn into reality with work being completed on restoration of Emplacement G1 of the old Fort. At a time when inertia, indifference, and lack of funds make it hard enough to repaint a sign or plant a tree at an historic site, the speed and efficiency with which this work has been done at Williamstown is quite remarkable - and the work continues.

Once G1 housed a muzzle-loading piece, similar to the Armstrong guns now displayed at the Fort. A team of 10 of 12 men would have served the gun. But the Russians were no longer coming by the end of the century, the weapon became obsolete, and earth movement, producing great cracks in the concrete structure hastened the slide to decay.

Credit must go to a small active group whose untiring commitment got things underway.

Funding of \$20,000 under the National Estate Grants Program, helped by private donations and membership support, has enabled the Society to proceed so far. Thanks goes from the Society to their contractor, Gerry McHarg 'who gave us reasonable quotes and a high standard of workmanship and took a personal interest in the enterprise'.

But restoration of old forts does not come cheap. At G1 the Society spent close to \$31,000, and was still forced to defer some work.

But enthusiasm has not waned. Fort Gellibrand Restoration Society sees the restored G1 as a reproach to indifference, and a challenge to people not only in the City of Hobson's Bay, (formerly Williamstown), but in the wider Victorian community, and indeed to State and Federal administrations. Further funding will be applied for, and greater public support will be sought.

Delving further into history, in a recent publication of the English Coastal Defence Study Organisation, Michael Kitson described in detail the construction and equipment of Fort Gellibrand.

Space does not permit inclusion of all of this report. However, it is worth noting that the original Fort covered about 15 acres. Comprising three batteries, Left, Centre and Right, its original purpose was the defence of the inner waters of Port Philip, or Hobson's Bay, which was the main anchorage for shipping before the Yarra River was dredged and developed. The Fort underwent considerable change as the main (outer) line of defence was gradually centred on Port Phillip Heads in the 1870s and 1880s, and its guns were frequently moved to other sites in the defences.

It seems likely from Kitson's description that G1 was part of the Centre Battery, since the Right Battery became a cricket ground in the 1880s, while the Left, or Lighthouse Battery was rebuilt in 1982 as an 'Emergency Battery' of a more temporary nature.

Fort Gellibrand is part of a much larger historical precinct, Point Gellibrand, which contains many sites and structures of significance in the development of Victoria: and a recent article in "The Age" discussed the hopes and fears of organisations such as the Friends of Point Gellibrand in regard to proposed or suggested development of much of the area for residential, industrial or recreational purposes. Much of the land and historic structures on it do not have the protection which the Fort has of being at least partially on Army land.

John Stevens, the writer of the article, refers to a map prepared by local historians which 'makes Point Gellibrand look like a treasure island, which indeed it is, archaeologically speaking. Beneath landfill of up to four metres are buried a number of known structures of great historical significance and doubtless many artefacts nobody knows about'.

He believes 'it would be a terrible thing' for this last major site pertaining to the settlement of Melbourne that has not been redeveloped or substantially altered to be sold off by the State.

Perhaps the example of the Fort restoration and the enthusiasm of the Society will inspire others, and local and state authorities, to work towards suitable preservation of the whole area.

THE BAND MARCHES BY A CAUTIONARY TALE

After 9 DIV was withdrawn from Tobruk, it was posted in easy stages through Palestine and Damascus until it arrived at LeGalt Barracks in Tripoli. The LeGalt Barracks had been occupied by the Free French who were still, in part, in occupancy.

One morning, as I strolled down the road, free of cares of office, I met an F.F. Army band in marching order - or whatever bands do.

Their music, on miscellaneous instruments, must have been written in water soluble ink and then caught in the rain. Despite the odd sounds - to my ears - I did not change course and the band impelled by the weight of numbers and instruments could not so we were destined to meet.

As we drew abreast the drum major, anxious to impress the victors, gave an 'EYES LEFT'. The cymbalist, anxious for this moment, gave an almighty clash while the lesser instrumentalists tied to their music stamped their left feet and slapped their left thighs in addition.

Meanwhile the Australian Lieut (Me) reared like a startled horse and stumbled on without returning the salute.

I recount this tale as advice to other junior officers that if they encounter an approaching F.F. band (the strange sounds on the morning air will warn you) turn down a side street and look into a shop window to avoid being SALUTED.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOVEMBER 1994

At 1100hrs on the 11 November 1994, the Remembrance Day Ceremony was observed at the Memorial Wall at the Oakleigh Depot before a representative group of serving soldiers, ex-digs and civilians.

W02 Clark of the RAAOC delivered the opening oration and the Padre said the Remembrance prayer. Then wreaths were placed in remembrance of the fallen.

After W01 McKenna of the RAE recited the Ode to Fallen and the Last Post was sounded, the Assembly stood in silent tribute, after which the Reveille echoed the hope we all felt.

W02 Myers of RAEME gave the Remembrance Day Speech and the service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

The Sgts Mess then served morning tea.

BACKRONYM

Our acknowledgment to "New Scientist" of 17/9/94 for some 'backronyms' which won awards in a recent (not too serious) competition.

A 'backronym' is an acronym turned back into words of one's own choice.

BNFL (British Nuclear Fuels Limited) - Buy No Fish Locally

CD-ROM (Compact Disc Read-Only Memory) - Compatible? Doesn't Run on Mine
H2SO4 (Sulphuric Acid) - Help, Help, Searing! Ouch, Ouch, Ouch, Ouch!
USAF (United States Air Force) - Usually Shooting at Friends
CAD (Computer Aided Design) - Can't Anyone Draw
DoT (Department of Transport) - Disaster our Trademark
LASER (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation) - Looking At Source Erases Retina
OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) - Our Pollution Encompasses Continents

John Slee

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS DEPOT - SWAN STREET

My association with the Royal Australian Engineers Depot in Swan Street commenced in 1936 when I joined the 34th Fortress Company as a Cadet.

In those days, the 34th held its weekly parades on Thursday nights when lectures and the practical training in searchlight operation and operation of the kerosene gardner No. 9 Engine was carried out.

Prior to being issued with my regimental kit, I recall attending one of my first lectures in civilian clothes, one winter's night. All went well until after having been dismissed, I went to collect my overcoat - only to find that, with others, it had been claimed by a person/persons unknown - doubtless members of the local community who thought they had better claim to it than their rightful owner.

Later, when being issued with my kit, I was asked by the Quartermaster, SERGEANT Ron Richardson, what size

boots I wore, when I said "Tens", a void from behind me instructed the QM "Give him the box too, Sergeant!" I was later to learn that this was our jutant, Captain Larkin (AIC).

In 1938, I had met up with CAPT. Larkin again, this time at a regimental dance. I had been posted at the entrance to the hall and had learned that prior to taking up my post, some "gate crashers" had gained entry. I was appropriately informed of this by CAPT. Larkin who concluded by saying, "You will keep your eyes open, won't you" and noting the twinkle in his eye - and also some attractive members of the opposite sex nearby, I responded accordingly. I have often since wondered whether he had then been on the same wavelength!! Anyway, the dance was a great success - in spite of the "gatecrashers".

At the conclusion of a lecture one night on "OHM's Law, the lecturer, after inquiring whether anyone required explanation of anything he wasn't sure of, one sapper, Larry Bland, piped up with "Yes, the whole Lot!" Turning then to the person next to him he was heard to say, "I don't know a bloody thing he is talking about, do you?" Our funny man, Larry, the 34th comedian.

Once when being inspected on parade by our commanding officer CAPTAIN Carter, the Adjutant CAPTAIN Larkin and others, including SERGEANT MAJOR Lawler, I was soon made aware of having too much in my two top tunic pockets. Looking me up and down, CAPT Carter asked if it was really necessary to have so much in my pockets. Doubtless my bulging appearance was accentuated by standing to attention - 'Shoulders back, chest out, stomach in' etc, all of which prompted him to add, "You look more like Mae West!" (An overendowed exotic hollywood actress of that era).

On another occasion during rifle drill, our Cadet Squad was being taken by Corporal Ben Frank on how to hold the rifle at the "slope".

He was taking pains to explain that we must hold the rifle butt with our left hand opposite our left breast. Obviously our efforts were anything but satisfactory and CAPT. Larkin, who happened to be nearby and heard CPL. Frank's instruction said, "Com on - you chaps are old enough now to know which is the left breast" then passed on with an amused expression and our squad trying to keep a straight face!

Orders came out that we were to participate in a forthcoming military Tattoo. Our training subsequently took place at our Swan Street Depot each Sunday morning. I clearly recall these parades as it was my introduction to alcohol generously supplied by one Bill Davies, whose Gladstone bag would always arrive bulging with a generous supply of bottles. In those days, I thought how horrified my parents would be had they known, needless to say, we were all sorry when our Sunday morning parades ceased!

These are just some of the happy times I can recall - memories of times spent together at our Swan Street Depot with a great Unit, made up of good mates, well disciplined which had earned the 34th Fortress Company the reputation of then being the elite of the Citizen Military Forces in Melbourne.

In post World War II years, we of the 34th have been most fortunate in maintaining the memories of the Swan Street Depot through our reunions held in the Depot grounds.

It is now sad to think that we have witnessed the end of such a fine structure and relinquished such a long and happy association with our renowned Royal Australian Engineers Depot. Although it is now to pass from view for ever, its existence for old Sappers of the 34th Fortress Company will always remain indelibly imprinted in our memories.

(SAPPER) Geoff R. Beaumont

THE UNREPORTED WAR Fortress Engineers and the defence of Geraldton, Western Australia - Early 1942

In the early months of 1942, Australia stood practically defenceless. Its army was in the Middle East. The ill-fated 8th Division had been overrun at Singapore.

The Japanese Army had occupied a large part of Papua New Guinea, the whole of the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) and Timor. Darwin and Derby, Broome and Onslow in Western Australia had been heavily bombed. The vast coastline of Western Australia was deafened by one partially trained Infantry Brigade and some small mobile units. Coast Artillery was emplaced in strength around Fremantle only.

There was already evidence on the northern beaches of reconnaissance parties landing from Japanese and German submarines and it was generally considered that a Japanese landing in reasonable strength could be expected between Geraldton and Derby in the Kimberleys.

In December and January, Fremantle Harbour and its approaches were packed with shipping from all nationalities - caught in the Indian Ocean as the Japanese swept south - dozens of ships being anchored in Gage Roads. They were hurriedly bunkered, victualled and sent further south to Adelaide and other ports.

L.H.Q. speedily set about moving the 2nd, 4th and 1st Armed Divisions to W.A. to form 3 Australian Corps. Even now it is not generally realised that over 50,000 troops with artillery, tanks, and vehicles were moved to the West by train across the Nullarbor Plain and by the small amount of coastal shipping then available during 1942.

Against this background, it was decided in early 1942 to provide Coast Artillery protection to the port of Geraldton, some 400kms north of Perth. Two U.S.N. 4" guns were procured and speedily emplaced on a hillside at Bluff Point just north of Geraldton. The Geraldton Fortress Engineer Section was formed and given the task of siting and emplacing two Australian 90cm searchlights on the beach front between the guns and the sea.

The site was poor, dead flat with the only available ground between the sea and a railway line which skirted the coast for some two kilometres. Any type of building would stand out conspicuously and no amount of camouflage netting would disguise it adequately.

A novel solution to the problem was arrived at. Why not disguise the two lights as fettler's stores? Two timber sheds were built right next to the railway line with a platform leading out to the line itself. Rails were mounted on which sat several ganger's hand driven line trolleys 'borrowed' from the Midland Railway Company. The space under the two platforms - about four feet high - was fitted out as sleeping quarters for the manning details.

Having decided on the design, the next problem was to obtain large supplies of planks and heavy timber. These were no longer available from conventional sources. However, with typical engineer ingenuity, a friendly visit to a nearby fertiliser factory resulted in the 'gift' of a 20 HP Electric Motor and a large circular saw blade also suddenly made its appearance. A saw bench with trolleys, etc, was set up next to the railway line and our Sgt. Mechanist climbed a light pole and connected the saw bench direct to the town electricity supply.

For several days logs arrived by truck from parts unknown and were broken down and turned into planks, sleepers and a variety of timber sizes. Some timber was also reluctantly made available to the gunners.

The fettlers sheds were quickly erected in a very professional manner and really looked the part. Aerial photographs revealed that they were part of the railway installation. There was no doubt about it! The saw mill disappeared as quickly as it had arrived. The search lights were installed, the mobile Ford V8 generators hidden in the bush well behind the lights and the cable buried and camouflaged.

This project was 'Top Secret'. The Unit was paraded and told that no mention of the guns and search lights was to be made to anyone. On the first leave into Geraldton the hotel bar staff were found to be well informed on every aspect of our activities, even to the approximate range of the guns. So much for secrecy and denying information to the enemy.

The search lights were tested and worked perfectly. The first shoot to 'proof' the guns was a disaster! Number 1 gun recuperator mechanism blew up and disappeared down the hill. An 'Emu Bob' with the Unit spread out in a line and located all the missing parts. New parts were machined in the town and all re-assembled. It was found that the wrong type of oil was used in the hydraulic system. There were no Ordnance Handbooks supplied with the guns.

The first real shoot was a gala affair. The Command Post usually held the Battery Commander, two Rangetakers on the DRF and telephonists as well as the Search Light Officer and his telephonist (the writer). Brigadiers, Colonels and Staff Officers arrived by the bus load and all wanted to get into the Command Post. The SLO and his telephonist were forced outside and made camp on top of the Command Post with a mobile telephone set connected to the harassed Battery Commander and to the two search lights. Despite these problems the 'shoot' was a resounding success - the 'target' effectively neutralised and all present voted it a 'jolly good show'.

The search lights were doused and the B.C. provided a 'keg' for the enjoyment of the 'other ranks'.

Shortly afterwards, morse code was detected flashing from the sea. The target towing vessel was lost and could not find the entrance to the Harbour. The lights were again exposed until the vessel was safely inside the harbour - then all again adjourned to the festivities.

The Geraldton Coast Battery was manned by Gunners and Fortress Engineers until January 1943. Most of the personnel were then drafted to new 'Letter' Batteries and CASL Sections - to such places as Milne Bay, Oro Bay, Buna, etc, and the equipment was handed over to the VDC who were trained by a small cadre of 'experts'.

All the equipment was withdrawn in 1944. On a recent visit to Geraldton no trace of the fettler's sheds or gun emplacements could be found, nor did the City Council know anything about them. Bluff Point is now an old suburb - the house owners unaware of the wartime importance of their own backyards - or the activities of the ninety sappers and gunners who occupied their suburb during this critical period in 1942.

R. J.K.

KIDS KORNER

Why are tall people always the laziest?
Because they are longer in bed than short people.

Why is your nose in the middle of your face?
Because it's your centre (scenter).

What looks round but cannot see?
A ball.

What relation is a door mat to a door-step?
A step-father.

SIR JOHN WILSON

In the September issue of "Sapper Summit Victoria Engineer" a Vale Notice was placed by Sir John Holland.

I would like to enlarge a little on this notice as knowing both these members of the 2/2 Field Company R.A.E. in the 6th Aust Div. during the Second World War, I feel I will not be speaking out of place. Sir John Wilson was a very hard but genuine leader and a thorough gentleman.

I first met him at the Engineer Depot Batman Avenue when he was a Lieutenant and he was carrying out a recruiting campaign for men from the C.M.F. to enlist in the 2nd A.I.F. in late 1939. He was made a temporary Captain at Puckapunyal until Major Yea Whitford arrived as our Commanding Officer and he was confirmed as our adjutant and made Captain.

In December 1939, he sailed in the advance guard to the Middle East to organise our training camp in Palestine.

Prior to our Unit moving to Egypt from Palestine, he was sent to 2/2 Field Park Company.

During the Western Desert Campaign at Bardia on the 3rd, 4th and 5th January 1941, both our C.O. Major Whitford and our adjutant Captain Lou Kenny were killed and Captain Wilson returned to our Unit to assume command.

After the surrender by the Italian Army at Benhasi, our 6th DIV was sent to Greece in April 1941 at Winston Churchill's request. We were sent up to the north of Greece to try and slow down the German assault through Albania and Yugoslavia however, seeing our equipment was limited, we had no tank or air support and the dive bombers have us merry hell. We did not know who were German or who were not as the enemy had over run quite a few of our units and were dressed as Australians. The 5th column was very

active during this campaign and hampered our tasks quite a lot.

Throughout all this confusion Major Wilson kept encouraging us to carry out our tasks as our forward troops were depending on us to keep the roads and bridges intact until these troops had passed through.

Eventually we were evacuated as a unit after completing all our rearguard duties which were scattered over many areas by each section.

Our casualties were very light and when Major Wilson saw us all on board the H.M.S. Hero at Kalmata and then transferred at sea to H.M.T. Dilwarra, he enjoyed a drink with a naval officer and then flaked out for a well earned sleep.

He remained our O.C. until after our Syrian campaign when Major Bell became our O.C.

Sir John Wilson was highly respected by 2/2 Field Company R.A.E. and will be sadly missed by our Ex Members Ass.

Joe Jopling
Honorary Secretary
2/2 FD.COY.ASS

FOR ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1945

Article from Laurie Monk
Fitting and Machining Teachers Association, The Rule, October 1994

We are survivors.

Consider the changes we have witnessed..... We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastics, contact lenses, frisbees and the PILL. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser

beams and ball point pens. Before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes and before man walked on the Moon.

We got married first, then lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time, closets were for clothes not for "coming out of". Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens, and have a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

We thought that fast food was something you are during Lent and that outer space was the back of the outdoor theatre. We were before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and computer marriages. We were before day care centres, group therapy and suntan parlours.

We had never heard of FM radio, tape decks, VCR's, electronic typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt or men wearing earrings. For us, time sharing meant togetherness not computers or condominiums. A chip was a piece of wood and hardware was hammers and nails while software wasn't even a word.

Back then "Made in Japan" was junk. McDonalds, Pizza and instant coffee were unheard of and "Making Out" referred to how you were on your exams.

In our day GRASS was mowed, a COKE was a cold drink and PT was something you cooked in or junior sat on. ROCK MUSIC was grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the principles office. We were certainly not before the difference between sexes was discovered, but we were before uni-sex and "operations". (We made do with what we had). However, we were the last generation that was naive enough to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

NO WONDER OUR KIDS DON'T UNDERSTAND US!

LIKE A BEE SPREADING POLLEN" MINE CLEARANCE IN PAKISTAN

Adapted from letters by Major Bill Van Ree, Technical Advisor, Unocha, Islamabad, Pakistan

Summer is just unbelievably hot and unless you have a very good reason for being here it is not worth staying. I worked through but fortunately spent much of my time in the high country of Afghanistan where things were a little more bearable.

I have been extremely busy over the past 8 months. It seems that every time we think we have all the problems solved new ones arise. The biggest challenge is to improve safety in mine clearance. To think that the technology hasn't changed in the last fifty years. We are still out there with metal detectors, picks, shovels and bayonets. It is ridiculous. Our accident rate is far too high. We have already had 43 mine incidents this year with two deaths and about 50 injuries. We have a number of new trials and projects underway, attempting to address the issue but have not yet found an answer. The bottom line is that it is just very dangerous and difficult work that requires good training and discipline.

On a more positive note, the programme's clearance performance is going very well. Our 42 teams (32 men in each) cleared 2,000,000m² in a month for the first time since the start of the programme. This is a great achievement. In the past twelve months we have been able to improve production by 60% which is fantastic.

I am off for another trip into Afghanistan in the morning. A 6.30am flight to Herat. Herat is a fascinating place. I have been there three times now and each time I go I see more that impresses me. The city was one of the worst affected by the war. It certainly had the most mines laid within and around the city.

It is heartening to see deminers clearing ground with people literally standing around waiting to use it. It makes maintaining safety distances a really difficult task. I spend about 10 to 15 days a month in the field which is a real pleasure, the teams appreciate the time spent with them and I learn as much from them as they do from me. I have the advantage that I see all the teams and the tricks that they employ and I am then able to spread the news. As like a bee collecting pollen and leaving a little behind in every place it visits. One of the most rewarding things I have been involved in.

WHEN FORTRESS SAPPERS FOUGHT AS INFANTRY

The little known story of a gallant action in Timor summarised from the RAE History and the recollections of former Mechanist Sergeant Doug Flaherty, of 2/1 Fortress Company, AIF, by LTCOL John Slee, Historical and Heritage Committee.

2/1 Fortress Company, RAE, the only such company raised for the Second AIF, was formed from volunteers from fortress companies in NSW and SA, in June 1941, as part of "Sparrow Force", the nucleus of which was 2/40 Battalion, raised in Tasmania as part of 8 Division.

The RAE History, Volume Three, records that this force, which landed at Koepang, Dutch Timor, on 12 December 1941, included as well as 2/40 Bn, 2/2 Independent Company, LT G.F. Stronach's section of 2/11 Field Company and also a detachment of 2/1 Fortress Company to man search lights for a coast artillery battery.

Following a decision to send another battalion to Timor, BRIG W.C.D. Veale, CE, 7 Military District, was appointed to command Sparrow Force, and reach Koepang on 12 February, but the reinforcing convoy was turned back on the orders of General Wavell, Supreme Commander

of allied forces in the Far East, who believed that an attack on Timor was imminent.

The Japanese landed on 20 February at both Dili (Portugese Timor) and Koepang. A landing on the south coast was accompanied by a parachute landing near Babaoe, across the road from Koepang to Oesaoe and Champlong, the only withdrawal route open to the Koepang garrison. Sappers Livingstone and Hickey of 2/1 Fortress Company fought a splendid delaying action at Babaoe with a Lewis Gun, the only automatic weapon in the area - we shall let Doug Flaherty tell this story shortly.

Stronach's section of 2/11 Fd Coy covered the force withdrawal with airfield and bridge and other demolitions, often under fire. The battalion group, outnumbered, subject to air bombing, attacked by tanks, and encumbered by many wounded, surrendered on 23 February. BRIG Veale and his HQ were at the time out of communication with the bulk of the force, and with others, including the Independent Company and some 250 other personnel, were able to move north-east into Portugese Timor. After the troops there had been reinforced and provided with regular supply channels, he was withdrawn from the island in May. The following operations of the Independent Companies until their eventual withdrawal have been well documented elsewhere.

And now to the personal recollections of former Mechanist Sergeant J.D. (Doug) Flaherty, (who now grows Pecan Nuts in NSW).

He tells how the volunteers whom he had joined were told that with 2/40 Bn they would be "the nucleus of a special force needed to defend a very strategic island if the Nips came into the war". Formed into 2/1 Fortress Company in June 1941, they thus became part of Sparrow Force, and in July 1941 joined the first AIF convoy to Darwin. Doug's narrative continues...

(With apologies to the writer, it has been necessary to edit his story a little, due to space constraints).

"We trained for 6 hard months in the tropics, and were advance party shipped to Koepang, 12 December 1941. We found a very reluctant ally in Dutch Timor, it was obvious the colonial Dutch were not aiming to defend their colony. There was very little in the way of effective defences.

"The Japs started bombing us at end January 1942. By 17 February 1942 Singapore had fallen, and we had a battery of British AA gunners (Bofors) arrive, they had been at sea 6 months en route to Singapore but were too late. They had shot down 144 German planes in the Battle of Britain, they were really highly trained cool nerved Brits. They shot down another 16 Jap planes in the next 6 days.

"On 17 February I broke my ankle while trying to manhandle a ½ ton 900mm search light into advantage position on 'Teneau' Strait. I was evacuated to CCS, but was requested to go back to unit (18th). I was the fittest of our unit and my broken ankle was causing me to limp. But I was in demand as a Mechanist. We had a lot of equipment to try and fix after all the bombing. I had a premonition.

"Well, the Japs used their very best assault Marine Paratroopers, all 6ft+, all murderers and when they landed at Babaoe, eventually they captured the hospital and CCS. They murdered most of the patients. The medical orderlies with their Red Cross arm bands were strung up on trees and disembowelled by sword swishing bastards.

"I was guided by the One above to escape that and return next day when our force recaptured the village.

"On 19th February, Darwin received the big raid which sunk the 7 troop ship convoy that was intended to be the rest of our Sparrow Force.

So we were really hard pressed and discommunicated - the RAAF evacuated 18th February.

"Our unit with 1st Heavy Battery (6") were dispersed as we found overnight the whole of our left flank which were beach defences in command of the Dutch all vanished without a shot. We were ordered back to defend Penfoei Airfield, but again no Dutch, no RAAF!

"On this day Spr Mal Livingstone along with Spr Ken Hickey (aged 15 from Patonga, NSW) were carrying our AA Defence Lewis Gun along with them as we had to withdraw from Koepang Harbour. (Note: At this time there were still not enough Bren Guns to equip all units being raised in Australia, and the WWI Lewis Gun was the LMG issued to other than infantry).

"Luckily they joined a platoon of the 2/40 Bn and went to Babaoe as potential paratroop spot. Sure enough, we had the right boys in the right spot. Mal was blessed with a very good eye and was my right-hand man (he was left handed).

"As the paratroops landed gathering all their pretty coloured parachutes and gear together they assumedly had orders to form up behind their officer who had an assembly flag on the road.

"This happened to be right in Livingstone's zone of fire and at 200-300 metres, Mal with Ken Hickey #2 on the gun loading refilled (47 round) magazines and others including Harry Chandler refilling magazines from ammo boxes.

"This action went on for an hour or more with the infantry platoon officer requesting cover fire from our boys while he withdrew the platoon! He left an abandoned airfield defence open top (Dutch) armoured vehicle (less the .5" Browning) for our boys to pull back at their judgement.

"As he was inflicting heavy casualties on the Jap paratroopers, Livingstone and Hickey were in control and continued to pour it into the assembled Japs. Eventually he cooked up the Lewis Gun (tropical) heat and overrated rapid fire. Not to be outdone they advanced to the Jap's assembly point, then collected a heap of Jap weapons - special light weight equipment, sub machine guns, Bren-type machine guns, 2" (50mm) mortars and other miscellaneous equipment and ammo. These were loaded into the open top armoured car where they figured out how to use them. Then for another 45 minute they dispersed all the paratroops in that area.

"As for myself, I didn't get to this battlefield until the next day as we were dispersed 3 miles away at potential paratroop landings which failed to eventuate.

"The action between Koepang and Baboe lasted four days with total KIA reaching over 1,000 and eventually the Japs landed a new division and surrounded our remnants. Then in ex-communication with their bombers both armies were severely bombed out while in a truce situation.

"As there were no officers of Field Rank to witness the Livingstone-Hickey action of extreme bravery, it wasn't until after release from captivity in October 1945 that the citation of bravery was made by the only officer present who happened to be the Dental Corps Lt. Livingstone and Hickey were awarded post-war the Military medal for conspicuous bravery in killing 72 Japanese paratroopers in this extremely vulnerable position, (they were not fighting from prepared defences, but were on the attack when the action was initiated).

"So I ask the reader:

In remembrance, the common determination and united courage of the individuals of the regiments, the squadrons and the ship's companies! In our defence of Timor, it is a tragedy that so many died in vain.

Our politicians have turned a blind eye to East Timor - If we can only be more human!"

Doug Flaherty

THE VICTORIAN ENGINEERS DISSATISFACTION IN THE CORPS RESIGNATION OF THE NON- COMMISSIONED OFFICERS From The Argus, Wednesday, 13 November 1895

The dissatisfaction which has for some time past existed amongst the Field and Telegraph Companies Victorian Engineers reached a very decided climax yesterday evening. The corps, which is one of the oldest in the Victorian Militia, was till recently maintained at a strength of 200, but the retrenchment proposals of the Government, in addition to enforcing the lower rates of pay as in other regiments, provided for a reduction of the strength to 50 men, and it is this latter step which led to the decisive action taken last night. The non-commissioned officers point out that with only 50 men it is an absolute impossibility to do the routine work of the depot, which includes the cleaning of harness, the maintenance and adjustment of a large stock of delicate telegraphic instruments, and the care of the magnificent and valuable collection of models which the members of the corps have from time to time added to the model room. As to keeping the corps in anything like a station of efficiency, or continuing the course of instruction with any good result, they assert that it is entirely out of the question. Last night, therefore, the non-commissioned officers met at the drill shed, and after discussion sent in the following general resignation to Captain Chase, the senior officer on parade:

Melbourne, November 12, 1895
The Officer Commanding Field Co.
Victorian Engineers

Sir, - We, the undersigned, non-commissioned officers of the Field Company of Engineers, beg respectfully to tender our resignation as members of the corps from this date. We consider, sir, that under the present strength of the corps, it is useless to remain, as at each parade there are insufficient men in the respective sections to enable us to attain a standard of proficiency to carry out necessary works in time of emergency. Trusting the resignation may be accepted. -We remain, &c.

The foregoing was signed by all the non-commissioned officers.

The resignation was handed to Captain Chase, who replied that it would be necessary for each man to send in a separate resignation. This course was immediately adopted, and the resignations will now be forwarded to the authorities in due course.

SIR CLIVE STEELE MEMORIAL LECTURE

The second lecture in this series was presented at Oakleigh Barracks on Friday evening, 2 December 1994, by Colonel John Wertheimer RFD, FRMIT, B. Econ., FIE Aust, Colonel Commandant (Southern Region), RAE.

The audience included serving members and ex-service sappers from several eras. It was pleasing to see a number of wives also present. Apologies were recorded from a number, including several who recalled service with or under Sir Clive during World War II.

Colonel Wertheimer was introduced by Colonel Howard Ellis, RFD, Commander LSF Engineers, who after welcoming sappers and friends, outlined his service in

RAE ARA in Australia and overseas and later in the Reserve, and also his distinguished career in project planning and management consultancy. Since this was reported in detail in "Sapper Summit" June 1994 Edition, there is no need to repeat it here, except say that his service included 1962/63, 21 Const Sqn based on Wewak, NG (under the command of then Major Peter Gratton); 1964, 7 Fd Sqn in Sabah during the confrontation period with Indonesia (as 2IC); 1965/66, Popondetta, NG, was District Works Engineer with 19 CRE Wks; and 1969, Vietnam, as OC, 17 Const Sqn Gp. Colonel Ellis commented on the fact that the speaker had been selected for advance party and recce tasks to Wewak and Sabah, a clear indication of his capabilities.

Colonel Wertheimer then, with the use of many interesting slides, took us to see the places and appreciate the work with which he and his sappers had been associated in the sixties overseas and also in Queensland. In the Wewak area, roads and bridges in the coastal ranges, roads and a landing strip in Sabah, where conditions were a little less demanding as to rainfall and grades; in NG again, the Popondetta-Kokoda Road, with some substantial bridging; then Vietnam - roads, bridges, including the rapid replacement of one blow by VC - in this case RAE had American Engineer assistance; and there, of course, always the ever-present enemy to take into consideration. Of particular interest was the emphasis on water supply at all these locations - not only for our own troops but for local communities. In Vietnam, in addition to the field construction tasks, much time was spent by the Group's plant in land clearings, and a large number of building projects were completed at Nui Dat and Vung Tau for the Australian Force, including the Pearson Community Centre for the troops' recreation and the Kevin Wheatley indoor sports stadium.

The speaker reminded us that in the late 50s and early 60s RAE units were operating in Malaya, while other tasks were being undertaken at Iron Range and Woomera in this country, and in Fiji. In retrospect, he felt it interesting to recall that the period of which he spoke was closer in time to WWII than to the present.

In proposing a vote of thanks to Colonel Wertheimer, Major Les Malseed, ED, recalled his own visit as a CMF Officer Observer, to 17 Const Sqn in Vietn, April 1969. He had returned extremely impressed with the performance there of the RAE in general, and of their commander, Major John Wertheimer, in particular.

The vote was carried with enthusiasm... ..and vigorous discussion and reminiscence continued in the Officers' Mess, helped by the (alleged) Borneo Rice Wine generously provided by a much-appreciated Steele Memorial Lecturer!

52 YEARS ON: 4 FIELD COMPANY, RAE, RETURNS TO THE SUNSHINE COAST

We are indebted to Joe Stammers, A/President, 4 Fd Coy RAE Ex-Members Association, for a report on a very special unit reunion. You have to find a good map to locate Palmwoods. For ignorant Southerners, like this writer, it is just off the Bruce Highway about 8km south of Nambour, and in 1942 was on the "Brisbane Line", which is why 4 Fd Coy found itself based there until fear of invasion receded and the unit moved on to active service in New Guinea and New Britain.

While there, the company worked on all the usual sapper tasks, including bridge recess and defensive works and, in particular, the establishment of a water point at a lake in the town to service troops in the area. The site is now known as Kolara Park.

When the Association elected to hold a "mini-reunion" at Palmwoods this year, it was never envisaged that the move would culminate in a "hero's welcome" by the local citizens and the Maroochy Shire Council.

Joe reports that when the Palmwoods RSL Sub-branch President heard of the proposed visit, he told the Maroochy Shire Councillor for the area, who wrote to the Association suggesting that if the Association would supply a commemorative plaque, it would be incorporated in a new drinking fountain planned for the Park.

Through the Progress Association and the local paper, "Palmwoods District News", an official welcome was arranged, involving various community groups who felt that the company's presence during the war created an historical link with the citizens of Palmwoods.

The Mayor, other councillors and about 120 guests and others attended. The Army was represented by two RAE members from Enoggera Barracks. In speaking at the official opening of the drinking fountain, A/President Joe praised the great rapport established with the local people and the terrific hospitality they showed to the sappers. Two members later married Palmwoods girls.

Twenty-six members of the unit Association, together with wives and other family members attended the function, which Joe says proved a very rewarding experience.

From war-time army water point to citizens drinking fountain - the tradition lives on.

John E. Slee

105 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON

105 Const Sqn's Annual Field Exercise for Training Year 1994/1995 was conducted in Victoria during the period Friday, 14 October to Sunday, 30 October 1994 (dates inclusive), and proved to be a good test of the Sqn's ability to deploy and carry out a range of troop-sized and section-sized general construction tasks over a 2 week period.

Initial deployment saw SHQ and a Section located at the Ringwood East depot from where work was commenced on the internal alteration and fitout of a photographic studio and theatre for the Army Technology and Engineering Agency (ATEA, formerly EDE) at Maribyrnong, a Section located at Portsea working on the upgrade of the London Bridge track, and a Section at Newborough depot with the task of constructing a Lysaght steel pre-fabricated hangar building (to be used for 38 Fd Sqn workshop) complete with reinforced concrete floor, built-in service pit and loading dock (the majority of the manpower for the Newborough task being provided by a Troop of 38 Fd Sqn under command).

At the Sqn CP were Maj Burnell, Capt Bishop, W01 Goss, Sgt Bishop and Cpl Armstrong. At the Sqn Q Store were W02 Burn, Cpl Spokes and Pte Pool (everyone from the Sqn wishes Pte Pool well with her venture into motherhood - no, the Annual Field Exercise had nothing to do with this). The Sqn Tpt Spv, when he wasn't transporting major items of construction plant for Regt, was Sgt Kidd. Cpl (now Mr) McCarthy was in charge of the kitchen at Ringwood East. 105 was pleased to host the Padre (Chaplain Moody) for part of the Exercise but, in future, the black Harley is not to accompany him.

At Maribyrnong were SSgt Buck, Spr (prom Cpl during the Exercise) County, Bdr O'Neil, LCpl Taylor, LCpl Hocking, Spr Coulson and Spr McDonald. During the Exercise the sad news was received

that Spr McDonald's mother had passed away. The Sqn extends sincere sympathy to Spr McDonald at this unfortunate and distressing time.

At Portsea were Cpl Baird, Cpl Jones, Spr Button, Spr McKernan, Spr Stewart and Spr Wisiewski.

As the Exercise unfolded, the accommodation for the Maribyrnong Section (nicknamed "Dual Heads" in honour of our multi-talented Tasmanian member Spr Coulson) was changed to RAAF Laverton in order to reduce daily travelling time, Sqn commitment to the Newborough task (nicknamed "Valley Forge") was scaled back to a command and supervision group comprising Lt Leake, Sgt Niproski, Cpl Smith (the blond one from 106) and LCpl Smith (AP), a Section was detached to Puckapunyal to work on Lysaght hanger construction at the Armoured Corps Museum (and placed under command of 106 Const Sqn), the track improvement at Portsea (led by Cpl Bair and nicknamed "Prawn Palace") came to an end (enabling further reinforcement of the Puckapunyal task), and a Section (-) was sent to Williamstown (led by W02 Haines and nicknamed "Seagull City") to carry out repairs to the jetty at TS Voyager and internal alterations to the Q Store at 2 Cdo Coy. Spr Caiafa (our concrete man) was also needed elsewhere - at Mt. Macedon where an earth dam was to be constructed at the Australian Emergency management Institution (formerly the Counter-Disaster College) golf course. Joe did a marvellous job.

By the second week Puckapunyal had Cpl Baird, LCpl Csincsi, LCpl Mitchell, LCpl Weeks, Spr Iles (Tas), Spr Johns (Tas), Spr Leary (Tas), Spr Ryan, Spr Johnson, Spr Button, Spr McKernan, Spr Stewart, Spr Wisniewski, and Williamstown had Cpl Jones, Spr Dyer and Spr Mayberry (the latter two from 38).

The Regular Army's Comd LSF, Colonel Martyn, visited the Maribyrnong task on Thursday, 20 October 1994 and saw the high quality building work that the Sqn

produces.

On the middle Saturday, 22 October 1994, the Sqn HQ at Ringwood East was visited by Maj Bruce Campbell (ex OC 105), Maj Shane O'Keefe (ex OC 105) and Capt Maurice Squirrell (ex RSM 22), all of whom expressed an interest as members of the 105 Const Sqn Association in keeping up to date with Sqn activities. It is hoped that this style of visit can become an annual event.

The Exercise concluded with the Regiment concentrating at Puckapunyal for the 15km Forced March component of the Combat Fitness Assessment 9CFA) which saw the Sqn complete the course in around 2hrs 15min (a very good effort). At Sappers Night, LtCol Ross (CO22) presented Maj Burnell (OC 105) with his RFD and W01 Goss (SSM105) with the second clasp to his RFM.

GOLF DAY 1994

The Golf Day was conducted under ideal conditions on the magnificent Royal Melbourne Golf Course, and there were 19 starters and unfortunately for most of us, the standard of golf was not in keeping with the weather or the course, nevertheless, it was a most enjoyable day.

The first Evans-Zoller trophies were presented by Sir John Holland to the winners Major Mark Shanks and Major Geoff Hall with a score of +7.

Major Henry Turnbull and Lt Col Les Bull with a score of +6 were runners-up with that prize being shared with Capt Bob Scorse who was required to also partner Major Mark Shanks because of the last minute withdrawal of one entrant (sorry non golfers, if that sounds complicated).

The attendance of Lloyd Orton, Tiger Lyon and Bill Banks at the presentation was most appreciated.

These three have played in the competition for many years but were unable to play this year because of ill health.

The field was smaller than normal this year for several reasons. Three of the players have passed on since the last golf day and a further three were unable to play because of health problems. In addition, four senior officers who normally play at conferences. Another senior officer had a car accident the day prior to the competition and one ARA officer had jabs in the morning prior to an overseas posting.

It was great to see that 3 true veterans of the Sappers' Golf Day played again this year...Sir John Holland, Bill Tooth and John Standish.

The committee was pleased to have five firsttime players in the field and on the assumption that most of the latter group of casualties referred to above would be able to play next year, we believe that the competition is in good shape.

It is the committee's intention to promulgate the date of the next Golf Day early in the New Year and to arrange to make direct contact with officers who we know of or believe could be interested in playing in the future.

J. F. Riley Col. (Ret)

91 FORESTRY ASSOCIATION SAYS IT ALL!

Your Editor was given a copy of the above Association's annual meeting and thinks the following extracts are worthy of your attention.

"There was, however, a poignant scene to be played. As 91 Forestry Squadron no longer exists as a Squadron, some items of Squadron identity can no longer be flown, or displayed at unit operational sites. Thus it was that:

at 1315 hrs, Sgt John Morey briefly explained what had to happen, and watched by a sombre group, marched to the site flagpole and lowered the 91 flag. It was carefully folded and placed in the hands of Les Malseed, charging him and the Association with its care. Les received it gracefully, spoke sincerely, and undertook that it would be displayed whenever the Association was acting in its official capacity. Just what its 'official capacity' may be is not defined, but a reasonably loose definition may be assumed, and you can expect to see the flag marking rallying points!"

Postlude

"After the mills shut down, historic photos were studied carefully. There were albums of WW2 Forestry Company operations in Scotland, logging in snow, tramlines and man power, internee labour, Christmas dinner in the mess and all the evidence of daily work. Great stuff! And more recent ones too. Something for everyone, including diagrams of the very new and modern design mill that the unit may acquire. More recollections were exchanged, perhaps an exaggeration or two, firm handshakes were given, resolutions were made, and the afternoon mellowed into early evening as people filtered slowly away. The breeze stopped, it was still warm, and dusty underfoot, safety inspection of weapons (the orders are different now with the new rifle), doors and gates were closed and locked, vehicles moved off, with troops to be fed by civilian contract caterers (things have changed!). Peace descended on the site.

I had travelled up with Les Malseed, and only he and I remained. A light melancholy descended on us. We consoled ourselves with a pilgrimage to Scrub Hill, taking the long way around, to the original 60" mill site opposite Site 3. The ghosts whispered to us, Wallis, Burton, Davies, Chambers, Walker, and many others; we

could hear Campigli piping down the piquet. Wonderful! The termites continued their relentless assault of the mill bed logs and log deck. They are winning the war and the evidence of sapper activity is slowly melting away. Trees have grown up between the log deck timbers. The evening light was clear, kangaroos grazed gently, all was very quiet, no troops, no orders, no laughter, no saw singing, no generators roaring; the view from Scrub Hill to the Tallarook range was vintage Terra Australia. We were satisfied, and drove slowly and silently away."

SUBSCRIBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

The annual subscription to the Sapper Summit (see separate notice of \$3 is now due from the 1st December 1994.

The issues are three-monthly, viz. 31 December, 31 March, 30 June, 30 September.

Articles of Sapper interest are sought and should be limited to 2 pages of the Sapper Summit, typewritten for preference. The cut-off date is 1st of the month of issue unless prior arrangements have been made.

Photographs, at this stage, pose a problem unless they are clear and in black and white.

OYEH! OYEH!

12 February 1995

A weekend excursion to Warrnambool, Portland and Port Fairy to visit the gun sites, the museums and the exhibition of the artefacts of the Mary Rose. Overnight accommodation twin share D.B.B. \$60 per person. Acceptances by 1 February.

Sunday, 4 March 1995

Beat to Retreat, Fort Queenscliff. Gates open 1700 hours. No tour of the fort.

Performance 1830 hours to 2030 hours. Seats may be booked. Light meal at Queenscliff R.S.L. 1700hours. Bus leaves Depot at 1400 hours. Contact Sappers and others W. Atkins Gunners R. Morrell.

26 March 1995, 2.00pm

The Old Sappers Association with the RAEME Association will hld an afternnon dance at Oakleigh Depot to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the end of WWII. There will be a buffet tea at 1730 hours. Cost no more than \$15 per head. Returns to J. Crosling (03) 438 2273 by 7 March.

April 1995 to be announced.

West Head Naval Base. During the week to witness firing. Numbers limited to 25.

25 April 1995

Anzac Day Gunfire Breakfast, March and Reunions. Details to follow.

November 1995

22 Construction Regiment Union at Benalla. Details to follow.

11 November 1995

Remembrance Day at Oakleigh Depot.

THE DISPLAY OF FORTIFICATIONS IN A MUSEUM SETTING

Citizens of many other countries are far more familiar than are we Australians with the presence in their midst of fortifications dating from past wars. In North America forts on the Canada-USA border date from the War of 1812, and in the USA there are many examples from the Civil War. In Europe many cities have remnants of fortifications, such as city walls and sometimes almost complete defences, dating from medieval times to the 18th Century, surrounded and sometimes overbuilt by urban development.

Then there are the border fortifications of more recent times, such as Liege and Namur from World War I, and the Maginot Line (France), Siegfried Line (Germany), and Eben Emael (Belgium), WWII. Countries with sea coasts, including Britain, have coastal forts from these eras also.

In this country our fortifications are all coastal - in Victoria, for example, Forts Gellibrand, Nepean and Queencliff - (the Eureka Stockade did not survive). None show the marks of war and few fired war-like shots. Fort Nepean "opened the bowling" with the "First Shots" of both World Wars. Of course AA associated with Darwin and other northern defences had plenty to do. Readers will be aware of the various articles appearing in this Newsletter about fortifications in general and our own in particular.

It is understandable, therefore, that the study of fortifications is popular in Europe and itneresting to read a European view, in a paper, under the title above, by Colonel Ernst-Heinrich Schmidt given in 1991 to the German Society of Fortification Research, which considers how fortifications may be made more understandable to the general public by making use of modern museum practice - thoughts which might well be studied by those who aim to restore and present to the public our various coastal forts - "Friends" groups, municipalities, National parks and so on.

Schmidt writes: "Much as the 'pure' military engineer and the fortification enthusiast may resent it, the museum professional has taken over the presentation of the art of fortification." (As a military study) fortification is of much changed significance today. In post-medieval periods (1559 to 1932) land and sea fortifications played a predominant role and determined victory of defeat in numerous campaigns. Museums can explain how they could thus influence operations.

The tremendous decline in the importance of fixed fortifications resulted from the 'Blitzkrieg' employing tanks and aircraft, and subsequently the prospect of nuclear annihilation. So he suggests that the uncomfortable news for the specialist is that the few remaining (mostly retired) fortress engineers and builders, and the relatively few specialists in this branch of military history pursue their hobby-horse in increasing isolation. It is left to military museums to interpret this ever more distant in time subsidiary military science.

The author considers in detail, with good and bad examples, the value and availability to the casual visitor, of plans, artefacts and libraries related to the subject, and suggests that only modern exhibition techniques can succeed in interesting any other than the 1.5 percent who are professional or amateur experts.

Displays of Military Life in Fortresses and Siege Armies

Schmidt calls for realism in the presentation of action groups of life-sized figures to illustrate the work of the garrison. He abhors the use of 'tailor's dummies' in smart uniforms and 'heroic poses'. On the other hand gunner and sapper figures, in realistic dress and pose in casemate, tunnel or battery OP can give the uninitiated observer an impression of everyday life in a fortress. Such displays might well be feasible in some of our forts.

The value of dioramas to illustrate the history of fortress and siege is emphasised, and these, in different context, are used to great effect in the Canberra War Memorial.

Re-enactment in "Sound and Light Shows"

As a military man, the colonel rather deplores the trend in Europe where "in order to encourage tourism and amateur military performance, state and municipal officials have entered an amusing alliance with private devotees of military uniforms,

weapons and spectacular ceremonies". He concludes: "In modern society military museums must see their function as educational leisure centres. Military matters are too serious to be presented as 'Disneyland' and 'war games'."

Combination of Fortress and Museum

The author applauds the trend by public authorities, often inspired by private initiative, to become concerned with the preservation of fortress structures and open them to tourism.

(He would probably approve of what has been done with Point Nepean). He regrets that too few of those who run fortress museums in Europe "understand that though the manner in which they present their exhibits may please a few fortification specialists, who already know and understand the exhibits well, the point is rather to impart a certain historical education to a wider public. Otherwise the public will turn its attention to the museum cafeteria. If today we pursue fortress history not merely as our own hobby but regard it rather as a body of knowledge to be conveyed to the average citizen, then the remaining fortress buildings and ruins are especially suited for the purpose."

He records a number of examples of traditional fortress and garrison towns where the transition has been successfully made from local town museum containing a small fortress section to a distinct museum in the restored fortress buildings. He omits from consideration North American National parks, created on the remains of 19th and 20th Century forts "which may occasionally belong more to the entertainment industry".

Collections of Fortress Models

Schmidt sees the fortress model, or collection of models, as offering the best form of instruction, but also as being useless educationally if they are samples of amateur unskilled craftwork.

Collections such as our own at Oakleigh Barracks, which would surely be in the first category, are used in many museums to illustrate various systems. At the other extreme, some city museums have complete models of the fortified town as it was at a significant period, reproduced exactly and to scale. Again he insists that a model display, in the public arena, must be attractive and interesting to the layman, not just the specialist. Surely this should be theme for all those who work to present our coastal forts for public interest and recreation.

22 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT REUNION - HORSHAM Weekend - 25-27 November

On this weekend the 22 Construction Regiment held a reunion at Horsham. Some 25 former members and their wives attended, coming from Dartmouth, Bairnsdale, Maffra and Melbourne.

The weekend consisted of a bbq on Friday night, a semi-formal dinner on Saturday night and a final bbq for Sunday lunch.

The weekend was enjoyed by all and it was decided that next year it will be held at Benalla. Details to follow.

SOLDIERS - A HISTORY OF MEN IN BATTLE by John Keegan and Richard Holms: Chapter 8 - Sapper

"The way of the Sapper is hard and dangerous, and lies always across the ground between friend and foe. It calls for the best and bravest in any army. "What is a Sapper?", asked the British Royal Engineer, Connolly, eighty years ago.

"He is a man of all work of the army and the public, astronomer, geologist, surveyor, draughtsman, artist, architect, traveller, explorer, antiquary, mechanic, diver, soldier and sailor; ready to do anything or go anywhere; in short he is a SAPPER".

And another -

"...of all the many ancillary arms of service armies need non more than they do Sappers."

John E. Slee

SOCIETY OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE

DEFENCE AND AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY

Wednesday, 22 March 1995

World Congress Centre, Melbourne.

The Conference looks at the relationship between the Australian Defence Force and industry. The morning session is targeted at industry, while the afternoon presentation examines the contribution made by engineers in the Air Force, Army and Navy to the defence of Australia. Registration includes morning and afternoon teas, luncheon, and copies of the papers.

Program and Registration information is now available. Phone Enquiries should be directed to (03) 326 7266.

RULES FOR TEACHERS 1872

Many of us would be familiar with the dreaded school rules but the regulations applied to teachers are not often recognised. In 1872, state school teachers had to comply with such regulations as reproduced here.

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, trim the wicks and clean the chimneys.
2. Each morning teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they attend Church regularly.
5. After ten house in school teacher may spend time reading

9. The teacher who performs his labour faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five pence per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

FAREWELL COLONEL PETER MARTYN, COMD LSF

At the completion of four years training at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1972, I was faced with the selection of a Corps in which to serve. In an Army that had commenced withdrawing from Vietnam this was not an easy task.

Lieutenant Martyn selected the RAAOC and was first posted to 12 Composite Ordnance Platoon, Townsville. The 1973 Army re-organisation saw the amalgamation of all Townsville Ordnance units as 111 Supply Company. This re-organisation set the scene for the rest of his career. It was to be a career of almost continual change.

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Major Martyn was then spend several years in the Office of the Military Secretary. This period was highlighted by some significant changes to office management through the introduction of the posting planning cycle and open access to officer management records. After attending Command Staff College in 1982, he was posted to Headquarters Divisional Supply. During another period of significant change he commanded 141 Supply Company. Twleve months later he returned to Canberra as the S01 Policy, Plans and Co-ordination in the Diretorate of Supply. Most of his time was spent preparing Army's evidence for the Joint Parliamentary Accounts Committee inquiry into Defence Repair Parts and Ammunition Support.

At the end of 1987 he was preparing to move to Townsville to command 2nd Field Supply Battalion.

This move was cancelled at short notice and instead he moved with his family to Wellington, New Zealand, to command the 1 Base Supply Battalion as an Australian Officer 'on loan'.

Lieutenant Colonel Martyn returned to Canberra in January 1991 to attend the Joint Service Staff College, which was followed by a brief period in Logistic Division, Army Office, planning the logistic requirements for the Australian UNTAC mission.

In October of 1991 he assumed his present appointment as Commander of the Logistic Support Force.

Colonel Martyn assumes the position of COL ADMIN, Land Headquarters on 1st January 1995.

Colonel Martyn has served in the Australian Army for 25 years. Over these years he has witnessed continual change within the Army and Defence Force as a whole, with the RAAOC playing a significant part in these changes.