

CANNONBALL



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 16

APRIL 1990



— GALLIPOLI —

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CONTENTS

Artillery at ANZAC.....	1
RAA National Museum.....	7
Lieutenant Colonel T.B.W. James, DSO.....	9
One Hundred Years Ago Australian Colonial Artillery.....	15
Office Bearers 1989-1990.....	23
Notices.....	24

Cannonball Editor

Major R.H.E. Harvey (RL)

All correspondence should be addressed to:
Honorary Secretary
P.O. Box 42
MANLY N.S.W. 2095

Cover
Australian Field Artillery 18 Pounder 'In Action'
Gallipoli 1915
Australian War Memorial

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Honorary Secretary
RAA Historical Society
P.O. Box 42
Manly, N.S.W. 2095



MEMBERSHIP

Members are requested to encourage their friends to join the Society.

Membership offers:

* An opportunity to become an active participant in the work of the Society.

* The use of the Society's Library which contains books, papers, photographs and maps on all aspects of Australian Artillery History.

* An opportunity to assist with the establishment and subsequent operation of the National Artillery Museum.

All enquiries to:

The Honorary Secretary
RAA Historical Society
P.O. Box 42
MANLY, N.S.W. 2095

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Dear Sir,

I hereby make application for membership of the Society and enclose payment for:

* ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$10

* LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$50

* Please tick appropriate box

Please complete fully using BLOCK LETTERS

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Decorations:

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* Please tick appropriate box for posting of mail.

Occupation:

On election to membership I agree to be bound by the Charter of the RAA Historical Society.

Signature:

OFFICE USE ONLY	Approved	Ledger	Register
	Date	Date	Date

NOTICES

MUSEUM FUND APPEAL

The Management Committee wishes to offer its sincerest thanks to those members who made donations to the Museum Fund Appeal. The Appeal, launched in the July 1989 issue of Cannonball, raised over \$3000.

ANZAC DAY REUNION

The Royal Australian Artillery Association (NSW) has advised that the venue for the 1990 Artillery Anzac Reunion will be in the Marble Bar of the Hilton International Hotel. The Management of the Hilton will provide:

- * Exclusive use of the Marble Bar from 10 am to 11 pm.
- * Beer and spirits at prices commensurate with current Club prices.
- * Snacks free of charge.
- * Appropriate background music.

VALE

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of:

Major General P.Falkland, AO.
Brigadier E.J.H.Howard, CBE, OStJ.

Both officers, by virtue of their vast experience and interest, greatly assisted the Society in its efforts to establish the Artillery Museum.

ARTILLERY AT ANZAC

(Extracts from "Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18. Volume II. The Story of ANZAC" by C.E.W.Bean)

The 75th anniversary of the landing, by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) at Gallipoli on 25th April 1915, is a most appropriate occasion to recall the part played by the Australian Artillery during the Dardanelles campaign.

The ANZAC Corps comprised, at the time of the landing, the following:

1st Australian Division comprising:
1st Infantry Brigade (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions)
2nd Infantry Brigade (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions)
3rd Infantry Brigade (9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Battalions)

New Zealand and Australian Division comprising:
New Zealand Infantry Brigade
New Zealand Mounted Rifle Brigade
1st Australian Light Horse Brigade

The 2nd Australian Division joined the Corps during September 1915.

The artillery units of 1st Australian Division were:

1st Field Artillery Brigade (1st, 2nd and 3rd Batteries - raised in New South Wales)
2nd Field Artillery Brigade (4th, 5th and 6th Batteries - raised in Victoria)
3rd Field Artillery Brigade
7th Battery - raised in Queensland
8th Battery - raised in Western Australia
9th Battery - raised in Tasmania
(The Ammunition Column for the 3rd Brigade was in part drawn from South Australia)

Each battery was equipped with four 18 pounders (Marks 1 and II) giving a total of 36 guns for the Division.

The artillery for the New Zealand and Australian Division was provided by New Zealand consisting of:

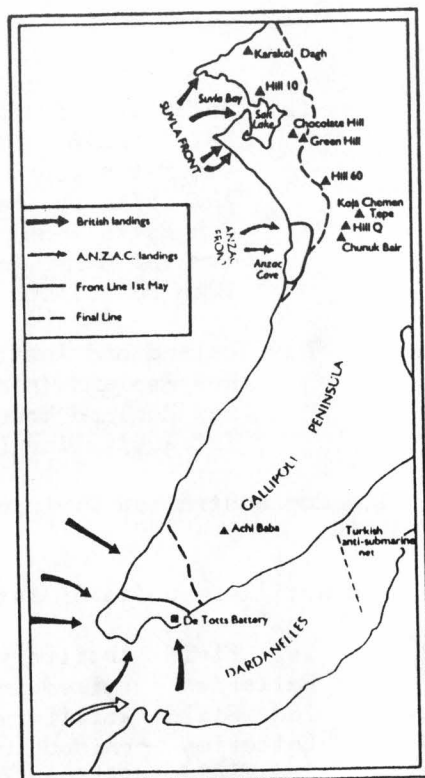
- 1st New Zealand Battery (four 18 pounders)
- 2nd New Zealand Battery (four 18 pounders)
- 3rd New Zealand Battery (four 18 pounders)
- New Zealand Howitzer Battery (four 4.5 inch Howitzers)

Also allocated to the Corps was the 7th Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade consisting of 21st and 26th Batteries each equipped with six 10 pounder guns.

The mountain battery guns were so designed that all the parts could be carried on pack-mules. The batteries which had been landed with the covering force, had been in action since the first day. The 26th Battery, forced out of action on the day of the landing due to heavy losses in men and material, could only man four of its guns. 21st Battery provided two guns to make up a four gun battery at Plugge's Plateau.

The New Zealand Howitzer Battery, landed on 26th April, was able to provide support after the guns had been hauled up the cliff along a newly made road.

Although some of the 18 pounders were landed on the 25th April great difficulty was experienced in selecting suitable gun positions. The steep nature of the terrain and the flat trajectory of the 18 pounders combined to make their deployment for indirect fire almost impossible. Colonel Hobbs¹, the commander of the Australian Artillery, and his staff searched constantly for battery positions. By 26th April every Australian battery had found some pretext for contriving to get one or more of its guns to the Beach. Twenty six of the thirty six had reached



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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1989-1990

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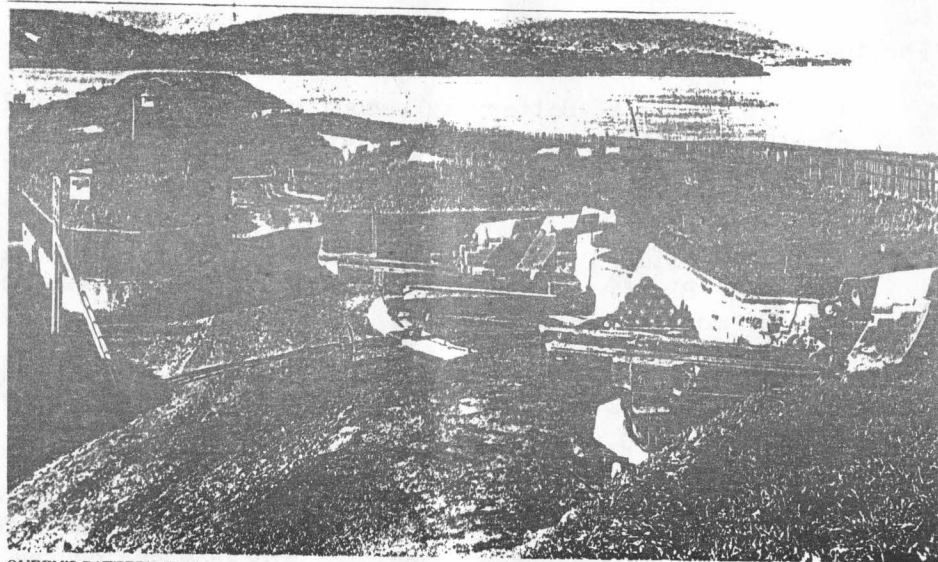
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QUEEN'S BATTERY, Domain
c. 1875
The Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts
State Library of Tasmania

1. King, Robert J. 'Green Hill Fort, Thursday Island and the Torres Strait', *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, September 1983.
2. French, G.A. Major General Commanding New South Wales Forces. 'Historical Records of the New South Wales Regiment of Royal Australian Artillery', September 1903.
3. Vazenry, G.R. 'Military Forces of Victoria 1854-1967'.
4. Brook, David Ed., 'Roundshot to Rapier Artillery in South Australia 1840-1984'.
5. Wieck, G.F. 'The Volunteer Movement in Western Australia 1861-1903'.
6. Peacock, R.K. 'Early Coast Defences of Australia 1787-1901'.

the shore, but most were sent back, since no positions had yet been found for them.

By the beginning of May only nine Australian guns had been deployed at ANZAC. At Cape Helles, the advance had proceeded sufficiently to allow for the deployment of artillery and as the country was suitable for field guns, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th Australian Field Batteries and the 3rd New Zealand Battery were sent to take part in the impending thrust towards Achi Baha.

Although the nine field guns plus six mountain guns had been emplaced in 1st Division's area, only two were able to deal with the Turkish works on the 400 Plateau, upon which General Bridges² urgently required to fire.

The infantry, which saw a heap of earth, daily increasing, 300 yards (274 metres) in front of the firing line, and regarded it as the obvious duty of their divisional artillery to come forward and demolish it, did not realise that such a task was not normal or even possible for field artillery. In the first place the field gun was primarily designed to destroy men and not defences. For that reason it was furnished mainly with shrapnel shell, projecting man-killing pellets and useless against defences. It is true that, as a secondary measure, a proportion of "common shell" was provided for use against field-works, and that at a later stage there was substituted in increasing proportion high-explosive shell, however it was not until late in June that high-explosive shells for field guns arrived at ANZAC, and then at first only in quantities sufficient for experiment.

Although the training of the artillery provided both for direct and indirect fire of field guns at targets immediately in front of them, experience had shown that fire from a flank was more effective than from the front. Especially was this the case in a position so mountainous as that at ANZAC, and so narrow that the batteries could nowhere be held back more than 800 yards (730 metres) from the front line, while the enemy was not so restricted. In the narrow area available to the ANZAC commanders there was only one effective method for the employment of field artillery - to emplace the guns so as to cover a sector at a distance to the right or left. This meant that the guns in the 1st Division's area should cover the NZ & A Division front, and vice versa. However, the application of this method was limited by the lack of suitable gun positions.

General Bridges, himself an officer of artillery, was well aware that the field artillery could not readily be employed in country for which the mountain artillery was suitable. Nevertheless he evinced extreme impatience at what appeared to him the slowness of the artillery staff in grasping and overcoming these difficulties. His decision, as expressed in an order of May 6th drawing the attention of infantry, artillery and engineers to the necessity for improving the foothold upon the 400 Plateau, was "Field guns are to be brought into a more forward position. A Turkish trench is being prepared within 400 yards (365 metres) of this salient (the Pimple opposite Lone Pine), and it is imperative that this should be stopped." If the guns could not be used according to the latest theories of field artillery warfare, he wanted them employed at once, as were Rosenthal's*, in positions where they could instantly deal with the Turkish works which now threatened to prevent his occupation of the 400 Plateau. The enemy has placed a gun on Lone Pine, and he argued that, if the Turks were able to batter parts of the front line of the division at 600 yards (550 metres) range, it should be possible for his own artillery to act with as good effect. He consequently ordered its commander to bring forward his guns. This order led to what promised to be a serious difference between Bridges and his artillery commander, Colonel Hobbs.

On the night of May 1st, in order to assist in the NZ & A Division's attack upon Baby 700, two guns of Major Bessell-Browne's⁴ 8th Battery were hauled by a great number of men on drag-ropes up slopes of sixty degrees to a point below the crest of the 400 Plateau. Later an additional position was found at the Pimple from which it was intended to fire upon Lone Pine.

To provide fire on the enemy works at Lone Pine on the afternoon of May 3rd, in full view of the Turks to the north, the crews of two guns of the 8th Battery, hauled by drag-ropes, ran forward their guns for a hundred yards on to the crest and into the trenches of the infantry. There they pulled down the sandbags which had till then screened them from Lone Pine, and, crouching beside their weapons, each gun's crew fired as rapidly as possible fourteen rounds at 450 yards range into the new earthworks. Rifle fire broke out from the Turkish trenches, and the enemy began to feel for

For the defence of Hobart, Scratchley recommended:

* That Queen's Battery be reconstructed, improved and placed in repair, and that the armament consist of two 70 pounder rifled guns, three 8 inch smooth-bore guns and two 32 pounder smooth-bore guns.

* That an enclosed work, with barracks be erected on Kangaroo Bluff, to be armed with 8 inch and two 80 pounder muzzle loading guns.

* That an enclosed work, with keep be placed on One Tree Point, Alexandra Battery, to be armed with 6 inch, two 7 inch and one 70 pounder rifled guns.

For the defence of Launceston, he recommended that an armed enclosure on Pig Island in the River Tamar be erected and provided with two 64 pounder guns in stockade enclosures. Also for torpedo defences, consisting of electro-contact mines, for the mouth of the Derwent River at Hobart, and across the River Tamar at Launceston.

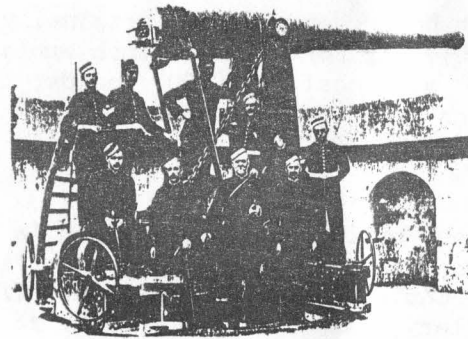
Consequent at the increasing importance of Launceston, it was decided to defer the construction of the battery on Pig Island until such time as further consideration could be given to meet the situation.

In 1883, Scratchley revisited Tasmania, and found it desirable to introduce several modifications in his previous recommendations, consequent on the changes and improvements which had been made since 1878, in the construction of ordnance and mode of fortifications of coast batteries.

It was decided that the works should be designed in amore extensive and substantial scale than was originally contemplated, so that it should be practicable, at any time, without such alteration of the several batteries, to add guns or to replace the smaller ones by more powerful ordnance.

In 1890, the defences of Hobart comprised:

* Two 70 pounder and two 64 pounder muzzle loading guns



ALEXANDRA BATTERY
Southern Tasmania Volunteer Artillery
c. mid 1890s.
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

at Queen's Battery.

* Two 8 inch and two 80 pounder muzzle loading guns at Kangaroo Bluff Battery.

* Two 6 inch breech loading (BL), two 7 inch and one 70 pounder muzzle loading guns at Alexandra Battery.

In 1901, when the defences were transferred to Commonwealth control, the ordnance at the forts comprised:

* Three 64 pounder muzzle loading guns, two 70 pounder muzzle loading guns, one 8 inch smooth-bore and one 32 pounder smooth-bore at Queen's Battery.

* Two 8 inch rifled muzzle loading (RML), two 80 pounder RML, one 6 pounder quick firing (QF) and one 5 barrel Nordenfeldt gun at Kangaroo Bluff Battery.

* Two 7 inch RML, two 6 inch BL, one 20 pounder RML, one 5 inch BL, one 70 pounder RML, one 5 barrel Nordenfeldt and one 6 pounder QF at Alexandra Battery.

For the defence of the River Tamar at Launceston, it was recommended that a defensive position be placed on the left bank at Brown's Bluff, this work to have two 20 pounder BL rifled guns. However, the construction of the battery was deferred and in its place a movable battery was provided.

Note: The first volunteer artillery battery was formed in Launceston on 2nd June 1860.

the guns with his shrapnel. But the movement had surprised him, and before his fire had become accurate, both guns had expended their ammunition and had been withdrawn without a casualty.

Although the fire had some moral effect on the enemy, the damage to the Turkish earthworks was negligible. There was an urgent need for high explosive shells. However, Bridges maintained his pressure on the staff to get guns forward.

It soon became apparent that the whole of the corps artillery should be co-ordinated by a strong central command. Consequently, arrangements were made for a more efficient communication network to be established so that request for fire could be directed to the battery most suitably placed to deliver the fire. However, it was not until the end of May that these arrangements were achieving results, especially when dealing with the most effective fire from the Turkish guns.

The manner in which the guns at ANZAC were forced to cover one another may be illustrated by the following example. On the morning of July 9th a Turkish battery at the southern end of Gun Ridge, not far from Gaba Tepe, opened a rapid and accurate fire upon a post on the right flank of the ANZAC trenches. Hughes's 7th Battery upon Bolton's at once engaged it. The right section of the Turkish battery in the Olive Grove thereupon turned upon Hughes. Burgess's 9th Battery immediately attacked the Olive Grove. Another Turkish battery on Gun Ridge, known as "Wineglass Battery," promptly turned upon Burgess. Bessell-Browne's 8th Battery as promptly opened on the Wineglass. This silenced the Wineglass, and enabled Burgess's guns to assist Hughes in surpressing the fire of the Turkish battery which had first opened.

Under such conditions the ANZAC Corps contrived to maintain, by the middle of May, some forty guns and six howitzers. The artillery had in the first place been compelled, largely by the driving force of General Bridges, to attempt the use of positions most of which were difficult and many impossible. "Some of the 18 pounder guns," wrote Hamilton's chief artillery officer, "... have been hauled up into positions such as field guns can never have attempted to occupy before in any campaign." In the second case the artillery commanders had been impelled, by considerations normal in their branch of warfare, to contrive for themselves a some-what crude co-

ordination. Finally, since it is impossible to shelter many of its batteries, the artillery was driven to rely upon the watchfulness and courage of its own officers and men for partial protection against well concealed Turkish artillery to which they themselves were completely exposed. The result was that, although the ANZAC guns could not on battle days prevent the enemy from pouring fire as heavy as his limited ammunition supply would allow, yet the Turkish artillery could never, except in the case of a few field pieces exposed in the firing line, suppress the ANZAC guns.

1. Lieutenant General Sir J.J.Talbot Hobbs, KCB, KCMG, VD. Commanded 5th Australian Division 1917-18; Australian Corps 1918-19; architect of Perth Western Australia; born Chelsea England 24th August 1864.
2. Major General Sir W.T.Bridges, KCB, CMG, Commanded 1st Australian Division and AIF 1914-15; born Greenock Scotland 18th February 1861; died of wounds 18th May 1915.
3. Major General Sir Charles Rosenthal, KCB, CMG, DSO, Commanded 2nd Australian Division 1918-19; architect of Sydney New South Wales; born Berrima New South Wales 12th February 1875.
4. Brigadier General A.J.Bessell-Browne, CB, CMG, DSO, VD, Commanded 5th Australian Divisional Artillery 1917-19; merchant of Perth Western Australia; born Auckland New Zealand 3rd September 1877.
5. Colonel F.A.Hughes, DSO, VD, Commanded 5th Divisional Ammunition Column 1917-18; accountant; born Brisbane Queensland 9th March 1874.
6. Major General Sir W.L.H. Sinclair-Burgess, CB, CMG, DSO, Commanded 5th Australian Divisional Artillery 1917-19; Officer of the New Zealand Staff Corps; born Longsight England 18th February 1880.

overhead shields, which had been ordered originally as the secondary armament for Glenelg Fort. The 6 inch emplacements were completed in 1890 at a cost of 40,000 pounds, the cost of the guns and mountings being 3,100 pounds.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA*

Prior to 1872 no Artillery units had been raised in Western Australia, probably because a trained artillery officer was not available. However, Captain H.W.Blundell, an officer of the British Horse Artillery, was appointed in 1872 to command the Union Troop of Mounted Volunteers. He was instrumental in having the Union Troop changed to the Western Australian Troop of Volunteer Horse Artillery. Two 12 pounder Armstrong-Whitworth breech-loading field guns held by the Enrolled Pensioner Corps were transferred the artillery complete with limbers and associated stores.

Although the guns were too heavy and unsuitable for Horse Artillery the Troop was very active attending camps, field days, ceremonial and even volunteered to form cavalry escorts for the Governor on ceremonial occasions. The Troop also fired numerous artillery salutes.

On 12 March 1882 the designation of the Troop was changed to "Perth Volunteer Artillery". A further change of title to "No. 1 Battery, Field Artillery" was made during 1887. The two Armstrong-Whitworth guns were replaced by two RML 9 pounders in August 1894, which in turn were replaced by BL 15 pounders in 1902. The Battery Commander during 1890 was Major J.J.T.Hobbs (refer to article "ARTILLERY AT ANZAC" page 3).

TASMANIA*

In 1878, Sir William Jervis prepared a memorandum on the subject of Tasmanian defences in conjunction with Colonel Scratchley. This memorandum dealt with the principles on which the island should be defended; but the recommendations were restricted to the measures as were the requisite for the protection against attack by a privateer and as were in the means that Tasmania to afford.

Another famous unit, although not really part of the Horse Artillery was the "Hastings 40 Pounder Battery, Victorian Rangers", formed at Hastings on 21th July 1890. The unit was in fact a position battery for the protection of Westerport and took the place of earthworks for the defence of that locality. The Battery's guns were drawn by bullocks, hence the nickname "Bullock Battery". The establishment of the Battery was 54 all ranks, the personnel, apparently, being drawn from men with the vocabulary necessary to handle the unemotional animals yoked to the guns.

In 1903 the Battery became No. 6 Victorian Battery, Australian Field Artillery.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA⁴

In 1884, "A" Battery of the South Australian Volunteer Military Forces, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel L.B. Mathews had a strength of 100 rank and file. Field firing with the RML 16 pounder field guns (acquired in 1878) took place at Dry Creek or Wingfield with targets engaged at ranges up to 5000 yards (4570 metres). Although the 16 pounders did not remain in service with the Royal Artillery for long, it was nevertheless found to be satisfactory by "A" Battery. However, both Colonel Downes and Colonel Gordon pointed out in their various reports from 1890 onwards that the 16 pounder should be replaced by a BL 12 1/2 pounder Whitworth field gun because of its superior design and greatly eased the burden on the detachment in serving the gun.

A plan dated 1889 shows Fort Largs as being completed, with two 9 inch RML guns in the centre of the main earthwork and an 80 pounder on either flank but well to the rear, so much so that they were about half-way along the side walls of the fort - an arrangement which would have produced some interesting blast effects if all four guns had ever tried to engage a target well away to on side of the fort.

In 1888, during a practice shoot, the "B" tube of one of the 80 pounders fractured, due to a premature burst of a common shell in the bore. This resulted in an accelerated re-organization of armament. The 80 pounders were dismounted in 1889, and emplacements were constructed for two 6 inch Mark V breech-loading Armstrong guns, on Elswick hydro-pneumatic carriages (popularly known as 'disappearing' guns) with

RAA NATIONAL MUSEUM

In 1988 the RAA Regimental Committee agreed that a National RAA Museum be established with the aim of preserving all Australian Artillery and Heritage throughout the Commonwealth; and that the National RAA Museum should embrace such other museums and forts in Military Districts which agree to affiliate. The RAA Museum Steering Committee has met on several occasions since the 1988 Regimental Committee Meeting to consider the plan for opening the RAA Museum at North Head in 1990.

The RAA Regimental Committee is responsible for formulating and approving RAA Museum policy, directives and guidance. The day-to-day management of the Museum will be effected through the RAAHS Management Committee presided over by the Director of Artillery and the Commanding Officer of the School of Artillery.

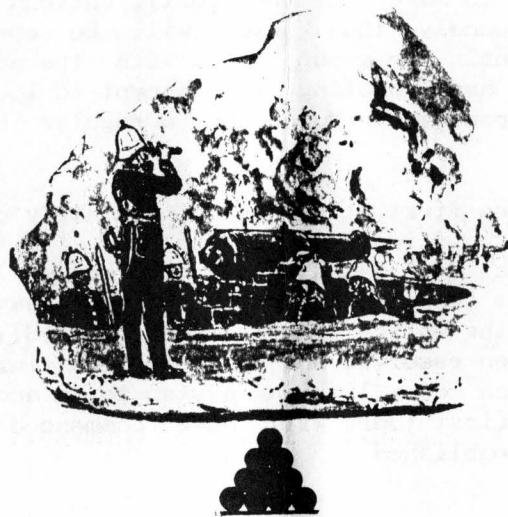
The RAA National Museum will initially comprise the North Fort 9.2 inch gun fortifications, two Lysaght buildings (erected 1989) for equipment displays, the Locating Wing buildings (original Fort staff offices and workshop) for photographic and restoration displays, a library and a shop. The Museum will be developed in three stages in 1990. Firstly essential work to make the the fortifications safe must be completed; socondly the Museum will be opened on a "by appointment" basis for group tours with the aim of proving its viability and promoting the concept to local interests; and finally, opening the Museum on a regular basis later in 1990.

Progress in the first stage was unfortunately delayed due in part to recent political announcements on the future of the Army at North Head, and a major problem with the tunnel drainage system (which combined with the heaviest rain in known caused the entire complex to be flooded). The drainage problem has been resolved and we are now obtaining quotes for the installation of a lighting system to an acceptable, safe standard. The first tours will have commenced by the time this issue is published.

Fund raising programmes are being coordinated on a State basis by the respective Colonels Commandant, however donations may still be sent direct to the RAA Museum Project Officer at the School of Artillery. The Commissioner of Taxation has provided written advice that donations to the RAA Museum or Library are tax deductible.

Public relations and promotion programmes have been developed and a 16 minute video has been produced. It will be distributed to interested groups, organisations, associations, Government bodies and tourist companies in the near future.

Opening the Museum in 1990 will be quite a challenge but one we have been working towards for a long time. Your support and assistance in any capacity would be very much appreciated. At this initial stage finance is our biggest hurdle (indications are that the tunnel lighting will cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000). however we are sure that once the Museum is opened it will quickly become self supporting.



Prior to Sir William's Battery, in 1860, there existed in the Melbourne Metropolitan area, "A" and "B" Troops of Mounted Artillery. A nominal role of members of this unit has been seen but it is quite possible, in fact probable, that these were the volunteer forerunners of the "A" and "B" Batteries of the 1884 period.

On the 20th August 1888 Captain Frederick Godfrey Hughes was appointed to command the Rupertswood Battery, while in the following year on 19th March, the Battery was converted into the "Victorian Horse Artillery", under the command of Major (later Brigadier General) F.G. Hughes. Headquarters were still at Sir William's home and the Battery was still maintained by him.

A sub-unit of the Battery was raised on similar lines at Werribee on 26th March 1889. This was a half battery armed with 12 pounder field guns and was maintained by Mr (Lieutenant) John Percy Chirnside.

On 15th March 1890 the Battery became part of the Field Artillery Brigade under Lieutenant Colonel Turner. In December of that year the establishment was 3 officers and 56 other ranks. The Werribee detachment was disbanded on 6th March 1893 at which time the establishment of the Battery was reduced to 46 all ranks.

The Battery was composed of the cream of Victorian athletes and were very soldier like in their bearing and neat in their dress, which was similar to that worn by the Royal Artillery, the only exception being the headdress which was a white helmet instead of a busby.

Sir William was so proud of his unit that in 1893 he sent the Battery to England, still at his own expense, where it took part in a number of military competitions. They did well and Joe McKeon, Sunbery's rough and ready blacksmith, proved himself the best artillery driver receiving a special gold medal from Lord Wolsely, the Commander in Chief of the British Army. The Battery acted as escort, on behalf of the Colony of Victoria, at the wedding of the Duke of York, (later King George V).

On 30th June 1897 the Rupertswood Half Battery, as it was known, disbanded.

The colliery disturbances having extended to the western and south coast collieries the following dispositions of detachments were made about the end of September:

Lithgow (Star Colliery)	- Major Murray
Mount Kembla	- Major Baynes
Corrimal	- Lieutenant Le Mesurier
Austinmer	- Captain Nathan (attached for
	duty)
South Clifton	- Lieutenant Kyndon

At all these places strong camps were formed. Strong parties of police under a Superintendent or Inspector were stationed at each place. A medical officer was attached to each detachment and a Magistrate was also retained in case it was necessary to read the Riot Act or proceed to extremities. Colonel Mackenzie the AAG was stationed at Clifton and made periodical inspections of the troops. Excellent discipline was maintained although in many cases a good deal of discomfort had to be endured and it is unquestionable that the presence of the Regiment contributed in no small degree towards the maintenance of order. Tranquility having been restored the various detachments were recalled to Headquarters at the end of November.

On the 9th November 1890 the extra troops sent to Newcastle under Colonel Airey returned to Sydney.

On the 9th December 1890 Lieutenant Colonel G.J. Airey was appointed temporarily to command the Permanent Forces, Colonel Spalding, CMG, having been relieved of the command during the absence of Colonel C.F. Roberts, CMG.

During the year additional Staff Sergeant Artificers and assistants were appointed as a portion of the establishment and Artillery Workshop at Victoria Barracks.

VICTORIA*

Perhaps the most notable unit during the 1880s was the Victorian Horse Artillery known to everybody in those days as the "Rupertswood Battery", an appellation they carried to perpetuate the name of the house of their sponsor, Sir William J. Clarke of Sunbury.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL T.B.W. JAMES, DSO
(1883-1939)

A Gunner Officer of the Australian Staff Corps

by Major Warren Perry, MBE, ED, (RL)¹

While 1989 marked the 200th anniversary of the outbreak of the French Revolution, it also marked the death in London on Friday 15th September of Lieutenant Colonel Tristram Bernard Wordsworth James at the age of 56 years. At the time of his death Colonel James was, because of war disabilities, a retired officer of the Australia's Permanent Military Forces.

This 50th anniversary is an occasion not only to remember the name of Tristram James, who in later life was known in the Australian Army as "Jimmy" James, but it is also an occasion to look more closely at his career to try to discover more than is generally known to-day about it. But such curiosity soon meets the obstacles which prompted J.A. Froude, in his short biography, Luther, to say:

The greatest men, strange to say, are those of whom the world has been contented to know the least.

And by way of illustration Froude added:

The lives of the greatest saints of the Church are little more than legends ... a few pages will contain all that can be authentically learnt of Raphael and Shakespeare.

Geartness expresses itself of course in many ways and it is found at all levels of the profession of arms. Nor is it a scientific concept which can be weighed or measured. So for reasons of space it can only be stated here summarily that the greatness of Tristram James expressed itself in his devotion to duty, in his consideration for subordinates, in his willingness to help junior officers onward and upward when they genuinely wanted to improve their performance and by his sunny personality and his professional conduct generally. In these and other ways it would be ingratitude to deny that he added lustre to the profession of arms in which he served with pride and distinction, having due regard to

the conditions of service in his time. These conditions were characterised by savage retrenchments and demoralisingly limited prospects for professional development theoretically and practically.

Tristram James who was the son of a Civil Engineer Charles Wordsworth James (1850-1927), was born in Hobart, Tasmania on 4th March 1883. From 1892 till probably late in 1897 he was educated at the Hutchins School, Hobart. He finished his schooling late in 1900 at Guilford Grammer School, Perth, Western Australia.

Like many of his brother officers in the Permanent Military Forces, he began his Army career as a Militia Officer. In January 1904, when working as a bank clerk in the gold mining town of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia, he was commissioned in the Goldfields Infantry Regiment and posted to one of the companies in the town. In February 1906 he was transferred to the Permanent Military Forces and appointed a lieutenant in the Royal Australian Garrison Artillery (RAGA) in which his first posting was to regimental duties in New South Wales. Later he was transferred for duty in Queensland.



When World War I began he had held the the position of original Adjutant at the Royal Military College, Duntroon since February 1911 having been promoted to captain in May 1911. He had served under the first two Commandants of Duntroon, Generals Bridges and Parnell. When Tristram James was released from Duntroon for active service overseas with the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) he was the last member of the College's staff to be released for that purpose.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO
AUSTRALIAN COLONIAL ARTILLERY

QUEENSLAND

At the Federation Conference held in Melbourne in February 1890 to discuss the proposed defences of Thursday Island and Albany, a resolution was passed that a meeting of the Commandants of the Defence forces of the Colonies be convened to visit the places and report on the armament required. This meeting was eventually held in Melbourne on 17th November 1890 and a committee made up of representatives from Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and the Royal Navy visited Thursday Island on 17th and 18th April 1891. Construction of Green Hill Fort at Thursday Island commenced on 10th August 1891.¹

NEW SOUTH WALES²

On 27th August 1890 the establishment of the field battery of the New South Wales Permanent Artillery (first raised in February 1899) was fixed as follows:

- 3 Officers
- 1 Battery Sergeant Major
- 1 Battery Quarter Master Sergeant
- 2 Sergeants
- 2 Corporals
- 6 Bombardiers
- 24 Gunners
- 26 Drivers
- 2 Trumpeters
- 1 Farrier Sergeant
- 1 Shoeing Smith
- 1 Collar Maker Sergeant
- 1 Collar Maker's Assistant (Gunner)
- 1 Wheeler Sergeant

On the same day a detachment of 80 NCO's and men with Captain and Subaltern under the command of Lieutenant Colonel G.T. Airey proceeded to Newcastle to reinforce the detachment already stationed there during the strike of miners, which had again broken out in the district and extended to Sydney. A detachment of 50 NCO's and men under the command of Major F.T.B. Baynes with two Subalterns was stationed at Dawes Point under canvas to be ready to assist in quelling riots, etc., if required.

In retirement, Tristram James resided at 61 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide, South Australia having purchased the house there in 1920. As his father had died in August 1927, he shared the house with his mother who died there on 5th October 1936. On 3rd January 1939, Tristram James sailed from Adelaide to Europe on a holiday visit. While in England World War 2 began and, twelve days later, on Friday 15th September 1939, he died at Bolingbroke Hospital at Wandsworth Common, London at the age of 56 years.

Readers may ask what kind of man Tristram James was. I remember him as an officer and a gentleman in the best sense of that widely known and much used expression. He was a good regimental officer and good commanding officer. He discharged his duties with a taut, tidy and an alert mind which suggested that he knew what he wanted and he knew how to obtain his wishes. With the aid of a cheerful personality he could infuse the right spirit into a unit so that all ranks were moved to play their parts effectively. His manner was firm, but courteous and tactful, towards all ranks. But he was easily moved to indignation by displays of fuss or longwindiness by an officer. He was of medium height, with light brown hair and his clean-shaven face showed a ruddy complexion. His rank and the honours he had gained he bore without either assumption or conceit. He walked through life uncomplainingly, with a brisk and purposeful gait and a firm belief in the Regimental Motto "Quo fas et gloria ducunt".

1. Major Perry is a Member of the RAA Historical Society and a former Federal President of the Military Historical Society of Australia.

2. There was a distinction at this time between the Permanent and Citizen Military Forces (CMF) branches of the Australian Artillery. The Permanent branch bore the prefix "Royal" in its designation but before 1936 the CMF did not. Therefore the RAFA and the RAGA indicated the Permanent branches of the Australian Artillery. The AFA and AGA indicated the CMF branches.

Tristram James was seconded to the AIF on 1st April 1916 in the substantive rank of major. He had the good fortune to go to Major General Monash's 3rd Division where he commanded a battery of the 7th Field Artillery Brigade, the Brigade being part of the 3rd Divisional Artillery under the command of Brigadier General H.W.Grimwade. On 22nd July 1917 he was wounded in action but remained on duty. His award of a DSO for gallantry in action, was notified in the London Gazette of 17th December 1917. "Under heavy shell fire and after moving the gun crew to safety, he extinguished a fire in the gun pit". On 1st April 1918 Tristram James was appointed to command the 7th Brigade with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Despite his late start in the AIF his service hereto had been good and to be given command of a brigade at this stage must have given him much satisfaction. On 7th April 1918 he was mentioned in despatches, but soon afterwards misfortune struck. On 24th April he was badly gassed and had to be relieved of his command. His health was never to return to normal again. Hostilities ceased on 11th November 1918.

During January 1919, soon after the repatriation of the AIF in Europe had commenced, Tristram James was appointed command of 3rd Field Artillery Brigade located somewhere in England. This was his last command in the AIF. After returning to Australia his service in the AIF was terminated on 28th March 1920. He resumed duty as commanding officer of the RAGA in the 5th Military District with its headquarters at the Artillery Barracks, Fremantle from 1st August 1920 to 30th April 1921. His next posting took him to Victoria where he commanded the Royal Australian Field Artillery (RAFA)* 3rd Military District with its headquarters at the Artillery Barracks, Maribyrnong from 1st May 1921 to 30th July 1922. Returning to the Garrison Artillery he commanded, from 1st August 1922 to 9th November 1923, the 1st Coast Artillery Brigade with its headquarters at Georges Heights, Mosman, New South Wales.

From 10th November 1923 to 7th March 1926, Tristram James was attached to the British Army as an Exchange Officer. Little is known about his duties during that attachment and further research is needed. On his return to Australia in 1926, he resumed command of 1st Coast Artillery Brigade at Georges Heights, the unit being re-designated as 1st Heavy Brigade RAGA on 1st July 1927. He remained at Georges Heights for a further five years being placed on the Retired List on 30th May 1931 because of "war caused disabilities".

Australian Field Artillery 18 Pounder 'In Action'
Gallipoli 1915
Australian War Memorial

