



# Artillery WA



Official Newsletter of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)

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## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

# **GUNNERS' DAY**

### SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2019

All Gunners, their families, guests and other interested parties are invited to attend the Annual Gunners Day parade and service at Stirling Square Guildford Sunday 3rd November 2019.

**10:00am:** RV at St Matthews Church

**10:10am:** . Parade forms up in Stirling Street. Guest and families seated at dais in front of memorial.

**10:15am:** Parade steps off, left onto footpath alongside Meadow Street, past the saluting dais then left to the 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 Battery RAA and members of the Australian Cadet Corps.

Service will be conducted by Bishop Jeremy James and Reverend Katrina Holgate

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

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

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

## **NOTICE BOARD**



To	Edition	Collation Period	Deadline to Editor	Editing and Preparation	Final Edition	Mail Out
	1/2020	4 Jan 2020 to 20 Mar 2020	20 Mar 2020	20 Mar 20 to 28 Mar 2020	29 Mar 2020	30 Mar 2020
	2/2020	2 Apr 2020 to 20 Jun 2020	20 Jun 2020	20 Jun 20 to 28 Jun 2020	29 Jun 2020	30 Jun 2020
	3/2020	1 Jul 2020 to 20 Sep 2020	20 Sep 2020	20 Sep 2020 to 28 Sep 2020	29 Sep 2020	30 Sep 2020
	4/2020	1 Oct 2020 to 12 Dec 2020	12 Dec 2020	12 Dec 2020 to 14 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**

25 Jan, 29 Feb, 28 Mar, 30 May, 27 Jun, 25 Jul,  
29 Aug, 26 Sep, 24 Oct, 28 Nov

#### **LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS**

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

**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIA ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION**  
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The year seems to be moving at a fast rate and the end of year functions are creeping up on us rapidly.

**Gunners' Day 2019**

Our next major event will be Gunners Day 2019, which will be held on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. I would encourage all Gunners to attend. We will form up at St Mathew's Church, Stirling Square, Guildford at 11:00 am and step off shortly thereafter. Our Patron BRIG Gerry Warner has been asked to be the Reviewing Officer.

After the march we will have refreshments in the Church Hall and after to the Rose & Crown hotel to continue the camaraderie.

**Feast of Saint Barbara/ BTY Birthday/ RAA Regimental Dinner.**

I am pleased to advise that BRIG Neil Sweeney AM, Colonel Commandant 9 REGT and Deputy Commander 2 DIV will be the host for the Feast of Saint Barbara to be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of December.

As advised in the last issue, the BTY Birthday/ RAA REGIMENTAL Dinner was not held due to renovations of Hobbs Artillery Park. The Association in consultation with the BTY agreed that for this year we would combine the two dinners and extend invitations for the Feast of Saint Barbara and to celebrate the re-establishment of Field Artillery in Western Australia on 6th July 1948. Accordingly for this year only the invitees for the Feast of St Barbara will be extended to include all serving, retired and ex-members of the Royal Australian Artillery, those who served in RAA units, and will include partners and guests.

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

Our Functions Sub-Committee 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.

Bob Farrelly

LTCOL

President, RAA Association

*Ubique*

## THE AIMING POST

### Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

In early June your Society received an appreciative letter from the Military Museum at Rethymno on Crete. This was in response to us sending it several items from our stock- a slouch hat and some webbing- as worn by 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF members. The Director stressed the common historical link between our two countries forged by the Battle of Crete in 1941. The exchange of items and dialogue between our two organizations has been a most pleasant one.

Over the years we have dealt with the fallout of carpark smash and grabs. The Council has now installed CCTV to deter/record future offenders. The Committee applauds that initiative.

Also while we are in the car park visitors now can see a beautiful new info graphic style sign that presents all necessary details for them re tunnel tours. Thanks go to Don Rae and a small team for the time put into that.

On the pretext- "If you don't ask- you don't get." Don and yours truly have come up with a list of public office holders who will be sent an invitation letter to visit the Tunnels complex. I think this will be time well spent on displaying the enormous amount of Volunteer time that Leighton Battery has received- and our plans for the replica turret.

Those invited are:

Ms Carissa Bywater- TOMP's new CEO.

Ms Celia Hammond- Federal Member for Curtin.

The Honourable Senator Linda Reynolds ,CSC.  
Min. for Defence.

The Honourable Peter Tinley AM MLA. Veterans Issues.

The Honourable Mick Murray MLA. Volunteering.

In mid June the Society sent a letter to the C.O. of HMAS Stirling asking if we could have any used 5" cartridge cases- those being very similar to the old 5.25" ones. The letter made the point that Stirling and Leighton shared a common military heritage- both were part of Fortress Fremantle in WW2. The cases would form part of the re- development

of the ammunition spaces beneath the replica turret.

As a ps. To the visitor list above – on August 2 the CEO spent 90 minutes on-site with the President and Treasurer- she showed a clear interest in the Battery site. She was reminded of the 5.25" plan.

The Council's Conservation Management Plan went out for public feedback. To that effect, your Committee has put forward its submission to reflect our reactions and opinions. We stipulated that the R.A.A.H.S. supports the C.M.P's principles and that we were active participants in its drafting.

If the cards fall our way, the Plan will allow for clearing of the high growth shrubs in front of the Battery O.P. , the 6" and 5.25"gun arcs. We have indicated that we are not after 180 degree clearing- rather, three compromise arcs. The Plan will stipulate what may be pruned, how it may be pruned and who will do it.

Your Society secretary- in his Army Reserve role- has attended the combined defence exercises in north Queensland recently and he told me that he saw soldiers from the U.S. , Canada , G.B. , N.Z. , and Japan in action. He noted the exceptionally fine condition of the weapons and vehicles of the latter.

In August I viewed the film "Danger Close- The Battle of Long Tan". I was struck by the bravery of the men from the R.A.R. the R.N.Z.A. and the N.V.A. The Kiwi gunners did a fine job under pressure- especially when their rounds were called in really close to our soldiers!

It is with sadness that I acknowledge the passing of our esteemed member Mrs Enid Cahill. Enid was a gently spoken lady who was proud of her wartime service to our country. The Society sends its sympathy to the Cahill family.  
Go the Eagles!

*David Carter.*

**Brigadier Neil Sweeney AM  
Colonel Commandant 9 Regiment**

REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF THE COMPANY OF

All Ranks, Past and Present of the Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) Partners and Invited Guests  
at the

**2019 FEAST OF ST BARBARA**

**TO BE HELD IN THE**

**HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK DRILL HALL KARRAKATTA**

**Friday, 6th of December 2019 at 19:00hrs for 19:30hrs**

**Cost : \$85.00 Per Person.**

**Payment: BANK TRANSFER OR CASH PAYABLE OR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO  
RAA ASSOCIATION BSB 066163 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 22nd of November 2019**

Price includes— Pre-Dinner Sherry, Dinner Wine and Port. Other drinks will be available at Mess bar prices

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**ATTENDANCE SLIP REPLY PAYMENT**

**Email to STAN DAVIES [sftdavies7@bigpond.com](mailto:sftdavies7@bigpond.com) or**

**Feast of St Barbara , Post Office Box 4112 Mandurah North WA6210**

**I would prefer to be seated with (If you have any mates you prefer to sit with)**

**My remittance for \$ is enclosed**

**Name: Rank: Post Nominals**

**Address**

**Email Address**

**Name of Guests**



*Ubique*

## COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS FROM THE R.A.F. MESS, PRANGMERE

**I**N the R.A.F. Mess, Crangmere, a self-appointed committee went into session on Sunday night to discuss a topic of out-standing interest to the whole of the Royal Air Force. The question before the meeting was, in short, just how *does* a fly land on the ceiling.

Pilot-Officer Prune, opening the proceedings, said he was of the opinion the fly cruised along at the correct height below the ceiling and then did a half-loop, landing upwards at the top of the loop.

Squadron-Leader Undercart said that was all very well, but how did the fly judge his distance, so as to avoid nose-diving into the ceiling a quarter way through the loop? Presumably he wasn't fitted with an altimeter that worked inversely from the ceiling downwards instead of from the ground up. He personally took a poor view of Prune's theory.

Pilot-Officer Stall said he didn't get that half loop idea either, - - - -.

*(The foregoing is a small sample of a few paragraphs taken from a book held in the library. We have seven books of a similarly humorous nature, most of which had their origin in "Punch").*

## War Games

Cement Fondue over a metal armature

**The old game through generations...  
Life and death played out and repeated.  
You're dead. No it's your turn. I died last time.  
But it's only a game  
and it does not matter if a gun is given  
when there are sticks on the ground.  
They make good weapons.  
You can't play. You're a girl. Play with your  
dolls instead.  
The soldiers fight on,  
and the nurse picks up the pieces.**

## Artillery WA - Content

**T**here is often space in the newsletter to include items of a personal incident or event which may be of general interest, humorous or otherwise, and as the editor I would be grateful if you could forward them to me via email.

[arnold353@bigpond.com](mailto:arnold353@bigpond.com)

## Are you observing?

**An extract from CUSTOMS OF THE  
ARMY issued by the MILITARY  
BOARD Army Headquarters Mel-  
bourne 1/2/65**

### Calling on married officers

Calls should be made by single officers or unaccompanied married officers at the homes of married officers between 1500 and 1600 hours, beginning with the senior officers of the station.

It is customary to call without notice and inquire whether "Mrs 'X' is 'at home'". Should the answer be in the negative or if there is no reply, two cards should be left, one for the wife, the other for her husband.

### Calling by officers' wives

The wife of a married officer should make calls at the homes of other married officers. The only difference being that in addition to the two cards left on behalf of her husband the wife should leave a card of her own.

It is normal for those calls to be returned, personally, or by sending cards, followed by an invitation to the next appropriate engagement.

## BEREAVEMENT

In the AIMING POST page the President has mentioned the passing of long serving Member Enid Cahill. The following eulogy describes Enid's contribution to the Society:

Of the Ex Service Units that contributed to the foundation of the Society in 1988, one of the more prominent was the Heavy Anti-Aircraft Association of which Enid and her husband Frank were proud Members. Together they volunteered regularly for the many tasks we faced during the early years in the development of Leighton Battery into the popular tourist destination it has become today. In addition, Enid and Frank regularly attended Irwin Barracks where we enjoyed accommodation for the Library, Photo Archives, Artefacts and a small Museum – Enid was a willing volunteer for many of those less attractive tasks that “someone” has to look after.

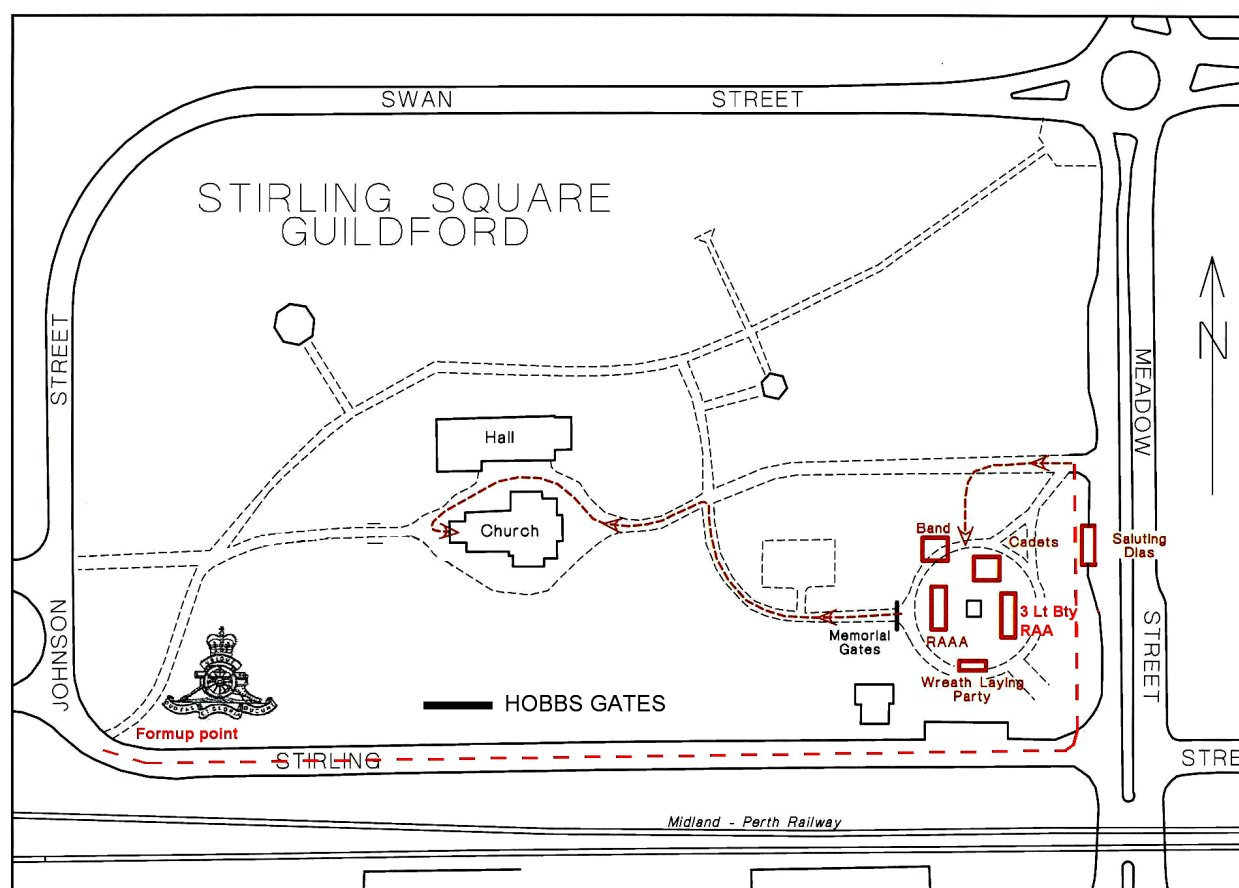
A very proud member of the Australian Women's Army Service, Enid Holder enlisted in 1942 aged 18 and was allotted to a Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery and trained as an Instrument Operator. It was during her service that Enid met Frank – another Heavy A/A member home on leave from Darwin following the bombing and they married. The rest as they say is history.

Enid and Frank introduced their son Ron to the Society – suggesting Ron's sign writing skills may be of some use to the Society – what an understatement!! Ron, a veteran of the National Service Scheme, saw service in Borneo during the Confrontation and today continues the ethos and ethics of his parents.

Enid spent her last five years in a nursing home and quietly passed away on her 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 surrounded by her family.

Enid may have left us but will not be forgotten

## UBIQUE





World's fastest car 1910-1919 | Austro-Daimler Prince Henry | 85 mph (136 kmh)

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After 10 years of cutting-edge research and development, building and testing the world's most advanced straight-line racing car, the old Bloodhound company finally ran out of money at the end of last year. Despite some serious commercial interest in the project, the stop-start nature of sponsorship funding finally did us in.

What we really needed to find was an investor who could underwrite the cash flow between sponsorship deals.

With literally just a few days left before Bloodhound went to the scrap yard, a lovely Yorkshireman called Ian Warhurst stepped forward and bought the car. (Watch this space)



**“My kids kept saying I should buy a fast car so I bought the fastest and it was the middle of December last year when I turned up with the best Christmas Present ever.”**



### The Human 'Bein' Brain

Doctors have concluded that if you find the man in the coffee beans in 30 seconds, the right half of your brain is better developed than most people. If you find the man between 3 seconds and 1 minute, the right half of the brain is developed normally. If you find the man between 1 minute and 3 minutes the right half of your brain is functioning slowly and you need to eat more protein. If you have not found the man after 3 minutes, the advice is to look for more of this type of exercise to make that part of the brain stronger.



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**More to test the brain cells, if you have any doubts?**

#### **ANAGRAMS**

For each set of letters below, find an eight letter word that belongs to the same category.

**DACMARMO**

**LACIONTR**

**MCIANNNO**

**SOERRMAY**

Answers Page 12.

## THE NEW TEMPORARY HOME (STORAGE) OF THE RAAHS ORDNANCE COLLECTION

The new temporary home (storage) of the RAAHS ordnance collection against theft or tampering. We understand that Defence has concerns but the regime was too onerous and prompted the Committee to de-



cide that moving the collection off site would be a much better option. A band of volunteers moved the entire RAAHS ordnance collection to Leighton Battery where it will be stored securely before being placed on display.



THE MOVING CREW

PHIL ANGWIN, NEIL LODGE, JOHN SANDERS, BOB ARNOLD, DON RAE

PHOTOGRAPHER JOHN BLYLEVENS

(Continued from Artillery 3/19)



45  
3 FD BDE 1 AUST DIV ARTY 1915 1918

## FINAL ISSUE

### Gunner Time

All gunners know that the only correct time on the battlefield is gunner time. At Gallipoli the co-operation between artillery and the arm it was supporting was undeveloped. Within a battery the end of an orders group is always the synchronisation of watches. All gunners share the same time. At the Nek, the essential but crucial drill to synchronise watches between the artillery and the supported arm was not carried out. The gunners watches stopped the neutralising fire on the Nek on 7<sup>th</sup> August, at 4:30 pm when the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light horse Brigade launched the attack which resulted in the futile slaughter of two Regiments of Light Horse, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup>. The 7 minute difference with the attacker's watches ensured the attack would fail. The investigation at the time vindicated the artillery's claim that they kept firing until 4.30 pm. (Horner, 1995, p. 105)

The avoidance of this mistake ensured that synchronisation of watches was integral to all battle plans later on the Western Front, but at Anzac Cove the idea of synchronising watches between the supported arm and the gunner was not well developed. If you think about having dozens of different watch times, you see the source of danger and misunderstanding. The rounds on the ground are timed there by a gunner's watch. The artillery officer controlling the fire (FO) always has the same time as the GPO (Gun Position Officer), who fires when so ordered. That is why gunner time is the correct time.

Before leaving this brief look at 8 Bty I'd like to illustrate how innovative these gunners were. The Anzacs had become increasingly bothered by Turkish spotter aircraft, which was causing more and more casualties from the Turkish artillery. A circular pit was dug for an 8 Battery 18 pdr. The trail was lowered into the pit and the barrel elevated almost to the perpendicular angle. The rounds were fused to 2000 yards and laid directly at the approaching aircraft. No hits were made but the pilots kept a respectful distance from the Anzac lines thereafter. (Horner, 1995, p. 107)

If this 18 pdr innovation as an anti-aircraft gun had not been attempted by 8 Bty, the evacuation in December may not have been so successful. Who knows what effect this novel use of an 18 pdr from 8 Bty had on aircraft spotter sorties and the rest of the campaign?

8 Battery continued fire missions (the terminology was "shoots or stunts") against Turkish infantry attacks, trenches and their artillery until the evacuation which began on December 11.

### Evacuation

The guns were disassembled and taken down to the beach. Dummy guns were erected overnight in their place. Each battery withdrew its guns leaving one to maintain their deceptive fire. When Turkish artillery fired on forward Anzac positions, the lone 8 Battery gun on Russell's top replied, drawing fire from two Turkish batteries.

Gunner Fred Cunningham recalled details of a particular shoot at this battery. After firing a few rounds at the Turkish battery he was given the fire order to raise the angle of sight by "*one minute; in view of the worn condition of our gun this fine adjustment appeared ridiculous, but orders are orders. I made the necessary adjustment and fired the shot, but I had no sooner fired I realised I had made an error. Instead of raising the angle of sight — I had lowered it—. I reported my error to my No 1, Sgt Stan Brearley, and asked him to bear it in mind in case there should be a query. There was no query, instead within seconds there was a jubilant voice of the battery commander over the telephone. "A beautiful shot that shell got right into the enemy gun pit and lifted his gun right out of the pit".*" (Cameron, 2014) Chapter 98 footnote 13.

By 16<sup>th</sup> December, Lt Col Bessell-Browne assumed command of the remaining Australian division guns, most of which were worn out and practically useless (Horner, 1995, p. 109)

(See Page 12)



(Continued from Page 11)

### RAA Historical Society WA.

It is fitting that we leave 8 Battery 3 Brigade Australian Artillery I Division 1st AIF and their “tour of duty” at Gallipoli with the words of Sir Talbot Hobbs.

*Two years ago, it was my privilege to visit the Gallipoli Peninsula, with ample opportunity to explore the battlefields from Cape Helles to Suvla Bay. After a most careful survey and study of the ground occupied by ourselves and the Turks, I am satisfied that under the conditions that obtained, nothing more or better could have been done with regard to the disposition and employment of the artillery than was done. The natural formation of the ground was altogether in favour of the enemy, and ensured him, in most cases, perfect observation, command, concealment and protection.*

*To my mind, nothing but his limited ammunition supply and want of heavier guns and mortars saved us from being blown into the sea. I leave it at that, satisfied that the gunners did all that was possible in the circumstances, to play their part and support at all costs their gallant infantry comrades.*

(Hobbs, 1932, pp. 29, 66-67)

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