

Background

1. The Victorian Mounted Rifles was raised by Colonel Tom Price in 1885. The current unit is the descendant of:
  - a. 8th Light Horse (Indi Light Horse).
  - b. 13th Light Horse (Gippsland Light Horse).
  - c. 20th Light Horse (Victorian Mounted Rifles).
2. Current key appointments are:
  - a. Honorary Colonel - Colonel J.A. Neale E.D. R.L.
  - b. Officer Commanding - Major Jonathan (Josh) Gay.
  - c. Training Officer - Captain Thomas (Tom) Douch.
  - d. Second in Command - Captain Robert (Rob) Morrison.
  - e. Squadron Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class Two Terry Paech.

Unit Strength

3. As at 6 Mar 87 depot strengths were:
  - a. Albury - 106 (20 non effective).
  - b. Wangaratta - 39 (8 non effective).
  - c. Benalla - 14 (1 non effective), and
  - d. Cobram - 27 (9 non effective).
4. Total unit strength is 186 (38 non effective).

### Depots

5. Four depots are currently used by the squadron. The depots are:
- a. Buna Barracks, Albury (Squadron Headquarters, 1 Troop, Administrative Troop, Technical Support Troop).
  - b. Beersheba Barracks, Wangaratta (3 Troop).
  - c. Rumani Barracks, Benalla (Assault Troop).
  - d. Salamaua Barracks, Cobram (2 Troop).

### Overview

6. The following points should be noted:
- a. The Department of Forests, Conservation and Land has reaffirmed the squadrons use of the Cobram CTA until at the end of 1988. Allowable use includes the use of A vehicles. Usage is limited to a maximum of 6 times per year.
  - b. A Commonwealth Employment Programme (C.E.P.) grant of \$25,296 has been obtained to re establish the unit museum at Buna Barracks.
  - c. Concern exists within the unit about usage of Beersheba Barracks by visiting units. It is considered that the usage of the depots and the requirements of visiting units are becoming excessive for the squadron.

### Conclusion

7. A Sqn 8/13 VMR is currently operating effectively at its four depots and has a sound manning profile.



T. DOUCH  
Captain  
Training Officer

9 Mar 1987