



ARTILLERY UNIT LINEAGE

Since the re-introduction of colour patches into the Australian Army in the 1980s much has been written about unit lineage; however, within the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, the lines of lineage are, if not made-up, certainly very exaggerated. The fact that a unit, or sub-unit, in today's Artillery shares a numeral identification with a unit of The Great War or the Second World War does not mean that it is 'related'.

During The Great War there were no Artillery regiments; the batteries were, for all intent and purpose, independent, belonging to groups and brigades, and the type of battery was identified by the number of numerals, eg. batteries of one or two numbers were either Australian Field Artillery (AFA) batteries or siege artillery (eg. 2nd Siege Battery, 2nd AFA Battery and 10th AFA Battery), whilst batteries with three numbers were howitzer units (eg. 108th Howitzer Battery). These units were raised for the War and demobilized (disbanded) and removed from the Order of Battle at the War's conclusion.

With the coming of the Second World War a number of artillery regiments, and subsequently their batteries, were raised to meet the forthcoming conflict and because artillery units are identified by a number it was a matter of allocating, in many cases, numbers that had belonged to previous units. For this War guns were grouped into regiments with 2nd AIF units identified by the prefix 2, representing the 2nd AIF (eg. 2/4th Field Regiment), and Militia regiments identified solely by their unit number (eg. 2nd Field Regiment).

An example of the non-lineage argument is the current 4th Field Regiment. There is no lineage between this Regiment and either of the two similarly numbered Second World War regiments: 2/4th Field Regiment and 4th Field Regiment; and there is no lineage between the Regiment's current batteries (107th and 108th Field Batteries) and 107th and 108th Howitzer Batteries of The Great War. 2/4th Field Regiment was raised in Victoria in 1940 and demobilized (disbanded) in Brisbane in 1945 and subsequently removed from the Order of Battle. The Regiment was made-up of volunteers from Victoria and the demobilization was conducted in Brisbane simply because this was the first home-port reached by the Regiment on return from overseas service; 4th Field Regiment, a Militia unit, was also demobilized in 1945. The current 4th Field Regiment was raised in Queensland in 1960 with Regular Army soldiers from across the Country. The only point in common is the numeral prefix: 4. 107th and 108th Howitzer Batteries were demobilized in 1919 and the two Sub-Units that now share these numbers, 107th Field Battery and 108th Field Battery, were both raised in 1965. To insinuate that this current Regiment and its two Batteries are related to those of the past is, at worst, sheer ignorance, or at best, one of 'inventing history'.

Another example is 23rd Field Regiment which has as its sub-units 10th Field Battery and 11th Field Battery; there is no connection what-so-ever between these two current Sub-

Units and the 10th AFA and 11th AFA Batteries of The Great War. 2/12th Field Regiment was raised in 1940 and disbanded in 1945. The recent 12th Field Regiment (now 8th/12th Medium Regiment), which was raised in Sydney in 1966 is not, in any way, related to the 2/12th Field Regiment. There is, however, a true lineage between the current 8th/12th Medium Regiment and the former 19th Composite Regiment. 19th Composite Regiment was given a change of title in 1969 and re-designated as 8th Medium Regiment, which, in turn, amalgamated with 12th Field Regiment in 1973.

In the early 1960s the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) Coastal Gun batteries were disbanded and a few of these batteries took on roles as anti-aircraft units. An example being 114th Coast Battery which, in June 1963, was taken-in by 18th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment as R Battery; this Battery could, however, trace its lineage back to the coast guns and 114th Coast Battery.

With the exception of A Field Battery (which was raised in 1871, and has had a variety of titles over the years) and the School of Artillery (which was raised in 1886 as the School of Gunnery and was changed to its current title in 1939) the units and sub-units of today's Regiment are post-Second World War, and whilst these units wear colour patches of past formations, they actually have no lineage what-so-ever with these formations, nor the Regiment's units and sub-units of the past.

Dates of Raising:

101 st Field Battery:	1957	(in 1949 C Observation Troop was raised; re-designated as 4 th Locating Troop in 1952, then re-designated 4 th Locating Battery in 1954, and became 101 st Field Battery in 1957 (1)).
102 nd Field Battery:	1955	
103 rd Field Battery:	1960	
104 th Field Battery:	1965	
105 th Field Battery:	1955	
106 th Field Battery:	1966	
107 th Field Battery:	1965	
108 th Field Battery:	1965	
110 th Air Defence (Light Anti-Aircraft) Battery:	1965	
111 th Air Defence (Light Anti-Aircraft) Battery:	1957	(formed in 1949 as B(AA) Battery; it was re-designated as 3 rd Battery in 1952, then again as 103 rd AA Battery in 1954; it was re-named as 111 th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery in 1957).

- 131st Divisional Locating Battery: 1954 (raised in 1952 as 31st Battery and then re-designated as 131st Locating Battery in 1954).
- 1st Field Regiment: 1949
- 4th Field Regiment: 1960
- 16th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment: 1969 (re-named as 16th Air Defence Regiment in 1974 and then as 16th Air Land Regiment in 2011).
- 8th Medium Regiment: 1969 (raised as 19th Composite Regiment in 1968 and re-designated as 8th Medium Regiment in 1969; amalgamated with 12th Field Regiment in 1973).
- 12th Field Regiment: 1966 (amalgamated with 8th Medium Regiment in 1973).
- 8th/12th Medium Regiment: 1973 (with the amalgamation of 8th Medium Regiment and 12th Field Regiment).
- 16th Air Defence Regiment: 1974 (formally 16th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment).
- 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment: 2006
- 16th Air Land Regiment: 2011 (formally 16th Air Defence Regiment).

Note:

1. The BC of the new Battery asked for it to be numbered 101 "For lack of any sensible reason" (p. 292: *A History of A Battery*).
