

LOCREP

*The Newsletter of the Locating Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association
Inc.*

Sept 2014 Volume 56



Members of the Band of 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery in full voice at the recent National Gunner Dinner in Caloundra Qld, organised by the Australian Artillery Association.

(Note in foreground, a Xylophone made of cut down shellcases – see full story inside)



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Patrons

Brigadier Don Roach AM
Lt Col Bede Galvin

President

Joe Kaplun CMC, JP

Senior Vice President

Phil Swinsburg

Junior Vice President

Maj Russ Hamsey

Secretary/Public Officer

Bob Morrison RFD

Treasurer

Wayne Nash

Minutes Secretary

Tony Foster

Historian

Keith Ayliffe BEM

Web Master

John Posener

Newsletter Editor

Allan Harrison RFD

DVA Advocate

Kevin Maker JP

Merchandise Warehousing & Distribution

Joe Kaplun CMC, JP

Committee Members:

Ross Baker, Jim Bushel, Joe Elkus,
Ivan Mills, Allen Morley,
Bob Owens BEM (Mil), Phil Paton, Bob Smith

Web Site: www.locatingartillery.org

Email: info@locatingartillery.org

Branch Presidents:

Hunter Valley:	"Wheels" Campbell
Northern NSW:	Dave Auld
STA (formerly SEQ Br):	Phil Swinsburg
131 Locators:	Bob Billiards

Meeting Dates

Meetings for 2014/15 are scheduled as follows:

26 Oct 2014
16 Nov 2014 -includes Annual Sydney Re-union, catered
22 Feb 2015
24 May 2015
19 Jul 2015 (AGM)

Meetings are held at Paddington RSL, commencing at 1115 hrs and all members are welcome.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings

This edition of LOCREP has seen the AGM come and go with the former Association Office Bearers and Committee re-elected unopposed. I thank you all for your support during the last year and look forward to another year of seeing the Association growing stronger.

The AGM also saw Allan Harrison confirmed as a Life member. Allan was the inaugural Vice President for three years and went on to serve as President for eleven years. It is a fitting acknowledgement of his dedication to the Association.

Allan has now retired, living at Arrawarra 40Km North of Coffs Harbour and continues to serve the Association from the 'backbench' as the newsletter editor.

It is pleasing to see that our relevance to 20 STA Regt is moving from strength to strength. Looking to the left you will notice some changes in that the Co-patron is now the current CO of the Regt, the Senior Vice President a past CO of the Regt and the Junior Vice President the current 2IC of the Regt.

At the Caloundra Reunion Dinner the Regt was presented with a decorative banner by the dinner organisers, The Australian Artillery Association.

Further, we are currently in the process of obtaining an Artillery Corps Flag for the Regiment.

Happy reading.

Ubique

Joe Kaplun
President

New Co-Patron and Junior Vice President

In his President's message, Joe Kaplun referred to the fact that we have a new Co-Patron (LT COL Bede Galvin, CO 20th STA Regt) and the filling of the previously vacant Committee position of Junior Vice President by Maj Russell Hamsey (2 i/c 20th STA Regt).

These important events in the life of the Association reflect the ongoing commitment of the Committee to pursue ever closer ties with 20th STA Regt and associated emphasis on the STA Branch of the Association.

Detailed information on both officers follows:

LTCOL Bede Galvin

Commanding Officer 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment



LTCOL Bede Galvin entered the Royal Military College Duntroon in June 1994 and following graduation in December 1995 was allocated to the Royal Australian Artillery. His formative years involved regimental appointments at the 16th Air Defence Regiment and 1st Field Regiment. Throughout, LTCOL Galvin has been fortunate to command teams in supported of high readiness units across the Australian Defence Force which have deployed to East Timor and the Middle East.

Between regimental postings, LTCOL Galvin has held instructional positions at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion as a Platoon Commander, the Royal Military College Duntroon as a Tactics Instructor and the US Army Air and Missile Defense School as a Captains' Career Course Instructor. Whilst posted to the US, LTCOL

Galvin was directly involved in concept development for the Air Defense Air Management Cell and Counter Rocket Artillery Mortar capability, subsequently introduced into operational theatres in quick succession.

In 2007, LTCOL Galvin assumed command of the 111th Air Defence Battery, re-rolled as Golf Company, in Timor Leste as part of OP ASTUTE. Upon return from Timor Leste, the 111th Air Defence Battery introduced and demonstrated new Ground Based Air Defence concepts focused on broader air land integration for land forces. After his tenure as a Battery Commander, LTCOL Galvin attended Australian Command and Staff Course in 2009.

In January of 2010, he was promoted to his current rank and posted as the Deputy Director of Air Land Integration in the Joint Capability Coordination Branch of VCDP Group. Due to the changing joint needs, this office was renamed to the Air Surface Integration Office and finally to the Battlespace Integration Office. In 2011, the LTCOL Galvin was appointed as the Acting Director of Battlespace Integration Office focusing on Air Surface Integration, Command and Control and Joint Fires.

In late 2011, LTCOL Galvin assumed the position as a Military Advisor to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan based in Kandahar. LTCOL Galvin was appointed as the Commanding Officer of the 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment on 31 Aug 12.

A Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Management and History, and a Masters in Arts (Strategy and Policy), LTCOL Galvin's professional interests continue to be centred on the integration of the air, land and maritime environments.

LTCOL Galvin's interests extend beyond the military, as an avid surfer and as an inaugural member of the Gold Coast Suns he passionately follows Australian Rules Football. LTCOL Galvin is married to Brenda and together they have three children: Zack (18), Lili (8) and Bede (5).

MAJOR RUSSELL HAMSEY

Second in Command, 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment



Major Russell Hamsey was born and raised in Canada. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1977 and served in a variety of postings as an Artillery Officer. He was dispatched from his gun battery in 1980 to a Regimental Survey Officer Course and in short order, became a passionate Locating Artilleryman.

In 25 years of service in Canada, MAJ Hamsey was employed as a Regimental Survey Officer, a Locating Instructor-in-Gunnery, a UAV Troop Commander and a Division Artillery Intelligence Officer. During his time as a Locator, he qualified and worked in all Locating disciplines (Survey, Artillery Meteorology, Flash Spotting, Sound Ranging, Weapon Locating Radar, Ground Surveillance Radar, Unmanned Aerial Systems and Artillery Intelligence).

In 1999, MAJ Hamsey and his family were posted to Australia and enjoyed three years in Puckapunyal as a Liaison Officer. In 2002, to avoid having to return to the snow and cold, MAJ Hamsey discharged from the Canadian Army and enlisted in the Australian Army as a lateral transfer.

He was posted to the School of Artillery in Puckapunyal as the SI STA, then to Enoggera as a member of the Army HQ team that built 20 STA Regt. In 2006, he was posted to 20 STA Regt as the first BC 132 UAV Bty. Over the next two years, MAJ Hamsey deployed twice to Iraq with elements of the regt operating the AN/TPQ-36 WLR, the Skylark MUAV and the

ScanEagle UAV. He also served as the regt's Operations Officer.

In 2008, MAJ Hamsey was posted to a four year term in HQ 1st Division and was overjoyed to return to 20 STA Regt in 2013. Upon his return, he took up duties as the Regt's second-in-command where he currently continues to help build and develop the unit.

He has been married to the long-suffering Debbie for over thirty years and they have two children, Kelsey and Grant. MAJ Hamsey's hobbies are cigars and 20 STA Regt.

Annual General Meeting 2014

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Sunday 20th July 2014 at Paddington RSL Club. The meeting was well attended and resulted in the existing Committee being re-elected intact.

The President gave a verbal report outlining the achievements of the previous year and setting the scene for the forthcoming year's goals and activities while thanking members for their continuing support of the Committee.

The Treasurer presented his report which in summary reflected a small operating profit of **\$58.21** for the year and a healthy net total of bank balances of **\$11,234.19**.

A separate report details the election of a new Honorary Life Member at the meeting.

New Honorary Life Member

At the AGM, a unanimous vote saw the induction of Immediate Past President Allan Harrison RFD as an Honorary Life Member.

Allan entered military life in August 1958 as a National Serviceman with 13th National Service Training Battalion. On completion of Basic and Initial Employment Training, he was posted to 20th Locating Regiment RAA as a Technical Assistant Royal Artillery (TARA, or OP CP Field in more modern terms).



Allan Harrison at left receives congratulations from President Joe Kaplun on being inducted as an Honorary Life Member (Photo courtesy of Allen Morley)

He entered Officer Training in 1966, graduating with the Sword of Honour as a 2Lt, RA Infantry.

On transfer to RAA, he then served in numerous Locating, Field and Divisional Artillery HQ postings until his final posting as Commander 133 Div Loc Bty RAA. He was awarded the Reserve Force Decoration (RFD) during that posting, from which he retired in 1987.

He was a foundation member of the Association (then known as the Locating Artillery Association). As the inaugural Vice President, he served three terms before his election as President, in which role he served for eleven years. He was a prime mover in the recent re-naming and re-badging of the Association.

Allan continues to serve on the Committee as Newsletter Editor and is working closely with President Joe Kaplun in developing ever closer ties with 20th STA Regt.

Merchandise

President and merchandise guru Joe Kaplun informs us that orders can now be taken for Polo Shirts featuring the new Logo.

The shirts are available in two styles, either with the logo with the red over blue background or in outline, at \$35 and \$32 respectively. A full range of colours and sizes (S through XXXL) are available, on order from Joe at

joekaplun@optusnet.com.au or by phone on 02 9774 1473 or 040 774 1473. Please contact him promptly to discuss your individual requirements, so that the initial order can be placed with the supplier.



Joe Models the shirt with the full logo, with red over blue background



This is how it looks with the outline logo and no background colours

Additional items will be added progressively to widen the range of available merchandise, all featuring the new logo.

In a further development, Joe has informed us that the Polo shirt supplier can embroider our new logo onto almost any type of garment. In this way, personal clothing items of members own choosing can be made to identify them as Association Members.

The cost per garment is \$13 (with the full logo) and \$10 (with outline logo) and orders should be placed with Joe. Members are asked to deliver their garments to Joe or send them in an express post bag with a spare bag for return, enclosing a cheque or postal note payable to the Association, to cover the cost of embroidery.

Joe's address is 6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213.

Coffs Harbour Re-unions

The AGM of the Northern NSW Branch of the Association was held recently. The meeting had been postponed due to the ill health of Branch President Dave Auld and we are pleased to report that Dave is back to his best.

It was decided at the meeting that the planned 2016 re-union (deferred from 2015 so as not to clash with the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing) would be the last to be hosted at Coffs.

Numbers were seriously down at the last re-union in 2013, probably due to natural attrition, and it was felt that it was time for the baton to be passed on.

"New boy" Branch member Allan Harrison mentioned that during his recent visit to 20th STA Regt with President Joe Kaplun and Secretary Bob Morrison (to attend a re-union and participate in the presentation of an Association Banner) mention was made of that re-union becoming a regular feature of Regimental Life. He undertook to follow that up.

We can now report that the Regiment has confirmed that it will take up the role of host of biennial re-unions as from October 2018, to coincide with the Regiment's Birthday celebrations.

This is great news. Those of us fortunate enough to have attended functions at the Regiment since its momentous inaugural parade and commemorations, will attest that they know how to put on a memorable bash.

Details will of course be publicised well in advance in LOCREP.

National Gunner Dinner – Caloundra Qld

This was without doubt a superb occasion.

More than 450 guests assembled at dinner at the Caloundra Events Centre on the evening of 23 August, after an afternoon military musical performance by the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra.

The dining room was brilliantly decorated with specially prepared gunner banners and flags recognising the Associations and Units represented in the room. Fittingly, those banners and flags were presented to those Units and Associations by the dinner organisers, the Australian Artillery Association, a most generous gesture.



*The Huge Banner donated to LSTAA by the Australian Artillery Association
(that's a full sized tennis court in the background)*



20th STA Decorative Banner, now on display outside RHQ

Complementing the decorations were two beautifully presented 105 mm M2A2's on the lawns outside the main entrance and a magnificently restored 18 Pdr WW1 field gun on display in the entrance foyer.

Guest of Honour MAJ GEN Tim Ford AO spoke at the dinner regarding the efforts which have gone into the restoration process and the need for ongoing fundraising to maintain the gun, its limber and the saddlery for the horses which it is planned will draw the gun in the ANZAC Centenary Parade in Canberra next year.

Tax deductible donations can be made by cheque to the RAAHC, PO Box 171 Cremorne Junction NSW 2090.



18 Pdr Gun, restored by the RAA Historical Company.

MAJ GEN Ford was ably supported by long term Locator and Association member Harry Lynas, who led the charge with a cash donation on the spot.



*Harry Lynas speaking at the dinner in support of donations.
To the RAAHC Gift Account
(Note Harry is proudly wearing his LSTAA tie)*

A feature of the evening was a highly entertaining musical presentation and floorshow by the band of 1st Regiment, RAA.

These talented musicians provided humour, stunning vocals, and innovative instrumental performances (See photo of the "cart case Xylophone" below) not to mention a brilliant overall musical experience.

They were given a rousing standing ovation on completion of their performance.



The "Cart Case" Xylophone

Former members of 130 and 133 Btys gathered for this photo:



Central in the above photo is Detective Chief Inspector Jenny Kampouris of the NSW Police Force, resplendent in her formal Police attire. The (former) Sgt Jenny Kampouris of 133 Div Loc Bty was called upon during the dinner to propose the Toast to Fallen Comrades, which she did with eloquent dignity.

A huge number of photographs taken by the Official Photographer have been posted on the Australian Artillery Association website www.australianartilleryassociation.com and we commend them to you. It is certainly worth a look.

We thank the Association Committee for permission to use some of them in this issue of LOCREP and congratulate them on the resounding success of the event.

News From 20th STA Regt

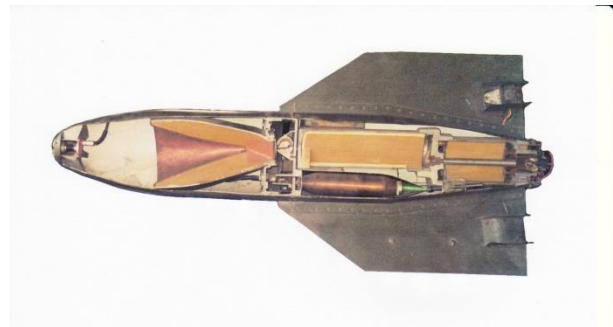
Regimental 2 i/c and recently appointed Association Junior Vice President MAJ Russell Hamsey is seeking our assistance.

MAJ Hamsey is a keen historian and has unearthed two interesting items in the Regimental Museum.

The first is a copper searchlight which his research tells him is a "Searchlight GE Nautical Copper", see photos below and above right.



The second item is an ENTAC Wire Guided Anti-Tank Missile (see photo below).



It is believed that the ENTAC was reconstructed or restored by 132 Div Loc Bty Workshops prior to the closure of that unit in the 1980's.

When 132 and 133 Div Loc Btys closed in the late 1980's, much of their Regimental and Mess property was handed on to the then 131 Div Loc Bty and it is thought that former members of those units, or other Association members might have some knowledge of the items.

MAJ Hamsey is keen to learn more about them and how they came to be in the Regiment's Museum. If you can assist, please contact him on russel.hamsey2@defence.gov.au