



The Australian Artillery Calendar

Some Dates of Historical Significance

April 2026: by Anniversary & Day

70	1-Apr	1956	1 Apr: A secret RAA Long Range Rocket Regiment is raised with six Black Knight launchers.
109	10-Apr	1917	10 April: To mount the attack at Bullecourt Australian guns were pushed well forward and exposed. On just this day eleven gunners are KIA, including the CO of the 4th Australian Field Artillery Brigade from German counter battery fire.
109	15-Apr	1917	15 April: A predawn German attack between Divisional boundaries overruns all four batteries of the 2nd Australian Field Artillery Brigade in one sector. Also, at Noreuil, guns were dragged from pits to engage attacking Germans with direct fire. Infantry counter attacks saved most of the guns. The action at Noreuil, which included 13th Battery, 5th AFA Brigade, is commemorated by a park with its name on the banks of the Murray River in Albury.
20	19-Apr	2006	19 April: Under the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (2003 to 2017) an RAA staffed Evacuee Handling Centre from 4th Field Regiment deployed as part of a Ready Battalion Group deployment. Additionally, 101st Medium Battery (Combat Team Thor) is deployed in an infantry role as part of Operation ANODE II for 4 months. RAA batteries then successively deployed on rotation until 2013.
85	21-Apr	1941	21-22 Apr: At Brallos Pass, Greece, two 25-pounder guns from A Troop 3 Battery 2nd/2nd Field Regiment RAA deployed to support the withdrawal of 19 Brigade to Crete. Seventeen gunners held off a German Mechanised Brigade for 36 hrs. They were led by LT John Anderson who was awarded a MC; his batman, GNR Brown, was awarded a MM. Seven gunners were KIA, six WIA. The brave action enabled a textbook 'clean break' withdrawal of the main force. Related painting: https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C175428
115	25-Apr	1911	25 Apr: Approval for the Royal Australian Artillery to be redesignated The Royal Australian Garrison Artillery, and for the permanent batteries of Field Artillery (i.e., No 1 and No 2 Batteries, Australian Field Artillery (Permanent), formed on 1 December 1910 vide MO 405/1910 of 29 Nov 10 by expansion of 'A' and 'C' Mounted Instructional Cadres RAA) to be redesignated The Royal Australian Field Artillery was given by the King on 10 March 1911. The redesignation was



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			promulgated and put into effect vide MO 160/1911 of 25 Apr 11.
111	25-Apr	1915	25 April: At ANZAC Cove the first efforts to land artillery commences. The landing order on the day is: six 10-pounder mountain guns (26th Jacob Battery, Indian Mountain Artillery), one 18-pounder field gun (4th Australian Field Artillery Battery), and six 10-pounders (21st Kohat Battery, IMA).
54	25-Apr	1972	25 April: The RAA Kings Banner is laid up in perpetuity in the Australian War Memorial.
61	27-Apr	1965	27 April: Advance elements of 102nd Field Battery RAA moved from Malaysia to Borneo during Confrontation with Indonesia. The Battery is deployed for operations in Western Sarawak, Borneo, under command of 4th Light Regiment RA from 4 May-27 July 1965. It returned to Malaysia by 14 August 1965.
62	29-Apr	1964	29 April: 111th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery in Holsworthy is given four weeks' notice to deploy to Butterworth Malaysia for a six-month unaccompanied tour to support forces countering Indonesian incursions. The BC, Major Arthur McDermott first heard of the mission from news sources.
111	30-Apr	1915	30 Apr: At ANZAC total artillery ashore from Corps Troops and 1st ANZAC Division is: twelve 10-pounder mountain guns, eighteen 18-pounder field guns, and four 4.5-inch howitzers.

Suggestions for additional Calendar entries for this month are welcome for RAAHC consideration.

This pilot Calendar is issued monthly for twelve months (ending August 2026) to gauge reactions. Helpful feedback will be used to manage and develop the 'Calendar'. Readers of histories can share dates of significance with the RAAHC, as they encounter them.

- There are many other dates of importance (battles, operational deployment, origins, introduction of a new operational capability etc) that can be added over time.
- Suggestions will be welcome when supported by evidence.
- The raising dates of many artillery units on the current orbat were not included in the succinct *Action! Action! Action!*
- The challenge is to build sufficient interest to grow the 'Calendar' over several years and find the best methods for its efficient communication and ensure ready availability.
- If you would like to join an Australian Artillery Calendar development team please email me as per below.



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Future Communication Method for an Australian Artillery Calendar:

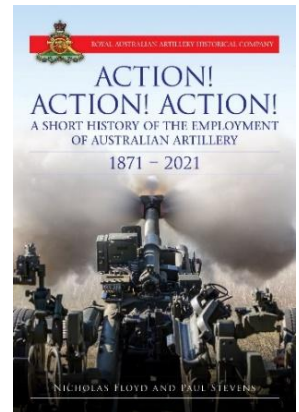
It has been suggested that a good method for communicating the Calendar is an ‘*On This Day, Australian Artillery: ...*’ post that is loaded daily on RAAHC Facebook and Instagram group pages. It would not be hard to progressively enliven each entry with an image/map/document. Those who subscribe will access the calendar whenever scrolling the RAAHC Group page. They can also share with other interested groups. Any advice on this approach would be appreciated? Whether it can be ‘automated’ will be an important factor.

Want to know more?

See the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company publication:

Action! Action! Action! A Short History of the Employment of Australian Artillery, 1871-2021, by Nicholas Floyd & Paul Stevens, Big Sky Publishing 2024.

Available from <https://www.artilleryhistory.org/> or via QR Code for \$23 per copy incl postage. Or available for \$15 if picked up at 45 Cobby St Campbell ACT (near AWM).



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