

7 Field Regiment Association  
**Yandoo**  
Royal Australian Artillery

1989

Vol 1 No 3



7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION  
WARRANE ROAD WILLOUGHBY 2068.

PRESIDENT MAX FALCONER'S YANDOO REPORT 1989.

Dear fellow gunners,

In this, my final term as your President, we look back at the Association's activities during the last year and approaching our next Annual General Meeting.

We have had an active year and some of the highlights were :-

In August 1988 representatives of the Association again attended an Artillery Assembly at the School of Artillery. The Assembly was well attended and many of those present stayed and enjoyed the annual Gunner Dinner in the evening.

Another successful re-union was held in October 1988 at the Legion Club at Willoughby, there was a good roll up and a number of new faces were noted in the gathering. We look forward to seeing more and more ex members of the Regiment at our Annual Re-union.

In January 1989, on a pleasant Saturday morning a presentation was made to Ken Lewis-Hughes, bestowing upon him Honorary Life Membership of the Association. Ken is the oldest surviving original member of 7 Field Brigade R.A.A. which was formed in France in 1916 during W.W.I., at least he is the oldest survivor we have so far located. If anyone knows of any others out there we would be very pleased to know of them so that contact can be made.

On Tuesday night the 14th March 1989, at Willoughby Regimental H.Q. in the presence of 10 past Commanding Officers or their representatives, and the present C.O. Lt Col Rick Main and your committee, the Association presented our Regiment with an excellent Commanding Officers Honour Board. This Board lists the Commanding Officers of the Unit in order from it's inception, with their rank at that time, and has ample space to record details of Commanding Officers for many years to come. All those present were invited to join your committee in the Officers Mess for supper afterwards and an enjoyable time was had by all.

19 members attended another great outing, in fine sunny weather, on Saturday the 15th of April 1989, as guests of 7 Fd Regt RAA at their field firing weekend at Holsworthy Range. A big thank you to Lt Col Rick Main and his Staff for a very enjoyable day.

Membership now stands at 142 with 11 Life Members, please keep on trying to locate any other past members of the Regiment and get them interested in becoming active members of our Association

Thank you all for your support during my term as your President. In accordance with our Constitution, no one can continue as President for longer than three successive years. I wish your new President and the Association well in the years to come and be assured that as Immediate Past President I will still be maintaining a very active interest in your committee and the Association's functions.

Max Falconer  
President.  
25th May 1989.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of The 7th Fd Regt RAA Association will be held at:-

WARRANE ROAD DEPOT WILLOUGHBY.

On the 27th of July 1989 at 7.30 p.m. in the Sergeants Mess.

All members are invited to attend this, our 3rd Annual General Meeting.

PLEASE ATTEND.

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P L E A S E   A T T E N D .

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PLEASE ATTEND.

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Exercise Northern Drive was the Regimental Annual Field Training Exercise for 1988. It was conducted at Singleton during the period 15-19 October. The exercise was an ambitious attempt to combine the necessary 'normal' training with activities that provided added interest, variety, and a challenge.

Northern Drive commenced with a short period of infantry minor tactics designed to allow everyone to 'switch on' their basic soldier skills - getting familiar with carrying rifle and webbing everywhere, living in the bush and eating ration packs. Captain John Wilson was responsible for this first phase which was most successful and set the standard for the following phases.

Following this, the regiment turned to an intensive period of gunnery training in preparation for the Commander 2nd Divisional Artillery's (CDA) Assessment. This phase of the exercise included periods of fire and movement designed to exercise the gun line and technical shooting to finely tune the skills of the forward observers and their parties. The gunnery phase of AFT culminated in the CDA's Assessment. The regiment fired a total of 1356 rounds of various types during the exercise.

With the gunnery phase complete, the regiment turned to other soldier skills. A small arms practice was conducted with everyone firing the SLR, M16, pistol, and SMG. Grenades were also thrown and a large number of personnel were fortunate to fire the M60 machine gun and the soon to be introduced into service STEYR assault rifle. 26,000 rounds of small arms ammunition were fired to good effect by the regiment. By his planning and organisation of the range practices, Major Max Coaster-Garton ensured that the last phase of AFT 88 ended as the first had done - on a high note!

Annual physical training tests were conducted as was a 15km route march. As well, chemical defence instruction was undertaken with the highlight (?) being a gas chamber exercise. Not a pleasant experience but necessary in our training for war.

Amidst the training, the regiment did, however, find time to pursue some of the more social aspects of service. The old adage "work hard - play hard" was certainly adhered to. All in all the exercise was highly successful, especially given the hottest October weather for many years, demonstrating our ability as that elite group of soldiers known as Gunners.

Since last writing, there have been few changes in our Manning. Two changes which should be mentioned are the arrival of Major John Fairless as Regimental Second-in-Command and the departure, after 10 years, of Bombardier 'Kimbo' Kimberley. Kimbo has transferred to RAEME and is now posted to Adelaide.

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DECEASED MEMBERS

We report with sincere regret the passing of two members.

Vincent CARRICK - December 1987  
John BRADLEY - 29 June 1988

The President and members extend sincere condolences to their families, relatives and friends in their sad loss.

PERSONAL PROFILES.

OUR OTHER VICE PRESIDENT.

Lieutenant Owen SAVILLE. (R).

Owen Saville was born at North Sydney on the 8th of February 1916. He lived at The Spit, Mosman, until he joined the Regular Army in 1938. Owen's father had a boat shed at Pearl Bay near The Spit and then moved to The Spit about 1928, where he ran a fishing business.

Owen was educated at Mosman Public School, North Sydney Tech and Mosman and Manly Evening Continuation Schools. He left school in the Second year, as an economic necessity (The Depression) and then he fished, prawned, caught lobsters, worked in boat sheds and in fact did anything in that line that paid money and often as not paid nothing. During this period he continued his education and he remembers obtaining his Evening Continuation School Certificate.

His first job away from The Spit was with the Maritime Services Board, still on the water, which he commenced in 1935. In 1937 he left the M.S.B. and went to work for The Colonial Sugar Refining Company.

In 1938 he joined The Regular Army in 1st Field Cadre R.A.A. He had been a volunteer in the A.M.F. prior to this as a part time soldier, and his Army service is recorded as follows:-

- 1932 Joined 7th Field Brigade R.A.A. as a Cadet.
- 1934 Promoted to Bombardier.
- 1935 Promoted to Sergeant.
- 1938 Enlisted in the Regular Army posted to 1st Field Cadre R.A.A.
- 1939 Promoted to L/Bdr when 1st Fd Cadre was upgraded to "A" Fd Bty. R.A.A.
- 1939 4th September volunteered for overseas service in the A.I.F.
- 1939 17th November posted to 2/1 Fd Regt R.A.A. A.I.F. and promoted Sgt.
- 1940 10th January sailed in Troop Ship "Orford" destination unknown.
- Owen served with 2/1 Fd Regt RAA. 6 Aust Div A.I.F. during the whole of its existence, rising from Sgt to W.O.1 R.S.M., in the WW2 theatres of Palestine (Israel), Egypt, Western Desert, Greece, Ceylon, Papua-New Guinea in the Wau-Salamua and Aitape-Hewak campaigns.
- 1946 6th February, Owen returned to Sydney from the war in a poor state of health and was admitted to Concord R.G.H. in April where he remained until November of that year.
- 1947 Appointed B.S.M. of 53 Battery R.A.A.
- 1948 Qualified at the No 1 Artillery Course and was posted to 5 Fd Regt R.A.A. as an A.I.G. when that unit was raised at Marrickville as a unit of 2 Div R.A.A. (C.M.F.)
- 1949. Posted to National Service as a Platoon Cdr in 12 N.S. Battalion. Here persons called up for National Service received their initial full time training before being posted to C.M.F. units.
- 1952 Posted to R.H.C. Duntroon as an A.I.G.
- 1954 Posted to 7 Fd Regt R.A.A. as R.S.M. with odd periods as Adjutant.
- 1960 Posted to the School of Artillery at North Head.
- 1961 Was discharged and appointed Lieutenant (R).  
Owen then joined the staff of T.C. Whittle P/L, Multi Storey Builders, and remained there until he retired from the work force in 1979.
- 1979 Retired and has been enjoying life since then.
- 1947 Owen says was the greatest of all his years when, on the 17th of May, he and Nell were married and their union was blessed with one son, Bill.
- 1988 Nell, a very courageous Lady, passed away after a long illness and Owen has had to rearrange his life accordingly. He says he has begun to feel a little aged.  
(Owen hasn't said much about his war service which was very meretorious as there would be few who could say they started as a Sgt and ended as W.O.1 R.S.M. of their unit, nor that his appointment as an A.I.G. at various times made him a member of that elite corps once known as The Australian Instructional Corps before W.W.2.