

7 Field Regiment Association

Yandoo

Royal Australian Artillery

1988

Vol 1 No 2

7 Fd Regt RAA Association, Warrane Road, Willoughby NSW 2068

Our President Max Falconer comments:-

As we look back at the Association's activities during the last year and approach our next A.G.M. I am happy to report a very pleasing year, some of the highlights of which are:- In August 1987 representatives of our Association attended an assembly of representatives of most of the known Artillery Associations in N.S.W. at the School of Artillery. This assembly passed a resolution that all these Associations should affiliate with the R.A.A. Association with the aim of encouraging intercommunication and mutual cooperation between all the Artillery interest groups within the state of N.S.W. This motion is now being implemented.

The Association members badge was designed and made available at \$5 each, our thanks go to Lt Col Staziker for his efforts in this regard.

Another successful reunion was held in October at the Willoughby Legion Club, where a very happy evening was spent by the majority of our members.

A mixed social function held in March at the same venue was not as well attended but those present had very pleasant evening which included music and dancing.

Your committee meets regularly and most committee persons are regular attenders. Matters resolved and in hand are:-
Action policy in regard to deceased members.

Restoration and preservation of an original banner which belonged to 3rd Division Artillery in W.W.I.

Preparation of an Honour Board listing the Regimental Commanders since the establishment in 1916 in W.W.I. This to be displayed at the Regiments H.Q. depot.

Membership now stands at 127 with 11 life members, we would like everyone to seek out past members and associates and endeavor to have them join our association.

Thank you all for your support in the year past and looking forward to a successful year to come.

NOTICES.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. THURSDAY 28 JULY 1988.

7.30 pm at WILLOUGHBY DEPOT

PLEASE ATTEND PLEASE ATTEND PLEASE ATTEND.

1988/89 subscriptions are now due -- \$5.00

Association BADGES available now at \$5.00

ANNUAL REUNION- - Friday 7th October 1988 at
Willoughby Legion BOWLING Club.

Details later.

PERSONAL PROFILES. OUR SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT.

Lieutenant Colonel G.S. STAZIKER. RFD. ED.RL.

Stuart Staziker was born at Forbes N.S.W. on the 15/1/38, and educated at FORBES Intermediate High School, Newington College and Sydney Technical College.

His career has been diverse, encompassing Caltex Oil in Australia and the United Kingdom, Shell Oil Refining, Dermide Australia, Bliss Welding Products and Vane Australia, where he is currently the Office Manager. It is interesting to note that on joining Caltex Oil in 1956 he worked in the Accounting Department with 7th Fd Regt identity Maj Laurie Hindmarsh.

Stuart's military career began with the School Cadets in Forbes, progressed in the Air Training Corps at Newington and finally got serious when he was conscripted into 13th National Service Training Battalion at Ingleburn in January 1958. He was posted to 23 Field Regiment where he quickly qualified

for 1st Appointment, was promoted 2nd Lieutenant and posted to Gun Position Officer in June 1959. In the years that followed he filled most officer postings in 23 Fd Regt, commanded all its sub-units and became the Second in Command under the late Colonel Michael Burge. He took command of 133 Locating Battery in July 1981, and C.O. 7th Fd Regt in July 1983 and was posted as the Artillery Instructor on Senior Course at the Reserve Command and Staff College in July 1986.

During 1963 and 1964 Stuart was seconded to 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (Honourable Artillery Company) in London for eighteen months and then undertook a further secondment of a month with 25 Medium Regt in Germany. A course at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill was a highlight of his stay in the UK. In April 1971, he undertook a CMF Observer trip to South Vietnam where he was seconded to 12 Field Regt for three weeks.

On January the 14th 1988, Lieutenant Colonel Staziker retired after thirty years in the Army Reserve. A highlight of his last days in the army was being invited by a friend of many years, Brigadier J.E. Colvin. AM. RFD. ED. to be the Reviewing Officer of the 1088 Recruit Course passing out parade. This parade was held within a month of the 30th anniversary of his own passing out from the 13th National Service Tng Btn. Stuart is the founder and President of the 23 Fd Regt Association, founder and Senior Vice President of 7th Fd Regt R.A.A. Association, President (elect) of the R.A.A. Association and a committee member of Belmore Branch of the R.S.S.L. of Aust. Together with Elaine, his wife of twenty years, they reside in their home at Milperra.

" THE WHOLE STAFF VOLUNTEERED "

In the first week of June, 1917, the 3rd Australian Division, then part of 11 Anzac Corps, was making final preparations for the Offensive at Messines, scheduled to commence on the 7th of June. The Operation was timed to start at 3.10 a.m. on that day, with the explosion of nineteen Mines on Messines Ridge. An intense Preliminary Bombardment had commenced on the 31st of May and five Australian Field Artillery Brigades including The 7th A.F.A. were taking part.

The Messines Offensive was the first Major Operation for the 3rd Division A.I.F. and all ranks were determined to prove that, although less experienced, they were in no way inferior to the older Australian Divisions.

26th Battery, 7th Field Artillery Brigade, commanded by Capt. T.A.J. Playfair was in action in Ploegsteert Wood. Danny Herbert, The Battery Trumpeter, made the following entry in his Diary on the 2nd of June:-

" Still very heavy bombarding but mostly by us. Volunteers to go over behind the Infantry in the Push were called for from the Staff. The whole Staff volunteered, so five men were drawn for ".

FURTHER COMMENT IS NOT NECESSARY.

THIS IS OUR QUIZ FOR THIS ISSUE.

- Question 1. When were the designations of the various State Regiments of the R.A.A. discarded and, henceforth there was but one Regiment of the R.A.A.?
- Question 2. In the R.A.A. the ranks below sergeant were corporal (2 stripes) and bombardier (1 stripe). In what year did the change to the present structure occur?
- Question 3. When was the Royal Australian Artillery created?
- Question 4. When did the component parts of the gunners, the Royal Australian Field Artillery (RAFA) and the Royal Australian Garrison Artillery (RAGA) cease their separate identity and were reunited as the R.A.A. reverting to the pre 1911 situation?
- Question 5. What year was Militia artillery, The Australian Field Artillery (AFA), included in the R.A.A.

Answers are to be found further on.

RETIREMENT.

WO2 R.C.M. (Danny) Toplis, a well known identity at Willoughby, retired from the Army Reserve in January 1988 after 36 years service in 7 Field Regiment.

Presentations were made to Danny at a Testimonial Dinner at Willoughby Legion Club, attended by many serving and former members of the Regiment. (See photos below).

All members of ths Association wish Danny well in his retirement from the Army Reserve and trust that his interest in the Unit's history and membership of the Committee will ensure that we see a lot of Danny in the future.



Above:- L to R. Danny Toplis, John Balfour, Col Chris Hogan and Max Falconer.

Below:- WO2 Peter Muir recalls some of the highlights of Danny's career.

