



Artillery WA

Official Newsletter of Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc) and RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)
WebSite: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au> Email: info@artillerywa.org.au

Edition 1 / 08

April 2008



HAP Sgt's Mess reunion Dining In Night Sep 2007



Captain Tom Arnautovic (r) & Sgt Tim Lane share a special moment at the Sgt's Mess Reunion Dinner Sep 07

Both are holding the 25pr Rammer Trophy awarded to the Best No 1 assessed at the AFX. Tom is the inaugural recipient of the award in 1976 and Tim is the current recipient and was born in 1976.



Notice Board

Mark these dates in your calendars

ANZAC DAY – 25 Apr 2008 -

**Form Up Point – Cnr of St. George's Tce & Irwin Street
Opposite the Uniting Church Building
This year Parade reverts to finish at the Esplanade**

Warning Order

Battery's 60th Birthday Dinner –HAP- More details next Newsletter

RAAHS BUSY BEES 2008

19th Jan 23rd Feb 29th Mar 03rd May
31st May 28th Jun 26th Jul 30th Aug
27th Sep 25th Oct 29th Nov 20th Dec

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 – Sgt's Mess Reunion Sep 07-

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Next Issue – June 2008

Subs to your Association or Society are now due – RAAA of WA (Inc) - \$ 15 RAAHS - \$ 25

We now have a Direct Debit facility – Please find the details in the relevant sections -

The Editor gratefully acknowledges the contributions to the newsletter by the members.

Articles, editorial comment or book reviews for publication should be submitted to the editor, Gabriel D'Uva at: Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc)
PO Box 881, Claremont WA 6910. Phone: 93836544 Fax: 93836370 or E-mail the Editor at info@artillerywa.org.au

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 TO THE ADDRESSES SHOWN

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – AGM Report -

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting being held on Sunday 09 March 2008 at Hobbs Artillery Park.

Unfortunately a long standing Committee Member Ron Jager has decided for health reasons not to renominate.

To you Ron the untiring service given over many years has been appreciated by all and the dedication to the Association will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the Committee and Members it is desired to place on record our acknowledgment for all the many years of support and wish you, all the best in the future.

The Dawn service at Hobbs Artillery Park was well attended and the support by the immediate past Battery Commander Major Andrew Dunjey and 7 Field Battery continues to make this event an important occasion in our calendar.

As usual Ron Jaeger and Gabby D'Uva provided the coordination between the bodies.

Gunners Day at Guildford was in near perfect weather with the Reviewing Officer the Colonel Commandant Bill Ritchie.

The support of 7 Field Battery in setting up for the March Past once again provided the necessary infrastructure for the occasion.

Thank You.

It was pleasing to observe the number of people marching to the WA Police Band Contingent.

Unfortunately the numbers of Ex Gunners were less than last year however the enthusiasm of those marching is to be commended.

On this occasion the Reverend Steve Warren, the Rector of St. Matthews, officiated.

This Association is dependant on the Support of 7 Field Battery and the Committee Members

Vice President Peter Rowles

Secretary Tom Arnautovic

Treasurer Gabby D'Uva

Assistant Treasurer/Secretary Ron Jager

Committee Members

Ken Hepworth

John O'Brien and

Wendy Mahoney

And the Honorary Auditor Captain Hugh Zimmerman.

To each and everyone thank you.

This year the Perth Anzac Day March will be returning to the Esplanade adjacent to the Perth / Mandurah Rail Station.

The assembly point for Marchers will be on the South Side, not the North side of St. George's Terrace, opposite the Uniting Church on the corner of Irwin Street.

Ubique

Bruce G. Campbell OAM

President



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Artillery from around the world



RAA JACKET POCKET BADGE – Actual size of Badge is 100mm wide x 90mm high - CAN BE ORDERED THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION – COST \$25 EACH - PLEASE USE THE ORDER FORM IN LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

RAA ARTILLERY EMBROIDERED BERET BADGES – Actual size is 55mm wide by 40mm high - CAN BE ORDERED THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION – COST \$10 EACH – PLEASE SEND EMAIL REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY

FOR GUNNERS IN NEED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE!!!

WELFARE FUND and OFFICER

John Walsh is the contact person as 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.

Access to Funds can be made by applying in writing using the Welfare Fund Form, which is available on request. *(From the Treasurer)*

The Association reminds Members that access to the Fund to help Gunners financially at a time of need is strictly confidential and all applications are treated as such.

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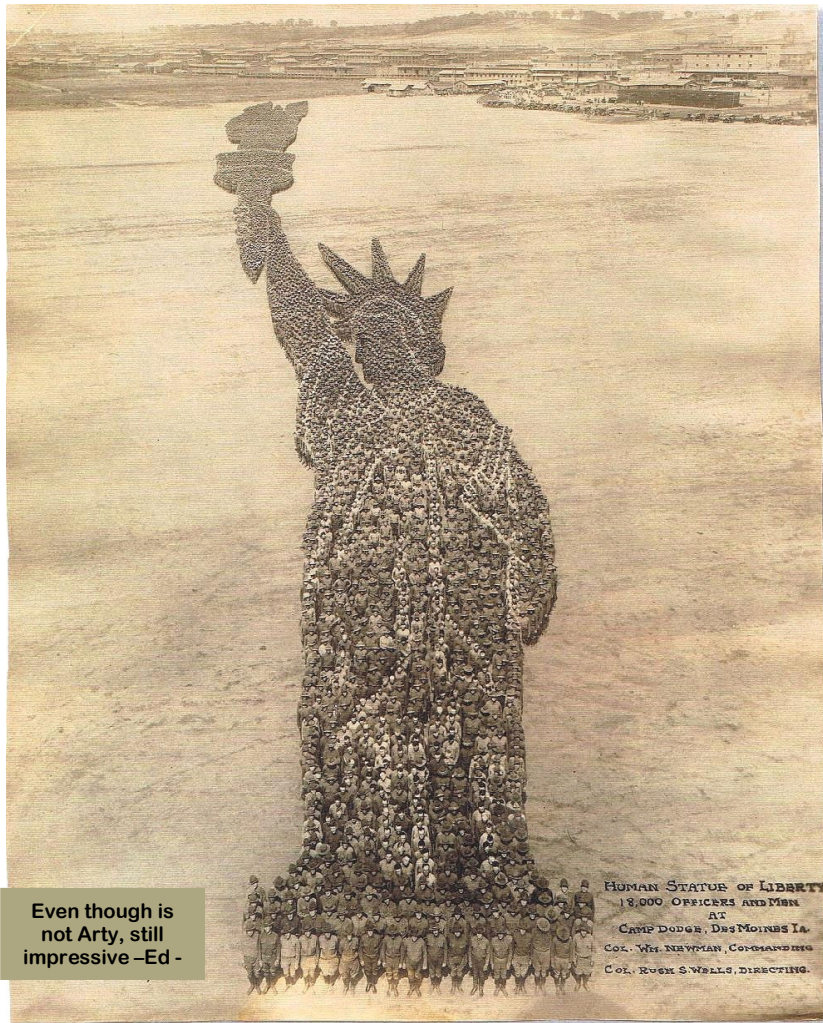
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Proud to be Associated with Artillery
W Δ

Army from around the world



STANDING TALL Titled "Human Statue of Liberty," this image was taken at Camp Dodge in Iowa and used eighteen thousand men.

News Flash News Flash News Flash News Flash News Flash News Flash

You can Now pay your Membership Fees by Direct Debit!

Members can go to any bank (or do it by electronic transfer) and make a deposit quoting The RAA Association's BSB and Account Number and your Name. The Funds will automatically be transferred to the Association's Account along with your name.

It's that Simple!!

If you choose this method please quote:

RAA Association of WA (Inc) – (Note: Some banks may required the full wording)

Commonwealth Bank

BSB Number: 066 163

Account Number: 0090 2583

Please do not forget to include your name, so we know who the payment is from. Thank You.

7 Field Battery, 3 Field Regiment

The Battery has a new Website - Check it out!! At <http://www.defence.gov.au/army/7fdbty/>

The New Battery Commander

Battery Commander's Biography



Major Mathers joined the Australian Army Reserve in November 1985 as a private soldier. He was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and subsequently posted to the Western Australian University Regiment as a rifleman. He was promoted to Corporal in 1987 and was responsible for pre-recruit training for Officer Cadets.

He Corps transferred to Royal Australian Artillery in January 1990, and was posted to 7 Field Battery as a Forward Observer's Assistant *. After several years as Command Post Bombardier, he was promoted to Sergeant in 1995 and held the positions of Command Post Sergeant and Battery Commander's Assistant.

After separate periods totaling two years working on construction projects in the UK, Dubai and Jamaica, Major Mathers returned to the Battery and accepted a commission to the rank of Captain in January 2001. The following years saw him fulfilling the role of Forward Observer with both 7 Field Battery and 104 Field Battery in Brisbane, returning to 7 Field Battery as Battery Captain in 2004.

MAJ Steve Mathers

During his 22 year military career he has also held non-corps postings at Brigade Recruiting Cell and the Western Australian University Regiment.

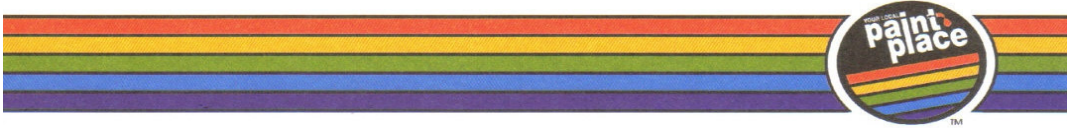
Major Mathers was posted to his current appointment as the Battery Commander of 7 Field Battery, 3 Field Regiment on 1st January 2008.

Major Mathers was educated at South Fremantle Senior High School, matriculating in 1985 and Curtin University of Technology, graduating in 1989 with a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering) Degree.

In his civilian career, he is a Project Manager for Rio Tinto Iron Ore, responsible for managing the design and construction of iron ore mines and supporting infrastructure projects. He travels regularly to construction projects in the Pilbara. He enjoys cycling, touch rugby, scuba diving and supporting the Western Force in the Super 14 Rugby competition.

+ Steve was my Ack when I was a Forward Observer and we made a great team when engaging targets, much to the dismay of the then BC, Major Peter Mahoney. – Ed -

Advertising



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Artillerymen from year's past



RAA Committee – no date –

L-R Back: Brig Doug Collins, Lt Col A J McCallum, Lt Col J Houlton, George Ball, Frank Beech
Front: Barry Steere (?), Major Sid Harvey, Col Alf Rogers and unknown.

If anyone can help with the missing details please email the editor so records can be updated at the RAAHS photo section – Ed –

DISSOLUTION OF HOBBS AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

In September 2003 the Foundation was registered with ASIC to basically provide a vehicle through which tax deductible donations could be received and channelled to support the Artillery Associations within Western Australia.

As a registered unlisted Public Company the Foundation was accountable to both the ATO and ASIC.

HAAMF Directors worked diligently toward achieving the objectives stated above.

Despite individual and joint efforts by Board members to overcome the challenges posed by constraints imposed by both the ATO and ASIC, together with the corporate costs involved in maintaining the Foundations registration, clearly indicated the key elements of the Foundation could not, certainly in the short term, be achieved.

It was therefore resolved that the Foundation be dissolved and the energies of the members of the Board be directed, as far as possible, to the support of RAAHS.

*I would like to especially thank Don Rae and Andrew Dunjey for the work they did for an on behalf of the Board to try and overcome the ever higher hurdles set by the ATO and ASIC. On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors I thank the members of the RAA Associations and every individual associated with Artillery in Western Australia for their support.
Fred Lynch (Vice Chairman)*

On Behalf of Chairman Bob Farrelly and Fellow Directors

Sgt's Mess Reunion Sep 2007 - HAP



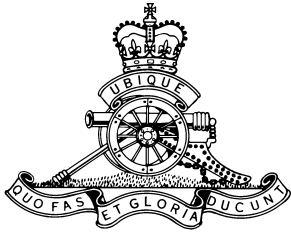
**HAP Sgt's Mess Reunion Dinner 9/07
L to R Ken Hepworth, Kas Pietrowski, George Papa & Ross Knapp**



Champion No'1s

**Recipients of the Best No1 Trophy 25Pdr Rammer
Rear L to R Ian Monck, Bruce Nind, Tim Lane, Tom Arnautovic, Greg Frey, Jim Green
and Kneeling L to R Ian Hodgkins & Steve Morrow
Sgt's Mess Reunion Dinner 9/07**

Everywhere Where Right and Glory Lead



THE AIMING POST

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

President's Report:

This year has been a challenge with the most notable being Defence closing down the restoration Workshop and the Society in the process of disposing of the majority of its heavy equipment.

To Ken, Harvey, Merv and all the Members of the Restoration Team the Society is deeply in debt for the many years of work.

The Lease of the Tunnel Complex, as previously reported has been completed. It is now up to the Society to carry out future work to the area. This complex, except for membership Fees provide the main source of income to the Society.

It is with regret I must advise the retirement from the Committee of Ron Jager who is not standing for re-election.

To you Ron the Society will miss not only your contribution but the wisdom and knowledge gained over many years. We wish you all the best for the future.

The Society is very fortunate to have the support of all at 7 Field Battery and to the former Battery Commander Major Andrew Dunjey and to his successor Major Steve Mathers – Thank You.

On this occasion we will be recognising a milestone in unbroken service for fifteen and ten years – this will take place shortly.

We are indeed fortunate to have the principal driving force behind the Society our Curator Don Rae. The never ending effort and determination of Don keeps us operational.

To the Members of the Committee

Vice President Tom Arnautovic

Secretary John Walsh

Treasurer Neil Lodge

Committee Member Barry Ellis

And the Honorary Auditor Captain Hugh Zimmerman your continued support is appreciated.

Ubique

Bruce G. Campbell OAM

President

You can Now pay your Membership Fees by Direct Debit!

Members can go to any bank and make a deposit quoting The RAA Historical Society's BSB and Account Number and your Name. The Funds will automatically be transferred to the Association's Account along with your name.

It's that Simple!!

If you choose this method please quote:

RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc) - (Note: Some banks may required the full wording)

Commonwealth Bank

BSB Number: 066-103

Account Number: 00903744

Please do not forget to include your name so we know who the payment is from.
Thank You.

BEREAVEMENT

Readers will be saddened to learn of the passing of Member James W. Kevan on 8th March 2008. Jim joined the Society on 22 June 1993 and worked diligently in the Photo Archive Section manually accessioning hundreds of donated photographs until October 2006 when a combination of age and poor health prevented his regular attendance. Jim and his wife Jess were offered Honorary Membership of the Society - a gesture they accepted enthusiastically.

Jim provided a link with the past in that he served in 3 Field Brigade AFA pre WW2 and enlisted in the AIF when released by his employer. He was posted the Middle East as a reinforcement to 2/3rd Field Regiment that was in the course of reforming after the disastrous Greece - Crete Campaign. Events changed however and Jim was allotted to the newly formed 2/4th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. He took part in the 1942 Battle of El Alamein and returned to Australia in 1943 where after a short stint in North Queensland served in New Guinea in defence of United States Airfields.

Post-war, Jim resumed his role in the banking industry and became involved in Torchbearers for Legacy (the fund raising arm of Legacy) and was an active Legatee who assisted many widows of returned servicemen attain a War Widows Pension.

A Service for Jim was conducted at Karrakatta Crematorium on Friday, 14th March. Jim is survived by his wife Jess and two sons, John and Rod.

UBIQUE

END OF AN ERA

READERS WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH THE SOCIETY'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE RESTORATION OF MAJOR ORDNANCE OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS - BOTH FOR THE SOCIETY'S OWN COLLECTION AND ON BEHALF OF MUNICIPALITIES AND BRANCHES OF THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE.

ACCOMMODATED IN AN OLD GARAGE BUILDING WITHIN IRWIN BARRACKS, THE RESTORATION TEAM HAS BEEN ABLE TO "PERFORM MIRACLES" BY MEANS OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT GENEROUSLY DONATED BY THE MIDLAND RAILWAY WORKSHOP AND THE THEN WESTERN POWER UTILITY. UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF KEVIN HAMILTON AND HARVEY EVERETT, A TEAM OF SKILLED ENTHUSIASTS HAS BEEN ABLE TO FULLY RESTORE WORLD WAR 1 TROPHIES FROM THE BATTLEFIELDS OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM INCLUDING THE MANUFACTURE OF WOODEN SPOKED WHEELS - BOTH BRITISH AND GERMAN ALONG WITH AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF WORLD WAR 2 ORDNANCE.

SPECIAL MENTION MUST BE MADE OF THREE OUTSTANDING MEMBERS - HARVEY EVERETT, DONALD BONEHAM OF WAROONA AND JOHN DRUMMOND OF ALBANY - WHOSE PATIENCE AND SKILL WERE

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESTORATION OF THREE “ANCIENT” PIECES OF ORDNANCE. HARVEY EVERETT AND DONALD BONEHAM TRANSFORMED THE 1887 15PR RBL GUN THAT ONCE STOOD PROUDLY AT THE ENTRANCE TO SWAN BARRACKS AND JOHN DRUMMOND BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE TWO 1881 SIR GEORGE ARMSTRONG 3 INCH (12PR) NAVAL MOUNTED GUNS BELONGING TO THE NAVY LEAGUE OF WA.

REGRETTABLY, DEFENCE SUPPORT GROUP WESTERN REGION HAS ADVISED THAT THE BUILDING IS NO LONGER SUITABLE FOR USE AS A WORKSHOP AND HAS ASSESSED THAT SOME OF OUR MAJOR EQUIPMENT FAILS TO MEET DEFENCE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY STANDARDS, THUS BRINGING TO A CLOSE AN ERA OF DEDICATED AND SKILLED SUPPORT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF ARTILLERY HERITAGE IN THIS STATE.



(Picture from ARTYWA Edition 4/05)

IN THE MONTHS TO COME OUR VOLUNTEER GROUP WILL RECOMMEND DISPOSAL ACTION TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSIDERABLE COLLECTION OF TOOLING, CONSUMABLES AND COMPONENTS THAT HAS BEEN ACQUIRED SINCE OPERATIONS COMMENCED – **UNLESS OF COURSE, “SOMEWHERE OUT THERE”** IS A GENEROUS BENEFACTOR WITH AN UNDER-RESOURCED WORKSHOP BEGGING FOR A TENANT THAT IS UNABLE TO AFFORD RENT, RATES AND TAXES!

THIS OPPORTUNITY IS TAKEN TO THANK SINCERELY ALL OF OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR TIME AND SKILL OVER THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS AND AS A RESULT OF WHICH THE SOCIETY HAS ACHIEVED A REPUTATION FOR PROFESSIONAL AUTHENTICITY IN ALL OF THE RESTORATION TASKS UNDERTAKEN.

WELL DONE TEAM.

Article from the Australian Newspaper – Courtesy of Phil Pognault

AUSTRALIAN army gunners are to see active service for the first time since the Vietnam War. Fifteen artillerymen from the Darwin-based 8/12 Medium Regiment will join their British counterparts from the Royal Horse Artillery in Afghanistan's Helmand province as part of an exchange program. Working as a unit, they will operate 105mm L118 Light Guns similar to the Hamel gun in service with the Australian army.

The British guns have a range of 17km and operate from forward bases in Helmand province, which has seen some of the sharpest combat against Taliban insurgents.

The Australians have spent the past six months training in Britain and will be the first of a series of rotations into Helmand province.

LONG SERVICE RECOGNISED

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAVE REACHED A MILESTONE IN THEIR UNBROKEN SERVICE WITH THE SOCIETY:

10 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

BARRY EATHER

JOHN O'BRIEN

GLEN SCOTT (WOOLLONGONG NSW)

KARAN SHARPE

ROWDEN SHARPE

15 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

GLENDA DUGGAN

ROBERT EGGLESTON

JOCELYN MITCHELL

LINDSAY PEET

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

Thanks again to Phil Pognault for forwarding this article from the Australian Newspaper

PARIS: The last French veteran of World War I, an Italian immigrant who lied about his age to join the Foreign Legion, has died aged 110.

Lazare Ponticelli, the last of more than eight million men who fought under French colours in the 1914-18 war that tore Europe apart, died at the home he shared with his daughter in Paris.

Reflecting on his wartime experiences, he once said: "You shoot at men who are fathers: war is completely stupid."

President Nicolas Sarkozy led tributes to the last "poilu," the affectionate nickname meaning hairy or tough given to French foot soldiers since Napoleonic times.

"Today, I express the nation's deep emotion and infinite sadness," he said.

"I salute the Italian boy who came to Paris to earn his living and chose to become French, first in August 1914, when he lied about his age to sign up at 16 for the Foreign Legion to defend his adopted homeland. Then a second time in 1921, when he decided to remain here for good.

Ponticelli's death came less than two months after that of the penultimate French survivor of the 1914-18 war, Louis de Cazenave, who was also 110 years old.

Germany's last veteran from World War I also died in January this year.

Now there are just nine living veterans worldwide of the conflict. They are:

- Henry Allingham of Britain aged 111. The only survivor to have served from beginning to end of the conflict, he started in the Royal Navy and then ended in the Air Force, seeing action at the Somme.

- Yakup Satar of Turkey aged 109. Signed up in 1915 for the Ottoman Army, worked with the Germans, notably on gas weapons, and was captured in 1917 in what is now Iraq.

- Harry Patch of Britain aged 109. Called up in 1917 and saw action in the trenches of the Belgian front, including during the murderous 3rd Battle of Ypres. Injured by a shell in the same year.

- Delfino Borroni of Italy, 109. Joined an elite unit in 1917 and notably fought against Austro-Hungarian forces in the Tyrol.

- Francesco Chiarello, also of Italy 109. Called up in 1918 and saw action in his country's final battles of the war.

- Frank Buckles, United States aged 107. Joined up by lying about his age when his country entered the war in 1917 and served as an ambulance driver in England and France.

- John Babcock of Canada aged 107. Was sent to Britain as a junior soldier with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1917, but did not see action because he was too young.

- Franz Kuentler of Germany aged 107. Joined a Hungarian artillery unit in February 1918, and served in Italy. Only survivor of the Austro-Hungarian forces.

- Claude Choules of Britain aged 106. Joined the Royal Navy in 1916 and served in the North Sea while only a teenager.