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**Artillery in Tasmania
1901-2011**



**A Chronological Diary of the Evolution of Artillery in
Tasmania from 1901 to 2011**

Researched and Compiled by
Douglas Morris Wyatt, OAM, RFD and Keith Glyde

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“Artillery in Tasmania, 1901-2011”

PREFACE

The 16th Field Battery, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, is one of the longest continuously serving units of the Australian Army, tracing its direct roots to two volunteer artillery corps raised in 1859 and 1860. They were formed from within, and are wholly representative of, communities in northern and southern Tasmania. Their motivation was defence of those communities, defined by their motto *Pro Aris Et Focis*, translating loosely as *For Altars and Hearths*.

In 1901 these units became part of the new military forces of the Commonwealth of Australia; although they were never to serve outside Australia as formed units it was their service in peace in training leaders that allowed the raising and expansion of those expeditionary forces sent by Australia to serve abroad during the First and Second World Wars. In war they were mobilized in defence of the nation, diversifying into many Gunner roles. Now in peace they continue to provide a reserve of trained manpower to reinforce or relieve the Regular army, on operations or in aid of the civil community.

Their story during the formative years prior to Federation has already been told by Lieutenant-Colonel D.M. Wyatt in *Tasmanian Colonial Artillery, 1803-1903*, published in 2004. Now, *Artillery in Tasmania, 1901-2011*, records the evolution of all branches of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery in Tasmania from Federation until the present day.

The history and lineage of the units of Field, Garrison, Coast, Anti-Aircraft and Anti-Tank artillery of the Permanent Military Forces, the Active Citizen Military Forces and the Volunteer Defence Corps raised in Tasmania during times of peace and war are documented with extensive footnotes to provide the reader with an unbiased collection of facts in relation to organization, strengths, equipment, training and uniforms. Detailed peace-time lists of officers are included. The links to Tasmanian community and business, and the contribution made by compulsorily enlisted personnel during periods totalling 43 years is also recorded. The Tasmanian units of the Australian Imperial Force raised for active service abroad in WW1 and WW2 are however mentioned only briefly in relevance to the contribution made by the existing units to their formation and reinforcement as their history has been recorded in other publications.

The material remnants of Forts Alexandra, Nelson, Direction and Pierson now form part of our State military and architectural heritage and their history, role and design has been documented within.

The content of this publication is presented in chronological order and is supported by black & white or coloured photographs, maps, plans, documents and tables. Where possible all photographs include the names of those depicted. Many photographs have not been previously published and are placed to support and enhance the text.

This publication, along with *Tasmanian Colonial Artillery, 1803-1903*, provides the only complete history of 16th Field Battery RAA. This is particularly pertinent in view of the question of the future relevance of Army Reserve field artillery in the modern Australian Defence Force.

Douglas M. Wyatt, OAM, RFD, and Keith Glyde, April 2012