



Artillery WA



Official Newsletter of Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)

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ANZAC DAY 2017

The weather was a marked improvement on last year, and despite the heightened awareness of terrorist activities throughout much of Europe and the barricades lining the route designed to prevent unwanted vehicle access, the turnout was both a reflection of the sunny day and the manner in which this historic day is always recognised.



Gallipoli War Cemetery

Some significant apologies especially from Committee members Bob Farrelly, Wendy & Peter Mahoney and Ken Hepworth who were all outside of WA. The parade form up was cramped due to road works resulting in a slow shakeout which was quickly resolved once we stepped off.

BRIG Gerry Warner, Representative Colonel Commandant RAA led the Gunners and family members who marched. Some photographs of the Gunner Contingent follow, please contact Secretary RAA Association WA info@artillerywa.org.au if you wish copies.



Parade led by Brigadier A G Warner AM LVO



102 Field Battery



Peter Kennedy leading 2/7th Field Regiment



Peter Rowles, Frank Langford & Ron Cutten

NOTICE BOARD



Edition	Collation Period	Deadline to Editor	Editing and Preparation	Final Edition	Deadline to Printer	Mail Out	In Time For
3	5/7/17 to 19/8/17	19/8/17	20/8/17 to 7/9/17	7/9/17	7/9/17	21/9/17	
4	3/10/17 to 18/11/17	19/11/17	20/11/17 to 7/12/17	7/12/17	7/12/17	21/12/17	
1/2018	11/1/18 to 21/2/18	21/2/18	20/11/18 to 7/12/18	7/12/18	7/12/18	21/12/17	Christmas

To ensure that the printing deadline is met please observe the dates listed above. Copy for publication in the newsletter is most welcome and should be emailed to arnold353@bigpond.com.

For those who need it - a reminder, subs are due on the first of January each year.

WELFARE FUND OFFICER

John Blylevens is the Association's Welfare Officer. Anybody that needs to discuss any Welfare Funding can contact John via email info@artillerywa.org.au or telephone 043 869 5711. Access to funds can be made by applying in writing using the Welfare Fund Application 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.

RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2017

29 July, 26 August,
30 September, 28 October, 25 November
30 December

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

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

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings All,

During April Wendy and I completed a "bucket list" trip and travelled to France and the UK. A major part of that trip involved a tour of the WWI battlefields in northern France and Belgium. I will include a more comprehensive report in later editions but suffice to say it is quite humbling to realise the devotion and commitment many French people have to maintaining the memory of those Australian troops who came to their assistance over 100 hundred years ago.

Our purpose in attending was to pay homage to Wendy's great uncle Duncan (Angus Duncan McCallum 6303), 15 Platoon, D Company, 16 Battalion who fought at the first battle of Bullecourt on 11 April 1917. During that battle he was wounded in the knee and ultimately taken prisoner by the Germans and spent the rest of the War being the only Australian working in a German coal mine. The first battle of Bullecourt resulted in a defeat for the Allies and over 1,170 Australians were taken prisoner by numerically superior German forces. The outcome was reversed a month later at the second battle where the Allies prevailed.

The freedom those men sought to secure and did, is being challenged at the moment in the form of terrorism. While we were in Paris three police officers were shot, one being killed, by a terrorist in the Champs Elysee. During our visit to London we stopped to reflect on a collection of flowers on Westminster Bridge where a number of people were struck down by a car that had mounted the pavement, and at the site where PC Keith Palmer was murdered trying to prevent a terrorist from entering the Houses of Parliament. Prior to joining the police force, Keith Palmer had served with the Royal Artillery: Once a Gunner always a Gunner.

Even as I write this, further terror attacks have occurred in the UK and it is sobering to recognize parts of London where we were just a few weeks ago where the latest attack took place.

I'd like to share one other rather amazing event which occurred on our trip. There were 37 others on our particular Tour and apart from one family group, none had met previously. Opportunities were provided for individual Tour members to visit war grave cemeteries where their relatives were interred. At one cemetery two couples on the tour had requested a visit. When their relatives' graves were found, they discovered that their relatives were interred side by side - a very emotional moment for all concerned!

On another note, I am sad to report the recent death of SGT Rowden Sharpe. Rowden was a respected SNCO who served in 3 Fd Regt and 7 Fd Bty during the 70's and early

80's. He was Command Post SGT and subsequently the BC's Ack (I recall when I marched into the unit in 1977). He mentored/trained GPOs and CP Operators and was well regarded for his quiet efficiency, good humour and organizational skills. In his civilian career Rowden held a senior position in WA Tourism with stints at Observation City and the Burswood Casino in between.

Vale Rowden; Once a Gunner always a Gunner.

The next event on the calendar is the 2017 Battery Birthday /Artillery Mixed Regimental Dinner on 5 August 2017. This year we celebrate the 69th anniversary of the formation of 3rd Field Regiment. Once again Stan Davies is doing a great job in pulling this together with SGT Glen Tyrie (as the Battery representative) together with CAPT Brad Pearce. The invitations are out so please mark your diaries and attend to enjoy the fellowship with your mates which only events like this can provide. Our challenge this year will be to reach out and encourage others who may not have attended for a while to do so.

It is important, particularly in these uncertain times, to come together as Gunners to reflect on our artillery past, our friendships made, and ensure traditions continue.

Enough from me – stay safe

Peter Mahoney
Vice-President
RAA Association WA



BATTERY COMMANDER'S REPORT

Three Light Battery continues their preparation to be evaluated by Army as a part of the 'Ready' Brigade's offensive support arm. Gunners have spent recent weekends training in locations across the state, as members of the Mortar Line ready to answer the call for fire and as integrated Joint Fires Teams providing critical offensive support guidance to their infantry brethren. Almost half of the Battery's manning will deploy to Exercise Hamel/Talisman Sabre 17 (TS17) in July where they will be tested alongside ARA units to ensure that Army is ready for potential future deployments; from humanitarian assistance missions through to high tempo warfighting operations.

The Talisman Sabre series of exercises is a major Australian and United States military training exercise focused on the planning and conduct of mid-intensity "high end" warfighting. This will be the seventh time the Exercise has been conducted and will involve over 30,000 Australian and US defence personnel. The majority of TS17 field training exercise activities will take place in Shoalwater Bay Training Area, near Rockhampton in Central Queensland. TS17 will incorporate force preparation activities, Special Forces activities, amphibious landings, parachuting, land force manoeuvre, urban operations, air operations, maritime operations and the coordinated firing of live ammunition and explosive ordnance from small arms, artillery, naval vessels and aircraft.

When our gunners return at the end of July they will be rewarded with an enjoyable night that is the Battery Birthday. Held on Saturday the 5th of August, 2017 the night will allow all gunners, new and old to tell a tale of where we have been and where we are going. I hope to be able to say a few words about our upcoming transition to the new 2nd Division RAA Regiment, Nine Regiment (9 REGT, RAA), but more on that later... Please read further on in this newsletter for a copy of the invitation, apologies to any whose copies were lost in the post!

I look forward to seeing as many of you all at the Battery Birthday Dinner on Saturday the 5th of August.

Regards

Jackson Thompson

BC 3 Light Battery

(Invitation to Battery Dinner—Page 9)

"On time, On target, Never quit"

THE AIMING POST

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of Western Australia (Inc.)

Dear Society Members

Since my last report to you, the more able membership has been involved in dealing with the usual variety of mundane and one off tasks that cross our tables at Irwin Barracks and Leighton Battery. Tunnel attendances are running at record levels (overall), especially with school groups and cubs/scout packs.

Well done to Neil Lodge and his team of week-day Guides. It does not work without you.

The complex arrangements that involve roofing and turret/barrel replication of the 5.25" site are still unfolding. Committee members met again with reps from T.O.M.P. to keep each other in the loop with this task. We are experiencing some delays with Council's progressing of the job, partly due to turnover of some key staff who we expected to take the work on. As tenants we cannot drive Council. The Society has now paid our Heritage Architect for his final detailed drawings of the work to be carried out at the site.

Within the tunnels the Society continues to apply our Interpretation Plan. The working group -headed by Graham MacKenzie-Smith has introduced two additional male mannequins-uniformed and posed in a lifelike manner and an A.W.A.S. mannequin in the B.O.P. section. We have also sourced a pair of 1940 series binoculars and installed it on an original mounting in the B.O.P. The Society's arrangement with Mosman Men's Shed has resulted in the reproduction of a tool shadow board- complete with the full sized tool replicas- in an eye catching black over white colour combination placed in the Artificer's Storeroom.

Above ground we also fixed a hard to find water leak that alarmed us when we received Water Corps bill! Thanks go to those hard working trench diggers on a recent couple of Busy Bees.

Your Committee members have also been in formal contact with T.O.M.P. regarding the encroachment of the introduced vegetation now interrupting the sight lines of the original B. O. P. (Towards Rottnest) and the Northern 6 in. Gun towards the Examination Anchorage Gage Roads.

Members Don Rae and Harvey Everett continue to work within the confining rules of Whiteman Park to help restore their War Trophy 18 pdr. Gentlemen you are to Be congratulated on your perseverance on this project.

I have mentioned before our restricted ability to do any more on-site heavy restoration at Irwin Barracks, however that does not prevent Harvey Everitt from "massaging" the 25 pdr "Garden Gun" in the workshop. On completion it will be replaced on public view in front of Hobbs Drill Hall. Society thanks must also go to Member Ron Cahill who has refurbished our L5 105 mm Pack Howitzer. It will be kept in storage on our behalf by 3 Light Battery.

Other matters.

There was some creative graffiti removed from the Tunnels exterior walls, and an attempted break in of the Command Post was defeated by a combination of heavy duty padlocks ,steel shuttering and grill bars. It is amazing what lengths people will go to! One only has to and our friendly members would gladly show them around- even if they insisted on wearing their Lone Ranger masks!

Members, that is all of real importance for this issue. I hope you find something of interest also in the other pages

Go the Mighty Redlegs!

David Carter.

UBIQUE

Drone, Camp Bastion, Afghanistan - 2014



C o m e 2 0 3 0 ? ?

Do we have Active Gunners replaced entirely by pilots, stationed in Canberra or elsewhere, with guns as museum pieces and the province of Artillery Historical Societies?

As a corollary to the piloting of drones are the side-effects suffered by the operators. At a recent interview with a BBC journalist, a retired drone pilot highlighted the stress suffered in his new occupation. The interviewee, a previous pilot of conventional aircraft said that the stress he felt in a bombing raid was in no way comparable to that felt in flying a drone, on a mission. He cited an example in which he had to destroy an Al Qaeda senior officer. He had tracked him to a house and had the task of destroying the target which would have demolished the dwelling. He decided to wait a short time to see if the target left the house, which he did. The pilot homed in and fired the projectile and while watching its flight path he saw a shadow passing by the target. And, on observing the results of his strike he saw a damaged bicycle and the bodies of two children. This incident and others of a stressful nature, that he had experienced, affected his health to the extent that he resigned from the US Air Force.

ON NO-MANS LAND



Twenty four, twelve, nineteen fourteen

Across no-mans-land

They shot

They killed

They played not

They Honoured Instructions



Twenty five, twelve, nineteen fourteen

On no-mans-land

They shot not

They killed not

They played

They Honoured Creation



A much sought after prize during World War I was the Slouch Hat.

So you can imagine the joy of a British General who was touring the fields of mud on the Somme when he spied a slouch hat adorned with the feathers of the Light Horse.

It was sitting quite close to the duck boards that every one was forced to walk on to avoid the mud.

He quickly ordered his adjutant to retrieve the hat and the young officer carefully made his way over to the hat. It met with some resistance and he couldn't lift it. A voice came from under the hat. "It's no good sport, me heads stuck in the chin strap. This of course caused quite a stir and several men were dispatched to assist getting the poor Digger out of the mud.

They struggle to get him out and could only get him out as far as his shoulders.

All seemed in vain; until the unfortunate Digger remarked...."It's no good Sport! Me feet are still in the Stirrups".

TOBRUK



In a foreign land they defiant stand,
 With a courage known of old.
 So that their dead shall know,
 That they held the foe,
 Where the ebb of battle rolled. It's little they
 tell of the months of hell,
 But the world to be shall look,
 And vision the pain of that desert plain,
 And the fortress they call Tobruk.
 Not by will imposed,
 Are their deeds inclosed

The faith of a volunteer,
 They fight for all the freehold dear.
 In the world to be,
 When mankind is free,
 To build and progress anew,
 They will speak with pride,
 Of mates side-by-side,
 Who fought for a purpose true;
 When visions that soar,
 And makers of war
 And tyrants are brought to book,
 They will reign the creed,
 Of the brotherhood freed,
 By the diggers of Tobruk

MAJOR JACKSON THOMPSON

BATTERY COMMANDER, 3 LIGHT BATTERY, 11/28RWAR BG

REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF THE COMPANY OF

PAST AND PRESENT GUNNERS, OFFICERS, PARTNERS AND INVITED GUESTS

AT THE COMBINED

2017 BATTERY BIRTHDAY / ARTILLERY MIXED REGIMENTAL DINNER

CELEBRATING THE 69TH BATTERY BIRTHDAY

TO BE HELD IN THE

HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK DRILL HALL

PRE DINNER DRINKS WILL BE HELD IN THE FORMER OFFICERS MESS

ON **SATURDAY, 5TH OF AUGUST 2017 AT 7 PM FOR 7.30 PM.**

COST \$85.00 PER PERSON

PAYMENT CASH, CHEQUE OR DIRECT TRANSFER PAYABLE TO

GUNNERS INST#1318

BSB: 086006

ACCOUNT NO. 740631318

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME

DRESS

MESS DRESS WHITE JACKET (SERVING OFFICERS AND SENIOR NCOs)

POLYESTER LONG SLEEVE WITH TIE (ORS)

LOUNGE SUIT / AFTER FIVE (PARTNERS AND GUESTS)

RSVP

SGT GLENN TYRIE

TYRIE.GLENN@GMAIL.COM OR GLENN.TYRIE1@DEFENCE.GOV.AU OR ON 0407426556

By 15 JULY 2017 – **SHARP** – REMINDERS WILL NOT BE ISSUED.

*PRICE INCLUDES PRE-DINNER SHERRY, DINNER WINE AND PORT. OTHER DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE DINNER AT MESS BAR PRICES.

ATTENDANCE SLIP REPLY PAYMENT OFFICER (CAPT BRAD PEARCE)

BATTERY BIRTHDAY / ARTILLERY MIXED REGIMENTAL DINNER

3 Lt BATTERY, 11/28RWAR BG

HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK

STUBBS TERRACE, KARRAKATTA WA 6010

I WILL / WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE BATTERY BIRTHDAY / ARTILLERY REGIMENTAL DINNER ON 5TH AUGUST 2017

MY REMITTANCE FOR \$ _____ IS ENCLOSED. I WOULD PREFER TO BE SEATED WITH: (IF YOU HAVE ANY MATES YOU PREFER TO MIX WITH)

NAME _____ RANK _____ HONOURS _____

ADDRESS _____


PARTNER / GUESTS

NAME _____ RANK _____ HONOURS _____

NAME _____ RANK _____ HONOURS _____

Ubique

A list of significant Artillery Anniversaries has been provided by Wendy Mahoney and a page of which will be featured in each issue of Artillery WA until it is up to date. Page 1 follows:

Artillery Anniversaries 2017		
Anniv	Date	Action, Decision or Event
690	1327	Edward III in his campaign against the Scots implies cannon "Crakys of War"
480	1537	Henry VIII granted a charter to the "Gylde of St George" later to become the Honourable Artillery Company , a fraternity "to be overseers of the science of artillery, that is to witt, long bowes, cross bowes and handgonnes for the better encrease of the defence of the realme" Nicholas Tartaglia (It) dedicates book to Henry VIII - use of guns including a Gunners Quadrant and an understanding of Ballistics
220	1797	HMS Supply, returning from South Africa, was a month later condemned as unseaworthy, unloaded a further 4*6-pdr guns that were installed on Bennelong Point
200	12 Aug 1817 1817	Birthday of the Prince Regent was celebrated. The Royal Standard hoisted at Fort Phillip and a salute fired. Work commenced to reclaim an island off Bennelong Point to create a new fort. Gov Macquarie laid the foundation stone on 16 December.
190	1827	Fort Wellington established on the Coburg Peninsula (NE of Darwin) It was to protect from native attacks; hexagonal in shape, walls 7ft [2m] high with 4*18 pdr cannon; tower 20ft high [6m]; garrisoned by detachments from 39th Regiment, along with 14 Royal Marines, a surgeon, a commissariat officer, a Malay interpreter and 22 convicts commanded by Capt Henry Smyth. Smyth ordered a round fired from an 18 pdr at a gathering of Iwaidja outside the fort on 30 July. This is the only known use of cannon against Tiwi Islanders. The garrison was withdrawn in 1829. Connor, John The Australian Frontier Wars, 2002, 1788-1838. p.74
170	1847	LTCOL Gordon RE report on the artillery resources of the colony, listing as current equipment: 18*24-pdr; 16 mounted 4*12-pdr gun, all dismounted 11*6-pdr gun; 6 mounted as a saluting battery, at Fort Phillip; 4 unmounted at Newcastle 2*4-pdr gun unmounted at Newcastle 4*12-pdr carronades, one mounted 1*9-pdr gun mounted 1*4.2 or 5 inch howitzer dismounted The first field artillery ordnance arrives in colony in this year and comprised: Field Bty of 4* 6-pdr and 1*12-pdr brass cannon from England. These were placed in Ordnance Stores.
140	1877	The 3rd Battery, Permanent Artillery was raised At the end of the year LTCOL Peter Scratchley conducted tests of the volunteer system to repulse attacks mounted at points around the harbour. Attention was drawn to the poor turnout of artillery, engineer volunteers and those of the two rifle regiments involved.
130	1887	CAPT Henry Airey, NSW Artillery volunteered in March for service in Burma. He commanded a section of two Gardner guns, multi-barrelled mechanical machine guns, wheel mounted and crank fired. He was wounded while directing fire supporting an attack on a rebel stockade. He was evacuated and awarded DSO , becoming the first Australian recipient of the award instituted in 1886.  <i>Picture c1902.</i>
120	May 1897	MAJGEN French recommended the formation of a Corps to be called the Royal Australian Artillery .



Order of the Day
to the
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery
Formation of 9th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery

I am honoured to advise that the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Al Campbell DSC, AM has approved the raising of a new Artillery Regimental Headquarters to command the 2nd/10th, 3rd, 5th/11th, 6th/13th, 7th and 23rd Light Batteries. The Regiment will be formally raised on 15th January 2018 under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Lachlan Searle. Regimental Headquarters will be based at the Kogarah Multi-User Depot in Sydney.

Based on advice from the Regimental Committee, the Chief of Army has agreed the Regiment be titled 9th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (9 Regt RAA). 9 Regt RAA has a distinguished history; one of which the new Regiment will be proud. Raised at Victoria Barracks, Paddington on 1st July 1903, it is the third oldest Australian Reserve Field Artillery unit. In 1914, as 4th Australian Artillery Brigade, it provided almost every one of its officers and a substantial cadre of non-commissioned officers and men to 1st Field Artillery Brigade and 1st Divisional Ammunition Column of the AIF. It was the senior Field Artillery Brigade of 2nd Division Artillery from 1921, and between 1939 and 1941 it carried out the home training for the Sydney University Regiment Field Battery, of which Sir Roden Cutler VC was a member. At the end of 1940 it was reorganised as 9th Field Regiment for the defence of Australia.

The Regimental Master Gunner is working through Army Headquarters to have the Regimental Committee's proposed Colour and Shoulder Patches approved.

This is an exciting development for the RAA. The establishment of this new Regimental Headquarters will enable greater technical competence, ensure all ranks within the 2nd Division are better supported with joint fires advice and capability, and enhance the career paths of Reserve Gunners. Importantly, the Reserve Gunner identity is a fundamental part of the RAA, so strengthening the Reserve by raising 9 Regt will help ensure the Gunner tradition and character are preserved.

Ubique

Signed: *Craig Furini*
AM, CSC

Brigadier

Head of Regiment

21 June 2017

IT PAYS TO BE PATIENT!

Member Ray Kennedy's Father Reginald enlisted in Victoria on 26th October 1939 and was allotted to the 2/8th Australian Infantry Battalion, 6th Division Second AIF. His Regimental Number was VX4873. The 6th Division was deployed in the Middle East and played an important role in the capture of the Italian Garrisons in Cyrenaica.

In 1941 the Division was deployed to Greece to stem the German invasion through Yugoslavia. In a series of heroic withdrawals the Division was responsible for delaying the German advance through the mountainous terrain in northern Greece. At Vevi, the 2/8th Battalion engaged the Germans and in the ensuing battle Ray's father was wounded but remained at his post until the next phase of the withdrawal. He was awarded the Military Medal for his gallantry. He was eventually repatriated to Alexandria and returned to Australia in 1942, where he received his MM Award from the then Governor General the Duke of Gloucester

After the end of WW2, the Greek Government issued a special War Medal to Allied Forces who had taken part in the Greece/Crete Campaign. For some unknown reason Ray's father never received his award. He passed away in 1970.

In 2008 Ray approached the Greek Consul in Perth in an attempt to correct the anomaly but it was not until 2013 after much official "to-ing and fro-ing" between Australian Defence Authorities and the Greek Government that Ray's Father's eligibility was recognised. The Medal was officially presented that year to Ray by the Greek Consul Perth at Kings Park on the occasion of the 72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Crete.

Ray has since been invited by the local Greek/Cretan Community to participate in the Annual Commemoration of the Battle. In 2016 Ray and his wife Sandra attended the Service at the Greek Chapel at Prevelly Park WA and, in 2017 Ray attended a special service at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance. Later, on 24th May 2017, Ray was presented with a 76th Commemorative Medallion at Saint Andrews Greek School Dianella by Lieutenant General Konstantinos Floros, Vice Chief Greek Defence Force.

Ray is to be congratulated for his determination in correcting the oversight of the post war issue of the Greek War Medal to his late Father.

