

LIEUTENANT COLONEL D.N.BROOK RETD
ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

David Newbold Brook was born in Adelaide on 27th June 1937 and after attending various schools, matriculated at Prince Alfred College. On leaving school he studied surveying whilst on the staff of the Highways and Local Government Department. In 1957, he was called up for National Service in 16th National Service Training Battalion at Woodside and allotted to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA).

At the conclusion of his full time training, he commenced the remainder of his now part time training under the provisions of the National Service Act with 13th Field Regiment RAA at Keswick Barracks. He was commissioned into the RAA in October 1958.

In 1965 when Australia's commitment to the war in South Vietnam increased, he transferred to the Australian Regular Army and was posted as Adjutant of 13th Field Regiment until mid 1967. His next posting was to 131st Divisional Locating Battery in Holsworthy, NSW as Survey Troop Commander and from there joined 12th Field Regiment as Battery Captain of 102nd Field Battery in November 1967.

From March 1968 until March 1969, Colonel Brook served with his Regiment on war service in South Vietnam and participated in the defence of Fire Support Base *Coral* where he commanded the gun position. This took place during the Tet Offensive in May and June 1968.

On his return to Australia, he was posted back to 13th Field Regiment as Adjutant whilst he undertook various technical and tactical courses and then went to Darwin in March 1970 as Battery Captain of 121st Light Anti Aircraft Battery, an integrated ARA and CMF unit established to provide a measure of air and harbour defence against Indonesian Confrontation. He administered command of his unit for almost the complete duration of the posting that ended in July 1972.

In 1972, he was promoted to Major and attended the Technical Staff Course at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham in the United Kingdom, at the conclusion of which he completed a Specialist Ballistics Course. This was followed by a series of attachments to Ministry of Defence Proof and Experimental Establishments for proof training.

On his return to Australia in late 1974, Colonel Brook then commanded the Proof and Experimental Establishment at Port Wakefield until September 1977 when he was posted to Headquarters Logistic Command in Melbourne as a Proof and Experimental Staff Officer. At the end of this posting, he commanded the Army detachment at the Munitions Filling Factory at St Marys in New South Wales prior to being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and reposted.

His new posting was to Headquarters Third Military District in Victoria Barracks, Melbourne as Staff Officer supervising Accommodation and Works. Here he was responsible for major and minor new works planning, heritage aspects involving Army properties, acquisition and disposal of properties, rifle ranges and housing. He remained in this posting until January 1982 when he moved back to Adelaide as Commanding Officer of 4th Army Quality Assurance Unit and responsible for the oversight of Defence matériel manufactured in both South and Western Australia. This was his third independent command. During this period, he completed the Department of Defence Industrial Mobilization Course.

He returned to Headquarters Logistic Command at the beginning of 1985 where he assumed responsibility for coordination of all staff functions within the headquarters and after twelve

months became responsible for organizational and works functions throughout the Command. During his career in the Army, he served in all Australian states in some capacity or other. He resigned from the Australian Regular Army in April 1987.

On his resignation, Colonel Brook was appointed Registrar of the Surveyors Board of South Australia and remained in that position until a change in surveying legislation established the Board as a component of the Institution of Surveyors Australia, South Australia Division Inc. He was also appointed the Division's first employed Executive Officer as well as continuing in the position of Registrar. He retired from the work force in July 2001.

Colonel Brook was appointed a Colonel Commandant in the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery from September 1989 until February 1996 with responsibility for Gunner regimental matters in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

He and his wife Jan, whom he married in January 1970, live at Glenalta and have two daughters, one a Senior Solicitor and the other a Research Officer and sail their trailer-sailer *Gun Runner* at Goolwa. He is a member of Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club, Somerton Yacht Club and several other boating organizations. He has received the '25 Years Continuous Membership Badge' from Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club. In 2010 during the Boating Industry Association of South Australia 'Boat Show', he was a recipient of an award for his services to the recreational boating industry. He has also completed studies to satisfy the Australian Yachting Federation requirements leading to the qualification of 'Yachtmaster Offshore'.

For many years Colonel Brook has been associated with the history of artillery in Australia and was appointed Editor of *Roundshot to Rapier*, a history of artillery in South Australia from 1840 to 1984. This publication was the Royal Australian Artillery Association of South Australia's contribution to the State's 'Jubilee 150' celebrations in 1986. He has completed three other books titled *Bruno and His Guns*, a technical history of the 'Amiens Gun' at the Australian War Memorial; *Cruising from Goolwa*, a cruising guide for the lower Murray, the Lakes and the Coorong and now in its third edition and with an accompanying DVD; and *Martial and Mufti*, a history of the Naval, Military and Air Force Club of South Australia where he has been a member since 1966. Since 1962 he has lectured and written extensively on military history topics and compiled the entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography in respect of Brigadier Sir Thomas Eastick. In 2010 he was invited by the 'Goolwa 180' Committee established to commemorate the 180th anniversary of Captain Charles Sturt's overnight stay at Goolwa in 1830, to investigate and determine the location of Sturt's campsite and prepare a booklet on his findings. This booklet was published under the title *The Visitor*. Both he and his wife have an extensive library covering British and Australian history, nautical and sailing subjects as well as naval and military history and their associated technical subjects.

He is a member of the RAA Regimental Committee's History Sub-Committee, a Life Member of the RAA Association of SA and a founding member and Artillery Consultant to the Army Museum of South Australia. Apart from general artillery history he is especially interested in naval gunnery, the history of gun design and associated developments and the development of fire control systems, both in naval and land service. He is presently compiling a history of Australian Artillery Ammunition for the RAA Regimental Committee. During his tour of duty in the UK, both he and his wife were able to visit certain battlefields in France and Belgium and the Gallipoli Peninsula.