



The Australian Artillery Calendar
Some Dates of Historical Significance
February 2026: by Anniversary & Day

80	7-Feb	1946	7 February: 2nd Mountain Battery (A Field Battery RAA) commences deployment to Japan as a component of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF), returning to Australia on 22 December 1948.
84	15-Feb	1942	15 February: Singapore falls to the Japanese. In defensive actions over the previous month each field regiment had fired about 45,000 rounds.
84	19-Feb	1942	Gunner Wilbert ‘Darkie’ Hudson was awarded with the Military Medal, for his action this day. It is one of the first such awards resulting from action on Australian soil. His citation stated that ‘he handled his Lewis Gun with great skill and tenacity’ in the face of Japanese air attacks.
141	24-Feb	1885	24 February: Colonial Queensland’s first permanent artillery battery is raised.
85	24-Feb	1941	24 February: Army Headquarters Operations Instructions No.12 directs Australian coast defences are to be continuously manned.
141	27-Feb	1885	27 February: The Soudan Expedition Contingent is formed and includes one field battery. The battery is manned from the New South Wales Artillery and the New South Wales Volunteer Artillery. The NSW Contingent departs Sydney on 3 March 1885.
133	28-Feb	1893	28 February: The Western Australian Artillery is formed as a permanent corps, beginning with personnel recruited and trained in South Australia.
110	29-Feb	1916	29 February: Orders are received that the 1st Anzac Corps comprising the 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions and the New Zealand Division, commanded by General Birdwood, would embark for France from Egypt in a fortnight. The 2nd Anzac Corps, commanded by General Godley, and comprising the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions, would follow once they had reached the required level of training.



The RAAHC is a not-for-profit company endorsed as a deductible gift recipient by the ATO.



35	? -Feb	1991	? February. A detachment from 16th Air Defence Regiment returns home from its deployment aboard HMAS Success for Operation Damask in the Persian Gulf, September 1990-February 1991
----	--------	------	---

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

It is intended to issue a basic Calendar, each month, for twelve months (ending August 2026) and gauge reactions. If feedback and contributions are positive, the RAAHC will attempt to assemble volunteer members to manage the 'Calendar'.

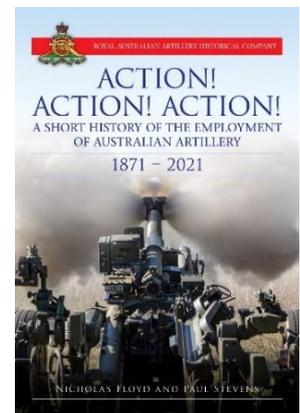
- There are many other dates of importance (battles, operational deployment, origins, introduction of a new operational capability etc) that can be added over time.
- Suggestions will be welcome when supported by evidence.
- The raising dates of many artillery units on the current orbat were not included 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 of efficient wide communication and distribution.
- If you are interested in joining an Australian Artillery Calendar development team' please email me as per below.

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).



John Cox
History Director, Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC)
Chairman, RAA Regimental History Committee
j3cox@bigpond.net.au | 0409 394 497 | 45 Cobby Street CAMPBELL ACT 2612
<https://www.artilleryhistory.org/>
January 2026



The RAAHC is a not-for-profit company endorsed as a deductible gift recipient by the ATO.