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Head of Regiment Address

150th Anniversary of Australian Artillery

Commemorative Ceremony and

150 Gun National Salute

The 1st of August marks the 150th anniversary of the formation of the first permanent battery of Australian artillery. Which has led to a continuous lineages of artillery batteries and regiments serving first the Australian colonies, and then the nation of Australia.

Since that day on the 1st of August 1871, Australian Gunners have rightly earned the Battle Honour granted to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery — *Ubique* — or, *everywhere*.

The story of Australian Artillery starts with the departures of the British forces in 1870, when each Colony was required to defend their coastline and communities. This step sowed the need to build a dedicated and technically professional Artillery capability.

This anniversary is therefore a special day for every Australian, not just for Gunners, as 1871 marks the date from when Australia's Colonial Governments made that permanent commitment to their own self defence—one of the hallmarks of sovereignty and nationhood.

After the New South Wales Colonial Government funded and raised its first permanent battery on the 1st of August that year officers, gunners, guns and equipment were used to form subsequent batteries. Army's longest continuous serving permanent unit is 'A' battery traces its history to the that original NSW battery.

Today Australia's Gunners continue to serve proudly across the nation in war and peace. Artillery remains a vital blend of the science and art of war and today, the realm of the 21st century gunner extends across multiple disciplines and domains. *Ready Now* as always, the Artilleries critical capabilities are essential to winning battles including not just guns and mortars but rockets, missiles, drones, radars and most vitally the provision of essential joint fires coordination.

Ladies and gentlemen the 1st of August unites all Regiments and Gunners, serving and former, across all States and Territories as the date that captures and symbolizes the beginning of the Australian Artillery. Today, we recognise all Gunners who have *provided service to our community and the nation*: at home and overseas defending; assaults from the sea, in the sky and on land advising, defending and supporting their comrades.

After 150 continuous years, we first remember those who have given ultimate sacrifice and then celebrate the unstinting service of Australian Gunners from 1871 to the present day as they continue to protect and serve the nation in war and peace.

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NOTICE BOARD

ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTY WA

In the last two issues, Graham McKenzie-Smith has provided articles for the newsletter "The Army Reorganises Again", and "The Army in WA In 1914" both of which have been of much interest.

To ensure that the ideal number of pages -12, were filled in the last issue an article titled "Morse Code — The internet of it's day" was sourced from another newsletter with the approval of the editor.

Items for inclusion, and which are regularly needed, should be submitted for the next issue by 16 September 2021 to the Editor Bob Arnold at 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.

RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2021

30 October, 27 November.

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

Sunday 10am-3pm Adults \$10, Children \$4.

Adults \$10, Children

For those who need a reminder—subs are due on the First of January each year and may be paid directly to the treasurer or may be made direct to the Bank Accounts:

RAA Historical Society - BSB 066 103 Account No 0090 3744

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ellow Gunners,

RAA 150th Celebrations

How lucky are we to live in Western Australia. As NSW and Vic were in lockdown many of the 150th celebrations were put on hold. Here in WA, 3 BTY fired the salute to recognise 150 years of RAA service to Australia in what was a wild and wintery day, but with no restrictions. The salute was done directly in front of the war memorial which was impressive. Well done to the members of the BTY for your professionalism.

Gunners Day 2021

Our next event is Gunners Day 2021, to be held on Sunday, 7th of November. We will form up at St Mathew's Church, Stirling Square, Guildford at 10.00 am and step off shortly thereafter. BRIG Brett Chaloner CSC, COMD 13 BDE will be the Reviewing Officer.

After the march we will have refreshments in the Church Hall and after to the Rose & Crown hotel to continue the camaraderie. In recent years the ex-serving members have been a bit thin on the ground. I would encourage all Gunners to attend and get on to your mates and encourage them to attend.

Feast of Saint Barbara

The Feast of Saint Barbara is to be held on Friday 3rd of December. I am pleased to advise that BRIG Brett Chaloner CSC, COMD 13 BDE will be an official guest. I am still waiting to hear from BRIG Neil Sweeney AM, Colonel Commandant 9 REGT as to his ability to attend with NSW in lockdown.

The Feast of St Barbara is open to 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 have already sent out invitations and I would encourage you to reply as soon as possible.

The Association's annual award for the most outstanding soldier will be presented.

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

Abique,

Bob Farrelly

LTCOL

President, RAA Association

THE AIMING POST

Royal Australian Historical Society THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT HEADING INTO SPRING 2021.

After a stop in play that lasted sixteen months(!), Leighton tunnels re-opened to the public for tours on Sunday the 25th of July.

As a Guide that day I was quietly confident that all would go well- and it did. We elected for a soft opening – which drew about 40 visitors. They were given a free tour. As our Cashier said... "If it goes wrong, what do you expect for nothing!" We will make a few minor changes, but the format certainly appealed to the visitors. One ex- military gentleman made a generous financial donation to the Society on learning he was in for a free tour.

Visitors commented positively on the "golden voice" of the narrator in the various rooms which actually belongs to Mr David Ellery- ex ABC voice over man. The choice of lead in and lead out music, which is 1940's woodwind swing style, also appealed to the tourists.

Our remaining 'Busy Bee's this year will concentrate on the preparation of the four interior rooms beneath the soon to be installed replica 5.25" turret/barrel. (The fabricator has reported a delay will occur in completion due to a shortage of 5mm rolled steel plate). Visitors to the tunnels will not have access to those rooms until we have them to display standard. The Sunday guide now stationed at the southern tunnel exit, will give verbal detail about the 5.25" weapon system and the work stages to exiting groups.

Here is an example of a behind the scenes issue that your Committee will address in due course. We will need to either re-new our long term lease with TOMP- with updates, or convince them to issue RAAHS with a Licence to operate the Leighton tunnels. Fortunately, we have access to legal advice via a Society member and our V/P is also skilled in the implications of both types of document. Irrespective of who runs with the task, it will be time hungry, so I certainly appreciate the effort that will be made on this issue on the membership's behalf.

Members will recall that the Society "holds ground" at Irwin Barracks. We occupy an expansive annex building- rent-free- under a License arrangement. Recently, Defence has had inspectors look over our site (taking many photos) to plan OHS works including fixing the guttering and the timber landing. The interior lighting has already been upgraded. An upgrade to the fire extinguishers will also occur.

It is now a month since we re-opened for tours at the Battery site. The new format is working nicely, with plenty of positive feedback coming from our visitors.

Curtin University have again used our tunnels as a classroom for their survey students. The Scout movement likewise for their international radio linkup. Our Society continues to maintain its links to the community through these sorts of exercises. We make no charge.

As an extra item of interest in the C.P. for visitors awaiting their tour, is a monitor showing the training drill for the loading and firing sequences for a British 6" coastal gun in WW2.

My Best regards to all

David

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN ELECTORATE VISITS TUNNELS

Ms. Celia Hammond MP, Federal Member for Curtin Electorate, accompanied by Electorate Officer Katie Andrigan-Hondros, visited Leighton Battery Heritage Site at the invitation of President David Carter on 22nd September 2021.

It was Ms. Hammond's inaugural visit to the site and she was most impressed with the restoration of the World War II Emplacement and the progress that has been achieved by Society Volunteers since the Official Opening on 29th November 1997.

David introduced Vice President Graham McKenzie-Smith, and Committee Persons Neil Lodge, Phil Rowson, Ian Randles and Don Rae, following which he spoke of the Society's prime aim of preserving Artillery Heritage in Western Australia and of our good fortune to be accommodated at Irwin Barracks for our day to day commitments.

David described the recently installed motion activated sound and light system and led the group on a tour of the surface facilities and tunnels complex explaining the innovation was aimed at operating tours more frequently with reduced numbers to comply with COVID 19 constraints.

Following the tour, light refreshments were provided in a relaxed atmosphere.

Prior to departing, Ms. Hammond presented the Society with a new Blue Ensign to replace the time worn original.

IMAGES OF THE VISIT











READY TO MAKE IMPACT



THE DEVASTATION caused by a self propelled artillery battery unleashing three-round bursts

is something Lt-Col Matthew White saw as a forward observer in the British Army.

"You would not want to be anywhere within the target area," he said. "

You're getting 18 rounds landing almost instantly. Most of the damage is done in that initial barrage; it has a massive effect on an adversary.

"The sound, the shockwave, the target-end effect - it's just an extraordinary system."

This "multiple-round simultaneous impact" – where the rounds are fired so they arrive on target at virtually the same time – will be coming to the Australian Army with the AS9 Huntsman Self-Propelled Howitzer.

These tracked guns can lob eight 155mm rounds per minute out to 40km (longer with proposed new munitions) and, with the main gun stowed, travel at more than 60km/h. That means they could fire rounds downrange and relocate quickly to avoid a counter-battery response.

"You'll be able to get a three-round burst off against the target, stow the barrel and get away to an alternate firing point or an interim position ready for the next mission," Lt-Col White said.

"The time between firing and an adversary responding with counter fires having detected our guns' position using weapon-locating radars is getting shorter and shorter. "The ability to 'shoot and scoot' will be a key element to survivability for self-propelled artillery. "It's going to be a really demanding, but effective, way to operate."

In the first phase of the project, Army will acquire 30 AS9s, each manned by a crew commander, driver, gunner and two loaders. Ten AS10 armoured ammo resupply vehicles will also be procured, each holding 104 rounds with the ability to transfer 10 per minutes to an AS9 without crews leaving the vehicles.

Six self-propelled guns will form a battery, with each gun pair supported by a resupply vehicle. It's envisaged the initial protected mobile fires regiment will be formed, alongside RAA units operating M777s. Assessments would occur to ensure 155mm ammo currently in service with the M777s could also be fired from the AS9s.

With thanks to Jessica Deotto, Editor of Army -The soldiers' newspaper.

YET THE AUSTRALIANS

Yet the Australians, these mad men from the Antipodes, insist on defying all principles of warfare, and cling to a position of mid-air, from which they should have long ago been ousted—if the text books are to be believed.

They hang on imperturbably, and appear to like it. They have Huns to the right of them, Huns to the left of them, and Huns in front of them, but they stick in the deep trenches and concrete dug-outs of Hindenburg's fine new fortress which they have helped to turn into a jigsaw puzzle.

(A Prussian Officer commenting on Australian tenacity at Bullecourt)

The two paragraphs above are the forward to a book titled — "War trophies From the First World 1914-1918" compiled by Major R. S. (Bill) Billett. First published in Australia in 1999 by Kangaroo Press. And, is one of about three thousand books, primarily of military topics, held in our library and of which most have never been borrowed. Should you however wish to read any of these please do not hesitate in calling me on 6455049 any Wednesday morning or 0407 329 353 at any time when mutual arrangements can be made for you to view the library and make your selection.



TOBRUK

In a foreign land they defiant stand, With a courage known of old. So that their dead shall know, That they held the foe, Where the ebb of battle rolled. It's little they tell of their months of hell, But the world to be shall look, And vision of pain of that desert plain, The fortress they call Tobruk. Not by will imposed, The faith of a volunteer, They fight for all the free hold dear. In the world to be, When mankind is free, They will speak with pride, Of mates side by side, Who fought for a purpose true; When visions that soar, And makers of war, And tyrants are brought to book They will reign the creed, Of the brotherhood freed,

By the diggers of Tobruk.



A LITTLE BROTHER – 1935

You may be aware that we have sought contributions to fill spaces in the newsletter, as the need arises, but have not been flushed with success. At the risk of personal embarrassment I have made a contribution in the hope that some will be encouraged to also tell a short story, personal or otherwise,



My mother was due to present us with another sister or brother and as she had problems during the birth of my younger sister in the Carnarvon hospital she decided that she would go to Perth. Carnarvon a small town of some 800 souls, 600 miles from Perth and the only comfortable means of travel was by sea or air. Mum chose Sea. Shortly after boarding the MV Kybra and out well out to sea, on a clear day, the swell was high and this little vessel bucked and lurched in the heavy sea. Many passengers were yellow, but accompanied by my little brother we relished the conditions.



On arrival at Fremantle we went to Perth by a suburban, steam train, an exciting experience for two young boys from the bush. At each station between Fremantle and Perth, passengers disembarked and alighted in numbers, cars were few and travel, with little exception, was by public transport. The railway stations in 1935 were manned by several people, each station had its carefully manicured garden, a ticket issuing point and toilets; at Fremantle and Perth Stations there were cafes where one could get steak and eggs, a mixed grill, fish and

chips, a pie and sauce and sandwiches. The same could be found at all the major country railway stations. Travel in those days was a leisurely affair.

A taxi took us to our new home in Havelock Street West Perth. What a location for two young boys. 1935 was the midst of the appropriately named Great Depression. Living opposite was a large family whose father was out of work and from the two older boys, I and my younger brother learned the secrets of provisioning during hard times. At the Eastern boundary of Havelock Street was the Perth Markets and it was from here that the food supply for our neighbours was largely sourced. Each Saturday morning nearing midday, laden with a couple of sacks, we would head to the markets, when vendors had finished trading, to fill the sacks with what fruit, vegetables and meat had not been sold and which was left for the needy. During school holidays the visits were more frequent. Cost zero and usually adequate for the forthcoming week. Clothes for our neighbors were hand-me-downs and shoes – bare feet—and the depression continued to reign supreme.

Brief History of the WA State Shipping Service







When unreliable private shipping left the towns of Wyndham and Derby facing famine, the state gov-



ernment was forced into the industry. On 4 May 1912, the State Steamships Service was formed by the Scaddan government in response to requests for improved services along the North West Australian coast. It was controlled by the Fremantle Harbour Trust between 1913 and 1918. In January 1919 it was renamed the State Shipping Service. In November 1965, the SSS came under the responsibility of the newly formed Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission. In January 1979 the

service was rebranded Stateships. In June 1995 the government announced that Stateships would cease operations, with the remaining three vessels sold. The Koolinda, Kybra and Koolama were destroyed by enemy action during World War 2.

SOUTH PERTH -WORLD WAR ONE MEMORIAL

By Les Emery



ucked away next the fence of the Perth Zoo, at the corner of Angelo St and Labouchchere Road South Perth, is a memorial that many who pass that spot may never have noticed.

On Remembrance Day, 11 November 1923, the Governor of Western Australia, Sir Francis Newdegate unveiled the memorial, which had been commissioned by the South Perth Road Board. The main feature of the memorial is a German 17cm Trench Mortar, manufactured in 1917 and brought back as a war prize by the 16th Battalion, from its actions in France.

The location of the memorial was not favoured by many returned servicemen, being at a tram junction, which was very noisy, in addition, the gibbons from the zoo were said to create a disturbance during memorial ceremonies. Memorial services are no longer held there, following the completion of the war memorial at the South Perth Civic Centre. The trench mortar is mounted on a stone plinth which has an adjoining curved wall, with wrought ironwork, on the front is a bronze plaque which records the names of sixteen local servicemen, who gave their lives between 1914-1918

BARBER, Hugh James Frederick MM

BARBER, Ralph Evan (brother of Hugh)

BRIGATTI, George COOPER, Astley Charles

FORBES, Richard Andrew HUNTER, William

KIDSON, Edric Doyle KIRTON, Alexander Mann McENCROE, Francis

McENCROE, Pierce Thomas (brother of Francis)

McLEAN, Donald Shapley,

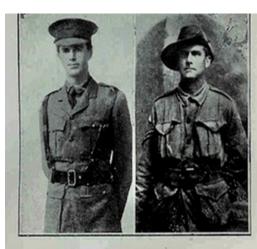
PENNINGTON, Colin William Gregory

RICHARDSON, Robert ROBINSON, James Edward

TATE, Lawrence EdarNorman

(Australia's Fighting Sons of the Empire 1914-1918)





The above soldiers are the sons of the late Robert Barb d Mrs. R. J. Barber, 7 Lawler-street, South Perth.



THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN THE WALL OF DEADLY STEEL

In 1966, in a major battle near the village of Long Tan, in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, Australian, New Zealand and US field artillery batteries, under the direction of a New Zealand Forward Observer, delivered a 'wall of deadly steel' that sustained an Australian infantry company for several hours and almost certainly save it from being overrun.

The battle began just after 4pm on 18 August 1966, when the leading platoon of D Company 6RAR, patrolling in the Long Tan rubber plantation a little over five kilometres from the Australian base at Nui Dat, was engaged and then attacked by elements of 275 NVA Regiment. In the first phase of the battle, fire from three field batteries landing close to the platoon broke up the enemy attack, while fire from an American 155mm battery was applied in depth. Fire was then lifted temporarily to allow an airstrike, unfortunately ineffective because of the weather, before being applied again to the south of the company position in support of a second platoon attempting to reach the first. That fire was lifted in turn to permit RAAF Iroquois helicopters, in darkness and driving rain, to drop small arms ammunition to the company. At this time the company was able to regroup, and in the final thirty minutes of the battle withstood a major assault, protected again by danger-close artillery fire. Each of the eighteen 105mm howitzers was firing at rates of five and six rounds per minute for at least half this time. The 155s again engaged depth targets.

The battle ceased at 7pm when reinforcements from 6RAR, some in APCs, arrived, Throughout the succeeding night the guns applied harassing fire along the enemy's likely withdrawal routes.

Artillery fire during the battle was delivered with dramatic effect in gathering darkness and appalling wet weather, which at the gun positions prevented the dispersion of nauseating propellant smoke and fumes. The Commanding Officer of 6 RAR estimated that the artillery had killed at least half of the enemy.

Accurate and timely fire from Australian, New Zealand and American artillery dramatically increased combat power at Long Tan. The outcome demonstrated the effectiveness of the Gunners' largely invisible, yet sophisticated and effective, international command and control systems. Gunners at all levels were able to play their part in coordinating fire through close liaison with the infantry, purpose-designed headquarters, and reliable communications.

Following the 'Gunner Creed' of disciplined action on the gun line, no matter what the conditions, the Gunners consistently landed in total nearly 3,500 rounds on target after target.

Gunners take great pride in the lifesaving and battle-winning power they contribute in combat. Long Tan is a testament to disciplined courage of D Company, and also to the power of the guns.

Participating Australian and Allied Artillery Units:

> 103rd Field Battery, RAA 105th Field Battery, RAA 161st Field Battery, RNZA

Battery A, 2/35 US Artillery Battalion



ARTILLERY PARTICIPATION IN WORLD WAR II

When World War 2 was declared in September 1939 Australia responded by raising the Second AIF which was initially an infantry division (6 Inf Div) and supporting troops. The artillery component was three field regiments for the division and one for the British corps artillery which was to support the division. 2/1 Fd Regt was raised in NSW, 2/2 Fd Regt in Victoria and 2/3 Fd Regt in SA and WA while 2/5 Army Fd Regt was raised in Queensland and Tasmania for the corps artillery. With the increased use of tanks 2/5 Army Fd Regt was converted to become 2/5 A/tk Regt in January 1940 and renamed 2/1 A/tk Regt in February.

2/1 Fd Regt and 2/2 Fd Regt had already left for the Middle East when in May 1940 the Government decided to expand the AIF to a corps of two divisions and corps troops. For 7 Inf Div 2/4 Fd Regt was raised in Victoria while 2/5 Fd Regt and 2/6 Fd Regt were raised in NSW and 2/2 A/tk Regt in Queensland. As corps artillery 2/7 Army Fd Regt was raised in SA and WA and 2/8 Army Fd Regt in Victoria and Tasmania, while 2/1 Med Regt was raised in NSW and 2/2 Med Regt in Victoria. In July 1940 the AIF was expanded again when 8 Inf Div was raised with 2/9 Fd Regt (NSW), 2/10 Fd Regt (Qld), 2/11 Fd Regt (Vic) and 2/3 A/tk Regt (NSW).

The Third Convoy taking troops to the Middle East departed in May 1940 and carried 18 Inf Bde Gp (including 2/3Fd Regt and 2/1 A/tk Regt) as well as a range of reinforcements, corps troops units and technical units. When Italy joined the war the passage through the Red Sea was restricted and the convoy was redirected to Great Britain, where they arrived in June, just after the withdrawal from Dunkirk. The units on board were reorganized to form Austral Force, an understrength division with two brigade groups. The two batteries from 2/3 Fd Regt were attached to the brigades while Regt HQ took on a CRA role as HQ Arty Gp, AIF in UK. A battery of 2/1 A/tk Regt was also attached to each brigade with Regt HQ, the other two batteries and many of the technical and corps troops used to form 70 Inf Bn which was later renamed 2/31 Inf Bn.

Meanwhile in the Middle East insufficient field artillery equipment meant that in July 2/1 Fd Regt was converted to 'Y' Anti Aircraft Regt, which became 2/1 Fd Regt (AA) in August before reverting to 2/1 Fd Regt in September.

In September 1940 the Government agreed to form a fourth division (9 Inf Div), to be built around Austral Force in the UK and that they would move to the Middle East. 2/3 Fd Regt and 2/1 A/tk Regt were reformed and returned to 6 Inf Div. It was decided to use the trained corps artillery for the new division rather than raising new units, so the renamed 2/7 Fd Regt and 2/8 Fd Regt joined the division. The lack of medium guns allowed 2/2 Med Regt to be reorganized as 2/12 Fd Regt and 2/3 A/tk Regt was transferred from 8 Inf Div. To restore the corps artillery the renamed 2/9 Army Fd Regt and 2/11 Army Fd Regt were transferred from 8 Inf Div, while 2/1 Med Regt was reorganized as 2/13 Army Fd Regt. Finally to complete the artillery for 8 Inf Div, 2/14 Fd Regt (Vic, SA) 2/15 Fd Regt (NSW) and 2/4 A/tk Regt (Vic) were raised.

Although some regiments were deployed away from their parent formations the AIF artillery Order of Battle until the end of the war was

CRA 6 Inf Div 2/1 Fd Regt, 2/2 Fd Regt, 2/3 Fd Regt, 2/1 A/tk Regt
CRA 7 Inf Div 2/4 Fd Regt, 2/5 Fd Regt, 2/6 Fd Regt, 2/3 A/tk Regt
CRA 8 Inf Div 2/10 Fd Regt, 2/14 Fd Regt, 2/15 Fd Regt, 2/4 A/tk Regt
CRA 9 Inf Div 2/7 Fd Regt, 2/8 Fd Regt, 2/12 Fd Regt, 2/3 A/tk Regt
Corps Troops 2/9 A Fd Regt, 2/11 A Fd Regt, 2/13 A Fd Regt

In February 1943 the anti-tank regiments were renamed *Tank Attack Regiments* to give them a more aggressive title, but without a tank threat in the Pacific, they ended the war undertaking infantry and supply roles while keeping their weapons in the store in case they may be needed. 2/13 A Fd Regt was restructured as 2/1 Med Regt when they arrived in the Middle East in September 1941, but without a role when they returned to Australia they were reorganized as 2/13 Comp AA Regt in July 1943. Parts of the unit made it to New Guinea, but when they returned the regiment was again restructured as 2/1 Med Regt in November 1944. The 'army field regiments were renamed as 2/9 Fd Regt and 2/11 Fd Regt in June 1944.

150TH ANNIVERSARY SALUTE KINGS PARK IST AUGUST 2021





Saluting Guns flanking State War Memorial

IMPRESSIVE!!



3 Battery personnel who participated in the Salute



Major Duncan Anderson Commander 3 Battery 9 Regiment RAA



Saluting Battery in perfect formation