

AUSTRALIAN GUNNER OBITUARY RESOURCE

Brigadier John Hancock (Jack) Studdert AO OBE

By Colonel (Retd) Arthur Burke, OAM



Brigadier Studdert raised the modern 4th Field Regiment RAA at Wacol, Brisbane on 4 May 1960 and commanded it till January 1963. This was not only a great honour and challenge, but allowed John Studdert to breathe his personality and experience into the fledgling unit. He successfully guided and moulded the many dispirit elements of the new 4th into a well-oiled and operationally effective unit in addition to dispatching one battery to Malaysia in 1961. There are legendry tales from that time of his dressing in overalls and checking the underside and oil levels of vehicles, of his 'regimental' tyre pressure gauge and of the CO's vehicle at the side of the road where John ran his stopwatch over passing convoys.

Lieutenant Studdert graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1943 and saw AIF service with 2/6th Field Regiment (JD), 2nd Australian Mountain Battery and, following the Japanese surrender, with 'A' Field Battery in Japan. Other highlights of his career included instructional postings at the School of Artillery and The Royal Military College Duntroon, Commandant of the National Service Officer Training Unit at Scheyville and in Materiel Branch at Army Office from which he retired as the Deputy Chief of Materiel in 1978. His formal training included Staff College in Canada and a Technical Staff Course in the UK.

John Studdert was both a role model and a friend of mine. His policies and attitude within the Army Material world inspired my five-year management of the 105 mm Hamel Gun manufacturing project. After interviewing him at his property outside Goulburn, NSW in 1996 for a history of the 4th Field Artillery, we found an affinity of thoughts and attitudes and he became a good sounding board for my research on RAA historical aspects of the 1960s.

Vale John Hancock Studdert, officer, gentleman and Gunner of distinction.

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