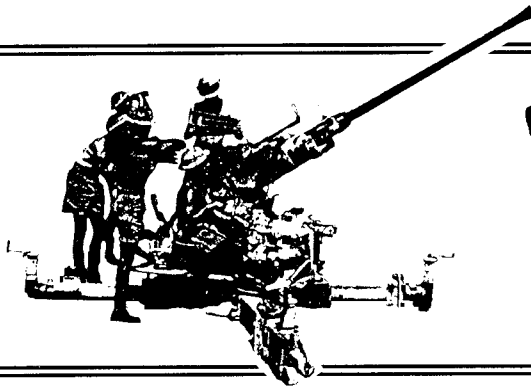


Shoreham Vic 3916
Tal Tal Tucks Road
C. J. E. RAE
If undelivered please return to:

**2/3rd AUSTRALIAN LIGHT ANTI-AIRCRAFT
REGIMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER.**



"TAKE POST!"

Newsletter of the
2/3rd Australian Light Anti-Aircraft
Regiment Association

REUNION NOTICE

The reunion will be held on **Saturday April 23, 1994**, from 11.45 am until 4.30 pm., lunch and drinks provided. The subscription this year is \$25 (being subsidised by the Association).

The venue is the same as last year, namely the **Air Force Convention Centre, 4 Cromwell Road, South Yarra**. (Access to car park from Cromwell Road).

Cec Rae, Hon Secretary.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Air Force Convention Centre, 4 Cromwell Road, South Yarra at 11.30am, April 23, 1994 (just prior to the Reunion).

Nominations for Committee must be lodged with the Secretary 7 days before the meeting.

Cec Rae, Hon Secretary.

2/3rd AUSTRALIAN LIGHT ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENT ASSOCIATION.

President: BERT BAGLIN.

Hon Secretary: CEC RAE.

Tal Tal, Tucks Road, Shoreham, Vic.3916.

Assistant Secretary: BRUCE TULLOCH

Hon Treasurer: JOHN HEPWORTH

Newsletter Editor: RON BRYANT.

Committee:

LES HARRIS, TOM DAWSON,

CLIVE ROSE, DICK HAWTING,

DAVE THOMSON, ROY THOMSON,

JACK CRITTENDEN, JOHN CAMPBELL.

W.A. Contact: GORDON CONNOR,

6 Exton Place, Spearwood, WA 6163.

A few copies of our history "*On Target*" remain. Obtain your copy at the Reunion, for \$29.00 or make a gift to your local RSL or library for \$20 per copy.

PLEASE ADVISE OF YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

EDITORIAL

We welcome the President of our Association, Bert Baglin, who was duly elected after the sad passing of former President Jim Paton who led the Association for many years.

Bert was a Captain with 7th Battery during the Battle for Crete. He was fortunate to survive that Battle as he was firstly evacuated on HMS *Hereward*, but before it was sunk he had transferred to HMS *Dido*, which suffered terrible bombing and numerous casualties as is vividly re-counted in "On Target" (pages 103 to 107).

On returning to Palestine, Bert was transferred to 2/4th Aust. Light Anti-aircraft Regiment, with the rank of Major, commanding 12 Battery, later becoming second-in-command of the Regiment. He took part in the campaign at El Alamein. That Regiment's history tells an interesting story of their exploits. There were many casualties and Bert was one of those wounded.

On Bert's arrival back in Australia, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel to command 112th Light Anti-aircraft Regiment which was attached to 3rd Armoured Division which had been intended for the Middle East. Later he went with a Composite Regiment to Darwin, then to Borneo, where he landed by Landing-craft as an observer.

On discharge from the AIF he opened a small electrical store in Smith Street, Fitzroy, which subsequently led to a chain of stores. These were later taken over by a large consortium as his son had no interest in taking over the business. At the age of fifty he accepted a short term of employment with Amalgamated Wireless and was instrumental in introducing TV into Queensland. After retirement he lived for twenty-five years at Anglesea where his wife died six years ago. Bert had many interests in Anglesea including bowls, golf and the RSL, of which he became president of the sub-branch. He was a J.P. for 42 years and is still a member of Legacy which he has served for 45 years. He now resides in a unit at Parkville. Despite the numerous changes during his military career, Bert never forgot that he was first and foremost a member of 2/3rd Light Anti-aircraft Regiment. We give him a hearty welcome as President.

"On Target" for your local library.

• It has been suggested that some members may wish to endow a copy of our history, "On Target", to their local library. The Association is prepared to provide a copy for any member wishing to do this for the concessional price of \$20, reduced from \$29. (This is good value as postage costs \$5 or more). There are not many copies of "On Target" remaining, so write soon to the Secretary, indicating if the book is required for a Library.

Annual Subscription.

• In June 1993, your Committee decided that there was more than adequate interest in maintaining this Newsletter, "Take Post", and so enable us to pass on news of our mates and perhaps of their partners, to record further stories of our lives in the Regiment and to keep us informed of matters of interest.

As the cost of the Newsletter and postage is increasing, it has been decided to ask for an annual subscription of \$5 from members of the Regiment who will not be attending the Reunion (and so not paying on entry).

A \$5 note or cheque sent promptly to the Hon. Secretary, Cec Rae, Tal Tal, Shoreham, Vic. 3916, will be appreciated.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

It is with sincere regret that we report the passing of former comrades.

Leo SLATTERY	8 Bty
Roy WILLIAMS	8 Bty
Lee COUTTS	7 Bty
Alan COOK	8 Bty
Leo DAVEY	8 Bty
Syd HAMBLING	RHQ
Arthur HAMPSON	9 Bty
Charlie V. SMITH	8 Bty
K. McCAUGHAN	8 Bty
Eric FORRESTER	

BENDIGO ARTILLERY & MILITARIA MUSEUM

The Museum has displays of artillery, vehicles, uniforms, equipment and memorabilia from the 1850's to the present day. The Light A.A. display is based on the 2/3rd Light Anti-aircraft Regiment, using reproductions of a large number of photographs which gunners have made available. There are items of equipment and uniforms around the 40mm Bofors gun.

Admission is free to former members of the Regiment. Phone (054) 35 3652. Address: RSD T5 Newbridge Road, Woodstock on Loddon, near Bendigo, 3539.

The Museum is set in the rolling farmlands on the western outskirts of Bendigo, adjacent to the Wallaby Reef goldfields of the 1860's. Visitors are welcome to use the picnic facilities at the Museum and then take a short walk to discover the gold diggings.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A year older and a few less members! It's sad to read of the passing of our mates, but time marches on and we're all getting older, so this is inevitable. Vale!

I would like on behalf of members of the Association to mention the sterling effort of our late President, Jim Paton, who served on our Committee since 1949 and was President for 25 years, and to pass on to his family our deepest sympathy. Jim was an original member of 9 Battery. He remained with the Battery throughout the war including the period when 9 Battery joined 6 Heavy A.A. Battery as part of the 2/3rd Composite A.A. Regiment.

We have a new Life Member, Clive Rose, who has worked for the Association since its inception as Committeeman, with terms as Vice-President and President, and who welcomes members at the door for every re-union. Clive, you have earned the honor.

Until I became President, I was not aware of the amount of behind the scene work our Hon. Secretary puts in to our Association - thanks Cec Rae.

We have only to read "*Take Post*" to assess the efforts put in by Ron Bryant, Editor of the newsletter.

I am pleased to have this opportunity of thanking members of the 2/12th Field Regiment Association and in particular Max Parsons, Editor of the Regiment's history "*Gunfire*" and of their Association's Newsletter *Take Post*, for their assistance. When the printer of our Newsletter folded up his business just prior to our publication date in 1993, Max Parsons and his wife Linda set up our Newsletter entirely with their own personal computer. We then commissioned their printer to re-produce it. Some explanation of both newsletters being titled "*Take Post*" is necessary. The 2/12th Association has been turning out its Newsletter *Take Post* since 1942. Blissfully unaware of this, we published our first Newsletter in its current format also entitled "*Take Post*" in 1988. We have continued to use this apt title for a gunner's newsletter as the 2/12th kindly made no objection. We hope to be able to continue using the title unless we can determine another appropriate name for our own newsletter. We should also mention that the men of 2/12th Field Regiment were comrades-in-arms with our men of the 8th Battery during the Siege of Tobruk and of the 9th Battery in Borneo. Their Regiment's history - "*Gunfire*" is a splendid story of service and gallant actions in many areas of World War 2.

We acknowledge the assistance given by Ron Berry of Beaumaris in keeping up-to-date our computerised mailing list and providing the addresses for despatching "*Take Post*".

To the members of 7 Battery and indeed the Association, I should mention that I represented them on Crete day at a memorial service at the Greek Orthodox Church followed by the service at the Shrine.

Mel Webster (7) who met me at the Shrine went on to the Cretan Club to represent us at the Commemoration dinner.

It seems hard to believe that 14th July 1993 marked 50 years since the disbandment of 2/3rd Australian Light Anti-aircraft Regiment as such. Most remaining members went on to serve in other anti-aircraft units or in other spheres. After half a century, it is good to have so many of us keeping in touch by means of the Re-union and our newsletter.

It is pleasing to report that from the proceeds of sales of our history "*On Target*" since 1987, donations of \$1,150 each have been made to Legacy and to RSL Welfare, a total of \$2,300. The remaining surplus helps to finance our Association's activities.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all members of the Association for the honor bestowed on me as Patron and President. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Re-union and trust that we will have many marchers behind our banner on Anzac Day.

Bert Baglin

CHURCH SERVICE

The Anzac Church Service will be held at St. Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne, on Sunday 17th April 1994, commencing at 1100 hours.

ORDER OF THE ANZAC MARCH

Take note that 1 Aust. Corps will assemble in Flinders Street on the east side of Swanston Street. The estimated time of moving off for 2/3rd Regiment is 9.45am.

ENTOMBMENT OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

The ceremony for interment of the remains of the Unknown Soldier of World War I at the War Memorial, Canberra was a great occasion. Those who attended, watched on TV, or later saw videos could not help but be moved by the solemnity and dignity of the parade. The various Service men and women performed magnificently. The Prime Minister's address was thoughtful and appropriate. All the organizers from original concept to the ultimate interment are to be congratulated on the project which will provide a continuous focus on the sacrifices made in wars.

John (Bennie) Anderson (7 Battery), accompanied by his wife, acted as representative of our Regiment. Bennie joined with representatives from 2/4th, 112th and 116th Light Anti-aircraft Regiments and, proudly bearing the Australian flag, led the Anti-aircraft group in the parade.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA TROOP REPORT

The WA Branch has disbanded its formal organization due to declining membership, sadly through disabilities and the grim reaper. However the remaining members intend to meet socially from time to time. They did that before Christmas with members and their ladies having their annual trip by boat down the Swan River to Fremantle and return.

While in Victoria recently, Gordon Connor visited Cec Rae's home at Shoreham with Ron Bryant, Les Harris and wives for a happy day. Gordon returned to WA by bus - a long haul - and it took him a while to get back to full duties again. Gordon and Gwen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December. 50 years! We're quite sure Gwen deserved the gold watch! Cliff Scott hasn't been well.

George Howat has had problems too, including having to get a couple of pins in his ankle to fuse the bone; but now gets around well. George came to Victoria in May to attend his mother's funeral. His mother, Flora Courtney, widowed twice, was a wonderful lady. She served 47 years with the Country Womens Association, 75 years with the Red Cross, received a Long Service award for work with the Healesville branch of the Eye and Ear Hospital and worked for numerous other organizations and clubs. Apart from many other awards, she was bestowed with the Medal of the British Empire (MBE) by Her Majesty the Queen, for her service to the community. Mrs. Courtney died at the great age of 97 years.

Clive Greenhill had a bad accident in Bunbury, his car being hit head-on by an 18-year-old driving an old "bomb". Clive suffered a broken sternum and his new Pajero was wrecked. On last report, he was recovering well but had to take things carefully. Our condolences go to Jim Moyes who lost his wife Elsie who passed away after a long illness.

REMEMBERING "BLUEY" TRUSCOTT

Members of the 9th Battery at Milne Bay, and 8th Bty at Onslow and Exmouth Gulf (*POTSHOT*), will be interested in the thanksgiving ceremony held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on 1st April, 1993. This marked the fiftieth anniversary of "Bluey's" burial at Karrakatta cemetery (WA) following his tragic death at Exmouth Gulf (ref *On Target*, p 215). At that time, he had commanded 76 RAAF Kittyhawk Squadron stationed at Onslow, where a Troop of 8 Bty guns provided airfield defence.

The Rev. Gordon Powell (76 Sqdn wartime Padre) was among the official party which included wartime mates, representatives of the services, as well as sporting and schooldays friends.

Tony Charlton and others spoke of "Bluey's" life as a student, a sportsman and a fighter pilot. The RAAF band and circling aircraft added appropriate support.

Les Harris attended and spoke to Roy Goon, Squadron Leader of 83 Sqdn., who is mentioned on p 216 *On Target* relating to an incident when Roy delivered an urgently needed generator for one of our trucks. But for his skill in landing his then unidentified Boomerang aircraft with only minor damage, the good deed could have ended in tragedy. During the brief meeting, Les was able to reassure Sqdn Ldr Roy Goon that the reference to the incident was in no way a reflection upon his professional skill as a pilot (as he had apparently initially felt), but, in fact, the story expressed the admiration felt, by all the gunners who witnessed the incident, for the consummate skill demonstrated in safely landing the aircraft. It was learned during the conversation that Roy had been involved in "Bluey's" initial training when he was already demonstrating those qualities that later had won him his reputation as a fighter pilot. (*Les Harris has a copy of the tape and video of the ceremony.*)

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG

The inset flag incorporates the three Crosses of St. Andrew, St. George and St. Patrick, symbolising the spiritual attributes of loyalty, chivalry and devotion. This is the most illustrious of all flags, but, more directly relevant to us, the Union Jack is the flag under which each of the six colonies on the Australian continent had been founded.

It affirms our Christian and British origins, culture and institutions, - the Crown, Parliament, Common Law, Religion, Language and Literature - which are the enduring foundations of the liberty we enjoy.

It reminds us too, that it was the people of the British Isles who ventured as far as this remote, unknown continent, not just to look for trade and riches and return home, but to settle, explore, pioneer and civilise this harsh primitive land and to found in spirit, defend and prosper a virile new nation. Above all, they gave us the highest form of democracy devised by mankind: Sovereign with Parliament.

The exploits and fortitude of these British men and the courage and devotion of their womenfolk, are a source of inspiration to all generations of Australians. Their proud descendants later were to open their gates and hearts to millions from less-happy lands coming here to share in our freedom and good fortune.

Thanks to Legatee D Liddell

We trained hard - but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams we would be re-organized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by re-organizing and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation.

Petronius Arbiter, A.D.66

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE GERMAN ATTACK ON HERAKLION, CRETE on 20th May 1941

Our history, "On Target", pages 71 to 74, recorded the attack on Heraklion airfield. The following report of the same attack was recorded in the history of the 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion.

Heraklion was defended by three British regular battalions — the Australian 2/4th Battalion and three raw Greek battalions. At 4pm on 20th May, 40 to 50 German bombers and fighters made a sustained onslaught on its defences. However few men were hit and not one man in 2/4 Bn. At 5pm, German air transports began arriving and soon, parachutists and arms were cascading from the sky. Ground fire, including that from Australian Bofors guns, brought down at least fifteen aircraft. A 2/4th Battalion report described the carnage caused by the Bofors: —

□ The first plane was hit squarely on the nose and bursting into flames, crashed on the shore. The next plane also caught fire and crashed in front of us before any paratroops had succeeded in jumping. The third was hit and caught fire but blew up. The men jumped, blazing fiercely, but not one parachute opened...I saw puffs of smoke as each parachute burned and the poor devils hurtled to their deaths. The fifth plane had its tail shot off and landed just to our left; the troops jumped at about fifty feet and all were killed... the rest of the planes were brought down on our right, so not one escaped...

The German attack at Heraklion failed. The enemy had underestimated the strength of the defending force and overestimated the effectiveness of their aerial bombardment. Except for small pockets the paratroopers who had landed within the defended areas were dealt with before they could organise and collect their equipment. The 2/4th Battalion killed some 90 enemy for the loss of 3 Australians killed and a number of wounded. Over 1000 German corpses were collected later.

Both sides at Heraklion received reinforcements. But by the night of 26-27 May, the commander informed General Freyberg that his ammunition was running short, that the enemy was strongly established astride the road south and that the aerodrome and his positions were commanded by enemy troops on higher ground. Later on the twenty-seventh, however, Freyberg told the commander that Crete was to be evacuated. Silently the defenders of Heraklion abandoned their posts on the night of 28 May and filed aboard cruisers and destroyers sent from Alexandria.

Embarkation went without a hitch but at 6am next day when the ships were at sea, 100 German dive bombers appeared and proceeded to carry out not less than 400 individual attacks. The destroyer *Hereward* was disabled and sunk and hundreds of the evacuees on the warships were killed. An estimated 48 Australians of the 2/4th and 2/3rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment were among those killed.

REMEMBER GENERAL ERWIN ROMMEL? (Commander of the Africa Corps)

Bert Spring and Ray Widdows of 2/12th Field Regiment visited El Alamein and Blackpool for commemorations of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein. They met Manfred Rommel, Lord Mayor of Stuttgart, and obtained a copy of the following article in which the Field Marshal's son tells of his father's last hours.

□ My father died on October 14, 1944, in Herrlingen near Ulm. We lived in a house there which we had rented from the town of Ulm. It was to this house that my father had himself transported after being seriously wounded in Normandy on July 17, 1944.

At the time, I was 15 years old and, as a Luftwaffe auxiliary, I was serving in a home-defence ack-ack battery at Ulm. On the morning of October 14, I went home for short period of leave. When I arrived, my father told me that two generals from the Army Department for Personnel had said that they would be calling at lunch-time in order to discuss his next posting with him. He thought it was possible he would be arrested that very day. The Gestapo had been keeping a 24-hour watch on our house for weeks.

About midday, both generals arrived. They asked to speak alone with my father. My mother and I withdrew to the first floor of the house.

After some time my father came upstairs. First, he went to my mother's room and then he came into mine. He said that both generals had, in Hitler's name, accused him of treason. They had brought poison with them. Hitler was inviting him to kill himself with this poison. If he accepted this invitation, his family would not be subjected to the usual measures taken against a family for crimes committed by one of its members.

(He said) he had decided to take the way out which had been offered to him. It was the most reasonable solution. He had no chance of receiving a trial. Hitler would not have him sentenced in public, since he was afraid of the high esteem in which he (Rommel) was held by the population. We would receive a telephone call in twenty minutes telling us that he had died of a stroke. They wanted to give him a state funeral: he had asked for it in Ulm and not in Berlin. It was easier. Then he gave me his keys and few personal things he had with him. He was very calm. Together with his *aide de camp*, Herr Aldinger, and me, he left the house where both generals had been expecting him. We accompanied him through the garden as far as the generals' car which was waiting on the road.

Twenty minutes after the car had left, we received a telephone call telling us that my father had died of a stroke. He had been taken to a military hospital in Ulm and was dead on arrival.

ORIGIN OF THE "LAST POST"

On April 25, **Anzac Day**, people all over Australia will listen once again to the familiar strains of the "**Last Post**". There is possibly no finer Service call.

"The "**Last Post**" was first used in the 17th century as part of a drum-beating ceremony for the posting of the guard - but its present form derives more directly from the 18th century, when the bugle was adopted more universally. Previously, most calls were played with fife and drum.

It was first notated in 1798 as the "**Second Post**."

"**Setting the Watch**" was a bugle call which began the tattoo period, calling troops home to barracks.

The "**Second Post**" ended the tattoo period, and at its last notes all troops were to be in bed.

That call is now known as the "**Last Post**", and is played on solemn ceremonial occasions.

Originally, the "**Last Post**" ended the labours and pleasures of the day. By a natural and poetical association of ideas, it became customary to sound the same call at military funerals, signifying an end to life's labours and pleasures.

When the call is heard in sad funeral rites, with its final cadence whispering "lights out — lights out", its solemn and majestic grandeur cannot be mistaken.

Not only British troops, but other nations, hold it in respect. Since the end of World War I, Belgian buglers have nightly sounded the British "**Last Post**" in the great cemetery of British soldiers at Menin Gate, near Ypres.

DEAR WIVES AND FAMILIES

HINTS ON TALKING TO OLD GUNNERS

These hints will help you when speaking with a person who can't hear properly. Always get the person's attention so that he will hear the whole message.

- **Get the person's attention.**
 - * DON'T turn away
 - * DON'T cover your lips
 - * DON'T eat or smoke
 - * DON'T walk around the room. Facing the person helps him to lipread.
- **Speak naturally.**
 - * DON'T exaggerate your lip movements
 - * DON'T speak too slowly or quickly
 - * DON'T shout and DON'T mumble

These things distort the sound and make it harder to lipread
- **Use simple language.**
 - * REPHRASE your message if it is not understood

Eh? Pardon? More hints :—

- **Avoid background noise.**
 - * TURN down the radio
 - * MOVE away from any loud noise
- **Give Clues.**
 - * USE your hands
 - * USE facial expressions

Gestures help make the meaning clearer.

Note this in your diary!

ANZAC REUNION AND MEETING AT AIR FORCE CONVENTION CENTRE, 4 CROMWELL ROAD, SOUTH YARRA.

The Anzac Reunion will be held on Saturday, April 23, from 11.45 am to 4.30 pm., subscription is \$25, lunch and drinks included.

The Annual General Meeting will be held just prior to the Anzac Reunion, at 11.30 am.

THE SOCIETY

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of Western Australia (Inc.) was formed in 1988 with the aim of "providing a self perpetuating organisation for the development and maintenance of artillery heritage within Western Australia."

The Society has representation from the following organisations:

- Heavy Anti-Aircraft Association (WA).
- 116th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Association.
- 2/3rd Aust. Light Anti-Aircraft Association (WA).
- 2/3rd Australian Field Regiment Association.
- 2/7th Australian Field Regiment Association (WA).
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (WA).
- 7th Field Battery, 3rd Field Regiment R.A.A.

Membership in the Society is open to anyone supporting its aims. The main effort of the Society at present is the restoration and interpretation of the Leighton Battery at Buckland Hill.

For further information on the Society please contact:

The Honorary Secretary,
Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society, WA,
PO Box 335, LEEDERVILLE WA 6903
Tel: 324 1696

THE RETREAT OF STOKES' TRAVELLING CIRCUS (8th Battery)

I suppose you've heard of S.T.C.
The battery with the fame
Of bringing down with Breda Guns
Two score of German planes.

We were stationed at Benghasi
When the word was passed around
That Fritz had broken through our
lines

And was advancing on the town.

The Major was in a panic
Or maybe just a trance
Sent our guns out to the crossroads
To stop the Fritz advance.

The dawn broke very slowly
Our orders came at last
Go out with the infantry
And guard Regima Pass.

The day was uneventful
The night was much the same
We never saw a Jerry tank
And never saw a plane.

The next dawn found us on the move
This campaign is a farce
Two days without an action
Found us back at Barce.

*This ode was written
by Terry Hearn
after four months of
the Siege of Tobruk.*

The S.T.C. had just settled down
When things began to happen
A Messerschmitt with throttle wide
Saw our boys and started strafing.

Our guns went into action
And the sky was full of lead
I think he may have got away
If he had not lost his head.

We watched the plane with bated
breath

Our hearts were standing still
We saw the smoke belch from his tail
as

He crashed into the Hill.

Once again we had to move
With enemy on our flanks
And Edward troop was in the soup
Engaging enemy tanks.

All night we had to travel
I won't forget that ride
For seventeen hours we raced along
To save our bloody hide.

We never stopped at Derna
At Gazala for a while
The retreat was being carried out
In Dinkum British Style.

At last the race was over
Tobruk was now in sight
We knew this would be the place
To stand and make a fight.

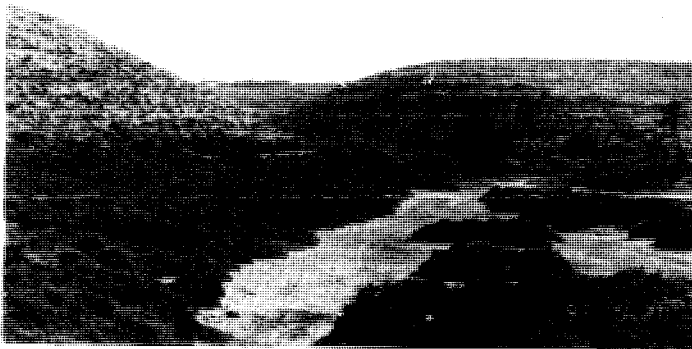
Well we've held here for four months
It's been a little hell

But I know that old proverb
There's some worse off than self.

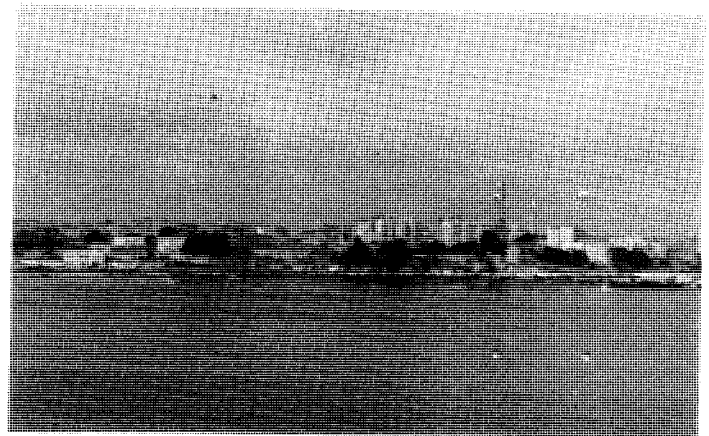
You can talk about your Dunkirks
Narviks, Greece and Crete
We've played our part and played it
well

Here in the Middle East.

The British flag still flies high
From the Libyan town we took
No need for me to name the place
You should know TOBRUK.



Wadi Auda - 8th Battery's first bivouac near Tobruk.



Tobruk township — looking across the harbour.

(Photos by Lin Davis on his journey back in October 1992)

WHEN IN CANBERRA

Gunners who visit the War Memorial in Canberra will be interested to see a very large photograph of a 9 Battery Bofors gun and crew taken on the Gurney airstrip at Milne Bay. The photograph is prominently displayed in the room with several war planes and is of the same gun and crew as featured in the postage stamp series "Australians under Fire" which was issued in 1992.

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE APPEAL

Most members will know of the important appeal for funds to repair severe damage caused by dampness to the foundations of the Shrine of Remembrance. Our Association will be making a donation. If you wish to add to the Association's donation, you may leave a cheque or cash with our Treasurer, John Hepworth, at the Re-Union.

THE SENTRY'S LOG

Mac McGillivray who celebrated 50 years of marriage recently was in touch with Phil Roberts (8) who was best man at the wedding. Phil is still a Canon at Salisbury Cathedral. We hope he can return to Australia, preferably at reunion time, so that he can meet up with old friends.

Jim Dennis (8) of Benalla is always busy enough as sub-branch Secretary of the Rats of Tobruk Association and as a member of Legacy. He occasionally sees W J Clifford living the quiet life in Echuca. Jim Bourke of Katamatite who visits his daughter in WA and Hughie Hill of Numurkah. Hugh was honored with a life membership of the 9 Aust. Div Association (SWR & NE Region) for three decades of work. Noel Moulton, a retired butcher is a bit restricted in life style through health problems but has been visited by old mates. Plonk Stephens and Chook Russell who stir him up. Mick Wade retired to Benalla and settled down to bowls and the quiet life, but was washed out of his home in the October floods. Fred Toy lost his wife suddenly and sadly. He is now living at Soldiers' Point, NSW with his family.

Ralph Hawkey (8) of Nathalia sent in a newscutting, being an obituary on Leo Slattery (8) who died on Anzac Eve 1993, aged 91 years. Leo had been Managing Clerk of the firm of Morrison & Sawers, the 113 year old legal firm at Kyabram. He handled a multitude of voluntary community interests in executive capacities, so will be missed. Ralph would like to hear about Jack Milligan. Where is he? Ralph has a brand new knee which now gives him two straight legs. He says to tell Lin Davis how much he enjoyed the tin of Ardmona pears given to him while resting with his g.s.wound at Tobruk hospital.

George Roberts (8) still lives at Gerang Gerung. Having first got that name right who could ever forget it? George no longer actively farms, but has a house on

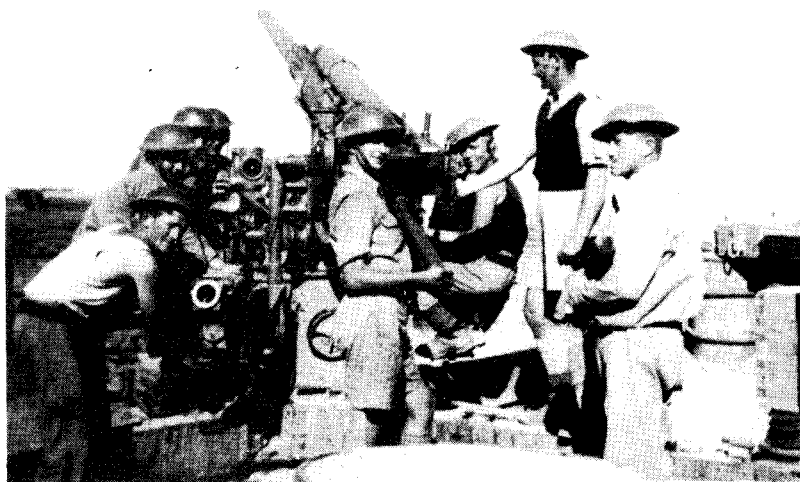
the property and puts himself on light duties. Dave Humphreys (7) says that Bob Marmion's Artillery Museum mentioned elsewhere has been set up, so when passing through Bendigo, look for it.

Tom Baker-Williams (7) is still lively — he was Chairman of the Echuca Group of Bendigo Legacy in 1993. Les Harris (7) now into his eighties, is as alert as ever. Obviously his wife Win and daughter Dot look after him. Les will still handle Youth Education matters for Melbourne Legacy this year, in addition to his normal contact work. Congratulations to John Bright (8) who is still at Baxter Retirement Village. John was a widower, but has married May, a long time friend from teen-age days.

Cec (Blue) Palmer met Mac McGillivray recently and they fired a few shots at Stukas again. At a recent function, John Campbell happened to be sitting next to Harold Earle and his wife. John and Harold were both surprised to learn that each other had been a member of 2/3rd Regiment. We hope to see Blue Palmer and Harold at the Re-union.

Miss Beryl Williams, sister of the well known and respected BSM of 8 Battery, Roy Williams, appreciated the attendance of many men of the Regiment at Roy's funeral service, particularly Les Stephens and Clarrie Cuttriss who were both members of Roy's gun-crew at one time or another. Roy in his very individual job of BSM was neither one of the Sergeants nor of the Commissioned Officers but never had any hesitation in bringing to order those of lesser or higher rank than himself. Les Stephens still lives near the tall timber in Healesville and Clarrie is still at Surrey Hills. Both look fit and well as ever.

Dick Hawting (8) has been ill again with more heart trouble. We trust he is on the mend. Les Shields (8) looks too urbane to cope with the problems and vicissitudes of being a farmer, but that is what he does successfully — farming in South Gippsland, near Foster.



As we were — Mac McGillivray and crew on their captured Italian A.A. gun at Benghazi, March 1941.



And as it is now — RBS 70 used for low local air defence with missiles, at about \$90,000 a throw.