



Artillery WA

Official Newsletter of Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)
Web Site: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au> Email: info@artillerywa.org.au

Edition 4 / 13

December 2013

GUNNERS DAY 2013



COLOUR PARTY IN BESIDE ST MATTHEW'S GARRISON CHURCH



RAAA MEMBERS MARCH THROUGH THE TALBOT HOBBS MEMORIAL GATES



Notice Board

Mark this date in your calendars

RAA A and RAAHS Annual General Meetings

Saturday 8th March 2014 at **Leighton Battery Heritage Site**

RAA A registration 9.00am for meeting at 9.30am
RAAHS-WA registration 9.30am for meeting at 10.00am

RAA A: A special tour of the tunnels will be conducted at the end of the meeting followed by a BBQ at a special price of \$5.00. Anyone signing up to the RAAHS-WA gets it for free.

RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2014

25th Jan 22nd Feb 22nd Mar 26th Apr
31st May 28th Jun 26th Jul 30th Aug
27th Sep 25th Oct 29th Nov 27th Dec

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

The Leighton Battery Heritage Site is open on a regular basis every Sunday of every month from 10 AM to 3:00 PM with tours of the tunnels every half hour.

FRONT COVER

Both photos taken and kindly supplied by Sheldon Levis, of *Dusty Dingo Photography* <http://dustydingo.photoshelter.com/>

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Next Issue – April 2014

Subs to your Association or Society are now due – RAAA of WA (Inc) - \$ 15 RAAHS - \$ 25
We now have a Direct Debit facility – Please find the details in the relevant sections -

The Editor gratefully acknowledges the contributions to the newsletter by the members, whose names appear with the corresponding articles.

Articles, editorial comment or book reviews for publication should be submitted to the editor, at: Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc) PO Box 881, Claremont WA 6910. Phone: 92694544 Fax: 9269 4370 or E-mail the Editor at info@artillerywa.org.au

ADVERTISING

Anybody interested in advertising their business in **ARTILLERY WA** for a donation of \$ 10 (ten) per year, (four issues), both in printed and web site editions, contact

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Gunners,

I would like to commence by reflecting on 2013.

In March we had our AGM and of course ANZAC day in April which was a success. In July the RAA Corps Dinner / Battery Birthday was held at Hobbs Artillery Park with the dinner held in the Area OR's Mess. This format proved a success, particularly on a cold night and was well attended by about 100 people. The Association's Annual Award for the most outstanding soldier was made to GNR Iles-Fealy and the new Gavin Bonzer Award, provided by the RSL was also awarded Sgt Scott McMahon and LBDR Quarles De Quarles. The Brigade Commander noted the family culture of the Bty and the need to retain it.

The 85th Anniversary of Gunners' Day was held on Sunday, 3rd November 2013, at Guildford. It also marked the Centenary of Artillery Headquarters and 38th Battery AFA relocating to Guildford Remount Depot in November 1913. The City of Swan supported the Association in the celebration of these events, the highlight of which was the Dedication of the Talbot Hobbs Memorial Gates, details of which appear elsewhere in the Newsletter. At the outbreak of WW1 Colonel Hobbs was appointed Commander Royal Artillery and served at Gallipoli. Later, in France he was promoted Major General and appointed GOC 5th Division A.I.F. in 1918, he was promoted Lieutenant General and succeeded General Monash as the Corps Commander AIF.

The Association acknowledges and sincerely thanks the City of Swan for the erection of the Gates as a Memorial to General Hobbs and all Gunners who served in the 1914 – 1918 Conflict. It is fitting that the name of this great Gunner contributes to Royal Australian Artillery and Guildford History.

I wish to acknowledge the support of Major Rob Coales and Members of 3 Light Battery RAA, and the Cadets who acted with their usual high performance as Flag Bearers, for the success of the 85th Anniversary. I thank all who attended Gunners' Day and the tireless efforts of my Committee who made the day a success.

Next year Gunner's Day will fall on Sunday 2 November which will clash with the Centenary celebrations to be held in Albany to mark the departure of the ANZAC contingent on their journey to the war and Gallipoli. We are aware that many will be attending the Albany celebrations and for this reason we are considering the need to move the date for Gunner's Day in 2014, most probably to Sunday, 9 November 2014.

As the year comes to an end, I wish all of you a very happy and safe festive season, and look forward to seeing you all in 2014.

Ubique,
Bob Farrelly
LTCOL
President, RAA Association



B.C.'s NOTE

The year has certainly passed us quickly. As I reflect on the first 12 months of 3 Light Battery I am proud of the many achievements.

We have completed three Live Fire Activities with the last one in the October being the culmination of the Basic Mortar and section commander courses.

Of note is Privates Carina Mangini and Brooke Argentieri both completed the Basic Mortar Course and their Corps Transfer to ECN 161, Artillery Light Gunner is progressing. I am excited about this and look forward to presenting these two fine soldiers with their white lanyards in the near future when the process is complete.

This has enabled every gunner to be rank and trade qualified and will set the Battery up for success as we head into 2014 and Exercise Hamel. 3 Light Battery with 5/11 Light Battery will provide a Mortar Battery and two JFTs as well as a JFECC (BCs party) in support of 3 Bde in Queensland in July. This will be our priority.

The Battery has excelled in corporate governance and throughout the year we have maintained in excess of 82% compliancy for AIRN, the best sub unit within the Battle Group.

We celebrated Gunners' Day in fine style with a good attendance from the current serving Gunners. It was fantastic to catch up with so many fellow gunners on the day.

The Feast of St Barbara Dinner was held on Friday 6 December 2013 at the new venue of the Irwin Barracks Officer's Mess, and may I also remind all current serving and ex serving SNCOs and Officers of the Regiment of the success of this night.

We also say farewell to two members of 3 Light Battery, the IG Captain James Tarpley and the SMIG, Warrant Officer Dave Nutini. Both ARA members are being posted. James to Newcastle in The JTAC Troop and Dave on Promotion and will take up the position of RSM Parachute Training School in Nowra. We wish them well in their new positions.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the festive season and may 2014 be all that you hope it to be.

Ubique

Rob Coales
Battery Commander



VALE

Danny Johnson, November 2013



Danny 'in action' at Lancelin, a moment caught and published in the newspaper c.1974

GUNNERS DAY PHOTOS



Gathering of comrades



BRIG Warner with Mayor Zannio at the dedication of the Talbot Hobbs Memorial Gates (*)



Colour Party marching through Talbot Hobbs Memorial Gates



RAAA members



3 Light Battery



RAAA march past saluting dais (*)



Service at War Memorial (*)



Wreath laying



RAAA members marching to the church service



Clergy and dignitaries proceeding to the service



Colour Party entering St Matthews Church



LTCOL Farrelly present Barbara Dundas with Certificate of Appreciation in Guildford Town Hall



Peter Rowles and Don Rae at lunch.



John O'Brien and Bob Farrelly



Jeff Murray, Frank Langford and Peter Frey



Mahoney, Les Herbert, Bob Farrelly and Ken Hepworth enjoying a hard earned beer.

Peter

Photos marked (*) taken and kindly supplied by Sheldon Levis, of Dusty Dingo Photography

HELP US TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE

The RAA Association and RAAHS is keen to build up a data base of member's email addresses in order to send out occasional important information relating to GUNNER activities, for, Battery Birthday Dinner and the latest ArtilleryWA Newsletter which is now on-line.

Please send an email to john.blylevens@defence.gov.au if you would like to be included and when you change your email address, so we can keep up to date.

You can Now pay your Membership Fees (\$15 per annum) by Direct Debit!

Members can go to any bank (or do it by electronic transfer) and make a deposit quoting The RAA Association's BSB and Account Number and your Name. The Funds will automatically be transferred to the Association's Account along with your name.

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RAAA JACKET POCKET BADGE – Actual size of Badge is 100mm wide x 90mm high - \$15

RAA EMBROIDERED BERET BADGES – Actual size is 55mm wide by 40mm high - \$10

To purchase Embroidered Jacket and or Beret Badges -
Cut below and return to RAA Association of WA (Inc) - PO Box 881 Claremont WA 6910

I would like to order an Embroidered Badge / Jacket Pocket Badge (circle choice/s) as advertised in the ArtyWA newsletter.

Please find enclosed the amount of \$ _____ being for payment of _____ (Qty) Beret Badges

Please find enclosed the amount of \$ _____ being for payment of _____ (Qty) J P Badges

(Badges are \$10 each. Jacket Pockets are \$15 each.)

Name _____

Member of _____
(Name of Association or Society)

Street Name _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode _____ Phone _____ Email: _____

Please make cheques payable to RAA of WA (Inc)



PRESIDENTS ADDRESS

Dear Members,

Welcome to the final edition of The Aiming Post for the year. Your Management Committee Members extend their Compliments of the Season to you and your family.

The Committee has continued to co-ordinate a variety of tasks to ensure your Society meets its obligations to the public and to our landlords at Irwin Barracks.

You may recall I mentioned our use of the Annex building in the last issue. I am pleased to let all members know that certain assurances have been given to us regarding our continued use of the Annex for the medium term. So it remains- business as usual. I thank all members who continue to attend each Wednesday and do their bit to advance our Society's affairs.

Our extensive library stock was recently combed out and a number of Army Pamphlets and Military History books, surplus to our needs, were sold to Empire Books Joondalup.

Turning to matters down at Leighton, Site works for the toilet commenced early in November. The re-siting of the 3.7" gun has now been approved by the Town of Mosman Park and the W.A. Planning Commission. This will be a big project for us in the New Year. In the Command Post the last display has been finished- it being a professional panel titled "Civilian to Soldier". Thanks to Don Rae and Neil Lodge. Member Merv Ward is thanked for his quality carpentry work in there. Adding a further dimension to the tunnels - a dozen very realistic looking (replica) 6" rounds have been made and installed in the ammunition spaces - these are complete down to the rope grommets around their driving bands!

Steady tour numbers now total 3000 as at end of October with no safety incidents- thank you to all the Guides and Cashiers who continue to conduct visitors of all ages safely through the complex. Your time commitments and skills remain an essential part of the Society's public face. The S.E.S again used our tunnels complex to conduct emergency evacuation technique, at no charge of course.

As Society President I attended two functions recently. The first was the 75th Anniversary of the proofing of the 9.2" guns at Rottnest. This was a most interesting day with a range of events at Kingstown Barracks and at Oliver Hill. Members Robert Mitchell and Graham McKenzie-Smith both spoke to the audience as did I on matters relating to the coast defence of war-time Fremantle. Rain did little to dampen the spirits of all there.

The second event was Gunner's Day 2013. This was a standout event marking the centenary of Artillery moving to Guildford prior to the Great War. The City of Swan was the main supporter. Led by the Army Reserve band, past and present gunners marched into St. Matthew's Square. Wreaths were then laid by a wide range of service and community groups at the memorial. A service was then conducted at the Church followed by light lunch at the Guildford Town Hall which was set up with a comprehensive photo display portraying the Army's influence on the citizens of Guildford and their pride in their volunteers in decades past.

Of great interest to your Committee at present is the fact that two WW2 6" gun shields have been seen in a former tip in rural Victoria. Our curator is communicating with the Shire involved regarding a purchase of one or both. These cast steel shields are as rare as hen's teeth. Each weighs in at about 6 tonnes! The RAAHS will bear the cost of purchase and transport across to Leighton. Let us all hope the deal comes our way.

In conclusion it is quite likely that if the present flow of Sunday visitors and the array of after-hours tours continue, we will have put about 4000 visitors through the confines of Leighton Battery this year - quite an accomplishment.

All up I think we can all take a collective bow, with another busy and productive year ahead for our society.

On behalf of your Committee, I wish all Members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David Carter.
President.

PRESENTATION OF FLAG TO SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY

The Puckapunyal School of Artillery was the venue for a short ceremony conducted by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier A. G. Warner, AM LVO on Thursday, 28th November 2013.



Brigadier Warner displaying the 53 Battery Flag with Major Derek Freeman

On behalf of the Society, Brigadier Warner presented the World War 2 Flag of 53 Battery, 2/3rd Field Regiment RAA to 53 Battery RAA, the Depot Battery at the School.

Lieutenant Colonel David Edwards, the Commanding Officer and Chief Instructor of the School, addressed the assembled Battery and introduced Brigadier Warner to make the presentation to the outgoing Battery Commander, Major Derek Freeman and the incoming Battery Commander Captain Christopher Sandner. The Flag was accepted enthusiastically by all.

Also present on the occasion were the RSM School of Artillery and Colonels Commandant Eastern Region, Southern Region and South Australia/Tasmania.

The Flag was originally presented to 3 Field Regiment RAA (CMF) with the WW2 Regimental Flag of 2/3rd Field Regiment RAA by Ex Members of the Regiment in 1950. It was transferred to the Society for safe keeping in 1988. Because of current display restrictions the Society approved the donation to the Depot Battery as a fitting repository for this historic artefact.

The Society is grateful for Brigadier Warner's role in the presentation.

BEREAVEMENT

Mrs. Dorothy Nadine Dick – 1922 – 2013

Dorothy was the widow of David Innes Dick, both of whom were Foundation Members of the Society. Dorothy passed away on 26th July 2013 as the result of gradual declining health.

For many years Dorothy and David attended the “WAGS” each Wednesday at Irwin Barracks and were jointly involved in most of the major projects undertaken in those formative years.

Dorothy is survived by her two sons, Tony and Graeme and their families, who expressed their Mother's enjoyment from her long association with the Society.

Reunited with David

WELFARE FUND and OFFICER

John Blylevens is the contact person as the Association's Welfare Officer. Anybody that needs to discuss any Welfare Funding can contact John via email at info@artillerywa.org.au or john.bly@auspost.com.au or telephone 043 869 5711.

Access to Funds can be made by applying in writing using the Welfare Fund 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.

NEW TOUR GUIDES – WELCOME

Are you keen to promote one of WA's premier military history sites to others?

Then you are welcome to join our team of guides who volunteer their time for a few hours on a roster basis once a month on a Sunday to conduct public tours.

This historic site is the World War II Gun complex built as a part of Fortress Fremantle Defence located at Buckland Hill in Mosman Park.

- You will be trained and coached
- You will be part of a friendly team
- You need to be able to climb steps
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For further information call David Carter 93673539 (after hours)



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3 Lt Bty Merchandise FOR SALE



TIE



DETAILS ON TIE



PT SHIRT

To purchase **7 Fd Bty RAA Tie** or **3 Lt Bty PT Shirt** Cut below and return to 3 Lt Bty ORs Canteen, Hobbs Artillery Park, Irwin Barracks, Stubbs Terrace, KARRAKATTA WA 6010 or for further details contact *Andrew Quarles*:

I would like to order 7 Fd Bty RAA Tie / 3 Lt Bty PT Shirt (circle choice/s)

as advertised in the ArtilleryWA newsletter.

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ being for payment of _____(Qty)

7 Fd Bty RAA Tie

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ being for payment of _____(Qty)

3 Lt Bty PT Shirt

(Ties are \$25 each. PT Shirts are \$25 each.)

Name_____

Street Name_____

Suburb:_____ Postcode_____ Phone_____

Email:_____

Please make cheques payable to '7 Fd Bty ORs Canteen'

**The Feast of St Barbara Dinner held on Friday 6 December 2013
Irwin Barracks Officer's Mess**



BC's presentation to Captain James Tarpley



BC's presentation to Warrant Officer Dave Nutini



Senior NCO's of 7 FD BTY RAA

**Dedication of the Talbot Hobbs' Gates,
Stirling Square, Guildford,
Western Australia.
November 3rd 2013**



**Centenary of Artillery in Guildford
85th Gunner's Day**

CENTENARY OF ARTILLERY IN GUILDFORD

The unveiling of the Talbot Hobb's Gates commemorates a brilliant Australian military commander, a comrade to his soldiers and a fine Australian citizen. In his post war work, he contributed much to the state of Western Australia, the Royal West Australian Artillery and the Guildford community.

In this, the Centenary Year of the Royal West Australian Artillery establishing its Head Quarters in Guildford, the City of Swan and the Garrison town of Guildford, remember Lieutenant General Talbot Hobbs and the 7th Field Battery, 3rd Regiment of the Royal Australian Artillery. In 1913, the people of Guildford were asked to look after the young artillerymen who were to be based at their new Head Quarters in South Guildford. In 2013, one hundred years later, we remember and honour these men and subsequent Artillerymen who also served in World War 2, Korea and Vietnam.

ARTILLERY AT GUILFORD

38th Battery FA

On November 1st 1913 the 38th Battery Field Artillery marched into Guildford, before a large crowd assembled in Stirling Square. The occasion was the official welcome of the officers and men of the 38th Battery prior to them taking up permanent Head Quarters in South Guildford. They marched from Perth that afternoon under the command of Major Mills and were met at the outskirts of Guildford by the 89th Battalion of Senior Cadets and the 'B', 'C' and 'F' Companies who escorted them into the square. A total of 250 men of all ranks gathered that afternoon before the Governor, Sir Harry Barron, the Mayors of Guildford and Midland, military Commanders and Guildford citizens. The newspaper's described it as; 'a novel event for the residents of this peaceful suburb, owing to the combination of military bands, quick firing guns, horses, artillerymen and cadets.' .

The Mayor of Guildford welcomed the Battery to the town on behalf of the citizens. He noted with pride the growing military facilities in the area and anticipated Guildford becoming 'the Aldershot of WA'. Major Mills in response, spoke of the proud history of the Battery and its historical links to the Union Troops of Western Australia founded in 1872. He spoke of the fine body of young men under him who he anticipated would prove worthy of their country, flag and King. This was an ominous prediction of the war many would be serving in within 12 months. The Governor spoke to the gathering about the importance of Battery and the responsibility of the community. He believed it would be a very efficient unit for defence and the people of Guildford must see that they looked after it.

GUILDFORD AND THE GREAT WAR.

8th Field Battery of the 3rd AFA

When Britain announced it was at war on August 5th 1914, the Commonwealth Government was swift to offer 20,000 Australian troops. Recruitment drives commenced across all states. At the start of the War, the 37th and 38th Batteries of Artillery were combined to form the 8th Field Battery of the 3rd Australian Field Artillery Brigade under the command of Major Alfred Joseph Bessell- Browne. This new Battery was based at the South Guildford Head Quarters. The unit was equipped with quick firing 18 pounders and readied for embarkation. All of Bessell Browne's men over 18 years of age, volunteered for service from this Battery.

St Matthew's Garrison Church

The 8th Battery of the 3rd Field Artillery considered the future of its precious flag. This silk ensign had been presented to Brigadier- General Bessell -Browne, by a Mr. J. Frederick in 1914 with the request that it should go overseas with the commanding officer. It was carried with the Battery through Mena Camp in Egypt and to the Western Front at the Somme and Ypres. Twenty Nine Officers and men from the 8th Field Battery gave their lives in WW1.

On the 21st of September 1919 the flag was passed to Reverend Greatorex of St Matthews at a special service.

'In a short address the rector said the flag of the 8th Battery, to be unfurled in the church that afternoon, would be its most treasured possession for it would speak to them and to countless generations to come of all that noblest and best in manhood of the nation.'

The Flag was suspended over the chancel until 1982 when restoration work required its temporary removal. The flag disintegrated when handled and the remains burnt in accordance with military tradition. The flag was replaced with another by the RWAAA. Fire damaged the church roof in 1926, the wooden shingles were replaced with clay tiles and the north transept was changed to a soldiers' memorial Chapel. An illuminated Honour Roll by W. Speight was located at the western entry and unveiled on March 16th 1918. An Honour Roll to the fallen 19XX and memorial tablets plaques commemorating Lieutenant - General Talbot Hobbs, (1938) Major-General Bessell-Browne, (1948) and Colonel T.J. Todd of the Light Horse, (1938) were placed in the Chapel. These artifacts define Guildford's significant connection with the artillery. Today, St. Matthew's Church is believed to be the only Garrison Church in WA.

Gunner's Day

The inaugural Gunner's Day was held on August 8th 1928, when the Artillery Comrades Association together with St Matthew's Church and the Guildford Municipality co-operated to hold a service. On this day, ten years previously, the day the Australian troops played such a significant role in breaking the Hindenburg Line at Villers- Bretonneux (8.8.1918). . On Gunner's Day 1928, 60 ex gunners marched from the Guildford Railway Station at Guildford to the St. Matthew's Church for a service after which they then formed up around the War Memorial for a lying of wreaths. The men were then dismissed. Over the years the Gunner's Day March has been supported by the Citizens Military Force Reservists, who trained at South Guildford. Brigadier Bessell- Browne led the march and Lieutenant General, Sir Talbot Hobbs took the salute on all occasions until his death in 1938. His Excellency the Governor, the Archdeacon of Perth, Mayors of Guildford and Midland together with other dignitaries supported this service. In 195 the date of the Gunner's Day March was changed to the first Sunday in November to avoid inclement winter weather. This regimental march is unique in Western Australia today, and forms a significant part of Guildford's history and tradition.

Extract from the Commemorative Brochure prepared by Barbara Dundas for the City of Swan

BERETS ARE BACK!

Many serving and former soldiers 'wondered at the wisdom' only a handful of years ago when a change to the Dress Manual removed berets as an approved form of head dress – you can imagine the 'intense exasperation' among the 'tankies', in particular, generations of whom wore the black beret with considerable pride and panache! Sometimes, however, common sense does prevail, and an e-mail was circulated last week by the office of the Chief of Army – the following is an extract from that e-mail:

"The slouch hat is the most important and respected part of our uniform. It is worn only by the Australian Military and it is worn equally by all in army, regardless of regiment, regardless of corps, and regardless of rank. It is the headdress that will always be worn when representing army in the public, engendering respect to and from the people of Australia and to those from overseas.

Today new rules will be promulgated in army's dress manual that will enhance and focus the wearing of this pre-eminent Australian icon which is venerated by our nation and our allies.

I do not own our uniform identity - we all do. This includes those who have gone before us and those who will serve our nation in the future. As Army's senior leadership and senior RSMs travel and talk to our people and the veteran community, the subject of the wearing of berets is often raised. I know that for many the beret is considered an important and practical item of uniform that is relevant to regimental and corps identity. This was highlighted by the recent non-combat clothing review where over 80% of respondents asked for enhanced regimental and corps identity. You are all important to me and I respect your views, opinions and feelings.

I have therefore made the decision that the beret will be approved as an item of dress in the regimental environment. This will include the Army blue beret and the Royal Australian Regiment rifle green beret.

Commanding Officers will have authority and discretion to decide when the beret may be worn within their units, cognisant of occupational health and safety, less when the slouch hat is mandated through the army dress manual. I make this decision in respect and faith with Army's officers and soldiers.

The rules for the wearing of our great slouch hat and for other forms of headdress will be promulgated through the Army Dress Manual in December and will be summarised in the final edition of Army News on 05 December 2013.

Apparently a loud and spontaneous roar of approval was heard in many areas within Army!

