

7 Field Regiment Association

Yandoo

Royal Australian Artillery

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7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION
WARRANE ROAD WILLOUGHBY 2068

Dear fellow gunners,

It is with great pleasure that I submit to you my report for the conclusion of another very successful and progressive year.

I would like to thank your committee for the loyal and enthusiastic manner in which they have carried out their duties.

What a year! you can only say we were ultra busy.

What words can we use to express the pride and joy which occurred on that wonderful Sunday 29th July 1990, when our Regiment was granted Freedom of Entry to the City of Willoughby.

The day of course was unforgettable, the organisation superb, the weather unbelievable, the support organisations terrific, the council staff outstanding and the Regiment was full of pride and never looked better.

On the 4th August 1990 representatives of the Association again attended an Artillery Assembly at the School of Artillery. The assembly was well attended and many attendees stayed to enjoy the Gunner Dinner.

Another successful reunion was held on the 5th October 1990 at the Willoughby Legion Club with a good roll up and some new faces attending.

On Tuesday night 13th November 1990 at the Dee Why depot we presented to L/Bdr Dennis White of 28 Battery our first award for "The most proficient soldier".

We also made a presentation to Lt Col Rick Main (an enlargement of a photo taken during the Freedom ceremony) farewelling him on his retirement from the army.

On Sunday 2nd December 1990 many members attended the RAA Association's annual church service at the Garrison Church, the Rocks and then proceeded to North Head for the official opening of the National Artillery Museum. Well done to all concerned.

On Sunday 17th March 1991 the Association participated in the Regiment's 75th anniversary activities with those members attending having a wonderful day.

The activities started with a Church service (organised by the Association) at the Garrison Church, the Rocks. At this service a plaque commemorating the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Regiment (17/3/1916) was unveiled by Brig A.G.Hanson DSO ED in the presence of Ken Lewis-Hughes, representing 7th Australian Field Artillery Brigade AIF, LtCol John Fairless, representing 7th Regiment RAA and Max Falconer MBE, representing 7 Fd Regt RAA Association. The plaque was dedicated by the church rector Rev Brian Seers Dip.Theol.

Following the church service guests enjoyed the spectacular of the "Feu de joie", fired by the members of the Regiment.

Guests then proceeded to the School of Artillery, North Head to savour a most enjoyable luncheon. During the luncheon we presented to the Regiment a Decorations/Medals board.

At this time I would like to give another big thanks to Laurie Hindmarsh, Barney Flanagan and our other helpers for the work done to organise this day.

Our latest activity was on Sunday 14th April 1991 when 20 members and their families attended a family day at the National Artillery Museum. The weather was good and those attending had another great day.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Regiment's new Commanding Officer, LtCol J.A.L. Fairless and the 2IC Maj. R.M. Corbett.

Your Association is now a life member of the RAA Historical Society.

It is with regret that I report the passing of 4 members Gerald Hammond (25/8/90), Bob Bayles (17/12/90), Dennis Shortus (25/1/91) and Ian Gamble (20/4/91). To their loved ones and relatives, I hereby extend on your behalf heart felt sympathy.

Membership now stands at 176 with 26 life members, and 1 Hon. life member, please keep trying to locate other interested gunners.

Remember to wear your Club badge with pride when socialising with your friends and fellow gunners.

Max Falconer President.

Since I last wrote the Regiment has celebrated its 75th Anniversary, conducted live firing exercises and participated in a Brigade level exercise at Coonabarabran in the period 12-28 Oct 90. The Brigade level exercise was an outstanding success with all ranks learning a great deal about the different corps, the workings of a Brigade and low level operations. It was refreshing for all to deploy to an area away from Holsworthy and Singleton.

1990 was a continuous training year and as such the Regiment was put through its paces by the CDA 2 Div and his staff at Holsworthy Range. The Regiment's evaluation was very good however, as always, there is still room for improvement. The Regiment deployed two four gun bty's and a fully operational RCP, FSCC and line party for the exercise.

Live firing weekends still play an important part in the life of the Regiment. This year independant Battery exercises have produced encouraging results. Our direct firing competition was once again very popular with unit members, family and the Association. It is gratifying to see the support the members of the Regiment receive from both families and the Association and I hope this trend will continue.

The 75th Anniversary of the Regiment was celebrated with a Church Service and Feu De Joie at Dawes Point and a luncheon at the School of Artillery afterwards. The occasion was enjoyed by all and we are looking forward to the next 75 years.

On 14/15 Sep 91 the Regiment will participate in Exercise Tasman Chain; a multi national, tri-service fireplanning activity to be held at Beecroft Range. A Navy Destroyer and A4 Skyhawk Aircraft will augment the firepower of the Regiment. For this exercise the Regiment will deploy two six gun batteries an RCP, FSCC, Line Party, Survey Party and RP Section. As you can see the Regiment is going from strength to strength.

1991 will culminate with the Regimental Annual Field Exercise to be held at Gan Gan and Singleton between 21 Sep - 1 Nov 91. As this year is an individual training year week one of camp will be dedicated to finalizing individual training with the Regiment deploying to Singleton in week two for some fire and movement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Association for the interest, support and encouragement that has been forthcoming in my first year as the CO. I hope the bond between the Association and the Regiment will continue to strengthen in the years to come.