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LOCREP

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc.

August 2007



Locators at the 2007 Gunner Dinner

L to R Jeff Evans, Allan Harrison, John Posener, MAJ GEN Tim Ford, COL John Fairless, Vic Rae, Joe Elkus
(Photographer Phil Easton)



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrons

Mr Rusty Priest AM

BRIGADIER Philip Winter CSC
Head of Regiment

President

Allan Harrison RFD

Vice President/Museum Liaison Officer

Joe Kaplun

Secretary/Public Officer

Bob Morrison RFD

Treasurer

Laurie Worth

Minutes Secretary

Tony Foster

Historian

Keith Ayliffe BEM

Web Master

John Posener

Newsletter Editor

Allan Harrison RFD

Merchandise Officer

Diane Wood

Committee Members

Ross Baker, Jim Bushel, Joe Elkus, Ron Hartmann,
Graham Johnson, Ivan Mills, Wayne Nash,
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

Committee Meetings for 07/08 will be held commencing at 1000 hours on the following dates:

2007

14 Oct, at Paddington RSL Club

25 Nov, at North Fort Museum prior to the Annual Sydney reunion

2008

17 Feb, at Paddington RSL Club

6 Apr, at Paddington RSL Club

8 Jun, at Paddington RSL Club

The AGM will be held on 13 Jul 2008 at Paddington RSL Club

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings.

It seems that the 20th STA Regt Parade and Dinner is at last settled in terms of dates. I know that some members have been inconvenienced with the repeated postponements and I ask for your patience and understanding as the Regiment juggles relocation and heavy operational demands, while in its infancy. We must keep in mind the latter which is heavier than at any time since Vietnam. The first deployment to Iraq was at 48 hrs notice and similar short notice deployments could occur at any time in the current international climate of unrest. I mention this purely by way of alerting members to the possibility that the regiment could again find itself in such a position, in which case the Parade and Dinner might have to take another back seat. We sincerely hope not.

ANZAC Day, Reserve Forces Day and the Annual Gunner Dinner have come and gone since our last full blown "LOCREP" and reports and photos appear in this issue. I am grateful to members who send photos and reports of these events which keep us all abreast of what's happening in the Locators' world around the country.

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.

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	\$20.00	(two types)
Lapel Badges	\$ 6.00	
Woven Beret Badges (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 (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.

HISTORY OF LOCATING

The book "*Tracks of the Dragon - A History of Locating Artillery in Australia*" is readily 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:

2007	2008
26 Aug 07	24 Feb 08
30 Sep 07	30 Mar 08
28 Oct 07	27 Apr 08
25 Nov 07	25 May 08
	29 Jun 08

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 which has not come up as well as the former exhibit. The EVA equipment has been recovered from storage and put in place. There is some delay with the arrival of the L5 which we hope to see in place with the EVA once the restoration of the other (Long Tan) L5 is complete.

It is intended to incorporate an AA No.3 Mk 7 Radar in the display, depicting its dual Locating and AD roles. A set in very good condition has been offered by the Army Museum in Bandiana. Watch this space.

The illuminated display cabinets are now in place, enabling the display of smaller portable items in a secure environment.

A DVD player and large screen monitor has been installed in the Locating/AD hangar and **John Saltwell** has copied a (Brit) Locating video to DVD, as a means of explaining Locating principles to visitors. While the equipments shown are not necessarily all current in the Australian Army, the principles are appropriate and the explanations are concise and relevant in the current context.

The new large scale colour printer installed at the museum has been put to good use already in the Locating display, where a large photograph depicting 131 STA Bty personnel in Surveillance mode in East Timor is now part of the display. Photographs of the AN-TPQ36 Radar deployed in Iraq are also to be enlarged and added to the display.

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 Elkus

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 20 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)

GENERAL & REGIONAL CONTACTS

A full contact list appears in “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.

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.

ANZAC DAY 2007 REPORTS

Brisbane:

Association President **Allan Harrison** (far left) dropped in to ANZAC Day Brisbane to march with the 131 Bty contingent, and share a beer or three afterwards.



A regular feature of the Brisbane march are some beautifully restored field guns and vehicles. Pictured below is an immaculate L5 towed by of all things, an equally immaculate Mack Tractor.



Melbourne:

John Dellaca has again provided photographs of the Melbourne march, complete with the brand new banner which John has put together (see picture below).

Well done John.



Sydney:

Association Secretary **Bob Morrison** led the Sydney march which was a wet affair. Numbers were down a bit, no doubt due to the weather.

20th STA REGIMENT - PARADE & DINNER

As indicated in special edition "LOCREPS" these events have been postponed to the weekend 16-17-18 November 2007.

The program is as follows (precise timings TBA):

Fri 16 Nov	(Evening) Meet & Greet at the Menz Club
Sat 17 Nov	(Afternoon) Parade (Evening) Black Tie Dinner
Sun 18 Nov	Open day and BBQ lunch at the Menz Club

On the Friday evening, partners are included (no children please). Dress is neat casual. Light finger food will be provided at no charge and drinks will be at Menz Club prices.

On Saturday afternoon, Association members have been invited to participate in the parade (RSM to co-ordinate and advise). Preferred dress is neat casual with medals, hat of your choice for sun protection (beret is ok). Partners and children are included as spectators. There is no cost.

On Saturday evening there will be a black tie dinner (lounge suit ok). Miniatures may be worn. Partners are included (no children please). The cost will be \$20 pp and drinks will be available at Menz Club prices.

The refurbished "Walker" Trophy will be handed over to the CO at the dinner. The Association's "Most

Outstanding Junior NCO" Shield and prize will also be awarded at the dinner.

On Sunday there will be an open day and BBQ at the Menz Club. Partners and children are included. The cost will be \$5 pp and drinks will be at Menz Club prices.

It will not be possible to accommodate visitors in barracks; therefore all visitors must live out and commute to and from Gallipoli Barracks. We suggest that visitors form taxi pools at each accommodation venue to facilitate movement and share costs.

Minibus transport will be provided from the Gallipoli Barracks main gate to all event venues within the Barracks. 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.

A booking form is enclosed and members are requested to return this form with their remittance ASAP and not later than **5 October 2007**. It is most important that this form be returned promptly so that catering and security arrangements can be put in place. There can be no provision for last minute decisions for obvious reasons.

To assist with taxi pooling, members are requested to note their accommodation arrangements on the booking form. We will issue an accommodation summary to all attendees so that you can liaise with each other to set up taxi pooling and minimise costs.

A fully detailed program with timings will be issued ASAP.

TUAV PROCUREMENT

For the information of members, eagle-eyed member **Darryl Musgrove** has drawn attention to an article in the August 2008 edition of "Australian Aviation". It relates Australian Army testing of UAVs, including the new I-View system to be supplied to 20th STA Regiment, in 2009.

Thanks Darryl.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES PROJECT

This project remains current. Photographs must be captioned and should be submitted on CD. The CD's will **not** be returned.

We realise that some members who do not have access to the relevant technology, 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.

The collection may later be available for purchase.

LOCREP DESPATCH METHODS

We are still seeking to limit postage costs by having members volunteer to receive "LOCREP" electronically. 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.

RESERVE FORCES DAY (SYDNEY) 2007

Numbers were up a bit this year despite the absence of some normally regular attendees. The parade featured massed light horse with many historic armoured vehicles and was generally considered the best in some years. It was good to see **Wayne and Zita Thompson** join the group. The Thompson's were heavily involved in the formation of the Association following the inaugural RFD parade in 1998.



*Locators take a breather in the Domain after the march before heading Off to the Gunner re-union at The Menzies.
(Photo courtesy of Wayne Thompson)*

GUNNER DINNER 2007

The Annual Gunner Dinner was held at Club Willoughby on 4 August. Guest of Honour was Her Excellency **Professor Marie Bashir, AC**, Governor of NSW and Patron of the RAA Association (NSW) Inc.

The Dining President was COL **John Fairless** RFD, former BK of 133 Div Loc Bty and the speakers included MAJ GEN **Tim Ford** AO and BRIG **Paul Symon** AO.

The cover photo of this issue of "LOCREP" was taken at the Dinner (thanks to RAA Association Immediate Past President **Phil Easton** who borrowed **Vic Rae's** camera so that Vic could appear in the photo).

CORAL/BALMORAL BATTLES – 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

The Committee chaired by **Don Tait** continues to work towards celebrations in May 2008 to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Battles of FSB's Coral and Balmoral.

The extent of official contributions toward the cost of the various events is still unclear and negotiations have begun with DVA in that regard.

It seems unlikely that there will be subsidies for travel and accommodation as was the case in respect of the Long Tan commemorations and Don has recommended that intending participants make travel and accommodation arrangements independently to take advantage of early bird specials etc.

The draft program looks like this:

- 12 May 08 – Prime Ministerial Reception
- 13 May 08 - Memorial Service, Vietnam Memorial ACT
- 12 Fd Regt Plaque dedication Aust War Memorial
- 14 May 08 – Coral Artillery Ceremony Mt Pleasant

If you are a Locator veteran of Coral/Balmoral and wish to attend, you can still write to the Secretary, 63 Highland Drive Bowral NSW 2576, to register your expression of interest.

