Handspike

Long wooden, iron-shod levers used to either fit into sockets on a gun's trail(s), to enable several men to lift it, or to go under the trail, to move the trails and thereby move the gun laterally for big switches to engage new targets.

Harassing Fire

The firing of rounds at irregular intervals onto randomly selected targets; the fire is designed to 'annoy' the enemy. Harassing fire is generally delivered by one or two guns, each firing one or two rounds at a time. This type of fire is considered to be both economic and a very effective way of interrupting the enemy's 'daily routine'.

If it is also intended to seal-off an area, at the same time, or to deny the enemy the use of a particular route of approach, the mission is referred to as Harassing and Interdiction Fire (H & I's).

Harassing and Interdiction Fire

(see: Harassing Fire)

Head of Regiment

The Artillery's Head of Regiment (HOR) is a senior officer appointed by the Chief of Army to be his principle adviser on Regimental matters concerning the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. His duties include:

- * Representing the Regiment as the senior adviser for Regimental capability and heritage matters.
- Representing the Regiment at Army and Regimental activities.
- * Coordinating Regimental affairs through the Regimental Committee, including acting as Deputy Chairman of the Regimental Committee and participating as an ex-officio or official member, of all other Regimental Committees.
- * Conducting Regimental Conferences (which should be held at least biennially).
- * Briefing the Army Resource and Capability Management Committee (ARCMC) on capability issues and other outcomes from the Regimental Conference, and to ensure relevant Regimental issues are considered at the Executive level.
- * Coordinating Regimental and unit histories matters.
- * Promoting the Regiment's customs and traditions.
- * Nominating, coordinating and fostering the Honorary structure of the Regiment.
- * Maintaining close liaison with the Heads of Regiment of Commonwealth Artillery forces and, when appropriate, with their equivalents in the United States of America.

Headquarters Battery

The support unit within an Artillery regiment which includes:

* Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' Technical Support Troop (TST) / Light Aid Detachment

(LAD).

- Regimental Survey Troop.
- Regimental Command Post.
- Regimental Q Store.
- Regimental Signals Troop.

Height of Burst

The height at which a projectile, fitted with a time fuze, detonates above a target. The accepted height of burst above the target being 20 metres.

High Angle

The elevation in which artillery pieces fire at angles of, or above, 800 mils (45 degrees) and up to 1422 mils (80 degrees).

High Explosive

A chemical compound capable of producing violent shock waves on detonation and which can fragment high explosive projectiles and damage structures.

High Explosive, Anti-Tank

(HEAT) A round used for anti-tank engagements whose projectile has a hollow charge high explosive filling, which, on detonation, can produce a jet of great penetrating power.

High Explosive, Squash Head

(HESH) A round used for anti-tank engagements with the projectile designed to produce a flattened slab of high explosive upon armour. On subsequent detonation, the shock wave blowsoff the lethal fragments inside the target.

High Velocity Armour Piercing

A projectile used against armoured vehicles.

High Velocity Charge

A propelling charge which gives the maximum velocity obtainable with the relevant projectile.

Hollow Charge

A hollow (or 'shaped') charge, within a projectile, which is usually cylindrical and with a concave end, that, on detonation, focuses the explosive effect, thereby driving a jet of hot gas of great penetrating power through armour or concrete.

Honorary Head of Corps

The Honorary Head of Corps (HOC) is the advisor to the Chief of Army on Regimental matters connected with the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA). His duties include:

- * When required, representing the Regiment at Army and RAA activities.
- * Being responsible for the coordination of RAA conferences.
- * Being responsible for the coordination and fostering of the Colonels Commandant.
- * Assisting the Representative Colonel Commandant (see: Representative Colonel Commandant) in the coordination of Regimental affairs through the Regimental Committee of the RAA.
- * Maintaining close liaison with the Heads of other Commonwealth Artillery and, when appropriate, with their equivalents within the United States of America.
- Being the Deputy Chairman of the Regimental Committee.

* Being an 'ex-officio' member of, or is represented on, all other Regimental Committees.

Hostile Battery

Any number of enemy guns that are controlled by one command post.

Howitzer

Compared to a gun a howitzer is a comparatively short range, low muzzle velocity and high (projectile) trajectory equipment, which fires a relatively heavy projectile (see: *Gun*). It is an equipment that combines certain characteristics of both guns and mortars (eg. a howitzer can fire in both low and high angles (see: *High Angle* and *Low Angle*).