

Oct 1913 HMAS Australia in Farm Cove

*The President and Members
Congratulate
all ranks of the
Royal Australian Navy
On a Centenary
Of
Service*



4 Oct 2013 HMAS Sydney leads the fleet into Sydney Harbour

GunFire

**3/2013
November**

Newsletter

Royal Australian
Artillery Association
(NSW) Inc

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Eastern Region
COL Ian Ahearn

BC 7 Light Battery
BC 23 Light Battery

Contents

<i>Office Bearers and Executive Committee</i>	2
<i>From the President</i>	3
<i>Editorial</i>	3
<i>86th Annual Gunner Dinner</i>	4
<i>Gunners on Operations</i>	5
<i>Afghanistan</i>	5
<i>Solomon Islands</i>	5
<i>Gunners on EX</i>	6
<i>Reserve Forces Day 2014</i>	8
<i>Glimpse of Future Trucking</i>	10
<i>Vale</i>	10
<i>Association News</i>	11
<i>9 HAA/LAA Regiments Association Report</i>	11
<i>Snapshot</i>	11
<i>2152115 (NS 2741847) WO1 Addie Flippence</i>	11
<i>Gunnery by Decades</i>	13
<i>Gunfire Schedule 2014</i>	14
<i>Those other Gunners</i>	15
<i>Stories from West Head Battery</i>	15

GUNFIRE

The Newsletter of the RAA Association (NSW) Inc

Material may not be copied from this publication without the consent of the Editor. Personal views expressed in articles and letters are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the RAA Association (NSW) Inc. The responsibility for accuracy lies with contributors.



Articles and Submissions for Gunfire

Text - Please endeavour to submit electronic text for *Gunfire* by email to the address below. Hand written copy can be forwarded to PO Box 576 GPO SYDNEY 2001 marked attention *Gunfire* or preferably to:

The Editor *Gunfire* PO Box W1034 WEST CESSNOCK NSW 2325

Photographs – Photos may be colour or black and white.

All materials can be emailed to editor.gunfire@optusnet.com.au This includes graphic and text materials. Preference is for Microsoft Word or documents saved in .rtf format.

ADVERTISING SPACE IN GUNFIRE

1/8 PAGE-\$25; 1/4 PAGE-\$50; 1/2 PAGE-\$75

Contact Vic Rae 0417 680 617

Subscriptions to Royal Australian Artillery Association NSW Inc and *Gunfire*:

(Gunfire is published three times during the subscription year.)

Membership subscriptions (including the cost of *Gunfire*) are currently \$20 per year for persons with Artillery Service and Associate Members. The subscription year commences 1 September and falls due at this time for the following 12 months. RAA Association Branch members and Special Members can subscribe to *Gunfire* at the concessional rate of \$15pa.

Gunfire subscriptions for **non-members** are available at \$25 per year and are also due on 1 September.

From the President.....

The conduct of the 86th Annual Gunner dinner was a highlight for me as President and as a gunner here in NSW. I was very pleased to see the support from our previous serving gunners and their partners. As a current serving gunner, I feel we were under represented and will do my utmost to change that for the next dinner with a stronger contingent from our NSW gunners from 7 Lt Bty, 23 Lt Bty and other gunner staff officers in the Sydney Region. The participation by family members was wonderful to see and hope that they enjoyed the night as guests of the gunner fraternity. I was also pleased by the support expressed and provided by the new CO's of the Infantry Battalions who command our Light Batteries.



This certainly reflected the theme of the dinner which was "Implementing the Light Artillery Concept". Establishing those new relationships and building bridges outside of the gunner community demonstrates our adaptability and support for the new concept.

I was also very impressed with the quick action and assistance rendered to Wally Reed at the dinner when he had a minor turn. The support from colleagues, family, the Parramatta RSL Staff and the NSW Ambulance service was first class and Wally was in good hands. His recovery over the following days was constantly updated by friends and family and Wally was inundated with wishes from many of you.

From what I observed the dinner was an enjoyable evening that I had the honour of hosting and the committee and I look forward to a similarly successful evening next year.

The Association held our Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 20 October where the current state of affairs were presented to the membership and elections were held to select the committee for the coming year. I am very pleased to announce that the strong team we had in place last year (and for some members, many years into the past) were re-elected and committed to another 12 months serving the Gunner Associations of NSW and representing the interests of our members. Details of the Committee are provided in detail in page 2 of this issue of *GUNFIRE*.

The committee has set out the program of meetings and events for next year. The centre page of this issue has the diary entries for you. Keep an eye on the website for updates to the activity and confirmation dates.

The next commemorative event to be conducted by the Association will be St Barbara's Day at The Garrison Church on Sunday 1st December. Reviewing the change in size and number of gunner units in the Sydney Region and other factors that have caused attendance to decline over the past years, the Association will be looking at changing the format and location of St Barbara's Day in 2014 to meet the changing needs whilst remaining true to the purpose and meaning of the commemoration. Further details will be provided in subsequent issues of *GUNFIRE* as they are decided.

Alain Dunand
President
RAA Association, NSW

Editorial

The final issue of Gunfire for 2013 provides a snapshot of gunners in the last months of deployment in Afghanistan and the Solomon Islands. It casts a wider net to celebrate the 'other gunners', those of the RAN and the Naval Brigade through the centenary of navy and a glimpse into the personal story of a soldier who fought in both World Wars and was a gunner in the CMF between the wars.

Decades of Gunnery looks at some of the anniversaries associated with 2014, looking back into gunner heritage.

As we move towards the centenary of ANZAC the opportunity exists for relatives of gunners with personal stories, letters and photos to contribute to the issues of Gunfire over the coming years.

Remember that the electronic version of Gunfire available via email is in full colour and is easily downloaded as a (pdf) file. Should you wish to try it send me a request by email to editor.gunfire@optusnet.com.au

As the Christmas season approaches the Association sends warm greetings to Gunners wherever they are but in particular to those on active service or performing duties overseas.

Vic Rae, Editor

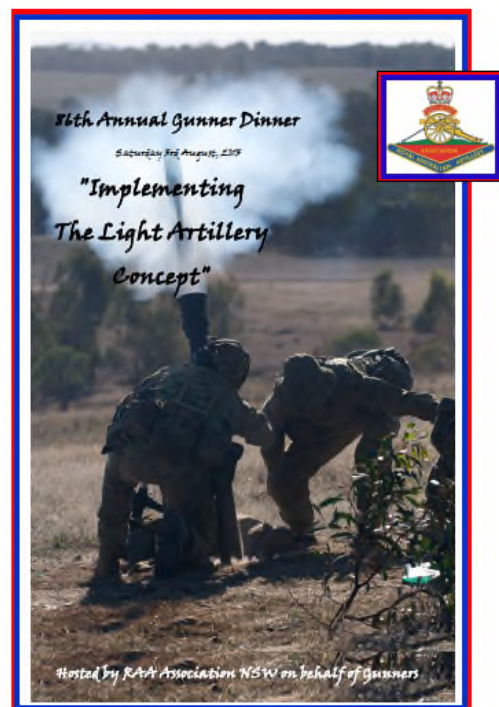
86th Annual Gunner Dinner

Parramatta RSL was again the venue for this year's Gunner Dinner. A revised menu provided an enjoyable meal in convivial company. Proceedings commenced with the march in of the Association's Standard to music provided by 4/3 RNSWR, 23 Light Battery Band.

The name is different however there were familiar faces in the band that inherits and continues the traditions of 18 LAA Regt Band, 23 Fd Regt Band and following the changes to the Order of Battle and as 23 Lt Bty is under command 4/3 RNSWR, so is the band. They played the trumpet calls and incidental music throughout the dinner.

Along with our gunner Guest of Honour, MAJGEN Tim Ford AO RETD), Chairman RAAHC, we welcomed BRIG Alan Murray CSM ADC, COMD 8th Brigade and his wife, Ingrid.

Our after dinner speaker was LTCOL Warwick Young, Joint Fires Cell, 2nd Division.



BRIG Murray presented the RAA Association (NSW) Soldier of the Year Awards to:
GNR J Snowdon
7 Light Battery

GNR Snowdon was on deployment so his award was accepted on his behalf by his Battery Commander, CAPT Stephen Flower.



and in person to:
GNR GJ Hogan
23 Light Battery

This year's dinner theme, *Implementing The Light Artillery Concept*, was chosen to acknowledge the change in the Army Reserve and to explore what gunners can value-add to the capabilities of battle groups.

LTCOL Young outlining the task of the Joint Fires Cell and the challenge for the Light Batteries

LTCOL Young mapped out the process involved in evaluating the contribution that the Army reserve can make and highlighted the additional capacity of the Light Battery in contrast to the traditional Mortar Platoon in that it has the capacity to coordinate and plan fires from a wider range of resources.

Diary entry - 87th Annual Gunner Dinner - August 2, 2014



Gunners on Operations

Afghanistan



Bugler Corporal James Duquemin from the Band of the Royal Military College Duntroon plays the Last Post during the Anzac Day Dawn Service 2013 at Multi National Base – Tarin Kot. Soldiers, sailors, airmen and women at Multi National Base – Tarin Kot gathered for a dawn service marking the last Anzac Day ADF personnel will experience in Uruzgan province. In attendance were personnel from:

- 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment
- Combined Team Uruzgan, Force Support Unit 7,
- Counter Rocket Artillery Mortar detachment,
- Force Communications Unit 8,
- Shadow Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Group 2,
- Multi National Base Command Tarin Kot,
- Special Operations Task Group,
- Provincial Reconstruction Team
- Defence and Government civilians.

They paid a solemn tribute to personnel who had died on operations in Afghanistan since 2002.

Solomon Islands

About 90 reservists, mostly from Victoria's 4 Bde arrived home on an Air Force C-17 on August 1, ending the 30th rotation of Australian personnel to the Pacific nation.

Chief of Joint Operations Lt-Gen Ash Power said their return home from the Australian-led Combined Task Force 635, which included personnel from New Zealand, Tonga and Papua New Guinea, capped a successful mission by Rotation 30.



"These soldiers have performed extremely well during their deployment and their return home as part of the final infantry rotation deployed to Solomon Islands

VICTORIAN gunners were well represented on Operation Anode's final rotation, with two of them receiving CTF 635 Commander's Commendations during their deployment.

Seventeen members of 2/10 Lt Bty, 5/6RVR, took part in the deployment, with three running the CIMIC team, one working as an operator supply and the remainder serving in rifle platoons.

LBdr Gavin Hunt said the deployment was the first time he had ever been overseas. "I feel very proud to serve my country on an overseas operation," he said.

"My great-grandfather was in the Victorian 4th Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli and my grandfather was in the Army during WWII." Gnr Thomas Patterson, at 19 the youngest member of Rotation 30, said he felt it a privilege to receive his Australian Service Medal (ASM). "I made a decision last year to deploy instead of completing my Year 12 exams, and receiving my medal makes the experience all the more special and worth the sacrifice," he said. Gnr Patterson plans to complete Year 12 at TAFE before studying international relations at university.

Gnr Sean McKellar said Op Anode was “a fantastic opportunity for diggers who participated from 2/10 Bty”. “I count myself really lucky to have been deployed as a reservist at 21 years of age,” he said.

Gnr McKellar received a Commander CTF 635 Commendation for his professionalism throughout the deployment.

Gnr Andrew Prentice, who also received a commendation, said the amount of quality training he had received as a reservist during the deployment had been worth every second. “I am confident I can return to my home unit with a new set of expertise in order to contribute more as a soldier,” he said

Gunners on EX



Incoming: Gunners from 8/12 Regt RAA fire on enemy positions during Ex Thunder Run 2 at the Mt Bundy Training Area.
Photos by Pte Josh Bowman

A detachment of 8/12 Regt in action during EX THUNDER RUN 2 at the Mt Bundy Training Area. Source: Army News 1310. In the latest round of re-structuring the detachment commander is a bombardier. In support of 5RAR they brought danger close missions in to 175metres.



Australian and United States military personnel conducted a series of live-fire activities to conclude EX TALISMAN SABER.

The live-fire activities involved ADF personnel and assets from the Navy, Army and Air Force, and U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine personnel and assets.

Exercise Talisman Saber (15 July – 5 August 2013) is an exercise designed to improve training and interoperability between Australian and United States military forces and other government agencies.

Gunner Michael Wyatt, from 4th Regt, fires an M777A2 howitzer gun during the live-fire activity

Around 28,000 Australian and US personnel participated in the 21-day exercise, conducted in the Coral Sea and military training areas in central and northern Queensland.



Gunners from 107th Battery, 4th Regiment RAA, based in Townsville, take a break around an M777A2 howitzer gun at Townshend Island, Shoalwater Bay, Queensland, during Exercise Talisman Saber 2013 (L-R): BDR Samuel Dirs, LBDR John Vanloon, GNRs Andrew Robertson, Mitch Hamer, Brett Williams, Andrew Willett and Michael Wyatt. Source: Defence Media Image

Further south Queensland high school students participated in the Army Adventure Camp at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane. 1st Regt mounted a static display of the M777 howitzer.

Thirty-six Queensland high school students aged between 16 and 18 are participated in the Army Adventure Camp from 14 to 18 October 2013 at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane.



The Army Adventure Camp is a residential work experience program showcasing the variety of Australian Army careers available to young women. The students have the opportunity to experience a range of Army trades, including logistics, engineering, intelligence, artillery, medical, military policing, aviation, catering and communications.

Reserve Forces Day 2014

Assembling in Hyde Park among the trees and spread out on the various paths that lead into the main thoroughfare provides a good meeting place for former and current reservists to meet and greet prior to forming up.

The simplified format is appreciated by the legs of the not so young while they look with envy towards the Don Rs and the historic vehicles of 1/15 RNSWL that led the march out of the park, and secured the ground for the parade.



In a secluded garden, under the watchful eye of the Parade RSM, the standard bearers are put through their paces.

When all is in order the vehicles move off to their allotted tasks and the bands begin to play. In the distance the first banners of the participating associations can be seen and people crane their necks to read the signs that indicate where a family member, relative, friend or acquaintance is marching.

NSW Scottish Regiment Association Band

Ferret Scout cars move to secure ground



Around Parliament House, the day attracts a crowd some 3-5 deep in places, on both sides of Macquarie Street.

The massed Associations' Banners are marched through the parade area and take up their place behind the parade

Left: Under the command of Michael Carrodus and with 2IC, Shane Fender, the banners identified the units participating in the march.



Right 1/15RNSWL & 4/3 RNSWR, 23 Lt Bty Bands combined their efforts for the day

RAA ASSOCIATION Polo-necked 'T' shirts

Cut off and return this slip to:

**RAA Association NSW Inc
Marketing Sub-Committee
Box 576
GPO SYDNEY 2001**

I wish to participate in this offer as indicated and my cheque/money order in favour of "RAA Association NSW Inc" is enclosed:

☐ Polo-necked 'T' shirt - The shirts feature an embroidered (not screen printed) **Association Logo** and will be available in 5 sizes - I wish to order the following item while stocks are available.

SIZE: (Please circle the appropriate size)

L XL XXL XXXL

	QTY	
'T' shirt (\$35 ea)	_____	\$ _____
Postage and handling (\$10)	_____	\$ _____
Total enclosed:	_____	\$ _____

Name:

Phone:

Delivery

Address:

Signature: Date:

Gunfire 2/2013

COUNTER RUNNER

A versatile Counter or Bar Runner that features the Corps Badge on a red & blue background backed with a flexible vinyl mat.

The runner is 900mm long and 200mm wide and is designed for indoor use.

They make an interesting talking point and can be used as:

- bar or table runner at home, in the mess or a club
- unit counter runner in an orderly room or store.

Cut off and return this slip with payment to:

**RAA Association NSW Inc
Marketing Sub-Committee
Box 576
GPO SYDNEY 2001**

I wish to participate in the following offer and my cheque/money order in favour of "RAA Association NSW Inc" is enclosed:

BAR RUNNER OFFER

	Qty	Cost
Bar Runner: – RAA Corps Badge (\$37 ea)	_____	\$ _____

Postage and handling for 1 up to 4 runners is \$10.
Larger orders - \$10 per 4 runners) \$ _____

Total Bar Runner Offer \$ _____

Name:

Delivery Address:-

Phone:-

Promo Gunfire 2/2013



This centre section of Gunfire is used to provide notices and returnable proformas without the need to destroy the copy of Gunfire.

Notices with this issue of Gunfire:

- St Barbara's Day Service Sydney arrangements
- Welfare Request Form
- Association Lapel Badge
- T Shirt
- Bar Runner
- Membership

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE WEBSITE

<http://www.artillerynsw.asn.au/>



**GUNNERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS
ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE
ST BARBARA'S DAY SERVICE
1 DECEMBER 2013**

***The Association's Patron
Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO,
Governor of New South Wales
has accepted our invitation to the annual
St Barbara's Day Service.***

***The service is to be conducted at the
Holy Trinity 'Garrison' Church,
Millers Point, commencing at 1100 hrs.
(Please be seated by 1050)***

Light refreshments will be available after the service.

***All gunners and their families and friends are encouraged
to support this traditional service.***

***4/3 RNSWR 23 Lt Bty Band will be in attendance with a
range of appropriate music for the occasion.***

As the numbers attending lunch have declined over the last few years there is no set venue for lunch following the service. However, there are many fine establishments around the *The Rocks* area for small groups to get together.

Gunfire 3/2013



**PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE
St Barbara's Day Service
ARCHIVES**

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Friday 25-Apr-14 Anzac Day & Gunner Reunion

Wednesday 18-Jun-14 'Bevan Lennie' Artillery Lunch

Sunday 6 Jul-14 Reserve Forces Day
Gunners on parade

Saturday 2-Aug-14 Annual Gunner Dinner



2013 Dinner

Sunday 19-Oct-14 Annual General Meeting

Thursday TBA 14 Gunners Challenge Golf Day

Sunday 7-Dec-14 St Barbara's Day Service

Gunfire 3/2013

Association Lapel Badge

Enamel on metal

Size: 25mm (width)

Fastening: Butterfly clip

Cost: \$10ea incl p&h.

NB: Photo is enlarged for clarity



Please cut out and forward with your cheque/money order to:

RAA Association (NSW) Inc
Box 576 GPO
SYDNEY NSW 2001

I wish to purchase the association badge @ \$10ea.

Quantity _____ Cost \$ _____

Surname: _____

Given Names _____

Address for delivery:

Property Name _____

Street _____

SUBURB _____

STATE _____

POSTCODE _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please tick the responses that apply:

I am a member of the RAA Association (NSW) Inc

OR

I am a branch member of:

Newcastle

12 Fd Regt (Vietnam) Assn

23 Fd Regt Assn

9 HAA/LAA Regts Assn

18 LAA Regt Assn

Coast Artillery Assn

Gunfire 3/2013

Notification of Welfare Request
(Please brief a friend or relative re this form and your wishes)

Email the details of the request to: **welfare@artillerynsw.asn.au**

OR cut out, complete and forward the following form to:

Mr Paul Vanderveer
Hon Welfare Officer
RAA Association (NSW) Inc
64 Fallon Drive
DURAL NSW 2158
H: 9651 7093
Mo: 0412 865 623

Please be aware of the following change in circumstances:

Please circle the nature of the notification:

HEALTH HOSPITALISATION DEATH ACCIDENT

OTHER: _____

Brief particulars are:

Surname: _____

Given Names _____

Address for correspondence/card:

Property Name _____

Street _____

SUBURB _____

STATE _____ POSTCODE _____

When the report is lodged on behalf of the member, please complete the following:

Reporting person: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship: Relative Friend



CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF THE GUNNER FAMILY

Gunners have been instrumental in making a difference both during times of war and peace.

Many families have a gunner in their history and have an interest in or a curiosity about what they did.

The Royal Australian Artillery Association (NSW) Inc is seeking to include interested family members in its activities by offering Associate Membership.



Descendants of:

Colonial Gunners

Permanent and Volunteer Gunners

Sudan & South African Campaign Gunners

WW 1 Gunners

Militia Gunners

WW2 Gunners

Post-WW2 Gunners Regular, CMF or Army Reserve

All branches of artillery and from other corps with postings to artillery units are all eligible to join the Association

Information about the association is posted on our website and our rules can be found at:

<http://www.artillerynsw.asn.au/constitution.htm>

A membership application form can be downloaded from:

<http://www.artillerynsw.asn.au/files/AppForm.pdf>



Left: 21 Field Regiment Association
Above: 18 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment



Left 23 Field Regiment

Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, AC CVO took the salute of the associations



Left 7 Field Regiment
Below The Artillery Band



At the end of the day, some needed a lift home



23 Fd Regt Association has for a number of years participated in the ACT RFD Parade and continued it this year. From ACT – RFD Newsletter Issue 5



Glimpse of Future Trucking



Army News recently highlighted the future of heavy lift capability to support army operations.

Trucks and trailers with modules that enable loading and unloading without assistance.

Contracting, integration of communication systems and training is planned for 2013-2016. The planned rollout is by Brigades over the period 2017-2023

Vale

The association expresses its condolences to family and friends of the following:

THOMAS —Lt Col WD Thomas RAA died on 8 June in Canberra after a long illness surrounded by family. Dai served in the Royal Artillery before transferring to the Royal Australian Artillery at the end of the 1960s. Dai was attached to Australian Army Training Team Vietnam from May 1971. While serving with AATTV he was also awarded the US Army Commendation Medal for Service. Dai was loved by a very close family and was a man of many talents. He participated in five Sydney to Hobart yacht races and pursued interests as diverse as academia and dog training. (*Gunner Magazine RA*)
He also served on Headquarters, Australian Force Vietnam from 01/10/1970 28/05/1971 Ed.

John Falconer MILLER passed away 11 Sep 2013

9 HAA/LAA Regiments Association Report

- **GUNNER DINNER** – Our banner was paraded at the *86th Annual Gunner Dinner* held at the Parramatta RSL Club on Saturday 3 August. A number of members and friends of our association attended including Kerry and Joan Gillis, Paul and Marion Vanderveer, Carolyn Watkins, Margaret Hogge, Addie Flippence (who never seems to run out of anecdotes), Alec and Olga Sawyer, Martin and Helen Hansen, me and my wife Pearl. I can report that it was another really great night – the food, band, guest speaker and of course camaraderie were all first class.
- **ANNUAL REUNION/AGM** – We held our annual AGM and reunion at the City of Sydney RSL Club on Fri 27 Sep 2013. A total of 14 members attended including Graham Fitzpatrick, Kerry Gillis, Barry Lloyd, Alex Sawyer, Peter Mogg, Vic Willey, John Dunbar, Harold Hodson, Elley Bennett and Brian Maloney. Apologies were received from Tom Mulcair and Ray Carlin who were experiencing medical problems, Graham Martin and Dennis Dousset who are still in the ranks of the employed and Brian Roylett who was interstate. I was re-elected President and Peter Mogg, Secretary/Treasurer.
- **“DIGGERS” SHOOT, HORNSBY** – A number of enthusiasts attended the annual “Diggers Shoot” organised by the 18 Bn Rifle Club on Sun 6 Oct 2013. It was a very enjoyable day and we were well represented in the medal winners.

First (for the second year in a row), was Ray Carlin's son Steve who, despite his infantry background, we will have to make an honorary gunner. It was also remarked that one of our members (who shall remain nameless), lived up to his HAA training by endangering high flying aircraft.

PJ Easton

Oct 2013

Snapshot

2152115 (NS 2741847) WO1 Addie Flippence

Addie entered the world on 2nd October, 1935 at St. George Public Hospital, Kogarah, Sydney. He was the eldest of two boys. He grew up in Drummoyne and attended Drummoyne Public School and Balmain High. On leaving school, he started work in Dec 1950 as an apprentice Carpenter & Joiner with the Dept of Education NSW and in Jan 1951, enrolled in a four year carpenter & joinery course at Ultimo Technical College Sydney.



His army career started in November, 1949 when, at age 14 and still at School, he enlisted as a Regimental Cadet in 1st H.A.A. Regt R.A.A. based at Haberfield, Sydney. Cadets received the same training as CMF members but were unpaid apart from reimbursement of fares. During this period he obtained the rank of Cadet Sgt, the highest rank achievable for a Cadet. On his eighteenth birthday in 1953, he enlisted as a CMF member of the Regt and was posted to Q Bty. Because of his Cadet Service he was quickly promoted to substantive BDR in June 1954 and posted Gun No 1 just prior to the annual field exercise. He qualified and was promoted substantive SGT in November 1954.

So that Addie could complete his Technical studies, he applied to have his NS call up deferred for twelve months but when his time came, he found that he had to be discharged from the Regt as he could not be transferred to NS Trg as a Sgt. So, he was discharged from the Regt on the 5 Jan 1955 and on the 7 Jan, marched into 3PI A Coy, 19 NS Trg Bn as a recruit minor because of his CMF experience. He was promoted to R/Cpl on completion of his 98 days but reverted back to recruit on the 14 Apr 1955, when he transferred back to 9 H.A.A. Regt RAA (formerly 1st HAA Regt). His Sgt rank was re-instated 3 days later. The R.O.

read in one para, Rec 2/741847 Flippence A. L. promoted Gnr, Gnr prom Bdr, Bdr prom Sgt and posted gun No 1 as per establishment. In May 1957 Addie was promoted T/WO2. He qualified for promotion to substantive WO2 in Oct 1960 and was posted BSM Q Bty.

People who assisted Addie to develop his attitudes and skills included:

CAPT John Fredrick Cramm who was his first BC and a big help in his development as a BSM.

Although he never served in MAJ Alistair Scobie's battery, he attended several of his courses. MAJ Scobie was mainly responsible for teaching him technical Gunnery.

CAPT Stan Simpson who was first posted as Adjt and later QM had a big influence on his man management and planning skills. CAPT Simpson was a master of both. He was a highly respected no nonsense down to earth officer.

Addie was able to cite a number of memorable moments that he experienced during his long career including:

In Feb 1954 he was a member of a Regimental contingent that lined Cleveland St Sydney as Queen Elizabeth drove by where he had a first class, ringside position.

During a 3.7 inch shoot at North Head Sydney, an English submarine, HMS Andrew, was seen approaching the restricted area. If permitted to enter the guns would have to cease firing. The Director of Practice ordered the piquet boat 'TO STOP THE SUB AT ALL COST EVEN IF YOU MUST RAM IT'. The piquet boat positioned itself in line with the sub's course and tried to attract its attention. But as all those sailors in the conning tower were watching the air bursts from the guns and not paying attention to where they were going, the sub collided with the stern of the piquet boat. The *Manly Daily* had a field day next morning.

9 HAA became 9 LAA in 1962 and in 1973 was swallowed up by 7 Fd Regt. Addie continued to serve there until 1975 when he transferred to HQ 2 Div Arty where he was promoted to WO1 and posted Divisional Artillery Sergeant Major or DASM.

He was the first reservist to be posted to such a prestigious position that had previously been held by ARA WO1s. When approaching his retirement age of 55 years, Addie applied for and was granted an extension to 60yrs. However he only served two more years and was finally farewelled at the Regimental Sergeants' Mess, School of Artillery, North Head. During his posting as DASM he was twice offered a PSO commission but declined both times. He felt that he had been in the warrant stream too long.

Addie attended a number of courses outside of the Regt including:

1971 - Bty Officers Course held at School of Artillery, North Head

1966 - Navigating and Patrolling Course held at The Jungle Training Centre, Canungra Qld.



On the civilian front, Addie occupied various supervisory and management positions in the School Furniture Complex of the Department of Education until Apr 1993 when he retired as Manufacturing Manager after 43 years' service. The complex supplied all state and government schools in the commonwealth. Also, during a trip to NZ, Addie secured an agreement for the supply of furniture to schools in that country. During 1990, he oversaw a major upgrade of machinery in the complex and visited both Italy and Germany to select and purchase appropriate machinery.

Apart from the army and work, Addie has maintained an interest in Rugby League since Primary School. He was a player in his younger days as attested by the shape of his nose. He was a coach in later years and has a grade 3 coaching certificate issued by ARL (Australian Rugby League.) In 1980, he qualified for a referees' certificate and joined Manly Warringah Junior Rugby League Referees Association. He can remember controlling games where the sons of COL John Fairless and WO1 Kevin Browning were playing. He was awarded life membership of the Referees' Association in 1999.

Addie is a strong supporter of our association and attends all of its activities. He is enjoying his retirement years at Belrose with his wife Helen.

P J Easton, July 2013

Gunnery by Decades

Anniversary	Action, Item or Decision
700	Following Roger Bacon's experiments with gunpowder c.1242, Berthold Schwatz made the first gun, 'Pot de Fer' which was manufactured in Ghent and exported to England in 1314
310	1704 , the Duke of Marlborough exploits the mobility of firepower at the Battle of Blenheim.
220	In 1794 the fortifications on western side of Sydney Cove was augmented with 4* 6-pdr guns, mounted in a battery with powder magazine, at Windmill Hill, now Observatory Hill
210	A decade later in 1804 , construction began on Fort Phillip on Windmill Hill and while never completed, was used until 1807.
200	On the evening 20 May 1814 Sydney sides must have thought they were under attack. The Transport ship <i>Three Bees</i> caught fire and was cut loose from her moorings. At 1730 a cannon exploded and a swivel ball smashed into a room of Captain Piper's cottage in Bridge St, destroying a writing desk. Shortly after the magazine exploded and the ship burnt to the water line. A Garrison Artillery Fort was erected on Point Bennelong, now the site of the Opera House, and was used until 1890, then demolished in 1902 to become a tram depot.
190	Fort Dundas established on Tiwi (Melville) Island as a protection against native attack. 2*9 pdr guns, 1*12 pdr gun and 4*18 pdr guns with 50 rounds of shot and 8 rounds of grape-shot. Commanded by CAPT Maurice Barlow with 34 members of 3rd Regt and a Royal Marine detachment of 27 commanded by LT Williams, a surgeon, two commissariat officers and 40 convicts landed from HMS Tamar. The fort operated from 1824 to 1828.
160	In 1854 the Victorian Volunteer Artillery Corps was established then set about sourcing 8 guns. The Corps was disbanded in 1856. In NSW, South Head fortifications were developed and operated until 1963.
150	1864 No1 Bty, 15th Bde returned to NSW from Victoria where they were replaced by No7 Bty, 2nd Bde.
110	'A' Bty was presented with an 'Insignia', later renamed King's Banner in recognition of its contribution South Africa. Also in 1904 , the Government ordered 20*18pdr guns and increased this order by another 4 the next year.
100	4 Aug 1914 , War declared with Germany and Australian Garrison Artillery called out. 5 Aug, Fort Nepean, Victoria fires 6in MkVII gun to prevent SS <i>Palz</i> leaving port. 19 Aug The Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force under Commander J Beresford, with six companies of naval troops and Colonel William Holmes with a battalion left Sydney in the armed merchant cruiser HMAS Berrima. Under the protection and support from elements of the Australian Squadron, commanded by Rear-Admiral Sir George E Patey, troops were landed at Rabaul on 11 Sep, securing the surrender of the German colony on 17 September. The first Australian action of WW1 was a joint naval and military operation to secure control of German New Guinea.
90	1924 Government approves a five-year plan that authorises the purchase of anti-aircraft and medium guns
80	1934 105 Bty, equipped with 4.5in howitzers fires the first round on the new Mount Walker Artillery Range (West of Ipswich, Qld)
70	Green Point Battery, Watsons Bay (twin 6pdr) commissioned in 1944 and operated until 1945. Artillery in action with 7 & 9 Div in New Guinea, 9 Div in Borneo and 3 Div in Bougainville
60	Australia joins SEATO in 1954 and contributes to the British Far East Strategic

	Reserve while in Australia the Army Guided Weapons Trial Unit was formed from RAA & RAEME under LTCOL G Cairns
50	102 Fd Bty deployed on rotation to Borneo, April 1964 16 Jun, 111 LAA Bty deployed to Malaysia Government reverts from the Pentropic Division to Tropical Warfare Establishment Divisional HQ + 3 Task Forces
40	1974 the Millar Review recommends the CMF be renamed Australian Army Reserve. Weapons Research Establishment and the Army Guided Weapons Trial Unit disbanded. 106 Fd Bty returns to Australia from Singapore and is disbanded
30	In 1984 , government gave approval to acquire 59 Hamel guns 'A' Field Battery approved as part of the Parachute Battalion Group
20	1994 the Government approves the purchase of the Advanced Air defence Simulator Computer Fire Control issued to ARES units, 155mm Copperhead Projectile acquired
10	2004 ARMCO Team of volunteers at North Fort were busy restoring for display a range of equipment. RAAHC, RAA A(NSW) and AHU resolve to preserve the banners used by WW2 Associations on ANZAC Day. UAV Battery establishment finalised, tender for UAV called and approval to raise a Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment 1 GL Gp raise a JTAC Troop 1 May 2004, Joint Proof and Experimental Unit formed 105 Bty CLOG returns from East Timor 8/12 Mdm Regt testing new S2S (Sensor to Shooter) equipment allowing digital transmission of data and image from JOST to CP TALIN (Tactical Advanced Land Inertial Navigator) attached to M198 provides fixation, replacing the need to pass line and determine fixation 16 AD Regt tests the capacity of the newly built Ghan railway to move equipment and vehicles between Adelaide and Darwin for EX Pitch Black Government approves the building of a new Joint Operations Command Headquarters near Bungendore

Gunfire Schedule 2014

DAY	DATE	ACTIVITY	COMMENTS/NOTICES
Friday	7 Feb-14	Cut off date Gunfire 1/2014	Anzac Day/Artillery Lunch notices.
Friday	21-Feb-14	Gunfire 1/2014 to printer	
Friday	7-Mar-14	Gunfire 1/2014 mail out	
Friday	9-May-14	Cut off date Gunfire 2/2014	Gunner Dinner / RFD notices
Friday	23-May-14	Gunfire 2/2014 to printer	
Friday	6 Jun-14	Gunfire 2/2014 mail out	
Friday	10-Oct-14	Cut off date Gunfire 3/2014	St Barbara's Day & Events 2015
Friday	24 Oct-14	Gunfire 3/2014 to printer	
Friday	7-Nov-14	Gunfire 3/2014 mail out	

Those other Gunners

The International Fleet Review focused the attention of the nation on the centenary of the RAN and reminds us of the role that gunners have played and continue to do so in that service. They have fired the broadest range of guns, from 12 inch down to rifle calibre guns, from warships, defensively equipped ships, armed auxiliary cruisers and on land carriages.



The Royal Australian Navy's Three Pound Saluting Gun Battery fires across Sydney Harbour from Garden Island Naval Base, in preparation for the International Fleet Review

It was naval gunners who provided both naval bombardment and land-based support during the initial overseas engagement of WW1 in 1914.

The navy at the end of WW1 dismounted and stored guns from defensively equipped merchant ships. Some of these guns, mainly 4 inch and 4.7 inch were provided to army at the outbreak of WW2

Missiles have replaced in many instances the traditional gun HMAS Sydney for instance has:

Missiles

- Harpoon Block 2
- Standard SM-2 Block IIIA
- Mk 41 VLS launcher

Guns

- 1 x OTO Melara 3 in (76 mm)/62 US Mk 75
- 1 x 20 mm Mk 15 Vulcan Phalanx anti-missile system
- 6 x 12.7 mm MGs
- 2 x Rafael Mini-Typhoon 12.7 mm remote-controlled guns (for selected deployments).



Able Seaman Musician Johnny Rendell plays on the forecastle of HMAS Sydney with the RAN Band - Melbourne Detachment

Images for the cover of this issue of Gunfire and this article were sourced from Navy Images with thanks Ed.

Stories from West Head Battery

In May this year the National Parks & Wildlife Service held two days of presentations about West Head as part of Heritage Month. During the presentations and the oral history provided by Jack 'Bluey' Mercer, a gunner who served at West Head during the installation of the guns, a number of visitors talked about their relatives who had also served at some stage during the fort's construction and operational life.

Bernard (Barney) Lawrence Nugent was one such player in the story and I am grateful to his son, Ken, who has provided the following information.



Unlike Bluey, who arrived at West Head as a young gunner in 1941, Barney had already had a long association with the defence forces stretching back to 1912 when as a seventeen year old he joined the Royal Australian Naval Reserve.

At the outbreak of war in August, 1914 he responded to the call and joined the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force. AB (Able Seaman) Nugent on HMAS Berrima, an armed merchant ship, sailed on the 14 August to German New Guinea, returning to Australia in December 1914.

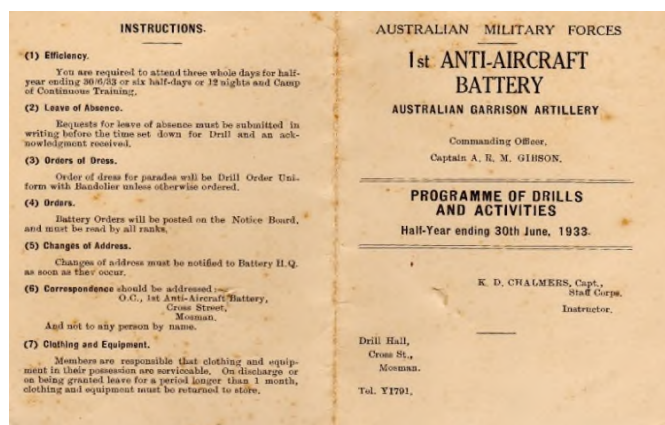
(Left) HMAS Berrima under the guns of HMAS Encounter enroute to German New Guinea, 1914

In August, 1916 he volunteered to join the AIF. Following training with 8 Trg Bn, PTE Nugent was allocated to 45Bn as a reinforcement, in Jul 1917. During his time with the Battalion it was involved in the Battles of Passchendaele, Hamel and the Hindenburg Outpost Line. He was wounded in April and again in July, 1918. After each occasion he returned to his unit. In July, 1919 he arrived back in Australia.

He joined the CMF at some stage after it was raised in 1921. He may have been influenced in the choice of unit by his brother-in-law who served with Australian Garrison Artillery. He enlisted in 1st Anti-Aircraft Battery, located at Cross St, MOSMAN.

In the mid 30's he was a Bombardier and in civilian life he was a carpenter and joiner, skills that were shortly to be used at West Head.

Following the outbreak of WW2 in April, 1940 Barney enlisted on full-time duty with the CMF in 5th Australian Anti-Aircraft & Fortress Company, an engineer unit based in Sydney. Ken recalls that one of his father's first tasks was the preparation of the fortifications at West Head including forming up the concrete gun emplacements.



Above: Thornycroft Gun Tractor used to move the 3inch AA gun (Top right)

Right: Wireless Operator



After the war, while visiting a secluded beach and creek in Pittwater, Barney told him that they used sand from the fresh water side of the beach, taking it by barge to West Head to be used in making concrete.

Left: Christmas Day 1941 at Breakwater Battery Wollongong. A young Ken with older sister, Joan and mother Gladys with father Barney

Barney went on to work on the fortifications at Breakwater Battery, Port Kembla during the installation of Twin QF 6pdr guns. In 1943 he was involved with installation of AA guns at Coffs Harbour and was called upon by local police to provide transport to move wounded survivors that had been rescued by *HMAS Deloraine* from the *US Transport Portmar* following an attack by Japanese submarine I-174.

He was promoted Lance Sergeant in 1941 and made substantive in 1944. He discharged in March, 1945.

In coming issues of *Gunfire* stories from other relatives of West Head Battery soldiers will be published as a picture of life at the fort is re-constructed. If you have information or snippets to follow up then let the editor know. editor.gunfire@optusnet.com.au or use the contact information on page 2 of this issue.