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## Order of the Day

### Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Anniversary Greetings 2020

This year marks the 149th anniversary of the formation of a permanent component of the Australian Artillery when the New South Wales Artillery was formed. A part of this regiment was later designated A Battery and continues in service on the RAA Order of Battle to this day. This is also the date that, by convention, we celebrate not only the beginning of the Australian Gunner journey, but also its continued service as the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery to the Army, our Nation and the Commonwealth.

As is customary on the 1st of August each year, our Representative Colonel Commandant has written to her Majesty the Queen, our Captain General, on behalf of the Colonels Commandant, the Head of Regiment, and all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery to convey to Her Majesty our respect and loyalty on the marking of another milestone in our history. Congratulations were also extended to Her Majesty on the occasion of her ninety fourth Birthday and our appreciation was expressed for the endured leadership and dedication shown by Her Majesty's to the service of the people of the Commonwealth.

On behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier S. Roche AM (retired) and our Colonels Commandant, I sincerely thank all ranks of the royal regiment both serving and retired, for their outstanding service. Let us also remember at this time the members of the Regiment who have passed away during the last year and please join me in appreciating and honouring their service. They will be sadly missed.

Finally, our thoughts are with those members of the Regiment who still remain deployed on operations around the world. We wish them all good shooting and a safe return to their families.

Ubique

(Signed)

RA Vagg, DSC  
Brigadier  
Head of Regiment

Gunners: Accurate, Responsive, Dependable, Joint

**NOTICE BOARD**



To	Edition	Collation Period	Deadline to Editor	Editing and Preparation	Final Edition	Mail Out
	4/2020	1 Oct 2020 to 12 Dec 2020	12 Dec 2020	12 Dec 2020	14 Dec 2020	15 Dec 2020

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 2020**

**LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS**  
 Closed until further notice due to  
 Covid 19

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

Fellow Gunners,

Did someone say 2021? Yay!! 2020 has been a shocker of a year but before we wish our lives away there are two more important Artillery functions.

**Gunners Day 2020**

Despite Covid 19, Gunners Day 2020 will still be held on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> of November. There will be some changes due to requirements for cadets during Covid 19 and the Phase 4 restrictions. All people will be required to maintain social distancing which means that all participating will be double spaced during the march and the service. After the memorial service we will still move to the garrison church, however, only 64 people will be able to go into the church with up to 80 in the adjacent hall with the service being televised.

We will form up at St Mathew's Church, Stirling Square, Guildford at 10:00 am and step off shortly thereafter. Our Patron, BRIG Gerry Warner has been asked to be the Reviewing Officer.

After the march we will still have refreshments in the church hall. It will be a situation where refreshments will be served as opposed to a help yourself arrangement to meet the Covid 19 requirements.

The WA Government is to review the Phase 4 restrictions the week before Gunner's Day. Given the National approach to Covid 19 for cadets, I anticipate the restrictions outlined here will apply regardless of whether the State Government eases restrictions further.

Camaraderie will continue after at the Rose & Crown hotel.

**Feast of Saint Barbara**

I am pleased to advise that the Feast of Saint Barbara will be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of December. A separate flyer with full details is in this edition. It is open to all serving and past members of the RAA, partners and guests. It will be an opportunity for the Association to make the annual award to the most outstanding soldier from 3 LT BTY for 2020.

If Phase 4 restrictions are still in place there will be a limit of 94 people able to attend. If we have moved to Phase 5 then there will not be a limit.

I look forward to seeing you on Gunner's Day and at the Feast of Saint Barbara.

*Ubique,*

**Bob Farrelly**

## THE AIMING POST

### Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT HEADING INTO SPRING

**D**ear Members, I am pleased to note the increasing return to normality in many sections of our State's socioeconomic sectors.

The Leighton Tunnel tours for the public remain suspended due to the fact that the complex comprises small rooms connected by narrow passage ways. Our earlier tours were of up to 13 people escorted by a Guide- in light of the S.D. rules we cannot have that arrangement now. A sub section of the Committee is now investigating alternative ways of having visitors enjoy our display efforts. The Committee has decided to re-open the tunnels in early November- pending Phase 5.

Regarding R.A.A.H.S. occupying ground at Irwin Barracks. We have enjoyed the use of a workshop and annex building since the early 1990's. Defence has now offered us a formal Licence arrangement for continued use of those two structures. The Committee has evaluated it, ( with thanks to Don and Stan), as has member Tom Darbyshire, and I signed off on it in September.

The workshop to-day is only permitted to do light weight mechanical work- but in the day- our members did excellent re-builds of field guns and mortars. One of the skilled artisans is member Harvey Everett who worked wonders at his lathe- I am delighted that he has recently accepted Honorary Membership status within the Society.

The 5.25" project.

Various Committee members are already arranging how our interior plans can be started. Certain tasks will be done by our busy bee workers – which will save costs and maintain their interest, and other more complicated tasks by contracted specialists.

Building work on the entrance doorway concluded at the end of September- the unsightly wire safety screen has been removed. The T.O.M.P. elected to use 'heritage bricks,' which we may seek permission to paint when finished, so the structure matches the 1940's 6" entrance nearby.

The RAN has agreed to supply the Society with twenty five 5" brass cartridge cases, which will be altered to replicate 5.25" cases, and which will appear as display items in the gun floor alcoves. The cases were compliments of HMAS ANZAC's main battery shoot at Lancelin earlier this year .They will be stored in the C.P. until required in the ammunition alcoves.

The first Busy Bee in several months encouraged an excellent turnout of members who dealt with a range of tasks above and below ground. I paused in my task (painting!), to admire the fabulous view westwards towards Rottnest and the coastline to the north and south. It brought home to me just how fortunate the public are to have this piece of high ground available to visit and be educated about our military history.

In September we made the tunnels complex available to Curtin University staff and students for the purpose of their annual Mine Surveying Field Camp. A local newspaper was invited down to interview the team leader Mr Tony Snow and your RAAHS President.

Also invited to use the tunnels and 5.25" C.P. was the annual International Scouting movements radio communications hub- this was a sleep- over event, involving supervising adults and lots of young tech-savvy teenagers! Their communications interacted with a world-wide audience.

A sub-committee has also commenced the re-formatting of the 6" shell store. The new arrangement will be more representative of that store-room's original function. A feature will be an enlargement of a photo that shows rows of H.E. and A.P. shells being attended to by a serviceman. Also on-show will be a set of projectiles, photos of the weapons that fired them and floor painted shell symbols to show visitors the deliberate manner in which those objects were stored.

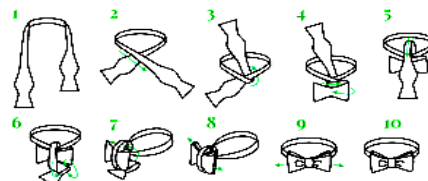
Early in September, Council contractors commenced work on removal of obstructing vegetation west of our gun floors. All leaf litter was chipped and low height ground cover native vegetation was planted. The result is just what we required.( Photos of the war time 6" site under construction show a hot and windy locale!)

Kind regards to you all,

David Carter.

President.

#### A Coming Fashion? How to tie a Bow Tie



## THE THUNDER OF THE GUNS!

By NX 12891 W.S..T. Stacey July 2002

*Like the storm that's in the making  
When the rumbling thunder runs  
And the hills and valleys tremble;  
THAT'S THE THUNDER OF THE GUNS!*

*When the aiming posts are planted  
And a firing order comes,  
Then the layers work their magic  
WITH THEIR SIGHT AND BUBBLE RUNS*

*Then the check is on the charges  
And the range tests on the drum,  
Then the muzzle flashes lightning;  
THAT'S THE THUNDER OF THE GUNS!*

*It's in the fury of the battle  
When the understanding comes  
That the gunner is for ever,  
A PARTNER WITH THE GUNS.*

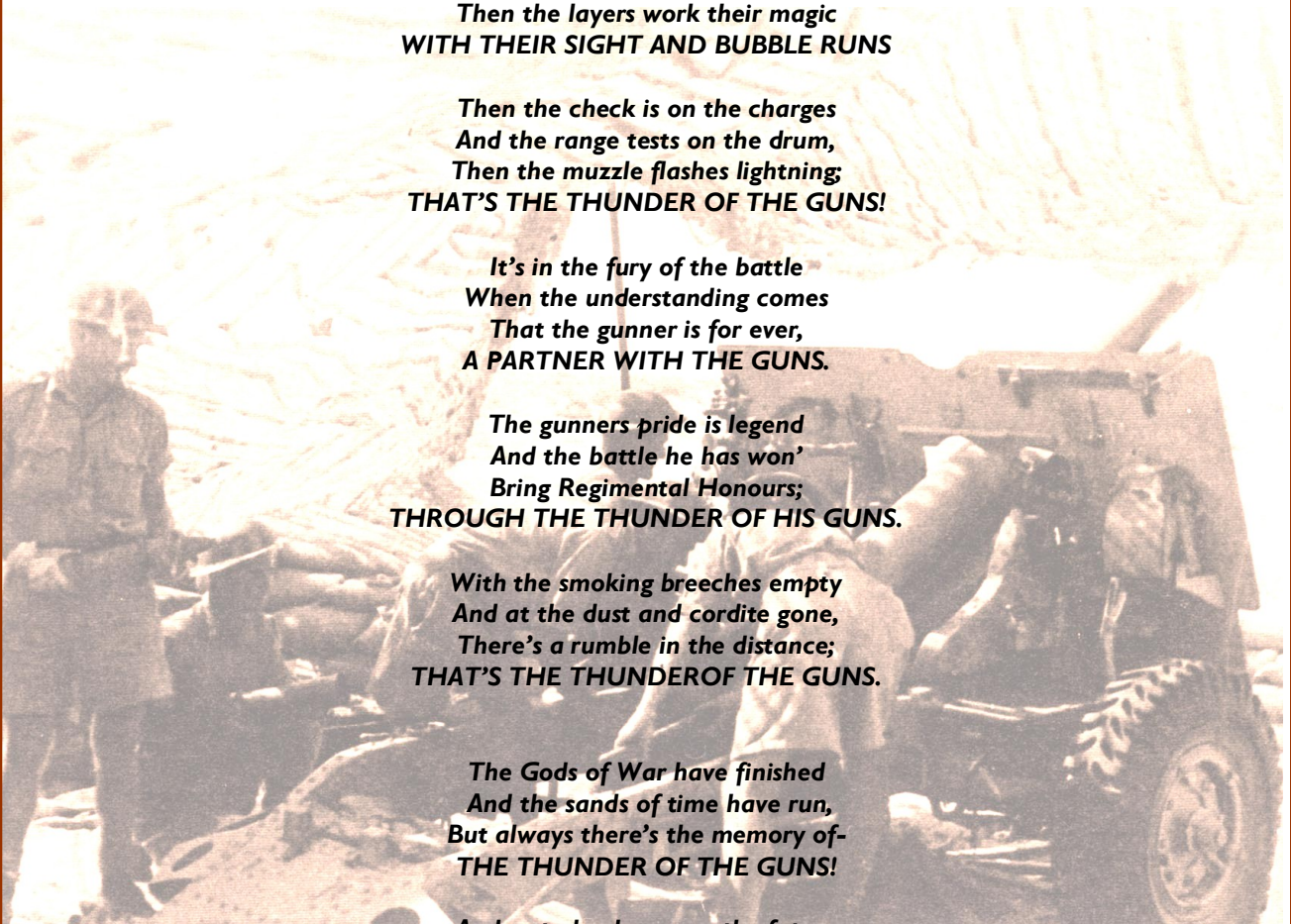
*The gunners pride is legend  
And the battle he has won'  
Bring Regimental Honours;  
THROUGH THE THUNDER OF HIS GUNS.*

*With the smoking breeches empty  
And at the dust and cordite gone,  
There's a rumble in the distance;  
THAT'S THE THUNDER OF THE GUNS.*

*The Gods of War have finished  
And the sands of time have run,  
But always there's the memory of-  
THE THUNDER OF THE GUNS!*

*And as today becomes the future  
Our sons will tell their sons,  
That the men whose blood they carry; knew  
THE THUNDER OF THE GUNS!*

*In the valley of the shadows  
When his comrades are as one,  
Their hearts will surely gladden  
For they're the only ones -  
That understand the music;  
IN THE THUNDER OF THE GUNS!*





## CHAPTER I A HAIG OF BEMERSIDE

Douglas Haig was of Fife parentage, and more remotely of Border descent. He was born on 8 June 1861, at 24, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, the son of Mr. John Haig, of Cameron Bridge, of Rachel, daughter of Mr. Hugh Veitch, of Stewartfield, Midlothian.

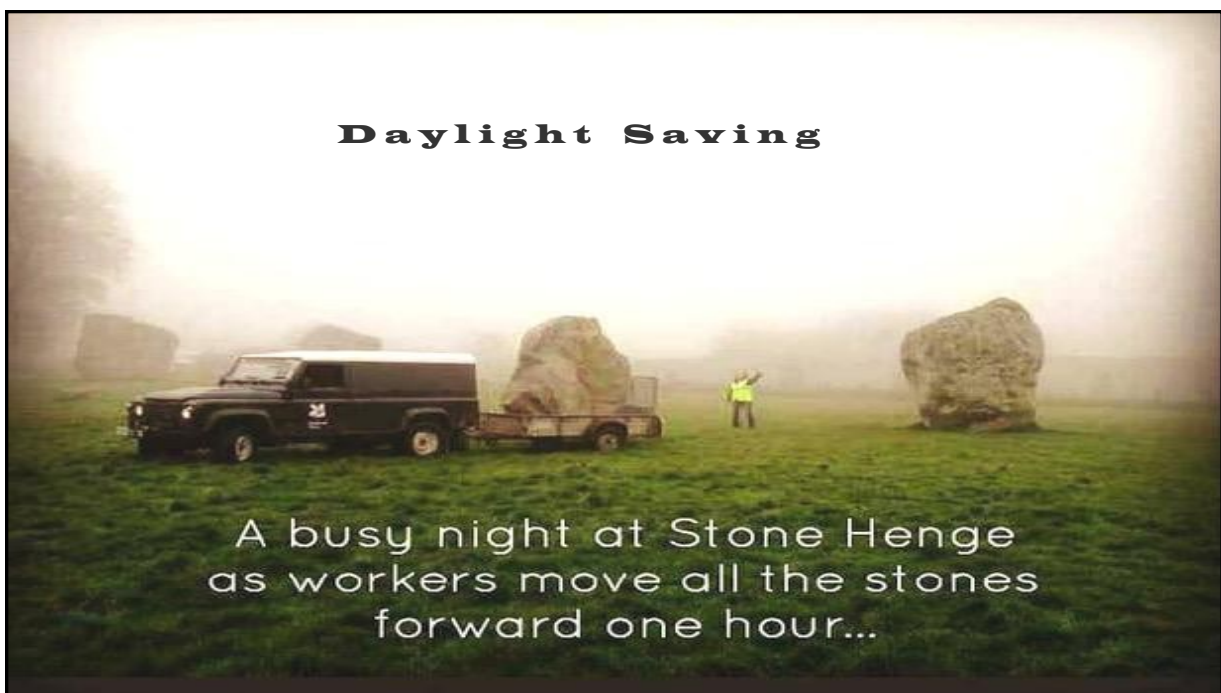
The boy, who was destined to become one of the greatest figures in his country sprang from a race of fighters, for he was collaterally descended from the Haigs of Bemersyde whose pedigree had early Norman roots, and it has been claimed that the family was of even more venerable origin, dating back to the Picts. There are written records that Haigs were living on Tweedside before the thirteenth century, when Petrus de Haga (1150-1200) was the head of family, who died when William the Lion was on the throne. A de Haga enlisted under Richard I for the Third Crusade.

Tyde what may betide- - - Haig shall be Haig of Bemersyde.”

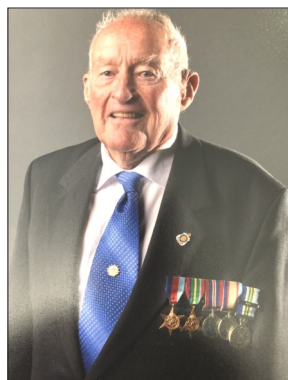
*(The forgoing is an extract from one of the hundreds, of books we have which are historical masterpieces and should you wish to look through our records please call me on 2694544 any Wednesday morning or at any time 0407329353 to make arrangements for your entry to Irwin Barracks.)*

Bob Arnold — Editor

## Daylight Saving



## **BEREAVEMENT**



**GORDON THOMAS HULL 12.04.1922 – 24.03.2020**

The RAA Association and the Historical Society was notified by his daughter Lynette that Gordon had passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

At the time of his passing Gordon was still serving as the State President of the 116 Light Anti – Aircraft Association, an appointment he had held for many years. The LAA Association was linked with the Society as one of the WW2 Ex Service Organisations which gave generously of their members' time in the development of Leighton Battery Heritage Site and indeed, on numerous occasions assisted the Society through financial donation.

In recognition of their support, a restored 40mm BOFORS MK I LAA Gun was presented to Gordon as President of the 116 LAA by the Society and it was transferred to Rottnest Island where it is paraded each ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

Gordon was a fine gentleman. He is survived by his widow Florence and Daughter Lynette.

**UBIQUE**

## **STOMP SUNDAY 13 Sep 20**

**T**he Mosman Park Youth Advisory Council holds STOMP annually to encourage young people to work in teams in a fun activity that also explores the local area. This year the Leighton Battery Heritage Site was the start point for STOMP 2020 and at 9.00am a number of teams set off to find answers to questions about the site. Once the teams solved the questions they were given clues/directions to the next point within Mosman Park with a final destination of Russell Brown Adventure Park McCabe St at 1.00pm. Prizes for the best clue solving, fastest and best dressed teams were awarded.



David Carter and John Blylevens facilitated the LBHS leg, they were impressed with the enthusiasm of the teams and their guardians (who were often trailing their young charges). It was great to see so many young people at LBHS even if it was only for an hour.

## REPLICA CHURCH PEW



As the result of restoring the Projectile Store ( previously referred as the Room of Reflection) the Society offers this Pew for sale.

Crafted from century old reclaimed Jarrah by Late Member A.W. (Bill) Hepton, the Pew measures 186cm wide x 55 cm deep and stands 98 cm high.

The Pew may be inspected at Leighton Battery by prior arrangement  
 Indications of interest to purchase should be directed to (08) 9269 4544  
 or email: [info@artillerywa.org.au](mailto:info@artillerywa.org.au)

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### *In Nelson's Navy—Do you remember?*

*Silence!*  
*Cast loose your gun!*  
*Level your gun!*  
*Take out your tampion!*  
*Prime!*  
*Run out your gun!*  
*Point your gun!*  
**Fire!**

*Worm and sponge!*  
*Load with cartridge!*  
*Load with shot and wad to your shot!*  
*Ram home shot and wad!*  
*Put in your tampion!*  
*House your gun!*  
*Secure your gun!*



Lieutenant Colonel Robert Farrelly RFD  
President, Royal Australian Artillery Association (Inc)

**REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF THE COMPANY OF**

All Ranks, Past and Present of the Royal Australian Artillery (RAA)

Partners and Invited Guests at the 2020 FEAST OF STBARBARA

**TO BE HELD IN THE**

HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK DRILL HALL KARRAKATTA  
FRIDAY, 4th OF DECEMBER 2020 AT 1900 Hrs. FOR 1930 Hrs.

COST: \$85.00 PER PERSON.

**PAYMENT: BANK TRANSFER or CASH OR CHEQUE PAYABLE  
TO**

**RAA ASSOCIATION BSB 066 163 ACCOUNT**

**No 00902583**

**(PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME)**

DRESS- MESS DRESS WHITE JACKET (Retired and SERVING OFFICERS and SENIOR NCO'S).

GENTS- LOUNGE SUITS. LADIES- AFTER FIVE WEAR

POC: TOM ARNAUTOVIC 0419923584; PETER ROWLES 0408926913;

STAN DAVIES 0412973351.

RSVP STAN DAVIES [sftdavies7@bigpond.com](mailto:sftdavies7@bigpond.com) or Tel 0412973351.

Book by Friday 20th of NOVEMBER 2020.

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

MANDURAH NORTH WA 6210

I WILL/ WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE FEAST OF ST BARBARA

2020 MY REMITTANCE FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED.

I WOULD PREFER TO BE SEATED WITH: (IF YOU HAVE ANY MATES YOU PREFER TO SIT WITH)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ RANK \_\_\_\_\_ POST NOMINALS \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: .....

Guests: .....

U b i q u e

## THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY AT A GLANCE

**A little frivolity:-** A friend once told me he didn't understand the military system. Dumb civilian, I said to myself, but openly I said, "The system is really quite simple."

You see, all people in the Army are soldiers, all privates are soldiers, but not all soldiers are privates. Some are officers who are commissioned, but some are officers who are not commissioned. Obviously if every private was called private it would be confusing, so some privates are called things like trooper, driver, gunner, craftsman, sapper or signaller. Not all of the drivers actually drive because some of them cook, but we don't call them cooks, for that matter, not all drivers are called drivers – some of them are privates or gunners. Gunners as I'm sure you know are the blokes that fire guns, unless of course they are drivers or signallers in which case we call them gunners rather than drivers or signallers just to make it clearer. All gunners belong to the artillery, except that in the infantry we have gunners who are called privates because they fire a different sort of gun, for the same reason we call our drivers and signallers private as well.

A Lance Corporal is called Corporal, unless he is a Lance Bombardier then we call him Bombardier to distinguish him from a full Bombardier, who is just like a Corporal. All other ranks are called by their rank for the sake of simplicity except that Staff Sergeants are called Staff, but they are not on the staff, some Warrant Officers, who are not officers, are called Sergeant Major although they are not Sergeants or Majors. Some Warrant Officers are called Mister which is the same thing that we call some officers but they are not Warrant Officers. A Lieutenant is also called Mister because they are subalterns, but we always write their rank as Lieutenant or Second Lieutenant, and second comes before first.

When we talk about groups of soldiers there obviously has to be clear distinction. We call them Officers and Soldiers although we know that officers are soldiers too, sometimes we talk about officers and other ranks which is the same as calling them soldiers. I guess it is easiest when we talk about rank and file which is all the troops on parade except the officers and some of the NCOs - - and a few of the privates – and the term is used whether everyone is on parade or not.

A large unit is called a battalion, unless it is a regiment but sometimes a regiment is much bigger than a battalion and then it has nothing to do with the other sort of regiment. Sub units are called companies unless they are squadrons or troops or batteries for that matter. That is not radio batteries and don't confuse this type of troop with the type who are soldiers but not officers.

Mostly the Army is divided into Corps as well as units, not the sort of Corps which is a couple of divisions but the sort which tells you straight away what trade each man performs, whether he is a tradesman or not. The Infantry Corps has all the infantrymen for example and the Artillery Corps has all the gunners. Both these Corps also have signallers and drivers except those who are in the Signals or Transport Corps. In fact the Signals Corps is not a service at all because it is an Arm. Arms do all the fighting, although Signals don't have to fight too much, rather like the Engineers who are also an Arm but they don't fight too much either So you see, it's really quite simple .

### **And some choose to disregard that, which many believe, to be an evident truth.**

**W**ar 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 Morant**

## Garry Sheean VC

On 29 November *Armidale* sailed for Japanese-occupied Timor—in company with the corvette H.M.A.S. *Castlemaine*—to withdraw the exhausted Australian 2nd/2nd Independent shortly before 2 p.m. on 1 December 1942 *Armidale*, by then separated from *Kuru*, was attacked by no less than thirteen aircraft. The corvette manoeuvred frantically. At 3.15 a torpedo struck her port side and another hit the engineering spaces; finally a bomb struck aft. As the vessel listed heavily to port, the order was given to abandon ship. The survivors leapt into the sea and were machine-gunned by the Japanese. Once he had helped to free a life-raft, Sheean scrambled back to his gun on the sinking ship. Although wounded in the chest and back, the 18-year-old sailor shot down one bomber and kept other aircraft away from his comrades in the water. He was seen still firing his gun as *Armidale* slipped below the waves. Only forty-nine of the 149 souls who had been on board survived the sinking and the ensuing days in life-rafts. Gary Sheean was mentioned in dispatches for his bravery. In 2020 he became Australia's 101st recipient of the Victoria Cross, the first to be awarded to a member of the R.A.N. An A Collins-class submarine, which launched in 1999, was named after him—the only ship in the R.A.N. to bear the name of an ordinary seaman.

*(Painting by Dale Marsh)*



***Ivory has been fighting for 32 years to have his uncle, Teddy Sheean, posthumously awarded a Victoria Cross***

***Sheean was 18 when he strapped himself to an anti-aircraft gun on the sinking HMAS *Armidale* in 1942, shooting at Japanese fighter planes***

***Prime Minister Scott Morrison will recommend to the Queen that Sheean be awarded the top military honour.”***

## LEIGHTON BATTERY HERITAGE SITE – 5.25 INCH GUN EMPLACEMENT PROJECT



Now that the Emplacement has been roofed and the Stairwell leading to the underground complex secured, Vice President Graham McKenzie-Smith has compiled a detailed development plan identifying the staged projects to convert the facility into a further tourist destination for visitors to examine having concluded their Tunnels Tour.

The plan embraces photographic displays for the Engine Room, the Plotting Room and the Store Room. The ammunition recesses surrounding the Gun Pedestal will contain artefacts relative to the dual role the Battery played as part of Fortress Fremantle's Air and Coast Defence.

To complete the interpretation, a replica Turret and Barrel has already been approved to be mounted on the concrete roof of the emplacement.

The development plan has been submitted to the Town of Mosman Park seeking their comment and support for the project.

Fully costed, the total outlay is \$200,000 a portion of which will be funded by the Society in both cash and kind. Approaches will be made to LotteryWest after they resume such funding in the New Year.

# **Australian Gunners**

*(Serving or Retired)*



**YOU ARE  
INVITED TO  
CELEBRATE  
THE:**

## **150th Anniversary of Australian Artillery in 2021**

### **“MARK YOUR DIARY”**

#### **Events:**

**Where: CANBERRA VENUES -  
RAA NATIONAL MEMORIAL AND AWM ON  
SUNDAY 1ST AUGUST 2021.**

**Where: SYDNEY VENUE -  
VICTORIA BARRACKS ON SATURDAY  
6TH NOVEMBER 2021**

**Note: More detailed information including tim-  
ings will be provided when available throughout  
2020 and 2021**

**Unit and Associated Events:  
Throughout 2021 as advertised by those  
individual coordinating organisations.**

### **CANBERRA**

**1st August 2021**

Commonwealth  
Service at RAA  
National Memorial Mount  
Pleasant

**Synchronised  
National Ceremonial  
Fire Plan**

Mount Pleasant and all RAA  
Unit Locations

**Last Post Ceremony**  
Australian War  
Memorial

### **SYDNEY**

**6th November 2021**

Formal Parade & Drum  
Head Service  
Incorporating the presenta-  
tion of a new Queen's Ban-  
ner

Followed by  
**150th Cocktail Party  
Victoria Barracks**

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Contact  
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via email at  
[raa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raa@defence.gov.au)