

Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company ENewsletter

1 message

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Royal Australian Artillery
Historical Company
ENewsletter Edition No 36

September 2019

AIRBURST

Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company
Newsletter

In This Issue

WELCOME TO AIRBURST NO 36 -
2019

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Integrated Air and Missile
Defence Capability

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Did You Know?

Gunners Around the Nation & the
World

Dear Gunners (Readers) -

WELCOME TO AIRBURST NO 36 - 2019

It is that time of the year again- time for the **Annual
General Meeting.**

NOTICE OF 2019 (21st) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Featured Article



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Quick Links

[RAAHC Website](#)

Membership

Are you a member of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company? If not then visit our [website](#), view membership details and benefits and join us today!

Memorial Walk Pavers

YOUR NAME	YOUR NAME	YOUR NAME	YOUR NAME	YOUR NAME	YOUR NAME
YOUR ORGANISATION	YOUR ORGANISATION	YOUR ORGANISATION	YOUR ORGANISATION	YOUR ORGANISATION	YOUR ORGANISATION
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Become a part of history by purchasing your Australia's Memorial Walk paver today. For more information view [website](#).

Army Newspaper



Australian Army Journal

of the ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

All RAAHC Members are invited to the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company which will be held at the

ADFA Officers Mess
Tobruk Road, ADFA, Campbell 2612
Canberra ACT

on Saturday 16th November 2019 commencing at 1030 hours

Members can access copies of the papers from the RAAHC website by [CLICKING HERE](#)

ALL PAPERS WILL BE UPLOADED BY 26 OCTOBER 2019

1. Proxy Forms (if you wish to appoint a proxy for the meeting)
2. Nomination Form (if you wish to nominate yourself as a director)
3. Agenda
4. Minutes of the 2018 AGM
5. Chair's Report 2019
6. Financial Statement as at 30 June 2019
7. Nominations for Directors

The AGM will be followed by a morning tea. Hope we see a good roll up of Canberra based members.

UBIQUE,

Ian Ahearn
Deputy Chair RAAHC

Transforming Australia's Integrated Air and Missile Defence Capability



Australian
Army
Journal

QR Code



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The 21st century threat environment demands the most up-to-date equipment and capability to achieve battlespace dominance. Raytheon Australia is working with Raytheon Company and KONGSBERG to develop Australia's new Short Range Ground Based Air Defence capability to replace the Australian Defence Force's existing capability which is nearing the end of its life-cycle.

Raytheon Australia will provide Army with a ground-based surface-to-air missile system that will have a beyond-visual-range capability for the first time. This project is called LAND 19 Phase 7B, and it represents the inner-tier of the land-based Integrated Air and Missile Defence capability-a further step towards delivering a truly integrated joint battlespace for the ADF.

In 2017 the Australian Government announced first pass approval to acquire the proven Raytheon/KONGSBERG National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System (NASAMS) NASAMS is a state-of-the-art weapon system that will enable the Army to quickly detect, engage, and destroy aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, and cruise missile threats. Further, NASAMS will reduce the effect of indirect weapons through the provision of a Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) Sense, Warn and Locate capability. This capability will also provide early warning and targeting information against relevant threats to deployed forces.

On 23 August 2019, the Australian Army held it's Army Demonstration Day in Sir Thomas Blamey Square at the Department of Defence's headquarters in Russell. The photo below shows the Tactical Radar and, in the background, the newly completed Operations Radar. These two radars will be the sensors for the Enhanced National Advanced Surface to Air Missile Systems (NASAMS).



Recently members of 16 Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery travelled to Canberra to the Headquarters of Raytheon Australia Air Defence Console. They are shown below using the Console.



A video of NASAMS can be seen by [CLICKING HERE](#)



Reserve Artillery-Days of Yore

I have recently discovered a copy of the Australian Gunner March 1980 edition. There was a story about 5/11th Field Regiment which set me on the path of tracing the Citizens Military Forces (CMF) - later renamed the Army Reserve (A Res) - component of the RAA. I found there is scant detailed information on the CMF/A Res units (apart from Association newsletters on the internet) that were raised post WW2 despite the fact that they were the overwhelming element of the RAA almost up to the 1960s. Perhaps a job for a Gunner historian? Happy to receive comments or information via the webmaster email.

Ian Ahearn

In 1948 the Field Force of the Australian Army consisted of the following units (Source *The Gunners A History of Australian Artillery* by David Horner):

1st Field Regiment - ARA North Head & Georges Heights, NSW
5 Field Regiment -CMF Marrickville, NSW
7 Field Regiment -CMF Willoughby NSW
11 Field Regiment - CMF Kelvin Grove QLD
3rd Anti-Tank Regiment-CMF Belmore, Homebush, Ashfield NSW
1st Light Anti Aircraft Regiment CMF Mosman NSW
2nd Field Regiment -CMF Melbourne VIC
10th Field Regiment -CMF Melbourne VIC
13th Field Regiment-CMF Keswick SA
6th Anti-Tank Regiment-CMF Launceston & Hobart TAS
2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment-CMF Geelong & St Kilda VIC
22nd Field Regiment -CMF Brighton VIC
2nd Medium Regiment-CMF St Kilda VIC
3rd Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment-CMF Bulimba QLD
1st Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment-CMF Haberfield NSW
Combined Operations Bombardment Regiment -CMF South Head NSW
3rd Field Regiment -CMF Karrakatta WA

As can be seen the CMF (later A Res) was the mainstay of the RAA in the late 1940s. Over the next 70 years great changes have been made to the Reserve component of the RAA- a storey well worth recording. This article will provide a glimpse of that yet to be written tale by recording some of the travails of 5/11th Field Regiment RAA.

5/11th Field Regiment RAA was formed on the 1st July 1975 after the amalgamation of the 5th & 11th Field Regiments. In 1948 these regiments had been equipped with 25 Pounders and remained with these guns until 1955. In that year the 11th Field Regiment was renamed as the 5th Field Regiment and the 3rd Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment became the 11th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment equipped with 40mm Bofors.

In 1960 the Pentropic Division experiment saw the 11th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment reverting to a field role. In 1964 both 5th & 11th Field Regiments were re-equipped with L5 Pack Howitzers. Half the L5 s were withdrawn in 1964 and both regiments became composite employing both the L5 and the 25 Pounders until the remaining L5s were withdrawn in 1965 and 25 Pounders re-issued.



Parade for Re-Equipping with 25 Pounders

The 25 Pounders were replaced in 1973 by the 105mm M2A2. In 1975, as indicated above the regiments were amalgamated into the 5/11th Field Regiment. The new Regiment's RHQ was based at Annerley with the 14th Field Battery located at Ipswich and the 41st Field Battery located at Southport.

The seventeen Regiments referred to above have all disappeared and the A Res element of the RRAA now consists of 9 Regiment with 6 light batteries equipped with 81mm mortars.

The successor to 5/11th Field Regiment is 5/11th Light Battery based in Southport.

Did You Know?

The Cypher

The Royal Cypher seen on the barrels of British manufactured guns has nothing to do with the guns being the Regiment's Colours. The Cypher indicates that the relevant piece has been checked (proofed) to ensure that it has met the laid-down manufacturing standards.

However, the Cypher appears on the Italian-made 105mm Pack Howitzer barrels because they were all re-proofed after their purchase from Italy (at the time, in 1960, the Italian proofing practices did not meet the UK required criteria).

The 105mm Hamel (Light) Guns, which were manufactured in Australia, bear the Australian Coat-of-Arms on the barrels, but not as a proofing indication, rather as an indication that they were manufactured in Australia.



George 111 (1760-1801) Cypher

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