



The Australian Artillery Calendar

Some Dates of Historical Significance

July 2026: by Anniversary & Day

124	1-Jul	1902	1 July: The Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria Regiments of Royal Australian Artillery amalgamated with the Permanent Artilleries of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania to form the Royal Australian Artillery Regiment. Its strength was 43 officers and 922 other ranks.
123	1-Jul	1903	1 July: The volunteer and partially paid artillery of the six states reorganized as the Australian Field Artillery and the Australian Garrison Artillery.
101	1-Jul	1925	1 July: The first medium artillery brigades and artillery survey companies were raised as part of the Australian Garrison Artillery.
99	1-Jul	1927	1 July: The Royal Australian Field Artillery and The Royal Australian Garrison Artillery amalgamated as the Royal Australian Artillery.



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81	1-Jul	1945	1 Jul: The landing at Balikpapan on 1 July 1945 by the 7th Australian Division, under Major-General Milford (a Gunner), was the largest amphibious operation by an Australian formation during the war. Milford had a complete division, including his three infantry brigades, an allocation of corps troops, the support of a substantial naval force, the RAAF's 1st Tactical Air Force and the US 13th Air Force. Milford had been the original CRA of the 7th Division when it had been formed in 1940 and he was determined to use as much fire support as possible to deal with the heavy Japanese defences around the town of Balikpapan. The preliminary bombardment of the Balikpapan-Manggar area was unprecedented for an Australian operation, and in the twenty days before the assault the area received 3, 000 tons of bombs, 7,361 rockets, 38, 052 shells and 114, 000 rounds from automatic weapons. In the opening stages of the landing naval ships fired 17, 250 shells and rockets, and later 13,850 shells were fired at the call of officers ashore. Naval gunfire support was provided by five cruisers, including HMA Ships Shropshire and Hobart, and fourteen destroyers, directed in many cases by teams from A Troop, 1st Australian Naval Bombardment Group (headquarters staffed by Gunners).
78	1-Jul	1948	1 July: General recruiting of other ranks commences to reform the Citizen Military Forces. Artillery units were provided for two divisional artilleries, two independent infantry brigades, an armoured brigade, and corps troops.
84	2-Jul	1942	2 July: At the conclusion of their recruit training, twelve AWAS were posted to the RAA and reported to Sydney Fortress Coast Artillery at North Head. Categorized as 'draughtswomen', they were allocated to the plotting room for training as plotters. They became the first Australian servicewomen posted to an operational battle station.
71	8-Jul	1955	8 July: The 105th Field Battery is raised.

84	10-Jul	1942	10 Jul: At Tobruk the Germans had four medium batteries (each of four guns) and four heavy batteries. They out-numbered the Australians who inevitably came under enemy counter-battery fire. Sergeant-Major Keith Grandin of F Troop, equipped with Italian 100-mm guns, recalled an incident on 10 July when No 1 gun was hit, the camouflage nets were a fire hazard as we tried to get the wounded out. Gee! I remember that day. Right Ranging - Bang. Then an 88-mm air burst crumpled over the wadi. Another round fired, then in the next second, an 88-mm burst right in the gun pit. Wally Redfern was ill and lying in a slit trench near the gun. Gunner Eddie Harvey was killed as was young Gunner C. J. Wright. Gunner Rupe Smith was badly wounded and as we carried him down the wadi to the RAP, he appeared to be sinking fast. I guess we can chalk that tragedy up to "Herman" the German artillery spotter who, in his slow but highly manoeuvrable Henschel plane just cruised around unopposed, watching our gun flashes. By the time the 2/12th Field Regiment was withdrawn, along with other units, in mid-September it had fired 56,000 rounds, of which 27, 000 were 75-mm. It had suffered 24 killed and 24 wounded. The 2/3rd Anti-Tank Regiment lost 11 killed or died of wounds, 39 wounded and 96 prisoners of war.
127	14-Jul	1899	14 July: A despatch of this date from the Secretary of State for the Colonies of the United Kingdom sent to the Governors of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria, notifies that the designation of Queensland, etc, Regiment of Royal Australian Artillery, is conferred on the Permanent Artillery of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria by Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

111	17-Jul	1915	17 July: At Anzac artillery duels continued, and on that day a high explosive shell from a Turkish 75 mm gun struck a gun of the 8th Battery, commanded by Sergeant Sydney Mick Taylor. The No 2 on the gun was Driver Douglas Barret-Lennard and the No 3 was Gunner Stanley Carter. In the back of the pit was Sergeant Bill Wallis. Gunners Barret-Lennard and Carter died from wounds, and Sergeant Taylor was badly wounded and lost a leg. The gun could still be fired, and so came the order, 'Man the gun with a fresh detachment'. When 'Sergeant Wallis called out "Come on, lads"', there was a rush to fill the vacant seats and the first man in was a driver who was up relieving one of the gunners . . . and so the Battery kept up a fierce fire until Target 1 was silenced'.
84	17-Jul	1942	17 July: In North Africa an attack by the 24th Aust Infantry Brigade followed a similar pattern with the divisional artillery supporting the attack and the anti-tank gunners repelling the German counter attacks. The effectiveness of the anti-tank defences relied on the skill and courage of individual gunners, some of whom kept guns in action despite casualties to many of the detachments. In the 2/32nd Battalion area one gun, commanded by Sergeant Daley who was twice wounded, knocked out six tanks. Between 10 and 17 July four anti-tank gunners, including Daley, earned the Distinguished Conduct Medal.
110	23-Jul	1916	23 July: At night a single gun from the 6th Battery, under the command of Lieutenant S. R. Thurnhill was brought forward with muffled wheels and harnesses and manoeuvred by hand to a position on top of a crest 200 yards behind the front line on the main Albert-Bapaume Road. The wagon was placed to form a screen from machine-gun fire from the left flank. At 12. 30 am the gun fired 115 rounds directly into the enemy's position in the centre of Pozieres village.
144	25-Jul	1882	25 July: South Australian Artillery is raised as a permanent battery.
144	31-Jul	1882	31 July: The Colony of Victoria establishes a permanent Battery of Garrison Artillery, totalling 125 all ranks.

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



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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 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 '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.

Future Communication Method for an Australian Artillery Calendar:

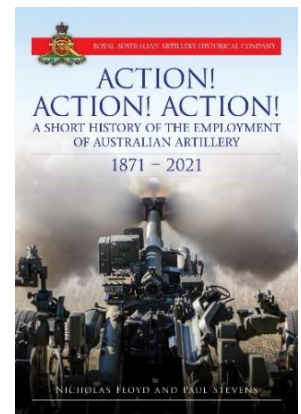
It has been suggested that a good method for communicating the Calendar is an '*On This Day, Australian Artillery: ...*' post that is loaded daily on RAAHC Facebook and Instagram group pages. It might not be hard to progressively enliven each entry with an image/map/document. Those who subscribe will 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' would be an important factor in deciding its adoption.

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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