



## Order of the Day

### Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Anniversary Greetings 2024

This year marks the 153rd Anniversary of the formation of a permanent component of the Australian Artillery when the New South Wales Artillery was formed. A part of this Regiment was later designated A Battery and continues in service on the RAA Order of Battle to this day. This is also the date that, by convention, we celebrate not only the beginning of the Australian Gunner journey, but also its continued service as the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery to the Army, our Nation and the Commonwealth.

On behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major General CD Furini AM CSC, and our Colonels Commandant, I sincerely thank all ranks of the Royal Regiment, both serving and retired, for their outstanding service. Let us also remember at this time the members of the Regiment who have passed away during the last year and please join me in appreciating and honouring their service. They will be sadly missed.

Finally, our thoughts are with those members of the Regiment who still remain deployed on operations around the world. We wish them all good shooting and a safe return to their families.

Ubique,

DJ Hill, AM  
Brigadier  
Head of Regiment

1 August 2024

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(Curator)**ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTILLERY WA**

Items for inclusion, and which are regularly needed, should be submitted for the next issue by 10 December 2024 to the Editor Pat Bell at [pbell35@hotmail.com](mailto:pbell35@hotmail.com)

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**RAAHSWA MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Annual Membership Fees become due and payable on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 881 Claremont 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)

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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.

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**RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2024**

**Last Saturday of each month**

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**LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS**

**Sunday 10am-3pm**

**Adults \$10.00 Children \$4.00**

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## RAAA- President's Report September 2024



In the June edition of ArtilleryWA I spoke to the significant transformation of Artillery currently underway in the Australian Army. This transformation continues and will see additional capability delivered to the RAA in 2025 and I will be sure to talk to this.

More recently, 13 Brigade concluded its part in Exercise Austral Shield 24 held in the vicinity of RAAF Base Curtin and Derby in the Kimberley region of WA. This was a major undertaking for 13 Brigade and saw the movement of over 80 vehicles of varying classes into the Exercise AO, with the remainder of the contingent flying by service air.

3 Battery personnel were well represented in the exercise and the RAA continues to make its vital presence felt. The Brigade received some considerable positive press coverage of Exercise Austral Shield.

It was pleasing to see the RAA showing their UAS capability at the recent Defence Force Open Day held at Irwin Barracks, with an estimated 3,000 people attending. The cutting edge technology on display was impressive to the public and I'm sure the Ukraine / Russia conflict came to mind as they were looking at the hardware.

There are many activities later in the year to look forward to, and one of these will see a small party from 3 Battery travelling to India in November as part of Exercise Austrahind. There they will share in the exchange of ideas with their opposite numbers of the Indian Army, and exercise a degree of interoperability.

Finally, please do plan to attend Gunner's Day in November and the Battery Dinner on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December where we will celebrate the Feast of Saint Barbara.

Ubique

Andrew Dunjey



**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PRESIDENT'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024**



Dear Members,

Since my inaugural Report in June 2024, I am pleased to advise you that the contract for the implementation of the extensive interpretation project for the 5.25" Gun Emplacement at Leighton Battery Heritage Site has been awarded and it is anticipated all artwork will be completed by end October 2024. Final fitting out will commence shortly after and completion of the project is planned for end November 2024. It is intended to include the 5.25" Complex when completed as a further tour destination.

Under the guidance of the Major Projects Coordinator, Graham McKenzie-Smith, a team of dedicated volunteers has worked in conjunction with contractors to achieve the smooth transition from the commencement of the programme over the past 12 months. I wish to thank those involved for their exceptional assistance.

Public interest in our Tunnel Tours is being maintained at a very satisfactory level and I am indebted to the loyal Team of Guides and Cashiers who selflessly man the facility every Sunday and professionally assist visitors throughout their visit.

It is hard to believe that the Society has completed 20 years leasing Leighton Battery from the Town of Mosman Park — negotiations are in place for the lease extension. Should a further 20 year term be negotiated, I am certain I will not be the Society President when it concludes!

We are an ageing population and the strength of the Society lies in the support of its members. I am concerned that we will be facing real problems if we are unable to attract a younger cohort of persons willing to join and to assume a meaningful role in the management and future of the organisation. Your assistance as "recruiting officers" will be appreciated.

On a sad note, I attended the funeral service of long serving member Ken Thurston on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Ken was an active Guide at the Tunnels until his failing health prevented him attending. His eulogy appears elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The Society has now lost five of its long serving members in this year to date!

By the time the next edition is published we will have farewelled the Battery Commander 3 Battery 9 Regiment RAA, Major Daniel Evangelisti, and his two Regular Army Staff, Captain Marcell Blackie and Warrant Officer II Daniel Stasev. 3 Battery is the Sponsor Unit for the Society without whose support we could not have successfully negotiated our Lease with Department of Defence that enables the use of Building A0050 we have occupied since 1994.

I wish the three gentlemen the best in their new appointments.

With my kind regards,

Jim Archibald



## **2/3 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment at Sydney ?**

Graham McKenzie-Smith



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART 23671

The AWM art collection has a 1943 painting by Richard Ashton titled '2/3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Sydney' which depicts a Bofors light anti-aircraft gun at Middle Head overlooking Sydney Harbour.

The description reads : 'A gun of the 2/3rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment in position on the shores of Sydney Harbour. Richard Ashton, an artist with the Military History Section, painted a number of works related to Australia's defences during the Second World War. This work depicts anti aircraft guns in place at Middle Head overlooking Sydney Harbour. The presence of anti aircraft guns, fortifications, and camouflage changed the landscape of Sydney Harbour and brought the reality of war closer to home.'

Members of the 2/3 LAA Regt Assoc Inc have always wondered about this painting as none of them recall manning a Bofors at this location. A search of the unit war diaries reveals that 2/3 LAA Regt (2/7 LAA Bty, 2/8 LAA Bty and 2/9 LAA Bty) were the first Australian anti-aircraft unit to arrive in the Middle East in December 1940 and the batteries served at Tobruk and in Greece, Crete, Egypt and Syria. After Japan entered the war they returned to Australia, reaching Adelaide in March 1942.

2/9 LAA Bty was immediately dispatched to Townsville and never rejoined the regiment, later serving at Milne Bay and Lae before a period at Strathpine and then Labuan. 2/3 LAA Regt was sent to WA where 2/7 LAA Bty and 2/8 LAA Bty manned the guns defending the airfields at Perth, Geraldton and Exmouth. 2/7 LAA Bty later served at Oro Bay and Buna in New Guinea before seeing out the war in South Queensland. 2/8 LAA Bty also served in New Guinea before disbanding in Queensland in September 1944. HQ 2/3 LAA Regt remained in WA to become HQ 121 LAA Regt before moving to Cairns as HQ Cairns AA Gp. Except on leave no gunners from 2/3 LAA Regt spent any time at Sydney, so what unit was manning this gun overlooking the harbour ?

Continued on Page 6



The AA defence of Sydney was the responsibility of *HQ Sydney AA Gp* and an examination of their War Diary provides an answer. After the battle of El Alamein the units of *9 Inf Div* returned to Australia in the 'Pamphlet' Convoy. On 27 February the large liners *Queen Mary*, *Aquitania* and *Ile de France* (Code named L1, L2 and L3) reached Sydney Harbour and extra precautions were taken to strengthen the AA defences. At this stage the heavy AA gun stations around the harbour were undermanned, so Sydney AA Gp Operation Order No 1 sent the gunners from *103 HAA Regt* to reinforce them. *153 LAA Bty* were also to deploy their 12 Bofors to sites on the south side of the harbour, while *2/3 LAA Bty* were to send their 12 Bofors to sites on the north side. *7 HAA Bty* and *148 LAA Bty* were to send men to man AA guns on ships L1, L2 and L3.

*2/3 LAA Bty* had been raised in NSW as part of *2/1 LAA Regt* and served in the Middle East before they also returned to Adelaide in March 1942. They were immediately sent to Port Moresby but returned to Sydney for leave in November 1942. After leave they trained at Canterbury and Gateshead in mobile operations before joining *111 LAA Regt* at Canterbury in February 1943.

With these high value targets in the harbour *2/3 LAA Bty* moved on 27 February 1943 to positions along the northern shores of Sydney Harbour between Kirribilli and Middle Head, with BtyHQ at Kirribilli House. *C Tp* established their three guns at Middle Head, *A Tp* at Georges Heights, *B Tp* at Bradley's Head and *D Tp* at Kirribilli. *153 LAA Bty* placed their guns at Neilsen Park, Rose Bay, Garden Island and Botanic Gardens.

After unloading their troops the three liners had departed Sydney by 20 March. *2/3 LAA Bty* returned to Canterbury on 29 March 1943 and ceased to be attached to *111 LAA Regt*. They continued to train at Canterbury until 30 June when they left for Queensland and later New Guinea.

Ashton's painting depicts a gun manned by *C Tp* of *2/3 LAA Bty* and is likely to be the one manned by 2 *Sub Sec* near the 19<sup>th</sup> century fortification at old Inner Middle Head Battery. The Australian War memorial has been notified of the correct unit designation. As at 1 Sep 2024 AWM had not changed the description online.



Photo Caption : HMT Queen Mary entering Sydney Harbour 27 Feb 43, AWM 029495

1. Graham McKenzie-Smith AM FMHSA is a Perth based military historian researching the Australian Army in WW1 and WW2

2. [www.awm.gov.au/collection/C174629](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C174629)

3. *2/3 LAA Regt* (AWM52 4/11/2), *2/7 LAA Bty* (AWM52 4/12/4), *2/8 LAA Bty* (AWM52 4/12/5), *2/9 LAA Bty* (AWM52 4/12/6)

4. AWM52 4/14/6

5. Sydney AA Gp Op Order No 1, 25 Feb 43 AWM52 4/14/6/4 pages 121 & 122

6. *2/3 LAA Bty* Op Order No 1, 26 Feb 43, AWM52 4/12/3/3 pages 29 and 30



## GUNNER'S DAY



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 2024.

10:00am: RV at War Memorial (free parking at railway car park)

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

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

10:25am: Wreath Laying Ceremony

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

11:30am: Light Luncheon in the Church Hall

12.00pm: Camaraderie at the Rose & Crown Hotel Guildford

Parade led by Australian Army Band Perth, Gunners past and present, serving Officers and Soldiers of 3 BTY 9 REGT RAA and Cadets from 56, 500 and Guildford Grammar Cadet Units.

Service will be conducted by Reverend Katrina Holgate.

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

Enquiries to John Blylevens Hon Secretary Royal Australian Artillery Association Western Australia (Inc): [info@artillerywa.org.au](mailto:info@artillerywa.org.au) 0438 695 711

GUNNER'S DAY has been conducted every year since 1928 in memory of those who fought and fell during WW1 (and subsequent conflicts). It is a special day for remembrance and a great opportunity to catch up with gunner colleagues.







## SHIRLEY FURLONG



Courtesy Border Mail  
March 21, 2024

Readers will recall the article concerning Shirley Furlong (GNR Shirley Budarick) that appeared in the last edition of the Newsletter. We were pleasantly surprised when contacted by Shirley's Son-in-Law that her Granddaughter, Stacey Brown was visiting Perth late August and wished to visit Leighton Battery Heritage Site where Shirley had served during WWII.

On Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024, Stacey and her husband Tom with children George and Matilda visited Leighton Battery and met Guide Graham McKenzie-Smith, who was one of our three volunteers who had met Shirley two years earlier.

Stacey later wrote: "It was a great pleasure to visit Buckland Hill where my Nana, Shirley Furlong (nee Budarick), served in WW2 in anti-air Artillery as part of the defence of the Port of Fremantle. Nana has always been such an important role model to me, and I know that she was absolutely delighted to be able to visit two years ago, just as I was to visit myself recently.



Shirley Furlong visit  
September 2022

The Underground Tour is definitely worth a visit. I really enjoyed seeing all the historical displays, which really highlight the living conditions and experiences of our former serving men and women. It was especially interesting to learn about those that also served in Artillery, as I have the past decade. We will definitely come and visit again the next time we come to visit Perth from the East Coast."

Warm regards, Stacey Brown (nee Furlong)



George September 2024

Stacey is a member of the Australian Regular Army and is currently a Captain in the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. After graduating from the Royal Military College Duntroon, Stacey was allotted to RAA and posted to 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment in Townsville. Progressing through numerous Regimental Appointments that included considerable live firing at High Range and Shoalwater Bay, Stacey was posted to Afghanistan as Force Protection Officer in a US HQ.

Then followed appointments as Instructor Gunnery at the School of Artillery and currently HQ 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division. Stacey is posted to the 1 Recruit Training Centre, Kapooka in 2025 as Company Commander.

We wish Stacey well in her future career



Stacey, George & Matilda  
September 2024





## The Seymour War Memorial Guns



The Seymour War Memorial is located along the ANZAC Avenue/Goulburn Valley Highway in Seymour Victoria. The Memorial is some distance (1.5km) from the newer Vietnam Memorial, with the area being commercial on one side of the road and the other being a residential area. Both artillery pieces were captured from the Turkish and German Army during the First World War. Turkey had been supplied with weapons by Germany from the start of the 1900s in an effort to control their Colonies. This supply continued into WW1. At the cessation of the War, Turkey was permitted to retain 256 artillery pieces with the remainder being handed over to the Allied Forces.

The wheels on both guns have been replaced with steels replicas. The original wheels would have been wooden spoked and rimmed with a steel outer rim. The gun painted in blue camouflage is a German 77mm Rheinmetall Howitzer. The example below it is a similar gun that is on display at Murray Bridge in South Australia. Note that it has retained the wooden wheels and side panels for the gun crew riding on the gun. The second gun is also a German 77mm calibre Field Gun and is missing the side panels and footrests that would have been forward of the shield.







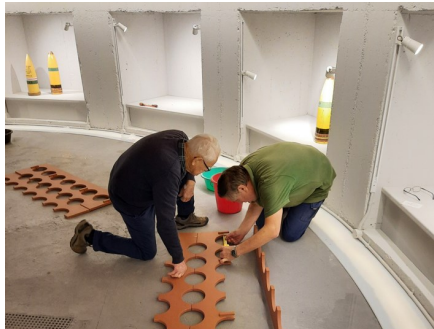
A CLEAR JULY DAY



## BUSY-BEE SATURDAYS AT THE TUNNELS JULY AND AUGUST



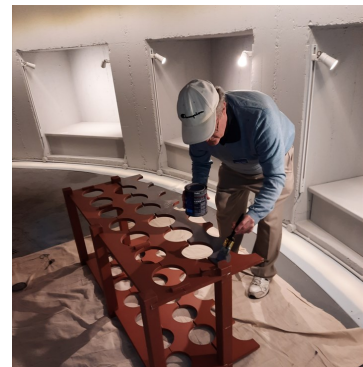
JIM INSTALLS LIGHTING ON  
A DISPLAY IN THE ENGINE  
ROOM



DON & CRAIG ASSEMBLE THE  
CARTRIDGE CASE RACK  
DISPLAY



....FITS PERFECTLY



CHARLES PAINTING THE  
RACK



JIM INSTALLING FOOT-  
LIGHTS TO THE 5.25"  
DISPLAY



DERRICK MAINTAINING  
THE INFORMATION  
SIGNS



GERAINT REBUILDING A  
RETAINING WALL



CHEF PHIL WORKING THE  
HOTPLATE



LUNCH—A TIME FOR REFRESHMENTS, MEAT AND  
CONVERSATION



## BEREAVEMENTS

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

5/705264 SGT Kenneth A W THURSTON 10.01.1935 – 13.09.2024

Ken joined the Society on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2002 after retiring from the University of Western Australia's Engineering Maintenance Division where he had served for 15 years.

Ken was conscripted under the National Service ACT 1951 and reported for full time military training with 17 NS Battalion Swanbourne on 27.04.1954. On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1954 he completed his basic training and was allocated to 125 Medium Coast / AA Battery at Buckland Hill Mosman Park.

Under the Act, Ken completed his training obligation on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1956 – however he volunteered to remain in the Unit for a further three years during the course of which he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Ken married Val and they had a daughter Jillian. Sadly, Val passed away several years ago succumbing to Melanoma.

Ken was proud of his Service and delighted to learn that the Society was heavily involved in the restoration of his former Unit. On joining the Society Ken brought with him great enthusiasm and he volunteered to assist in the restoration programme and then to become a Guide to cater for the increasing number of visitors to the site – a task he continued until failing health caused him to retire.

Ken is survived by his daughter Jillian.

Although Ken has passed away he will not be forgotten.

## UBIQUE



## **The Field Artillery Song (As the Caissons Go Rolling Along)**

Words and Music by Major Edmund Gruber

(Music is taken from the "Over There" US Military Anthem)

**Verse 1:** Over hill, over dale, As we hit the dusty trail  
And those Caissons go rolling along!  
In and out, hear them shout, Counter march and right about  
And those Caissons go rolling along!  
Then it's hi, hi, hee, In the field artillery  
Shout out your numbers loud and strong,  
Where'er you go, You will always know  
That those Caissons go rolling along!

**Verse 2:** In the storm, in the night, Action left or action right  
See those Caissons go rolling along!  
Limber front, limber rear, Prepare to mount your cannoneer  
And those Caissons go rolling along!  
Then it's hi, hi, hee, In the field artillery  
Shout out your numbers loud and strong,  
Where'er you go, You will always know  
That those Caissons go rolling along!

**Verse 3:** Was it high, was it low, Where the hell did that one go?  
As those Caissons go rolling along!  
Was it left, was it right, Now we won't get home tonight  
And those Caissons go rolling along!  
Then it's hi, hi, hee, In the field artillery  
Shout out your numbers loud and strong,  
Where'er you go, You will always know  
That those Caissons go rolling along!

**UBIQUE**