



**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY
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FROM THE EDITOR

I have been under considerable pressure to get this Newsletter out in time for the dinner invitations and am glad to say I did. A copy of this newsletter has been included with all Gunner Dinner invitations, so if you are in the category of non member, you may wish to consider signing up as it is still only \$10 for next year. If you are a member, your renewal notice should have been included in the Newsletter, so can send it in along with your dinner money.

All who new him will mourn the passing of **Arthur Saunders** in May this year. Although at the time of his death he was no longer a member of the Association, he was a long time member and committee member and with the assistance of his son Michael, I have put together a small tribute. I have also finally, put together a profile on **Tony Jones**. I'll say no more here except to thank his wife Kathy and Robert Gore for helping me to get it done.

Important dates to put in your dairy are;

Gunner Dinner	28 Aug 99
Open Day Singleton	9/10 Oct 99
Annual General Meeting	09 Nov 99
Efficiency Shield Presentation at 113 Bty	30 Nov 99

I am very pleased to say that we are getting more feed back on our newsletter. For example, did you know that there was a Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regt (CMF) in Newcastle? Want to know more? Then please pay your subs or join up and all will be revealed in a future issue.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Gunner Dinner.

Karl Milic



THE BRAYE SHIELD COMPETITION

I took part in my first Braye Shield competition in 1960. As mentioned in our last issue, the Braye Shield Competition, was a drill competition between the CMF units in Newcastle and was held at Sandgate each year in conjunction with the Shortland and Waratah-Mayfield RSLs. Each unit was judged individually on drill and dress, after which all the units would fall in and march to the War Cemetery. Final judging would take place on the march. After the ceremony at the War Cemetery, the units would march back to the judging area (on the corner of Maitland Road and Sandgate Road) for the presentation. A parallel competition for the cadet units, called the Shortland Trophy was also conducted. The activity took place a couple of Sundays prior to Anzac Day each year.

The event was keenly contested and we would train for days for the competition. This was all done in our own time and our own expense, for blanco, brasso, boot polish and stiffly starched uniforms. The Battery also had a set of chrome plated bayonets which were the envy of all the other units as well as being good for a few extra competition points.



The 1956 winning Team Led by Lt Bill Harvey. Also in the team was a young Bdr Bill Carrol.

In the following few years the Army underwent major changes. In addition to the organisational changes (re-organising itself, is of course, the Army's major peace time activity, sometimes seemingly even more important than training for the last war that has already finished. *Ed*) as well as equipment changes. The first of these was the introduction of the SLR (self loading rifle). As a result, units were on parade carrying different weapons with different drills and leading to parade RSMs being stuck with such orders as "Slope and Shoulder Arms".

The second major change, was of course, the introduction of the JGs (jungle greens) to replace the khaki uniforms. This resulted in parades with units in different uniforms as well. If my memory serves me correctly, I believe, the Battery, was one of the last units to have their uniforms withdrawn for dyeing (this being due to the Battery being a 2 MD unit, not a Divisional unit) so that on at least one parade we wore black belts and gaiters still with our khakis. While on the subject of the dyeing of the uniforms, I should point out that you had to hand in one set at a time and that the final colour of the set when it came back was a function of the age and condition the khakis that you handed in, as well as the colour of the dye lot. As a result, when all your uniforms had been dyed, you did not have a single matching set.



The first time the Battery competed carrying the SLR, but still in Khaki. Note that the team behind is also in Khaki, but wearing the new black belt and gaiters. The team is led by Lt Stan Newton and includes Karl Milic, 'Pug' Braye, Len Young, Les Hirst, Merv Allan, Sam Kenny and Johnny Waters.

The highlight of the competition was of course the afters. The CMF (Army Reserve) units were invited back to the Waratah-Mayfield RSL Club for free lunch and drinks. We had the back room of the club to ourselves and the bands would set up and play and all the participants would get into the serious part of the day which was to see who could drink themselves senseless the quickest. They were always great afternoons.

The last time I took part in a Braye shield was around 1971 or 72, when we won again. I was the team officer and in their enthusiasm to get to the RSL club, the team jumped into the truck and took off, leaving me standing on Maitland Road armed with the shield and my pistol. I eventually managed to bum a lift in to the Fort, to be met by a nameless Q type, who greeted me with the comment "I was really starting to worry about the pistol."

The Battery had more than its share of wins, holding the trophy almost every second year from its inception. The actual shield, I am led to believe, was lost in the fire when the Depot in Maitland burnt down in the late 1970's (?).



The team circa 1971/72, led by Lt Karl Milic, included (R to L): Peter Snelson, Tony Jones, Peter Mcfarlane, Doug Baldock, Frank England, Robert White, Brian Conway, Frank Carter, David Cooper, Geoff Colinson, Reg Collinson and the Sergeant was Doug Roworth.

When I returned to the Battery in 1985, I wanted us to again become involved in the competition, as it was still going (just), but what I found was that people weren't prepared to train in their own time, pressure of technical training, shortage of man days and total lack of interest by RHQ in supporting the activity, I abandoned that ambition. Because we were not the only unit in this situation, DSU Newcastle approached Norm Braye to see if he would support changing the competition from drill to an admin type contest based on such things as units effective strength, shooting results and attendance at annual camp. Norm held out for a while, but I believe he eventually relented because I seem to recall doing a return for it once, but what finally became of it after DSU Newcastle was disbanded, I don't know.

Karl Milic



A SHORT TRIBUTE TO JONESY

By Karl Milic

It is now two years since the untimely death of Tony Jones at the age of 43 and I have finally been able to get together this small tribute to the man who was universally known as Jonesy.

I first met him when he joined The Battery in the 1970s, but did not really get to know him well until I returned to The Battery in 1985. When I became the BC, he was my Ack for three years during which time I started to get to know him better. It was his technical competence, his loyalty to The Battery (and the Army Reserve) as well as to me, and his reliability and persistence that continually made him the ideal offsider in a demanding job.

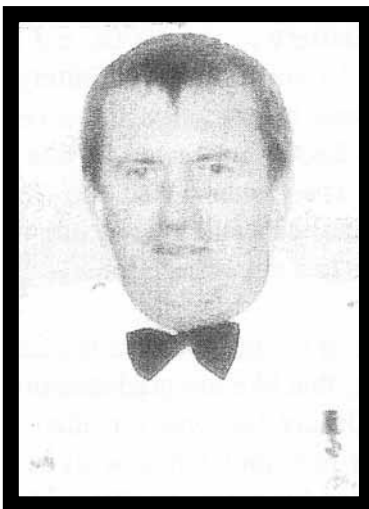
That is not to say that Jonesy, like all of us did not have his faults or shortcomings. It is because of them, that like my predecessors, I held up his promotion to Warrant Officer (he was qualified for quite a number of years) and it was not until I had worked so closely with him, that I finally submitted his recommendation (and even then only after a little pressure from the then CO, Lt Col John Fairless). Even his faults demonstrated the regard with which he was held by his peers, as I was only to learn much later of some of the misdeeds for which his mates covered up, to protect him from my wrath had they come to light at the time.

It was not until Jonesy became ill, that any of us were to really see him in him the strength of character which kept him battling on in sickness and adversity in the same quiet, persistent, dedicated and professional way until the end.

I have no wish to be tested as he was in the last 18 months of his life, but if it should be so, I hope that I have the courage to do it with the quiet dignity that he exhibited.

Jonesy was an ordinary man in that he was a father, a husband, a worker, a reservist and many other things as well, but it was Robert Ogden, who in a moving eulogy, said it for all of us when he wished a farewell to "his and our MATE Jonesy. "

2202049 WARRANT OFFICER
ANTHONY JOHN JONES
1953-1997



Tony Jones was born in Newcastle on the 1st November, 1953. He went to primary school at Ash Island before attending Newcastle Boys' High School and after completing his School Certificate in 1969, started work as an apprentice electrician at the Newcastle Bus Depot. When the repair shop closed, in 1974 he transferred to Sydney, leaving here in 1975.

On the 1st July, 1978, he married Kathryn Norie in Newcastle. They went on to have two daughters, Melissa Zoe (1978) and Rebecca Ann (1980). Also in 1978, Tony started work as a leading hand at Electric Lamp Manufacturers. He remained there until taking a redundancy package in 1993.

Tony joined 113 Battery in the early 1970s and progressed through the ranks to sergeant. As well as his commitment to the Battery, he spent quite a bit of time as an instructor at various 2 Trg Gp courses, until in the mid 1980s he had a short break away from the Reserve, rejoining in May 1987. Although qualified for WO2, he remained a sergeant and was posted as the BC's Ack. In 1991, he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class II and in

Sep 1992 he was posted to D Coy UNSWR as an instructor. On the 3 Jan 1995, he returned to the Battery and was finally appointed as the BSM.

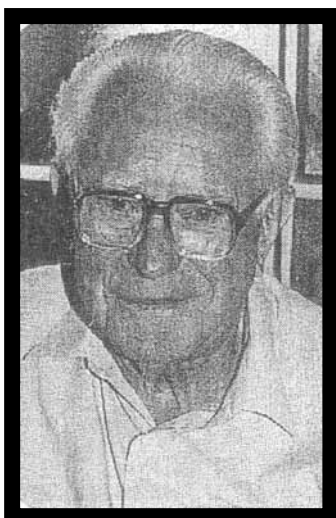
In Dec of 1995, Tony was diagnosed with melanoma and in spite of intensive treatment, his health deteriorated. He, however, continued serving, even leaving annual camp in 1997, for treatment and returning immediately to the bush, to continue his normal duties. He died on the 22 June, 1997.

LEST WE FORGET



ARTHUR HENRY SAUNDERS 1918 1999

Arthur Henry Saunders was born in Surrey Hills, Sydney, on the 20th July, 1918. His mother, Julia died when he was about eight years old and he was brought up as an only child by his father Alexander, until Alexander's death whilst Arthur was still a teenager, after which he lived with a Jewish family called Race (Reis ?).



Arthur's first job after leaving school in 1933, was as a general hand in a paint factory. The fumes there aggravated his asthma, which was to remain the greatest medical problem throughout his lifetime.

Arthur joined the Royal Australian Engineers before the outbreak of the Second World War and qualified as an electrician. He was posted to coastal fortresses after the outbreak of war and arrived in Newcastle as a sergeant responsible for the maintenance and operation of power generation equipment associated with the searchlights attached to Fort Scratchley. On being commissioned, he was appointed officer commanding searchlights in Newcastle. Despite regular requests for overseas postings, he remained in Newcastle and by 1943 his responsibilities included the newly established radar station at Tomaree in Port Stephens. Arthur was present in Newcastle the night the city was shelled by the Japanese submarine.

Arthur married Mary Keenan (then a nurse in Sydney) in Newcastle in 1942. They went on to have three children, Michael, Anne and John, however the marriage was to come to an end in 1975.

At the end of the war, Arthur was posted to Japan as a member of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces. His unit was stationed at Kure naval dockyard where he operated and maintained heavy earth moving equipment used in the re-establishment of basic utilities in the shattered cities including the nearby Hiroshima.

He returned permanently to Australia in 1949 and resigned from the permanent army in 1950, taking up employment as an electrician in Springwood in the Blue Mountains, West of Sydney. While there he met and became friendly with the artist Norman Lindsay and his wife Rose.

In 1952, the family moved to Newcastle and Arthur became an employee of NESCA, (now Energy Australia), and remained with them until his retirement in 1980, from the position of Chief Services Inspector.

His interests included, but were not limited to, involvement in the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, film projection and later the Anglican Church. He also served in 14 Field Squadron RAE after the forming of the CMF, retiring with the rank of Captain. He was also a member of the Fort Scratchley Military Museum Society (now the Fort Scratchley Historical Society) and the Newcastle Branch of the RAA Association, serving on the committee of our association, until forced by poor health to resign from the committee.

At thur was laid to rest at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle on Wednesday the 19th of May, 1999.

Lest We Forget



FROM THE BATTERY

The AFX for 99 was held in the Wide Bay Training Area, East of Gympie in the South East of Queensland, from the 10 - 25 July. It was part of an 8 Bde concentration, the other units being 12/16 HRL, 2/17 Bn RNSWR and 8 BASB. HQ 8 Bde provided some co-ordinating aspects in the lead up to the AFX.

The regiment moved to and returned from Wide Bay by road over a two day period, with overnight staging at Wallangarra on the NSW/Qld border. The regiment conducted training on the Minimi machine gun, leadership and NBDC and APC familiarisation prior to training in artillery skills and participating in an ARTEP. Two days were spent on refreshing deployment drills and technical duties before live firing. Logistic support was provided to the battery by 8 BASB in the form of a DP, then it was off to the first gun area for firing. The next two days were spent firing air OP missions with three light observation helicopters (LOH) from the 162 Recce Sqn based in Townsville. All of the FOs and the FO Acks got to experience the joys of low level flying with a group of enthusiastic and competent pilots. The difficulties of navigation and observation of zone were reinforced, but all benefited from the experience. Other members of the regiment got a chance to fly in the LOHs and a Caribou aircraft that was supporting 2/17 Bn.

After this, the regiment participated in a fire power demonstration which went very well for the regiment and demonstrated to the Brigade, just how effective and capable artillery is. The live firing culminated in the ARTEP, run by Land Command Artillery. The Regiment performed very well and drew considerable praise from the assessing team. Individuals from the Battery were also given special praise with their performance being rated as on par with the ARA.

The BC of 113 Bty (Maj Graham Campbell) is hoping to see a large turn out of the Association Members at the Open Day on the weekend 9-10 Oct as well as at the Presentation of the Efficiency Shield.

This facsimile copy of the Newcastle Newsletter has been made using OCR - Optical Character Recognition software from an original provided by the Branch. Pagination has been altered and some minor spelling changes have been made by the editor