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## **GUNNERS' DAY 4th NOVEMBER 2018**

### **COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY 1928-2018**

A terrific turn out for GUNNER'S DAY 2018 with perfect weather and a range of special guests. The inaugural CO of 9 REGT RAA, LT COL Lachlan Searle made the trip from Sydney accompanied by his RSM WO1 Reg Grundell to watch the parade and service and interact with the "locals". MAJ Duncan Anderson, recently appointed as BC 3 BTY was also in attendance.

The parade was led by Ken Hepworth with the salute taken by BRIG Gerry Warner the Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Australian Artillery. Reverend Katrina Holgate was joined by Bishop Jeremy James to conduct the Memorial wreath laying and church service.

Led by the Pipes from the Australian Army Band Perth, Gunners past and present, serving Officers and Soldiers of 3 Battery RAA and members of the 56 Australian Cadet Unit ( Fremantle) marched along Stirling Street turning into the footpath parallel to Meadow Street where BRIG Warner took the salute. The parade then moved into position around the War Memorial for the wreath laying service.

Ewen Puckle Hobbs, a great grandson of LTGEN Sir JJ Halbot Hobbs. made a special trip to Perth to attend and read the lesson to a full church. Following the service a light luncheon was enjoyed by all participants.

## **UBIQUE**



BRIG Gerry Warner      Mrs Warner      LTCOL Lachlan Searle

### GUNNERS DAY 2018



**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Fellow Gunners

This year's Gunners Day marked the centenary of the end of WWI and was a great success with larger numbers in attendance than in recent years. The CO, 9 REGT RAA LTCOL Lachlan Searle and RSM, WO1 Reg Grundell attended. The service was conducted by Bishop Jeremy James and the Reverend Katrina Holgate. The Bishop's father and brother were Gunners and he has indicated a desire to be involved in future years. They did a great job with the service.

Mr Ewin Puckle Hobbs, a descendent of LT GEN Talbot Hobbs who commanded the Australian Corps at the end of WWI flew from Singapore for the day. We were again ably supported by the Army Pipes and Drums Band – Perth and Cadets from 56 ACU Fremantle. Following the service many enjoyed a refreshing drink at the Rose & Crown. Overall, a very successful day.

The 2018 Feast of St Barbara will be held on Friday 7 December and I anticipate another success with 63 people due to attend. This is up on the past few years and is attributable to the tireless efforts of Stan Davies with support from others. This year we have changed the focus to include all ranks of past and serving Gunners and those who support the Gunners to celebrate the Feast of Saint Barbara. I am looking forward to a good night of camaraderie. We are still seeking members to join the Committee and are looking for a Treasurer. It behoves us all to reach out to members past and present to join the Association and participate in its activities.

Have a great Christmas and an even better New Year, stay safe and keep in touch and I'll see you in 2019.

Ubique

## THE AIMING POST

### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Early in September the Battery site hosted another successful night-time SES-AMBULANCE exercise. Rain certainly did not dampen their skills or enthusiasm! The Northshore unit appreciates our continued relationship and the St. John's people were amazed at the tunnels complexity.

September also saw the second phase of Council's heavy maintenance program commencing with building the remaining cement pathways connecting to the Command Post, the C.P. to the Bofors site, and the 3.7" site to the northern 6" site. This work will ensure that visitors enjoy safe progress across the Battery site, particularly in wet weather.

The Battery site is also being made available to Curtin University's Geophysics Department who have used ground probe radar to sense points of interest to the students. Repeat visits are under way. The Department is also conducting highly accurate measurements of the tunnel interior- 3-D Lidar- for the technically minded.

We received a detailed e-mail from T.O.M.P. re the 5.25" project in mid September. To quote our curator Don Rae- "The "mood" is encouraging but the content will require a great deal of study to assess just where the Society stands in this, the first positive move we have experienced since 2016".

Our car park sign is now showing signs of weathering and some data on it is no longer accurate- it is to be replaced with a re-designed one of the same size. ( Years ago there was an unsuccessful attempt to pinch it under our very nose during a busy bee!)

Late September saw the commencement of the final phase of the cement footpaths above the tunnels. All was going well until a contractor's laden cement mixer truck put its rear dual wheels through the surface of the top most tunnel- spectacular! Subsequently the accident has delayed the paths being poured for a few weeks. T.O.M.P. officers have been very efficient in dealing with this event. No damage was done to the tunnels elsewhere and Sunday tours were not troubled, (not so the contractor- whose cement load set solid while the truck was immobile there.)

In late October I hosted Dr David Honey MLA Cottesloe at Leighton Battery. At that meeting I represented the Society in order to establish a link to his Office, I also explained the aims of the Society and of course I gave him a first class tour of all we have accomplished at the Battery.

Late October also saw another successful Tunnels/Scouts –Jamboree of the Air and Internet-exercise. The site was awash with Cubs, Scouts, Leaders and proud parents all staring at computer screens in the C.P. and down in the tunnels itself. Ham radio volunteers assisted. The sleep-over was a novelty for many.

In November, several members of the Committee represented the RAAHS at the annual Recognition of Volunteers function arranged by T.O.M.P.

That reminds me to again thank all the members who put in hours of time to further the workings of this unique Society!

The 90<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Gunner's Day was a well attended event . It was lovely to see Ronnie Roach there representing her AWAS pals from the 1940's!

Your V/P Graham McKenzie-Smith, has been recognized by Chief- of-Army Lt Gen. Richard M Burr AO DSC MVO with his Commendation in Gold. Graham was particularly noted for his impressive multi –volume set of books on the units of the army and their movements throughout Australia.

A recent visitor to our Battery was Mr Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest- he expressed his interest to Guide Peter Kerr at the conclusion of his tour. I sent a follow up e-mail to his office thanking him for his interest, and asking for any feedback we might benefit from. I hope we sowed a little seed?

The compliments of the season to all RAAHS members and your families.

*David Carter and Management Committee.*

From Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB



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*Master Gunner St James's Park*

To All Ranks:

The Royal Australian Artillery  
The Royal Canadian Artillery  
The Royal New Zealand Artillery

26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018

*My fellow Gunners*

**GREETINGS ON ST BARBARA'S DAY 4 DEC 2018**

Writing to you as Master Gunner St James's Park, I think that all would agree that 2018, with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice of 11 Nov 1918, has been a significant year. The service and sacrifice of our forebears has been jointly and more acutely remembered. The common hardships and travails endured by our Gunners and their herculean efforts in supporting their comrades-in-arms throughout the conflict, established our professional reputation and helped forge our regiments, geographically dispersed though we are, into one close knit 'family'. Their sacrifices should never be forgotten, despite the passing of this historical milestone.

However, on a less sombre note, linking us closer together and for longer, whether at war or in peace, has been St Barbara, Patron Saint to all Christian artilleries; friends or erstwhile foes alike. I would therefore like to convey my personal greetings and best wishes, along with those of All Ranks, serving and retired, of the Royal Regiment of Artillery; to our fellow Gunners of the Royal Artilleries of the Commonwealth, serving and retired, on St Barbara's Day, 4 December 2018.

I wish you all good luck and good shooting.

*With my best wishes,  
Ubique!*

*Andrew Gregory*

## THE RESTORATION OF KRUPP FIELD GUN 546

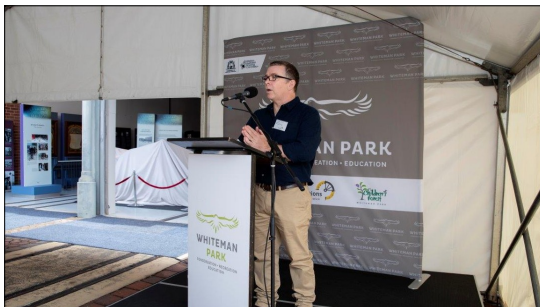
Readers may recall that the Society was invited to act in an advisory capacity to the Department of Planning, Land and Heritage to assist the Whiteman Park Transport Revolutions Museum completely restore the World War I War Trophy that formed part of the Lew Whiteman Trust. The Gun was a complete wreck having been exposed to the elements since 1920.

Society Curator Don Rae and Restoration Supervisor Harvey Everett willingly assisted Ms. Val Humphrey, Curator Revolutions Museum and Geoffrey Parker, Metals Conservator in what proved a daunting challenge spread over some 24 months. The Society successfully sourced a Wheelwright in NSW, an Engineering Company in Welshpool WA and skilled tradespersons from Rail Heritage Western Australia to collectively bring the Gun back to life!

The combined efforts culminated on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 when an unveiling ceremony was conducted at the Whiteman Park Museum hosted by Manager Mr. Steven Browne. Guest Speaker was The Hon Peter Tinley, AM, MLA, Minister for Housing, Veterans' Issues and Youth. His Press Release appears with this article

Support for the project was provided by the Shire of Moora Returned and Services League who loaned their identical vintage War Trophy to Willis Engineering as a "pattern" from which the missing trail section of the Gun could be accurately replicated. In addition, a Moora businessman provided transport between Moora - Perth and return at no cost to Whiteman Park.

The attached photographs capture the interest shown by those attending the unveiling ceremony



Steven Lowe addressing the visitors



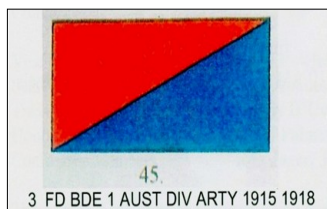
Peter Tinley, Geoffrey Parker, Val Humphrey, Don Rae

### Address by The Hon Peter Tinley AM MLA

This magnificently restored piece of artillery encapsulates much about Australia's war experience. It was captured as World War I came to an end 100 years ago in the Middle East by troops from one of Australia's most famous regiments, the Light Horse.

It was returned as a war trophy to Australia in 1919 and was used as a monument to our war dead, one of hundreds of similar monuments in cities and towns across our nation.

This particular gun is once again on public display and with a sombre reminder of how wars were once fought with the same intent of protecting our national freedoms and interests but with a vastly different way of prosecution from our modern era of computer-assisted conflict, drones and smart bombs."I congratulate the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society WA for the expertise and dedication that was critical in the completion of this project and for the work of the Revolutions Transport Museum."



8 Battery has the longest continuous history of any other unit in WA; it can trace its antecedents back to 19th July, 1870. In WWI 8 Battery became the only complete WA artillery unit to deploy at Gallipoli and the Western Front as part of 3 Field Artillery Brigade, 1 Australian Division. Many WA artillerymen served post WW2, in one or more of 7, 8, 9 and 103 batteries as part of 3 Field Regiment RAA.

*(Continued from ArtilleryWA 3/18)*

The paramount problem for CRA Hobbs and 3 Bde Commander Rosenthal was finding gun positions anywhere on the Anzac Cove area. The Div Commander Bridges was concerned also. On 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> April every Australian Battery except the 9<sup>th</sup> found some pretext for contriving to get one or more of its guns to the beach. 26 of the 36 Australian field pieces had reached the shore but had for the most part been necessarily sent back, since no position had been found for them.

Battery Commanders were keen to support the infantry and sent guns horses and gunners ashore only to have them ordered back to the ships by Bridges and Hobbs. Rosenthal argued strongly to bring his guns ashore and During the day 14 guns were landed and there was some reorganisation. However, it was not possible to find enough gun positions, and the guns of 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8 Batteries were returned to the ships. (Rosenthal, 1920, p. 294)

### **Gunner Tasks**

All these problems were irrelevant to most gunners who had their own jobs to do under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions. Most gunners were unaware of the heady artillery problems touched upon above. Their problems were how best to land deploy and serve the guns. While gun positions were investigated, the gunners were kept active in loading and unloading guns, ammunition and horses from ship to floats and shore and back onto floats and ships. Carrying ammunition for other units added to their work load.

Pages 10 - 21 of the 8 Battery War Diary, 25<sup>th</sup> April, illustrates the difficulty and confusion faced by all. April 25

P. 11 2:50 pm First two floats left "Karrow" one with 12 horses, one with 1 gun and limber from 4<sup>th</sup> Battery and a 7 Bty wagon the first artillery to be landed. (Field).

P. 12 2:55 pm Indian Mountain Battery with mules landed (21 Battery)

3:05 pm Second pair of floats left "Karrow".

4:30 pm These floats were returned to the ship. (These were probably the two 4 Battery guns)

P. 13 7:00 pm Received orders to move two miles out (fire from the shore).

7:30 pm Re-embarked horses, gun numbers from floats.

P. 14 9:30 pm Received orders to disembark two Batteries at 2 am April 26<sup>th</sup>

April 26

p. 14 Message to all transports "Lower all boats ready to send in to the beach"

2:00 am Reloaded Floats with guns and horses.

7:00am Floats towed ashore. Heavy rifle and machine gun fire all night.

P. 15 Disembarkation of guns on transport started at 2 am. One Float containing 1 sub section complete and 12 horses were loaded. No tugs or Floats were available until 7.30 am. Horses were returned to ship. Not needed ashore.

P. 16 During the day the remainder of the artillery on the ships were disembarked. One section with Major Browne and Lt Clowes reached shore by 2.30 pm and disembarked on the beach.

OC proceeded to gun position on 3 Brigade right flank. OC with Colonel Rosenthal reconnoitred the 8 Battery position meanwhile members of 8 Battery were acting as ammo carriers from the beach to the gun position. It was extremely steep and subject to chopping rifle fire.

P. 17 No 1854 Gunner Morgan N.G. of "C" sub-section was hit in the forearm – slightly wounded. Men on double drag ropes in team from the New Zealander Howitzer battery brought the section of guns up to

*Continued on page 10*

(Continued from Page 7)

a rendezvous near the crest at 6.30 pm (Browne's Dip, Plateau 400). Made preparations to get guns into position. Orders received from OC Artillery to take guns back to beach and re-embark.

This was a big undertaking as the floats had grounded with the receding tide. 8.30 am Floats containing I subsection was towed to the ship.

P18 "D" subsection which landed on the beach later in the afternoon was also re-embarked. The float which contained this gun was damaged and when taken into deep water started to sink and eventually took the battery about 20 yards from the shore. The water in the float by this time was up to the axle of the gun. Ammo was unloaded from the vehicles onto the shore without being damaged.

P19 It took until 1:15 am this morning before the gun was unloaded and reloaded into a new float. The detachment working in the water up to their chests for about two hours.

April 27<sup>th</sup> Arrived alongside about 1:40 am. Received instructions that transport was to leave Harbour on \*special duty that horse floats laying alongside awaiting embarkation were to be handed over to a tug and taken to another Transport. Capt Rogers Lt Clowes remained with the floats containing 3 subsections.

P20 Major Browne remained on Transport orders also stated that on return of "Karrow" in the evening guns were to be hauled on board.

\*(This special duty involved the ship patrolling North into the Gulf of Saros for two days performing a number of feint landings to test the shore opposition. The ship returned to Gaba Tepe at midnight of the 29<sup>th</sup> May.)

P22 30 April Lt Clowes and Capt Rogers ashore keeping up supply of ammunition.

No 1787 Sgt Way was wounded by a rifle bullet through thigh.

May 1st Right section under Major Browne landed and moved up to a position in rear of 7 Battery. (1915, pp. 11-22)

Notwithstanding this, on the morning of 26<sup>th</sup> one gun of 1 Bty of 1 Bde and one gun of 4 Bty 2 Bde were landed and hauled up steep slopes to their positions. These guns were brought into action on the extreme right of the ridge overlooking Gaba Tepe. They fired about 800 rounds of shrapnel shell between them at short ranges. Each gun was controlled by an officer with its own nominated arc of fire. They fired shrapnel projectiles set at fuse zero because the Turks were 500-1000 yards away. Ammunition supply was difficult, rounds being carried by hand from the beach over a bullet swept area of half a mile, with hills rising to 400 feet.

Later in the day 7 Bty of 3 Bde were emplaced on the same ridge and the single guns of 1 and 4 Bty were removed. On the nights of 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April, determined Turk infantry attacks were broken by 4 guns from 7Bty. One gun fired across an open field with its shrapnel rounds fused to burst at the muzzle like a giant shotgun. Turks reached within 25 yards of the guns.

Later references suggest that 8 Bty, part of Rosenthal's Brigade, were positioned on Bolton's Ridge which was not commanded by Turkish guns or observation and 750- 1000y yards away from the nearest enemy strong point. Any further forward on Bolton's Ridge on 400 Plateau a battery would be exposed to two enemy strong points 400 yards away and under observation on a whole semi-circle of heights to the North and East. Such a storm of fire had driven 26 Mountain Battery from this very summit on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. (Bean, 1941, pp. 66-67)

## First Guns in Action

### 7 Indian Mountain Brigade – (21 and 26 Bty detached to I Division)

At 10.30 am, 25<sup>th</sup> April, the first Indian Mountain battery, 26 Battery, was landed and mule packed to a point behind the crest of 400 Plateau, probably very near Brown's Dip. Other sources have this Bty deployed on Low Scrub Hill near Hells Spit. It was in action just before noon, but by 2.30 pm it had suffered such heavy casualties that it was withdrawn to the beach for reorganisation. Only 4 guns could be manned after this. Overnight they were redeployed on Plugge's Plateau, overlooking Anzac Cove to join 21 Battery which landed early afternoon, to stop an alarming new threat from Lone Pine 400 yards away. Extensive earthworks for an observation post and a possible gun position and machine gun trenches were in full view, threatening both the NZ and A Division and I Division positions. The officer in charge, Lt Rawson found that even the mountain guns could not engage Lone Pine unless half the usual charge was used and guessing the elevation and fuse length. They engaged this target until excessive



casualties in officers, men and materials caused their withdrawal to the beach for reorganisation. Moderate success was achieved. (Horner, 1995, p. 90)  
(To be continued in ArtilleryWA 11/19)

## GOLD LEVEL COMMENDATION

### Graham Mackenzie-Smith



On Saturday 3 November 2018 at the Australian Army Museum of WA, BRIG David Wainwright DSC, Director General Future Land Warfare, presented on behalf of Chief of Army LTGEN Rick Burr, AO, DSC, MVO, the prestigious Gold Level Commendation to RAAHS of WA Vice President, Graham Mackenzie-Smith and is one of only two presenta-

tions at this level during 2018. The award was in recognition of Graham's *six volume Index and History of Australian Army Units in World War 2*. Congratulations are extended to Graham on the occasion of this well merited recognition.

In an interview with Steve Grant of the Fremantle Herald newspaper Graham said that "I was working in New Guinea in the late 60s near the site of the Battle of Wau and Salamau and I knew the 42nd Battalion was involved, and that got me to thinking about what the 43rd and 44th were doing." Graham said his interest in military history of army units, prompted him to visit the Australian Army History Unit to pour over documents.

Eventually someone from the unit tapped him on the shoulder, gave him a modest bursary and told him it was time to pull it all together.

The resulting six volume *The Unit Guide - The Australian Army 1939 - 1945* is considered so comprehensive that the then Chief of Army LTGEN Angus Campbell wants it in every Australian High School.

"There is a place for the Unit Guide on the shelves of all local and State libraries, on genealogists' and military historians' shelves, and among the great history collections of this country," LTGEN Campbell wrote.

Graham paid tribute to the history unit's staff, saying his work wouldn't have been possible without their assistance.

That enthusiasm has extended to asking Graham to consider a similar book set on Australian Army Units for *World War I*.



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF WA (Inc)  
THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WA (Inc)

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2019**

The Annual General Meetings of the two Organisations will be held at the Alf Adams Pavilion, Solomon Street Mosman Park on **Saturday 9th March 2019**:

RAA A WA members register at **0900 for 0930** hrs meeting

RAAHS-WA members register at **0945 for 1015** hrs meeting.

All Members are urged to attend.

Agenda for the Meetings will include:

- Reports – President, Treasurer, Auditor
- Notices of Motion (where submitted)
- Long service recognition – RAAHS Members
- General Business
- Election of Office Bearers

Notices of motion must be signed by the Proposer and the Seconder, and are to be lodged with the Secretary seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Nominations for election to the Management Committee shall be submitted on the enclosed form and lodged with the Secretary before the Meeting is declared open. Each nomination shall be endorsed with the signatures of the Nominee, Proposer and Seconder.

Morning Tea refreshments will be available at the meetings.

**RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION**

Members are reminded that their 2019 Subscription is now due and may be paid on the day or by cheque or postal note addressed to the Honorary Secretary of the relevant Association / Society at:

Post Office Box 881  
Claremont WA 6910

**Payment is preferred** by direct bank transfer as below:

\$15 RAA Association of WA (Inc) CSB BSB Number 066 163 Account 0090 2583

\$25 RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc) CSB BSB Number 066 103 Account 0090 3744

If using this means, Members are reminded to include their name on the Bank transaction sum



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIA ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (Inc)  
THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF W A (Inc)  
**Nomination Form: Management Committee – 2019**

**INSERT RAA A WA OR RAAHS-WA)**

I hereby nominate:

\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT)

For election to position of:

(Insert President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Sec, Assistant Treasurer, Committee Person)

Proposed By:

\_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By:

\_\_\_\_\_

Accepted by Nominee:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Signatures)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NB: additional nomination forms available from Secretary, (John: mob 043 869 5711 info@artillerywa.org.au or photocopy this form.



**PROBLEM SOLVING**

There are few of life's problems that cannot be solved with the proper application of a high explosive projectile

*There are many problems which need another approach in their solving to that depicted, for example, articles for ArtilleryWA. Many of us have experiences worthy of the pen, tales to tell, topics of general interest and maybe good jokes in pictures or print.*

**Your contributions will surely broaden the interest in our newsletter and may encourage others to be involved.**

Email to:

[arnold353@bigpond.com](mailto:arnold353@bigpond.com)

## STATISTICS

**C**arrots Will Kill You - Every carrot you eat will kill you. Each one brings you nearer to death. Although leading horticulturalists have long known that *daucus carota* is a delicious vegetable, the thinking man has however failed to grasp the significance of "Sure it helps your night vision, but what does it do to your liver?"

Carrots are associated with all the major diseases of the body. Oddly also they can be related to car accidents and there exists a positive relationship between crime waves and the consumptions of this vegetable.

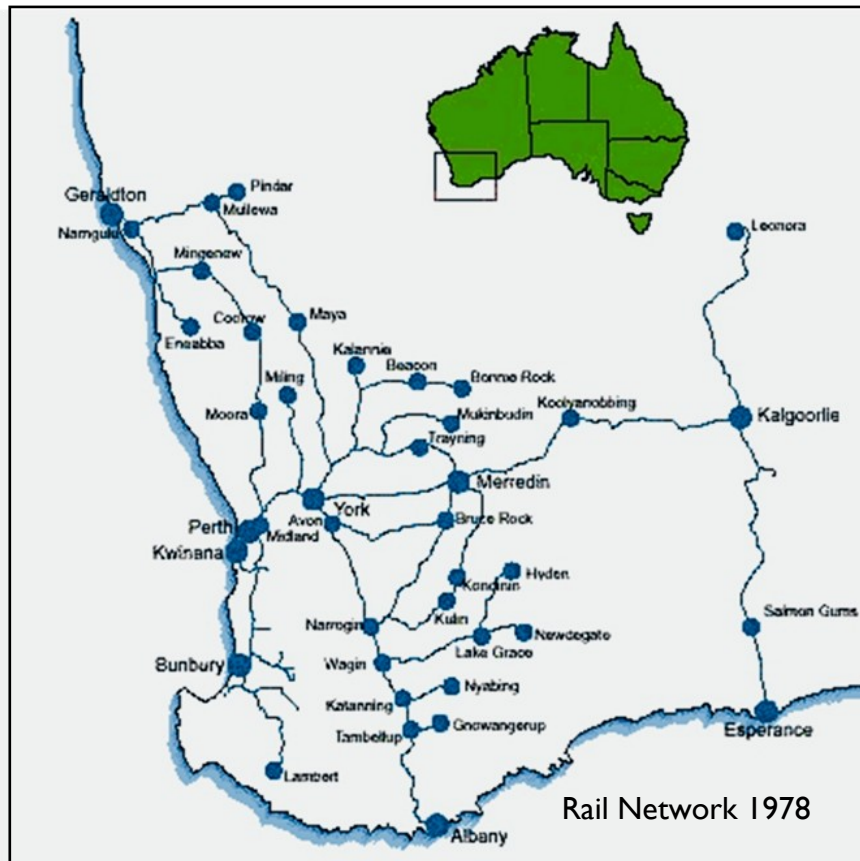
Furthermore, statistics show:

- Nearly all sick people have recently eaten carrots. (The effects are obviously cumulative.)
- 99% of all people who die from cancer have eaten carrots.
- 99% of all people who die from emphysema have eaten carrots.
- 99% of all those involved in car accidents have eaten carrots within 60 days preceding the accident.

All the evidence points to the long-term effects of carrot eating. Of the people born in 1900 who later ate carrots there has been 100% mortality and all carrot eaters born at the beginning of the great depression in 1929 have wrinkled skin, and lost many of their teeth, have brittle bones and failing eyesight—if the ills of eating carrots had not already caused their death.

The only way to avoid the deleterious effects of carrot eating is to change eating habits. Eat orchid petal soup daily. In all the research literature, no statistics have been found to suggest that anyone has any problems when eating orchid petal soup.

## MAY INTEREST SOME!



Following discussions one Wednesday morning, with Harvey Everett, relating to the closing of many rail lines throughout Western Australia, I was reminded of an exercise in which I was involved in 1978, the preparation of a handbook for a Field Force Exercise in W.A. I dug the book out of my library and although the diagram is not as clear as one would like, it nevertheless when compared with the existing network, gives a true picture of what has been lost in the succeeding years.

With hindsight—Why?

*Editor*