



The Exercising of
The Freedom of Entry
to the

CITY OF RINGWOOD

by

**The Seventh Field Engineer Regiment,
Royal Australian Engineers**

Saturday, 14th July, 1990



ORDER OF THE CEREMONY

- The Regiment forms up in Pitt Street, then prepares to march through the City to exercise the Freedom of Entry to the City.
- In Maroondah Highway, Superintendent A. K. Frowd, representing the City Marshal, will challenge the Regiment.
- The Challenge—

SUPERINTENDENT FROWD:

“Halt! Who Comes Here?”

LT. COL. R. M. LIGHTFOOT:

“The Seventh Field Engineer Regiment, Royal Australian Engineers, exercising its rights and privileges to pass through the City in column with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and bands playing.”

SUPERINTENDENT FROWD:

“I acknowledge your right and privilege; Pass 7th Seventh Field Engineer Regiment, with the Mayor and Council’s Authority.

- The Regiment continues to march through the City of Ringwood.
- At the Clocktower the Regiment will salute Her Worship the Mayor.
- The Regiment continues to march through the City to the Parade Ground.
- Dignitaries and Official Guests arrive and are seated in the Official Enclosure.
- The Regiment will form up in Squadrons and Troops on the Inspection Line.
- The Commanding Officer, Lt Col R M Lightfoot is received on parade.
- The following dignitaries will then be received by the Parade:

Colonel R A Slater, RFD	Commander 6 Engineer Group
M. GEN W E Glenny, RFD	Commander 3rd Division
Councillor L Rosewarne, JP	Her Worship the Mayor City of Ringwood
- The Commanding Officer invites the Mayor to inspect the Parade and the band.
- The Mayor addresses the Parade.
- The Regiment advances in review order and salutes the Citizens of Ringwood.
- The Mayor departs.
- The Distinguished Guests depart for the Ringwood Civic Centre.

HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Councillor L Rosewarne, JP

NORTH WARD

Councillor A Fraser

Councillor B Milton

Councillor N MacDonald

SOUTH WARD

Councillor L Dineen

Councillor M Nardella

Councillor M Williams

EAST WARD

Councillor F Corr

Councillor L Rosewarne

Councillor M Cheevers



The Seventh Field Engineer Regiment
Royal Australian Engineers

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel R M Lightfoot

SECOND-IN-COMMAND

Major B Henderson

ADJUTANT

Captain L Sheppard

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

Warrant Officer Class 1 P Palazzi

OFFICERS COMMANDING

10Fd Sqn — Captain M Thomson

38Fd Sqn — Captain J Hunt

Freedom of Entry Ceremony

The Freedom of a Municipality, conferring the right, title, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of a Municipality on all ceremonial occasions with bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying is one of the most interesting of the military 'mysteries' of the past.

The only cities which can claim to have had any rights with regard to the passage of troops are the Cities of Edinburgh and London. Edinburgh's claim arose in connection with the civic military force it once possessed, the Town Guard. "No other drum but theirs (The Town Guard's) was allowed to sound on the High Street between Luckenbooth's and Netherbrow." The Town Guard had long since disappeared and the City of Edinburgh now waives its claim to any special privileges. The City of London on the other hand has always been jealous of the rights it claims.

Though the City of London lost its direct authority over its military forces in 1661, when control of the London Trained Bands was transferred to the newly formed Court of Lieutenancy, the practice grew up shortly after, of notifying the Lord Mayor when parties from regiments went into the City to "raise recruits by beat of the drum." From this modest beginning developed, with the passage of years, the suggestion that the City of London had the right to decide which regiments could pass through its streets "with bayonets fixed, colours flying and bands playing." Discussions between the Secretary at War and the Lord Mayor in 1769 show that the City's privileges in the matter at that date did not go beyond the right to receive, as a matter of courtesy, notification when troops were to pass through. The position today remains little changed from that in 1769.

It is claimed by some historians that the Freedom of Entry ritual originated in the medieval struggle for power between the British Barons and the rapidly growing City and Borough Corporations.

In those days it became customary for any body of armed men seeking admittance to a City to be challenged at the City Gate by the City Marshal. To ensure their peaceable intentions, they were allowed to enter only with arms sheathed, colours cased and drums silent.

With the passage of years this situation came to the state where if a City wished to honour a group or a body of soldiery they would permit their entry to the City with swords drawn, drums beating and colours flying signifying the mutual trust of the City and regiment. With this right also went permission to "beat for recruits" through the City streets.

Colours

Colours are not paraded by units of the Royal Australian Engineers. In common with the Royal Engineers of the British Army and other Commonwealth nations, colours are not presented to Engineer units in recognition of the prohibitive number of battle honours which would be required to be affixed to the colour.

The Royal Australian Engineers therefore bear the battle honour "UBIQUE" (the latin for EVERYWHERE). This reflects the involvement of Engineers in the greater number of significant battles, and the diverse nature of the Corps and the science of military engineering.

A Brief History of the Unit

The history of 7th Field Engineer Regiment (FER) in the modern era began in 1948 with the raising of 3 FER and 10 Independent Field Squadron at East Melbourne. A troop of 10 Independent Field Squadron was established at Ringwood in that year. In 1956 10 Indep Fd Sqn moved in its entirety into the new Ringwood East depot.

In 1964, 3 FER moved to Ringwood East as part of a reorganisation of the Army, and combined with 10 Indep Fd Sqn to form RAE Third Division. In March 1965, RAE 3 Div was granted the Freedom of the City of Ringwood.

38 Fd Sqn was intergrated into the unit in 1974. The following year saw RAE 3 Div redesignated as 16 FER. In 1976, the present regimental title of 7 FER was adopted. Freedom of Entry to the City of Ringwood was bestowed upon 7 FER in 1981.

In 1984, the Latrobe Valley based sub unit, 38 Fd Sqn moved from Yallourn into the present Newborough depot. The following year, 7 FER was granted the Freedom of the City of Moe. In 1988, the Freedom of the City of Croydon was bestowed upon the regiment.

Today, 7 FER maintains the tradition of a military presence in the Ringwood area, and is well accepted as part of the community.