

The Captain J. D. Foster Shield for Driving

By

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MILITARY SHIELD FOR DRIVING COMPETITION.

The handsome trophy presented by Captain J. D. Foster to the 6th Brigade, A.F. Artillery, for a driving competition amongst the batteries, and which is exhibited in the window of Messrs. Sargison and Co., Elizabeth-street, Hobart, has attracted much attention. The trophy was executed by Mr. Sargison to the design of Brigadier-General Jess, State Commandant. The donor, Captain Foster, of Fairfield, Epping, has always shown a keen interest in the artillery. When the Great War started his offer of personal services abroad was declined on medical grounds, but this did not deter him from placing himself and his motor-car at the service of the forces in Australia for the period of the war without any compensation, and he did very useful service in the Brighton and Claremont camps in Tasmania, and for a long period, at the artillery camp at Maribyrnong, in Victoria.

The Mercury, Saturday 20 February 1926

J. D. Foster Shield for Driving
(Military Museum of Tasmania)

Captain J. D. Foster Shield for Driving

Captain John Dowbiggin Foster was a well-known pastoralist, and one of the biggest landowners in the state. He was born at Hobart in 1861, and was the second son of the late Mr. John Foster, of "Fosterville" and Hobart.

Captain Foster was educated in England at St. Andrew's College, Bradford, Reading, Berkshire, and Jesus College, Cambridge University. He returned to Tasmania in 1889, and followed pastoral pursuits on the North-West until he rented the well-known "Rosedale" property at Campbell Town. In 1892 he married Miss Elizabeth Leake, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Charles H. Leake, one of the oldest and most respected residents of the Midlands. They had 4 children. They were:

- Thelma Margaret Foster, b1895, married Rupert Chesterman
- Dorothy Foster, b1895 (never married)
- Robert John Leake Foster, b1900 married Margaret Lawrence
- Lister Dowbiggin Foster, b1904 married Margaret Nish

He was a very liberal supporter of all movements that were for the advancement of the district. He was one of the leading Merino sheep breeders of Tasmania, and for 30 years a member and prominent exhibitor at the Midlands society's shows. His estates in the Midlands comprise Rosedale, Windfall, and Fairfield. He was master of the Midlands Hunt Club for the last four years, and a life member. He was president and a liberal supporter of the Campbell Town Band, and also a generous supporter of the Campbell Town hospital, having donated £100 to assist in furnishing the nurses' home. In August 1926 he presented the secretary with a second-hand motor car to be sold in aid of the hospital funds. In 1924 he built and furnished a very handsome little church at Epping, and presented it to the Anglicans in that district. The church was named St. Andrew's, after St. Andrew's College, Bradfield, England, where he commenced his schooling.



Captain John Dowbiggin Foster, 1867 - 1926
(*Weekly Courier*, 2 Sept 1926, pp29, ph 2)



Australian Volunteer Automobile Corps hat badge

John Dowbiggin Foster was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Australian Volunteer Automobile Corps on 5th Dec 1910 (District Order 1/11). He passed School of Map Reading & Field Sketching at Launceston in May 1913, (District Order 18, 1913). On the disbandment of the Australian Volunteer Automobile Corps in 1915 he was transferred to the 23rd Company, Australian Army Service Corps (AASC). He was transferred to the AASC, 3rd Military District on 1st July 1917 and to Reserve of Officers as Substantive Captain on 16th Aug 1917 (District Order 9/198 paragraph 3). He was retired on 31st December 1922. (District Order 99/23).

Captain J. D. Foster Shield for Driving



Captain J. D. Foster's residence at "Fairfield", Epping, Tasmania

Captain John Dowbiggin Foster passed away on 25th Aug 1926 in Campbell Town, Tasmania, and was buried in the Anglican Cemetery.

The Designer: Hon Brigadier General Carl Herman Jess



Hon Brigadier General Carl Herman Jess,
Tasmanian State Commandant, 1 Jan 1925 –
23 Aug 1927 (*Military Museum of Tasmania*)



Carl Jess, (*Australian War Memorial, ART02982*)

Brigadier Jess designed the Captain J. D. Foster Shield for Driving in 1926. In the centre of the rectangular wooden shield is an oval centrepiece of silver depicting the gun team with the lead and centre drivers flanked by the No1, towing a QF 18 pounder gun. The shield also has ten silver artillery badges placed on the left and right sides. The badge is a copy of the Australian Field Artillery Hat Badge (Militia) 1903 – 1922, being a grenade with a field gun and the stars of the Southern Cross on the ball.

Captain J. D. Foster Shield for Driving



Other Ranks
Australian Field Artillery Hat Badge (Militia) 1903 – 1922
(Keith Glyde Collection)



Officers



“Bringing up the Guns” – 1917 *(Australian War Memorial ART03334)*

This painting by H Septimus Power depicts a 4.5 inch howitzer of 101st Howitzer Battery being hauled through the mud during the opening phase of the Third Battle of Ypres in Passchendaele, Belgium. It conveys the difficulties the Australian and British artillerymen faced during the opening phase of the Ypres offensive in July 1917. Was the Captain J. D. Foster Shield for Driving based on this drawing?

The manufacturer: Silversmith Harold F. Sargison

Harold F. Sargison was born in Hobart in 1885. From 1900 to 1905 he was apprenticed to Mr Joe Quarmby, a Hobart jeweller. In 1907 in partnership with a Mr G. Miller, he set up shop as a jeweller/silversmith in Murray Lane, Hobart. He was first in business in 1928 at 21 Elizabeth Street, Hobart, moving in 1966 to 125 Liverpool Street.

Harold Sargison often executed work to the designs of Alan Walker (1865-1931) architect and amateur silversmith of Hobart. In later years Harold Sargison took little part in the business which employs silversmiths to make work to his designs of the 1920s and 30s.

Harold Sargison died in Hobart on 22 December 1983. The firm continues today as Sargison's.

<http://www.printsandprintmaking.gov.au/catalogues/artist/5317/harold-sargison.aspx>

Captain J. D. Foster Shield for Driving



Miss Kathleen Sargison and her father Mr Harold F. Sargison (1885-1983)
(Mrs Kathleen Weetman, nee Sargison)



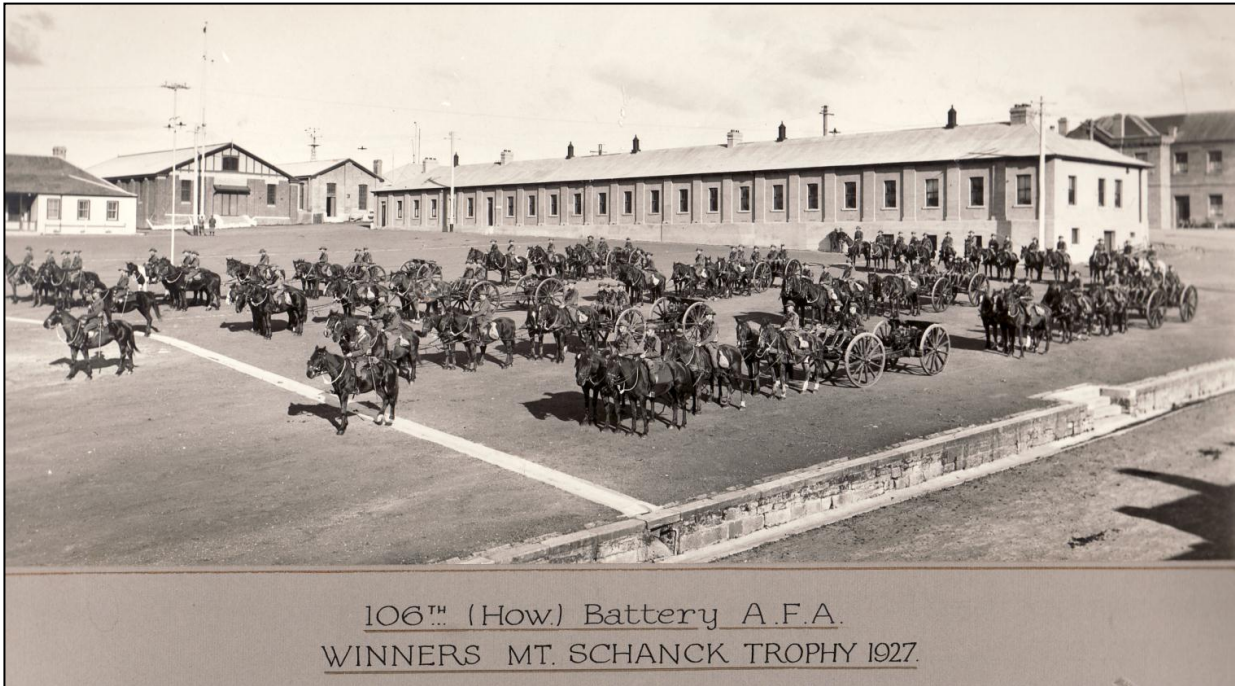
Sargison's Jewellers, 21 Elizabeth Street, Hobart, Tasmania
(Mrs Kathleen Weetman, nee Sargison)

Captain J. D. Foster Shield for Driving

Awarded to:

1927

The Captain J. D. Foster Shield was first presented in 1927 and was won by "B" sub-section, 106th Howitzer Battery (Hobart).



106th (How) Battery, AFA, winners of the Mount Schanck Trophy and the Captain J. D. Foster Shield in 1927, photographed on the lower parade ground at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart. (Phil Young Collection)

Successive winners, as recorded in Tasmanian newspapers are detailed below:

1928

CAPTAIN J. D. FOSTER SHIELD.

This shield, which was presented by the late Captain J. D. Foster, of Camp Bell Town, for artillery driving, was competed for at Mona Vale camp on Sunday last, and was won for the second year in succession by "B" sub-section, 106th Howitzer Battery (Hobart), with Sergeant Mitchell in charge, and Drivers Smith, McCreary, and Elliott. Mrs. J. D. Foster, who watched the competition, presented the shield to Sergeant Mitchell. The driving was of a high standard and competition very keen.

(The Mercury, Wednesday 21 March 1928, pp3)

1929

MILITARY NEWS - MONA VALE CAMP *The annual military camp will be held at Mona Vale as usual, commencing on Monday, March 18th, and continuing until the following Monday. The State Commandant, Col. Cox-Taylor, will be in charge of the camp. On Saturday, March 16th five officers and about 35 trainees will journey by road to the scene of the camp as an advance party, and the balance will travel down by train on the following Monday morning. The units to be represented are the 22nd Light Horse, 6th Battery A.F.A. (Including the 16th Battery), the 12th and 40th Battalions, Signallers, Engineers, Army Service Corps, and the Army Medical Corps. While the camp is in progress the 16th Battery will take part in the following competitions:-The Mount Schanck Trophy, Captain J. D. Foster Shield, and Launceston Artillery Old Comrades' Association Cup, for competition between sub-sections of the battery. On Sunday, March 24th a church parade will be conducted by the Bishop of Tasmania, Right Rev. Dr. R. Snowden Hay, and in the afternoon a gymkhana will be held. A special train leaves Launceston on the Sunday morning at 9 a.m. to enable those interested to be present at the church parade and at the sports in the afternoon. The special return fares are 7s 6p first and 5s second class and parties will be able to obtain hot water at the camp.*

(The Examiner, Friday 8 March 1929)

Captain J. D. Foster Shield for Driving

The old comrades congratulations are extended to the 16th Battery on its win this year in the driving competition for the J. D. Foster Shield. (The Examiner, Monday 10 June 1929, pp8)

1933

ARTILLERY PRIZES.

The awards of trophies and prizes in the 6th Field Brigade, A.F.A., for the year ended June 30th are announced. The Captain J. D. Foster Shield for competition within the 6th Field Brigade was won by "B" sub-section, 106th Howitzer Battery, at the annual camp of training at Richmond in February. The cup given by Major-General Sir John Gellibrand for the best shooting during the year was won by "A" sub-section, 106th Howitzer Battery. "D" sub-section of the 106th Howitzer Battery won the Buchanan Cup for the most efficient sub-section in the battery during the year.

(The Mercury, 12th July, 1933, pp13)

1934

MOUNT SCHANCK TROPHY

It is a matter for disappointment to the battery that the competition for the Mount Schanck trophy is not being held this year The 16th Battery was chosen to represent the brigade in Tasmania in this competition which is Australia-wide embracing all field artillery units The trophy was won on one occasion by a Tasmanian battery the 106th Field Battery at Hobart

The competitive spirit however entered into the training for the artillery yesterday afternoon when the contest this year for possession of the J D Foster shield was completed the 106th Field Battery competed for this shield when in camp a few weeks ago The conditions provide chiefly for skill and proficiency in driving and sub sections of each artillery unit in Tasmania are eligible to enter The judges were the District Commandant (Colonel J. L. Whitham) and Major H. G. Rourke Staff Corps. The successful sub section "D" of the 106th Field Battery comprised Sgt E. J. Morris, Drivers B. D. Hartington A. J. Mazengarb and L. R. Carlton.

(The Mercury, Thursday, 15 March 1934, pp11)

1939

FIELD BATTERIES IN CAMP

Radio Telephony Used

The 16th Battery, under the command of Captain J. H. Bain, carried out field manoeuvres at Mona Vale camp yesterday. The battery was turned out with Lt. A. S. Gee as battery leader and was given orders to support infantry troops holding a ridge being attacked by an imaginary enemy from the south. Radio telephony, the latest method of communication for a battery, allowing it to be brought into action rapidly, was used. After lunch an eliminating driving competition for the Colonel J. D. Foster Shield was held. As a result, C sub section, with Sergeant E. McKenzie as No. 1, and D sub-section, with Sergeant J. Brett as No. 1, will represent the 16th Battery in the final on Sunday. The 106th Field Battery spent the day in training on the camp parade ground. The drivers were instructed by Captain C. H. Rex in manoeuvre signals, erection of horse lines, feeding drill and stable elements. The runners had section gun drill under the two section commanders. Lt. B. H. Stabb and Lt. J. D. Bowtell. Later in the day they were instructed in laying and sight testing. Contain A. A. Salter. O C. 106th Field Battery, instructed the battery staff in man-reading, artillery, board, and practical plotting.

(The Examiner, Friday 17 March 1939, pp8)

Captain J. D. Foster shield for artillery driving: "B" sub-section. 106th Field Battery, 1; "C" sub-section. 16th Field Battery, 2; "D" sub-section, 106th Field Battery, 3.

(The Mercury, Monday 20 March 1939, pp10)

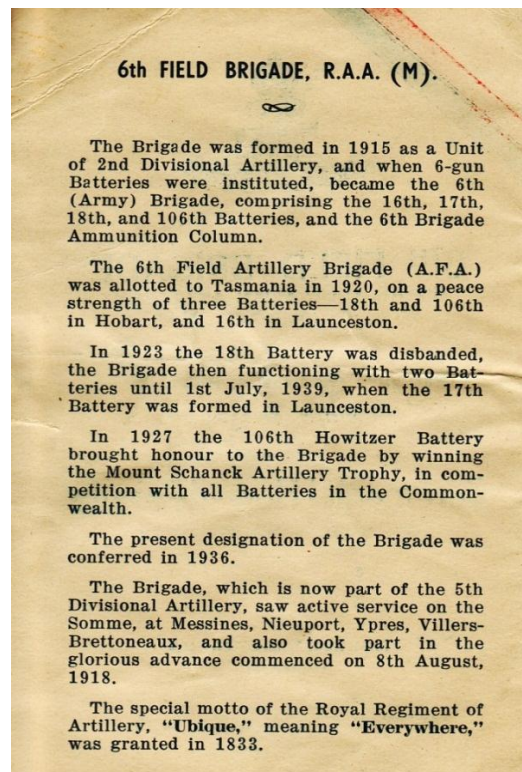
Driving Shield Won by 106th Battery

Captain J. D. Foster's shield for artillery driving was won by B sub-section 106th Battery and a tug-of-war by the 16th Battery. A cricket match was won by the 106th Battery by a wicket and two runs. (The Examiner, Monday 20 March 1939, pp6)

With the demise of horse drawn artillery in Tasmania, by the start of the Second World War, the Captain J. D. Foster Shield for Driving was no longer competed for. A Ceremonial Horsed Parade and driving competition between former AIF drivers and currently serving drivers was held at Anglesea Barracks on Sunday, 20th August, 1939.



6th Field Brigade, RAA, invitation card to attend a Ceremonial Horsed Parade held prior to mechanization on Sunday, 20th August, 1939. (Keith Glyde Collection)



6th Field Brigade, RAA, Souvenir Programme of a Ceremonial Horsed Parade held prior to mechanization on Sunday, 20th August, 1939. (Keith Glyde Collection)

Captain J. D. Foster Shield for Driving

FIELD BRIGADE ON PARADE Display At Anglesea Barracks

The 6th Field Brigade, Royal Australian Artillery (Militia) held a ceremonial horsed parade at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart, yesterday, when in conjunction with members of the A.I.F. Artillery League, it gave a display of driving. There was a large attendance of visitors, and it was unfortunate that rain marred the early part of the proceedings. The Royal Australian Artillery will be mechanised almost immediately and the display yesterday was probably the last horsed parade by the brigade before the changeover.

Heavy rain fell when the league, Headquarters 6th Field Brigade, and the 106th Field Battery (Militia), formed up for inspection by the District Commandant (Brigadier J. M. A. Durrant who was received by a general salute. Lieut.-Col. H. W. Strutt was officer commanding the brigade, and Lieut.-Col. J. W. Turner, president of the A.I.F. Artillery League, commanded the large muster of former artillery personnel.

Exhibitions of driving were given by four teams in charge of members of the league and four sub-sections from the 106th Field Battery, Hobart. The work of the ex-service men was surprisingly good. Several of the men had not been on a gun team since their return from active service, and their drill in the circumstances was excellent and deserved the applause it won.

It was a triumph for the A.I.F. when the team from the 17th Battery, Australian Field Artillery, carried off the honours in the driving competition, with a team from a mixed battery filling third place, it was a still greater tribute to the members of the A.I.F. League when it was stated that the work of Lead-driver A. Hortin was the best seen since the Great War.

Competition Result

The winning team was composed of Messrs. N. Jensen (No. 1), A. Hortin (lead), C. Harrison (centre), and J. Caulfield (wheel). Their drill was clean and smart, and they scored well in all sections of the drill. They scored 53 points. Then came 106th "D" sub-section 49 points, Mixed Battery (A.I.F.), 48 points: 106th "A" sub-section, 44 points; 106th "C" sub-section, 43 points; 9th Battery (A.I.F.), No. 1 team, 41 points; 9th Battery, No. 2 team, 39 points; 106th "B-" sub-section, 36 points.

Presentations of trophies to the winning team were made by Brigadier Durrant, who congratulated the men on their performance. The trophies were presented by Lieut.-Col. A. P. Crisp, Lieut.-Col. J. W. Turner, Lieut.-Col. A. N. Lewis, and Major W. E. Cox.

The drill of the sub-sections from the 6th Field Brigade was very good.

The men and horses were smartly turned out and created a favourable impression among the onlookers. The display culminated with an impressive mounted parade by the 106th Field Battery. Music was provided by the Returned Soldiers' Memorial Band, and afternoon tea was served in the drill hall. (*The Mercury*, Monday 21 August 1939, pp8)

Summary:

Winners of the CAPT J. D. Foster Shield for Driving

1927 "B" sub-section, 106th Howitzer Battery (Hobart)
1928 "B" sub-section, 106th Howitzer Battery (Hobart)
1929 16th Battery (Launceston)
1930 ?
1931 ?
1932 ?
1933 "B" sub-section, 106th Howitzer Battery (Hobart)
1934 "D" sub-section, 106th Howitzer Battery (Hobart)
1935 ?
1936 ?
1937 ?
1938 ?
1939 "B" sub-section, 106th Howitzer Battery (Hobart)

Captain J. D. Foster Shield for Driving

Conclusion:

The Captain J. D. Foster Shield is now located in the Military Museum of Tasmania at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart (Accession Number 5150). It was donated to the Museum on 13th June 1984 by Miss K. Sargison, Hobart. The museum records state "CAPT J. D. Foster Shield. Silverwork by the late Harold Sargison".

When comparing a photograph of the shield (located in the Queen Victoria Art Gallery, Launceston) and another photograph taken in Jan 2012, (see page 1) it can be seen that the colour patches and rectangular name plates (possible recording past winners) have been removed sometime prior to 1984.



Possibly *The Mercury* circa 14 June 1984

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-THE MERCURY, SATURDAY, 11-10-1975

Glitter of 90 is plain work



By Charles Phillips
A SINGLE pink carnation on his cluttered workbench was Harold Sargison's only sign of celebration.

An old friend brought it in for his 90th birthday.

Otherwise, it was business as usual for the master silversmith-jeweller, who still likes to put in a 12-hour day to keep pace with the demands for his work.

Mr Sargison rose yesterday at 5 am, to be at the workbench of his Liverpool St shop in Hobart by six.

By the time the shop opened, he had melted several silver ingots, and beaten them into spoons and cake trowels, using the time honored method of a gas flame, and a hollowed charred wooden block.

He had also found time to make a call to wind up clocks at Government

● Mr Sargison — the old master. Picture: Robin Lane.

House — a labor of love he has been performing for many years.

But what about something special for his birthday?

"No, nothing much . . ."
Daughter Kathleen slipped in a gentle correction: "We'll be having a family tea tonight, at home."

Mr Sargison beamed: "She's my boss."

"No I'm not — he's the senior partner," she said.

Mr Sargison and Kathleen returned not long ago from a hectic round-the-world trip, managing to slip in a visit to the Doulton works in England and the glass factories of Venice on the way.

Recent jobs for Mr Sargison have included a silver presentation set for the Lord Mayor of London and one of his periodic reconditioning jobs on the historic Port Arthur town clock.

Mr Sargison's clock mak-