



Presentation of the General Whitelaw Sword to Major D. Evangelisti, Battery Commander 3 Battery 9 Regiment RAA 22nd August 2023



Following the Tradition established in 2006, the "General Whitelaw Sword" was presented to Major Evangelisti at the 3 Battery Night Parade at Hobbs Artillery Park on 22.08.2023 by Society President David Carter.

The Sword, manufactured by J. Daniels and Company Artillery Lane Woolwich, during the Reign of King George V, was donated to the Society by General John Whitelaw in 2005 with his wish that it be used at the Society's discretion. The previous ownership of the Sword is not known.

The Society decided that the Sword should be offered to the Army Reserve Battery Commander at Hobbs Artillery Park Karrakatta for his personal use on all ceremonial occasions and be retained by him until the conclusion of his appointment.

General Whitelaw was commissioned in 1940 and served in 2/1st Australian Field Regiment and 4th Field Regiment during the South-West Pacific Campaigns as a Forward Observer. After discharge in 1946 he returned briefly to civilian employment. In 1948 he was offered a Permanent Commission in the Regular Army and his first posting was to Western Command that included appointment as Adjutant 3rd Field Regiment RAA (CMF).



During the following 30 years he held numerous Regimental and Staff Postings that included Deputy Chief Far East Land Forces Singapore and Chief of Staff HQ Australian Army Forces Vietnam. He was appointed Deputy Chief General Staff in 1977 and retired in 1978. He was Mentioned in Dispatches (MID) for service in Bougainville 1945 and awarded CBE in 1971 and Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1977. General Whitelaw retired in 1978.

The Society was represented by D. Carter, G. McKenzie-Smith, N. Lodge, I. Randles, J. Archibald, A. McAulliffe, D, Rae, P. Rowson

Written by: Don Rae (RAAHS Curator)



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ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTILLERY WA

Items for inclusion, and which are regularly needed, should be submitted for the next issue by 10 December 2023 to the Editor Pat Bell at pbell35@hotmail.com

RAAHSWA MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual Membership Fees become due and payable on 1st January each year.

Single Membership is \$25.00 per annum

Joint Membership is \$35.00 per annum

Payment may be made direct to the Treasurer –

by post : P.O. Box 881Claremont WA 6910

Direct Credit: Commonwealth Bank Acct 00903744

BSB 066 103

(Don't forget to include your name on the deposit so we can keep our records up to date)

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 2023

Last Saturday of each month

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

Sunday 10am-3pm

Adults \$10.00 Children \$4.00



PRESIDENT'S REPORT – September 2023

Fellow Gunners,

Gunners Day 2022

Our next event is Gunners Day to be held on **Sunday, 5th of November**. We will form up at St Mathew's Church, Stirling Square, Guildford at 10.00 am and step off shortly thereafter.

After the march we will have refreshments in the Church Hall and after to the Rose & Crown hotel to continue our camaraderie. I would encourage all Gunners to attend and get on to your mates and encourage them to attend.

Feast of Saint Barbara

As advised by earlier Email, our caterer advised that due to difficulties in recruiting staff they are unable to proceed with the catering for our function. This was disappointing after using them for at least five years.

Given the lateness in the year our options were limited and we decided that for 2023 the Feast of Saint Barbara will be held at the Anzac Club (RSL), St Georges Terrace in the city. The cost will be \$ 97.00 per head which will include the meal, one bottle of red and one bottle of white wine per table and a bottle of port per table for toasts. We will also have the Cadet Pipes & Drums for entertainment. It is a great venue overlooking the Swan River. The Association's annual award for the most outstanding soldier will be presented at the dinner.

The dinner is co-hosted by the RAA Association and 3 Bty and is open to all Gunners, friends of Gunners and their partners.

It is important as Gunners that we keep the Feast of St Barbara going and we seek your support by attending this year. It is a great opportunity to catch up with mates. As we need a minimum number to make the event viable I would encourage you to purchase your tickets early. The invitation is published separately in this edition. I look forward to seeing you on Gunner's Day and at the Feast of Saint Barbara.

Ubique,

Bob Farrelly
LTCOL (R)
President, RAA Association



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S REPORT HEADING INTO SPRING 2023



Dear Members,

Despite the Winter solstice being on us, it did not deter a group of film technicians from Warner Brother's International being conducted through the Battery tunnels with a view of them judging areas suitable for shooting scenes for a future Netflix feature film. As they say... "Any publicity is good publicity."

The steady income stream from our regular/special tours is assisting in financing the 5.25" project. As of late June, we have had the interior of the entrance stairway structure painted, the four floor vents were squared up to accept their safety gratings and the circular gun floor drain was about to receive custom fitted opaque covers. Fabrication of the mezzanine floor (galvanised weldmesh) in the engine room is scheduled for September.

On behalf of the Society I thank members- J.Archibald, G.McKenzie-Smith and D.Rae for their on-going respective skills input, into this time hungry project.

Our society is now the recipient two Defibrillators with their respective cabinets and upgraded first aid kits after a successful application. One will be placed in the southern tunnel and the second in the command post. Guides and cashiers will have suitable training in their proper use.

For the statistics- minded Member! As of August 8th, our kept records indicate that 62,046 people have been conducted through the Battery since January 2002. There have been no safety issues along the way. This I feel is due to the common sense of our visitors and the effective routines maintained by our Society duty staff.

Members will re-call that the Society has a 6" gun, a 3.7" HAA gun and a Bofors 40mm gun on-site. They are to receive some TLC to combat the effects of being in a salty locality. Member R.Steadman is to sandblast them later this year, prior to re-painting them.

July saw a tour of the Battery by members of the W.A. History Society. Subsequently in September I presented a lecture to members of the West Coast Community Centre at the Grove Library at Cottesloe, concerning the history of artillery in W.A.

July's busy-bee team planted 200 native seedlings about the Battery site. Sound deadening work occurred in the 5.25" gun floor. The resultant circular timber structure "connects" the central pedestal with the cement ceiling and has echo absorbing cladding applied. We hope to be able to arrange a 360 degree outside wrap- around depicting the 5.25 chassis and its electro-hydraulics to the visitors.

Early August saw the tunnels complex used by a local film crew in return for a donation to RAAHS. Late August saw your President and members of the Management Committee attend a Tuesday night parade of 3 Light Battery in order to present to the Battery Commander – Major Daniel Evangelisti the General Whitelaw sword. It will remain with the BC for the duration of his appointment. Former Colonel Don Rae gave an informative account of the Service history of General Whitelaw to the Battery members. After the parade we were shown two versions of the drones the Battery employs in its battlefield surveillance role today.

A special "Artillery WA" notice went to members in late August announcing His Majesty King Charles III has followed his grandfather in becoming the Captain -General of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and therefore also of the Regiment of Royal Australian Artillery.

Kind regards to all,

David Carter.
President RAAHS



5.25" Gun Emplacement Project Update



By Graham McKenzie –Smith

On Saturday 16 September RAAHS hosted the Minister for Veterans Affairs (Matt Keogh) and MP for Curtin (Kate Chaney) for a tour of Leighton Battery Heritage Site, accompanied by a press pack. They came to announce that RAAHS had been granted \$125,520 under the Saluting their Service Grant Program to advance the development of the underground rooms in the 5.25" gun emplacement. They were impressed with what RAAHS has been able to achieve over the last 25 years with the 6" tunnels and said they look forward to visiting again when the 5.25" Project is completed. Leighton got good coverage on all four Perth and regional TV news programs that evening.

While the Busy Bee crew has been working on the 5.25" Project for some time these funds will allow some rapid progress over the next year. RAAHS got a grant from the Heritage Council last year which funded a detailed professional Concept Plan from Scott Watson of Multistory which was a key factor in the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) decision to award the grant and will guide the development over the next year.



The Gun Floor will be developed in three parts. The first four ammunition alcoves will tell the story of the Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) in defence of WA, including two dioramas, one showing the VDC covering the beach defences at Cottesloe and one will have them manning a Bofors gun at Crawley Bay. The second six alcove will be dedicated to the construction, operation and demolition of the 5.25" guns, including AA and AP projectiles as well as cartridge cases. The next three alcoves will cover the Western Suburbs at war, including a video of amphibious training at Point Walter and a 'landing' to 'attack' the Dalkeith Tennis Club. The last alcove will feature the Harley Scramble which was held for many years at the Leighton site. We have many photos to use in the interpretation but we can always use any others on these topics, or any artefacts that members may have hidden away.

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A period diesel engine, generator and switchboard has been installed in the Engine-room and a viewing platform is under construction at Spearwood. A RAEME artificer will be attending to the engine and on the walls will be photos and stories about the fortress engineers and RAEME men that worked on the coast defences. In the Plotting Room will be a replica 'gun angles computer' being driven by two gunners, along with an Admiralty Chart of Gage Roads and other information about the operation of the gun.

The Gun Store will concentrate on other aspects of the defence of WA. On the east wall will be a large map of the north-west of WA indicating the location of the Japanese air raids and landings, the airfields, radar stations, ports and garrisons. Photos and text will tell the generally untold story of the northwest at war, including the VDC and their guerilla warfare training. On the floor will be a map of the Perth metro area with the location of 110



sites of defence heritage interest so that visitors can see what was close to their homes and communities. On the wall will be details of the coast and AA batteries, the airfields and radar stations, Army HQs and camps, depots and workshops, medical facilities and signal stations.

Since 2009 over 62,000 visitors have come to Leighton Battery Heritage Site and gone away with an appreciation of the defence of Fremantle and now soon, after years of planning and hard work, more of that story will be told as they visit the underground rooms in the 5.25" emplacement.



CLASSY INSULTS

These classy insults are from an era before a great portion of the English language got boiled down to four letter words, not to mention waving middle fingers.

Lady Astor: 'If you were my husband, I'd give you poison,'
Churchill: 'If you were my wife, I'd drink it.'

An MP: 'Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease.'
Disraeli: 'That depends, Sir, on whether I embrace your policies or your mistress.'

'He had delusions of adequacy.'*Walter Kerr*

'He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.' *Winston Churchill*

'A modest little person, with much to be modest about.'
Winston Churchill speaking of Clement Atlee

'I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure.'
Clarence Darrow

'He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the Dictionary.'
William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).

'Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?'
Ernest Hemingway (about William Faulkner)

'Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it.'
Moses Hadas

'He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know.' *Abraham Lincoln*

'I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it.' *Mark Twain*

'He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.' *Oscar Wilde*

'I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend...if you have one.'
George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

'Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... If there is one.'
Winston Churchill, in response

'I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here.'*Stephen Bishop*

'He is a self-made man and worships his creator.' *John Bright*

'I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial.' *Irvin S. Cobb*

'He is not only dull himself, he is the cause of dullness in others.' *Samuel Johnson*



LEIGHTON BATTERY HOSTS AN INTERNATIONAL VISIT

The RAAHS was recently contacted by 13 Brigade to ask if a tour of our Battery Site could be arranged for a party of visiting Indian Army Officers.

How could we say no- this was a first- we could go International!

Question- What's better than a visit by a Brigadier and his Staff?

Answer- Two Brigadiers and their Staff!

Of late, 13 Brigade sent a group of Uniformed Personnel to the Sub-Continent to exchange views and witness training formats. The Exercise was deemed a great success by both National Armies. Subsequently, a group of Senior Indian Army Officers were welcomed to 13 Brigade's HQ at Irwin Barracks in early October.

A comprehensive tour format for the visitors was arranged- part of which was a display of our metropolitan area's natural beauty spots.

So what better a locality than the natural vantage point of the Battery, looking west across Gage Roads towards a sparkling Indian Ocean on a lovely Spring afternoon?

I met the 13 Brigade Support Staff just prior to a rather nice blue BMW sedan arriving containing the VIP's.

The visitors were conducted through the 5.25" Command Post then to the 6" Gun Site via the viewpoint of the Radar Shack. Then it was down the steps to the movement activated light /sound tour format. On emerging, they were escorted through the rooms beneath the 5.25" turret. There I explained the development stage we have achieved.

The visitors were most impressed with the development of Leighton Battery, with smiles and handshakes all round after a 50- minute stay.

The Group Members comprised:

13 Brigade

Brigadier Chaloner. (Commander 13 Brigade.)

Colonel Batt. Lt. Colonel Gates. Major Lang. WO1 Nutini

Pte Arthur. Pte Prentice. Ms Cahill.

Indian Armed Forces

Brigadier Mahesh. (Infantry)

Colonel Yadev. (Airborne Artillery)

Captain Menon. (Navy)

David Carter,
President.

A Little Mixed Up

Just a line to say I am living
That I am not among the dead
Though I am getting more forgetful
And more mixed up in the head!

For sometimes I cannot remember
When I stand at the foot of the stairs
If I must go up for something
Or have I just come down from there!

And before the “frig”, so often
My poor mind is filled with doubt
Have I just put food away – or
Have I come to take some out?

And there is the time when it is dark out
With my night cap on my head
I do not know if I am retiring
Or just getting out of bed!

So if it's my turn to write you
There is no need in getting sore
I may think that I have written
And do not want to be a bore!

So remember – I do love you
And I wish that you were here
But now its nearly mail time
So I must say “Goodbye Dear.”

There I stood beside the mailbox
With a face so very red!
Instead of mailing your letter
I had opened it instead!!



The HIMARS ® High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)



During the recent Talisman Sabre Exercise two High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) launchers from the US Army's 17th Field Artillery Brigade were brought to Western Australia for Exercise Highball, to demonstrate how the Australian Defence Force hope to employ long-range land-based precision rocket and missile systems. The US HIMARS Expeditionary Strike Package included two HIMARS launchers and support vehicles.

Exercise Highball was a combined Australian Joint Operations Command and US Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) initiative that began on the 27th July 2023. 13th Brigade hosted the joint United States-Australian exercise from the 29th July to explore how the Australian Defence Force (ADF) could employ long-range fires capabilities for both land and maritime strike. It used a range of air, land, space and maritime capabilities to send targeting data to a US Army High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) platoon to test long-range fires concepts.

Following an open day at Irwin Barracks on the 29th July which involved allowing defence members and their families access to the HIMARS equipment, the exercise was conducted at the Lancelin Training Area (LTA) and a mission was fired onto a floating target in the Western Australia Exercise Area (situated in the Indian Ocean).

Australian Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Greg Bilton said the exercise demonstrated the ADF was responding to the Defence Strategic Review direction to accelerate and expand the introduction of long-range land and maritime strike capabilities under Land 8113 Phases 2-4, in particular, the HIMARS acquisition.

"By using a US Army HIMARS strike package and US military shipping already in Australia for Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023, we can accelerate our understanding of projecting and employing HIMARS. Exercise Highball will also enhance US interoperability with the ADF's targeting capabilities and the operational employment of land-based precision multi-domain fires."

The Australian Defence Force is expected to be purchasing 20 HIMARS with delivery in 2026.

Specifications: air mobile, truck mounted

Crew: 3

Munitions:

GMLRS – 6 RNDS @ 70km

ER GMLRS – 6 RNDS @ 150km

ATACMS – 1 RND @ 300km

PrSM – 2 RNDS @ 499km



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY
GUNNERS' DAY
SUNDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2023

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 6th November 2023.

10:00am: RV at War Memorial (parking at railway car park or St Matthews Church)

10:10am: Parade forms up on the path outside St Matthews. Guests and families seated at dais in front of memorial

10:15am: Parade steps off, follows the path past St Matthews, right past the saluting dais then right into memorial

10:25am: Wreath Laying Ceremony

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

11:30am: Light Luncheon in the Church Hall

12.00pm: Camaraderie at the Rose & Crown Hotel Guildford

Parade led by Australian Army Band Perth, gunners past and present, serving Officers and Soldiers of 3 BTY 9 REGT RAA and Cadets from 56 and 509 Army Cadet Units.

Service will be conducted by Reverend Katrina Holgate.

Guests include BDE COMD 13 BDE, Members of Parliament, Local Government, R&SL and other Associations.

Enquiries to John Blylevens Hon Secretary Royal Australian Artillery Association Western Australia (Inc): info@artillerywa.org.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.

This year Western Australian gunners celebrate 151 years of formed artillery in Western Australia.

UBIQUE

All Ranks, Past and Present of the Royal Australian Artillery (RAA)
Partners and Guests
are invited to the
FEAST OF ST BARBARA 2023

TO BE HELD AT

The ANZAC Club,
RSL HQ, St Georges Ter, Perth

Hosted by the RAA Association and 3 Battery RAA

FRIDAY, 1st OF DECEMBER 2023 AT 1900 Hrs. FOR 1930 Hrs.

COST \$97.00 PER PERSON.
PAYMENT BANK TRANSFER or CASH OR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO
RAA ASSOCIATION BSB 066 163 ACCOUNT No 00902583
(PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME)

DRESS - Current issued Mess kit for serving embets (Retired OFFICERS and SENIOR NCO'S lounge suits).
GENTS - LOUNGE SUITS, LADIES - AFTER FIVE WEAR

POC Bob Farrell bobfarrelly@live.com or Tel 0417 981 615

Book by Friday 17th of NOVEMBER 2023.

*PRICE INCLUDES- Dinner - 1 bottle of red and 1 bottle of white wine and port for each table.
OTHER DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

of

ATTENDANCE SLIP REPLY PAYMENT

Email to STAN DAVIES stdavies7@bigpond.com OR
FEAST OF ST BARBARA
POST OFFICE BOX 4112
MANDURAH NORTH WA 6210



I WILL / WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE FEAST OF ST BARBARA 2023.
MY REMITTANCE FOR \$ _____ IS ENCLOSED.

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

NAME _____ RANK _____ POSTNOMINALS _____

ADDRESS _____

Email Address: _____

NAME OF GUESTS _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Ubique