



Foundation News

Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation

March/April 2009

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From the Chairman's Desk

To many people the image of a museum is a dry and dusty old building where nothing ever happens. Not at our museum! The following are just a few of the current happenings.

The Museum has moved efficiently onto a Wednesday to Sunday roster and with Marketing now under the skilled management of Joe McKenna admissions are growing steadily. Our target is to be open seven days of the week as our record shows that the more days we are open the more visitors we get.

The special signals display masterminded by Frank Beardmore and including hands-on activities for children is proving popular with record attendances. (See article on the display in this issue). We are planning similar special exhibitions and activities for each of the school holidays.

At the strategic level we are about to receive the final design of the Post 1945 Gallery from designers

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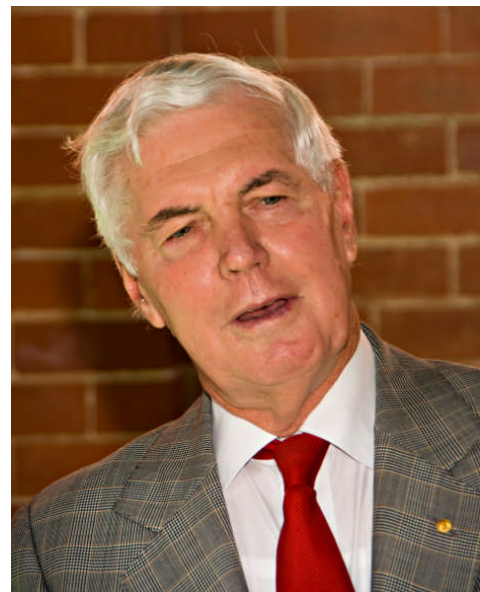
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Photography courtesy of Museum Volunteer David Nicolson

Former Governor-General makes personal donation to Army Museum

The Army Museum was honoured on Wednesday 25 March with a visit by the former Governor-General of Australia, Major General Michael Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC (Retd).



On the occasion of his visit Major General Jeffery made a personal donation to the museum of an official framed portrait from his term as Governor-General and a vice regal uniform.

These items are of significance to the museum as they represent part of the career of a famous Western Australian in the Army.

Philip Michael Jeffery was born in Wiluna, Western Australia in December 1937 and completed his high school education at Kent Street Senior High School in

Freeman Ryan Design. This design is the result of an effective and efficient consulting and development process whereby their design skill and experience have been matched with our resources and requirements. There will be a special presentation to Foundation members on the evening of 14 May. Keep the date free.

The numbers of volunteers continue to grow, with the latest group completing their induction course on April 19. We have had some sad losses and others have decided to move on for various reasons but overall the numbers grow.

At our April Board meeting Mike Brennan resigned from the position of Vice-chairman. His resignation was accepted reluctantly. He remains on the Board as a director. Graham Horne was the unanimous choice as his replacement..

Tom Goode
Chairman
Army Museum of WA Foundation Board ■

Obituary Notices

It is with great sadness that the Army Museum of WA Foundation records the passing on of two its former volunteers:

David Pollock – passed away on 4th February 2009. David saw service in the Royal Artillery, British Army, rising to the rank of Major. He joined as a volunteer around 2002-03, following the passing of his good friend Colonel Don Hall who had worked with John Knox in the museum's archives. David took on the archives work and continued in this role until forced to give up his volunteer work due to ill health.

Alex Liddelow – passed away on 13th April 2009. Alex joined as a volunteer in 1999 and became part of the Saturday group of museum guides with very regular attendance. His tales and yarns from his former days in the WA Police Force kept the Saturday crew well entertained and he will be missed by his fellow volunteer guides.

Perth. He graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1958 and was posted to Malaya in 1962 for operational service. He later was posted to Papua New Guinea and went on to do a tour of duty in Vietnam during which he was awarded the Military Cross.

In 1972 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in command of 2nd Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment, based in Papua New Guinea. In 1975 he took command of the Special Air Service Regiment in Perth and was subsequently promoted to Colonel as the first Director of the Army's Special Action Forces (1976-1977). From 1981 to 1983 he headed Australia's national counter-terrorist co-ordination authority. He was promoted to Major General and appointed to command the Army's 1st Division in 1985. He became Deputy Chief of the General Staff in 1990, retiring from the Army in 1993.



Deputy-Chairman of the Army Museum Foundation, Lt-Colonel Michael Brennan (left) with Major General Jeffery and his donated portrait.

In November 1993 Michael Jeffery was appointed Governor of Western Australia and in this capacity he visited the Army Museum of Western Australia when it was still located at Dillhorn, Perth.

Major General Jeffery was appointed as Governor-General of Australia in August 2003 succeeding Dr Peter Hollingworth in the post. He was the first Australian soldier to become Governor-General ■.

School Holidays Signals Display

During the current school holidays 11-28 April the Army Museum has organised a special exhibition of army signals equipment ranging from early communication methods such as semaphore flags, heliographs and Morse code keys through to later telecommunications equipment, including field telephones and radios.

The display is mounted in the ground floor area of the Western wing of the main Artillery Barracks building, recently vacated by Western Australian University Regiment (Refer to article in the December 2008/January 2009 edition of the Foundation News). This area is earmarked for future use as a Research Centre.

The displays include some "hands-on" items for children to interact with including a practice at using the Morse key or semaphore flags. Those participating in this receive a special award certificate.

The principal organiser of this display has been museum volunteer Frank Beardmore who has seen 36 years service as a signaller in the CMF/Army Reserve.



Museum volunteer and ex signaller Frank Beardmore with some of the museum's signals equipment in its collection.

Frank was called up for National Service in April 1956, completing his compulsory full time training with 17th National Service Battalion at Swanbourne.

Following this full time training he was posted to the Royal Australian Signals in the Citizen Military Forces (as the army Reserve was then designated) for ongoing part-time service, serving initially with West Coast Fortress Signals based at Artillery Barracks in Fremantle, the current home of the museum. Frank explained that his service with this unit included general signals line work and establishing radio communications in support of the coastal artillery battery who operated the 5.25 inch coastal guns at Leighton.

After completing his obligatory CMF component of National Service, Frank decided to continue on a voluntary basis in the CMF. In 1961 he was transferred to 405 Signals Squadron located at Leederville, being promoted to the rank of Sergeant. While here he served with another of our museum volunteers, Graham Donley, who has also seen extensive service in the Signals Corps. Frank took over as Squadron Sergeant Major when Graham was promoted to Lieutenant. He was later posted to 109 Signals Squadron then transferred back to 123 Signals Squadron (formerly 405 Squadron). This unit was made up of part Regular Army and part Army Reserve and when it converted to full ARA he returned to 109 Signals Squadron.

In 1987 Frank transferred to the 5th Army Recruiting Unit and was finally discharged in October 1992. He also became involved in Army Cadet training during the latter part of his service. ■



Some of the signals equipment on display

25 Pounder Field Gun Added to Our Collection

Thanks to the support of Army History Unit, the Army Museum of WA recently took delivery of a 25 Pounder field gun to add to its collection of artillery pieces. One of these had been earmarked for us some years ago, however AHU waited for an opportunity to source one from a former Artillery unit.

The piece is in temporary location near the Tuckfield Street gate at present and will be relocated in due course and restored.



The 25 Pounder being offloaded from the delivery truck



The 25 Pounder Gun Howitzer had its origins in a 3.45 inch (87mm) gun-howitzer designed during the 1930s to replace the World War One 18 Pounder field gun. At first the new guns were provided by removing the barrels of the 18-pdrs from their carriages and inserting the new 25-pdr barrel and breech. This led to them being initially known as "18/25-pdrs", although the official name was the "Ordnance 3.45-in". In 1938 popular sentiment led to the gun being called the "25-

pdr".

The 25-pdr was one of the best field guns of its day, although it did not fire as heavier shell as the German and American 105mm (4.1-in) weapons, it was easier to handle in action and has an excellent range. It was provided with an excellent anti-tank shot, which proved to be of immense use in the Western Desert, when the 2-pdr anti-tank gun was outmatched by the German armour.



Museum volunteer and Operations Officer, Norm Wells, doing a 'RAEME inspection' of the gun.

In order to extract the best performance, a muzzle brake was fitted in 1942 and an extra propelling charge was used to provide a higher muzzle velocity with 20 pound AP shot. The gun was capable of firing a wide range of ammunition, including white and coloured smoke, flare, incendiary, propaganda and squash-head shells, as well the normal HE, Shrapnel and AP shots.

The gun remained in front line service until the late 1960's and was still used in reserve until the early 1970's.

The basic gun was also adapted for use in several self-propelled guns, such as the Bishop and Sexton.

The main difference between normal guns and howitzers, is that guns fire 'directly' at their targets, while howitzers fire 'indirectly' at high angles, dropping their shells on to targets hidden by hills or fortifications. The plunging fire of a howitzer is also ideal for cracking open heavy gun emplacements and defences. Howitzers usually fire at shorter range than guns, which means that the propellant charges of howitzer shells are comparatively small. This in turn means that howitzers have shorter barrels than guns. ■

COMING EVENTS IN 2009

REUNITING OF THE SADLIER MEDALS WITH HIS VC

The Army Museum has in its collection the original World War 1 campaign medals awarded to **Lt C W Sadlier, VC, of the 51st Battalion, AIF**. In October 2006 the Army Museum mounted a special display marking the 150th Anniversary of the Victoria Cross and **St Georges Cathedral** in Perth kindly loaned Sadlier's original VC from their collection to the museum for this display. The museum has decided that they will donate the Sadlier medals to St Georges Cathedral in order to reunite his medals with the VC and therefore allow his complete medal set to be held by the one organisation. The handover event is to be held at St Georges Cathedral on **23 April** ■.

BACK TO THE BARRACKS LECTURE 16 JULY

The second of our 2009 Public Lectures will be on **Thursday 16 July** with a talk by ex Army Aviation pilot **Mr Ross Hutchinson**. Ross's career included flying Bell Sioux reconnaissance helicopters in South Vietnam. His talk will be on **History of Army Aviation**. All foundation members and guests are welcome.

Cost: \$15 (includes supper)

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: Army Museum of WA, Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, Fremantle.

Bookings: Ring 9430 2535.

Please note that for catering purposes bookings are essential ■

MUSEUM MEDAL MOUNTING SERVICE

The Army Museum of Western Australia continues to offer a medal mounting service. This includes professional court mounting of medal groups with replacement ribbons and medal cleaning.

Contact the Army Museum for further details on

9430 2535

Museum Sponsors

The Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation has received financial support from the following:



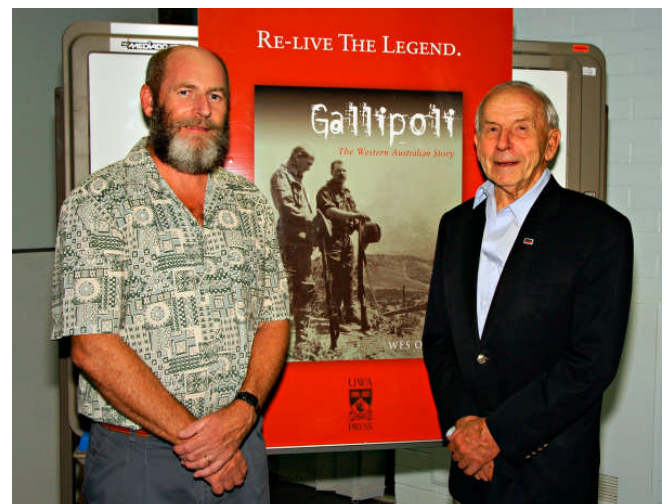
PARKSIDE
Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd



Museum Founder Attends Back to Barracks Lecture

The Army Museum's recently held public lecture at Leeuwin Barracks on 8th April was well supported with over 60 in attendance. At this lecture museum volunteer and historian/author Wes Olson gave a most interesting presentation covering the experiences of West Australians during their first day of the landing at Gallipoli in 1915.

Amongst those in attendance was the original founder of the Army Museum, Brigadier Bill Jamieson and his wife Norma. It was at the instigation of Brigadier Jamieson as Commander of 5 Military District at the time, that the Army Museum of Western Australia became established in 1977. Below is a photo of presenter Wes Olson with Brigadier Jamieson.



From the Curator's Desk

2009 has certainly commenced with us all "hitting the ground running"; that is to say that the plans we put in place in 2008 are becoming a reality and in many cases, sooner than later.

I have relocated within Artillery Barracks to Building 11 (the Eastern gatehouse at the Burt Street entrance) and this is also now the offices of the Deputy Curator (David Legg) and the Registrar (Graham Horne). Throughout 2009 and 2010 all other buildings previously used by the Western Australian University Regiment will be occupied by the AMWAF in accordance with the Precinct Plan.

The Sydney based museum design firm of Freeman Ryan Design will be submitting their documentation for the design of the AMWA's new Post 1945 gallery by the end of April. This is on time and in keeping with timeframe stipulated in the AMWAF's tender document. The members of the Precinct Plan Committee have been kept fully informed of the progress and the final design concept is of an exciting, international standard.

Frank Beadmore and his team have done an outstanding installation of an Australian Army Signals exhibition organised in time for the museum's extended April school holidays opening and focussing on children to the extent that there are operational Morse keys that can be used and also signal semaphore flags. The children leave with an AMWAF signals certificate from this display as a memento of their experience. A terrific effort by our volunteers to stretch themselves to man all the galleries and this exhibition every day over the two weeks. Well done to all concerned.

Oral History – this Curatorial Section has been revived recently with Carole Temple and Ross Gregory being the leading participants. The AMWA had a very active and effective Oral History program early in the museum's life and it is wonderful that it will be operating once again. To this end, the AMWAF will be running an **Oral History Workshop** at Artillery Barracks on **Saturday the 9th of May**. This will be conducted by the Army History Unit's specialist in this field – Major David Burcholtz. Details for the workshop are yet to be confirmed however any AMWA volunteers who would like to participate are most welcome. Please register your interest directly to me at the museum, by email

(wayne@gardinervaluers.com.au) or my mobile 0418 926 491 by the Tuesday the 5th of May.

Additions to the collection of interest in recent months: –

- Superb medal group of a Western Australian soldier who saw service in Korea (with 2 RAR at the Battle of the Hook), Malayan Emergency and two tours in South Vietnam with 6 RAR. Significantly he was present at the Battle of Long Tan with D Coy on the 18th of August 1966. A special donation event is planned for this medal group closer to Vietnam Veteran's day in August this year.
- An extremely rare WA colonial volunteer era belt to an officer in the Guildford Rifle Volunteers.
- 25 Pdr Field Gun. This requires restoration however we are delighted to have one of the most famous field guns ever used by the RAA in our collection. This came via the efforts of AHU and at no cost to the AMWAF.
- Objects from the estate of the late General Taylor AO. Gen. Taylor was a great supporter of the AMWA and also instrumental in establishing the Pilbara Regiment.
- The framed oil on canvas portrait of Maj. Gen. Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC as Governor General of Australia and one of his uniforms. His visit and the donation of these objects are dealt with elsewhere in this edition of the Foundation News. Gen. Jeffery has always been a terrific and strong supporter of the AMWA.

Museum Week 2009 – 16th to the 24th of May:

The AMWA will be participating in this event. I will be conducting "Behind the Scenes" tours of about an hour and a half duration on the afternoons of the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of May from 1.30pm to 3pm. Tours are limited to 10 attendees at a cost of \$10.00 (this will allow them also to visit the museum without further cost although monetary donations are always welcome). AMWA volunteers and Financial AMWAF Members can attend without cost. Bookings are essential so please contact me at the museum, by email (wayne@gardinervaluers.com.au) or on my mobile 0418 926 491.

To all volunteers – keep up the good work and enjoy what we are building together.

Capt. Wayne Gardiner, Curator ■