

7 Field Regiment Association

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**FROM THE DESK OF LTCOL A.J.KARIKS, RFD**  
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Training in 1995 has been very rewarding. The Regiment started the year with a deployment exercise for the guns at Singleton and CPX for CP and FO parties in February. The usual LFX's at Singleton and participation in the 8 Bde CPX in June were all part of the build-up for the major exercise for the year, Kangaroo 95.

August saw the Regiment deploy a Field Battery (-) and FSCC to RAAF Tindal in order to conduct protective operations in support of 8 Brigade. The vehicles were driven the 8500 km return journey, with most other personnel enjoying the hospitality of a Qantas flight. The lucky few in the advance party were treated to the comforts of transport by Hercules.

The guns were stationary for the exercise giving them the opportunity to develop their position into a formidable defensive location. Gun pits were dug as were rifle pits, sleeping bays etc, right next to the boundary fence of the RAAF base. The FO parties were involved in numerous patrolling activities with 2/17 RNSWR. All this was conducted with temperatures in the mid 30's; training in winter can be terribly unpleasant.

September sees the Regiment conducting a combined Range Practice at Singleton and Escape & Evasion exercise between RAAF Williamtown and Gan Gan. The Escape & Evasion exercise will be conducted in conjunction with the Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) and State Emergency Service (SES). The Gunners will be released at Williamtown with only their webbing, their wits and a very basic map. The VRA/SES using the resources of their own organisations will be doing their best to locate and capture the escaping Gunners.

In November, training for the year will culminate with an LFX at Singleton. It is hoped that 12/16 Hunter River Lancers will be exercising their APC's with us allowing some combined arms training to be conducted.

## 113th FIELD BATTERY

This Battery is a sub-unit of 7th Field Regiment RAA and is based at Adamstown. It proudly claims to be the oldest artillery unit in Australia with its genesis in the formation of the Newcastle Volunteer Artillery and Rifle Corps in December 1855. The numeral "3" in the Battery's title appeared in official records in 1869 when First Lieutenant Samuel Holt was promoted to Captain of No.3 battery, Volunteer Artillery, Newcastle.

Since 1869 "3" has continued to appear in the title of the Battery apart from short periods when "2" and "5" made their appearance. The battery was a Coast Defence Battery at Fort Scratchley for most of its life until June 1962 when it became a Light Anti-Aircraft Battery. Subsequently the Battery moved to Adamstown where it was attached to 7th Field Regiment RAA. In 1976 the Battery became a Field Battery and a sub-unit of the 7th thereby creating an unusual situation where the sub-unit is almost twice the age of the parent unit.

113th Battery has the distinction of being the only Coast Defence Battery in the history of Australia to have engaged an enemy warship. The engagement took place in the small hours of the 8th June 1942. At that time the title of the Battery was 113th Heavy Battery.