



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2022

The Annual General Meetings of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc) and the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of WA (Inc) were held on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022, at the Alf Adams Pavillion Solomon Street Mosman Park.

Retiring Office Bearers of both organizations were nominated for re-election and no new nominees were received on the day. Details of the 2022 Office Bearers are:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>RAA Association</u>	<u>RAA Historical Society</u>
<b>President</b>	<b>Bob Farrelly</b>	<b>David Carter</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Peter Mahoney</b>	<b>Graham McKenzie-Smith</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>John Blylevens</b>	<b>John Blylevens</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Stan Davies</b>	<b>Neil Lodge</b>
<b>Committee Persons</b>	<b>Wendy Mahoney</b>	<b>Matthew Adams</b>
	<b>Raymond Kennedy</b>	<b>Phillip Rowson</b>
	<b>Ken Hepworth</b>	<b>James Archibald</b>
	<b>Robert Coales</b>	<b>Ian Randles</b>
		<b>Stan Davies</b>
		<b>Don Rae</b>

### RAAHS MEMBERS RECEIVING LONG SERVICE AWARDS FROM PRESIDENT DAVID CARTER



RAA Meeting addressed by President



RAAHS Members Observe a Minutes Silence



**NOTICE BOARD**

**Web Site: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au>**

**ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTY WA**

Items for inclusion, and which are regularly needed, should be submitted to the Editor Bob Arnold at [arnold353@bigpond.com](mailto:arnold353@bigpond.com)

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**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.

**RAAHS BUSY BEES**

**Last Saturday of each month excluding December**

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**LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS**

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

**OFFICE BEARERS**

**RAA ASSOCIATION**

**President**

Bob Farrelly

**Vice President**

Peter Mahoney

**Secretary**

John Blylevens

**Treasurer**

StanDavies

**Committee Persons**

Wendy Mahoney

Raymond Kennedy

Ken Hepworth

Robert Coales

\*\*\*\*\*

**RAA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**President**

David Carter

**Vice President**

Graham McKenzie-Smith

**Secretary**

John Blylevens

**Treasurer**

Neil Lodge

**Committee Persons**

Mathew Adams

Phillip Rowson

James Archibald

**IT Consultant**

Stan Davies

**Curator**

Don Rae

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

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN**  
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**

Fellow Gunners

Welcome back and I trust you had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

**I am looking forward to 2022.**

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations** 2021 was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of a permanent Australian artillery capability. Unfortunately Covid disrupted many planned activities. 2022 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **formed Artillery in WA.**

On 1 July 1872 the Union Troop of Western Australian Mounted Volunteers was redesignated as the Western Australian Troop of Volunteer Horse Artillery, the first formed artillery in Western Australia. This was subsequently Gazetted on 21 January 1873.

**We are looking to celebrate this milestone at Gunners Day and at the Feast of Saint Barbara.**

**Feast of Saint Barbara 2022**

The 2022 Feast of St Barbara will be held on Friday 2 December. It will again be open to all ranks and partners invited.

Some concern was expressed about the lack of formality of last year's Dining In night and the passing of the port. Discussions have commenced with the new BC, MAJ Neil Bailey about the dinner potentially being run as a training dinner. The committee is still exploring venues for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary Feast.

I have approached the Head of Regiment about obtaining the Queen's Banner. I have been advised that it is unlikely that it will be available for Gunner's Day but we have early support for the Feast of Saint Barbara. 3 Bty is in the process of formally requesting the Queen's Banner.

**Anzac Day 2022**

Hooray! Anzac day is on this year.

The Dawn Service at King's Park is limited to 500 people and you need to need to register through the RSL. We are all encouraged to attend local services or to do the driveway vigil.

The march is on so dust off the medals and get along and join the march. The RSL is not encouraging spectators, rather suggesting they watch it on the TV. That said, there are no restrictions on the numbers in the city given it is outside. We await further details.

We understand 3 BTY will be holding a function afterwards at Hobbs Artillery Park. You need to register your attendance by notifying John Blylevens by email [john.blylevens@inet.net.au](mailto:john.blylevens@inet.net.au) He will coordinate the list and provide it to 3 BTY.

**New BC**

The Association welcomes MAJ Neil Bailey as the new BC 3 BTY, wish him every success and look forward to working with him.

I would like to thank the RAA Association Committee for all their work during the past year. It is greatly appreciated.

Given it is the 150<sup>th</sup> year of formed Artillery in WA I ask you all to reach out to members past and present to join the Association and participate in its activities and make them a success.

**Ubique**

**Bob Farrelly**

LTCOL

President

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT HEADING INTO AUTUMN 2022.

**D**ear Members,

Welcome to my account of events concerning your Society's activities during the summer.

Very hot weather saw subdued numbers visiting Leighton Battery since January. Visitors were very pleased with the new tour format and on exiting, commented on the cool relief while in the tunnels!

Early February saw the delivery of a 1950's era Crossley Brothers six cylinder diesel, an electrical generator and a switchboard, to the Leighton site. (We have been holding those items in long term storage). The equipment was lowered into the 5.25" engine room as part of the extensive program of work to bring the site back to future display standard. My thanks to the WAG's men for their organisational efforts and R&L Hiab. Fabrication of the turret/barrel is almost complete.

The Society has had to allocate funds for a replacement photocopier for our Annex building and a replacement specialist toilet system for our Command Post at Leighton. Both are essential items - neither was cheap.

The various Covid protocols imposed by the State government have been applied regarding our tunnel visitors with minimal inconvenience to all concerned.

Fremantle Ports Authority invited the Society's President and Vice President to meet to discuss the proposed renovation of the South Moles' Twin Six Pounder site. You may recall seeing the yellow painted emplacement in front of the green lighthouse and the two crew shelter rooms close by? FPA are to fix the concrete cancer and apply a WW2 camouflage paint scheme. We will offer to supply the proper images of the equipment, research period paint schemes and supply correct technical data for FPA when their proposed public signage is set up. (The sister emplacement on North Mole was completely demolished in the early 1980's). FPA are expecting to have the work done by the end of this financial year.

The 'Twin Six' mounts were placed on both moles in 1942 to engage (to 5,000 yards) submarines or motor torpedo boats attacking towards the harbour mouth. At the rear of the emplacement can still be seen the remains of the anti-torpedo boom winch system which opened and closed the net. The 'Twin Six's' were directed onto target via a command posts placed on the respective light house bases- the lights having been removed. (By the end of 1942, 155 of these weapons had been sent to 31 sites throughout the Empire.) An attack by the Italians on Valletta Harbour Malta in 1941, was totally disrupted when the 'Twin Six' mounts sank five of their fast torpedo boats in two minutes.

In May 1942 the Japanese navy successfully penetrated Sydney's harbour defences. No wonder Fremantle's gun defences were so quickly upgraded!

To conclude with - The Society held its 34th AGM in early March. All business was dealt with as per the Agenda. My thanks to all members who attended

My regards to you all.

*David Carter.*

p.s. Looking forward to the 2022 W.A.F.L. season!

DARWIN – 19 FEBRUARY 1942

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin. As a young man, Des Lambert was a member of the AMF Anti-Aircraft Batteries that bore the brunt of the Japanese air raids that erupted on the fateful day – 19th February 1942. As Honorary Historian of The Heavy Anti-Aircraft Association (W.A) Des compiled and presented the following account at a Memorial Service held at Anzac House on 18th February 1998. .

The first enemy attack on Australian soil in the history of the Commonwealth of Australia occurred at 9.58 a.m. on Thursday, 19th February, 1942. The small Northern Territory town of Darwin suffered an air-raid attack by 188 Japanese aircraft. At the time the civilian population numbered less than 2,000.

The attack came from 81 level bombers, 71 dive bombers and 36 fighters launched from four carriers – “Akagi”, “Kaga”, “Soryu” and Hiryu” from a distance of 220 nautical miles northwest of Darwin. These carriers had formed part of a six carrier task force which had devastated Pearl Harbour on 7th December, 1941.

Since the rapid advance of the Japanese war-machine after Pearl Harbour, some efforts had been made to secure the defence of the Darwin area. Darwin was the base of the 7th Military District of Australia and several thousands of Navy, Army and Air Force personnel were stationed there. Anti-Aircraft defences were represented by the guns of two Australian Heavy AA Batteries, the 2nd and the 14th AMF, sited at strategic points around the harbour. The batteries, manned by troops principally from New South Wales and Western Australia, were equipped with sixteen 3.7-inch and two 3-inch guns, backed by ancillary searchlights and some machine-guns. The machine-gun posts were mostly equipped with .303-inch Lewis, Vickers and Bren guns and covered heavy gun emplacements, oil tanks, army camps, and ammunition dumps. The RAAF base defences included machine-guns manned by RAAF personnel. The important RAN base at Darwin included a floating dock, and extensive anti-submarine boom net which protected the entrance to the harbour.

Ironically, a radar station at Dripstone Caves outside Darwin was not yet operational. This newly invented aid, however, was eventually of great help in forestalling subsequent air attacks.

Civil defence left much to be desired.

By late December most white and Asian women and children had been evacuated from the town. Little thought seems to have been given to the large Aboriginal population. They were expected to fend for themselves. The 63 white women who stayed were for the most part employed in essential services, such as nursing and telegraphy. Some civilians and organisations had dug slit trenches and there had been several trial air-raid alarms, but overall defences were inadequate. A tragedy of errors ensued.

By late February Port Darwin had become an important staging point for ship convoys and aircraft on their way to the fighting to the north-west. The port was particularly crowded on the 19th. A convoy of ships carrying Australian and American troops and supplies, escorted by USS “Houston”, USS “Peary”. HMAS “Warrego” and HMAS “Swan”, had returned to port after an attack by Japanese aircraft. They had been heading for Timor where reinforcements were badly needed. The congestion of the port by 47 vessels contributed to the large number of casualties that followed.

Coastwatchers, often civilian and largely unknown and unsung, proved to be a vital part of the Australian war effort. Forty-three minutes before the bombing, John Gribble, a coast watcher on Melville Island, radioed the naval station that a large number of aircraft was flying toward Darwin. A few minutes later, Father John McGrath, of the Catholic mission station on Bathurst Island, radioed Lou Curnock of the Darwin Australian Amalgamated Wireless Station reporting a similar message. Curnock immediately transmitted this to the RAAF. These warnings were not acted upon, thus increasing the number of casualties as ships and planes were not moved. The RAAF Operations centre was not alarmed. Despite the different direction from which the planes were travelling the RAAF officers believed that the aircraft were American P40 Kittyhawks which had been forced by bad weather to return to Base from their partly completed flight to Timor. The ten P40s had left Darwin at 0915 hours.

When the P40s arrived back over Darwin five were ordered to land, the others were ordered to patrol above the town at 15,000 feet. The time was then 9.50 a.m. Within minutes Japanese Zero fighters arrived on the scene, swooped on the five airborne P40s, and set about destroying the other five as they attempted to take-off from the RAAF 'drome. In the space of a few minutes nine of the ten US planes were destroyed, resulting in the death of four pilots and the wounding of four more. A P40, piloted by Lieut Oestreicher, escaped immediate destruction by entering cloud but was destroyed by bombs at the RAAF 'drome during the following raid that day. Lieut Oestreicher claimed to have shot down a 'Val' dive bomber and to have possibly destroyed a second.

The first bombing attack came from 45 of the 81 'Kate' level bombers which crossed the Australian coast east of Darwin, then turned near Noonamah, to approach Darwin from the south-east. This caused confusion to some defenders who were not expecting an attack from that direction and presumed that the aircraft were American. As they passed over Berrimah A/A Gun Station at about 15,000 feet they were identified as Japanese and engaged. Shortly afterwards all A/A guns in the Darwin area were in action and kept up continuous fire throughout the raid.

The air raid sirens around the town only sounded as the first bombs began to fall on the town, harbour installations and the shipping within the harbour. Then, as the level bombers completed their runs, formations of 'Val' dive bombers, soon to number 71 aircraft of this type, arrived on the scene to bomb and strafe the ships and other targets. Some of the ships desperately tried to raise their anchors to get moving. Among them was the US Destroyer "Peary" which got under weigh and put up a gallant fight as it headed towards the harbour entrance. It was hit by five bombs and sank with the loss of 80 lives, including its Captain, Lieut-Commander Bermingham. The Australian merchant ship "Neptuna", moored at the main jetty, was unloading heavy explosives at the time. After being hit by two bombs it caught fire and later exploded. 45 members of its crew, including the Master, Captain Michie, were killed. The terrible explosion shook the entire town and will never be forgotten by those who heard and saw it.

Six ships - the USS "Peary", the "Neptuna", "Meigs", "Mauna Loa", "Zealandia" and the oil tanker "British Motorist" - were sunk within the harbour, as were the RAN Lugger "Mavie", and the coal hulk "Kelat". Among the ships badly damaged were the "Barossa" and the "Port Mar", both later to be salvaged. A number of other ships were less damaged but remained afloat. Two ships, the "Don Isidro" and the "Florence D" were destroyed off Bathurst Island.

The Australian Hospital Ship "Manunda", well marked with red crosses was badly damaged by one bomb and suffered a near miss by a second. Twelve of the medical staff and crew were killed, seven were seriously

injured, and 51 had minor injuries. The near miss put 76 holes in the ship's plates and sprayed its decks with shrapnel. Despite the damage the ship remained seaworthy and was able to sail for Fremantle the following night bearing hundreds of injured and sick servicemen, seamen and civilians. A number died on the voyage.

The Australian Corvette HMAS "Katoomba" was caught undergoing repairs in the floating dock but a spirited defence by its crew saved both the ship and the dock from destruction.

Some of the first bombs to fall hit the pier where 70 waterside workers were unloading the "Neptuna" and the "Barossa" on the right-angled extension. Many of the men were blown into the water and forced to swim through burning oil. 22 men are known to have died. There were many heroic acts as the dead and dying and survivors were plucked from the water by men in small boats.

A tragedy took place in the town when the Post Office was hit and nine people killed. The Postmaster, Mr Hurtle Bald, his wife Alice and their daughter Iris were among the dead as were four female telephonists who operated the manual exchange, and two male staff members. The nine were crouched in the postmaster's garden in a shelter when a bomb landed almost on top of them and completely demolished the shelter. They died instantly. Another male staff member was fatally injured nearby.

The Post Office was badly damaged, also the postmaster's residence, the Telegraph Office, the Cable Office, the Police Barracks, the Administrator's Office and the newly-opened Civil Hospital. Some business houses and private residences were destroyed or damaged. The Berrimah Military Hospital was machine-gunned and a patient killed and another wounded.

The RAAF base suffered a vicious bombing and strafing attack by the dive bombers and fighters but only seven RAAF personnel were killed, including Wing-Commander Archibald Tindal, who was hit by a Japanese cannon shell while firing a Vickers gun against the raiders. The RAAF officers and men put up a gallant defence of the base by means of machine-guns and rifles.

At many camp sites around Darwin troops from various units fired machine-guns and rifles at low-flying dive bombers and fighters. Some units later claimed to have brought down enemy aircraft or damaged a number of them.

The Zero fighters had a field day by chasing cars, trucks and even motorcycles along the roads. The Zeros also attached anti-aircraft gun sites and wounded two gunners at Berrimah.

The first raid lasted thirty minutes. During the subsequent lull while shocked survivors were trying to assess the situation, the attack resumed.

It was a few minutes after midday. This time it came from 54 twin-engined bombers based in the Celebes and Ambon. The target was the RAAF base and, in the few minutes that followed, the base was subjected to pattern bombing that was terrifying in its intensity and efficiency. The RAAF hospital, recreation huts, messes, two hangers, equipment stores, four airmen's dormitories and several houses were wrecked. It was a miracle that no one had been killed in this attack by over 200 bombs that fell on the station. Seven RAAF men had died in the first raid.

The ARP "All-clear" sounded at 1240 hours and stunned and shocked RAAF personnel who had sought shelter in the scrub began straggling back to base. xxx

A tally of aircraft losses from the two raids showed that seven RAAF aircraft and 19 USAAF aircraft were destroyed.

The Federal Government imposed strict censorship concerning the raids and very few people who were not in Darwin on that tragic day were to learn the full extent of the loss of lives and the destruction and damage to our ships, aircraft and property until the war ended in 1945.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1942, A Royal Commissioner, Mr Justice Lowe of the Supreme Court of Victoria was appointed:

"To inquire into and report on all the circumstances connected with the attacks made by enemy aircraft on Darwin on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1942, including the preparedness of the Naval, Military, Air and Civil Authorities" etcetera.

Among the findings of the Lowe Report, released in 1945, was that 243 people had been killed and between 300 and 400 injured.

Regarding the anti-aircraft defence Justice Lowe reported :

"The only defence to the enemy raid over the harbour and over the town was by means of anti-aircraft guns and such defence as the ships in the harbour possessed. There was no defence by air. The evidence before me was all to the effect that the anti-aircraft batteries operated efficiently and that the personnel of the AMF performed very creditably in their baptism of fire. Their earlier shooting seemed somewhat short of the planes at which they were firing, but later their range was better and the defence became effective."

During the two raids the sixteen 3.7-inch A/A guns fired 722 rounds and the two 3-inch 144 rounds. Lewis machine-guns manned by A/A gunners fired 10,481 rounds of .303-inch ammunition. The A/A batteries claimed two aircraft destroyed and eleven probably destroyed. Two Military Medals were awarded to gunners who had manned machine-guns during the first raid.

The Japanese continued their attacks on the Darwin area

a further 62 times; the last raid was on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 1943.

It is a sad reflection on those who write our history books that few of the younger generation of Australians have every heard of the Japanese attacks on the Australian mainland or how close we came to invasion in the dark days of 1942.

*With respect for the late Des Lambert*

## 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 the pain of that desert plain,

And the fortress they call Tobruk

Not by will imposed,

Are their deeds enclosed

the faith of a volunteer

They fight for all the freehold dear.

In the world to be ,

When mankind is free,

To build and progress anew,

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.

## 5.25" CA/AA GUN EMPLACEMENT

Readers of **ARTILLERYWA** will be familiar with Society plans to conserve and prepare the 5.25" CA/AA Gun emplacement as a further Tourist Destination at Leighton Battery Heritage Site.

When the Battery ceased operating in 1963, all Plant and Equipment was removed and sold for scrap, including the 5 Cylinder Diesel Engines and Generators. Rumour suggested that these may have been sold to one of the crayfishing processing plants North of Yanchep, not then connected to the State Electricity Grid.

Extensive research did not shed light on the whereabouts of the equipment but, enquiries led to the Society being introduced to the Machinery Preservation Club of WA (Inc) who generously loaned a 6 Cylinder Crossley Diesel Engine of similar vintage to the original, complete with Generator and Switch Board for future display in the Engine Room.

Installation was not possible until the entire Gun Emplacement was water-proofed, a lengthy and expensive task not completed until 2021, so in the interim the Equipment has been held in storage at Irwin Barracks

Finally, on 2nd February 2022, Society Contractor, R&L Hi-Ab Services, transferred the Equipment from the Barracks and mounted it safely on the original mounts in the below ground Engine Room.

Member Tom Arnautovic captured all the action on film and video and a selection of his photographs are displayed below.



The Switchboard went first



Followed by the Engine



Finally lowered into position



The Engine and Generator on display



If we have reached the age where we need our grandchildren to answer the many queries which arise when we are working at our computers, we may not know the following. However, thanks to Probus and Stan Davies

### Stan says —

1. **Keep The Brightness Down** One simple way to start conserving battery power— turn down the screen brightness.
2. **Avoid Extreme Charging.** A common mistake people make is to fully charge their phone up to 100 percent, then let it drain completely. Newer lithium-ion batteries don't have memories that need to be 'calibrated' in this way; you're reducing its lifespan even faster. Partially charging and discharging your phone battery is the best way to achieve longevity. Avoid leaving your phone to charge overnight, as this causes the battery to experience high stress and potentially damaging heat. If you do charge it at night, keep it in a cool place.
3. **Switch Off Wi-Fi And Bluetooth** Look for ways to help your battery last longer on a single charge. A good place to start is being aware that Wi-Fi and Bluetooth are draining your battery as they scan for devices or networks to connect to in different locations.
4. **Limit Location Services** to support their services, many of your favourite apps – including food delivery, fitness monitoring or direction finding apps – likely use location-based technology such as GPS, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and cellular networks to track your phone. The scanning process itself can seriously sap battery life. You can adjust the settings and preferences to either block apps from using location services in the background, or disable scanning altogether. Specific apps will still be able to access location services when they're actually in use.
5. **Manage Your Apps More Effectively** Closing everything that's running on your device is not the battery-saving solution you may have expected. The action of force-quitting apps can have a negative impact. You're better off letting apps run in the background so iOS ( Apple operating system) can take advantage of their built-in algorithms that automatically manage the amount of power and memory being used. Check whether certain apps are constantly refreshing with updates for no valid reason. It's possible to review and limit how much battery an individual.

*( Having read all the above, now back to your granddaughter or grandson, if maybe you still don't have much idea what it all means!)*

## BEDLAM IN THE PRINT ROOM

**I**t was Wednesday 15 December 2021 and it was planned to complete, email and post **ArtilleryWA** in the afternoon of that day, our last working day of the year. This included inserting further content in the newsletter, the printer folding from A3 paper to A4 size, centre stapling and presenting as a booklet, and, posted to those who have their copy mailed. Something was awry with the printer, minor panic and some confusion, we were unable to print the newsletter. Stan the printer Guru and our possible saviour was cursing the problem and also was wanting to go home ASAP. Somewhat later and after much abuse the printer started to function normally. It was now necessary to print 30 copies, place them in addressed envelopes and post them. Because of the urgency and the time factor, an important item (proof reading), was overlooked and out it went. **YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THE RESULT**

### Zulu War Myths

**I** am sure many readers will have seen the film Zulu, starring Michael Caine and Stanley Baker.

As with all films. Some literary license was applied!

Perhaps the best example was the treatment of Commissary Dalton.

In the film, he is portrayed as a somewhat ineffectual bureaucrat more used to filling in forms, and saving ink.

In reality Dalton had been a regular British Army NCO in the 90th Regiment of Foot, and after 20 years service, had retired as a Sergeant and then to a farm in South Africa.

Fortunately, ex Sergeant Dalton had done an army course on field fortification.

It was actually he (and not Lieutenant Chard) who suggested fortifying the Rourke's Drift mission station.

Colour Sergeant Bourne is portrayed in the film as a grizzled long serving NCO with impressive facial hair.

In reality Colour Sergeant Bourne was 24 years old, and being literate was chosen to assist with company records, and as such was promoted to Colour Sergeant.

Colour Sergeant Bourne was the last living survivor of the stand at Rourke's Drift, dying in 1945 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Private Henry Hook is portrayed throughout the film as a malingerer trying to cadge a drink of hard spirits.

In reality, Private Hook was assigned to the hospital as a the cook, and he was teetotal.

*With thanks to Ian Randles*

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### A TRULY DESCRIPTIVE DICTIONARY

**BERNADETTE**

The act of torching a mortgage.

**BURGLARIZE**

What a crook sees through.

**AVOIDABLE**

What a bullfighter tries to do.

**EYEDROPPER**

Clumsy ophthalmologist.

**CONTROL**

A short, ugly inmate.

**COUNTERFEITER**

A worker who puts together kitchen cabinets.

**ECLIPSE**

What an English barber does for a living.

**LEFT BANK**

What the bank robbers did when their bag was full of money.

**HEROES**

What a man in a boat does.

**PARASITES**

What you see from the Eiffel Tower.

**PARADOX**

Two physicians

**PHARMACIST**

A helper on a farm.

**POLARIZE**

What penguins see through.

**RELIEF**

What trees do in the spring.

**RUBBERNECK**

What you do to relax your wife.

**SELFISH**

What the owner of a seafood store does.

**SUDAFED**

Brought litigation against a government official.

## HAILS AND FAREWELLS

The posting cycle for senior appointments within 3 Battery 9 Regiment RAA occurred in December 2021.

Those farewelled included the Battery Commander, Major Duncan Anderson 13th Brigade and Instructor Gunnery Captain Nicholas Mann who is posted to Townsville. Replacing Major Anderson as Battery Commander is Major Neil Bailey who has transferred from Pilbara Regiment and replacing Captain Mann as Instructor Gunnery is Captain Marcell Blackie who has transferred from Headquarters Combined Arms Training Centre Puckapunyal.

### **Major Neil Bailey**



I commenced my career at Royal Military College, Duntroon and was allocated into Royal Australian Artillery upon graduation. I was posted to 16 Air Defence Regiment, Woodside Barracks and remained posted there for the duration of my full time service. In 2006 I deployed to Darwin on Operation Resolute as the Platoon Commander and in 2007 I deployed to Iraq as the Assistant Operations Officer in the Australian Army Training Team Iraq. In 2008 I transferred to the Army Reserve and moved back to Perth. I was posted to Western Australia University Regiment until 2013. While there I filled a variety of roles including Adjutant, Instructor in Beersheba Company and Second in Command of Training Company, with the majority of time focussing on Officer Cadet Training.

In 2014 I was posted to the Western Australian Army Cadets Brigade as the Operations Officer. After Army Cadets I posted back into Western Australia University Regiment from 2017 to 2019. Again completing a number of roles involving training Officer Cadets. In 2020 I posted to The Pilbara Regiment as the 2nd in Command of 2 Squadron where I completed two rotations of Operation Resolute during my tenure. At the start of 2022 I was promoted to Major and took up the position of Battery Commander 3 Battery 9 Regiment RAA

### **Captain Marcell Pieter Blackie,**



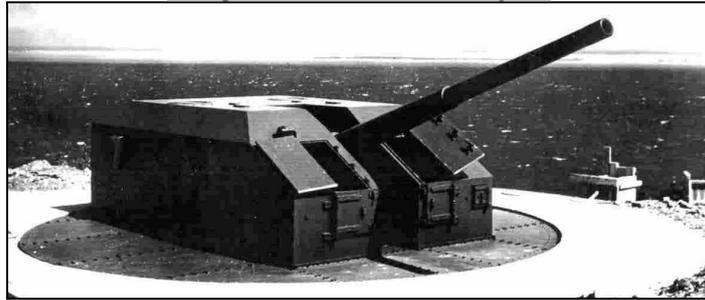
Born in South Africa in 1997, moved to Perth, Western Australia with his family in late 2007 where he spent most of his childhood. After completing school, Marcell commenced his military career being accepted into The Royal Military College Duntroon (RMC-D).

After completing his 18 months at RMC-D Marcell was allocated to The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and was posted to 16th Regiment RAA, formerly known as 16th Air Land Regiment, located in Woodside, South Australia.

Marcell spent 4 years at 16th Regiment as a Troop Commander within the 1st Air Ground Operations Battery and the 11th Battery.

During this time Marcell was fortunate enough to take part in Operation Bushfire Assist 19 as well as Operation Covid-19 Assist. In 2021 Marcell spend 12 months at HQ Combined Arms Training Centre as the SO3 RAA Employment Category Manager before being posted to 9 Regiment in 2022 where he currently serves as the Instructor Gunnery for 3 Battery.

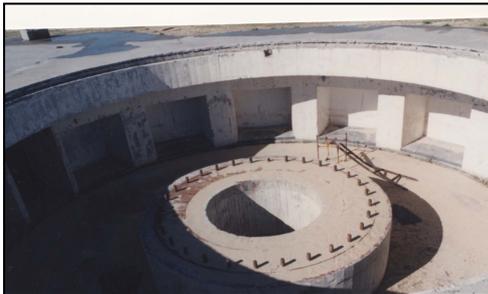
### Progress with 5.25" Project



This is one of the 3 Guns emplaced at Leighton in late 1945 as a Training Battery for Regular Army Gunners and later, Citizen Military Force National Servicemen from 1948 until 1963. It was the only operative Battery of this type in Australia.

In 1963 the Battery was dis-established and the 3 guns complete with all equipment was sold for scrap. What remained were the concrete emplacements that were earth filled for safety reasons.

Later, in 1988, the Defence Land was sold to a Developer who proposed to the State Government that the Gun emplacements, together with the extensive underground tunnel system that had supported the original 6 inch CA Guns, should be retained and restored as a Militaria Museum. The Government agreed and the RAA Historical Society was granted Permissive Occupancy of the Site to work in conjunction with the Developer to restore the built facilities as a tourist destination.



One emplacement was excavated and later fenced for safety reasons. The Society planned to roof the Gun Pit and build a Turret with Barrel to replicate the original equipment. Fortunately, in 2020, the Town of Mosman Park received a Lotterywest Grant to roof the emplacement to preserve the concrete structure that had been exposed to the elements since 1963. This enabled the Society to commission a Heritage Engineer to design the replica and a contract was let to Sheetmetal Fabricators (Spearwood) to fabricate the Turret and Barrel.

After a frustrating delay caused by the shortage of 5mm steel plate, work has started to plate up the frame. The turret is being fabricated in three parts and the photo shows the left half, with a similar structure on the right, while the barrel and mantle is the third. At this stage it looks like installation will be in July, but it could be further delayed.



*(With thanks to Graham McKenzie-Smith)*