



Artillery WA



Official Newsletter of Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)
Web Site: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au>

Email: info@artillerywa.org.au

Edition 2 / 09

June 2009



ANZAC DAY PERTH 2009



2/3rd and 2/7th Australian Field Regiments



Notice Board

Mark these dates in your calendars

FINAL LFX 105 M2A2- Lanclein

Sunday 28th June

7 Field Battery Birthday Dinner –HAP 4th July

RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2009

31st Jan	28 th Feb	28 th Mar	18 th Apr
30 th May	27 th Jun	25 th Jul	29 th Aug
26 th Sep	31st Oct	28 th Nov	No 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.

FRONT COVER

RAAA led by Lt Col Bob Farrelly marching along St Georges Terrace in Perth.

2/3rd and 2/7th Australian Field Regiments with their banners following.

Inside this Issue – Main points

RAA Association WA		Aiming Post	
President's Message	3	President's Report	7
Keep up to date	3	For the booklovers	7
7 Fd Bty RAA News	4	Hazards of manufacture of explosives	11
ANZAC Day photos	5	Belt fed 25 pounder	13

Next Issue – September 2009

- 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, whose names appear with the corresponding articles.

Articles, editorial comment or book reviews for publication should be submitted to the editor, at: Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc) PO Box 881, Claremont WA 6910. Phone: 92694544 Fax: 9269 4370 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, contact Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc) PO Box 881, Claremont WA 6910. Phone: 92694544 Fax: 9269 4370 or E-mail the Editor at info@artillerywa.org.au



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Gunners

2009 ANZAC DAY was a huge success with another great turnout for the march and a large number of ex serving and serving gunners enjoying the camaraderie afterward. We have some excellent digital photographs that members may wish to view or obtain copies of. If so please contact the secretary.

The next important gunner event is the final live fire of the M2A2 in WA of which more detail is supplied in the following pages. I encourage all members to attend this event as it will be a significant (and sad) finale to all those who have served on the gun.

Your committee is canvassing opinion on two important issues:

1. The format on Gunner's Day. It has been suggested that we revert back to the traditional format for this which is the church service first followed by the march and then an afternoon tea. Further the refreshments afterward may be better served by utilising a local hotel beer garden for afternoon tea with those who wish to imbibe something a little stronger purchasing their own.
2. Corps Dinner. Should the corps dinner be celebrated on the BTY Birthday in July or ST Barbara's day in Dec?

Please let us know what you think about these two points.

We would like to increase our membership and encourage you to be active in recommending us to serving and ex serving gunners. Unfortunately the military presence in WA is shrinking annually and artillery is especially vulnerable as 7 FD BTY undergoes significant equipment and manning changes.

I look forward to seeing you at the LFX 28 June.

Bob Farrelly
LTCOL
President, RAA Association

HELP US TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE

The RAA Association is keen to build up a data base of member's email addresses in order to send out occasional important information relating to GUNNER activities, for example the final live fire of the M2A2 by 7 FD BTY, Battery Birthday Dinner and the latest ArtilleryWA Newsletter which is now on-line.

Please send an email to john.blylevens@defence.gov.au if you would like to be included and when you change your email address, so we can keep up to date.



7 Field Battery RAA News



Notes from X-Ray

Maj Steve Mathers, BC 7 Fd Bty

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on the happenings at 7 Field Battery and Army Reserve Artillery this year.

The year at the Battery started as it always does, with weapons re-quals, physical tests and the Army's mandatory governance training programme. That behind us, we concentrated for a short period on refresher training on small unit and infantry tactics, vital skills even for gunners (remember the Battle of Coral!). This culminated in a training weekend at Bindoon where the gunners were tested in infantry section groups on patrolling skills, contact and section attack, and POW handling.

The Battery turned on another great Anzac Day programme this year. The Dawn Service at Hobbs Artillery Park was attended by well over a hundred past and serving gunners, their families and friends. After a hearty gunfire breakfast, the serving gunners embussed to Perth city for the Anzac Day march through the city. I felt extremely proud and fortunate to be marching at the front of my unit down the Terrace, flanked by veterans and children alike – Perth had the largest attendance of any Dawn Service in the country, and it seemed most of them then went on to watch the march. Anzac Day in WA is very special.

April also saw the return to Australia of two Battery officers who had been deployed in staff roles within the headquarters of RAMSI (Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands. By all accounts, both acquitted themselves extremely well and made a critical contribution to the success of that rotation. The planning and logistical experience gained will be invaluable to their future military (and civilian) careers. I am regularly impressed by the motivation and ability of our "civilian soldiers" to step up when asked.

The year-on year requirement for soldiers to gain rank and trade qualifications continue unabated, with more than half our troops either planning to attend, or already having attended a course this year. Career management continues to be "interesting" particularly as the trend for courses is moving to three or four weeks from the "old days" of two weeks. This places additional pressures on our soldiers from their civilian employers, some of whom are helpful, some of whom less so. Getting talented younger gunners to step up and assume the mantle of leadership remains one of the command groups greatest challenges, but it is essential to ensure the smooth workings of the chain of command and for succession planning at all levels.

Finally, I'll provide an update on what is the biggest challenge to reserve artillery that I can recall in my 22 years of service.

Earlier this year, a directive was finally issued for the conversion of all 2nd Division Army Reserve artillery units to mortars. Whilst this was anticipated, it confirmed the end of an era, an era during which most of us gunners served our entire military careers.

It is natural to shake one's head and mutter that things were better in the good old days, however this doesn't acknowledge where we are at now as an Army or as a nation.

The last time Australian guns fired in anger was nearly forty years ago. The nature of conflict has changed and conventional artillery is not as flexible in the battlespace as once it was. Precision weapons systems have now come to the fore. The Government has decided to withdraw all 105mm munition systems, and concentrate on the larger medium gun (155mm). As a reserve artillery unit which struggled to man 7 man gun crews on the venerable M2A2, manning the 10 man crews of the new 155mm gun is not sustainable. In addition, the maintenance burden that comes with them is also unsustainable for a reserve unit.

So for several reasons, I believe the move to mortars for reserve units is a sound decision. Mortars are in current use in Afghanistan and they open up new round-out and reinforcement possibilities and options for reserve gunners that were not available to us as gun-numbers.

As a commander, the directive gives me certainty of direction and I can now move on to planning the phasing out of the gun and the phasing in of the mortar. This is happening now with a gratifying level of enthusiasm amongst the troops, particularly our newer gunners who will never know anything else. Nearly a

dozen gunners have already attended mortar conversion course at the School of Artillery, which stands the unit in good stead for the imminent full conversion.

The Battery's "last" M2A2 shoot is planned for the 27th/28th June at Lancelin Training Area, and invitations and information has been posted to our Associations. We hope to see as many old friends there as possible, however please notify the unit through the associations so we can manage transport on the range.

As we look back, we must also look forward and maintain the enthusiasm and skills in providing offensive fire support to our troops in the field, whenever and wherever is needed.

We are still gunners, only the weapons system has changed.

UBIQUE

Steve Mathers

MAJ

BC

7 Fd Bty

ANZAC DAY 2009



Dawn Service Hobbs Artillery Park



Some of the crowd



The Last Post



2/3rd Australian Field Regiment



2/7th Australian Field Regiment



RAAA contingent along St Georges Tce.



Marching down William Street

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:

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

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

Commonwealth Bank

BSB Number: 066 163

Account Number: 0090 2583



THE AIMING POST

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

President's Report:

We can confirm that the Leighton Tunnel Complex will as from July be open to the Public every Sunday in lieu of the first Sunday of the month.

This will involve considerable additional support from our volunteers and their commitment will ensure the success of this undertaking. Accordingly to all involved who have made this change over possible thank you.

It is pleasing to confirm the Restoration Workshop, on a somewhat reduced basis, has been officially approved and to Harvey, Merv and the others thank you for your continuing interest in this specialised field.

However without the strong support of 7 Field Battery this would not have eventuated. The determination of our Curator, Don Rae, to achieve the result is to be admired.

Ubique

Bruce G. Campbell OAM
President

WEEKLY OPENING OF TUNNELS

Commencing from Sunday, 5 July 2009 the World War II tunnels at Leighton Battery Heritage Site shall be open every Sunday – yes, every Sunday.

Guided tours, conducted by members of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society, are scheduled to commence from the Command Post every half hour. The first tour of the day begins at 10.00 am the last tour at 3.30 pm. The duration of each guided tour is one hour. Skilled guides present the important historical facts associated with the construction and operation of the Leighton Coastal Battery as one component of the defence of Fremantle Harbour during World War II. Entry is \$7.00 per adult and \$2.00 per child.

Members of the RAAHS are welcome to visit the tunnels free of charge. Indeed, an appeal is extended to members of the Society to nominate for roster positions as Cashier or Guide at the tunnel complex. Talk to Vice President, David Carter [telephone 9367 3539] about training as a Cashier or Guide and become a part of the living history of Leighton Battery.

FOR THE BOOK LOVERS

In recent months three publications dealing with Artillery have been published.

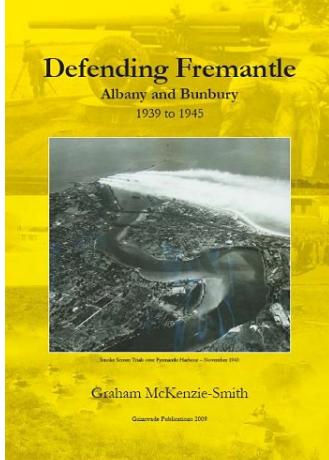
DEFENDING FREMANTLE 1939 – 1945 by *Graham McKenzie Smith*

GUNNERS IN BORNEO - Artillery during Confrontation 1962 – 1966 by *Alan Smith*

GARRISON GUNS OF AUSTRALIA by *David Spethman*

Reviews of these publications follow. But if interested in obtaining a copy of any or all books please contact the Hon Secretary RAAHS of WA (inc) at the postal address in this Newsletter.

Defending Fremantle, Albany and Bunbury, 1939-1945



Graham McKenzie-Smith (RAAHS of WA Member)
Grimwade Publications 2009
\$20 RRP

This is Graham's third book published under Grimwade Publications, and the first in fourteen years. His previous two publications were the two volumes of *Australia's Forgotten Army* published in 1994 and 1995 that are along similar lines to this publication.

In 37 pages, Graham sets out to cover the organizational history of the Australian Army in the Fremantle, Albany, and Bunbury area between 1939 and 1945. The book is divided into eight chapters: Introduction, The Integrated Defence of Fremantle, Fremantle Coast Defences, Fremantle Anti-Aircraft Defences, Fremantle Ground Defences, the Field Army in Western Australia after March 1942, The Japanese Raid Scare of March 1944, and the Albany and Bunbury Defences. Because the chapter headings are by role and not chronological, there is overlap between materiel in the various chapter headings, but the author manages these quite well. The emphasis on unit names and roles is quite clear from the bold, italicized style when each unit is identified.

I found the chapter on the Japanese Raid Scare more engaging than the others. It certainly had an impact on the disposition of units. I think I would also have benefited from a bit of a story around what caused some of the larger structural changes that occurred in the Army during the war, even if only at a high level. Perhaps it was just normal changes that occur as the strength required in the defence went up and down, but this is something that a more general audience might want to know.

Graham's research is well done and thorough. It would have been nice to have had larger maps, but the format of the publication does not allow for this (although I do like the use of UBD references for sites mentioned). The photographs are well chosen, although I would question the use a photograph of the Port Moresby's Basilisk Battery 5.25" guns on p.12 (this image is the same as AWM 076491) when I know there are appropriate photos of Leighton that would suffice.

His only mistakes are minor and not related to the timeframe of the content itself. For example, on p. 4 he claims that the 9.2" guns at Oliver Hill are "the only remaining guns of this type in the world". I know that Robben Island in South Africa still has its 9.2" guns in situ, as well as some in Gibraltar. I think, perhaps, he meant that Oliver Hill is the only one operating as a tourist attraction. I did appreciate the reference to 2009 when referring to what does and does not exist now. We all know that surviving relics will likely disappear through time, and it will be useful in the future to know what existed at a specific date.

Another minor issue was in the attribution of illustrations. I'm not sure what the difference is between the Army Museum of WA (AM of WA) and the AHM of WA (I assume Army History Museum of WA). I also think it would have been better to refer our historical society as RAAHWSWA, instead of RAAHS, just to be clear that the photos came from us.

Overall, the work achieves what it set out to do. It is a concise and brief description and history of the units that served in the defences of Fremantle, Albany and Bunbury between 1939-1945, placed in historical context. I will look forward to the first of his four volumes to be published as part of the Unit Guide Project later this year.

Matthew Adams May 2009

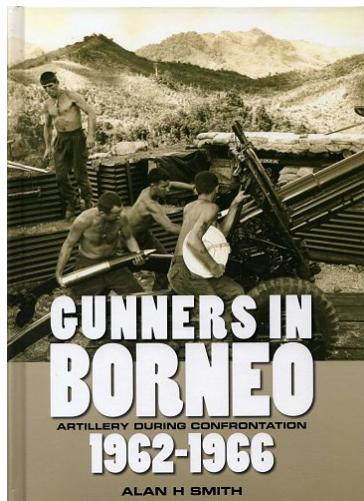
GUNNERS IN BORNEO - Artillery during Confrontation 1962 – 1966

By Alan Smith Editor RAAHC CANNONBALL

ISBN 9780980393309

Hardback; xxiv, Pp 208, contents, maps, illustrated, glossary, foreword, appendices, Security Forces Order of Battle, bibliography, nominal roll and index

Order form can be downloaded from the RAAHC website at www.northfort.org.au



No effective land operations would have been possible had it not been for the demonstrable utility of the helicopter – it was the ‘maid of all work’ from tactical command in crisis situations to the evacuation of compassionate cases or casualties. The role of the air forces of Britain, Australia and Malaysia, particularly air re-supply to bases, together with casualty evacuation, also extended to surveillance of coast of Sarawak and Malaysia by the navies of Britain, Australia and New Zealand. Interdicting Indonesian aerial incursions and coastal raids is covered, as is the key role played by the light aircraft of the Army Aviation Corps for many and varied tasks. These aspects are covered in some detail when related to a significant event involving their personnel. The essential services of infrastructure and water supply, airstrip and road making tasks, supply of war-like stores by the Engineers was backed up by the Royal Corps of Signals, Logistics, Medical and other services. Australian officers and senior NCOs occupied many positions in all arms and services of the Security Forces, and prepared them well for their next deployment to Vietnam.

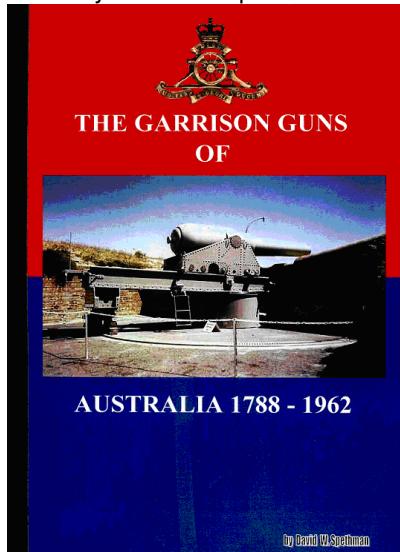
This book brings together for the first time an account of the most economical war ever fought in modern times from a mainly artillery perspective. Known as the Borneo or Confrontation War, it was fought by the Security Forces, a mix of British, Australian, New Zealand and Malaysian armies, navies and air forces for five years. Lest this war be seen as one of little importance, British strategy successfully stopped it escalating into the sort of conflict then engulfing Vietnam. The war was also a triumph for counter-insurgency and expeditionary warfare waged by the Security Forces against Indonesian terrorists and Regular Forces, to which artillery made a major contribution.

The build up to war is covered briefly and its command under the aegis of Far Eastern Command (FEC) and Far East Land Forces (FARELF) is followed by an outline of Indonesia’s military strength, intelligence gathering and the importance of survey/mapping to land operations. Initially the gunners were used as infantry until their utility was spectacularly demonstrated by its use against the Indonesians by an Australian Forward Observer in 1964. Thereafter, gunners from both field/light and locating branches gained and kept the initiative, being enterprising and innovative in the process. In supporting British, Gurkha, Australian, New Zealand and Malaysian forces they adapted doctrine and practice to keep their foe at a military disadvantage. The key role played by ‘hearts and minds’ initiatives is also given.

The history concludes with a discussion of artillery lessons, which was to greatly influence how the Australian military approached their next war in Vietnam, an examination of the campaign from an expeditionary warfare aspect, and from a perspective of a Revolutionary Military Affairs paradigm, which are now being played out in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Garrison Guns of Australia 1788-1962

By David W. Spethman



PB, 188 pp. profusely illustrated in B&W and color.

Available from www.ronmortsy@bigpond.net.au.

ISBN 9780977599080. AU\$40.00 + postage.

This book will prove valuable to anyone interested in the defences of Australia, and to a lesser extent, to those interested in the defences of the rest of the British Empire. The author devotes two pages to each "garrison" artillery gun used in Australia, with basic data such as dimensions, ballistics, carriage(s), and ammunition, as well as a short narrative describing the history of the armament in Australia. Each piece of ordnance is illustrated by drawing and/or photograph. As noted, the emphasis is on the guns, rather than the carriages, which on occasion detracts from later weapons where the carriage was at least as important as the gun.

The coverage is divided, along political rather than technological lines, into the Colonial Period (1788-1900) and the Commonwealth Period (1903-1962). The second section also contains American contributions, both naval and army.

What makes this book necessary is the significant amount of ordnance purchased by individual Australian colonies between the 1860s and the 1890s which was never adopted by the British themselves. The colonies, through their British Artillery advisors, purchased a significant quantity of what would be referred to as experimental ordnance within the British establishment. Nearly all of this ordnance was purchased from Armstrong. This greatly complicates the classification of ordnance in Australia, and incidentally contributes most of the relatively minor errors in this book, as the author attempts in some cases to equate non-service pattern weapons to accepted British service marks (as did the Australians themselves when they entered the federal era).

The information, however, is generally reliable, and for the first time has been gathered in one place. The illustrations are a mixed lot—colour photographs, B&W photos, drawings from official manuals, and numerous sketches by the author. While the choice of some could be debated, they do give the reader a clear understanding of the appearance of the weapons, and indeed are "worth a thousand words." One drawback is that the quality is less not as professional as one would like. Perhaps better arrangements can be made for subsequent editions.

It is clear that questions remain about Australian ordnance, especially the non-service models. As such, this book may not be the final word. It is, however, a welcome contribution to the study of Australian coast defence, and is recommended to anyone interested in that subject.

By Bolling Smith

THE HAZARDS OF MANUFACTURING EXPLOSIVES

IN AUSTRALIA 1939-1945.

During the Second World War Australia operated eight factories for the manufacture of explosives. At their peak they employed more than 20,000 workers most of whom were entirely new to such work. A lot of the work was of a semi-skilled nature, boring and repetitive, but the issue of safety was always of paramount importance. None the less there were accidents, out of a total of two hundred and twenty six accidents – of which most were minor not causing injury – eleven were fatal, and seventy two caused physical injury of varying degree. Up to the end of the war, no single accident causing fire or explosion was responsible for more than two deaths. In other words, there were no really severe or devastating accidents; that is, severe as judged in the explosive industry. Australia held an excellent safety record by world standards at the time however, the risk of injury by explosion was not really the major health concern of most workers. The big problem was the dangerous nature of the raw materials they were handling and working with on a daily basis. For example, sulphuric acid and nitric acid, both very nasty substances, were used in very large quantities at the highest levels of concentration. The handling and mixing of these acids occurred across a wide range of processing temperatures which gave rise to the evolution of hazardous vapours. Mild gassing often occurred due to sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen. Gas masks often had to be used, though they were not very effective against these particular gasses, and the workers disliked wearing them over long periods.

The manufacture of nitro-glycerine constituted a very difficult problem. When absorbed by the body either through the skin or by inhaling the vapours, it depresses the blood pressure and causes violent headaches which the free issue of aspirin and other analgesics did little to relieve. Some men – women were not employed in the nitro shops – developed a tolerance to it and were the only people who could work in the nitro plant without experiencing acute discomfort. Strangely enough, attendance records for the nitro shop which was part of the Salisbury SA explosives factory complex show the lowest level of absenteeism for any section in the entire factory. This was thought to be due to the fact that a strong bond and high camaraderie grew up amongst the men able to tolerate this work and it became a point honour not to let the team down. Nitro was also manufactured at explosives factories Maribyrnong Vic, Deer Park Vic, and Albion Vic, but I have no records concerning absenteeism in the nitro shops at these establishments.

Many individuals were prone to dermatitis caused by TNT and Tetryl. The incidence of dermatitis was highest among workers handling Tetryl, particularly in the fuse filling, and shell filling sections, where Tetryl pellets or Tetryl exploders were made. The machines making these items created a fine dust which would settle on the arms, faces, and necks of the girls who did this work. Unless the dust was removed efficiently with special soaps, clothing completely changed at the end of each shift and showers frequently taken, the incidence of dermatitis was high – often high enough to seriously impede the output of explosives. No completely satisfactory answer to the problem was ever found.

A greater menace to health was poisoning by TNT which is readily absorbed by the human body. It attacks the liver causing serious and sometimes fatal illness. A system of medical testing was put in place to enable checks on the progress of TNT absorption which indicated when dangerous levels were becoming evident, affected workers were transferred to other tasks not involving TNT. The problem was particularly bad during the hot humid months when excessive sweating increased the rate of absorption. The number of workers declared by the medical officer as unfit for duty became a serious and embarrassing problem and led to great difficulty in maintaining production.

Some other nasty substances routinely used in production and capable of causing bodily harm unless handled under strict precautions were; lead azide, fulminate of mercury, arsenic, picric acid and white phosphorus. All workers directly employed on the handling of explosives were paid an allowance which amounted to a few shillings per day in recognition of the hazardous nature of their work.

AS a footnote, here is a list of the number of rounds of the various types of ammunition produced in Australia between 1940 and 1945.

Small arms	1,845,000,000
Light anti-aircraft	3,784,695
Heavy anti-aircraft	575,222
Light artillery	1,521,411
Medium artillery	8,021,850
Heavy artillery	313,725
Mortar bombs	3,993,011
Grenades	5,521,594

Aircraft bombs (practice)	1,840,719
Aircraft bombs (Service)	147,718
Mines (Land)	750,098
Mines (Naval)	12,336
Depth charges	18,224
Torpedo warheads	780 (Initial order in 1940, not sure of the exact total)

The above list is by no means complete, it does not include items such as demolition charges, pyrotechnics stores, signalling stores and special purpose munitions and explosive devices etc.

Barry Ellis,

May 2009.



1944. A woman operates a machine which tips crude TNT into a chute which leads to the wash vats for converting to liquid TNT.
Photo AWM P00784.158

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 jfwalsh@bigpond.com.au or by phone on 9269 4544, 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.

NEW TOUR GUIDES – WELCOME



Are you keen to promote one of WA's premier military history sites to others?

Then you are welcome to join our team of guides who volunteer their time for a few hours on a roster basis once a month on a Sunday to conduct public tours.

This historic site is the World War II Gun complex built as a part of Fortress Fremantle Defence located at Buckland Hill in Mosman Park.

- You will be trained and coached
- You will be part of a friendly team
- You need to be able to climb steps
- Vacancies for Guides and Cashiers

For further information call David Carter 93673539 (after hours)

The Belt-Fed 25 Pounder

I think "The Yankee Officer gazed in awe
As we told him "Listen Sport,
The best damn Gunners in the world
Are the Kiwis we have in support.

He agreed with us on their accuracy
But one thing he couldn't quite ken;
Was how, in the time other gunners "Fire One"
The Kiwis are pumping out TEN!

Now the Dig's never stuck for answer
And mishandles the truth, so tis said;
So we answered his question on the rate-of-fire
By saying "Their guns are BELT-FED"

"Belt fed 25-Pounders!!
Hell, man, I just can't agree.
Why it's never been known in our Army;
This is something I just gotta see".

When he left we forgot all about it,
It was just part of a digger's day.
And nothing more was said in reference
'Til a Yank Major turned up one day.

He enquired of our Loot. -Where's these Kiwis
They're pretty good Gunners, tis said.
And one thing I must do is meet them
For I've heard their guns are belt-fed"

The Loot then tried to convince him
That it was just a joke;
but I guess You just can't disprove to a Major
What he's heard in the Officer's Mess.

On the map he was shown where to find them
And he trotted away like a kid.
While our Loot gave up all hope for Diggers
And cursed all the 'lying' they did.

The end of the story came later
And was laughed at for months by the Div,
For the Major was further 'exploited'
When he reached 'Where the Kiwis live'

He'd gone down to see those 'New Weapons'
And nearly dropped dead on his feet
When informed by a typical Gunner
That these Wonders were now OBSOLETE

"OBSOLETE Belt-fed 25-Pounders!!
It's a shock I will never forget
We consider OUR Army the most up-to-date
But we've never had that weapon yet"

Said the Kiwi, "It's been out for months now
We now use a gun twice as good.
You stack four shells on top - like a Bofors
One HE and three made of wood"

Now the Major just couldn't believe it
And, knowing the Kiwis, who could?
But he humbly asked of the Gunner
"Tell me any, why are three made of wood?"

Said the Kiwi -You know how the Chinese
Have great wooden doors on their pits
As thick as the hide of a Provost
And nothing can blow them to bits?

Well, we aim this new gun at the bunker
And fire the four shots you see.
The three bits of wood go KNOCK, KNOCK,
KNOCK
And he opens the door and cops the HE"

Now the yarn did the rounds of Korea
Was enjoyed for a while then died out.
But, back in the States, there's a Major
Whom everyone's worried about

For although lie is known to be harmless
It is to his wife quite a shock
That all they can get him to utter
As lie stares into space, is KNOCK, KNOCK.

*Pete Paterson ('Banjo')
Ex 1st Bn RAR
Korea 1952 -53, 1954 - 55*

The original handwritten poem was found in an old locker at Papakura Military Camp, New Zealand in 1964 by (then Gunner) Kerry Huston. Kept as a memento, it has travelled the world. Found again in 2008, it is reproduced above on 31 May, 2008.



1914 A3(4). 16th NZ. Fd Regt. guns fired 800,000 shells in Korea.
This is the 'empties' from one gun of 163 Battery, 1951-52.

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.



RAAA JACKET POCKET BADGE – Actual size of Badge is 100mm wide x 90mm high

RAA EMBROIDERED BERET BADGES – Actual size is 55mm wide by 40mm high

To purchase Embroidered Jacket and or Beret Badges -
Cut below and return to RAA Association of WA (Inc) - PO Box 881 Claremont WA 6910

I would like to order an Embroidered Badge / Jacket Pocket Badge (circle choice/s) as advertised in the ArtyWA newsletter.

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ being for payment of _____(Qty) Beret Badges

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ being for payment of _____(Qty) J P Badges

(Badges are \$10 each. Jacket Pockets are \$25 each.)

Name _____

Member of _____
(Name of Association or Society)

Street Name _____

Suburb:_____ Postcode:_____ Phone:_____ Email:_____

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