

Gunner of Renown



Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company

Major General DYKE, Lewis Glanville Howard DYKE, CBE, DSO

(1900-1984)

Lewis Dyke served as a gunner in the Militia before entering the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in March 1919. He graduated in December 1922 and was posted as a Staff Corps lieutenant at Fort Queenscliff, Victoria, in August 1923.

During overseas training with a Royal Artillery field battery in India in 1926-27 he saw service in China with the British 'Shanghai Defence Force'. This force was established in January 1927 amidst concerns that British lives and interests were at risk during unrest in China as a result of conflict between Nationalist and Communist forces. It is not known in what capacity Dyke was employed during his service in Shanghai.

He returned to Australia in 1928 to a succession of appointments with the responsibility for the training and administration of Militia artillery units in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. He was promoted captain in 1930 and major in 1938. Following the outbreak of WWII in 1939, Dyke was seconded to the 2nd AIF as a battery commander in 2/2nd Field Regiment. He arrived in the Middle East in May 1940 and was second-in-command of the regiment during the 6th Division's advance to Benghazi during January 1940-February 1941.

In April 1941, the 2/2nd took part in the Greek campaign and the subsequent withdrawal to Crete. There the regiment fought as infantry until, in the face of overwhelming odds, the survivors were evacuated to Egypt. Dyke was appointed acting commander of the 2/2nd until appointed Australian liaison officer at Creforce headquarters early in May. For his calmness under fire and 'profound sense of duty' during the trying days of a fighting withdrawal he was awarded the DSO and mentioned in dispatches.

Back in Egypt in June 1941 he was promoted temporary lieutenant colonel and CO of the Artillery Training Regiment in Palestine until he took command of the 2/3rd Field Regiment in October. The regiment returned to Australia in March 1942 and in June 1942 Dyke was promoted to temporary brigadier as CRA 2nd Division which soon moved from Sydney to defend Western Australia. In mid-1943, he made a short familiarisation tour of New Guinea.

In November 1943, Dyke was appointed CCRA II Corps. He arrived in New Guinea as the corps was pushing the Japanese from the Ramu Valley, clearing the Huon Peninsula and advancing to Madang. With the completion of this phase he returned to the Atherton Tablelands, Queensland, in May 1944. For his work in ensuring the best use of artillery support and his 'outstanding devotion to duty' he was made CBE in 1945. The months that followed involved resting, refitting and retraining of the artillery units of the corps (now designated I Australian Corps) before deployment to Morotai to provide fire support for the

landings and operations during the final campaigns at Tarakan, Labuan and Balikpapan, Borneo.

The capitulation of Japan saw Dyke take the surrender of Japanese forces in West Timor and surrounding areas. In April 1946, he was appointed Brigadier (later Director), Royal Australian Artillery at Army Headquarters, Melbourne. In 1949, he supported the change of the regimental motto from *Consensu Stabiles* (Strong in Agreement) which 'had no real significance for the RAA today' to *Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt* (Where Right and Glory Leads).

He was Australian Army Representative in Washington from 1950 to 1952, and Deputy Quartermaster General back at AHQ thereafter. Promoted major general, he commanded Western Command from September 1954 until retirement on 6 August 1957.

Survived by his son, Dyke died on 23 November 1984 at Royal North Shore Hospital and was cremated.

Source: J Whitelaw, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol.17, p. 349-350.
Army Lists – various.

For more information follow this link: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/dyke-lewis-glanville-howard-12450>