



**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.**

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2014

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**** NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS ****

raaassocsa@gmail.com

The old e-mail address has now been closed!

GUNNER DINNER -2014

The Committee is planning to hold this year's Gunner Dinner at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club of SA, located in Hutt Street, Adelaide.

Members will be aware that the Association usually holds the Dinner on the Friday closest to 1st August (celebrated in Australia as Artillery Day), however, in view of the fact that 16th Air Land Regiment is again involved in their major exercise over the July / August period, AND 6/13 Light Battery are tied into the training program of 10/27 BN RSAR, the Committee is planning to schedule the date of the Dinner to optimise the unit members' attendance.

**THE DATE OF THE 2014 GUNNER DINNER IS FRI 29TH AUGUST.
PLEASE ENTER IT IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!**

SA HISTORY WEEK – ARMY MUSEUM OF SA ANNUAL LUNCH

I invite your attention to the attached flyer relating to this year's 'History Week Lunch', coordinated by the Army Museum of SA.

Over the past couple of years the speakers, and the lunches, have been excellent, and it has been a very enjoyable couple of hours for all who attended.

This year's speakers will focus on different facets of the war in Afghanistan, and I'm sure that you will not be disappointed.

If you are able to join us on **Wed 21st May**, please respond directly as indicated on the flyer – if you care to let me know as well, we can coordinate a 'Gunners' table'.

VISIT TO ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (AMOSA)

A very pleasant sunny day had been arranged for the Association members who visited the Army Museum of SA on Wed 19 March, and it provided a most appropriate background for a very enjoyable day.

Fifteen Association members, accompanied by two wives and a son were provided with a most informative and interesting guided tour of the Museum by **Major Jeff Ayles (Retd)** (RAInf), Curator of the Museum.

Members present were (excusing ranks): **Paul Attwood, David Brook, Jan Burgess, Graham Curyer, John Dunn, David Edyvean, Dick Edyvean, Kevin Hausler, Stefan Landherr, Tony Matz, John Nield, Trevor Olsson, Ernie Reichstein, Robin Sandercock, Eddie Tanzer and Phil Warrick** (all the way down from Leasingham in the Clare Valley).



Many thanks to you all for attending.



In addition, Association Committee members, **John Nield** and **Eddie Tanzer** (AMOSA volunteers) were present, and I thank them sincerely for their efforts in the background preparing, cooking, and cleaning up after the BBQ lunch. They were ably assisted by **Colonel Annette Summers, AO, RFD (Retd)** (RAAMC) and **LTCOL Greg Rosser, RFD (Retd)** (RAEME, former OC LAD, 13 Fd Regt), both AMOSA Board Members, and more importantly, Honorary Gunners for the day!

L TO R: John Nield, Greg Rosser, Annette Summers at the BBQ



Some of the members enjoying the AMOSA BBQ lunch

VALE – LT KEN VINCENT

Those members who served in 13 Fd Regt in the 1960's might remember **Lt Ken Vincent**; I'm reliably informed that he passed away a few days ago after battling illness for some time. Although I have not seen him for many years, I remember enjoying his company on many occasions during that era. RIP Ken.

OPERATION RESOLUTE

A letter and follow-up e-mail from **Capt Dave Haupt**, advised that he, **L/Bdr Farol Arslanagic and Gnr Eric Vatovec**, all from 48 Troop, 6/13 Lt Bty, Keswick Barracks, gratefully received our Association's Christmas packages sent to them in Darwin; the aim of the packages was to remind them that they had not been forgotten by the SA Gunners over the Christmas Season.

The e-mail that I received from **Capt Dave Haupt** provided the following summary of their operations:

Operation RESOLUTE is the ADF's contribution to Australia's whole-of-government efforts towards maritime security and control. At present there are 500 ADF members deployed on Op RESOLUTE which aims to patrol Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone. It is the only ADF operation that currently defends homeland Australia and its assets. Op RESOLUTE is commanded by the joint civilian-military Border Protection Command. The RAN, along with the Australian Customs Service (ACS), provides several surface vessels force-assigned to Op RESOLUTE along with the Royal Australian Air Force and ACS providing aerial assets towards the detection of illegal maritime arrivals. Army, both ARA and Reserve provide personnel from 3 Regional Force Surveillance Units, (51st FNQR, NORFORCE and Pilbara Regiment) which conduct surveillance and reconnaissance operations in Australia's northern regions. Additional Army personnel contribute to the Transit Security Elements (TSE) aboard RAN and ACS vessels. Op RESOLUTE is aimed towards co-ordinated and sustained security operations in order to protect Australia's national interests.

*9 BDE currently has several members from various units including 48 Troop, 6/13 Light Battery, deployed on Op RESOLUTE. The majority are contributing towards the TSE. 48 Tp deployed 3 members on Op RESOLUTE, 2 soldiers: **LBDR Arslanagic** and **GNR Vatovec** to the TSE Rotation 71 and 1 officer, **CAPT Haupt** to the Headquarters, Northern Command (HQNORCOM) as Operations Officer.*

All members of the TSE should have returned to Adelaide by not later than 21 Mar 14.

VALE – ALBY SHERIDAN

The following message was received from the Staff Officer to the Head of Regiment on 13 March:

"It is with sadness that I inform you of the passing of Albert "Alby" Ernest Sheridan on 28 Feb 14 after a bout with illness.

Alby's funeral was held yesterday, 11 Mar 14, 3pm at Smithfield and Elizabeth Funeral Directors, cnr Main North and Womma Roads, Elizabeth Nth, SA.

There were about 8-10 past serving members who attended. The military eulogy was presented in brief by Padre Pat Woods and consisted of his DVA/ Record of Service. There was no military speaker. The family prepared their own eulogy which was presented in full by the Padre.

Condolences can be sent to the family (daughter Sue and son Alan and their families) at 56 Forrestall Rd, Elizabeth Downs SA 5113".

WO2 Alby Sheridan was a very competent Sergeant Major Instructor of Gunnery (SMIG) with 13 Fd Regt at Keswick barracks, Adelaide in the period 1973-74.

NEW COMMANDING OFFICER, 16TH AIR LAND REGIMENT



LTCOL Berni White was born in Pasay City (Manila), Philippines in 1974. After migrating to Australia in the late 1970's, he was raised in Victoria and was educated at St Josephs (Christian Brothers) College Newtown in Geelong.

He joined the Army in 1991 and was initially a Gun Number on an M198 Howitzer in 38 Medium Battery, 2/10th Medium Regiment. He then attended the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1993 and graduated to the Royal Australian Artillery.

LTCOL White has served in every regular Artillery Regiment in the Australian Army, and the School of Artillery, during his career. His postings have included Gun Position Officer of 101 Field Battery - 1st Field Regiment, a Forward Observer in 'A' Field Battery, Adjutant of 16th Air Defence Regiment and Battery Command of 131 Surveillance & Target Acquisition Battery.

LTCOL White has also served as a Troop Commander in the 6th Battalion – Royal Australian Regiment, as a Recruit Instructor at 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Kapooka, and as Tactics & Leadership Master at the Royal Military College Duntroon.

Since graduating from Australian Command and Staff College in 2008, LTCOL White has held a variety of Staff positions, including Staff Officer Fire Support, responsible for Land 17 (M777A2 Light Weight Howitzer, Artillery Field Artillery Tactical Data System and Digital Terminal Control System) at Capability Development Group. During 2011 he was the Military Assistant to two Forces Commanders, and most recently he has led the planning at Headquarters Forces Command for the design of, and transition to, the Multi-role Combat Brigades under PLAN BEERSHEBA.

LTCOL White's operational experience includes OP WARDEN (INTERFET) in East Timor in 1999 as an 'A' Field Battery Forward Observer and later Platoon Commander with the 3rd Battalion – Royal Australian Regiment (Parachute Battalion Group).

LTCOL White qualified as an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator and Mission Commander at Boeings Training Facility in New Mexico, USA. He then deployed on OP CATALYST in Iraq in 2006 as the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Battery Commander of Overwatch Battle Group-2. His sub-unit was equipped with AN/TPQ-36 Weapon Locating Radars, ScanEagle and Skylark Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. The Unmanned Aerial Vehicles flew over 2000 combat hours in support of coalition operations around Talil and over Basra.

In 2007 LTCOL White led the planning and technical reconnaissance into Afghanistan to establish Unmanned Aerial Vehicle operations based at Tarin Kwot, as part of OP SLIPPER.

LTCOL White is married to Liz and they have three young children. They enjoy spending time at the beach as a family; especially any opportunity to go Stand Up Paddle boarding.

LTCOL White assumed command of the 16th Air Land Regiment on 14 December 2013.

The Association congratulates LTCOL White on his appointment, and wishes him, and all members of 16th Air Land Regiment, every success in the future.

NEW OFFICER COMMANDING, PROOF & EXPERIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT, PORT WAKEFIELD

Major Abundo entered the Australian Defence Force Academy in 2001, graduating with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Geography. He undertook his officer training at the Royal Military College, graduating to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery in 2005. His first posting was to the 4th Field Regiment, where he commanded a Gun Troop. In this role he was responsible for the accuracy of the gun-line to respond to orders from the command post, and for the safety of the data applied to the guns.



In 2006, he was selected to deploy to Rifle Company Butterworth-74, where he lead his gun troop in infantry minor tactics as a Platoon Commander. Major Abundo spent much of this period investing in instructing his platoon on the basics of patrolling and fieldcraft, which assisted his troop in preparation for deployment to East Timor in 2007.

Major Abundo was posted to the School of Artillery in 2007, as a Troop Commander, where he supported Corps training and courses. He also participated in Exercise Talisman Sabre 07, in a representative role, deploying to Japan as a Joint Fires Planner for two weeks.

In 2008 he was promoted to Captain and posted to the 8/12 Medium Regiment as a Joint Fires Team Commander. In this role, Major Abundo was responsible for the training and raising of standards within his team, in the prosecution of targets by use of Offensive Support. In September of the same year, he deployed on OP ASTUTE as Liaison Officer to the Timorese Army. During this time, he managed to qualify himself in Tetum and achieved a high degree of fluency to accompany the CJTF on several KLE activities. He awards his ability to absorb the language quickly to his Filipino heritage.

Following his regimental experiences, Major Abundo was posted to 16th Field Battery, a Reserve unit in Launceston, Tasmania. His efforts in the position required him to focus on the successful transition from the M2A2 Howitzer to the 81 mm Mortar, a feat that was accomplished prior to his departure. The posting's isolation provided him with his first chance at mission command, which he thoroughly enjoyed. During this period, Major Abundo had the fortune to be released to OP SLIPPER for a brief period of time as a ROCTFA relief as a Fires Officer, responsible for the tasking of Offensive Support assets within the battlespace.

Major Abundo was selected to attend the Capability & Technology Management College (CTMC) in 2012, and enjoyed the demanding, albeit predictable, tempo. He successfully completed a Masters of Capability Management, and earned the Academic Award for the top academic student within his class, with an eight-subject average of 82 percent. He regards this as his highest professional achievement to date. Major Abundo has commenced a Masters in Systems Engineering with the intention of completing his studies in 2016. He was promoted to his current rank in December, 2013.

Major Abundo and his wife Emma (32), a registered primary school teacher, are proud parents of their son, Henry (12m). They enjoy travelling, movies and music.

The Association congratulates Major Abundo on his promotion and appointment as Officer Commanding, and wishes him a successful and rewarding term in the posting.

100 YEARS AGO – AMONG THE SHIRKERS: DETENTION CAMP FOR FORT LARGS – Christmas Clemency for 47 Trainees

“It was a tough crowd of 65 defaulters that paraded at the detention camp outside Fort Largs before the Acting Commandant (Major Brandt). All had been prosecuted for not complying with the requirements of the Defence Act. The Military authorities withheld action to see if the delinquents would ‘make good’. Month after month passed, and while nearly 14,000 youths in the State were doing their duty, about 200 were openly defying the law.

On December 1 instructions were issued to deal with all shirkers in the Senior Cadets and Citizen Forces. The result was that over 180 were before the courts. The majority paid the fines rather than risk losing their jobs. The others preferred the detention camp. Of these some had never been known by the civil police to work. They were of the larrikin type of the worst class. Some were out of work at the time; some could not pay the fine, and one absolutely refused to pay the fine or do duty of any sort on the plea of conscientious scruples. Many sentences of detention would not ordinarily terminate till two or three days after Christmas Day.

In view of the fact that many were first offenders the Acting Commandant, with the concurrence of the magistrates concerned, promised to remit the sentences of those trainees whose conduct was good, in order they might return to their homes for the festive season, provided they turned over the proverbial new leaf on January 1”.

Source: *The Advertiser, 24 December 1913 – thanks to Committee member, Tony Matz, for un-earthing this bit of Fort Largs history.*

AUSSIE GUNNERS FROM THE PAST – 1964 & 1942

The photo below shows Australian Gunners ‘deploying’ the guns on *HMAS Sydney* in 1964, on the ship’s first operational tour as a troopship. On this voyage it carried 111 LAA Bty, 7 Fd Sqn RAE & 5 Sqn RAAF to Malaysia & Borneo. The picture below was taken from *HMAS Yarra* or *HMAS Parramatta*, the ship’s escorts at the time. If you look very carefully, 111 Bty Guns (40 mm Bofors) can be seen on the ‘sharp and blunt ends’ of the ship - apparently the Gunners refused to adopt nautical terms for the duration of the voyage (no doubt to the angst of the crew!), and continue to do so to this day!



(Photo courtesy of Maj Roger Burzacott, RFD (Retd), former OC 3/9 (Light Horse) South Australian Mounted Rifles, and later Honorary Colonel, who was then a ‘young RAEME Electrical Fitter’ ‘somewhere’ on the ship, serving with 111 LAA Bty!)



6-pdr Anti-Tank guns deploying near El Alamein, 1942.

“Before July ’42 we had 2-pdr guns – which bounced off every enemy tank. Suddenly we’d got 6-pdrs which went through every enemy tank ... it went through all the German tanks side-on at ranges up to 800 – 900 yards, and through the front of them at 200 – 300 yards – and it went through all of the Italian tanks both front and sides. We started winning because we could actually knock the tanks out”

*Major Tom Bird, DSO, MC.
OC Anti-Tank Coy, the Rifle
Brigade.*

Source: ‘Images of War, Issue 18 Vol 2’

SUPPORT ONGOING IN AFGHANISTAN

‘Despite the end of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) mission in Uruzgan province and the drawdown of personnel in Southern Afghanistan, Australia’s commitment to the country and its people continues.

The ADF has shifted to a nationally focused mission with about 400 military personnel providing ongoing training and advisory support for Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

Australia is also maintaining a cadre of embedded personnel at ISAF HQ, ISAF Joint Command and Regional Command South.

Personnel in these roles will continue the important process of building the capability of the ANSF to take security responsibility for their country.

“If we are going to make real progress here it is all about them being able to step up and take the lead, so a great deal of effort has gone into that over the last few years”, said **Brig Patrick Kidd** (Deputy Commanding General for Force Development’).

Brig Kidd said the environment and conditions in southern Afghanistan remained complex.

“There are some great challenges here; it remains a very dangerous place,” he said.

Source: Army Newspaper, 13 March 2014.

NEW SIGNAGE FOR THE KESWICK-BASED GUNNERS!

Members will remember earlier articles in which I described some changes affecting Army Reserve Artillery units – to recap, over the past couple of years (I think) all Reserve Gunner units have down-sized and become an ‘Artillery Light Battery’, and been placed under command of the relevant Army Reserve infantry battalion. Although still officially regarded as ‘artillery’, the units are now issued with 81 mm mortars as their main weapon.

In SA’s case, 48th Field Battery amalgamated with 16th Field Battery (located in Tasmania), to become 6/13 Light Battery, of 10th/27th Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment – the 6 and 13 numbers recognise the earlier Artillery Regiment numbering from which the two batteries evolved in 1975, eg. 13th Field Regiment.

Further decisions were made to better identify the two elements of the Light Battery, so the Adelaide-based element is now identified as 48 Troop, and the Hobart element, 16 Troop, 6/13 Lt Bty.

When at Keswick Barracks last week I noticed the addition of new signage (see photo below) over the front door of the Artillery Depot, which, I believe, looks quite smart.

The up-side of the new arrangements is that the diggers are still titled ‘Gunners’, and they still wear the Gunner badge and white lanyard!

I also mentioned last year that the new Padre in 10/27 Bn was formerly a Bombardier in 48 Fd Bty, so it is fair to say that the Gunners are infiltrating the Bn with a view to a take-over bid, and we ‘have friends in high places’!





ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Keswick Barracks, Anzac Highway Keswick

AMOSA HISTORY LUNCH

"Afghanistan—Our Longest War"

Wednesday 21st May 2014 at 12 noon



Come along and enjoy a marvelous lunch followed by interviews with 3 experts who will be 'interviewed' on their experiences in Afghanistan

- The history and culture of Afghanistan
- Australian deployments in Afghanistan
- Lessons learnt from the war fighting

This lunch is part of the History Month celebrations of History SA "About Time"

Lunch is held in Building 34A at Keswick Barracks from 12 noon to 2pm. Make sure you book now to ensure a place. 180 places available for the lunch. So please book and pay to reserve your seat and table!



Cost: \$25 per person

Payment required by: **7th May 2014**

Cheques made payable to AMOSA Foundation

Post or deliver your cheque to:

AMOSA

Keswick Barracks

Keswick SA 5035 Or payment by EFT:

Account Name: AMOSA Foundation
BSB No 803 205 Acc No 205 150 18



ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Phone: 0413 270 370 E-mail: amosafuctions@gmail.com

... to AMOSA Foundation)

I/we will be attending the History AMOSA Lunch to be held on 21st May 2014.

Names of Attendees: 1.
2.
3.
4.

I would like to sit with the following persons or the table organiser

Contact email for my group Phone

Your ticket will be available for collection at the door of Building 34A on the day of the luncheon

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

2013 – 2014

Colonel Commandant

Yet to be advised

Committee:

President	Major Geoff Laurie RFD (Retd)	8332.4485 (H)
Treasurer	Major Rex Jones RFD (Retd)	8388.4201 (H)
Secretary	Sgt Jan Burgess	0411.446.656
Members	LTCOL Stefan Landherr RFD (Retd)	8289.4013 (H)
	WO2 Hector Korsten	8344.8386 (H)
	WO2 Don Millard	8263.5334 (H)
	WO2 Tony Matz	0412.824.600
	Sgt Eddie Tanzer	8263.0167 (H)
	Sgt John Nield	8339.6421 (H)
Assoc Reps at Army } Museum, Keswick }	Sgt Eddie Tanzer Sgt John Nield	
16 AL Regt	LTCOL Bernard White	CO 16 AD Regt
6/13 Lt Bty Rep (formerly 48 Fd Bty)	Capt Dave Haupt 48 Troop (6/13 Lt Bty)	8305.6256 (Tues Night)
P&EE (Pt Wakefield)	OC - Maj Jonathon Abundo	(08) 8867.1005 (W)
		=====

Committee Meetings:

The Committee endeavours to meet on the second Monday in February, May, August, and November.

Agenda items, and Newsletter Articles to: Geoff Laurie or Jan Burgess

Memorabilia (when available) from the Secretary

RAA Tie	\$40	Plaques (Pewter Badge)	\$25	RAA Lapel Badges	\$5
Book, ‘Roundshot to Rapier’ – A History of RAA in SA)			\$5		

Membership Fee:

Full Member: Annual Subscription: \$30 Joining Fee \$20 (at Committee’s discretion)
Affiliate Member: 50% of above annual subscription