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69th BATTERY BIRTHDAY DINNER

Serving members of 3 Light Battery RAA joined with past Gunners and Partners to celebrate 69th Battery Birthday Dinner on Saturday 5th August 2017 at Hobbs Artillery Park.

Among those attending was one of our oldest Gunners, Mrs Ronnie Roach, and two past members who were paying their first visit to Hobbs Artillery Park for 45 years – Doug Coughran AM and Stewart Jackson.

51st Australian Cadet Unit Drums and Pipes provided an excellent atmosphere for the Dinner, piping in Guests and supporting the Toasts to Absent Friends and the Fallen. Special performances throughout the Dinner were most professionally presented, particularly a Scottish Duet by members of the Unit.



The Late Bombardier Gavin Bonser Annual Award was presented to Sergeant R. Toase and LBDR Damien Mansfield was promoted to Bombardier. Congratulations to both Serving Members.

An excellent menu and service complemented the table decor that had been set up by members of 3 Light Battery.

UBIQUE

NOTICE BOARD



Edition	Collation Period	Deadline to Editor	Editing and Preparation	Final Edition	Deadline to Printer	Mail Out	In Time For
4/2017	3/10/17 to 18/11/17	19/11/17	20/11/17 to 7/12/17	7/12/18	7/12/18	21/12/17	
1/2018	11/1/18 to 21/2/18	21/2/18	22/2/18 to 7/3/18	7/3/18	7/3/18	21/3/18	
2/2018	26/3/18 to 9/4/18	9/4/18	9/4/18 to 7/5/18	7/5/18	7/5/18	31/5/18	
3/2018	2/6/18 to 21/7/18	21/7/18	21/7/18 to 24/7/18	24/7/18	24/7/18	31/8/17	

To ensure that the printing deadline is met would you please observe the dates listed above. Items on any topic or subject, for inclusion in the newsletter, are most welcome and should be emailed to Bob Arnold on arnold353@bigpond.com

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.

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

RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2017

30 September, 28 October, 18 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

Since my last report the Battery Birthday Dinner has been held and again was a great success. About 75 attended the dinner and once again those attending were entertained by the very professional support of the WA Army Cadet Pipes and Drums. I've said it before and I'll say it again, these young musicians consistently do great credit to themselves and the organization they represent. I am hopeful the Association will be able to provide a RAA emblazoned pipe banner to the band as a gesture of our appreciation for the support they provide; more on this initiative later. It was good to see a number of "old and bold" on the night, and a number of others were unable to attend being unavoidably detained overseas or elsewhere on holidays!

Speaking of old and bold, Wendy and I were at an annual antiques and collectibles fair at the Royal Show Grounds several weeks ago. While I was idly looking at a piece of Clarice Cliff porcelain an Australasian Order of Old Bastards (AOOB) membership card appeared between me and the porcelain. As any member will know when challenged with an AOOB card time is of the essence to produce your own card in return else wear the penalty – a round of drinks. This could be quite an expensive exercise depending on how many AOOB were present at the challenge. Fortunately this was achieved albeit with some difficulty. I had received a new wallet for my

birthday so all cards were very difficult to remove as the leather hadn't stretched, and I felt safe to look up and see who had challenged me. It was David Hoare, a long standing gunner of days gone by. Dave and his family moved to Geraldton for five years in 1988 and apparently entered some form of time warp as they are still there. Anyway we got down to trading some good natured insults as gunners do. He appears to be in disgustingly good health and has recently retired. He has promised to make it for this year's St Barbara's dinner. On exercise in the good old days, (during a rare day off) Dave had an unfortunate habit of falling asleep in the back of taxis after a good meal, washed down with a few wines and good company. On reaching our destination, we used to pay the driver and get out and then ask him to drive on for a few Kms then wake Dave and explain he needed to pay as all his "mates" had said he would! Most of us would only get caught once like that, I'm sure Dave got caught a couple of times. We had lots of fun like that and the AOOB stories and the efforts members used to go to catch others out go on forever!

This brings me to my ongoing point about connecting and staying connected to gunner mates old and new. This is hugely important and I continue to urge all members to make sure they make an effort in this regard. Some may not wish to and that's fair enough but others may but

simply not know how to go about it.

On a more sombre note I wish to acknowledge the recent passing of Peter St John Kennedy. He passed away in his sleep on 28 August aged 97. Although not a member of The Association he was the President of 2/7th Regiment RAA and one of the few surviving members of that organization. The 2/7th Regiment saw action in World War 2 in the first and second battles of El Alamein in 1942. The regiment returned to Australia in 1943 after garrison duty in Syria and Egypt and was later deployed in support of the landings at Tarakan in 1945. Peter was a proud gunner and I take this opportunity to acknowledge his contribution to the Corps – once a Gunner always a Gunner; RIP Peter.

Planning is underway for the St Barbara's dinner and I expect that will again be a success. Remember invitations are extended to Bombardiers both serving and retired and personally I would like to see more people there this year.

That's all from me for the moment; stay safe and keep in touch.

Peter Mahoney

Vice president

RAA Association WA

BATTERY COMMANDER'S REPORT

Three Light Battery has been tested on Exercise Hamel and has now been certified as a part of Army's Ready Brigade. A total of 13 Battery members deployed on exercise with their 5/11 Lt Bty counterparts and proved that Reserve Artillery fills an essential role in Australia's Defence Force. Members that deployed were given the opportunity to travel via service air (with all the comforts that RAAF loadmasters can provide) and participated in a realistic evaluation exercise.

We celebrated the 69th Battery Birthday on Saturday the 5th of August. The night was entertaining, as BC I thank all who attended. I have sent the Cadets from 51 RCU Swan Regiment Drums and Pipes a letter of thanks for entertaining us on the night. Their unique skillset helped build the atmosphere of the event. I would also like take this opportunity to again publicly thank Stan Davies, Glenn Tyrie and Brad Pearce for their hard work in making the dinner the success that it was.

Looking to the rest of the year myself and the 2018 Instructor Gunnery will soon be off to Sydney to participate in the 9 Regiment conference. Here we will have the opportunity to discuss our workings as an independent RAA unit within the 2nd Division and how we can ensure that Reserve RAA builds its presence within Army. The soldiers of the BTY will continue their training in their roles, with a few members deploying to OP RESOLUTE as a part of the ADF's commitment to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests.

The next ceremonial activity will be the Queen's Birthday Salute at 12pm on Saturday 23 September. I welcome all to come and witness the Battery in action near the War Memorial at Kings Park. I would also request that all previous SNCO and OFFRS respond to the St Barbara's dinner invitation sent out this last few weeks.

To close I would like to request that if you have any relations, or know someone who would be keen to serve that you contact my BK, CAPT Brad Pearce (brad.pearce@defence.gov.au). With the change to 9 REGT there are many exciting opportunities for new gunners (or clerks, or storemen!) and we are keen to share the experience that being a Gunner can provide.

Regards,

Jackson Thompson

BC

The gun is the rallying point of the detachment; its flag, its banner. It is that to which the men look, by which they stand, with which they fall. As long as the gun is theirs they are unconquered, victorious; when the gun is lost, all is lost. It is their religion to fight until the enemy is out of range or until the gun itself is withdrawn, or until both it and the detachment are in the hands of the foe.

Unknown

THE AIMING POST

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to your Spring edition of Aiming Post. I hope the rising temperatures are to your liking.

Our prime asset- Leighton Battery- has continued to attract record numbers of visitors. We are some 300 ahead of this time last year, and that turned to be a record annual total! My thanks to all concerned for their on-going commitment to this unique site. Our newest guide is Mr David Legg.

The 5.25" roofing project is awaiting further funding arrangements as arranged by the Mosman Council. Our heritage architect has the drawings ready to go to a nominated engineering firm- we stand and wait.

Our busy bees have involved the progressive re-painting of the entire exterior three part camouflage scheme. We use only the best paints for that labour intensive job- so the result is impressive. Any electrical issues are handled by member Phil Allen- thanks Phil. By far the most labour hungry task has been the removal of spoil from the two tunnel remnants. In one we have exposed an original floor structure-circa 1943, and in the other we have been removing an untidy mass of old pit props and dumped infill debris from the decades since W.W.2. Who needs a gym when you do all this?

The 25Pdr Gun-Howitzer has now been refurbished and looks terrific. Well done to Harvey, Ron and Don for all the time consuming tasks involved with it. It has been returned to its display location in front of Hobbs Artillery Park.

Further to an item from the last issue three of the Committee met the T.O.M.P's land care official on-site late last month to indicate first hand the encroaching vegetation on the sight lines from the B.O.P. We made some diplomatic suggestions and now await action from Council.

The Society has recently benefited from the generosity of Peter and Wendy Mahony who donated an 18Pdr shell

case (1918) and an intimate collection of W.W.I battle-field debris- beautifully boxed, that was presented to them by a European gentleman who made it clear to them that he held the Australians in high regard. Member Julian Russell donated a rather attractive wood carving of the Australian Artillery crest. The items will be placed behind glass in the Command Post for public display.

Several members and I attended the 69th Battery birthday event at Hobbs Drill Hall in early August. As a civilian, I enjoyed and appreciated the military formalities that formed part of the evening. The 14 members of 51 ACU SWAN REGIMENT, Drums and Pipes were impressive to look at and hear!

Thanks go to Major Jackson Thompson, 3 Light Battery, and the ex-Members who organised the function.

Members, I wish you all a pleasant Spring season.

David Carter.

President

" War changes men's natures. The barbarities of war are seldom committed by abnormal men. The tragedy of war is that these horrors are committed by normal men, in situations in which the ebb and flow of normal life have departed and been replaced by a constant round of fear and anger and blood and death. Soldiers at war are not to be judged by civilian rules".

Harry (Breaker) Morant

(COMMEMORATING - 51st ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF LONG TAN 19 AUGUST 1966)

1 Fd. Regt. RAA
Nui Dat
20th August 1966

Distribution

List 'B'

COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

I take this opportunity of passing my congratulations to all members of the Regiment and the Task Force Artillery on their performance and behaviour over the last days

On 16th August, the enemy began mortaring and shelling of the area, for the first time and to a heavy scale. This occurred without warning and at a time carefully and skilfully chosen. The Artillery reaction was fast and effective. There is reason to suppose not only, that our reaction suppressed the fire of enemy artillery and caused him to stop before he intend to do so, but also that a subsequent target caught the enemy, either when he was assembling after action or, possibly, infantry elements forming up for attack. Signs of hasty withdrawal, abandonment of equipment and casualties were detected by patrols.

On 18th August, D Coy 6 RAR was heavily attacked by an estimated two North Vietnamese battalions. This action, the most serious that the Task Force has yet faced, was most efficiently resisted by the company concerned in the classic action of infantry combat. It is no discredit to the company in its most gallant action, to observe, that it would never have been successful without an effective employment of Artillery in support.

As is to be expected the majority of the enemy casualties were inflicted by our artillery. In the course of this action we fired over 3000 rounds many directed to fall within 100 yards of our own soldiers. While it is invidious to invite comparison, I would like to record my especial appreciation of the following particular aspects:

- a. The members of HQ Bty and 131 Div Loc Bty who assisted the gun batteries in ammunition handling and thus ensured a continuous supply of ammunition to the guns.
- b. A Bty 2/35 US Arty, whose speedy response to fire enabled us to suppress enemy mortars at an early stage (to the extent that they never subsequently opened fire).
- c. To Captain Stanley RNZA and his OP party from 161 Bty RNZA (with D Coy 6 RAR) who so skilfully directed fire in the D Coy 6 RAR battle.
- d. To the gun detachments, particularly the layers, whose attention to duty under most difficult conditions, ensured accurate laying so that the very large amount of shells fired, all hurt the enemy and none ourselves. This represents laying and gun drill of a high order and is to be heartily commended.
- e. The wireless operators who kept the Net open and ensured that imperative fire orders were passed.
- f. The members of 103 Fd Bty who, receiving most of the enemy fire on 16th August, stood to their guns and, there is no reason to suppose, drove the enemy from his.

Signed **Richmond Cubis** Lieutenant Colonel Commanding Officer.



MY MATE – LEST WE FORGET

By Ian Coate

The flag's half-mast – my mate is gone – the grief's too raw to share.
My mind is blank – I cannot think – his loss is all that's there.

To family that he left behind, I'm sorry for this day.
I want to share how much he meant, but don't know what to say.
They say he died for freedom sake – in part this may be true.

I really feel his sacrifice was meant for me and you.

It's hard to talk about a mate and sum up all he is,
Those traits the ANZAC diggers had - these virtues all were his.
He was a soldier through and through - he stood beside the best.
With things that mattered on the field, be sure he passed the test.

I always knew he had my back – he was a dinkum friend.

His loved ones were upon his mind until the very end.
We shared good times, we shared some bad, we laughed and reminisced.

My mate sure was a lot of things – but most of all he's missed.

I never told him what he meant – for this I do regret.
But always will I honour him, 'MY MATE – LEST WE FORGET'.

A SIGNIFICANT LIST OF ARTILLERY ANNIVERSARIES - Part 2

Anniv	Date	Action, Decision or Event
100	1917	WORLD WAR 1 Theatres
		Western front
		Middle East
	9 Jan	Rafa - Sinai
	7 Feb	Australian Militia Raised (CMF)
	11 Mar	Baghdad
	26 Mar	First battle of Gaza
	6 Apr	USA declares war on Germany
	11 Apr	1st Bullecourt - following the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line
	15 Apr	Lagnicourt - German counter attack captures a number of artillery batteries and stores; Aust counter attack by 4*Bn at 0700 drives out enemy and recaptures 21 guns.
	19 Apr	Second battle of Gaza
	3 May	2nd Bullecourt - Aust troops seize 600m section of Hindenburg Line and joined by British 7 Div; repulsed counter attack on 15th and the German's withdrew from the Bullecourt area.
	7 Jun	2 ANZAC Corps involved in capture of Messines in Flanders - encountered phosgene shells in Ploegsteert Wood and encountered concrete blockhouses for the first time.
	20 Sep	Third Battle Ypres: Menin Road
	26 Sep	Polygon Wood
	28 Sep	Ramadi - Mesopotamia
	4 Oct	Broodseinde
	9 Oct	Poelcappelle
	12 Oct	Passchendaele
	31 Oct	Beersheba
	1 Nov	Khuwelfe - 18km N of Beersheba
	2 Nov	Daur - Mesopotamia
	POST WORLD WAR 1	
90	1Jul 1927	RAFA & RAGA (Field and Garrison) united to form RAA and 'Coast' was renamed 'Heavy' No 1 Bty was redesignated 1st Field Battery RAA
	1927	1st AA Bty AGA received two 3 inch 20cwt mobile guns with Haithi Tractors These were ordered in 1925 and the battery was stood up the following year.
80	1937	A deteriorating strategic outlook (Sino-Japanese War) accelerated the refurbishment and re-arming of Coast Defences



Honour for Society Secretary

Society Secretary John Blylevens currently serves as a Major in the Army Reserve and in May 2017 was appointed as Western Region Representative History Sub-Committee of the RAA Regimental Committee to succeed Don Rae who held the appointment since the inception of the sub-committee when formed on 9th August 2005.

On graduation from Officer Cadet Unit in 1982 John was allotted to 7 Independent Field Battery RAA and served in many roles over the next 35 years. He was promoted Major in 1996 and appointed Battery Commander, a position he retained until 1998.

In 2010 John was recalled as Battery Commander for a further 2 years.

In addition to his role as Honorary Secretary of

the Society John also serves as Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of RAA Association WA. Fortunately for both organisations, John recently retired from a career with Australia Post!



Mayor Robert Coales receives the MAJGEN John Whitlaw Sword on assumption of BC from Major John Blylevens Dec 2012. The sword is vested in the RAAHS and presented to each incumbent BC

STRATOLAUNCH



A giant aircraft capable of launching satellite-laden rockets into space has been unveiled at a hangar in the Mojave desert in California. The construction of this massive aircraft, has been quietly underway in the California deserts and is now complete, and the vehicle, which would be the world's largest plane with a wingspan wider than Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose, was wheeled out of its hangar for the first time on Wednesday 31 May 2017.

Called Stratolaunch, it has some impressive stats: a wingspan of 117 meters, a height of 15 meters. Its total weight can reach as high as 590,000 kilograms. It has 28 wheels and six 747 jet engines.

Flightline testing will be conducted at the Mojave Air and Space Port in California over the course of several months, extensively testing all the systems of the new aircraft before flight. Stratolaunch is also prepared for delivery of the first Pegasus XL rocket to their facilities in Mojave. The new spaceflight company is on track to conduct the first launch test by 2019

Bluey and Curley cartoons 1939–1945



FIRE TRAPS TWO SOLDIERS IN TUNNEL UNDER GUN

AN EXTRACT FROM THE WEST AUSTRALIAN DATED 1ST APRIL 1954

Two Regular Army Soldiers were burnt yesterday when cleaning fluid caught fire, trapping them in a 3 ft. square tunnel. They were Sergeant Westley Jack Green (39) and Signaller Louis Sutherland (47) of the Western Command Fortress Engineers.

They had been cleaning a generator in a tunnel at the Leighton Battery Gun Emplacements. The tunnel carries cables from the gun pit to the engine room, and it is believed a lead on the generator short-circuited causing the fire. Their retreat to the gun pit was cut off by flames and the other end of the tunnel was sealed by a ventilator. Their predicament was acute until soldiers in the engine room broke the ventilator, releasing the trapped men.

Third Officer Frank Harding, of the Fremantle Fire Brigade, donned breathing apparatus and descended the pit where he extinguished the fire with chemicals. It is believed that little damage was done to the gun emplacement.

The soldiers were taken in a St John Ambulance to Hollywood Repatriation General Hospital where they were admitted. They subsequently recovered and resumed duty.



YORK MEMORIAL PARK

On Saturday, 8th July 2017, the Shire of York and the York Sub-Branch of the Returned & Services League conducted a re-dedication ceremony at the recently refurbished Memorial Park opposite the Railway Station.

Included in the refurbishment was a roofed enclosure for the KRUPP 77mm War Trophy, an additional plaque for the War Memorial that recorded the names of 8 WWI Veterans previously omitted and a granite mounted bas relief of Lieutenant Laurence Dominic McCarthy VC, born at York 21st January 1892. Lt. McCarthy was serving with 16 Battalion AIF when awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous gallantry near Madame Wood on 23rd August 1918.

Of particular interest to the Society is the gable roofed enclosure for the 77mm KRUPP War Trophy. Back in 2000, York R&SL requested the Society to undertake the complete restoration of this Trophy that had been exposed for many years to the elements in the original Memorial Park. Devoid of wheels and supported on brick pillars, the gun was badly rusted although most major components were still reasonably intact.

Two years later, under the expert supervision of the late Kevin Hamilton and stalwart Harvey Everett, the Gun was completely stripped, sandblasted and finish coated after reassembly. The most outstanding achievement was the construction of a pair of wooden spoked wheels.

In 2002 the Gun was returned to York and the Shire generously obliged the R&SL by storing it under cover at Council premises. Each year it has been displayed on ANZAC Day and Armistice Day in support of those special services.

In acknowledging the Society's involvement, President David Carter, Restoration Coordinator Harvey Everett and Curator Don Rae were invited as special guests to be present at the Ceremony where they joined the Hon Christian Porter, Member for Pearce; Mr. Peter Aspinall, President WA Branch Returned & Services League; Mr. David Watson, Deputy Commissioner Department of Veteran Affairs; Councillor David Wallace, York Shire President; Mr. Kevin Trent, OAM President York R&SL and Dr. Michael Galvin, Historian.

A delightful Buffet Lunch provided by the Ladies Auxiliary was served at the R&SL Club Rooms at the conclusion of the Ceremony.

THE UNVEILING OF THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE



Krupp 77 mm Field Gun



(L) Peter Aspinall

(R) David Watson)

On a Plumber's Truck

"We repair what your husband fixed".

At an Optometrist's Office:

"If you don't see what you are looking for you have come to the right place".

Moving with the Times and now EFTPOS at the Tunnels

Over the years the RAAHS Committee has been bringing the RAAHS into the electronic world. Our records and photos are held on computer files and we are now moving to provide EFTPOS at the tunnels.

1. Artillery WA "On-Line".

- a. Electronic copies of Artillery WA have been available for some time. By letting John Blylevens (info@artillerywa.org.au) know and providing him with your Email Address he will advise you when the next copy is available so that you may read it online or download it.

2. Internet Banking.

- a. Annual subscriptions may be paid by direct debit to the RAAHS and RAA Association bank accounts.
- b. The Treasurer is now able to manage the Society's Bank Account online allowing him to determine the state of our accounts at any time.

3. Internet access at Karrakatta

- a. With more use of the Internet for research and communication the Society now has an Internet plan with an ISP Provider.

4. EFTPOS at the Tunnels

- a. The Society is now installing an EFTPOS facility at the Tunnels in response to a growing demand from visitors who wish to pay by Credit or Debit card,
- b. The Society now has a Mobile Phone Plan and an "EMMY" EFTPOS device. When connected to our Commonwealth Bank Account Cashiers will be trained in its use.

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)



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

GUNNERS' DAY

SUNDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2017

All Gunners, their families, guests and other interested parties are invited to attend the Annual Gunners Day parade and service at Stirling Square Guildford Sunday 5th November 2017.

10:00am: RV at St Matthews Church

10:10am: Parade forms up in church entry off Johnson/Stirling Street. Guests and families seated at dais in front of memorial

10:15am: Parade steps off, left onto footpath alongside Meadow Street, past the saluting dais then left into memorial

10:25am: Wreath Laying Ceremony

10:45am: Gunner's Day Service in St Matthews Church

11:30am: Light Luncheon in the Church Hall

Parade led by Australian Army Band Perth, Gunners past and present, serving Officers and Soldiers of 3 Light Battery RAA and members of the Australian Cadet Corps.

Reviewing Officer: BRIG Gerry Warner: Representative COL COMDT Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

Service will be conducted by Reverend Katrina Holgate

Guests include Members of Parliament, Local Government, R&SL and other Associations.

Enquiries to Hon Secretary Royal Australian Artillery Association Western Australia (Inc): John Blylevens 0438 695 711

GUNNERS Day has been conducted every year since 1928 in memory of those who fell during WW1 (and subsequent conflicts). It is a special day for remembrance and a great opportunity to catch up with Gunner colleagues.

UBIQUE

