

SUCCESSFUL TRIP

Sectional Team Manager John Macgillivray Reports . . .

The team gathered in the evening of 8th October in Sydney, our departure point. We had a brief stopover in Honolulu, in a rather delightful hotel for two days, which was a 'getting to know each other period'. It should be appreciated that the contingent consisted of pistol, rifle, shot-gun shooters, as well as one large-bore shooter, and most of these people hadn't met before. Then on through Los Angeles, to Phoenix.

Because of the motel arrangements, we transferred next day to more suitable apartments close by. From there we made our contact with match headquarters, and were given all instructions for the days ahead.

The second day was Visitors' Day on the range, thus giving us an opportunity to famil-

iarise ourselves with facilities etc., to meet the people conducting the shoot, and to take possession of our 40 foot trailer. As we were one of the larger teams, we had a trailer for ourselves.

On this day we were able to meet the volunteer staff — N.R.A. members who were interested enough to offer their time to act as range officers and various positions which are required to conduct a World Championship programme. In addition, there were 400-500 Indian students from the local Indian High School, who fulfilled the functions of recorders, timer controllers, carried out target apatching and changing, and duties normally carried out by the Army in most other countries.

The lack of support by the Government is

From left:

Lindsay Marshall — Chairman
A.S.A. Travel Organising Committee.

Kevin Tilden — Team Coach

Miss White — B.O.A.C. Hostess

John Oliver — B.O.A.C. Rep.



political in U.S.A. at this time. Many of the volunteers travelled the depth of the States to take up these positions, and did an admirable job. All volunteers including the Indians were dressed by the N.R.A. in khaki shirts and trousers, western hat, neckerchief, name tag and home town origin. The Indian students were male and female of high school age (17-18 years) and it was of particular interest to live close to these young people and we all enjoyed their company. They spoke in typically American as well as in their own language, and I found most of them could speak their own tribal language and understand at least one another.

The jury were uniformly dressed; their shirts not khaki but white, this allowed one to identify a jury-man from at least 1,000 yards.

The general control of the range was carried out by three police agencies, Arizona Highway Patrol, Maricopa County Sheriff's Department, and the Phoenix Police Department. In addition there were rangers who patrolled the area completely at night, and these were associated with the department on whose property this range is built as one of their recreational areas.

After two days of practice, the Opening Ceremony was held. All shooters, volunteers, and other people associated with the shoot were picked up in Greyhound buses from their motels early in the morning and conveyed to the Phoenix High School Stadium (known as the Hoy Field) and the traditional ceremonial type march was carried on with the assistance of the delightful Phoenix High School Band, consisting of about 50 players, both male and female, in colourful uniforms and certainly a musical bunch.

The Australian Team because of its position in the alphabet, was the second team to march on to the arena, and the United States Team, the biggest and the hosts, came up at the rear. The arena was completely filled with

shooters. When the Opening Ceremony was completed, all marched off to join the buses. Each individual was supplied with a cut lunch and taken back to the motels.

After an hour and a half or so, to change into sightseeing clothing, all were conveyed to the Apache Land which is a complete village in the old western style, saloon, saddler, store, jail, sheriff's office, and a spot where quite a lot of western films are 'shot.' In this area there was a bunch of a dozen or so film stunt men who amused the crowd by having gun fights, fist fights in the main street — they staged a bank hold-up, an attempt to break into the jail to free one of their members who was captured and who was subsequently taken out and hanged from a wagon. This, I imagine would have been sponsored by Mr. Kodak as cameras were running continuously through this, and there must have been a \$1,000 worth of film exposed.

Next the 1,500 visitors were transported by buses to the Dons base camp — they are a society of local people consisting of 50 men and their wives dedicated to keeping the old west as it is. They have a staging camp where one can go and caravan, four-wheel drive, horse ride and walk the country, climb the mountains, and it is really western with the big cacti, dry gulches and the Zane Grey 'bits'. These people had, at their base camp, Indians practising their crafts, beading, carving dolls (hoppy dolls), silversmiths. The whole range of Indian crafts were on show; bands etc. One could walk up and pan for gold (most people tried) and examine the display of commemorative fire-arms. One gentleman loaned his display specially for the day, and this consisted of all the commemorative colts, winchesters etc.

In the evening all were invited to a chuck wagon tea, and later moved to an amphitheatre cut into the hill for a fine programme of entertainment consisting of rope twirlers, female barber's quartet, plains Indians came down to

beat drums and dance, and invited any of the visitors to join them in true Indian dancing. After a closing display of fireworks and a waterfall of burning charcoal down a 200 ft. cliff, we returned to our motels.

The Australian team had a bus available for its own use each morning and evening and this left the hotel at 7.30 a.m. and conveyed us to the range ready for shooting at 9 a.m.

The shooting was carried out under very fine weather conditions. The temperatures being in the nineties, the wind was kind and whilst the range was not exactly comparable with European International Ranges, it was certainly adequate for the World Championships.

Probably the most significant problem on the range was the interpretation of some of the rules by the Range Officers — however this was satisfactorily overcome.

The Australians, as a team, shot extremely well. We were more than excited of course with our Gold Medal from Judy Trim, our Silver from Gloria Vause and the team honours to Judy, Gloria, and Enid Newton.

In other events, Gloria Vause was 5th in the Ladies Small Bore (Ladies Match), Noel Ryan finished 4th in the Standard Pistol, and in the Ladies Prone Rifle shooting event, Dot Marinak took fourth place — all most creditable when one sees the terrifically high scores of so many people from the various countries.

Socially — the Australians entertained guests at an evening, serving Australian wine, beer and cheese. This was held on the lawns in front of the motel. Kurt Haasler, President of UIT received an appropriate gift on that occasion from the Australians.

Shooting over, the Closing Ceremony was held on the Range — Awards, medals etc. presented. The Australian recipients received a great ovation when they went forward for their awards.

We nearly lifted the Black Canyon Range off the map that evening.

Next came a banquet at an hotel in the city where over 2000 people attended, closing speeches were made and we were invited to 'steal' our glass marked 40th World Championships and NRA.

Next morning we left Phoenix by plane for Los Angeles. Most people went on a tour embracing Universal Studios, Hollywood Bowl, Chinese Theatre etc. Our plane for Nandi (Fiji) took off that evening. After two days lounging, shopping and swimming in Fiji we came on to Sydney, arriving Saturday October 31.

Our travel generally was extremely good and BOAC looked after us particularly well.

Pleasing Results . . .

Team Coach, Kevin Tilden

The pressure of nerves in international competition affected everyone. If it were possible to shoot this type of competition every month the scores would doubtless rise much higher.

The team performed well, with most members making their average scores in the eliminations. Exceptions include Judy Trim and Ivy Gehrig whose approach to the training sessions and competitions were completely relaxed allowing them to shoot 30 points better than they had ever done before.

Gloria Vause's shoot off for second place proved that Australia now has the ability and technique — plus nerves to come out on top in World Class competition.

Noel Ryan was unlucky not take out a medal, but fourth place in that class of competition is highly commendable. Norm Harrison's sixth place in Air Pistol was outstanding when one considers the conditions — one shot per card and wind conditions on the outdoor range.

My experience as a coach was unique. I saw two world records created, and witnessed Australia's first Gold Medal win and team award.

Congratulations to a magnificent team.