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LOCREP

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc.

December 2007



Catafalque Party commanded by Bdr Michael Marsh at the 20th STA Regiment Memorial Wall

16 November 2007



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

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Minutes Secretary

Tony Foster

Historian

Keith Ayliffe BEM

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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 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:

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

Season's Greetings. Christmas is almost upon us and I wish all members, their families and loved ones a happy and safe festive season.

The 20th STA Regt Dedication Parade and associated social events at Enoggera has come and gone and it was a memorable weekend. A full report and photographs appears later in "LOCREP". In regard to photographs, I want to thank **Terry Erbs** for taking the trouble to send me a CD of his photos, incl some Vietnam photographic memories, which we will put to good use.

I am particularly grateful to Committee Members **Jim Bushel, Blue Johnson, Ivan Mills (and his wife Jean), Phil Paton** and **Bob Smith** for their support during the Enoggera weekend in getting our banner and merchandise to the Barracks and in looking after the Association "Stand" in the Menz Club. It was very well patronised to the tune of almost \$2000 in sales and seven new members. Well done to you all.

The Association's presence was clear during the weekend and this has gone a long way towards achieving our goal of relevance in the minds of the serving members.

Finally, as the CO of the Regiment. **LT COL Phil Swinsburg** departs on promotion WEF 1 Jan 2008, on behalf of the Association I wish him every success in the future and thank him most sincerely for his interest and unstinting support.

Ubique

Allan Harrison

President

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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 3043 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 prior to our AGM have been set as follows:

24 Feb 08
30 Mar 08
27 Apr 08
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.

Museum Management is currently looking at space allocations within the hangar in which the Locating and Air Defence displays are located. Once that is determined the Loc display will be revamped.

The AA No.3 Mk 7 Radar referred to in previous "LOCREPs" has arrived from Bandiana and will be included in the display in a position which will enable its dual AD and Mortar Locating roles to be explained.

For the record, here it is:



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. A current STA DVD has also been obtained from 20th STA Regt and it may also be shown.

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.

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 3043 Abbotsford NSW 2046.

ANZAC DAY 2008 (Brisbane)

We have received an email from the ex 105 Bty (Brisbane) group suggesting a possible change of post-march venue for the Gunners next year. They are looking at a river cruise in lieu of the Theodore Club which is too hot and crowded.

A 2 hr cruise is proposed on the "Capt Cook", departing Pier 3 Queen's Wharf Rd. The vessel is fully licensed, (beer \$4.50 per can) with a BBQ lunch included.

The cost will be \$20 pp.

If you are interested please send a cheque or MO payable to the 105 Bty RAA Assn to Nev. Gailbraith, PO Box 465 Deception Bay 4508 and indicate names and numbers.

Enquiries: please call Graham Maughan on 07 6256 8413

The alternative is the RAA Assn gathering at the Pig'n Whistle (Riverside centre)

CORAL/BALMORAL BATTLES – 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

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

It is clear that there will **NOT** 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 - National Reception (AWM)

13 May 08 - Memorial Service, Vietnam Memorial ACT
- 12 Fd Regt Plaque dedication (AWM)
- Informal Group Dinners

14 May 08 - Coral Artillery Ceremony Mt Pleasant
- Remembrance Dinner (Federal Golf Club)

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.

20th STA REGIMENT - PARADE ETC

Friday 16th November:

Festivities began at 1600 hrs in the new "Menz" Club and the adjacent "Checkley" outdoor BBQ/recreation annexe, both of which were officially opened by the CO (LT COL Phil Swinsburg).



*LT COL Swinsburg opens the new “Menz” Club as Noeleen and Tony Menz look on
(Photograph courtesy of Terry Erbs)*

The undoubted highlight of the afternoon was the presentation by the CO of a mounted set of medals to Mr. **Tony Menz**, brother of **Bdr James Menz** (KIA Vietnam). It was an emotional moment for all present and Tony and his wife Noeleen both spoke warmly in response, presenting a framed photograph of Jim, in uniform, to the Club named in his honour.



Mrs. Noeleen Menz speaking in presenting the photograph.

(Photograph courtesy of Terry Erbs)

The afternoon included presentation of promotions, Active Service Medals as well as unit flags to members departing for overseas service and concluded with a BBQ evening meal.



LT COL Swinsburg presents the mounted set of medals to Tony and Noeleen Menz.

(Photograph courtesy of Terry Erbs)



Norm McManus and Geoff Jebb share some old times chat with former OC Det 131 Div Loc Bty SVN, now Representative Colonel Commandant MAJ GEN Tim Ford AO.

(Photograph courtesy of Terry Erbs)

Parade Saturday 17th November.

Saturday dawned wet and gloomy and the inclusion of Association members on parade was set aside in consultation with the President in the interests of members’ well being. Nevertheless we were treated to a fine parade and Memorial Dedication Service.

The weather cleared on cue, the Band and the Regiment formed up on parade and a Catafalque Party mounted adjacent to the Memorial Wall. Official Guests were received and the parade inspected.



20th STA Regt Honour Guard on Parade

(Photograph courtesy of Terry Erbs)

The assembled parade and visitors were addressed by the Colonel Commandant Northern Region, **COL Arthur Burke OAM** and The Chief of Army **LT GEN Peter Leahy AC**.



Chief of Army, LT GEN Peter Leahy AC speaking at the Dedication Ceremony

(Photograph courtesy Allan Harrison)

Wreaths were laid at the Memorial Wall by The Chief of Army, The Representative Colonel Commandant, The Colonel Commandant Northern Region, The Commanding Officer and the President, Locating Artillery Association.

On conclusion of the ceremony, guests were invited to the UAV Hangar for its official opening.

The hangar includes state of the art training facilities. In pride of place outside the hangar was the latest UAV in current operational service with the Regiment, the Boeing “Scaneagle”.

Guests adjourned to the Menz Club for lunch before departing for respective accommodation venues to prepare for the dining in night to follow.



“Scaneagle” on its launching ramp

(Photograph courtesy of Allan Harrison)

Dinner Sat 17th November

The venue for the dinner was the transformed UAV Hangar, with “Scaneagle” forming a hugely impressive centerpiece.

More than 450 people assembled for dinner which was a modified formal buffet, very smoothly conducted considering the physical environment in which it was held and the numbers present.

The CO presided and following the Loyal and Regimental Toasts, gave a brief history of the antecedents of the 20th STA Regiment, inviting former members of the various preceding units to stand and be recognised.

He wisely left 131 Bty until last and the roof was raised when its former members stood in numbers.

The Representative Colonel Commandant, **MAJ GEN Tim Ford AO**, (pictured on P7 with the CO) addressed the gathering, referring in glowing terms to the work of the Association in keeping the community of former Locators together and the support which the Association gives to the 20th STA Regiment and the RAA National Museum at North Fort.

The CO then invited the President of the Association to the podium where he presented the Association-sponsored award to the Most Outstanding Junior NCO, **Bdr Michael Marsh**. Bdr Marsh is the PMC of the Menz Club and is shortly to be posted to STA Wing at the School of Artillery as an Instructor.



MAJ GEN Tim Ford AO and LT COL Swinsburg

(Photograph courtesy Terry Erbs)

The President then presented the “Walker” trophy to the CO, in accordance with the donor’s wishes expressed in his donor letter dated 1957. A framed copy of the letter was also presented.



The CO 20th STA Regt LT COL Swinsburg and the Association President (formerly Bdr Allan Harrison, 20th Locating Regiment) pictured with the “Walker” Trophy.

(Photograph courtesy of Lt Robert Dunningham)

Open day Sunday 18th November

There was a huge turnout at the Menz Club and the grassed area adjacent, for the unit open day on Sunday 18th.

The weather was kind and visitors were able to look over an assortment of equipments including the Weapon Locating Radar, surveillance equipments and what looked suspiciously like a jumping castle for the kids.

There were no formalities and everyone was able to relax and enjoy the day, get on with reminiscences and take on yet another BBQ.

Entertainment was provided by unit members in their own rock band.

The fledgling unit museum was open and contacts were made through Association members, with a view to giving assistance to the Museum NCO in developing the display.

Ever present during the weekend was **RSM WO1 Joe Fabri**. His support for the Association was a major factor in the success of the event from the Association’s viewpoint. Clearly, his organisational skills, authority and rapport at all levels contributed hugely to an experience to remember.

As long distance visitors began to leave for the airport, a memorable weekend drew to a close.

Commanding Officer’s Message

The CO has sent the following message to the Association:

The week-end was a fantastic culmination of a lot of very hard work, not only in the past 12-18 months but over the past 10-20 years. There have been a number of people involved in the sustainment and development of the capability to bring the unit to where it is today. All of those numerous people should be proud of what the unit has become and where the unit is going.

I enjoyed the interaction between the Association and the soldiers and found a renewed sense of belonging not only for the olds and bolds but also the younger soldiers in the unit. I look forward to a closer relationship between the Association and the unit and I look forward to the development of the unit’s museum. I am hoping that with the museum in the unit then the members who leave the unit in the coming years will feel a closer bond not only with the modern unit but the unit of yesterday and join the Association. The Locating Artillery Association has been a significant strength of the Locators and I look forward to the growth of the Association along with the growth of the STA Regiment.

Thanks to the Association for supporting the week-end and "Seek to Strike"

Phil Swinsburg
Lt Colonel

STOP PRESS

The Secretary/Treasurer of the Hunter Valley Branch of the Association has approached the Committee seeking to arrange a weekend for members and partners in the Valley next year. More info after the February Committee meeting.