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LOCREP

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc.

March 2007



Did someone say 'fire mission'?

Association Vice-President Joe Kaplun in full flight at the Sydney re-union at North Fort, November 2006.



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrons

Mr Rusty Priest AM

BRIGADIER Gerard Fogarty AM
Head of Regiment

President

Allan Harrison RFD

Vice President/Museum Liaison Officer

Joe Kaplun

Secretary/Public Officer

Bob Morrison RFD

Treasurer/Membership Officer

John Saltwell

Minutes Secretary

Tony Foster

Historian

Keith Ayliffe BEM

Web Master

John Posener

Social Secretary

Wayne Nash

Newsletter Editor

Allan Harrison RFD

Committee Members

Ross Baker, Jim Bushel, Joe Elkus, Ron Hartmann,
Graham Johnson, 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 Secretary, Bob Morrison Tel (02) 4861-6463, Mob 0417 447 504 or by email at robmor@ozemail.com.au

The final Committee Meeting for 06/07 will take place on 6 May 2007 at Paddington RSL at 1000 hours.

The next AGM will take place on 15 July 2007 at Paddington RSL commencing at 1000 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings.

Again, there is much to tell members in this edition. Full reports appear later regarding:

20th STA Regt Parade and Dinner – the dates have been set and we all look forward to gathering at Enoggera.

Formation of a new Branch of the Assn – The Hunter Valley Locators have gone legit and we welcome this move.

The Army Combat Badge - Former serving members are eligible (see detailed report).

Our annual “out of town” Committee meeting – Due to circumstances beyond our control, this trip has been deferred for the time being.

A program of RAA activities – There are a number of Gunner activities in the pipeline including a firepower demonstration.

The photographic archives project – **John Posener** and **Bob Morrison** are putting this together, to ensure that significant photographs are preserved for posterity.

The Association's website continues to attract attention and Webmaster **John Posener** fields all manner of enquiries which test his powers of investigation to the limit. The term “Locating” seems to lead many visitors to the site to see us as a missing persons bureau. We do our best.

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. Please send contributions to The Editor, PO Box W43 Abbotsford 2046 or by email to allan@harrisonsolution.com.au.

We have received email traffic from **Vic Pennington** who is trying to contact "**Blue**" **Lovett**. We suspect that this may be **Ross Lovett** (ex 131 and 133 Bty's). Please contact Vic direct if you can assist. Vic's email address is vpennnton@bigpond.com.

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	
Woven Beret Badges (New Items, both Logo and Dragon available)	\$10.00	
Polo Shirts	\$30.00	(Navy or white)
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	
Bucket hats (new item with Logo and Dragon)	\$15.00	(Royal Blue or Light Khaki)

For information on size ranges, stock availability, postage costs and orders for current items, please call **Diane Wood** on 02 9774 1473 (H) or 02 9377 2041 (W) and leave a message.

We are now able to offer members a personalised service for the embroidery of the Association Logo and Dragon on other (personal) items of clothing. Please call Diane to discuss necessary arrangements.

Two new items have been added. Woven Badges suitable for berets or shoulder flashes are now available following the widespread interest in wearing berets in lieu of baseball caps on occasions such as ANZAC Day, Reserve Forces Day etc. Badges depicting both the Association Logo and The Dragon are available.

Also Bucket hats in two colours (Royal Blue and Beige) have been added to the list of available merchandise. The hats have both Association and Dragon Logos.

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

Working Bee dates have been set as follows:

25 March
29 April
27 May
24 June

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

Work is still progressing on re-establishing the Locating display. The EVA equipment has been recovered from storage and put in place. There is some delay with the arrival of the L5 which will be put in place with the EVA once the restoration of the other (Long Tan) L5 is complete.

It is intended to place an AA No.3 Mk 7 radar between the Loc and AD displays, depicting its dual roles. Up until now it was planned to restore a radar acquired from a collector, however a set in very good condition has been offered by the Army Museum in Bandiana, much to the relief of the restoration group. Watch this space.

The Association has utilised a \$3,000 grant by DVA as part of the 40th Anniversary (Vietnam) commemorations. The money has been spent on secure display cabinets which will enable the display of smaller portable items in a secure environment. Funds have also been applied to lighting for the new cabinets and consumables for the archival photo collection.

Restoration projects in particular require considerable effort by volunteers and we would greatly appreciate the assistance of anyone available to work on Locating Artillery projects.

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.

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.



Photograph Courtesy Joe Elkusch

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

TROPHIES AND PRIZES

The Committee continues to work towards the determination of trophies and prizes as detailed in previous editions of LOCREP, in recognising outstanding efforts by junior NCO’s in 20th STA Regt and, possibly, STA Wing Courses.

The Walker trophy restoration is complete. The trophy will be handed over to the CO at the Commemoration Dinner to be held after the Inaugural Parade (see full report later in this issue)



“Walker” Trophy in the Trophy Case presented by the Hunter Valley Locators (Photograph courtesy of Joe Kaplum)

GENERAL & REGIONAL CONTACTS

A full contact list appears as an insert to “LOCREP”.

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

The contact list will be posted onto our website as usual and updated as members give permission.

The regional Contact List is also included in the insert.

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”.

NOTHING HEARD, OVER

We appear to have lost comms with the following people. If you are one of them or know where to reach them please let us know c/- The Vice President, 6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213, by phone on (02) 9774 1473 or by email to info@locatingartillery.org. We appreciate the interest shown by members in tracking down others who have moved.

Ronald Adams

Bradley Gow

COMBAT BADGE

Thanks to outgoing RSM 20th STA Regt (Danny McGinley) we have definitive information about the new Army Combat Badge.

The Defence Instruction (DI) issued on the subject is 10 pages long and cannot be reproduced here.

Serving members of the ADF will of course be looked after by their Heads of Corps in respect of their eligibility for the award and our attention will therefore be focussed on former serving members who may be eligible.

The DI states (among many other things):

- *The award of the ACB is retrospective to Malaya 1948*
- *Any member of any Corps who was force assigned to an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer based combat team/battle group or similar unit/sub unit, and has given either continuous or an aggregate of 90 days satisfactory service on warlike operations for a single deployment or operation is eligible to wear the ACB*
- *Ex-serving members who believe they are eligible may apply for the ACB.*

Members should consult the full DI by accessing www.army.gov.au/PUBS/pubs.htm which gives access to the necessary application form, procedures for lodgement., dress regulations etc.

20th STA REGIMENT - PARADE & DINNER

A conference was held at 20th STA Regt on 15 January, attended by the CO, incoming and outgoing RSM's, Association President **Allan Harrison** and Coffs Harbour Branch Committeeman **David Auld**.

Subsequently, a decision was made to hold the inaugural parade and dinner on the weekend 5-6-7 October 2007.

A tentative program is as follows:

Fri 5 Oct	(Evening) Meet & Greet (Menz Club)
Sat 6 Oct	(Afternoon) Parade (Evening) Black Tie Dinner
Sun 7 Oct	Open day and BBQ lunch (Menz Club)

Association members have been invited to participate in the parade (RSM to co-ordinate and advise).

The refurbished "Walker" Trophy will be handed over to the CO at the dinner.

It will not be possible to accommodate visitors in barracks, therefore all visitors must live out and commute to and from the Enoggera Barracks.

David Auld has researched local accommodation and pre-booked all available. Details are set out in an enclosure and members may take advantage of these arrangements by making confirming bookings directly with the establishments on a first come first served basis.

Bus transport will be provided from the main gate to all venues. Security arrangements are being reviewed to reduce inconvenience to visitors as far as possible.

Access to each activity will be by ticket and the Regt will liaise with the Assn regarding bulk ticketing for members.

We will publish detailed information progressively as it comes to hand from the Regiment.

PHOTGRAPHIC ARCHIVES PROJECT

The Committee recognises that most of us have collections of photographs covering various aspects of our lives. Unfortunately, most of these photographs are lost in the passage of time, or pass into the hands of people who have little or no understanding of their significance.

We seek to avoid the more historically significant photographs relevant to Locating, Surveillance and Target Acquisition being lost to future generations.

To this end, a detailed insert appears in this edition of "LOCREP" explaining how members can participate in a

project designed to preserve significant photographs for posterity.

The key issues are:

- Photographs must be captioned, identifying places, equipments, people, dates etc., as far as possible.
- Photographs are to be submitted on CD and the CD's will not be returned.

We realise that some members who do not have access to the technology necessary to scan photographs to CD, may nevertheless have photographs worthy of inclusion in the collection.

In such cases, members may send photographs with caption information, to the Association (PO Box 1042, Manly NSW 1655) with a stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of the photographs.

A Sub-Committee will determine which photographs will be included in the collection which may, at a future date, be available for purchase.

RAA ASSOCIATION (NSW) EVENTS

At a recent joint meeting of Sydney-based RAA Associations, the following program of activities was announced:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 25 April 2007 | ANZAC Day March and Gunner gathering at The Menzies |
| 13 June 2007 | Artillery Lunch (Sydney) ** |
| 1 July 2007 | Reserve Forces Day March and Gunner gathering at The Menzies |
| 4 August 2007 | Annual Gunner Dinner ** |
| 4 Nov 2007 | RAA Assn Golf Challenge ** |
| 2 Dec 2007 | St Barbara's Day Church Service (Garrison Church, The Rocks) and Lunch at Phillip's Foote |

A firepower demonstration is planned at Singleton (date TBA) 7 and 23 Fd Regts and "A" Fd Bty will take part.

** Details of these activities will be published as they come to hand.

FORMATION OF NEWCASTLE-HUNTER VALLEY BRANCH

For some time, there has been an active and energetic group of former Locators, residing in the Newcastle and Hunter Valley region. They have actively supported the Association while choosing to remain an informal group.

That informality has ended with the formation of an official Branch of the Association, to be known as The Locating Artillery Association, Newcastle-Hunter Valley Branch.

The Inaugural President is Mick Jenkins and the Secretary/Treasurer is Kevin Maker.

Welcome aboard!

Members of the Committee will recall that it was proposed to hold an 'out of town' meeting annually, that meeting being the last before the AGM each year.

Unfortunately and due to circumstances beyond our control, it will not be possible to hold that meeting in May 07 in the Hunter Valley as had been intended.

A meeting will be held in the valley on a future occasion, enabling our Northern NSW members to socialise with committee members and their partners and to see and take part in Committee business, first hand.

LOCREP DESPATCH METHODS

We are still seeking to limit postage costs by having members volunteer to receive "LOCREP" by electronic means rather than by post.

To take part in this process, please contact the Editor at allan@harrisonsolution.com.au and indicate your preference for:

- a PDF copy by email or
- email advice that the latest "LOCREP" is up on the website.