



Artillery WA

Official Newsletter of RAAA (WA), 2/3, 2/7, 3Fd Regt Associations and RAA Historical Society of WA (INC)
WebSite: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au>

Edition 3 – 2/04

June 2004



ANZAC DAY 2004



In Memory of All Gunners



Notice Board

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ALL RANKS CORPS DINING-IN-NIGHT

SATURDAY 3 JULY 2004

AT HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK

7.00 FOR 7.30

**DRESS: SERVING -MESS DRESS WHITE JACKET / POLYESTERS
NON SERVING - BLACK TIE / LOUNGE SUIT- LADIES AFTER 5
RSVP – Please use the enclosed flier**

RAAHS BUSY BEES

The next busy bees at Irwin Barracks are scheduled for:

**26 JUNE 31 JULY
28 AUGUST 25 SEPTEMBER**

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

The Leighton Battery Heritage Site is open on a regular basis on the first Sunday of every month from 10 AM to 3:30 PM with tours of the tunnels every half hour.

COVER

Artillery Memorial Wall at HAP– *See Story / photos – page 4*

Inside this Issue – Main points

President's Message	3
Anzac Day Report	4
Committee Members List	5
Take Post	
President's Message	5
CLCA Report	6
SMIG'S Review	8
Nadzab – 60 Years on	9
Vietnam Tour	10
ANZAC Day photos	12

Aiming Post

President's Message	13
Gun Nomenclature	14
Did You know...	15
Leighton Bty & Workshop Update	16
Restoration Update	16
Letters to the Editor	17
ANZAC Day Photos	18

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Subs to your Association or Society are now due – RAAA / 3 FRAAA - \$ 15 RAAHS - \$ 25
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The Editor gratefully acknowledges the contributions to the newsletter by the members, whose names appear with the corresponding articles. Articles, editorial comment or book reviews for publication should be submitted to the editor, Gabriel D'Uva at: Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA PO Box 881, Claremont WA 6910. Phone: 93836544 Fax: 93836370 or E-mail the Editor at info@artillerywa.org.au

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (WA)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Anzac Day prior to the commencement of the Dawn Service at Karrakatta, the Chaplain of 7 Field Battery – Captain Ian Johnson – dedicated the New Memorial, which is located adjacent to the front of Hobbs Artillery Park.

The completion of this project is mainly due to the Dedication, Determination and Personal Effort of our member Gabby D'Uva and the financial assistance of 3rd Field Regiment Association and the Royal Australian Historical Society, which greatly helped with our finances.

On behalf of all it is desired to express our appreciation to Gabby, the Defence Department and 7 Field Battery.

The Battery's Special Effects entrance off the Gun Park was impressive and complemented the conversion of the Drill Hall, which was innovative and must have entailed considerable amount of effort to achieve.

Well done.

The increased numbers attending the Dawn Service was noticeable and the Associations, Society and 7 Fd Bty should be pleased with the support.

The address given by our Colonel Commandant Brigadier Richard Lawler was inspiring and brought back memories of the Past on this Special Occasion.



Brigadier Richard Lawler



As usual the Battery provided the Catafalque Party for the event.

In conclusion this event was made possible with the support of Major Scott Sullivan and 7 Field Battery and we owe them a special Thank You.

Bruce G. Campbell
President

ADVERTISING

FOR A DONATION OF \$ 10 (TEN) PER YEAR, (FOUR ISSUES), YOU CAN ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN ARTILLERY WA, BOTH IN PRINTED AND WEB SITE EDITIONS. PLEASE MAIL OR EMAIL THE EDITOR AT THE ADDRESSES SHOWN FOR THE ASSOCIATION TO DISCUSS OPTIONS.

ANZAC DAY 2004

It was a dark and cool morning as the Gunners; past and present started to gather with their partners at Hobbs Artillery Park, Irwin Barracks Karrakatta.

The entrance to the Drill Hall via the Gun Park was lined with a tunnel that stretched half way to the gates. The tunnel started with the Battery Guns lined up, three either side, ready to fire, under camouflage netting and continued up the ramp through the 11 x 11 tents to the Drill Hall which was very well "camouflaged" with hanging parachutes, draping cam nets, sand bags and the popular two up ring. The Bty display of past artillery pieces shone brightly at every corner. The Bar was well set up as the table was flanked by two army trailers, which were to serve as the "eskies" for the day. The light filtering through the parachute silk and cam nets provided a real "field" atmosphere.

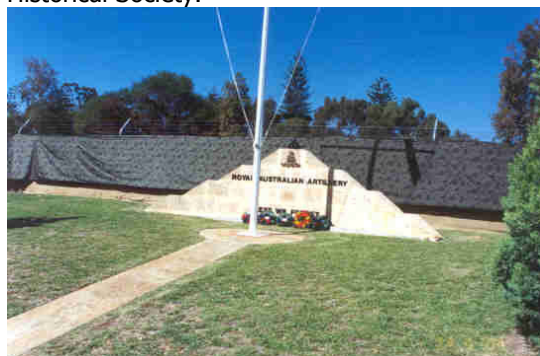


As the people walked through and out to the front of HAP, the scene took on a different meaning. Lit up against the morning Dawn was the opulent new Artillery Memorial Wall, erected in honour of all Gunners, past, present and serving.



The contrast of the brightly-lit wall against the surrounding colours and the still morning darkness was striking.

The Battery Chaplain, Captain Ian Johnson dedicated the Memorial in a brief but poignant ceremony prior to the Anzac Day Dawn Service, which the Bty carried out superbly. Wreaths were laid by the Col Commandant Western Region, Brigadier Richard Lawler, the Battery Commander, Major Scott Sullivan and the Presidents of the RAA Association of WA, 3 Field Regiment RAA Association and the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society.



After the service, all gathered (approx 150) enjoyed a hearty Gunfire Breakfast provided by the Bty.



The march through town followed during the morning and was well attended by the Gunner contingent. The weather was very hot during the march, but again the people of Perth were out in force to cheer the old and present Diggers.

Upon return to HAP around midday, the festivities started in earnest with old Gunners swapping the usual histories with old mates and new Gunners alike. Steadily but surely the "eskies" were being emptied and merriment and camaraderie figured very highly throughout the afternoon. A big Thank You to the BC, Major Sullivan and all members of the Bty.

It was another great...very special ANZAC DAY.

UBIQUE
Gabby D'Uva
Editor

Current Associations Management Committees

	RAA ASSOCIATION	RAA HISTORICAL SOCIETY	3 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT	Mr. Bruce Campbell	Mr. Bruce Campbell	Mr. Peter Rowles
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HONORARY AUDITOR	Capt. Geoff Palmer	Capt. Geoff Palmer	Capt. Geoff Palmer

3 Field Regiment RAA Association

President's Message:

Anzac Day was again a huge success from our Dawn service and dedication of the Memorial to the function at HAP. Our Association had a record 52 on parade for the Perth march, which was lead by the Colonel Commandant Richard Lawler. I lost count of the numbers at the after parade function but the drill hall was filled to capacity. We must be getting a reputation for conducting a good show as we had a large number of visitors that included the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Geoff Hand, the Brigade RSM WO1 Harvey Worboys and the Perth Parade commentator Richard Carter.

My thanks to the BC Major Scott Sullivan and his staff for conducting a very successful day.

We are organising our first, Artillery Corps dinner in June. See the flier enclosed.

We are keen to make this the major event of the year, as it will give us the chance to meet at a semi formal mixed function with present and past gunners of all ranks. We intend to invite all Artillery Unit Associations and other Gunners who have served in other Regiments around Australia. We need a minimum of 150 to make the function successful for this year and to ensure it becomes an annual event.

I look forward to your company in June.

UBIQUÉ

Peter Rowles
President



**LAND COMMAND ARTILLERY
SITREP
APRIL 2004**

Greetings from the LCARTY staff. The year is progressing quickly and as expected the tempo remains busy. We have visited various units this year and continue to be impressed with the enthusiasm of Gunners from within the Regt. This Sitrep will cover the events for some of units in recent activities.

CLCA

A few words from me to thank the members past and present that marched on ANZAC day and to congratulate the RAA Associations for their continuing fine work. We are working on some new initiatives for Gunners with the Tactical UAV battery staffing plan being developed and a JTAC (FAC- Ground for old timers) Troop to be raised as part of 1 GL GP. The Reserve Roles and Tasks Review enters the next phase of analysis and committees soon so things are moving fast. MAJs Glenn McPhee and Arnaud Ng are well in their chairs at LCarty and I am appreciating the work sharing – they may not! - Ubique

4 Fd Regt

Training

- Conducted training in preparation for EX CHAU PHA 10 – 21 May 04 at HRTA.
- Training has included individual weapon training and live fire qualification practices, gun section level amphibious training, battery level air mobile training, simulated JOST technical missions and fire planning training, battery level deployment training, parachute continuation training by A Fd Bty, JNCO leadership training, and a Brigade CPX.
- "A" Fd Bty are to conduct airborne operations on EX ARNHEM with 3 RAR during the end of May.
- JNCO leadership training was conducted in Brisbane during April.

7 Fd Regt

the field in both Ex Remember Lowerson in May and building up to a major deployment on Ex Pitch Black in July. The Regimental move towards an all RBS70 Unit has included a significant increase in personnel. The Regt

Support to the Forward Air Controller Course Exercise ARMENTIERES was conducted by 7 Fd Regt at Singleton Training Area at the end of March. The exercise was conducted in two phases:

Phase 1. Deployment exercise 19-21 Mar 04. This phase was conducted dry due to the ammunition suspension on the M739A1 fuse.

Phase 2. Support to FAC course 22-26 Mar 04. The regiment provided smoke and illumination for the FAC to indicate targets.

The exercise was the first time for five months the regiment had conducted an LFX. With many changes in personnel it was a sound start with many lessons being learned by what is in essence a new team. The results of the exercise were good with all members working hard to achieve the exercise aims. Despite the ammunition restrictions the Regiment provided smoke and illumination for the FAC course to indicate targets. Thanks go to 131 STA Bty who provided a ½ MET Troop, 8 CSSB for a medic, and 1 MP Bn for traffic control.

16 AD Regt

March – April 2004

You may well be aware that 16 AD Regt is currently going through a transition process from its current structure to an all RBS70 Regiment by December 2005. As part of this process the Regiment is currently undergoing a significant amount of change in personnel, equipment and facilities. Rapier remains an effective and capable system, and continues to be busy, with 110 AD Bty preparing to deploy Rapier to

manning has grown from 250 in 2000 to its current strength of 413. With two more IET courses programmed this year, the Regt is expected to grow to 440 by Christmas.

Operationally, the Regiment had slowed from its busy pace of RBS70 detachment deployments to the Gulf. However the Regiment continues to support operations with MAJ Steve Terek currently deployed as an UNMO on OP CITADEL and CPL Dan Sells deployed as a Communications Watch Officer on OP CATALYST. WO2 Michael Rossendell, the RAP WO, has just returned to the Regiment after completion of his tour in East Timor.

The Woodside Barracks skyline is currently changing with the ongoing construction of the Advanced Air Defence Simulator (AADS). The 10 million-dollar project under Land 19 Phase 2B will deliver a combined immersive environment for RBS70 Detachment engagement simulations. The new simulator, providing 4th generation technology, is four stories high and will not only be able to offer a 270 degree simulation of various tactical scenarios, but can also simulate different climatic conditions by day or night. The AADS construction is progressing, and the simulator is scheduled to be officially handed over to 16 AD Regt in November.

The Regt held a poignant ANZAC Day Dawn Service on the Parade Ground at Woodside Barracks on 25 Apr. The service was led by our female Regimental Padre (Madre) Chaplain Caitie Inches-Ogden, and included not only the Regiment and their spouses, but also Army and Airforce Cadets as well as local scout groups. The cold, still Woodside morning provided a sobering setting for all the Regiment to reflect on past sacrifices.

7 Fd Bty

The Battery is now well into the training year and has conducted an Annual Field Exercise in Mar (Exercise Amiens). This EX completed five of the seven non-continuous courses being run by the Battery this calendar year. The main focus has been, and continues to be, on RRF, recruiting, AIRN compliance, and maintaining Rank and Trade within the Battery.

COURSES & RANK TRADE

The Battery is running several non-continuous courses, which include; ROBC Mod 1, Advanced Gunners, Gunner Grade 1 Mod 3, M2A2 conversion, ICT, RAA Safety Officers, and the Supervisor Offensive Support Gen Leg courses. The conduct of these courses is having a large positive effect on the number of Rank and Trade qualified members within the Battery.

SUPPORT

The Battery continues to provide a large amount of support to 13 Bde in various support

tasks. Earlier in the year the Battery also provided support to AFG for the Australia Day Salute in Canberra, in the form of the BG and four Numbers One.

MULTI USER DEPOT

The Rockingham MUD is now fully operational, with the Battery currently manning one detachment there. Recruiting in the area is proving successful and the Battery fully expects to be able to man two detachments in that location by the end of 04. In addition, the new members are readily making themselves available for attendance at Rank and Trade courses.

ANZAC DAY

The new memorial wall was consecrated prior to this year's Dawn Service at Hobbs Artillery Park. The wall has as a centrepiece the inscribed foundation stone from the home of Lieutenant General Sir Talbot Hobbs and was the product of much work by members of the 3 Fd Regt Artillery Association, with support from the Artillery Historical Society. Attendance, including the march through the city, was excellent and a very enjoyable day was had by all.

CONCLUSION

7 Field Battery is now building up to field activities, including a Live Fire Exercise, in May and June, as well as a second Annual Field Exercise in the second half of the year. The Battery continues to recruit well and is maintaining a very busy training schedule.

16 Fd Bty

16 Fd Bty has hit the ground running after a much enjoyed Easter break. The Bty deployed to Stoney Head Training Area for the weekend 17 - 18 Apr on Ex Island Guns. Accompanying the battery was the Commander Land Command Artillery (CLCA) and his Team, which came down to Australia's soft under belly to observe the Bty's training. The Bty was able to field two fully manned guns and a CP, which is an improvement on previous outings. Late changes to the manning saw many key personnel change into roles for which they had little experience or training. The Bty was able to conclude the ICT M2A2 Course who qualified eight Gunners and conduct testing for several Supervisors OS competencies. The highlight for the Bty was the proofing of WP M739A1 so as the remainder of that ammunition could be released for wider use. This increased the ammunition for the weekend and gave the battery 219 rounds of various natures. Overall, a successful weekend with many valuable lessons learned and some very positive feedback from the CLCA staff.

The Bty has also had visits from the Regimental Master Gunner and his team from CATC and RSM – A, who made the trip South to visit all the Units on the Island. Next on the agenda for 16 Fd Bty was ANZAC Day which saw the Battery providing support to various RSL's island wide, as well as supporting the marches in both Hobart and Launceston.

The Bty will deploy up to Buckland Training Area on the weekend 21 - 23 May for the annual IMT Exercise "Ubique Challenge". The main emphasis will be to catch up on training shortfalls and to widen the Bty's knowledge on minor infantry tactics.

All in all a busy time for the Bty, but with members showing very good commitment we are achieving some good training results.

Proof and Experimental Establishment Graytown

Proof and Experimental Establishment Graytown began operation in 1968 when the proof establishment at Fort Gellibrand closed and activities were relocated to Graytown.

(The first Australian proof was fired at Fort Gellibrand in 1924 on No. 80 fuzes and Number 1 primers for the 18lb gun).

As a result of a review into logistic support to Defence in March 2004, the Chief of the Defence Force approved the formation of the Joint Proof and Experimental Unit incorporating Proof and Experimental Establishment Graytown, Proof and Experimental Establishment Port Wakefield and the Command element in Sydney. With effect 1 May 04, LTCOL Gary Potter was appointed by the CA as the first Commanding Officer of the Joint Proof and Experimental Unit.

Tasking:

Proof Firing of Refurbished M2A5 Recoil Systems.

Proof firings of six refurbished recoil mechanisms refurbished at Southern Logistic Group Bandiana for use in the 105mm Howitzers M2A2 was conducted in April 04. Recoils overhauled at this facility are to be proven by firing before re-entering service.

Standard M1 propellant charges used with either HES or Practice rounds, recoil lengths for given charges and elevations recorded.

Regards from the CLCA and the LCarty staff.



SMIG's Review

7 Field Battery 3rd Field Regiment RAA

The Battery during March and April has continued its high tempo, having conducted an AFX, completed five of the seven non-continuous courses started at the beginning of the year and further established the Battery's presence at the Multi-User Depot at Rockingham (60 minutes south of 13 BDE).

The start of March saw the Battery continue its build up for the much-anticipated AFX Exercise Amiens, the major Live Fire Exercise for the Guns for the first half of the calendar year. Concurrent to these preparations, the unit continued to conduct courses such as the

Supervisor OS Module 3 and the ROBC Module 1, with the Live Fire qualification component planned for the AFX.

Unfortunately, due to blanket ammunition restrictions across the Corp, the Battery was unable to Live Fire and had to move quickly to implement its contingency plan: Exercise Amiens Alternate. Following 3 days of DFX'ing at Lancelin, the Battery moved to the Bindoon Training area for 4 days of ranges training, encompassing F89 Conversion, F1/F3 Grenades and Night Fighting Equipment courses. Those members not occupied with this training conducted CPX'ing, Local Defence and other Artillery related activities. The Battery was able to achieve maximum value from Exercise Amiens Alternate, with Live Fire training

shortfalls scheduled to be picked up with Exercise Return to Amiens in late June.

The battery has continued to focus on achieving 100 percent rank and trade compliance, a task made all the easier by the unit's already good standing in this area. The training run within the battery throughout March and April included an M2A2 conversion as well as Advanced Gunners and Gunner Grade 1 Module 3 courses.

7 Field Battery's presence at the multi-user depot (shared with 11/28 RWAR) 60 minutes south of Perth has continued to strengthen, currently in the form of a gun detachment plus. Recruiting has been highly successful, with 2 full detachments projected to be in location by the end of the calendar year.

7 Field Battery has continued its strong support of Brigade tasks, as well as recently providing the Battery Guide and 4 Number One's to the AFG in Canberra for the Australia Day

salute; help which will be provided again in June for the Queens Birthday Salute.

The Gunners of WA commemorated ANZAC Day with a Battery dawn service, attended by numerous service members, past and present, as well as many family and friends. Following a Gunfire breakfast, the Battery took part in the traditional march through Perth City and returned to the unit for an afternoon of mixed activities. The day was an outstanding success, with the battery honouring and celebrating the spirit of ANZAC.

In conclusion, 7 Field Battery remains strongly committed to its goals, and will move towards the end of the 03/04 TY in excellent standing to achieve all future tasks.

'UBIQUE'

Dion McRae

Warrant Officer Class Two

NADZAB Day Plus 60 Years - The Sequel

*Provided by Colonel Arthur Burke
Colonel Commandant - Northern Region*

THIS ARTICLE IS A FOLLOW-ON FROM 'JUMPING INTO HISTORY' WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE 'RAA LIAISON LETTER 2003 - SPRING EDITION'.

As the noonday sunlight filtered through gum trees, a large family gathering at Chau Pha Lines, Townsville watched the approach of a Dodge command car towing a small green gun. The vehicle delivered a smartly-dressed young officer and a senior citizen through an honour guard of soldiers dressed in Second World War uniforms. The visitors were introduced as paragonner Keith Begbie and a representative 2nd/4th Field Regiment Captain 'Roos Marsden' resplendent in his namesake's old service dress with Africa Star, service and wound stripes.

'Of the original 31 members of the 2nd/4th Field Regiment who parachuted into Nadzab with two 25-Pounder Shorts on 5th September 1943, only ten have survived this sixtieth anniversary', announced Colonel Commandant and honorary unit historian Arthur Burke to the large gathering of the unit's 'family' - the spouses, partners, children, parents and members of 4th Field Regiment.

'Of the 212 Shorts manufactured during the war, only 20 of them are known to have survived', he continued. 'To commemorate that historic jump, paragonner Keith Begbie has been reunited with a 'baby' 25-Pounder here today.'



Admiring the 25-Pounder short are (L-R) Colonel Commandant Arthur Burke, CO Warwick Jones, WW2 Paragunner Keith Begbie, BC A FD BTY Brian Hawke, a representative WW2 2nd/4th veteran 'Roos Marsden', veteran Jack Rush, a representative WW2 soldier, veteran Arthur Thompson, a representative WW2 soldier, veteran and 2nd/4th Qld Secretary Mick Heffernan and a representative WW2 soldier.

(Article from the RAA Liason Letter – Autumn Edition 2004.)

ADVERTISING

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Horseshoe, Long Hai Hills, Minh Dam, Dat Do, Dinh Co Monastery, Suoi Chau Pha Valley, Nui Dat, Baria, Bien Hoa, Bau Bang, Ben Cat, Tan Uyen, FSB Coral/Balmoral, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

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- Economy class return airfare flying Thai International ex SYD/MEL. Can also fly Thai ex BNE and PER but may require overnight connection BKK
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- All entrance fees and issue of required permits via Hanoi for special zones
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- Cost of Vietnam Visa issue
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- Departure tax ex Ho Chi Minh City paid locally by escort at check-in – US \$12 pp
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DAILY ITINERARY

(B)=Breakfast, (L)=Lunch, (D)=Dinner

DAY 1. : **Depart Australia**, overnight flight to Asia

DAY 2. AM connection at Asian port then direct flight into - Hanoi Late AM arrival then once cleared Immigration & Customs meet & greet by local office representative and transfer into Hanoi (L)
Accommodation: THIEN THAI Hotel in the Old Quarter Hanoi PM walking tour Old Quarter. O/n at Thien Thai.

DAY 3. (B,L,D) Full Day sight seeing Hanoi - all cultural sites: HCM Memorial, House, Garden, West Lake, Kim Lien Pagoda, One Pillar Pagoda, Temple of Literature, Hanoi Cathedral, Opera House, Hanoi Flag Tower, Vietnam Army Museum, Air Force Museum, "Hanoi Hilton". Evening: Water Puppet Show. O/night at Thien Thai.

Day 4. (B, L, D) Full Day visit to Halong Bay - cruise/seafood lunch on board /swim
in sea. PM Return to Hanoi to connect with the 2100 train to Hue. O/night on the train. 4 berth sleeping compartment.

Day 5. (B, L, D) Meet &greet on arrival into Hue ETA approx 0930 AM, direct to hotel to freshen up. Tour Hue -Perfume River, Monastery, Pagoda, Royal Citadel + war relics area

(found at right on entry past cannons), Khai Dinh Tomb. O/night at DONG DA Hotel in Hue.

Day 6. (B, L, D) Full Day - DMZ, Khe Sanh (Huong Hoa), Airstrip - Museum (walk around visit), view Co Roc, Darkrong Bridge, Rock Pile, Camp Carroll, Truong Son Cemetery, Vinh Moc tunnels. O/night at Dong Da. Hotel Hue.

Day 7. (B, L, D) Early departure for Danang via Coast Road. Early (L) Lang Co Beach, Danang Pass it's fortifications, Danang town - drive around, Cham Museum, China Beach, Marble Mountain. Hoian walking tour of Hoian - late pm after check-in hotel. O/night at Hoian. - HOIAN Hotel on waitlist confirmed at the VINH HUNG 111 Hotel -Hoian.

Day 8. (B, D) Free day Hoian. No lunch today, but dinner locally tonight. Hoian is known for its expert tailoring. and O/night at Hoian.- HOIAN Hotel - waitlisted (see above)

Day 9. (B, L, D) Full Day tour to Quang Ngai - My Lai Peace Park, overview from NVA-VC Memorial Chu Lai of the old USN base of the same name. O/n at Hoian. - HOIAN Hotel- waitlisted (see above)

Day 10. (B, L, D) Transfers to Danang airport to connect with

the early morning flight to Saigon, on VN321, 0800/0910. On arrival Saigon Ton Son Nhat airport Meet &greet the transfer to downtown.PM walking tour HCMC. O/night at the PALACE Hotel - HCMC.

Day 11.(B, L, D) Full Day to the Mekong Delta - My Tho. cruise the waterways and lunch on one of the Islands. PM return to HCMC. O/night at Palace Hitel -HCMC

Day 12. (B, L, D) Full Day tour NW to Tay Ninh - visit Cao Dai Temple (Ben Duoc), Cu Chi Tunnels, Ho Bo Woods (adjacent towards Saigon River),Dien Ben Duoc - memorial to NVA/VC, Rifle Range. PM return to HCMC O/night at Palace Hotel - HCMC.

Day 13. (B, L, D) AM hydrofoil to Vung Tau. (approx 0800) Meet & greet on arrival and transfer to your hotel located on back beach opposite the South China Sea, PM local sight seeing in and around the Vung Tau area - Statue of Jesus on the Mount, Lighthouse, town area etc.O/night at the SAMMY Hotel.-VT.

Day 14. (B, L, D) Full Day Baria township, Long Phuoc tunnels

+ Museum, Long Tan, Horseshoe (Quarry), Long Hai Hills, Minh Dam, Dat Do town and cemetery, Dinh Co Monastery (west end of the Long Hai Hills), Suoi Chau Pha Valley, Nui Dat. O/night at the Sammy Hotel - Vung Tau.

Day 15. (B, L, D) AM departure via Baria - visit to the AVVRG (Australian Vietnam Veterans Reconstruction Groups) Orphanage- Baria, then return to HCMC via road and Bien Hoa Museum, home to the original Long Tan Cross (D) Saigon River Cruise floating restaurant. O/night at The REX Hotel. - HCMC

Day 16. (B, L, D) Full Day visit to Bau Bang, Ben Cat, Tan Uyen, FSB (FireSupport Base), Coral + Balmoral. PM return to HCMC (D) at The "Chateau restaurant" -Vietnamese speciality restaurant HCMC.O/night at The REX Hotel - HCMC.

Day 17. (B) AM free. With a mid afternoon check out. PM transfer out to Ton Son Nhat airport to connect with your exit flight from Saigon. Overnight flight to Australia.

Day 18. Arrive Australia

ANZAC DAY 2004



Gunners and Partners gathered for the Dawn Service





THE AIMING POST

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society Of Western Australia Newsletter

President's Report:

The commissioning of the Pivod Audio System at the tunnels has been completed and it is a credit to all concerned – especially the Volunteers who carried out the new cabling and internal wiring.

We believe this innovation will enhance the Public's perception of this Exhibition.

As all are aware it is necessary from time to time to change the displays with the aim of encouraging return visits and this is only one item of the Long Term Plans to promote and further develop the site.

The Workshop Restoration Programme to Artillery Pieces is heavily committed and presents the usual challenges to the innovative workforce lead by Kevin.

Bruce G. Campbell
President

In this Issue

Gun Nomenclature and History – WA 6 in Coast Guns

Did You Know – Mottos of the Regiment

Letters to the Editor

Soldier's Poem

Leighton Heritage Update

Restoration Workshop Update

Gun Nomenclature and History – WA 6 in Coast Guns

By Bob Glyde

There appears to be a misunderstanding when describing the various 6 in coast guns mounted in Western Australia over the years.

First perhaps it would be an idea if the various initials used in describing ordnance were listed.

SBML – Smooth Bore Muzzle Loading. Describes a weapon with a smooth bore and loaded at the muzzle.

RBL – Rifled Breech Loading. A weapon loaded at the breech end. The projectile being rammed until the driving band on the projectile struck the rifling in the barrel. A bagged charge was then introduced behind the projectile. This nomenclature was in use until about 1870 when the methods of manufacture of ordnance changed and newer types of breechblocks were introduced.

RML – Rifled Muzzle Loading. Introduced during the period 1870 to 1880. The bore of the gun was machined with a number of rifling grooves and the projectile was fitted with brass studs, which matched the gun's rifling pitch. In this case a bag of propellant was rammed down from the muzzle into the chamber followed by the projectile, the studs on which had to match the rifling grooves.

BL – Breech Loading. Loaded from the breech and rammed until the driving band of the projectile engaged the rifling. This was followed by a bagged charge. The ammunition was listed as "separate". These applied to steel built guns for the period 1870 – 1890 and then wire built guns from 1890 onwards.

QF – Quick Firing. As for above except the ammunition was "fixed", in other words, the projectile and the propellant in a brass cartridge were married together and loaded at the same time.

BLC - Breech Loading, Converted. Some of the earlier model BL guns were modified to enable them to withstand the pressures of newer propellants as they were introduced. They may also have been fitted with the single motion breech mechanism which enabled an increase in the rounds per minute they were capable of achieving.

QFC – Quick Firing, Converted. In the mid 1890s controversy reined as to whether the services should be buying BL or QF guns. A number of the older BL guns were converted. The breeches were modified to accept the fixed ammunition and

at the same time they were strengthened to accept the increased pressures of the new propellants.

Guns were also identified by marques, which they were given as change in manufacturing methods, design improvement, etc took place. They could also be built for naval use, land service or combined.

The 6-inch guns, with which the forts in Western Australia were equipped, comprised the following

Ordnance BL 6 inch Mk IV
Ordnance BL 6inch Mk VI
Ordnance BL 6 inch Mk VII
Ordnance BL 6 inch Mk XI
Ordnance QFC 6 inch "B" Mk II

The Mk IV and VI guns were emplaced at Albany in 1893. Guns of this type were introduced into service in the mid 1880s. The question has been asked why were the two marques introduced in the same fortress. The Treatise of Service Armament – 1908 indicate there was a slight variation in the gun manufacture, which did not affect the ballistic characteristics. Outwardly it is not possible to note any variation. One of each type of these marques are still to be found in the Princess Royal Fortress at Albany.

The Mk VII guns were emplaced at Fort Arthur Head in 1906, later moved to Leighton 6 inch Battery in 1943 and then to Albany in 1945, Fort Forrest in 1908, later moved to Fort Swanbourne in 1938.

The Mk XI guns were emplaced at Bickley Battery – Rottneest Island in 1938.

The QFC "B" Mk II replaced the older Mk IV and VI guns at Albany in 1939.

In 1910 the 6-inch MkVII gun was selected as the standard gun for coast defence installations through out the British Empire. They come into service around 1895. They were primarily for close defence tasks that is actions up to about 9000 metres with the standard Carriage Garrison, Central Pivot Mk II. A carriage was also available which gave an elevation of 35⁰ which, enabled them to be used in counter bombardment tasks. The ordnance was 7 tons in weight and 45 calibres in length.

The Mk XI gun was originally based on British Admiralty specifications. They were 9 tons in

weight and 50 calibres in length. They came into Australian service as the main armament for the "Chatham" type "Town" class cruisers purchased as part of the Australian fleet expansion between 1911 and 1913.

Early in the 1930s HMAS "Sydney" and HMAS Melbourne were decommissioned and sent to the United Kingdom to be scrapped. Their main armament of 8 – 6 inch guns were removed and put into reserve. HMAS "Brisbane" was sent to the United Kingdom at a later date but retained her armament although there would have been guns held in reserve at the Naval Armament Depot.

During the 1930s, with the upgrading of coastal defences around Australia the Navy released 19 of the guns to the Army. Two such guns were sent to Western Australia in 1936 to temporarily equip Fort Swanbourne and then to Rottneest Island in 1938 to arm Bickley Battery. This again on a temporary basis until barrels with less wear became available. Due to their increased range they provided a counter bombardment task in conjunction with the 9.2 inch Oliver Hill Battery.

The F1 gun of Bickley Battery No. 2328 had originally been mounted on HMAS "Brisbane" on 14th September 1914. It was later in the Great War returned for re-tubing and eventually returned to Australia where it was held at Sydney until issued to the Army in 1938. This piece is displayed at the Leighton Battery Heritage site.

The F2 gun No. 2309 was built by Vickers, Son and Maxim in 1912 and mounted on HMAS "Melbourne". It was removed from HMAS "Melbourne" for re-tubing by the Royal Gun Factory during the Great War and it is understood was returned to Australia in the 1920s where it was held in reserve until issued to the Army in 1938. It is now displayed at the Kingstown Barracks at Rottneest.

There has been an ongoing story that the Bickley Battery guns were formerly mounted on HMAS

"Sydney" however this is not correct. Four complete Mk XI guns remain in Australia. Two are on display at the Darwin East Point Military Museum, One is at the naval museum at Garden Island, New South Wales and another gun is at the Australian War Memorial.

There is quite a story concerning the QFC 6-inch "B" Mk II guns, which were emplaced at Albany in 1939. At the close of the 19th Century, the Colony of New South Wales sent four of their BL 6-inch Elswick Ordnance Company guns back to the United Kingdom to be converted to QFguns.

At the time of the Committee of Inquiry 1901, one of these guns had been returned and the others were listed as being "in England to be chase hoped and converted to QF". On their return three of the guns were emplaced at South Head Battery and the fourth gun was believed to have been sent to Hobart for ordnance training purposes. In 1938 two of the guns were replaced and sent to Albany to replace the old Mk IV and Mk VI guns. The remaining gun at South Head was retained as the Examination gun until 1942. It was then sent to New Zealand.

The nomenclature of the guns, apart from the initials QFC, has always posed a query however on 30th June 1943 an equipment audit listed the weapons as QFC 6 in "B" Mk II. Subsequent research of recent times has given an explanation. QF is self explanatory, the "C" indicated that it was a converted gun, the "B" indicated it had been fitted with the more modern single motion, breech mechanism. Mk II indicated the piece had undergone a number 2 conversion. Details supporting this explanation are to be found in the "Treatise of Service Ordnance – 1908" publication.

Unfortunately the Albany ordnance was scrapped apparently around 1952. The only remaining weapon of its type is now to be found at the Peirson Park Reserve near Hobart. When last seen by the writer, the weapon was incorrectly assembled and in very poor condition.

DID YOU KNOW.....

Mottos of the Regiment

Since the establishment of Artillery Units in Australia, there have been a number of mottos adopted by gunners. These have included:

- **'PRO ARIS ET FOCIS'** (For Fields and Hearths) – Queensland Field Artillery and the Tasmanian and South Australian Garrison Artillery;

- **‘CUSTODES PORTARUM’** (Guardians of the Gates) – Queensland, Victorian and New South Wales Australian Garrison Artillery (Militia);
- **‘SI VIS PACEM PARA BELLUM’** (If you want Peace, prepare for War) – Western Australian Field Artillery;
- **‘CAVE FULMEN MEI’** (Beware My Fire) – Australian Garrison Artillery No 1 South Australian Company;
- **‘JAMAIS ARRIERA’** (Always to the Fore) – Western Australia Garrison Artillery; and
- **‘SEMPER FIDELIS’** (Always Faithful) – Original motto of the New South Wales Artillery (There is a line of thought that the motto was **‘SEMPER PARATUS’** (Always Ready). This is incorrect; never-the-less A Field Battery has now adopted the motto).

After Federation the single motto **‘CONSENSU STABILES’** was adopted. It is apparent there were three interpretations of the translation accepted: Strong in Agreement; Firm and Ready; and the most widely accepted, Firm and Steadfast.

In 1950 His Majesty King George VI granted The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery the two mottos of The Royal Regiment of Artillery:

‘UBIQUE’ (Everywhere), and

‘QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT’ (Where Right and Glory Lead).

Taken from Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery – Customs and Traditions – by WO1 Christopher Jobson

THE LEIGHTON BATTERY HERITAGE SITE

Mention was made in the April Edition of "Artillery WA" of the Tunnels Audio System that was nearing completion. Well, it is most pleasing to report that the System is now fully operative and was "tested" before a group of Seniors who visited the Site on Wednesday 19 May 2004. The visitors were most impressed and congratulated the Society for its initiative. The Duty Guides were also similarly impressed, as it was the first occasion some had to participate in the new venture.

It is proposed to conduct a small "commissioning ceremony" for the benefit of the Sponsors on Friday 25th June 2004 and the Mayor of the Town of Mosman Park has been invited to unveil the plaque.

RESTORATION WORKSHOP "FLOODED"!

NO! The roof has not blown off – we are referring to the volume of work to be undertaken by the Restoration Team.

Following a relatively quiet period of two months, requests have virtually "flooded in". Firstly, the City of South Perth requested our support in refurbishing a 170mm German Mortar (Minenwerfer) that had been allocated to the Municipality as a Trophy of WWI in 1920. For many years it has been on display at the City's War Memorial at the corner of Labouchere Road and Angelo Street in South Perth and despite its age, the Mortar has been well preserved but naturally is showing signs of deterioration. The Society has been commissioned to carry out essential restoration to the weapon and extend its display significance for years to come.

Hard on the heels of the Minenwerfer, Navy League of WA delivered 2 Sir W. G. Armstrong 3inch RBL 1881 Naval Guns complete with Carriage and Slide to the Restoration Workshop. These Guns have been on display outside the Naval Reserve Cadet "Training Ship Perth" at East Fremantle. After restoration they will be returned for display – one hopes under cover.

There will be little time to spare in the Workshop for the next 12 months!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

R.J. & P.M. KIDD

14 April 2004

The Editor
Artillery W.A.
PO Box 881
CLAREMONT WA 6910

Dear Gabriel,

In the last issue of Artillery WA an article was featured dealing with the historic airborne drop of a section of the 2/4 Field Regt. into the Nadzab valley in New Guinea. In that article two photographs of the short 25 pdr. gun were featured.

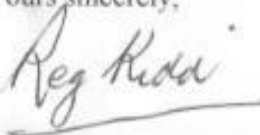
It is interesting to note that these two photographs are of guns in action with the 2nd Field Regt, AIF in the Bougainville campaign. The photographs were taken in May/June 1945 and the two guns were part of 4 Bty. I was an FOO (Forward Observation Officer) with that Regt. and made the photographs available to the RAAHS when they were rebuilding a short 25 pdr. gun.

The 2nd Field Regt. had 4 & 5 Batteries equipped with short 25 pdr. guns whilst 6 Bty. Used the normal 25 pdr. The short 25 pdr. was a much criticised gun but considering that it was designed and produced in a matter of months it filled a much needed weapon for use in the jungle. Admittedly it was difficult to keep it properly layed in a sustained period of firing, but it was extremely manoeuvrable and could be manhandled in and out of position by the gun crew and towed practically anywhere behind a jeep.

The 2nd Field Regt. was disbanded after the war and is now only represented by a Reunion Association. The gun crews in the photographs were lads of 18 and 19 and those still left are now approaching 80. Of the Regt's 700 odd complement in 1945 only about 170 are now left. The Regt also has two unenviable records. It was in continuous action for a total of 247 days without relief and fired 70,776 rounds of ammunition against the enemy, more than any other Aust. Fd. Regt.

The Bougainville campaign was fought against a well trained and equipped numerically superior Japanese army. This campaign was hardly referred to in 1944/45 and was swept under the carpet post war. The Aust. 3rd Division suffered 2500 casualties including 516 killed in action - a casualty list more extensive than most other Island campaigns. In retrospect it was quite ineffective as the isolated Japanese posed no problem and were effectively contained by the American forces prior to their relief by the Australian army. This may be of interest to readers of Artillery WA

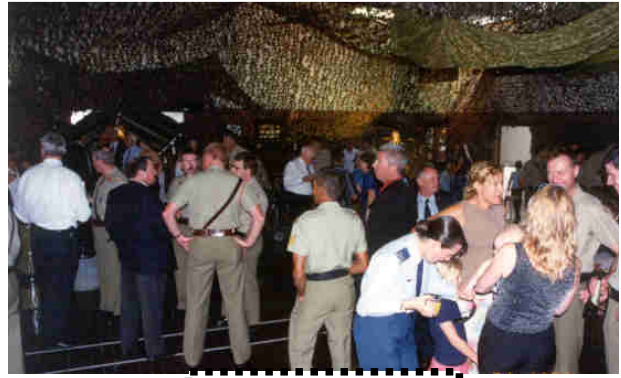
Yours sincerely,



ANZAC DAY 2004



Ken Hepworth, Doug Collins, Ron Jager and Les



Gunners young and old



Bty Members



Battery Commander
Major Scott Sullivan



Jim Green, Wendy Mahoney and Peter Frey



- LEST WE FORGET -