



Artillery WA

Official Newsletter of Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), 2/3 Fd Regt RAA, 2/7 Fd Regt, 3 Fd Regt Associations and RAA Historical Society of WA (INC).

WebSite: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au>

Edition 2 / 06

May 2006



- Lest We Forget -

**ANZAC DAY
25 April 2006**

**Banners paraded
during the March**



**Artillery Memorial
Hobbs Artillery Park**

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)

PRESIDENT'S AGM MESSAGE

Earlier today the 3 Field Regiment RAA Association held its AGM and the following motion was adopted;

“3 Field Regiment RAA Association merge with the RAA Association WA (Inc)”

And this motion is due for our consideration – reference item 11 of the agenda.

Over the past twelve months your Association has been involved with the Dawn Service Anzac Service and organisation by 7 Field Battery is appreciated. Our thanks go to the Battery Commander and Battery members.

The Gunners Day at Guildford was well attended and once again 7 Field Battery ensured this was a success with a strong attendance by Battery members and Cadet contingent. Again our appreciation. The Reviewing Officer was Brigadier Doug Collins with the Colonel Commandant Dick Lawler accompanied by the Commander of 13 Brigade Brigadier Geoff Hand. The new ‘Parade Marshall’ Peter Rowles led a team of Volunteers which no doubt confirms his position for 2006. To each and everyone who took part, thank you.

The Church at Guildford and on this occasion with two Padres was unique as the Naval Chaplain took the majority of the Service. Our thanks to both. The provision of the afternoon tea was a credit to those involved.

In conclusion it is desired to thank the Committee and in particular our Secretary Tom Arnautovic and Treasurer Gabby D’Uva for the time and effort given over the year and in particular to work on the Journal – Artillery WA.

Ubique

Bruce G. Campbell
President

ADVERTISING

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

News Flash

WELFARE OFFICER

John Walsh has generously donated his services to be the Association’s Welfare Officer. Anybody that needs to discuss any Welfare Funding can contact John via email at info@artillerywa.org.au or jfxwalsh@bigpond.com.au or by phone on 93836544, Wednesday mornings.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (Inc)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 19/3/2006 AT HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK

MOTION ON NOTICE

The motion on notice:

“To accept 3 Field Regiment RAA Association to be incorporated into RAA Association WA (Inc) with their funds and assets.”

Moved Peter Rowles

2nd Ron Jager

Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS: (nominations unopposed)

President	Bruce Campbell		
Vice President	Peter Rowles		
Secretary	Tom Arnautovic		
Treasurer	Gabby D’Uva		
Committee	Ron Jager	John O’Brien	Ken Hepworth
Hon Auditor	Hugh Zimmerman		

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Artillery from around the world



Diggers: Australian soldiers at Gallipoli. Most historians :

Gunners pictured with their 18pdr Gun

Everywhere Where Right and Glory Lead

Application for the Australian Defence Medal

Department of Defence

Guidelines for completion

The Australian Defence Medal (ADM) has been established to recognise serving and former Australian Defence Force (ADF)

Regular and Reserve personnel who have demonstrated their commitment and contribution to the nation by serving for at least four years, or, completion of their initial term of engagement, whichever is the lesser.

Who is eligible?

In addition, eligibility for the ADM will be extended to ex-service personnel who:

- have died in service;
- have been medically discharged with a compensatory impairment at the time of their discharge, thus rendering them unable to serve the required minimum qualifying period; or
- have honourably served but, due to some Defence workplace enlistment policies of the time (as determined by the Chief of the Defence Force), were unable to serve the required minimum qualifying period.

Documents required for verification of service

All applications for the ADM will need to undergo a verification process to ensure that all information provided is true and correct.

This process will be greatly assisted by applicants providing documentation that verifies all service in the ADF. **Certified true copies (no originals please)** of documents will be accepted as proof of service, eg:

- Certificate of Service
- Certificate of Discharge
- Extracts of service records
- Details of any Long Service Awards received.

These documents should be certified by a Justice of the Peace or other authorised person (see Certification of Documents page).

Please note that if these documents are NOT provided, there may be significant delays in assessing the application.

If an applicant does not have supporting documentation, the Directorate of Honours and Awards (DHA) will check applicants service records to verify an entitlement (or otherwise) to the ADM.

Information for those with Reserve service

Members of the Reserves (serving and ex-serving) will need to supply supporting documentation with their application. They may provide documentation signed by their unit Commanding Officer that certifies their service as efficient and in line with the medal regulations.

Please note that failure to do so will mean the applicant may incur lengthy delays due to the amount of manual checking required to verify Reserve service.

Non-Effective Service

Non-Effective Service of 21 days or more will not be counted towards the ADM, as will any other Non-Effective Service as determined by Defence policy.

Normally, only service rendered under Defence conditions of service and remunerated at Service rates of pay may be taken into account as qualifying service for awards awarded by time. Service in the Standby Reserve or Ready Reserve where no training commitment applies will not be taken into account as qualifying service.

Application forms for further medal entitlements

The application forms for the ADM can only be used to apply for the ADM. All other medal applications must be made separately.

http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards/resources/forms/forms.htm

Application forms for the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal, the Pingat Jasa Malaysia, and the generic application form (for all other service medals and long service awards) can be obtained by calling the DHA on 1800 111 321, or can be downloaded from the Honours and Awards website at the following link:

Completing the Australian Defence Medal application form (Form AD 497)

Please use BLOCK letters only.

Some fields on each form are **mandatory** and **must** be completed as appropriate.

Please complete the entire form and provide details of ALL ADF service, and **provide documents to verify service.**

There is enough room for listing two separate periods of mixed service on the form; if more room is needed, attach additional pages. This is in relation to service in two or more arms of the ADF.

Applications will be processed in order of receipt and are subject to verification by the Department of Defence. However,

applicants who do not include documents to verify service will experience delays with their application.

Please attach certified true copies (no originals please) of Certificate of Service or Certificate of Discharge etc.

Posthumous and unclaimed Medals or Awards for deceased ex-serving members will be issued to the beneficiary of the estate of the deceased member.

The application form (AD 497) must be witnessed and certified by a Justice of the Peace or other authorised person.

Fraudulent claims

Persons who submit fraudulent applications based on a statutory declaration may be subject to prosecution under Section 11 of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* as amended, which states in part that:

A person must not intentionally make a false statement in a statutory declaration.

Penalty: Imprisonment for 4 years.

Falsely claiming entitlement to the ADM, and then subsequently wearing the award, is an offence under Section 80B of the *Defence Act 1903* - Improper use of service decorations. This offence is also punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

Application for the Australian Defence Medal

Department of Defence

Certification of Documents

A Justice of the Peace or other authorised person must certify current and posthumous ADM application forms (AD 497), as well as documents provided as proof of service for applications. A Statutory Declaration under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* as amended may be made before:

- Dentist
- Legal practitioner
- Medical practitioner
- Nurse
- Pharmacist
- Veterinary surgeon
- Agent of the Australian Postal Corporation who is in charge of an office supplying postal services to the public
- Australian Consular Officer, or Australian Diplomatic Officer, (within the meaning of the *Consular Fees Act 1985*)
- Building Society officer with five or more years of continuous service
- Chief Executive Officer of a Commonwealth court
- Marriage celebrant registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*
- Clerk of a court
- Commissioner for Affidavits
- Commissioner for Declarations
- Bank Officer or Credit Union Officer with five or more years of continuous service
- Holder of a statutory office not specified in another item in this list
- Judge of a court
- Justice of the Peace
- Magistrate
- Member of the Australian Defence Force who is an officer; or a non-commissioned officer within the meaning of the *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982* with five or more years of continuous service; or warrant officer within the meaning of that Act
- Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants or the National Institute of Accountants
- Member of Engineers Australia, other than at grade of student
- Member of the Parliament of the Commonwealth; or the Parliament of a State; or a Territory Legislature; or a local government authority of a State or Territory

- Minister of religion registered under Subdivision A of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*
- Notary Public
- Permanent employee of the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth authority; or a State or Territory or a State or Territory authority; or a local government authority; with five or more years of continuous service who is not specified in another item in this list
- Permanent employee of the Australian Postal Corporation with five or more years of continuous service who is employed in an office supplying postal services to the public
- Person before whom a Statutory Declaration may be made under the law of the State or Territory in which the declaration is made
- Police Officer
- Registrar, or Deputy Registrar, of a court
- Senior Executive Service officer of the Commonwealth, or of a State or Territory, or of a Commonwealth, State or Territory authority
- Teacher employed on a full-time basis at a school or tertiary education institution

Posthumous applications

Posthumous applications for the Australian Defence Medal (and other medals) will only be considered from the following:

A letter from your solicitor stating that you are legally the sole beneficiary.

- (a) Executor of the Will of the deceased member
- (b) Public Trustee Administrator appointed by the State in cases of intestacy

(c) A person who can provide legal proof to their status as the sole beneficiary to the claim being made for posthumous issue of the Service award(s) (if such proof cannot be tendered, the entitlement remains unclaimed and may lapse).

Please note that Statutory Declarations, birth certificates or marriage certificates tendered in isolation do not equate to legal proof of your beneficiary status.

A letter from a solicitor identifying you as the Executor of the estate or Public Trustee Administrator in the case of intestacy of a deceased members estate;

Examples of acceptable legal proof are as follows:
A Certified True Copy of the Will (or extract thereof) identifying you as sole beneficiary to the deceased person's estate; or

Note: The above list is not exhaustive. Please refer to the Honours and Awards internet site at www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ for a complete list of authorised persons before whom a Statutory Declaration can be made.

Everywhere Where Right and Glory Lead

Application for the Australian Defence Medal

AUSTRALIA

STATUTORY DECLARATION

- To be completed by the FORMER Service member. All deletions or corrections are to be initialled.
- Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory and must be completed.

I, (Full name) _____
Here insert the title and full name of person making this declaration.

of, (Full address) _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____ Date of birth _____
Include area code

Email _____

do solemnly and sincerely declare that I served in the Australian Defence Forces and that my details were as follows:

Details of Service (Complete box (2) only if service was mixed).

Rank on termination	Service number(s) *	Date of enlistment *	Date of discharge *
Branch of Service (1) *		(Specify)	Type of Service *
Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>			Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>

Rank on termination	Service number(s)	Date of enlistment	Date of discharge
Branch of Service (2)		(Specify)	Type of Service
Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>			Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>

Defence Long Service Awards

<p>Have you been awarded a Long Service Medal?</p> <p>Yes (Please specify below) <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Defence Force Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve Force Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Long Service and Good Conduct Medal <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Defence Long Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve Force Decoration <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other long service medal <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please specify, with date qualified</i></p>	<p>Did you render National Service? *</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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Use and disclosure of personal information

DHA may contract out to third party entities the assessment and despatch functions of certain Defence medals. In the future, some despatch functions may be undertaken by overseas entities. Accordingly, DHA will disclose some of your personal information such as name, postal address and service number to these contracted third parties. However, it is only for the purposes of assessment, engraving, despatch and correspondence in regards to medals entitlements. By signing this application form you acknowledge this disclosure.

Declaration

I declare that the information provided above is true and correct regarding my service, and I am aware that if awarded the ADM on the basis of a false application, that I may be subject to penalties under the *Defence Act 1903* as described in the instructions. I also make this solemn declaration by virtue of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*, and I am subject to the penalties provided by that Act for the making of false statements in Statutory Declarations, conscientiously believing that statements in this declaration to be true in every particular.

Signature of person making declaration _____

Declared at _____ on the _____, 20 _____

before me,

Signature of person before whom the declaration is made _____

Title of person before whom the declaration is made _____

<p>Return form to: Directorate of Honours and Awards T-1-49 Department of Defence Reply Paid 4455 Kingston ACT 2604</p>	<p>You may elect to have your service recognised at a bi-annual presentation arranged by Defence in your region. You may also receive your medal through the post.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Presentation. My Federal electorate is _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mail (Registered Post)</p> <p>This form is to be used for the Australian Defence Medal only. For further information please visit our website at www.defence.gov.au/dpe or call 1800 111 321.</p>
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Application Concerning the Posthumous Issue of the Australian Defence Medal

AUSTRALIA

STATUTORY DECLARATION

- This Statutory Declaration may only be completed by the Executor of the will, Administrator in case of intestacy, or a person who can prove legal status as sole beneficiary to this claim.
- All deletions or corrections are to be initialled.
- Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory and must be completed.

I, (Full name) _____
Here insert the title and full name of person making this declaration.

of, (Full address) _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Date of birth _____ Email _____
Include area code

do solemnly and sincerely declare that I wish to apply for the unclaimed Australian Defence Medal in respect of the following deceased ex-member:

Family name *		Given name(s) *		Date of birth *	Date deceased
Rank on termination	Service number(s)		Date of enlistment		Date of discharge
Branch of Service (1) *			(Specify)		Type of Service
Navy <input type="checkbox"/>	Army <input type="checkbox"/>	Air Force <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>		Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>
Rank on termination	Service number(s)		Date of enlistment		Date of discharge
Branch of Service (2)			(Specify)		Type of Service
Navy <input type="checkbox"/>	Army <input type="checkbox"/>	Air Force <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>		Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>

Did the deceased ex-member ever receive a Long Service Award?	Did the deceased ex-member ever render National Service?
No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <small>Please specify</small>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

I have enclosed certified true copies of the official documents as proof of service (Statement of Service, Discharge Certificate etc). I understand that failure to supply these documents may result in delays with my application. Applications will be processed in order of receipt and are subject to verification by the Department of Defence.

Use and disclosure of personal information

DHA may contract out to third party entities the assessment and despatch functions of certain Defence medals. In the future, some despatch functions may be undertaken by overseas entities. Accordingly, DHA will disclose some of your personal information such as name, postal address and service number to these contracted third parties. However, it is only for the purposes of assessment, engraving, despatch and correspondence in regards to medals entitlements. By signing this application form you acknowledge this disclosure.

I have enclosed proof that I am the Executor of the will, Administrator in case of intestacy, or a person who can prove legal status as sole beneficiary to this claim.

I declare that I am the executor or sole beneficiary (*delete as necessary*) entitled to receive the Australian Defence Medal. I hereby indemnify the Commonwealth of Australia against any claim arising from the incorrect award of the medal.

I make this solemn declaration by virtue of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*, and subject to the penalties provided by that Act for the making of false statements in Statutory Declarations, conscientiously believing that statements in this declaration to be true in every particular.

Signature of person making declaration _____

Declared at _____ on the _____, 20 _____
 before me,

Signature of person before whom the declaration is made _____

Title of person before whom the declaration is made _____

Return form to:
 Directorate of Honours and Awards
 T-1-49
 Department of Defence
 Reply Paid 4455
 Kingston ACT 2604

You may elect to have the member's service recognised at a bi-annual presentation arranged by Defence in your region. You may also receive the medal through the post.

- Presentation. My Federal electorate is _____
 Mail (Registered Post)

This form is to be used for the Australian Defence Medal only. For further information please visit our website at www.defence.gov.au/dpa or call 1800 111 321.



7TH FIELD BATTERY/3 FIELD REGIMENT



BATTERY COMMANDER'S REPORT

The Battery has had a less frenetic start to the first quarter of 2006 than compared with 2005. This has principally come about due to our commitment to the Reserve Response Force (RRF), where by we contribute 11 personnel. The RRF is a requirement of Government and to be used when deemed necessary by Government for domestic security tasks. It is a 156 strong force comprised from units throughout the Brigade.

In mid February, 2 members of the Battery came back from a 3 month deployment on Operation Relex II. Operation Relex is concerned with Australian Border protection. This is the Australian Defence Force operation which contributes to the whole of government program to detect, intercept and deter vessels transporting unauthorised arrivals from entering Australia through the North-West maritime approaches. It includes units from all three services and supports [Coastwatch](#) and Customs. Operation Relex is currently based on a Task Group comprising one major fleet unit, an AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft, Navy patrol boats and an Army transit security element.

It was within the Army transit security element where our personnel were employed. This typically involved the boarding of vessels and providing security whilst the Navy piloted the vessel. They were kept busy as one would expect given the level of activity off our Northern waters in recent times. In 2003/4, the Battery provided 3 personnel to Operation Relex and there is the expectation that the Battery will be required to do similar later this year.

Ex Tasman reserve was conducted in February in which 2 Battery members deployed with an 11/28 Battalion Company Group to New Zealand for 2 weeks. This saw them operating in conditions a lot colder than they were used to.

On a different note, the Battery day staff recently helped the RAAHS in moving the Desert 25 Pounder down on to the drill hall floor and moving the 15 Pounder into its place. This now has all 25 Pounders on the drill hall floor and sees somewhat of a lineage taking place. These changes have enhanced the all round presentation of the collection.

Ubique.

Andrew Dunjey
Major
Battery Commander



**Dawn Service
Catafalque Party**

Big bang theory

By Cpl Andrew Hetherington

ARMY's artillery capability will begin its transition to a mobile, networked and precise indirect fire system in 2010, following the announcement that the Government has given first-pass approval for Project LAND 17.

Deputy Director Combat Support in Land Development Branch, CDG, Lt-Col Tim Griggs said first-pass approval for the project was received on February 14 from the National Security Committee.

"Government has given Defence the direction to develop a capability option between the first- and second-pass approval of the project. Defence is to develop an option that includes a mix of protected self-propelled (SP) howitzers and also light weight towed howitzers, of which the latter will be required to be deployed by CH47D Chinook helicopters," he said.

The two different types of artillery will be allocated to the 1st, 3rd and 7th Brigades and Lt-Col Griggs said all of the guns would be 155mm.

"The equipment mix strikes the appropriate balance between protected SP guns to support 1 Bde's war-fighting role and lightweight 155mm towed howitzers to support 3 Bde's rapid strategic and tactical deployment requirements," he said.

Lt-Col Griggs said Project LAND 17 is about more than just a new gun



The big guns: The Archer SP is just one of the self-propelled howitzers being considered.

platform, it also involves two other critical aspects associated with modernising the Army's artillery capabilities.

Approximately six batteries of equipment will be delivered to ARA batteries in Land Comd, but an additional number of systems will also be acquired to support Trg Comd as well as repair and attrition stock. The plan for the M198 is for them to be issued to reserve units.

Lt-Col Griggs said Land Development Branch is working

together with the DMO's LAND 17 Project Office to prepare for the release of a request for tender (RFT) for the project in the last quarter of 2006.

It is expected that the first guns will be delivered to Army by the end of 2010 and Lt-Col Griggs said that it was planned that from 2011 the equipment will begin introduction into Army service.

"The new capability is then expected to be fully operational by the end of 2014," he said.."

(LtCol Tim Griggs spent two weeks deployed with 7 Fd Bty, as a 'on loan SECO' in Lancelin, on AFX September 1991 whilst still a young Lt – (Ed)



The Archer SP

The rain shall not weary them, nor dampen their spirit

CHRISTIANA JONES

After fighting the Japanese in Borneo and the Germans in North Africa, World War II veteran Peter St John Kennedy wasn't going to let a bit of rain ruin his Anzac Day.

The 86-year-old was one of 9000 veterans and serving personnel and their families who braved heavy rain to march proudly through Perth yesterday.

"You just march on and forget about it," said Mr Kennedy, who led the 2/7th Australian Artillery Regiment during the march down St Georges Terrace.

Earlier, a massive crowd stood quietly in Kings Park for Australia's biggest dawn service.

RSL State president Bill Gaynor said crowds throughout the day were well up on previous years despite bad weather.

"The streets were lined from Barrack Street to Victoria Avenue," he said. "I've never seen anything packed so tight."

But a downpour about 11am forced the cancellation of the memorial service at Langley Park for first time since 1952.

Premier Alan Carpenter later led an impromptu memorial service in the foyer of the US Consulate in St Georges Terrace, where a few dozen veterans gathered.



Waterproof: It rained on their parade but that did not matter for Anzac Day marcher Peter Kennedy nor the big Perth crowds who watched. Picture: Phil Fyfe

Peter Kennedy from the 2/7th Fd Regt enjoying the weather on Anzac Day
 Photo courtesy of the West Australian Newspaper

News Flash | News Flash | News Flash | News Flash | News Flash



The RAA Association of WA (Inc) is keen to put an order for Artillery embroidered badges, as above. The cost of the Badges will be \$10 and anyone requiring one should put an order to the Association using the form in the last page of this newsletter. The badges are 55mm wide by 40mm high.



THE AIMING POST

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society Of Western Australia (Inc)

President's AGM Report:

The past year has continued to be a financial success with steady income from the tunnels and an excellent result from the Restoration Team. These programmes had heavy commitments and to each and every member, thank you. For those not part of the Team but provided support for 'work off site' you continue to enable us to make a dollar and may your support continue.

In respect of the Lease arrangements with the Town of Mosman Park these have nearly been completed and the cooperation of the Towns CEO deserves recording. The Tunnels continue to be our main "Exposure to the Public" and the Guides lead by Vice President David Carter deserves our appreciation.

The Head Office workers are also to be commended for their efforts in particular the so called 'Tea Lady' Ronnie Roach. We always notice a fall off in standards when, on the odd occasion she's elsewhere with other commitments.

The continued support of 7 Field Battery and the Battery Commander provides a solid base for the Society. Thank you.

To the Curator, Don Rae, your contribution to the success of the RAAHS continues to be a shining example to all. I would like to express appreciation to the Committee and members for your support and in particular to Secretary Tom Arnautovic whose contribution is outstanding. To our new Treasurer, John Walsh, who is attending a Restoration course, it is regrettable you could not be present today. And before closing, our long term tireless worker Ron Jager makes it much easier for all. Special thanks.

Bruce G. Campbell
President



**The President and Mr.
Ron Jager, at the
Artillery Memorial
during the Dawn
Service**

Everywhere Where Right and Glory Lead

At the recent held AGM of the Society, the following presentations were made by the President:

15 Year name tags presented to: Tom Arnautovic, Ray Bird, Alma Buckingham, David Carter, John Fitzhardinge, Mike Hall, Kevin Hamilton, Ron Jager, Reg Kidd, Eric MacDonald, Robert Mitchell, Phil Pougault, Jan Rae, Ian Rae, Veronica Rae, Ronnie Roach, Peter Rowles, Barry steers and Miles Whitten-Seth.

10 Year name tags presented to: Jim Clements, Betty Collins, Judith Hollier, Les Hollier, and Alf Richards.

Certificate of Appreciations presented to: Daphne Sanders, Jim Clements and David Chappell.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS: (elected unopposed)

President	Bruce Campbell
Vice President	David Carter
Secretary	Tom Arnautovic
Treasurer	John Walsh
Committee	Ron Jager Neil Lodge Barry Ellis
Curator	Don Rae
Newsletter	Gabby D'Uva
Hon Auditor	Hugh Zimmerman

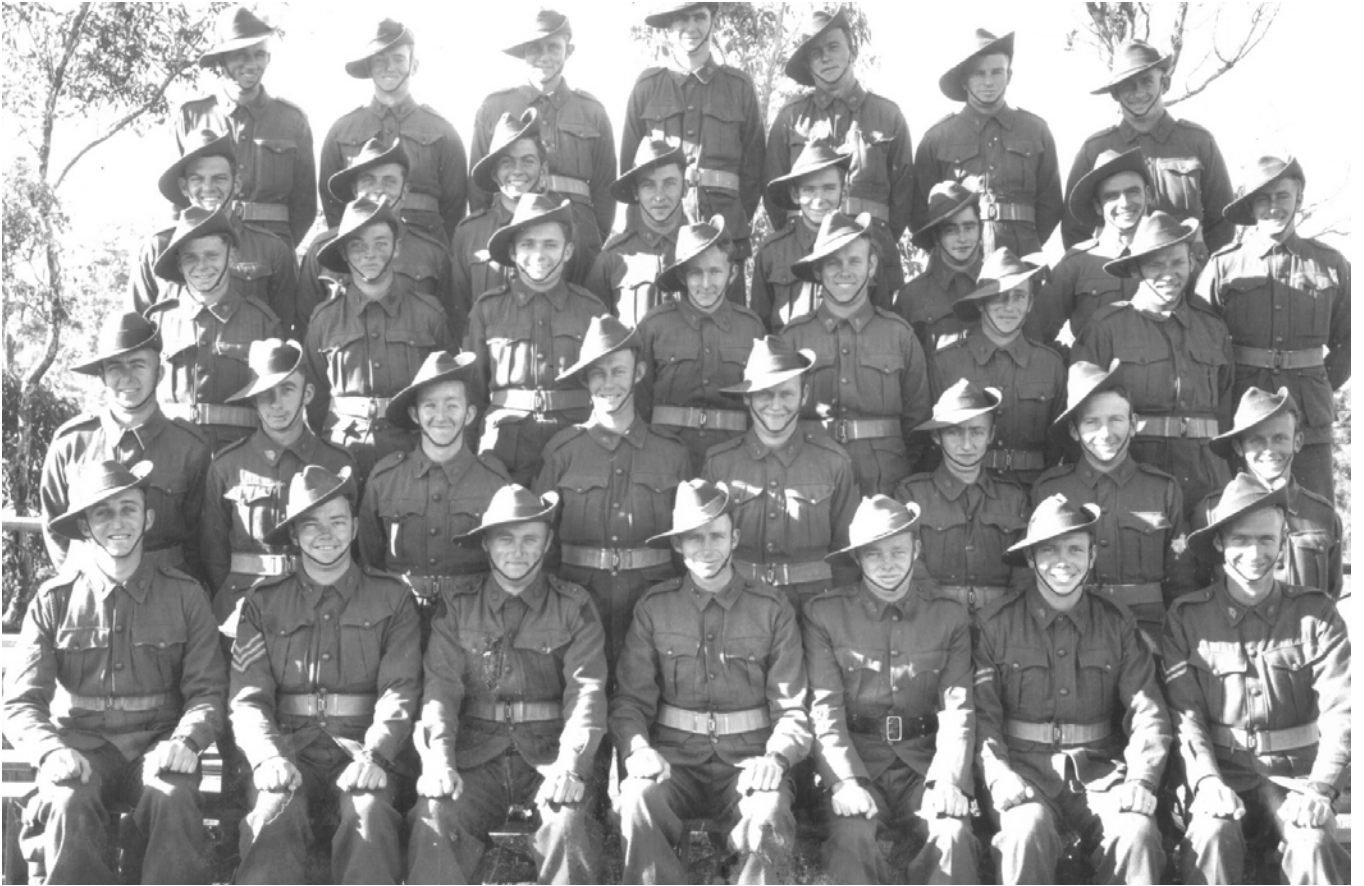


Members at the Dawn Service

Ronnie Roach, Ken Hepworth, Jim Clements and Ron Jager, enjoying a cuppa after the Dawn Service



Artillery from around the world



8th Battery HQ 1942 – 3 Field Regiment RAA
(The above photo was kindly given to the Editor a few years ago by Henry Noble for the Battery Album)



Some of the Artillery pieces on display at Hobbs Artillery Park

A VERY SPECIAL DONATION

On 15th March 2006, in a simple yet significant ceremony Mr. Bill Stacey, President of 2/3rd Australian Field Regiment Association (WA), handed over the Regiment's Banner to Captain Simon Hunter, Training Officer and Warrant Officer Colin Yanner, Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery of 7 Field Battery RAA for display and safe keeping.

The Banner will be carried by Army Cadets on ANZAC Day and Gunners' Day as a reminder of the proud heritage earned by the 2/3rd Field Regiment throughout World War 2. ANZAC Day 2006 was the first occasion that the Banner was proudly carried by the Cadets, despite the inclement weather.

Bill commented to those present that the Unit Flag was being retained by the Association "until the last man standing" after which it too may be presented to the Battery. We all sincerely trust that this will be many years in the future!

RAA Historical Society has accepted responsibility for the safe keeping and display of the Banner.



Training Officer 7 Fd Bty, Captain Simon Hunter (Left) and SMIG WO2 Colin Yanner accept the 2/3rd Banner from President, Mr. Bill Stacey



Bill Stacey and Don Rae

Everywhere Where Right and Glory Lead

"Gunners Support Wewak Campaign"

Of all the great battles the Aussies fought in World War II, whether in the desert or elsewhere, the greatest they fought was at Wewak, and yet it went unnoticed by the World, and even today remains relatively unknown.

By fighting the Japanese there, the Aussies kept them "off our backs" while we went north. So you see, there are a few Yanks who understand what the Aussies did there and appreciated it.

From the point of view of any gunner who took part in the campaign the following article which appeared in a mainland newspaper "The Mail" could give some gratification. Under a banner headline "**SUPPORT BY GUNNERS MADE WEWAK CAMPAIGN**" it went on to say:-

New Guinea – There is not a man among the infantry who successfully stormed Wewak Point and Jap positions on the high ground behind Wirui Mission and Boram plantation in New Guinea who would not admit that a great part of the success of the campaign was due to the heavy and exceptionally accurate artillery support which was forthcoming at all times.

It is hard to estimate what the Australian casualties would have been during the storming of the point had it not been for the preliminary artillery and air bombardment. The troops had to advance in daylight along a narrow track, commanded by the enemy, with the sea on one side and a neck deep swamp on the other. When they reach the base of the cape they had to deploy in the open, under enemy fire and proceed to assault a series of strong points cut out of rock faces, heavily protected bunkers, and inter-connected caves cut from the cliffs.

In these natural strongholds were from 150 to 200 Japs, who were well armed with machine guns and automatic cannon, and were prepared to die where they stood. In actual fact, none did surrender.

Yet the entire garrison was annihilated for the loss of two Australians killed and 15 wounded.

Before the attack on Wewak, 6th Divisional Artillery had not done a divisional shoot since Greece, and then under totally different circumstances. In the drive down to the New Guinea coast the infantry were supported by only one field regiment at a time. Between Cape Pus and Cape Wom all guns were concentrated, including 155mm guns, "Long Toms" and American pattern 75mm mountain guns, manned by Australian gunners.

The concentration which preceded the final assault on the point was a sight which has never been seen before in New Guinea. From Cape Pus to Wom the sky was lit with continuous gun flashes, before which lightening, playing out to sea in the tropic dawn, paled into insignificance.

The guns, which engaged three areas on the point, fired for 40 minutes. In that time more than 3,000 rounds were poured into restricted target areas.

JAP POSITIONS OVERRUN

When the infantry moved to the attack, they were able to overrun the first Jap positions before the dazed enemy gunners had time to man their weapons – cannon and heavy machine-guns sited to cover the only means of approach. How many lives the bombardment saved can only be conjectured, but had the infantry been forced to advance through the hail of the enemy fire, the final count of dead and wounded would have been very different.

The next big shoot was on to the high ground at Wirui Mission. A shelf like plateau extending out from the foothills of the ranges.

On this commanding feature, which overlooked all Wewak Point, the aerodrome area, and the connecting roads; the enemy was dug-in strength in a series of positions covering all approaches. The 25 pounder fire was exceptionally accurate again.

SLOPE PLOUGHED

Two batteries were employed to soften up the Jap defences at Boram plantation. In half an hour, 2,800 rounds were hurled into the plantation; then later, following an air strike, 1,000 shells were fired in 12 minutes into a patch of green field 300 yards by 200 yards.

When the infantry moved in the grassy slope was like a ploughed field. Bunkers had vanished; the delayed fuses with which the shells were equipped had given the maximum cratering effect, the weapon pits had been completely obliterated.

In the bunkers, 28 bodies were counted; it was impossible to make an accurate count of the remainder.

When the infantry pushed into the hills, delaying enemy forces pursuing their usual tactics of occupying the high ground and controlling the westward tracks, sat in previously prepared positions in depth along the razor-backed ridges, the whole being surrounded by outposts

manned by automatic weapons and an outer ring of sentries.

Straight forward assault by infantry platoons armed with Brens, Owens, and flamethrowers was bound to be expensive. Again the 25 pounders came to the rescue. After the positions had been reconnoitered, harassing fire was poured into them intermittently through the night.

HIGH CASUALTIES

Then a heavy concentration followed as the infantry moved to the start line. Invariably enemy casualties from the volume of fire were high: in many cases, notably at Hill 770, the enemy withdrew rather than withstand further pounding.

Apart from supporting the infantry, the 25 pounders also engaged enemy 75mm guns which opened up to out positions and were spotted. With practice it was found possible to land 50 shells on the Jap gun position within three minutes of the issue of the order to engage.

The War Diary of the Regiment picks up the story again and we continue:-

Friday 17 Aug

2 I/C reced new Regt. camp area at Cape Pus allotted by RAA Camp will be occupied by the Regt. when ordered to cease fire and move out of action. IS OR's eligible for discharge under the Long Service plan embarked for Australia.

(The Unit was to become the Holding Regt. for all 6 Div. artillery. men from disbanded Regts. constantly moved in and drafts regularly marched out for discharge, Volunteers were accepted for the Occupation Force to go to Japan, Gnr, Ted Pewsey was one).

Sat 18 Aug

Japanese POW captured on August 17th stated that concentrated fire by the Regt, on August 15th in retaliation to enemy fire on Mandi destroyed the hostile gun and caused many casualties.

Sunday 19 Aug

Official VP Day in Wewak Area 6 Div Victory Salute of 101 guns was fired seawards from Koigin by "C" Troop 6 Bty, Major A.M. Forbes, Lieut C. Poat, Lieut R Payne and 33 OR's embarked for discharge. At 2000 hrs. 6 Bty fired a star shell display over Wewak Point in the official celebration of VP Day. The first salvoes formed a 5 star Southern Cross over Wewak Harbour and the last a "V" for Victory.

Reproduced from March 2004 Edition of "TAKE POST" by kind permission 2/3 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION WA.



Members and families enjoying a drink and a game of "Two Up" after the Anzac Day March



LEIGHTON BATTERY “HONOURED”

The City of Fremantle will feature in a future programme of Foxtel’s History Channel Series “Australian Icon Towns” along with Kalgoorlie, Broome and Albany to be aired later in 2006.

Completely out of the blue, the Society was approached by Outlook Productions Pty Ltd of Sydney seeking approval to include Leighton Battery in the Fremantle segment. Naturally our response was a positive “YES”!

The Film and Production Crew comprising Production Manager Emily Hunt, Director and Producer Michael Neil-Smith, Cameraman Mal Hamilton and Presenter Scott McGregor visited the site on 22 April and spent in excess of two hours literally “crawling” over the Tunnel Complex. It became obvious that they found the site far more intriguing than they may have imagined!

In an Email message from Broome Emily Hunt said – “Thanks again for your kind assistance at Leighton Battery, it was a fantastic shoot and all the crew enjoyed themselves enormously”!

Obviously, in a 15 minute segment of Fremantle, we may only rate a few seconds (or hopefully minutes) viewing time but, regardless of how long, the publicity potential will be invaluable.

Don’t forget to watch the Foxtel programme announcement!



left to right *Michael Neil-Smith; Scott McGregor; Emily Hunt; Mal Hamilton*

The following article was kindly sent in by Mr. Reg Kidd

The Transition from Coast to Field Artillery

by Reg Kidd

Fremantle Coast Artillery and 2nd Field Regiment (AIF) Bougainville

Over the past two centuries Coast Artillery and Field Artillery have traditionally been two completely separate arms of the artillery family. Coast Artillery usually employed large calibre guns emplaced in concrete and sited to protect Port and major industrial installations whilst Field Artillery was completely mobile, moving with the ebb and flow of the infantry units that it supported.

This article is about the transition of a highly trained Coast Artillery unit to a 'field' role and its success in one of the hardest fought jungle campaigns in Australia's Pacific war.

'U' Aust Heavy Battery (Coast) AIF was originally formed from Coast Artillery personnel at Kembla Fortress in NSW. It was equipped with two M1917/18 155mm (6.1 inch) guns and first moved to Oro Bay in Papua New Guinea where it relieved 'F' Battery which returned to Australia. Their job was to protect the large base from Japanese sea attack. It was later moved to Lae to carry out the same function. The Battery had only been in New Guinea for about four months and whilst it had carried out several practice 'shoots' it had not fired a shot in anger.

In September 1944, the O.C. Capt. (later Major) J.I. McKenna was informed that the Battery was to be augmented by four more 155mm guns making six in all – two to be held in reserve – and was to go into action as a Medium Battery in the forthcoming Bougainville campaign.

Training instructors were obtained from the 2/11 Field Regt. which was also at Lae and all ranks were given comprehensive training in field operations including practice 'shoots'. The Battery moved to Torokina in Bougainville on a converted vehicular ferry the 'George Peat' and there underwent further field training with instructors from the 2nd and 4th Field Regts, and also training in perimeter defence from 29 Bde instructors.

But let us go back to the reasons for this transformation which signalled the end of Coast Artillery and the beginning of a new role for medium artillery in jungle conditions.

The M1917/18 155mm gun with which the battery was equipped was of French origin in World War I. It was an excellent weapon with a maximum range of 20,000 yards firing a 96 lb. projectile. At maximum range the 'spread' on the ground was only approximately 50 yards. After the end of World War I the American Army

took a large number of these guns back to the USA where they were modernised by Dodge Bros. of automobile fame by the addition of pneumatic tyres, hydraulic brakes and an improved breech block and sighting mechanism.

The main drawback to these guns was the limited traverse of only 30 degrees left and right of centre without moving the trails and spades which made them of little use in a Coast Defence role. To overcome this a steel prefabricated cruciform mount was designed called the 'Panama' mount because it was first used in the Panama Canal zone. With this mount the gun was attached to a central pivot and the trails fitted with roller wheels which ran in a circular track around the perimeter of the steel platform thus enabling a traverse of 360 degrees.

Japan entered the war on the 7th December 1941 and the devastating advance of the Japanese army and navy was spectacular. In two months Japanese forces had spread as far south as Timor and over two thirds of New Guinea. It was expected that Japanese forces would make a landing on the northern shores of Australia. Darwin was heavily bombed on the 19th February 1942.

General Douglas MacArthur was appointed Commander in Chief of Allied forces and one of his first actions was to order a complete survey of Australia's Coast Defences. He found these to be quite insufficient to offer the required level of protection from probable Japanese surface and submarine attack.

Additional guns and ancillary equipment were not available in Australia and could not be obtained from Britain. What was needed was mobile Coast Artillery. He turned to the USA where he knew large stocks of the M1917/18 155mm guns were available. Sixty eight of these guns were urgently shipped to Australia (sixteen were lost due to enemy action in transit) and these were used to equip nineteen mobile Coast Batteries called the 'Letter' Batteries as they were named 'A' through to 'U' excluding 'I'. Eleven of these batteries were sent to New Guinea to protect allied bases being established as the Allied forces moved forward.

On the 28th November 1943 the guns of 'M' Battery emplaced at Finschaffon were turned landward to assist 9 Aust Div. following the retreating Japanese northwards. Using OPO's from the 2/12 Field Regt. to

range on to targets, over 500 rounds were fired on to Japanese positions at ranges in excess of 15,000 yards with devastating effect.

In late 1944 Lt. General Savige, GOC 2 Aust Corps was entrusted with the relief of USA forces on Bougainville and the Northern Solomons. The two American divisions were to be sent to the Philippines and replaced by the 3rd Aust. Division augmented by two additional Brigades. General Savige wanted three Field Regiments and a Medium Regiment to form the artillery component of his force. 3 Aust. Div. already had the 2nd and 4th Field Regts. and the 2nd Mountain Battery.

His request for additional artillery was denied because of an acute lack of shipping which had been directed to the Philippines campaign. The 13th and 16th Field Regts. were in Queensland as also were the 2nd and 2/1st Medium Regts. and there they stayed. He was later, in April 1945, allotted the 2/11th Field Regt. stationed at Lae. Doubtless the spectacular use of 'M' Battery in a field role at Finschaffan had been noted and this probably was the basis for the decision to fully equip 'U' Battery and use it in a field role. Also 'U' Battery was already in New Guinea.

During the six months that 'U' Battery was in action in the southern section of Bougainville the Battery fired over 2500 rounds at Japanese strong points, artillery positions and forming up areas with devastating effect using FOO's, Air Ops and Arty/R for ranging. The guns were moved many times to new positions using large Allis Chalmers tractors. Some problems were encountered with crest clearance but these were always satisfactorily overcome. The use of the

M1917/18 155mm gun in jungle conditions was proved to be a complete success.

Back in Australia, in Queensland, 'L', 'S' and 'T' Coast Batteries were also undergoing training to fit them for a field role but the war ended before they could be used. Thus ended the role of the 'Letter' batteries as mobile Coast Artillery and signalled their future entry into a field role.

It is interesting to note that twenty four M1 155mm guns were also shipped to Australia. These were an American version of the French gun mounted on an eight wheel bogie chassis and called the 'Long Tom'. They had a maximum range of 28,000 yards but did not display the accuracy of the M1917/18 gun. They also weighted about thirteen tons, much heavier than the M1917/18 gun. The American army used many of these guns in Europe in 1944/45. Two of these guns were used in the Wewak campaign in 1945 by the 2/2nd Field Regt. with some success.

What became of these guns? The 1917/18 guns were returned to Australia and disappeared, probably cut up for scrap. They were not returned to the USA and not one example remains to remind us of their invaluable assistance to Australia's war effort. After the war a Medium Regt. was equipped with the M1 gun for a short period. But after this, they too, disappeared except for one gun that is now displayed at the Artillery Museum in North Head, Sydney,.

So ended this interesting episode which marked the transition of Coast Artillery to Field Artillery – a role which should have been anticipated and acted on much earlier.

Information for this article was obtained from –
'The final campaigns' by Gavin Long Aust War Museum
'The history of the Letter Batteries' by Reg Kidd & Ray Neal

******Membership Fees are due Now to your Association******

Note from the Editor:

If any member from any of the Associations or Society would like to contribute any comments, war stories or book reviews, please send them in to the Editor at the address shown in Page 2.
All contributions will be greatly appreciated!

...and to finish off...

Everywhere Where Right and Glory Lead

Artillery Candid Camera Shot.....



Spotted.....past BC of 7 Fd Bty standing in line in the RSL "Wet Mess" waiting to purchase a beer.

.....

Cut and return to the RAA Association

To the RAA Association of WA (Inc) - Postal address on page 2 -

I would like to order an embroidered badge as advertised in the May newsletter.

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ being for payment of _____(Qty) Badges
(Badges are \$10 each. The actual size of the badge is 55mm wide by 40mm high)

Name_____

Member of _____

(Name of Association or Society)

Street Name_____

Suburb:_____ Postcode_____ Phone_____ Email:_____

Please make cheques payable to RAA of WA (Inc)