



80

D-DAY

6 JUNE 2024

The invasion of France on 6th June 1944 – Code-Named “OPERATION OVERLORD” - occurred 80 years ago. It was the largest Amphibious Invasion in the history of warfare and comprised armies from Britain, United States, Canada and other Allied Nations.

The landings were preceded by an airborne assault launched from England at midnight 5th June 1944. 7,000 British and 13,400 United States Paratroopers were transported to their inland drop zones by more than 1200 aircraft – mainly Lockheed C47s (DC3s). 1,500 paratroopers were killed in action on the first day.

The landings were made at 5 Beaches – Sword, Gold and Juno involving British and Canadian troops and Omaha and Utah involving United States troops. Some 2,300 British/Canadian troops and in excess of 4,000 US troops were killed in action on Day 1. It is estimated 6,000 German troops were killed on Day 1.

It was not until 8th May 1945 that Allied Forces joined Russian forces in Berlin bringing Victory in Europe almost 12 months after D – DAY.



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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 September 2024 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 2024

Last Saturday of each month

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

Sunday 10am-3pm

Adults \$10.00 Children \$4.00



RAAA- President's Report June 2024



Dear Members,

It is an honour to be asked to become President of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of Western Australia. This is something I never envisaged when I marched into 7 Field Battery as a new Lieutenant in 1991.

We have seen the Artillery landscape in the Australian Army change significantly over that time, but particularly the last 15 years. For a long time, Artillery was the poor and neglected Combat Arm of our Army, often having to justify its role in so called 'low level conflict' environment and in counter-insurgency. There was pressure to re-role the corps into tasks such as Civil and Military Cooperation and underpinned by a lack of investment into Artillery systems, with the prevailing thought of the day by senior officers of other Corps that the era of Artillery was largely consigned to conflict of the past. Funding was directed to other capital acquisitions.

With technology now influencing the current peer on peer conflict in the Ukraine / Russia war at a level greater than ever before, we are now seeing Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Counter-UAS, Rocket Artillery and Ballistic Missile Interceptor Systems dominating the battlespace. Much of these weapon systems rest within the domain of the Artillery Corps and within the Australian Army, the RAA has and soon will be the recipient of significant investment in these weapon systems. The formation of 10 Fires Brigade will, in addition to conventional artillery systems, acquire long-range strike capabilities, including the accelerated and expanded High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) and integrated Air and Missile Defence capabilities with the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System (NASAMS). Precision fires and the ability to counter adversary precision fires through detection and interception, combined with UAS and counter-UAS now sees the RAA being critical to winning the land battle.

The friendly banter about the RAA no longer being relevant has long past as our team mates in other Corps realise these system as crucial to battlefield survivability.

Ubique

Andrew Dunjey



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESIDENT'S REPORT HEADING INTO WINTER 2024



Dear Members,

This is my first report to you as President and I wish you to know that it is an honour and privilege to accept the appointment at a time when the Society is engaged in perhaps its largest financial commitment made at Leighton Battery Heritage Site since the Official Opening in November 1997.

You may be aware that we have received in excess of \$200,000.00 from Federal and State Governments to undertake the transformation of the 5.25" Gun Emplacement from what was, until recently, a hole in the ground, to a world class Tourist Destination. Coordination of this project is in the capable hands of Vice President Graham McKenzie-Smith.

Watch this space!

I am more than conscious of the commitment and success of my predecessors in achieving the high regard in which the Society is held by its Members and all with whom it comes in contact. I aim to continue this commitment.

Strength of Membership in the Society is of utmost importance if we are to continue to provide the high standards we have achieved in the past. I am pleased to welcome Steve Butcher, Lorna Piggott, Rob Leiper and Carolyn Burgess, all of whom have joined the Guide and Cashier Group of Volunteers at Leighton Battery.

A recent highlight of distinction was the award of "ANZAC of the Year – WA" to our Member and Past President Robert Mitchell, for his contribution to the State Branch RSL, Army Museum of WA, National Trust, Rottnest Island Voluntary Guides and, not the least, to our Society. Well done Robert!

On a sad note, I need to mention the recent passing of long serving Member Philip Pognault in April.

I look forward to remaining in contact with you throughout the term of my appointment.

Jim Archibald.



ANZAC OF THE YEAR AWARD 2024



It is with great pleasure that I advise members that Highgate member Colonel Robert Mitchell, is one of two recipients of the RSL ANZAC of the Year Award 2024. He is the only WA recipient.

The announcement from RSL National:

“The nominations for the ANZAC Awards are assessed and selected by the National RSL ANZAC Awards Committee whose members include:

- Chairman - Greg Melick, RSL National President;
- Paul Singer, Official Secretary to the Governor-General of Australia;
- David Belgrove, Assistant Secretary Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet;
- former Senator Margaret Reid;

Phil Winter, RSL Australia CEO.

The ANZAC of the Year Awards are presented ‘to recognise the efforts and achievements of up to seven Australians who have given service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.’

The 2024 recipients are:

- Mr Ian Smith of South Australia, in recognition of decades of tireless, dedicated, and passionate service to the veteran community of South Australia and his contribution to the State Veterans’ Advisory Council, the ANZAC Day Committee, the Aboriginal Veterans of South Australia Committee, and the Consortium of South Australian Ex-Service Organisations.
- Mr Robert Mitchell CD of Western Australia, in recognition of his 30 years of dedicated, committed, and selfless service to the RSL and wider Veteran community and as a respected contributor and advisor to many communities/groups including the Australian Army Museum, the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society, the National Trust, the Royal United Services Institute, Scouts Australia, and the Rottnest Island Cultural Advisory Committee.

“On behalf of the RSL National Board and Members of the RSL I would like to congratulate the two individuals who have been selected for ANZAC of the Year Awards,” Greg Melick said. *“They are exemplars of community service and an inspiration to all Australians.”*

“This year’s Award recipients exemplify the Spirit of ANZAC in the community through their dedication and commitment to the benefit of others.”

Congratulations Robert.

Greg Wilson
Secretary
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch



Shirley Furlong (Budarick)



Shirley met a number of your guys at Buckland Hill in Sept 2022 and still talks warmly about the reception she received. She is now in a care facility but is still alert and doing crosswords. Attached is an article recently published on first and fifth page of the "Border Mail" (NSW Albury) celebrating her 100th birthday that briefly references Buckland Hill.

From looking at her records she was posted to the 29 AA battery and the 802 AA battery in WA (but returned to Victoria prior to the 802,s new artillery being in active service).

Regards

Bill Edward (son in law to Shirley)



Courtesy of Border Mail 21 March 2024



GNR Shirley Budarick AWAS 1943



Shirley Furlong revisits the Leighton Tunnels September 2022 with Volunteers Peter Kerr, Robert Mitchell & Graham McKenzie-Smith

Continued from Page 6



Courtesy of The Border Mail 21 March 2024

Thursday March 21, 2024 THE BORDER MAIL 5

NEWS



Shirley Furlong celebrated her 100th birthday with Mercy Place Albury residents and her extended family yesterday. Picture by Mark Jesser

CELEBRATION Birthday girl credits long life with working hard and eating well

Centenarian Shirley Furlong is winning life by a country mile

Jodie Bruton

SHIRLEY Furlong began her working life at the tender age of 13 in the grips of the Great Depression.

Children could skip high school altogether with a good reason. Mrs Furlong began cleaning houses for the wealthy in Adelaide before getting a job in a market garden.

She ate beans fresh from the vines and plump peas out of their pods and relished the seasonal fruit that thrived in the aptly named north-eastern suburb of Paradise.

"We knew every loquat tree in the garden and when the fruit was ripe," she recalled.

"We had to work but we had fun doing it!"

Born at Paradise on March

20, 1924, Shirley Budarick was one of seven siblings.

They grew up near the River Torrens and spent their childhoods exploring their backyard and picking wild blackberries on the banks.

On their one-mile (1.6-kilometre) walk to and from school, they'd pass horses and drays laden with South Australian grapes.

"The boys would always yell out: 'Give us a bunch of grapes, Mister'," Mrs Furlong recalled. They often did.

Years later after two of Mrs Furlong's brothers enlisted in the World War II effort, she followed suit.

At 19, Mrs Furlong stopped working in the market garden to join the Australian Women's Army Service in June 1943. She trained as a gun-

ner and was sent to Perth, where she was stationed at Buckland Hill as a spotter for enemy submarines, ships and aircraft.

Mrs Furlong said New Year's Day 1945 was forever etched in her memory.

"On this day I came outside at the entrance to Fremantle Harbour and there were American boats, English boats and Australian boats ready for the push into the South Pacific," she said.

"There was a massive fleet of submarines, battleships, warships, mine sweepers and aircraft carriers. I've never seen anything like it; it was the beginning of the end of the war!"

Soon after, Mrs Furlong left Western Australia for Bandiana, where she served

out the remainder of the war.

While waiting to discharge in Melbourne, Mrs Furlong met her future husband John Kevin Furlong, a signalman.

Their first date was to the Royal Melbourne Show in September 1946.

The couple married in East Brighton on July 24, 1947, and were blessed with two daughters and six sons.

"My sister always said I'd have a mile of children; and it takes eight furlongs to make a mile," Mrs Furlong said. "It turned out she was right!"

The couple raised their family at Fawkner, Melbourne, before moving to Howlong during the mid-1980s.

They enjoyed regular bush walks in the Chiltern State Park until they were aged

in their late 80s. Mr Furlong died in 2021 just shy of the couple's 74th wedding anniversary.

Having only moved from her own home to Mercy Place Albury a year ago, Mrs Furlong celebrated her 100th birthday with residents and her extended family yesterday.

She credited her long life to being positive, working hard and eating plenty of fruit and vegetables; a habit developed all of those years ago in the market garden.

Mrs Furlong has 47 direct descendants with two more expected mid-year.

Her eight children and many of their offspring will celebrate their matriarch's birthday at Mercy Place Albury on Saturday.

Entrance of the Gladiators

By Julius Fucik



Julius Ernst Wilhelm Fučík (18 July 1872 – 15 September 1916) was a Czech composer and conductor of Military Bands. Fučík spent most of his life as the leader of Military Brass Bands. He was a prolific composer, with over 300 marches, polkas and waltzes to his name. As most of his work was for military bands he is sometimes known as the Bohemian Sousa. Today his marches are still played as patriotic music in the Czech Republic. However his world wide reputation rests on one work, his Opus 68 march the Entrance of the Gladiators (Vjezd gladiátorů), sometimes called the “Entry of the Gladiators” or “March of the Gladiators”. It became a theme tune for the German commando units during the Second World War but is today is ubiquitously played as the theme tune for the clowns entrance in a Circus.

Here is a short example of the lyrics. The whole composition sounds a bit like an opera and not very modern Circus at all. Maybe more like the marching tune which it was intended to be.

Look, here come the gladiators
 Ready to fight and chosen
 To risk their lives
 And to entertain the people
 Their muscles glisten with oil
 Lord have mercy on their souls
 When they go before the crowds today

If your interest has been enlivened, access YouTube on your computer or device and search for “Entrance of the Gladiators”.

BIOGRAPHY – JAMES G ARCHIBALD



Jim, as he prefers to be known, joined the Society on 22nd October 2017, prior to which he conducted his Electrical Contracting Company between 1975 and 2013. Much earlier, in 1989, Jim assisted the Developer of the Leighton Battery Heritage Site, Charles Clifford and Associates, with the electrical reticulation of the WW II Tunnels Complex.

Since joining the Society, Jim has undertaken major changes to the power and lighting system within the complex to keep pace with the demands of the sophisticated Display Interpretations progressively installed in recent years. He was instrumental in the planning and installation of the “Sound and Light Self-Guided Tour” concept for the Tunnels Complex. More recently, Jim has planned and installed the complex Lighting and Ventilation systems for the major project currently being undertaken in the 5.25” Gun Floor.

Jim has served as a Committee Person for the past six years and was elected unopposed as President of the Society at the 2023 Annual general Meeting held 9th March 2024.

Jim enlisted in 3 Field Regiment RAA in 1967 and was posted to 8 Battery. He served until resigning in 1973 due to business commitments. He rejoined 7 Battery in 1978 and was promoted to Warrant Officer Class II posted as Battery Sergeant Major. Business commitments again forced his retirement in 1990. For 18 years Jim was a served in the State Emergency Service as a Unit Manager and Trainer of volunteers at a Regional and State level.

Jim married Wendy on 17th April 1976 and was blessed with two sons. Sadly, Wendy succumbed to MND on 23rd February 2023.

THE SUNBURY GUN

Sunbury, Victoria



One of “roving reporters”, Richard Ball, normally a mild mannered Mine Engineer and sometime raconteur provided the catalyst to this story with his visit to Sunbury this year.



The Sunbury Gun rests in a fully enclosed glass building at the Sunbury Public Park Reserve. In addition to the Gun there is a Vietnam memorial and the Sunbury Memorial Hall. The Park is located at the corner of Macedon Street and Barkly Street, Sunbury.



The 12 pounder guns were acquired with the formation of the Victorian Nordenfiedt Battery of Horse Artillery in 1884 by Sir William John Clarke, at his own expense. These Guns were the first to be cast in wrought iron, breech loading and rifled. In 1889 the Battery was renamed the Victorian Horse Artillery, with one half the battery located at Werribee Park and the other at Rupertswood. The Werribee detachment was disbanded in 1893, however, the Rupertswood Battery was shipped to England to complete in the Royal Military Tournaments at Islington and Dublin.



In 1897, the Victorian Government presented Lady Clark, the widow of Sir William Clarke, with two of the 12 pounder 3 inch Guns. The Guns were placed at the entrance of Lady Clarkes Melbourne residence, Cliveden. In 1922, the Honourable Russel Clarke presented the Gun to the people of Sunbury. It was restored by the 3 Base Workshop Battalion, RAEME in 1979.

WEAPON DETAILS

Type: Armstrong 12 PDR, Sliding Block, Screw breech, rifled bore

Serial Number: 369 (Ordnance) 409 (Carriage)

Calibre: 3 inch (76.2mm)

Manufacture: Royal Gun Factory 1864 (Pattern 1859)

Markings: Crest of Queen Victoria

Rifling: 38 Lands

Weight: 8cwt 2qtrs (Ordnance) & 12cwt (Carriage)

Muzzle Velocity: 1,239 fps (378 m/s)

Effective Range: 3,400 yds (3,100 m)



Ref:

tomelbourne.com.au

AWM.gov.au



On Friday 31st May 2024 the USAR-TF (Urban Search And Rescue - Task Force) held a training drill at Leighton Battery.

USAR-TF is an arm of DFES responsible for rescue from incidents where standard DFES attendance is insufficient. The team comprises of mostly Firefighters and also some Special Operations Paramedics from St John's Ambulance.

They used the Leighton Battery facility because it has both vertical and horizontal, confined space rescue opportunities, and is away from their regular and therefore familiar training space. Also, as it is not a working industrial site, the training does not affect business or production.

There are three rostered USAR-TF teams available 24/7. Cockburn DFES HQ coordinates the response and calls together the on-call team which can assemble rapidly from across the Metropolitan Fire Stations and the main equipment holdings at the Forrestfield training centre.

There were two more training sessions on the following Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.



The team arrives to the incident scene



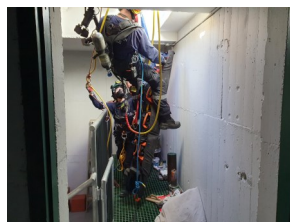
Assessing the site



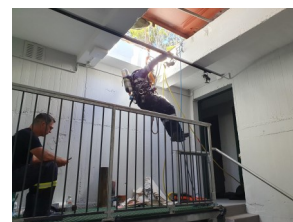
The rescue tripod is assembled



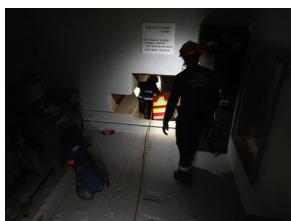
Preparing to descend into the 5.25m Engine Bay



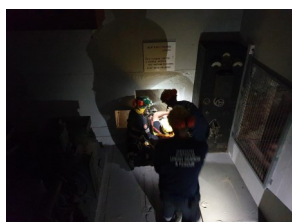
Lowering down



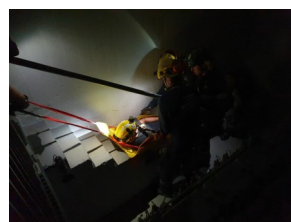
The team assemble on the catwalk.



Entering a confined space



The casualty is located!



The casualty is evacuated up the stairs



The exercise is complete.



BEREAVEMENTS

It is with much sadness that we advise the passing of yet another of our long serving Members:

PHILIP WILLIAM POUGNAULT

9TH July 1948 – 19th April 2024

Philip joined the Society in 1990, no doubt influenced to do so by his father- in- law, our late esteemed Member Kevin Hamilton.

At the time Philip joined, the Society was heavily involved in the restoration of Leighton Battery Heritage Site at Mosman Park. Philip had a trades background and had served for 10 years in the Army Reserve with the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, bringing with him valuable skills and he was held in high regard by his peer group.

Philip also became an active member of a select group of specialists that met regularly at the Society Workshop restoring Memorial Field Guns that had fallen into disrepair.

We were all saddened when he succumbed to the illness that prevented him continuing his remarkable 28- year contribution to the success of the Society. His selfless contribution was recognized when he was presented with the Society's prestigious Acrylic Award for his exceptional service.

Philip may no longer be with us but he will always be remembered.

UBIQUE



Longest Day

Do not call me hero
When you see the medals that I wear
Medals maketh not the hero
They just prove that I was there

Do not call me hero
Now that I am old and grey
I left a lad returned a man
They stole my youth that day

Do not call me hero
When we ran the wall of hail
The blood, the fears, the cries, the tears
We left them where they fell

Do not call me hero
Each night I stop and pray
For all the friends I knew and lost
I survived my longest day

Do not call me hero
In the years that pass
For all the real true heroes
Have crosses, lined upon the grass

Written by Rob Aitchison

UBIQUE