



OFFICE BEARERS

RAA ASSOCIATION

President

Bob Farrelly
bobfarrelly@live.com

Vice President

Peter Mahoney
an22ji42n@ozemail.com.au

Secretary/Treasurer

John Blylevens
info@artillerywa.org.au

Committee Persons

Wendy Mahoney
an22ji42n@ozemail.com.au
Raymond Kennedy
r.kennedy09@gmail.com
Ken Hepworth
hep3swan@hotmail.com

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President

David Carter
David.Carter@education.wa.edu.au

Vice President

Graham McKenzie-Smith
grimwade4@iinet.net.au

Secretary

John Blylevens
info@artillerywa.org.au

Treasurer

Neil Lodge
neillodge@westnet.com.au

Assistant/Sec/Treas

Sue Lawrence
lawrencesl@westnet.com.au

Committee Persons

Mathew Adams
Mathew10@hotmail.com
Phillip Rowson
Phil.Rowson@cf-direct.com.au

IT Consultant

Stan Davies
sftdavies@bigpond.com

Curator

Don Rae
devar@iinet.net.au

From Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB



Artillery House
Royal Artillery Barracks
Larkhill
Salisbury
Wiltshire SP4 8QT
United Kingdom

Telephone [Military]: +44 (0)1980 84 94322 5528
Facsimile [Military]: +44 (0)1980 84 94322 5210
E-mail: Jennifer.McGrath924@mod.gov.uk

Master Gunner St James's Park

To All Ranks:

The Royal Australian Artillery

26 May 2019

*To all members, serving and retired,
The Royal Australian Artillery*

GREETINGS FOR ARTILLERY DAY 26th MAY 2019

As Master Gunner St James's Park, I would 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 Artillery Day, 26th May 2019.

Our archive documents and SOPs, back through the centuries, make mention as you would expect, of 26th May 1716 being the formation date of our generic Regiment, with the Royal title being granted by George I subsequently. The SOPs further record that 26th May will not only be observed annually as 'Artillery Day', but that it is "to be observed as a holiday and as far as possible, be celebrated by regimental 'At Homes' or other social functions".

Notwithstanding the recent decade of intensive and in some cases on-going operations that we have all been contributing to, it is warming to see that despite these pressures, we continue to remember our shared origins and heritage. It is important that we all, to this day, find time firstly to celebrate the unique bond that makes us members of a Royal Artillery Regiment and also for the small but important things in life, such as a simple exchange of greetings between us. We are a family – and families exchange good wishes on significant dates such as birthdays.

I trust you will all have an enjoyable day on the 26th, hopefully spending it in the company of your own families and our Regimental family, serving and retired.

I send my continued best wishes.

*Yours ever,
Andrew Gregory*

NOTICE BOARD



Edition	Collation Period	Deadline to Editor	Editing and Preparation	Final Edition	Mail Out
3/19	1/7/19 To 5/9/19	11/9/19	11/9/19 To 18/9/19	25/9/19	25/9/19
4/19	1/10/19 To 5/12/19	12/12/19	12/12/19 To 19/12/19	19/12/19	19/12/19

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

WELFARE FUND OFFICER

John Bylevens 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 a reminder—subs are due on the First of January each year

RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2019

29 Jun

27 Jul 31 Aug 28 Sep 26 Oct 30 Nov 28 Dec

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 AUSTRALIA ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Gunners,

Anzac Day

ANZAC Day was a success with a good attendance with drinks and camaraderie held at a city hotel due to refurbishment of Hobbs Artillery Park. My thanks to Ken Hepworth for leading the Association push this year.

Colonel Commandant

As you would be aware, BRIG Gerry Warner has been the RAA Representative Colonel Commandant and COL COMDT WR for some years and has done an outstanding job. That appointment has concluded and a decision has been made for each Artillery Regiment to have a Colonel Commandant. The new Colonel Commandant for 9 Regt is BRIG Neil Sweeney AM, Deputy Commander of 2 DIV and we congratulate him on his appointment. I have contacted him to sort out a number of administrative matters such as the Host for the Feast of Saint Barbara Dinner. Historically this has been the Colonel Commandant's Dinner. We have invited him to attend this year's Dinner as host and are waiting to hear if it will fit into his busy schedule.

Battery Birthday/ Feast of Saint Barbara

The Battery Birthday Dinner which celebrates the re-establishment of Field Artillery in WA will not be held in July this year due to refurbishment of Hobbs Artillery Park.

This Dinner celebrates the re-establishment of Field Artillery in Western Australia on 6th July 1948. On that occasion the RHQ of 3 Field Regiment with "P" Field Battery (later 7 Field Battery) Citizen Military Force was established and was comprised entirely of volunteers. During the past 71 years Artillery in WA has undergone many organisational changes. Today, 3 Battery, 9 Regiment RAA is the proud successor of the original 1948 unit.

The Battery Birthday is organised by 3 BTY and the Feast of Saint Barbara is run by the Association. For the 2019 Feast of St Barbara we are co-operating for this Dinner to cover both purposes as a one-off. The Dinner will be held on Friday December 6th.

Accordingly for this year only the invitees for the Feast of St Barbara will be extended to include all serving, retired and ex-members of the Royal Australian Artillery, those who served in RAA units, and will include partners and guests.

The Dinner is a fabulous time for catching up with Gunner mates and will incorporate the presentation of the "Best Gunner Award".

Our Functions Sub-Committee ie Stan Davies, Tom Arnautovic and Peter Rowles have already commenced planning for this year's Dinner. Put a place holder in your diaries for Friday 6 December

Patron

COL Don Rae has been our Patron for some years now and has decided to step down from the role. On behalf of the Association we thank Don for his support and services. Our new Patron is BRIG Gerry Warner and we thank him for agreeing to take up this role.

(Continued page 4)

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BSM, WO1 Jeff Murray

Congratulations to WO1 Jeff Murray for his return to 3 Bty as the BSM. Jeff attended our last Committee meeting and we look forward to working with him in the future.

New Gunners invited to be Association members for 12 months for free

We have recently offered all new members of 3 Bty free membership for their first year and are planning a function with the Bty, probably at the tunnels, later in the year when the weather improves.

My health

You may be aware that I have been facing some health issues; bowel and liver cancer. Following months of intensive chemotherapy and radiation treatment and having had part of my bowel removed the good news is that the doctors are happy and a recent scan showed no active cancer cells.

So I am confident I will beat this, however I have a recuperation period following further surgery in early June.

Bob Farrelly LTCOL



The RAA Committee at their May 2019 meeting

Peter, Wendy, Bob, Ken, Jeff (BSM 3 BTY), Raymond

THE AIMING POST

Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Since my last report we have had the A.G.M. for 2019. I judged it a success- if for no other reason than it was all over inside an hour! Perhaps the information given to members via Aiming Post was sufficient through the year. Business was dealt with and morning tea consumed.

The V/P and I are representing the Society as members of the T.O.M.P.'s Project Reference Group, whose job is to assist in preparing the Council's- Conservation Management Plan. As stakeholders for our Battery site I think it is time well spent to have our input into such a document. The document deals with structures and vegetation- the latter is an issue with us at present. We will attend a second meet, plus a workshop- then the Plan itself will go to ratepayers as an on-line survey before the final version goes before Council in late June.

To ensure that ALL of the Council are aware of Society operations at Leighton Battery- several of our Guides hosted nearly twenty council employees through the tunnels on two instances in early March. The visitors were interested and appreciative. We judged it a good P.R. exercise. The new C.E.O. was not available- we will make her an offer to attend in due course.

We have learned that our application for a grant through the Community Hub (Federal Level) has not been successful. So we will explore other avenues. My thanks to those who put in time on that process.

The link between our Society and the W.W.2 military history of Crete was recently further reinforced with the presentation to us of a shield from the 5th Cretan Division. Your curator and president also scored a camouflage pattern T-shirt sporting the Rethymno museum's logo. When I wear it my family complain that I can never be found when needed!

The busy bee team has been active at the tunnels again. We are now well into a phased re-modelling of all the tunnel displays- including subtle changes to the lighting in several spaces. The three part exterior paint scheme also came in for attention. Members also cut back overhanging roadside vegetation to allow vehicles to drive on the access road rather than damage the shoulders. To that effect I have signed off a letter to Council asking it to consider some maintenance work be done on the length of road connecting their carpark with the sealed

section of road (that we funded) that runs up the hill-side.

Work is also being completed in two other localities, the first is metal panels around the top of the radar shack to reduce the chances of a small child falling through. The panels will be easy on the eye and will allow some breeze through. The second is the replacement of the original tunnel car park sign. This will feature up-to-date above ground images and a re- arrangement of the map details.

We are in talks with T.O.M.P. to clarify the insurance cover for the Tunnels. The cover for items that the Town owns and the items that we have introduced to the site over many years are at the heart of the negotiations. We expect a satisfactory outcome. I thank our Treasurer and our Vice-President for their input there.

In late May I had the pleasure to present the Society's highest recognition award to member Phillip Pognault. Phil put many hours of constructive input into a range of tasks at the Tunnels and at the workshop up at Irwin Barracks over the years. Circumstances dictate that these days Phil cannot do what he enjoyed doing so much at those sites. I also thank Jenny for writing all those leave passes when the grass probably needed mowing at home!

As part of National Volunteer Week, our Committee members, Sue Lawrence and Phil Rowson attended a "Step into Volunteering" workshop in late May. Sue gave the audience details about being a Tunnels Guide, and Phil detailed the layout of the Leighton Battery complex.

We have now had concrete core samples taken of the 5.25" site to determine its ability to bear the combined weight of the concrete roof and future steel turret and barrel replicas. We also have the heritage architect's drawings for the turret/barrel combination now on hand. Thanks continue to go to our V/P for the hours of extra time this project is consuming! As a small p.s. here, I was digging alongside the site at the last busy-bee and unearthed a penny dated 1943!

I hope to hear the sound of rain on the roof soon, and the heavier the better!

Kind regards,

D. B. Carter.

TOY SOLDIER ON LINE GALLERY

Long time RAA AWA and RAAHS-WA member (including Committee) John O'Brien has an unusual hobby: extracts from his website below; <http://members.upnaway.com/~obees/soldiers/index.html>

I collected and made toy soldiers when I was a boy, now many years have passed and in early 1996 my interest was raised again on seeing a newspaper article of "Boys and Their Toys".

This listed different hobbies that grown men had taken back up many years after childhood and once again, gained much pleasure from, but this time with the money to support the hobby.

I have now been making and painting metal toy soldiers since then and wish to show you some of my "craftsmanship", just go to the pages linked on the right to see examples. I had thought that the eyes were shot and the hands may have the shakes, and that I couldn't do it, but not yet, as you will see.

Hope you have a look at all of my work, and give some feedback. Published by:

John O'Brien
E-mail: obees@upnaway.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION - UPCOMING EVENTS
FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2019

Battery Birthday Dinner

The Battery Birthday Dinner which celebrates the **re-establishment of Field Artillery in WA** will not be held in July this year due to refurbishment of Hobbs Artillery Park. Instead, for 2019 the Dinner will be held in conjunction with the Feast of St Barbara on December 6th.

This Dinner celebrates the re-establishment of Field Artillery in Western Australia on 6th July 1948. On that occasion the RHQ of 3 Field Regiment with "P" Field Battery (later 7 Field Battery) Citizen Military Force was established and was comprised entirely of volunteers. During the past 71 years Artillery in WA has undergone many organisational changes. Today, 3 Battery, 9 Regiment RAA is the proud successor of the original 1948 Unit and is located in Hobbs Artillery Park.

Royal Australian Artillery "Gunners Day" Sunday 2nd November 2019

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 2nd November 2019.

10:00am: RV at St Matthews Church

10:10am: Parade forms up in Stirling Street.

Guests and families seated at dais in front of memorial

Enquiries to Hon Secretary Royal Australian Artillery Association Western Australia (Inc):
john.blylevens@inet.net.au 0438 695 711

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

FEAST OF ST BARBARA DINNER FRIDAY 6TH December 2019

The RAA Association will be holding an ALL RANKS dinner on Friday 6th of December to celebrate our Patron Saint of explosives, St Barbara. The Dinner is a fabulous time for catching up with Gunner mates and will incorporate the presentation of the "Best Gunner Award".

As indicated under the Battery Birthday above, the invitees for 2019 the Feast of St Barbara will be extended to include all Serving, Retired and Ex members of the **Royal Australian Artillery**, those who served in RAA units and, partners and guests.

For further information please contact,

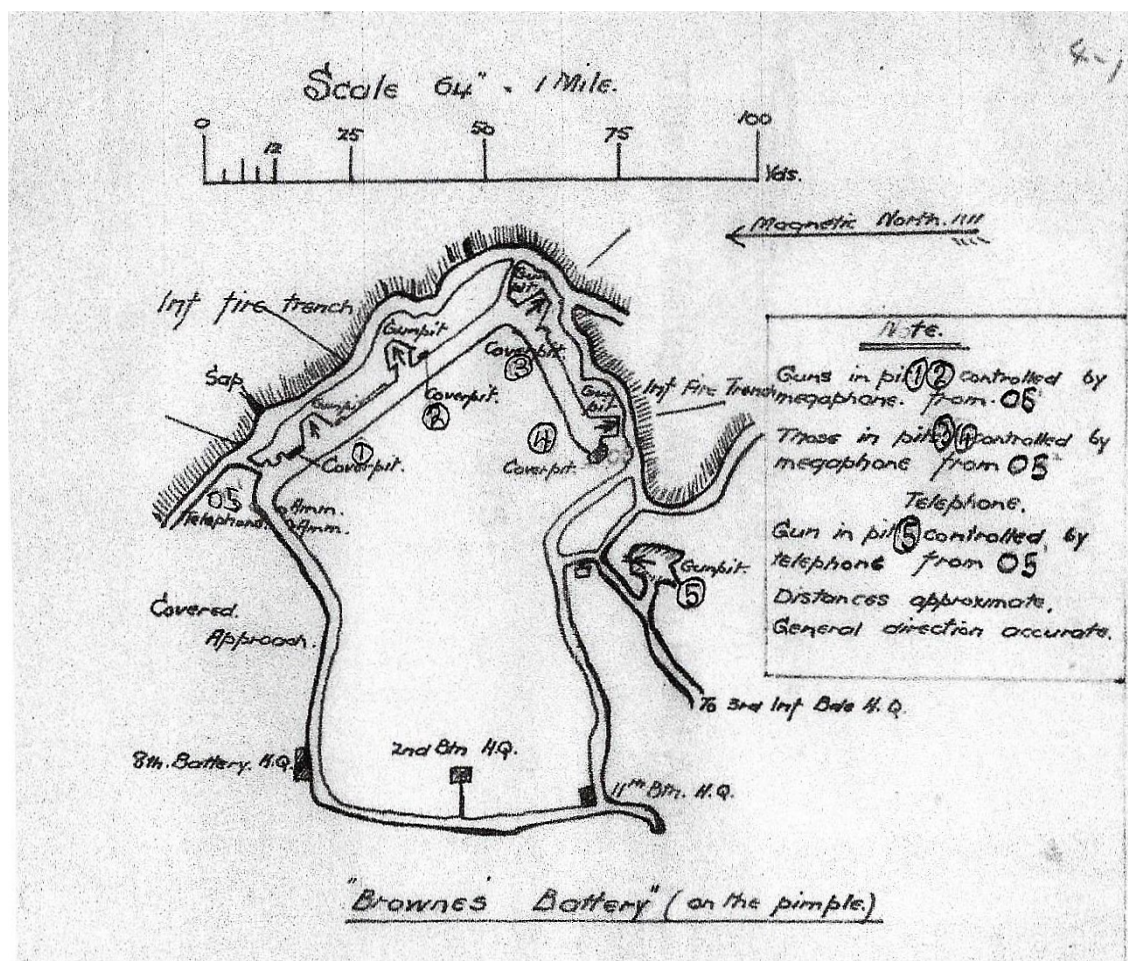
Stan Davies 0412973351, Email sftd Davies7@bigpond.com or

Tom Arnautovic 0419923584, or Peter Rowles 0408926913.

Continued from Artillery WA 1/19)

To this end the battery did not have to be redeployed as most other artillery had to. Instead, carefully prepared gun pits were positioned at the farthest point of the Pimple. A fifth gun was also added. These emplacements were immediately behind the firing line in the Pimple. When the guns were to fire, notice was given to the infantry; part of the sandbag parapet on the front trench was taken down leaving a gap through which the guns could fire across the flat summit. Other batteries doing the same in their sector suffered deaths and wounded so Johnson had to stop the procedure and the trenches were made infantry only in those exposed sectors. Eventually the Pimple gun position as shown in the 8 Battery, Australian Field Artillery War Diary May 1915 was established.

Browne's 8 Battery on the Pimple



(AWM4 Subclass 13/70 - 8th Battery, Australian Field Artillery, Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War, 1915)

"So completely under Turkish observation were many of them that at an early date they were accurately registered by the enemy and were fired upon as soon as they opened. After the first succession of heavy bombardment to which the batteries of Phillips, Browne and Hughes had been subjected from 5th to 10th May, Hobbs had informed Bridges that any gun he could emplace on the right must be completely dominated from the main range and would certainly be destroyed as soon as it started to fire"

(Bean, 1941, p. 82)

and though the enemy's shooting was prompt and accurate and the Australian guns-pits were often damaged, the beams broken and parapets blown down; yet the batteries had necessarily to remain in their exposed posi-

tions. The guns though constantly hit, were for the most part repaired locally, and during May only three Australian field pieces were damaged beyond repair.

(Bean, 1941, p. 83)

On 13 May, 21 year old vigneron of Guildford WA, Driver Douglas Barret-Lennard, No. 2 on Sgt Mick Taylor's 8 Bty gun, wrote to his mother *"For the last ten days we have worked every night and nearly all the days and the whole battery is absolutely exhausted"*. The Bty had already taken 25% casualties, although only one had been killed. Corporal Hector McLarty of 8 Bty (Perth) later, Lt H.R. McLarty MM described Turkish shelling on 17th May *'as a "snorter". They ranged shells on us, ranging from 8" to 12" from every conceivable direction for two solid hours, and I lay in my "dugout" waiting for one to catch me at any moment'* (Horner, 1995, p. 98)

A major Turkish attack was launched on Anzac positions on 18 – 19 May. Browne's 8 Bty and Phillips 4 Bty sustained such heavy fire that support from the NZ batteries was sought and granted. (Horner, 1995, p. 98)

Throughout the hot months of June and July the gunners were subject to vicious artillery duels and progressively weakened by poor food, disease, constant bombardment and casualties. (Horner, 1995, p. 98)

Many guns at Anzac were repaired by replacing damaged parts with parts of another previously injured. In June one of Bessell-Browne's eighteen pounders was thus composed of parts of three guns. Weapons more seriously damaged if they could not be repaired on board the warships were sent to Alexandria.

(Bean, 1941, pp. 82, note 40)

On 17 July a Turkish 75mm gun struck an 8 Bty gun. The gun Sgt Mick Taylor was knocked off his feet. He thought he had 14 scratches from shrapnel and told his relieving Sgt Wallis to look after two badly hit gunners. The No 2 Driver Doug Barrett-Lennard died of his wounds that night. The layer gun number 3, Stan Carter's last words before he died were, *"How is the gun? Is she badly damaged?"* (Horner, 1995, p. 103)

I interviewed Sgt Taylor in Hollywood hospital in 1968 and he told me that his scratches were more serious than he thought at the time. Indeed he lost a leg. He told me his relieving Sgt Wallis called for volunteers to man the undamaged gun and so the offending Turkish 75 mm gun was silenced. The war historian Bean wrote of that incident:

"Of such mettle were the men who, under the almost insuperable difficulties of Anzac, fought their guns throughout the campaign." (Bean, 1941, p. 344)

An early example of how the guns at Anzac were forced to cover one another may be illustrated by the following:

On the morning of 9th July a Turkish battery at the Sth end of Gun Ridge not far from Gaba Tepe, opened a rapid and accurate fire upon a post on the right flank of the Anzac trenches. Hughes' 7 Battery upon Bolton's at once engaged it. The right section of a Turkish battery in the Olive Grove thereupon turned on Hughes. Burgess's 9 Battery immediately attacked the Olive Grove. Another Turkish battery on Gun Ridge, known as the "Wineglass Battery" promptly turned upon Burgess. Bessell-Browne's 8 Battery as promptly opened up on the Wineglass. This silenced Wineglass and enabled two of Burgess's guns to assist Hughes in suppressing fire from the Turkish Battery which had first opened.

One division supporting the other with artillery fire is well illustrated at the battle of Lone Pine 6th August when the 1st NZ Battery had a direct telephone line to the Pimple where its observer was in the front line of I Division. This had a deadly effect on the Turks on the 400 Plateau (Bean, 1941, p.75)

(Continued on Page 10)

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Conversely Browne's 8 Battery 3 Brigade and Phillips 4 Battery 2 Brigade protected the NZ front engaging targets such as Baby 700 and the range behind it.

For three days before the assault on Lone Pine, on 6th August, the Australian artillery engaged the above positions. At 4.30 pm that day an intensive bombardment began on the Turkish trenches for an hour before the Australian Division began its attack. Some sources have direct fire from 8 Battery as part of the artillery support. The Australian infantry won 7 Victoria Crosses in this successful battle. The Australian Artillery played a key role in breaking up Turkish counter attacks. (Horner, 1995, p. 105)

The Nek

The infamous battle of the Nek was a diversionary one while the main attack concentrated on Chanuk Bair. The Nek was made famous by the fictitious Beresford film "Gallipoli." Les Carlyon's book "Gallipoli", while controversial, sheds some light on why the attack should never have taken place.

To place this well known attack in context it should be understood that the Turks attacked south from The Nek the month before on June 30th. It was a night assault, downhill, on a very narrow frontage (30 yards wide at the Baby 700 end), with no artillery support. 800 Turks died in this costly assault, as against 7 Australian deaths.

When the Commander of NZ and Australian Division, Maj Gen Sir A. Godley ordered the NZ Mounted Rifles to attack the Nek in August, at the same site as the failed Turkish attack, they refused and talked Godley out of the attack thus saving the lives of the NZ force. When Godley ordered Brigadier General Frederick Hughes to attack on August 7th, both Hughes and his Brigade Major Lt Colonel John Anthill, while not happy, did agree to the attack. (Carlyon, 2001, pp. 397-398)

The Australian plan was to assault after an artillery preparation with no watch synchronisation with the Light Horse troops. The assault was conducted in daylight, uphill on a narrow front (150 men in the assault line) with no rounds in the rifle breeches. The resulting disaster was inevitable. It is assumed that 8 Battery was engaging targets near the Nek and Baby 700 or further north onto Battleship Hill in support of this pointless assault

(To be continued on Artillery 3/19)

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Financial Year of the Society runs from the 1st of January to the 31st of December each year.

As in the past we advise members in Artillery WA when fees are due. This method is obviously not sufficient for a lot of our membership to send in their dues. As a result, there is a very high percentage of Members who are not financial and unless rectified it may be necessary to cease providing the quarterly newsletter.

In the near future those members who have not paid their dues will be reminded.

The Society is very dependent upon the prompt payment of fees and seek your response to a request for payment should you receive one

A general and a captain walking down the street passed a number of soldiers, and each one of them saluted the officers, the captain saluted back and said "The same to you. "Why do you always say that?" the general asked the captain "I used to be a private too," said the captain "and I know just what they are thinking."

**Along with the Usual Regulars were
Members of the driving course conducted by 3 BTY who were with us for
Morning tea at the RAAHS on 8 May 2019**



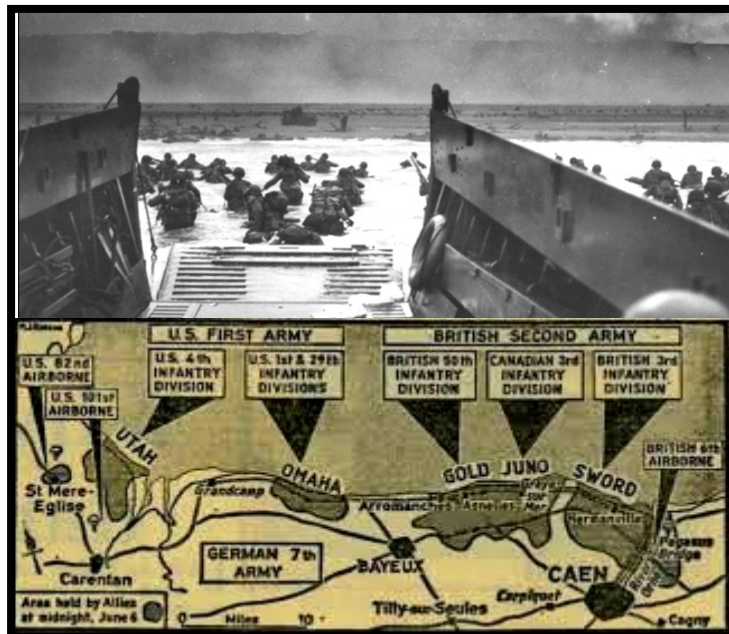
D—DAY LANDINGS NORMANDY FRANCE—6 JUNE 1944

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France, on 6 June 1944.

D-Day and the battle of Normandy marked the first step in the Allied liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation during the Second World War. Involving the largest armada of ships ever assembled, and more than 10,000 supporting aircraft, D-Day was the culmination of years of planning and preparation. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill described it as “much the greatest thing we have ever attempted”.

Australians played a small but important role in the large Allied forces that participated in D-Day, and in tribute to them and all Australians who served throughout the war, the Australian War Memorial recognises and remembers their contributions to what was one of the momentous events of the twentieth century.

Approximately 3,200 Australians participated in the D-Day landings on 6 June. Thousands more would serve during the Normandy campaign and beyond. In the fleet some 500 members of the Royal Australian Navy served on attachment with the Royal Navy. A small number of Australian soldiers also served on the ground with the British Army. Our nation’s main contribution came in the air, where approximately 1,000 Australian airmen flew with Royal Australian Air Force squadrons, and a further 1,800 operated on attachment to the Royal Air Force. On top of this, 10,000 Australians waited in training and reserve pools, ready to join operational squadrons as the campaign’s casualties mounted. Thirteen Australians were killed on 6 June in Operation Overlord, and hundreds more were killed over the course of the campaign while flying in support of the ground forces in Normandy. In fact, in terms of total casualties June 1944 was the worst month in the history of the Royal Australian Air Force.



D-Day, 75 years on. Into the Jaws of Death

Depicting the landing of troops of E Company, 16th Infantry Regiment of the United States 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red One) at Omaha Beach in the early hours of 6 June 1944, this photograph is one of the most famous images of the Second World War.

(ACK to AWM for the reproduction of their D Day article).