



The Australian Artillery Calendar (Pilot Project v1)
Defining Moments of Historical Significance
August 2026: by Anniversary & Day

Anniversary	Date	Year	Event
155th	1-Aug	1871	1 August: The New South Wales Artillery is raised as a component of the first NSW Permanent Force.
100th	1-Aug	1926	1 August: Australia's first anti-aircraft battery was raised as part of the Australian Garrison Artillery. The 1st Anti-Aircraft (AA) Battery, AGA, was raised as part of the militia with a small regular cadre.
55th	1-Aug	1971	1 August: On the 100th anniversary of The Regiment's origin, the Banner of Queen Elizabeth II is presented to the RAA in a ceremony at Victoria Barracks, Paddington, NSW, to replace the 1904 King's Banner.
155th	1-Aug	1871	1 August: The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery commemorates the 150th Anniversary of unbroken permanent artillery service to Australia's former Colonies and to the Commonwealth of Australia with a national 150-gun salute.
112th	3-Aug	1914	3 August: Elements of the Citizen Military Forces responsible for manning the fixed defences, including the Australian Garrison Artillery, are called out for active service at the outset of what was to become The Great War or the First World War.
112th	5-Aug	1914	5 August: Royal Australian Garrison Artillery gunners at Port Phillip Heads, fire the first Australian shot of The Great War across the bows of the German steamer Pfalz as she attempted to leave the bay after promptly departing Melbourne.
111th	6-Aug	1915	6 August: During the August offensive at Gallipoli, for the 1st Australian Division's attack at Lone Pine on 6 August 1915, the close-support elements of the fire plan promulgated by the Commander Divisional Artillery, Brigadier-General Talbot-Hobbs, facilitated capture of the objective by suppressing the defenders. Subsequent defensive fire tasks assisted the Division to ward off counter attacks.

59th	6-Aug	1967	6 August: In 1967 in Vietnam, Lieutenant Neville (Nobby) John Clark, a 106 Field Battery forward observer during Operation Ballarat was supporting A Company, 7RAR. At 1100 hrs., the company contacted an enemy force and immediately came under heavy and accurate fire, sustaining several casualties almost at once. Lt. Clark, although under fire himself, quickly brought rapid and accurate, artillery fire on to the enemy positions. He calmly, methodically and with complete disregard for his on safety, and in the full knowledge of the danger to himself, adjusted the fire of his battery to within 50 metres of his own position. The enemy was forced to break contact after suffering significant loss. Six Australians were killed and nineteen were wounded in the action, however the close artillery support prevented further casualties. LT Clark was awarded a Military Cross.
108th	8-Aug	1918	8 August: At 4.20 am on 8 August 1918 the Australian Corps, together with the Canadian Corps, and with the support of a British corps on the left and the French First Army on the right attacked the German lines near Amiens in northern France. At the Battle of Amiens, Brigadier General Walter Adams Coxen was commander of the Australian Corps Artillery. The battle commenced with 324 18 pounder guns firing a barrage 200 yards in front of the Infantry Forming Up Place. An additional 239 medium to heavy guns and mortars were allocated to counter battery and protective barrages. A legend grew from that day, that Coxen had commanded more guns in action than any one man up until that time, commanding more than 550 guns.
105th	8-Aug	1921	8 August: In 1921, a group of gunner officers met at dinner to honour Brigadier-General Walter Coxen, GOCRA (General Officer Commanding Royal Artillery), 1st Australian Corps, for his contribution to the success of the corps' operation on 8 August 1918. The tradition of an RAA Gunner Dinner was perpetuated on or at a nearby date for over 100 years hence.
83rd	16-Aug	1943	16 August: In the New Guinea campaign, southwest of Salamua, at 4 am on 16 August 1943, thirty or forty Japanese attacked B Troop of the 2/6th Field Regiment and a platoon of protecting infantry. In hand-to-hand fighting two gunners were killed and four wounded. The guns were back in action later that morning.

112th	18-Aug	1914	18 August: The artillery of the Australian Imperial Force is recruited from volunteers who had attested for service outside Australia for the duration of World War I and any period thereafter as proclaimed necessary by the Governor-General. This force eventually included five complete divisional artilleries and components of a corps artillery. The Australian Imperial Force ceased to exist on 31 March 1921.
60th	18-Aug	1966	18 August: At Long Tan in Vietnam in 1968 the ambushed, isolated, and beleaguered 11 Platoon of 'D' Company 6 RAR was saved by devastating fire missions from the guns of the 1st Field Regiment, comprising the Australian 103rd and 105th Field Batteries, and the 161st Field Battery RNZA. Several thousand rounds of 105mm rounds were fired over a few hours to break up the Viet Cong assaults, saving 11 Platoon from being overrun. The platoon lost 13 dead. The Viet Cong lost many more killed by the artillery close support defensive fire. A US Field Artillery 155mm battery provided deeper fire support. Without close artillery fire support the entire 11 Platoon would have been lost.
172nd	21-Aug	1854	21 August: the first volunteer artillery corps is raised in New South Wales.
36th	21-Aug	1990	21 August: A detachment from 16th Air Defence Regiment is deployed aboard HMAS Success for Operation Damask in the Persian Gulf, September 1990-February 1991.
127th	23-Aug	1899	23 August: The Colony of Queensland's Chief Secretary's Office letter dated 23 August 1899 effects the change of the designation of its artillery Regiment to the Queensland Regiment Royal Australian Artillery.
127th	24-Aug	1899	24 August: The Colony of New South Wales Premier's Office letter dated 1 September 1899 announces the change of the designation of its artillery Regiment to the New South Wales Regiment Royal Australian Artillery with an effective date of 24 August 1899.
156th	25-Aug	1870	25 August: The 1st Battery, 1st Brigade of the Royal Artillery, and the 2nd Battalion, 18th (Royal Irish) Regiment of Foot, as the last British garrison force, depart the Australian colonies.
164th	30-Aug	1862	30 August: The first volunteer artillery unit is raised in Queensland.



85th	31-Aug	1941	31 August: Citizen Military Force artillery unit cadres comprising all officers, warrant officers, NCO not below the rank of corporal, and specialists are called up for full-time duty for the duration of the remainder of the Second World War to enable the mobilisation of units to defeat Japan's aggression.
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Suggestions for additional Calendar entries for this month are welcome for consideration.

Pilot Project. Initially it was planned that August would be the last month for an Australian Artillery Calendar pilot project. It is now planned to be issued monthly for a few more months (probably ending with December 2026) to further gauge reactions and for the author to continue to develop a sense of the style and content.

Why, How, What, Who? The aim is to communicate, in digestible chunks, the rich history of Australian Artillery to support knowledge and esprit de corps. The focus is 'defining moments' in the history of Australian Artillery. The Calendar's content is chosen to firstly inform serving Gunners, followed by veterans, and then those interested in military history.

Feedback. 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 are 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 pilot 'Calendar' over several years and find the best methods for its efficient communication and ensure ready availability.

Development Team. If you would like to join an Australian Artillery Calendar development team, please email me as per below.

Future Communication Methods 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. Other options? A complete year of the Calendar will also be made available. It should not be difficult to progressively enliven each entry with an image/map/document. Those who subscribe might access the calendar whenever visiting an RAAHC Group page. They can also share with other interested groups. Whether it can be 'automated' will be an important factor in deciding a method(s). Advice on potential methods will be appreciated.

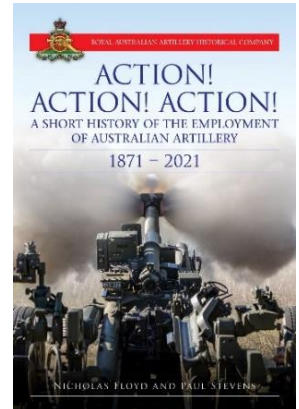


Want to know more?

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).



Information is also sourced from *The Gunners: A history of Australian artillery*, David Horner, Allen & Unwin, 1995; out of print.

John Cox
History Director, Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC)
Regimental Historian, Chairman RAA Regimental History Committee
j3cox@bigpond.net.au | 0409 394 497 | 45 Cobby Street CAMPBELL ACT 2612
<https://www.artilleryhistory.org/>

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