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LOCREP

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc.

March 2006



Bdr Craig Barton Checks AN/TPQ-36 Antenna Direction – Iraq 2005



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrons

Mr Rusty Priest AM
COLONEL Don Roach AM (Commander, Land
Command Artillery)

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Allan Harrison RFD

Vice President/Museum Liaison Officer
Joe Kaplun

Secretary/Merchandise Officer
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John Saltwell

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Web Master
John Posener

Social Secretary
Wayne Nash

Newsletter Editor
Allan Harrison RFD

Committee Members

Ross Baker, Jim Bushel, Ron Hartmann,
Graham Johnson, Bob Morrison RFD,
Bob Owens BEM (Mil),
Phil Paton, Bob Smith

Postal Address: PO Box 1042
MANLY NSW 1655

Web Site: www.locatingartillery.org

Email: info@locatingartillery.org

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings are held regularly and members are cordially invited to attend. General enquiries may be directed to the Vice President (02) 9774 1473 or mobile 0407 741 473 (6 Apex Ave, Picnic Point, 2213). The final committee meeting for 05/06 will be held on 2 Apr, with the AGM re-scheduled for 9 July.

All meetings are held at Paddington RSL commencing at 1000 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this issue we welcome back the first rotation of Locators from service in Iraq. 20th STA Regt RSM **Danny McGinley** (Acting Capt McGinley for the duration) commanded the Troop and Danny has provided us with the enclosed detailed and graphic report with photographs. Thanks Danny and welcome home to you and the boys.

Regrettably Danny also informed us of a tragic road accident which recently took the life of Gnr **Travis Heiermann**. Travis was on leave from the Regiment at the time. We join members of the Regiment in sending condolences to Travis' family and friends. A more detailed report appears later.

In our last "Locrep" we mentioned that COLONEL **Steve Goltz** had retired. I am delighted to report that his successor as Commander Land Command Artillery (CLCA) COLONEL **Don Roach AM** has agreed to continue the tradition whereby the CLCA acts as Co-patron of the Association. I have written personally to COLONEL **Roach** to welcome him aboard and to thank him on behalf of all members.

On the subject of Co-patrons, our inaugural Patron **Rusty Priest** has been in hospital for a hip replacement, then recuperation at Lady Davidson Convalescent Hospital. Back on your feet real soon Rusty, the ANZAC Day March is coming up! It is expected that by the time this "Locrep" reaches you, Rusty will be back at home.

Speaking of ANZAC Day, please send us your reports and photos. **John Dellaca** from Melbourne set the pace last year so let's get a bunch of them in the next "Locrep".

.....Ubique

Allan Harrison
President

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are always pleased to publish (brief) reports from Locators far and wide. Your mates are happy to hear about what others are up to and this newsletter is an ideal forum for your short stories and anecdotes.

MEMBERS' CONTACT LIST

This list is posted on the 'Membership' page on the Associations website www.locatingartillery.org. To get yourself onto this list, please give written or (preferably) email permission to the Association at PO Box 1042 Manly NSW 1655 or info@locatingartillery.org

This contact list is updated as members give permission.

MERCHANDISE

The following items are available:

Stubby Holders	\$ 6.00	ea
	\$11.00	for two
	\$20.00	for four
Car Badges	\$20.00	
Baseball Caps	\$15.00	(two types)
Lapel Badges	\$ 6.00	
Polo Shirts	\$30.00	(three colours)
Door Mats	\$65.00	
Plaques	\$25.00	
Woven Pocket Patch Logos	\$10.00	
Bar Coasters	\$ 2.00	for 10
	\$ 5.00	for 30
	\$10.00	for 65
	\$15.00	For 100
Key Rings (2-sided, Assn & Dragon Logos)	\$ 6.00	

For further information, postage costs and orders for current items, please call **Diane Wood** on 02 9774 1473 and leave a message.

HISTORY OF LOCATING

The book "Tracks of the Dragon - A History of Locating Artillery in Australia" is now freely available.

To order, contact co-authors **Keith Ayliffe** (07) 5443 7102, or **John Posener** (02) 9982 4471.

RAA NATIONAL MUSEUM

Locating Artillery Display working bee dates to June 2006 are as follows:

26 Mar

23 Apr

28 May

25 Jun

Working Bees commence at 0900 hrs and conclude with an Association-funded BBQ at 1400 hrs at the North Fort Mess.

Association volunteers will return to the restoration of the second AN/KPQ-1 Mortar Locating Radar for external display purposes, once the main display areas are re-instated.

Work is still progressing on re-establishing the Locating display and a great deal was achieved at the last working bee which was well attended. The Sound Ranging Command Post is now far more realistic and the Flash Spotting display rock wall has been set in cement for safety reasons.

Still to be put in place is the EVA display which will include an L5 pack howitzer for added realism.



*EVA calibration with an M2A2 SVN 1971
(Photo courtesy Bob Miller)*

It is intended to place a No3 Mk 7 radar between the Loc and AD displays, depicting its dual roles.

This set will be relocated from Wedderburn to North Head for restoration after the second AN/KPQ-1 is completed.



2 x No3 Mk 7's in mint condition, North Head 1973
 (Photo courtesy Bob Miller)

The plan is to cannibalise the internals of the set in the graveyard at North Fort (see picture below) and fit out the Wedderburn set with the pick of the components.



No3 Mk 7, Restorer's Dream (nightmare?)
 North Head 2006
 (Photographer in hiding)

Restoration projects such as these require considerable effort by volunteers and we would greatly appreciate the assistance of anyone available to work on Locating Artillery projects. If you are knowledgeable, so much the better!

Speaking of restoration, word of our intentions has reached one **Rowan Goyns** of South Australia who is undertaking a No 3 Mk 7 restoration single handed in his garage. Rowan served on these equipments in Port Wakefield and Woomerah...talk about dedication!

The Museum is open to the public on weekends, Wednesdays and Public Holidays from 1100 hrs to 1600 hrs. Guided tours are provided. Members wishing

to become Tour Guides should ring **Cliff Dodds** (02) 9428 3765, and mention the Association.

MIDWEEK MUSEUM WORKING PARTY

Former 133 Bty Radar Sgt **Barry Miles**, who lives on the Northern Beaches, has indicated an interest in doing midweek voluntary work on the Association's projects.

If you are interested in joining Barry, please contact **Joe Kaplun** on 040 774 1473.

NORTH FORT MEMORIAL WALK – DRIVE FOR LOCATOR PAVERS

The drive for a "Locators" area in the Memorial Walk at North Fort continues. The Association's corporate-sized paver is in place depicting the Association's name and Logo.



Photo Courtesy Joe Elkusch

Individual pavers surround the large paver and to this end, the appeal launched in the June 04 "LOCREP" remains open and we encourage members to get on board with pavers not only for themselves but for family members as well. Pavers already in place in other parts of the Memorial Walk may be relocated, and members so affected should contact North Fort direct by telephone on 02 9976 6102.

A paver order form can be obtained from North Fort or from the Association website www.locatingartillery.org

20th STA REGIMENT – PROGRESS REPORT

The Regiment has now been formally included in the ORBAT.

WO1 **Danny McGinley**, former BSM of the STA Bty has now been posted as RSM of the STA Regt.

The report and photos provided by Danny following his return to Australia, appear as a separate insert to this edition.

Email traffic with CO-elect, LTCOL **Phil Swinsburg**, reveals that the inaugural regimental parade will probably take place early in 2007, once the Regt occupies its new lines.

Members will be kept informed as plans firm up for the parade and associated celebrations.

TROPHIES AND PRIZES

The refurbishment of the 20th Locating Regt "Walker" Trophy has stalled at an advanced stage. We are having difficulty replacing the missing handle and seek assistance from members who may have a dusty old trophy (with both handles) in the shed which they would be prepared to sacrifice in a good cause. If you could email a photograph or two in the first instance to the Newsletter Editor (allan@harrisonsolution.com.au) it would be appreciated.

We are very grateful to **BJ (Bruce) Austin**, one of our hard working Hunter Valley members, for organising the making of a magnificent mirror-backed trophy case. It is a stylish piece of work and will no doubt take pride of place housing the trophy in the HQ of the re-formed regiment.

The Committee continues to work towards the determination of trophies and prizes as detailed in previous editions of "Locrep", in recognising outstanding efforts by soldiers in 20 STA Regt and STA Wing Courses.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

A full contact list appears on the Membership page of the Association's website and will be a regular feature of "Locrep" in future.

We encourage members to be in touch with their regional representatives so that local networks can grow and members can take part in nearby activities, especially on significant occasions such as ANZAC Day etc. Similarly, we ask that Regional Contact volunteers maintain contact with Newsletter Editor,

preferably by email to allan@harrisonsolution.com.au or at PO Box W43 Abbotsford NSW 2046.

Notifications re local activities will be placed on the website notice board and will be published in "Locrep".

40TH ANNIVERSARY – VIETNAM VETERANS RE-UNION – 17-20 AUGUST 2006

The Coffs Harbour Branch of the Association is putting together a Vietnam Veterans Gunners re-union to mark the 40th anniversary of 1 ATF Vietnam. The event will be based at the Coffs Harbour Ex-Servicemen's Club and will include social events, bowls, golf, deep sea fishing, a "Freedom of the City" march, a shopping bus trip for the ladies and appearances by performers who entertained the troops in SVN.

The program is looking like this:

Thurs 17 th	1700	Cocktails, meet & greet
Fri 18 th	0800	Breakfast
	1700	Memorial Service (Cenotaph)
	1900	Dinner and entertainment
Sat 19 th	0800	Breakfast
	0900	Golf, bowls, fishing, shopping
	1600	Freedom of the City March
	1800	Regimental Dinner
Sun 20 th morning	0800	Breakfast, free
	1230	BBQ Lunch, Farewells

Accommodation can be booked through the Coffs Harbour Visitor Info Centre (toll free 1300 369 070). Please quote RAA Re-union Tracking # 97.

Enquiries:

David Auld 02 6652 3561
divloc131@hotmail.com

David Doyle 02 6655 1264
didoyle@tpg.com.au

David & Jane Gow 02 6658 3355
reunion2006@ceinternet.com.au

The legendary Coffs Harbour re-unions have gone from strength to strength over the years and this special one will be no exception. To avoid disappointment, it would be a good idea to get in early

and book your accommodation and travel arrangements.

More information and updates on the Association website: www.locatingartillery.org

****SPECIAL NOTE****

Dave Auld is looking for photographs of Locators in action in Vietnam, for a planned montage to be displayed at the re-union. If you have some photos, please let Dave know and get them to him. He assures us that they will be returned in good order after being copied for the montage.

LOCATOR IN PROFILE

In this issue we feature WO1 **Danny McGinley**, RSM of the 20th STA Regiment. (see insert).

POST-NOMINALS – LET US KNOW

The Association does not recognise rank except in the case of serving personnel. Nevertheless, the Committee at a recent meeting agreed that we should record Post-Nominals and acknowledge members accordingly in correspondence and reports.

We therefore invite you to inform us of your post-nominals in writing to the Secretary, 6 Apex Ave Picnic Point 2213, or by email to info@locatingartillery.org

KEVIN MAKER – CANCER RESEARCH PROJECT

Kevin, who was recently honoured with a local Community Service Award for service to Veterans, continues to work tirelessly in the cause.

He is concerned at the incidence of cancer among ex-service personnel who worked on radar sets, either the No3 Mk 7 or AN/KPQ-1. Kevin is gathering statistical and other data and is anxious to hear from anyone who was involved with these radars and has subsequently suffered from some form of cancer.

Kevin lives in Maitland and can be reached on (02) 4934 2172 or by email at kevinmaker@hotmail.com

He offers his services free of charge as a DVA Advocate.

90TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER – NSW RSL

Another Kevin Maker story:

It is proposed to hold a formal dinner at Maitland RSL on the 17th June 2006, to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the League in NSW. A number of local Locators have expressed interest in attending.

Kevin would love to see a big rollup of Locators on the night. Members intending to be at the dinner should book with Kevin on (02) 4934 2172 or by email at kevinmaker@hotmail.com

There are a number of motels within walking distance of the club eg:

Maitland City Motel
258 New England Highway Rutherford. (Backs on to club)
Telephone 02 49 32 8322
Fax 02 49 32 8343
email motel@maitlandcity.com.au

Sundowner Maitland
279 New England Highway Rutherford
Telephone 02 49 32 5255
Fax 02 49 32 8348
email maitland@sundownermotorinns.com.au

WEBSITE INFORMATION

Association Webmaster **John Posener** reports that the website is attracting an average of approximately 1000 hits per month. John also deals with a considerable volume of email traffic sent to the website, which requires answering direct or referral to proper authorities such as The Australian War Museum, The RAA National Museum, unit associations etc.

A recent enquiry was received from a French source seeking contact with Australian troops quartered in Faches Thumesnil near Lille between Sept 1939 and May 1940.

It's a long shot but if you can help or know someone who can, please contact M. **Didier Lherbier** on didier.lherbier@tiscali.fr .

John has forwarded the enquiry to 7 and 23 Fd Regt Assns, as both units were mentioned in M. Lherbier's email.

ANZAC DAY 2006

Sydney

We have received advice from the President, RAA Association (NSW), **Don Tait** in regard to the Sydney march. Leading the march will be MAJGEN **Tim Ford AO**, COL **Allan Piercy** (Colonel Commandant Eastern Region) and COL **Don Roach AM** (Commander, Land Command Artillery and Co-Patron of the Association).

The order of march (behind individual Banners) will be:

Artillery Leadership Group
RAA Banner and Escort
Vehicles for veterans unable to march
A Bty Assn
1, 4, 7, 12, 21 and 23 Fd Regt Assns
Locating Artillery Assn
9 LAA/HAA and 18 LAA Assns

The Gunners are to form up on the right hand side of Bent Street behind the RAAC contingent at approximately 1100 hrs. We are to march eight abreast and pass by the Cenotaph on **one side** as directed by Marshals. (Note we have split to both sides of the Cenotaph in the past but this appears to have been changed this year).

After the march the Gunner contingent will congregate at the Sporters Bar, Menzies Hotel.

Brisbane

Because of the demands and tempo of operational requirements, a large portion of the 20th STA Regiment will not be available to take part in ANZAC Day activities this year. To this end, RSM **Danny**

McGinley has invited those of us who wish to be part of the STA contingent, the following opportunity:

The program is:

Gunfire breakfast at the MENZ Club
Dawn Service at Enoggera Barracks
Travel to Brisbane with members of the Regiment
March behind the Banner
Return to the Regiment for a BBQ Breakfast

Lofty Hayes will be the Point of Contact for marchers. Please contact Lofty on (07) 3882 4160 if you want to be there. Lofty will liaise with Danny re numbers, rationing etc.

VALE GNR TRAVIS HEIERMANN

In his most recent report from 20th STA Regt, RSM **Danny McGinley** advised of the tragic death of a unit member, Gnr **Travis Heiermann**.

Travis was killed in a motor accident while on leave recently. Danny reported:

Travis' family were very appreciative of the unit's contribution to the service. It was a full military funeral with the whole unit attending. The troops did an excellent job in farewelling a mate in true military style



Military Funeral for Gnr Travis Heiermann

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

The Association's database was recently corrupted in an unfortunate hard disc failure. The restoration process produced some inaccurate renewal dates in some cases, resulting in incorrect renewal notices

being sent out in a limited number of instances. We are grateful to members who brought this to our attention and a review of all available renewal forms has been carried out by membership officer **John Saltwell**.

We are confident that the matter has been rectified and if any member feels that a renewal date is still not correct, we would like to hear from you (addressed to the membership Officer at PO Box 1042 Manly, 1655). We apologise for any confusion which may have been caused by this malfunction.

Weapon Locating Radar Section
IRAQ 2005
Report by CAPT Danny McGinley

The 131 STA Bty members deployed were as follows:

Det Comd - CAPT Danny McGinley
TSM – WO2 Richard Andersen
Radar No1- SGT Brent Major
Radar No2- BDR Craig Barton
Radar Tech – CPL John Dallwitz (RAEME)
GNR Operator Radar –

Tyron Ford
Michael Marsh
Robert Mathews
Clayton Paris.

The Bty was on exercise at Singleton Range when the word came that we had to return back to Enoggera ASAP as we may be deployed “overseas”. After returning to Brisbane we packed our gear and travelled up to Darwin where we commenced pre-deployment training with the Al Muthanna Task Group (AMTG) comprising 450 Australian soldiers.

We completed training and loaded our vehicles onto several ships, which travelled ahead of the main group. We left Darwin in a hired jet travelling in comfort with heaps of room for everyone. The equipment, two weapon locating radars (WLR) and a RAEME vehicle, by this time were half way across the Indian Ocean.



Equipment being slung onboard sea transport

We then landed at Kuwait where we stayed at an American Camp, which as you can imagine had all of the facilities that the yanks bring with them wherever they go. The stay at Kuwait gave us the chance to zero our weapons and conduct final admin prior to crossing into Iraq. This also included the unloading of our vehs and equipment from the ship and preparing them for desert operations. We were moved into the Al Muthanna Province which is located in the south of Iraq sharing the border with Saudi Arabia. We were to form part of the British Division and would be co-located with the Light Dragoons at Camp Smitty.

The plan for the move into Iraq went fairly smoothly with myself travelling by road 24 hours ahead of the guys who came in by a combination of air and road. The road trip took eight hours to complete with the radars travelling on the back of American armoured trucks. This plan gave me the opportunity to conduct a recon and site the radar position before the guys arrived at the camp. The guys didn't turn up for another 48 hours, but that

Weapon Locating Radar Section
IRAQ 2005
Report by CAPT Danny McGinley

was about the worst of it. We took over from the British who were providing WLR coverage with their kit until we came into action. The guys arrived and we started on the development of the radar position with defensive works and positioning the radar ready to radiate. With the Poms gone we started the radar up and began our mission which was to provide radar coverage to the Japanese camp, six km from our position.



AN/TPQ-36 Antenna in position – Iraq 2005

We then developed the radar position, settled into a routine and conducted Artillery Intelligence patrols outside of the camp. The TSM WO2 Richard Andersen, radar No1 SGT Brent Major and I then conducted crater analysis and investigated weapon launch positions as they occurred during the tour. The weapons fired previously by the insurgents, had been a mixture of 122 and 107mm rockets. The mortars have been mainly 60 and 82mm with the odd 120mm thrown in. The TSM and I worked from the Joint Offensive Support Co-ordination Centre (JOSCC) commanded by MAJ Stephen Mott BC 101 Bty, 8/12 Mdm Regt. He had two Joint Terminal Attack Controller teams who were to provide the Forward Air Controller function utilising Coalition aircraft. By this stage of the tour we were able to celebrate the Btys Birthday and organised a cake from the mess, which was devoured quickly. A group photo was taken in front of the radar truck with the Australian Flag.

It was not long after we initially arrived that the radar started locating small arms fire and indirect fire directed at both the camps. Throughout the tour the radar had a 100% success rate in locating rockets that were fired. Locals and soldiers from both camps also confirmed the locations/ firings. The threat from roadside improvised explosive devices also existed, with a Japanese convoy hit not far from our camp. No-one was injured but it reinforced the fact that the threat was there and everyone needs to remain vigilant when travelling around the AO. The Artillery Intelligence process was also very successful with our predictions of possible firing locations, crater and fragment analysis and intelligence reporting ensured that the STA capability within the AMTG was a force multiplier.

The accommodation was in tents or in the pre-fabricated two to three man rooms all of which had air-conditioning. The Dutch Army who were here two years before the British had left their accommodation and facilities pretty much intact. The temperatures were nudging the 50 deg C mark and eventually reach the 60 deg C mark by mid Jul. As you can imagine it took its toll on some equipment and add in the odd sandstorm and you

Weapon Locating Radar Section
IRAQ 2005
Report by CAPT Danny McGinley

have a lovely day out in the sun. The food was pretty good with both Australian and British cooks producing the meals.



Desert sandstorm – Iraq 2005

We worked in conjunction with the Poms and they were not a bad bunch (for Poms). The Ashes and lead up one-day series provided plenty of sledging between both countries and within the security of the camp we competed against the Poms in rugby, volley ball and soccer. The sports results were pretty even but we thrashed them in the cricket. Unfortunately the Australian Cricket Team could not do the same in the UK. The mail system was efficient and everyone has access to a computer so that they could e-mail home. The welfare phone bunker was also available so the guys had ample opportunity to contact home whenever they liked. The camp also had three shops, which sold your normal range of small goods and mementoes.

Well, we conducted a hand over with CAPT Damian Carrol's group just before we departed for OZ and right on cue the insurgents fired some more rockets on the first day of the hand over. Our return to OZ was pretty much trouble free and our families and members of the unit met us at Brisbane Airport . With post op activities completed we then took leave prior to XMAS.

Ubique

Danny McGinley

LOCATOR IN PROFILE



WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE DANNY MCGINLEY
REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR
20th SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION REGIMENT

Warrant Officer Class One Danny McGinley was born on 08 September 1964 and following a variety of jobs enlisted into the Regular Army in 1982.

Warrant Officer McGinley has held a range of appointments in Land Command and Training Command. These have included Training Warrant Officer, Company Sergeant Major, and Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery (STA).

His training appointments have included Sergeant Instructor Military Skills Wing Army Logistic Training Centre, Company Sergeant Major and Training Warrant Officer at the Army Recruit Training Centre (Kapooka). He has also performed the role of Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery within the Surveillance and Target Acquisition Wing at the School Of Artillery and as the Troop Sergeant Major of the 1st Weapon Locating Troop, 131st Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery.

In 2004, Warrant Officer McGinley was appointed the Battery Sergeant Major 131st Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery and he currently holds the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment. His operational service includes serving as the Surveillance Troop Sergeant Major with 4 RAR in East Timor and as the Weapon Locating Troop Commander (acting Captain) in Iraq with AMTG-1.

His honours and awards include the Australian Active Service Medal (IRAQ & East Timor Clasps), Defence Force Service Medal and United Nations General Service Medal (East Timor). He has also participated in Ex Long Look where he was detached to 32 Heavy Regt RA, Dortmund Germany and on exchange to the US Army's Lightning Division, Target Acquisition Division in both instances operating Target Acquisition equipments.

Warrant Officer McGinley and his wife Linda have two children Luke aged ten years and Elise aged nine. His interests include rugby, touch football, reading and fishing.