

AWMC02192

**7th Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade gunners
with a 10-pdr BL Mk1 gun**



88th Annual Gunner Dinner

Saturday 8th August, 2015

"Centenary of ANZAC"

8 Aug 1915

The Lone Pine Offensive was halted and guns of 1 Bty NZA and 7 Bty AFA fired from flanking positions to demoralise counter-attacks.

Further north at Hill 971 naval bombardment proved difficult to co-ordinate and control.

Heavy artillery, recently arrived, supported fire plans but lacked flexibility.

A stalemate prevailed.

AWMG00937

No. 4 gun of Hughes' Battery firing over a wheatfield at Anzac



Hosted by RAA Association NSW on behalf of Gunners

Proceedings

Pre-Dinner Drinks

Guests

Major-General T Ford AO (Ret'd),
Brigadier PKH Bridie AM and Mrs Bridie
Move to Dinner

March in the RAA Association Standard

Grace

Lieutenant Colonel Schon Condon RFD KSJ

Dinner

Short Break

Toasts

Loyal Toast

Mr Vice

Lieutenant Justin Gold

Message of Loyalty

Major-General Tim Ford AO

Toast to the Regiment

Colonel Don Tait OAM (Ret'd)

Toast to the Ladies

Phil Easton

After Dinner Speaker

Brigadier Philip K H Bridie AM

Response

Lieutenant Colonel Alain Dunand

March out the RAA Association Standard

Tea & Coffee

1915 Historical Note

Australian Field Artillery Brigades (FAB) at **Gallipoli** had three batteries (Bty) each with four, 18 pdr guns. No howitzer batteries were included as Australia did not have the modern 4.5in howitzer available to it.

Supporting 1 Aust Div:

Of the nine Btys planned to land only five did so and then only with great difficulty due to congestion, lack of roads or suitable tracks and time to find gun positions. Last in, 9 Bty was landed on May 5.

Supporting the NZ & Australian Division were two batteries and a howitzer battery NZA.

Supporting the Corps were 7 Indian

Mountain Brigade with two Btys of 10 pdr BL mountain guns and **naval guns**.

Left out of Gallipoli but not out of battle

1, 2, 3 and 6 Btys AFA and 3 Bty NZA were sent south and landed at **Cape Helles** to support the British operation.

In total 28 * 18-pdrs, 4 * 4.5 Howitzers and 12* 10pdr mountain guns to support a Corps.

25 April

7 Indian Mountain Brigade comprised of 21 Kohat Battery & 26 Jacob's Battery were to have deployed at 0800. 21 Bty was delayed by lack of landing craft while 26 Bty landed packed their guns on mules and made their way to the **Razorback** below the **400 Plateau**, coming into action around 1155. Their six guns drew intense fire from two Turkish positions, forcing them to retire to the beach where they came back into action around 1745. Around the same time two guns of 4 Bty AFA were landed and came into action on the knoll to the south of the beach.

At 1800 the Turkish guns stopped firing during the hours of darkness.

Naval counter bombardment from HMS *Bacchante* was ineffective as targets could not be identified and were in dead ground to the ship's guns.

26 April

7 Bty AFA man-handled guns up to **Bolton's Ridge** and fired shrapnel at massed attacks within 25 yards of the gun muzzle. The next night, **27 April**, saw No 4 gun fire 677 rounds throughout the night in the same manner.

By **May** only two guns could engage the **400 Plateau** and guns were dispersed across the ridges and pushed forward in and among the infantry.



Map by Gordon Smith, www.naval-history.net

Two old 6 in howitzers of the Royal Malta Artillery, with marine gunners and a 4.7in naval gun on land carriage were landed and grouped together as a heavy battery.

6/7 Aug Battles of Suvla and Lone Pine.

Additional howitzers from 4 & 5 Lowlands Bde (old style 5in) and 69th Bde fired from the beach in support of the attack on **Lone Pine**

In **Sep** this was augmented with 17th Siege Bty with 4 new 6in howitzers to defend Lone Pine and to support the **Nov** push by 5 ALH.

By Nov Suvla had 91 guns, ANZAC 105 and Helles 197.

Following the reduction between the **6&18 Dec**, only 19 older guns and ammunition still at the battery positions remained on ANZAC.

Unserviceable guns such as the 6" howitzers and 4.7 were destroyed. The only working gun left was the 12-pdr AA gun, covering the beach.

Refs:

Horner D, The Gunners, AWM Official History WW1 Vol 1&2.

Dinner Menu 2015

Entree

**Salmon, Shallot and Mayonnaise
wrapped in a pancake**

or

**Veal Tortellini served with
Semi-Dried Tomatoes
and Basil Cream**

Mains

**Supreme Chicken braised in
Tomato, Olives and White Wine**

or

**Pan-Fried Scotch Fillet with
Stuffed Field Mushroom
and Tomato Jus**

Presentations

***Brigadier PKH Bridie AM
will present the***

RAA Association (NSW)

Soldier of the Year Awards for 2015

***Lieutenant Colonel Nick Floyd
on the RAAHC History Seminars***

Desserts

**Homemade Baked Chocolate and
Bush Honey Cake
served with Butterscotch Sauce**

or

**Apple and Cinnamon Crumble
served with Double Cream**

Coffee/Tea



Hand engraved 18 pdr shell case

THE LAST SHOT FIRED FROM ANZAC
 AT 5.5 P.M. ON THE 19/12/15 AT THE OLIVE
 GROVE FROM NO. 4 GUN 8TH BATTERY A.F.A.
 DETACHMENT
 NO:1778 SGT. S.G. BREARLEY
 NO:2097 CORPL J.E.H BUTLER.
 NO:4291 GNR R.F. CUNNINGHAM.
 BATTERY COMMANDER CAPT. W.C.N. WAITE
 AWM ID REL/00021.00

**2015 Anniversaries: – 1885 A Bty deploys to the Sudan, 1945 end of WW2,
 1965 102 Bty deploys to Borneo and 105 Bty to South Vietnam**

Dining President
Lieutenant Colonel Alain Dunand
 President RAA Association (NSW)

Dining Vice-President
Lieutenant Dustin Gold
 7 Light Battery RAA
 2/17 Battalion Royal New South Wales
 Regiment

Standard Bearer
Sergeant Eric Bridge
 23 Light Battery RAA
 4/3 Battalion Royal New South Wales
 Regiment

Music
23 Light Battery Band 4/3 RNSWR

Acknowledgements
 2/17 RNSWR, 7 Light Battery
 4/3 RNSWR, 23 Light Battery
 23 Light Battery Band, 4/3 RNSWR
 Parramatta RSL Club and Staff

**The Annual Gunner Dinner
 (NSW) is organised on behalf of
 gunners and friends of the
 Regiment by the Committee of
 the RAA Association (NSW).**