



**FALLEN
BUT
NOT FORGOTTEN**

**4TH REGIMENT RAA
REMEMBERING THOSE MEMBERS OF THE
REGIMENT THAT PAID THE SUPREME
SACRIFICE**

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
4TH REGIMENT RAA MEMORIAL
COMPILED BY
NORM WHEELER**

FALLEN BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



A Story of Remembrance



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4th REGIMENT RAA MEMORIALS

The modern 4th Field Regiment RAA was raised at Wacol on 4 May 1960 as a part of the new Pentropic Division. The Regiment was to conduct two tours of South Vietnam between 1967 and 1971. The Regiment commenced with preparations for its first tour in 1966 under the command of Lt Col R.G. Gardner. The Regiment moved to Vietnam over the period April – June 1967 to relieve 1 Field Regiment. The Regiment at this time consisted of 106 Fd Bty, 108 Fd Bty, 4 Fd LAD and 161 Fd Bty RNZA.

By the end of the Regiments tour in 1968 four members of the regiment had paid the supreme sacrifice, Gnr B. Tregar, (5 Nov 67 - 108Bty), Lt R.G. Birse 10 Dec 67 – 108 Bty), Gnr S.W. Ellwood (6 Feb 68 – 161 Bty RNZA) and LBdr J.L. Menz (18 Feb 68 – 131 Div Loc Bty).

Prior to the regiment departing for Australia at the end of its tour a memorial parade was held in April 1968 to honour those who were killed in action during the first tour.



**Nui Dat, South Vietnam. April 1968
Memorial parade to remember those killed in action in Vietnam**

In addition, a plaque containing the four names was placed at Nui Dat. This plaque was one of three plaques on display. One for each Regiment that served in Vietnam.



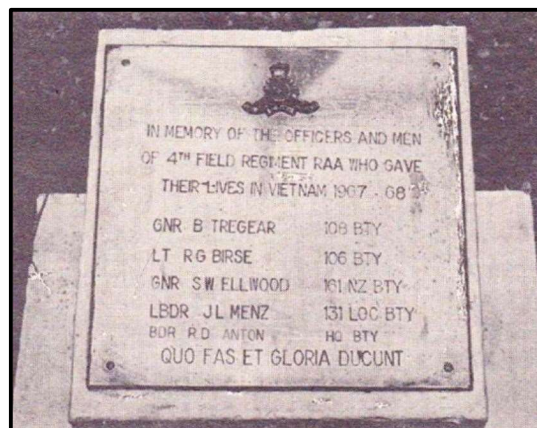
Original Plaque as dedicated in April 1968



The Australian Artillery memorial depicting three plaques. One for each Regiment that served in Vietnam. This Picture was taken in 1971

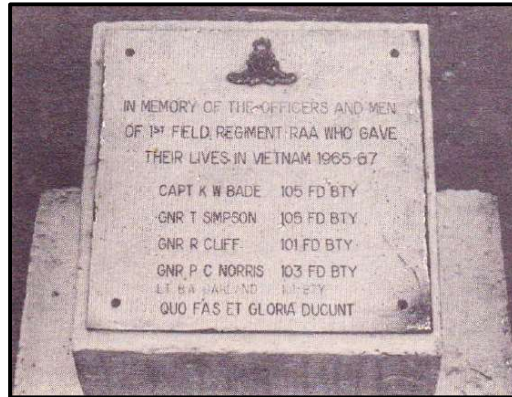
At the end of its first tour 4th Field Regiment's main party had returned to Wacol by Mid-1968 and started preparations for its relocation to its current location at Chau Pha lines in Townsville. The Regiment comes under Command of Lt Col B.C. Forward in January 1969 and in March 1970 the Regiment commences its second tour of Vietnam when it assumes command of 1st Australian Task Force Artillery from 1st Field Regiment. The Regiment completes its second tour in March 1971 and hands control over to 12th Field Regiment.

During the regiments second tour two members of the Regiment paid the ultimate sacrifice, Bdr R.D. Anton and Lt B.A. Garland. On 8 March 1971 a memorial service is held on Forwards Field to remember those fallen. It is interesting to note at this point that only one name (Bdr R.D. Anton) was inscribed onto the original plaque.



The original plaque as viewed in 1971 which has had Bdr Anton's name included.

Lt B.A. Garland was a member of 101 Field Battery, 1st Field Regiment and was attached to A Company Headquarters 8 RAR as a forward Observer when he died. His name was included on the 1st Field Regiment plaque however as 101 Field Battery at the time of his death came under command of 4th Field Regiment his name should have been included on their plaque. This anomaly was not corrected until 1987.



1 Field Regiment plaque located at Nui Dat in 1971. Note Lt B.A Garlands name is included

It is general consensus that the three Regimental Plaques remained at Nui Dat until the end of 1971 when Australia ended its war in Vietnam. It is also general consensus that the plaques were repatriated to Australia by 12th Field Regiment who then returned them to the regiments to which they belonged.

In 1972 under the command of Lt Col G.M. Salom the 4th Field Regiment plaque was to receive a new home in front of the unit guard room where it was lovingly cared for until it could no longer be read due to the daily polishing by the unit guard. It contained five names - Gnr B. Tregar, (5 Nov 67 - 108Bty), Lt R.G. Birse 10 Dec 67 – 108 Bty), Gnr S.W. Ellwood (6 Feb 68 – 161 Bty RNZA), LBdr J.L. Menz (18 Feb 68 – 131 Div Loc Bty) and Bdr R.D. Anton (22 Mar 70 HQ Bty)



The 4th Field Regiment Plaque inscribed with the names of those fallen during the Vietnam conflict located outside the unit Guard Room in 1972

In 1987 Lt Col Arthur Burke took command of the regiment with WO1 Peter (Scobie) Dobbs as his RSM. The original plaque at that time was in very poor condition and barely readable. A new brass plaque was commissioned to replace the original plaque and the new plaque was dedicated by Chaplain Kerry Bartlett. The plaque was moved from its location in front of the guard room and set in a small memorial garden surrounded by a chain fence. The new Plaque contained six names, Bdr R.D. Anton (22 Mar 70 HQ Bty), Lt R.G. Birse 10 Dec 67 – 108 Bty), Gnr S.W. Ellwood (6 Feb 68 – 161 Bty RNZA), Lt B.A. Garland 101 Bty

(22 Apr 1970), LBdr J.L. Menz (18 Feb 68 – 131 Div Loc Bty) and Gnr B. Tregar, (5 Nov 67 – 108 Bty).



**1987 - Garden Plaque
(L-R) Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel A.R. Burke,
Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class One P. Dobbs
and Chaplain K. Bartlett**

In early 1998 the RSM WO1 Darryl Kelly, OAM, approached the then Commanding Officer Lt Col Mick Crane with the idea to build a commemorative garden. The aim was to commemorate not only those who had fallen in Vietnam but also all those who had paid the supreme sacrifice since the inception of Regiments denoting 4. These were 4th Field Artillery Brigade (WW1), 4th Field Regiment AMF (WW2), 2nd/4th Field Regiment AIF (WW2) and 4th Field Regiment RAA (SVN). Lt Col Crane was keen for this to occur.

During a Regimental Exercise at HRTA, WO1 Kelly found a number of suitable rocks that could be used in the garden with no need for them to be sandblasted. Volunteers from across the Regiment were called for to assist with building the garden. The response was overwhelming and more than required volunteered.

One of the volunteers had a relative who had a garden edging business and a de-turfing machine and he was a key player in the garden construction. A crane was borrowed from 3 Combat Engineer Regiment to lift and lower the flag-pole so it could be repainted, whilst the volunteers worked to complete the garden.

The aim to include 4th Field Artillery Brigade (WW1), 4th Field Regiment AMF (WW2), 2nd/4th Field Regiment AIF (WW2) and 4th Field Regiment RAA (SVN) required a member of the regiment to research the names of those fallen. The research was done by Gnr Cameron Simpson. The names were then impressed onto trophy plate. (These Trophy Plates

are now a part of the Regiments Historical Collection) The project was completed and the opening on the Regiments' 1998 birthday was a great success.

A copy of WO1 Daryl Kelly's dedication of the Memorial Garden on 1 May 1998 is at Annex A



Rocks sourced from HRTA depicting the Trophy Plates inscribed with the names of those fallen prior to the Vietnam Conflict



2007 parade ground view of the Memorial Garden showing the plaque dedicated by LTCOL Bourke in 1987 (Centre) and Trophy Plate plaques dedicated by WO1 Darryl Kelly in 1998 on each flank

In March 2000 the Commanding Officer Lt Col R.H. Stanhope approved the building of a wall to commemorate the Anniversary of the Regiments 40th Birthday. The unique design of the wall was best described by its three sections: the regimental and corps badges, the sub-unit plaques, and finally plaques of the countries the Regiment served, in war and peacetime deployments from 1960 to 2000. The wall was designed and constructed by the ASM at the time, WO1 P. Beavis under direction of the RSM WO1 Ian Kilgour.

The wall was formally dedicated on the 40th birthday of the raising of the modern 4th Field Regiment. The commemorative wall was located within the memorial garden built by WO1 Kelly and unit volunteers in 1998.



The 4th Field Regiment Commemorative Wall as dedicated in May 2000

A brass plaque located centrally on the wall revealed that the wall was unveiled by Col K.R. Hall – Colonel Commandant Queensland Region and the Commanding Officer, Lt Col R.H. Stanhope, on 4th May 2000. This plaque is now on display in the unit historical rooms. (See Dedication address by Lt Col A. Burke at Annex B)



The commemorative plaque located centrally on the wall at the completion of Stage One

2003, and what is now referred to as Stage two of the memorial wall (previously known as the Commemorative Anniversary Wall) was the inspiration of RSM WO1 Phil Matthysen. Phil sought approval from the Commanding Officer Lt Col W.N. Jones to add two walls to the existing wall to create a unit memorial. There was some conjecture at the time that the raison d'être of the original wall would be compromised, however persistence and good planning by Phil prevailed. The additional walls were designed by Mr P. Durnford, OAM the curator of the 4th Field Regimental Historical Collection (also BSM HQ Bty 1973 and BSM 108th Field Bty 1974/1975), after approval was given by the CO Lt Col W. Jones to move forward. Stage two consisted of two straight sections flanking the existing centre section. Powder coated aluminium sheets were used in construction, making the East and West wings portable. This method was used in belief that the regiment would be relocated in the future.

The East wing depicted the campaigns and sub units, which served during WWI and WWII. It reflected the 4th Australian Field Artillery Brigades' actions in Belgium and France. Followed by WW2 with the 2/4th Field Regiment RAA who saw action in the Middle East, Palestine, and Syria the back home to retrain for action in New Guinea and Balikpapan. The 4th Field Regiment [Jungle Division] RAA follows serving in New Guinea and Bougainville.

The East wing represented a more sombre period in Regiments history, with the Western front claiming 103 members KIA, and 593 WIA, 410 others were evacuated.

There were 52 decorations awarded during this campaign including, 9 Military Crosses, 1 Distinguished Service Order, 2 Distinguished Conduct Medals and 28 Military Medals.

WWII saw 31 members of the 2/4th Field Regiment KIA in the Middle East, New Guinea and Balikpapan. Honours and Awards included 2 DSO, 5 MC, 2 MM, 14 MID's and 30 CIC Cards. 4th Field Regiment [JD] lost 15-member KIA and 19 WIA, honours and Awards were, 3 MC, 4MM, 1MBE 17 MID's, 1 CIC Card.

The West wing depicted 2000 to the present. Deployments listed included Timor, Iraq, Solomon Islands, Bosnia, and Operation Relex. Stage 2 was completed in 2003 and was dedicated at a ceremony on Saint Barbra's day 4th December 2003 by Lt Col Arthur Burke (Retd) A copy of the dedication is at Annex C.



Stage 2 of the memorial wall dedicated in December 2003 including the East and West wings.

It would be prudent to mention at this time that two of the unit colour patches displayed on the walls (2/4th Field Regiment AIF 1940 -1946) on the west wall and (4th Field Regiment RAA 2001 -) on the east wall) were incorrectly displayed and that it took considerable time to correct them.



Photo of the walls as published in the history article written by Gnr Steven Connor in 2007

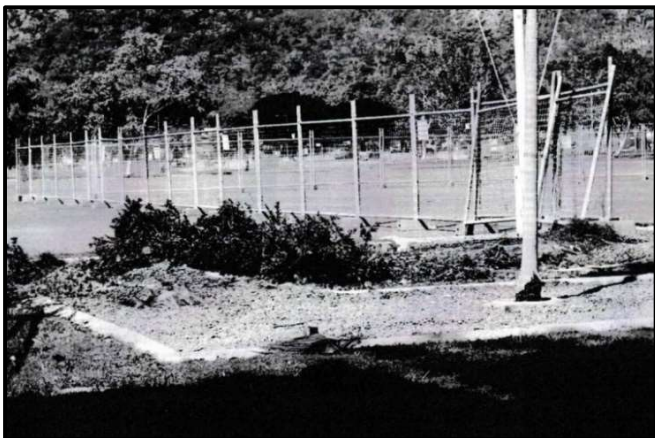
In 2007 Gnr Steven Connor (Operations Support Battery) wrote a history of the memorial walls. The article was located in the Historical Collection files and is included at Annex D. The article contained a photo of the walls (See Above picture) depicting that the colour patch on the west wall (2/4th Field Regiment AIF 1940 -1946) was now displayed correctly however the colour patch on the east wall (4th Field Regiment RAA 2001) had still not been corrected.

Redevelopment of Chau Pha Lines commenced in 2008. The redevelopment included the relocation of the memorial walls from the memorial garden to a new location between the old guard room and the new Regimental Headquarters building.

RIGHT: Nothing is sacred. The Regt Memorial cops the redevelopment treatment.



**LEFT: Memorial Garden Going.....
Going..... Gone**



The redevelopment of Chau Pha Lines took two years to complete and a rededication ceremony for the relocated memorial walls was conducted by Lt Col Weller and WO1 Tom Byrne's on St Barbra's day 4 December 2010. Two new brass plaques were commissioned to accompany the brass plaque dedicated by Lt Col Arthur Burke in 1987. These two brass plaques were commissioned to replace the two trophy plates on rocks in the memorial garden now showing their age for those fallen in WW1 and WW2. The three plaques were then relocated to the rear of the centre wall facing the parade ground. In 2012 a fourth plaque was commissioned for those fallen in Afghanistan and included Capt Brice Duffy.

In 2011 the Regiment went through a major reorganisation. The reorganisation included a name change for the Regiment from 4th Field Regiment RAA to 4th Regiment RAA. These changes were reflected on the memorial walls with an addition to the east wall of the Regiments new name and an additional colour patch. It can be noted in the photo below that all the memorial colour patches are now displayed correctly. A history of the unit colour patch is at Annex E



Relocated Memorial Wall - This photo was taken on 19 December 2013



**Rear of the centre Wall showing 4 Brass plaques
This photo was taken on 19 December 2013**

In 2014 Lt Col D.J. Hill and WO1 T.L. Kennedy, OAM commissioned three murals to be painted on the rear of each wall. This required the relocation of the brass plaques to the front of the East Wall.



Murals commissioned in 2014

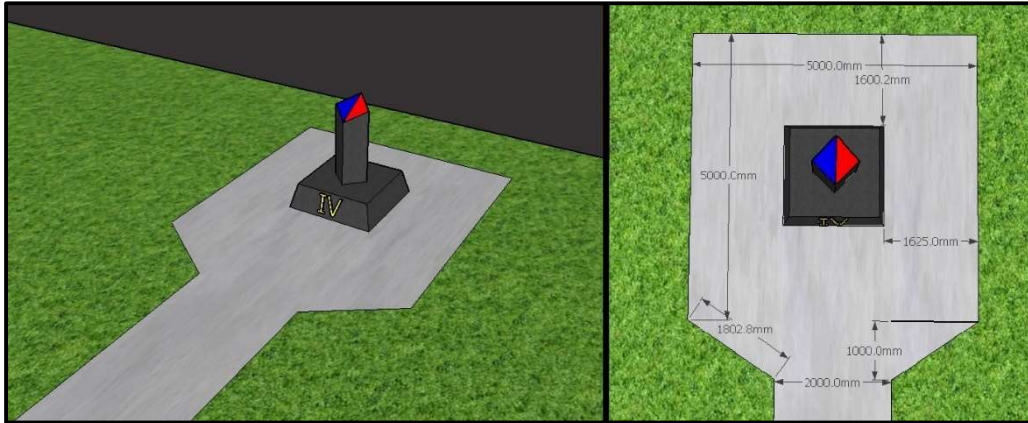


Relocation of plaques from the rear of the centre wall to the front of the East wall 2014

The memorial stood proud until December 2019. 2020 was fast approaching and the Commanding Officer Lt Col Paul Duncan, CSC who was a Captain in the Regiment under Lt Col R. Stanhope when the 40th Anniversary commemorative wall was unveiled in 2000 directed that a new memorial wall be constructed to be completed for the 60th Anniversary celebrations in 2020.

A committee was raised to decide on a design. It was made up of the CO, Lt Col P. Duncan, CSC, RSM, WO1 N. Cole, soldiers, LBdr Dave Eshman and WO2 Steve Wilson. Col R.H Stanhope, AM a former CO, was also invited representing the NQ RAA Association.

Various designs were submitted and one blending ideas from Paddy Durnford OAM, Gnr Scott Gall and a local architectural consultant, was selected by the committee. Scott, adept at using drafting software, carried out most of the conceptual drawings. This, combined with detailed drawings was put forward to a couple of memorial vendors. J&R Fletcher Monumental Memorials were selected to supply the finished product: a black granite plinth with the names of the fallen in gold lettering.



Concept Drawings of the proposed Memorial

At the same time the committee was raised, the CO directed the BC 106, Maj Simon Frewin to carry out fundraising. Simon's primary focus was on engraved pavers from former members for \$100 each. Many former members opened their wallets and purchased pavers. Several 4th Regiment dynasties came to light in the process, such as the Aldertons – three generations, including an SVN veteran, two brothers and a currently serving gunner.

Concurrently the UWO, WO2 Steve Wilson, consulted 2RAR and 3RAR on how they fundraised for their new memorials. Accordingly, he lobbied 3BDE HQ and FORCOMD with some success - \$20k. A unit Lt also lobbied DVA for a community grant and was also successful to the tune of \$4k.

There was concern at the time about the destruction of the memorial from some sectors, given the effort that had been put in to build, enhance and move it over the years. A framed print of the original is in the guard room to remind visitors of the heritage. Meanwhile the RSM, WO1 Nathan Cole, directed that the old wall be demolished before the new year.

WO2 Steve Wilson took charge of several new Rear-Details soldiers in December 2019 to break it up. Large skips and several sledgehammers were sourced. What could go wrong? The scheduled demolition day was one of the hottest of 2019 and Wet-bulb Black was declared prior to 0900! Nonetheless the lads and lasses took to the task with zeal.



Soldiers of the Regiment tasked to break up the Memorial Wall December 2019



3CSSB was required to do the heavy lifting January 2020

Shifts were rotated through one of the airconditioned conference rooms and cold drinks were abundant. Soon enough the walls were found to be constructed with large reinforcing rods and foundations over half a metre deep. The wall would have withstood a nuclear blast! No amount of effort with sledgehammers could demolish the memorial walls and not until early in 2020 did 3CSSB cranes come to the rescue.

In 2020, Maj Steve Silver posted in and continued to vigorously lobby for more funding to cover the concrete/paved surrounds and gardens. As well he wore down the E&IG project managers and their vendors when they quoted an extravagant price for the surrounding concrete. They eventually provided the required product for half the original quote. This extra funding was to become necessary as the coronavirus pandemic threw the memorial construction into chaos.

Construction of the new memorial fell to the new CO Lt Col P.A. Allen and RSM WO1 Matt Miller, CSM. The RSM took over the acquisition of the memorial and was dealing with the vendor when they declared that they had sourced the granite from China. The pandemic meant that this was now delayed for some time. "Find an alternate solution" was the call. A five-tonne slab of black granite could be sourced from central NSW for more than \$10k extra and delivery was to be a problem. Somehow the 2IC found more funding and the order was placed. The RSM wheeled and dealt with various ADF transport units to bring the finished memorial north, which included negotiating a Queensland border crossing.

Fortunately, as it turned out, the pandemic quashed plans for the 60th anniversary celebrations and the urgency to create and finish the memorial was not so acute. The memorial itself was completed in June 2020 and the landscaping for Stage One was completed on the 16th of April 2021 just in time for ANZAC Day ceremonies and the Regiments 61st Birthday. Completion date for Stage two of the landscaping has not been set. The new memorial was dedicated and blessed by the Padre on ANZAC day April 25 2021.



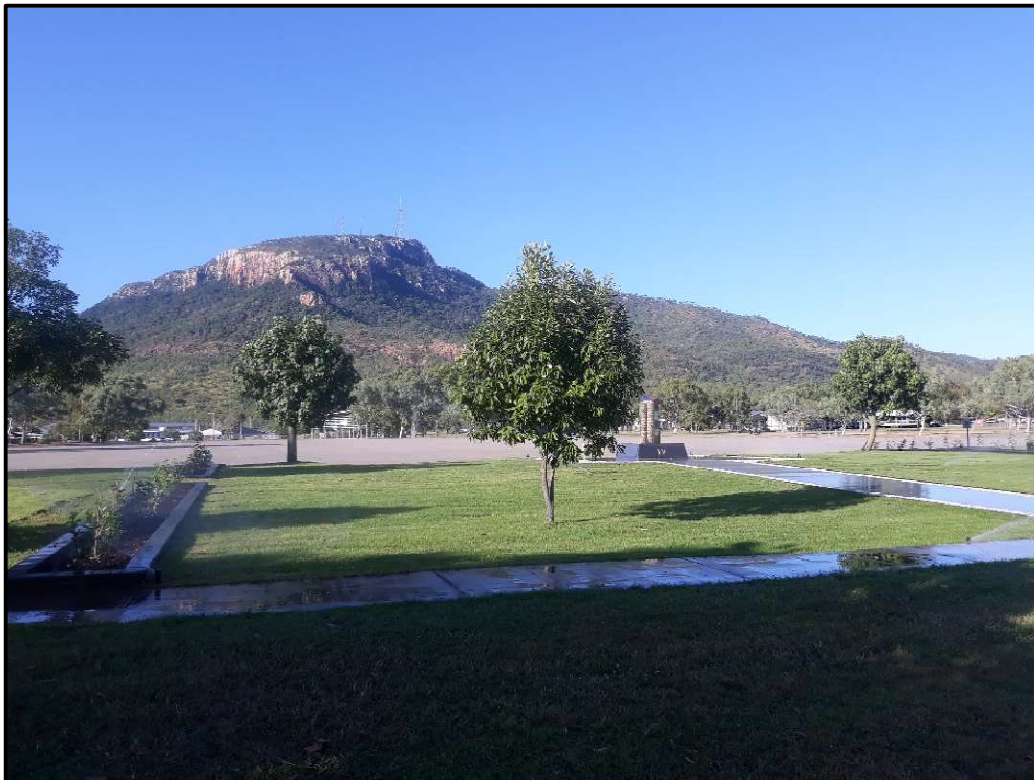
The new memorial during construction phase



The completed Memorial Night and Day view prior to any landscaping work



Stage one of the Memorial landscaping completed



Stage one of the Memorial landscaping completed

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author acknowledges assistance from the following in the compilation of this historical document.

Col R. Stanhope, AM CO 4th Field Regiment RAA 1999 - 2001
Lt Col A. Bourke (Deceased), CO 4th Field Regiment RAA 1985 - 1987
Lt Col P.A. Allen, CO 4th Regiment RAA 2020 -
WO1 M.G. Miller, CSM, RSM CO 4th Regiment RAA 2020 -
MAJ D.J. Kelly, OAM, RSM CO 4th Field Regiment RAA 1997 - 1998
WO1 P.A. Matthysen, RSM 4th Field Regiment RAA 2001 - 2003
WO1 G. Boyce, RSM 4th Field Regiment RAA 2007 - 2008
WO1 T. Byrne, RSM 4th Field Regiment RAA 2008 - 2010
WO1 C.K. Clifford, RSM 4th Regiment RAA 2011 - 2012
WO2 S. Wilson, Unit Welfare Officer
Mr Paddy Durnford, OAM, Historical Collection Curator
Mr K. Reed, Historical Collection Volunteer
Twelve in Focus – Edited by Maj G.F.B. Rickards

Annex A
To Fallen but not Forgotten

**MEMORIAL GARDEN DEDICATION - WO1 DARRYL KELLY, OAM –
1 MAY 1998**

Today we celebrate a long and proud tradition, we look back on the guns we have served, the mates we've had and the times both good and bad. Some of us have only known that of life in the military, some of us remember that not too long ago when with skateboards under arms and Walkman's over the ears you were off to school.

Irrespective of the length of service, the rank you hold or your level of experience, we are united not only today but everyday under a common and proud term, that of a soldier. As you look before you today, you see a significant change to the Regiment. We see a garden, it shines in the sunlight of our home, beneath the flag of our country. We also see three simple stones affixed with plates. Those plates show 202 names. We see names that are so familiar to us, we see a Balfe, an Arnold, a Carmody, a Forbes, a Simpson, a Davies and even the name Kelly. These are not the names of today's serving members, these are names of those who had served and died in the service of our country. They are heroes who served the 18 pounders and 4.5" Howitzers of the 4th Field Artillery Brigade, amidst the mud, and the slush, and the sleet of France and Belgium.

They are the heroes who served the 25pdrs in the blazing sun, and the frigid nights, amid the stinging sands of the Middle East desserts, only then to face a new foe in defence of our homeland amid the stinking jungles of New Guinea. These were the heroes of the 2nd / 4th Field Regiment.

They were the heroes who stepped forward to stem the tide of the Japanese as the spread towards Australia's North. Those heroes of the 4th Field Regiment, Second AIF. They were the heroes who served the M2A2's and L5's. The heroes both volunteer and conscript who fought the spread of communism amidst the jungles and paddies of South Vietnam.

When a soldier goes to war, he accepts the fact that he may not come home. Some hope to go out in a blaze of glory, against overwhelming odds, others hope that if it comes, that it is quick and clean. They will all probably hope for a few simple requests, that is to be buried beneath the flag of his country, with their mates in attendance, perhaps a firing party, a bugler and the smell of Rosemary within the air. Today we will attempt to meet these requests and who is to say that in the future, that on this very spot there may be more stones and more names.

Today we dedicate these stones and this garden in silent tribute to those who have gone before us. I think that only one passage fits what we wish to say:

They went with songs to battle
They were young, straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds encountered,
They fell with their faces to the foe.
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,

Age shall not weary them; nor the years condemn, At the going down of the sun and
in the morning, we will remember them. Lest we Forget.

4th Field Regiment RAA

DEDICATION OF THE 40th ANNIVERSARY WALL
4 MAY 2000

THE ANNIVERSARY WALL AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE
(An Address by Arthur Burke, Honorary Historian)

Description

This unique example of an RAA unit commemorative wall is best described by its three sections: the regimental-and corps badges, the sub-unit plaques, and finally the country plaques.

Regimental and Corps Badges

The centrepiece of this section is the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery badge. It is surrounded by those of the corps who have been an integral part of the unit's establishments. By precedence, these are:

Chaplains,
Transport,
Medical,
Ordnance,
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers,
Catering, and
Pay.

Sub-Unit Plaques

The 4th holds the distinction to have commanded all modern RAA field batteries except the 104th. The gunner and other sub-unit plaques displayed are best described in four categories:

The Order of Battle. The Army's ORBAT lists HQ Bty together with 106, 107 and 108 Field Batteries as the sub-units of 4th Field Regiment.

- These gun batteries are all relative newcomers as each was raised during the expansion of the RAA in 1965-66 for the Vietnam commitment.
- Each of these gun batteries saw active service in Vietnam under the command of 4th Field Regiment - 106 and, 108 in 1966-65, and 106 again but with 107 in 1970-71.

The Foundation Sub-Units. In addition to HQ Bty, 103 and 105 were the foundation sub units together with the 4th Field Regiment Light Aid Detachment RAEME. However, 103 swapped with 101 Battery for service in Malaya in 1961 and so the 101st should also be considered in this embryo category.

The Short Timers. Due to the progressive changeover of artillery sub-units in Vietnam, 102 and A Fd Btys came under command of 4th Field Regiment for a month each towards the end of the unit's tours of duty in 1967 and 1971.

Additional Vietnam Commands. There were three permanent sub-units in Vietnam which came under command of each Australian field regiment as it arrived. These were 1st Australian Task Force detachment of 131st Divisional Locating Battery RAA and its workshop slice. RAEME together with the 161st Field Battery RNZA.

Country Plaques

Whilst it is probably appreciated that the only country in which 4th Field Regiment itself served was Vietnam, this unit has provided detachments to under command of other units for the many operational and peacekeeping forces to which Australia has contributed since the Korean War.

For ease of description, the country plaques are best considered by that element of 4th Field Regiment's members which was deployed - sub-units, operational groups and individuals. The significant qualifier for country recognition is that the element which served away from 4th Field Regiment returned to under its command on completion of its detachment.

Sub-Units. The most recent deployment of 108 Fd Bty to East Timor is the only sub-unit which qualifies.

Operational Groups. In addition to the CO's party which went to East Timor, the BC and FO parties of 107 Fd Bty deployed to Somalia in 1992-93.

Individuals. Individual members of this unit have been attached to UN and international forces in:

Rhodesia,
Sinai,
Western Sahara,
Cambodia,
Rwanda, and
Bougainville.

Conclusion

This commemorative wall is unique at RAA unit level but it has a kinship with the RAA National Memorial in Canberra because both walls recognise all the areas of service. Whilst the National Memorial encompasses the RAA's first 100 years, in our case the period covered is the 40 years since the 4th Field Artillery was re-raised at Wacol in 1960.

Annex C
To Fallen but not Forgotten

4th's MEMORIAL WALLS

*Dedication by Arthur Burke
Colonel Commandant RAA
Northern Region*

On 4 May 2000, 4th Field Regiment RAA dedicated a memorial wall about which I wrote:

This commemorative wall is unique at RAA unit level but has a kinship with the RAA National Memorial in Canberra because both walls recognise all the areas of service. Whilst the National Memorial encompasses the RAA's first 100 years, in [this] case the period covered is the 40 years since the 4th Field Artillery was re-raised at Wacol in 1960.

Today, the kinship of these two memorials has now been completed by including the 4th's active service history back to its roots in conflict.

Though the 4th Field Artillery had its genesis with the Victorian Volunteer Artillery in 1856, it was not until the Great War that it first saw active service as a unit. On 23 September 1915, the 4th Field Artillery Brigade AIF was raised at Albert Park in Melbourne. Six months later it was in action on the France/Belgium border.

The words 'France' and 'Belgium' on this eastern wall represent three years of bloody conflict on the Western Front. The unit's members suffered 103 killed and 993 other casualties but were awarded 52 decorations including one Distinguished Service Order, two Distinguished Conduct Medals, nine Military Crosses and 28 Military Medals.

During the Second World War there were two forebear units—the 2nd AIF's 2/4th Field Regiment and the militia 4th Field Regiment RAA which was called up for service after the Japanese offensive began in the South-West Pacific.

The 2/4th served for six years from the Middle East (the countries Egypt, Palestine and Syria on the wall) to the South-West Pacific ('New Guinea' and 'Borneo'). Thirty members paid the supreme sacrifice. Awards included two Distinguished Service Orders, five Military Crosses and two Military Medals. The militia 4th Field served in New Guinea and Bougainville and during its four years of active service 15 of its ranks paid the supreme sacrifice. The 4th's awards included three Military Crosses, four Military Medals and one Member of the British Empire.

The western wall is dedicated to the hereafter—that myriad of United Nations and South-West Pacific area tasks in which members of this unit have been involved since 2000: Sinai, Bougainville, East Timor, Bosnia, Iraq, Solomon Islands and Operation Relex in the Christmas Island area. These ongoing operations will be periodically updated on the wall. Whilst it is acknowledged that these countries are not those in which a unit per se of the 4th Field Artillery has served, they do reflect the diversity of the tasks allocated to the Gunner

community these days.

My commendations for this magnificent achievement go to RSM Phil Matthysen for his energy behind this project; to the Curator of the Historical Collection, Paddy Durnford for being the historical intermediary between the RSM and myself as well as the facilitator in bringing these wall extensions to fruition; and to CO Warwick Jones for his support and encouragement over the last seven months.

Today, let us dedicate these extensions for more than a reminder of the proud heritage of the 4th Field Artillery, and more than a list of batteries and places where they have served. Today, let us embrace the lineage of the 4th Field Artillery and recognise the sacrifice of 148 members who died for the freedom and democracy which we enjoy today.

Thank you for the honour of being a part of this historic event. On this Saint Barbara's Day, 4 December 2003, I formally dedicate these two extensions to the unit's memorial wall.

History of The Memorial Walls of the 4th Field Regiment RAA

*By Gnr Steven Connor
Operation Support Battery
4th Field Regiment*

“Ubique – Has never been a truer battle honour for the proud wearers of the red and blue diamond of the 4th Field Regiment”

- Hon Col Comdt Arthur Burke OAM (Retd)

The 4th Field Regiment memorial was built in three stages, with stage one being the centre section, stage two followed with the edition of an East and West wing in 2003. All three sections are of the same dimensions, measuring 3.5m x 1.3m.

Stage one was completed in May 2000. Approval was given by the CO Lt Col Stanhope (now Col), and was designed and constructed by the ASM, WO1 P. Beavis. The design consists of a curved centre section encompassing the badges of all corps who have served or are currently serving within the 4th Field Regiment. It reflects the period 1960 – 2000, listing deployments such as South Vietnam, Sinai and East Timor. The centre section was formally opened and dedicated on the 40th birthday of the raising of the modern 4th Field Regiment.

Stage two was built and designed by Mr P. Durnford, the curator of the 4th Field Regimental Museum (also BSM HQ Bty 1973, 1976 and BSM 108th Field Bty 1974), after approval was given by the CO Lt Col W. Jones and the RSM WO1 P. Matthysen (current Master Gunner Land Command Army). Stage two consisted of two straight sections flanking the existing centre section. Powder coated aluminium sheets were used in construction, making the East and West wings portable. This method was used in belief that the regiment would be relocated in the future.

The East wing depicts the campaigns and sub units, which served during WWI and WWII. It reflects the 4th Australian Field Artillery Brigades' actions in Belgium and France. Followed by WW2 with the 2/4th Field Regiment RAA who saw action in the Middle East, Palestine, and Syria the back home to retrain for action in New Guinea and Balikpapan. The 4th Field Regiment [Jungle Division] RAA follows serving in New Guinea and Bougainville.

The East wing represents a more sombre period in Regiments history, with the Western front claiming 103 members KIA, and 593 WIA, 410 others were evacuated There were 52 decorations awarded during this campaign including, 9 Military Crosses, 1 Distinguished Service Order, 2 Distinguished Conduct Medals and 28 Military Medals.

WWII saw 31 members of the 2/4th Field Regiment KIA in the Middle East, New Guinea and Balikpapan. Honours and Awards included 2 DSO, 5 MC, 2 MM, 14 MID's and 30 CIC Cards.

4th Field Regiment [JD] lost 15 member KIA and 19 WIA, honours and Awards were, 3 MC, 4MM, 1MBE 17 MID's, 1 CIC Card.

The West wing depicts 2000 to the present. Deployments listed include Timor, Iraq, Solomon Islands, Bosnia, and Operation Relex.

In conclusion, the 4th Field Regiment has a proud history and distinguished lineage and is accurately presented by the memorial. The memorial walls are a fitting tribute to those who paid the supreme sacrifice, and all ranks who have served the Regiment throughout history.

References

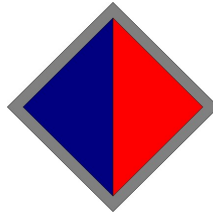
- *'4th Field Regiment Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, Historical Guide'*
Hon Col Comdt Arthur Burke OAM (Retd)
- Mr P. Durnford, Curator 4th Field Regimental Museum, BSM 108th Fd Bty 1974, BSM HQ Bty 1973, 1976.
- *'Cannonball'* Number 55, September 2004 *'4th Field Regiment's Memorial Walls Dedication'* Hon Col Comdt Arthur Burke OAM (Retd)

The Author

Gnr Steven Connor enlisted into the Australian Army in February 2004. Upon completion of IET training was posted to 108th Fd Bty, 4th Fd Regt. Deployed to Timor-Leste in March 2006. Posted to Op Spt Bty in 2007 as an Operator Command Post.



The Colour Patch of the 7th Division Artillery, 2nd AIF Inherited by 4th Regiment RAA



The 7th Divisional Artillery was approved to wear the same colour patch as the 2nd Division of the 1st AIF. With the raising of the 2nd AIF in 1939 came the need to distinguish between identical patches worn by CMF (Militia) and AIF units, e.g., 3rd Infantry Battalion (CMF) and 2/3rd Infantry Battalion (AIF). This was achieved by placing a battleship-grey background patch behind the patch of every AIF unit. The colour patch, a diamond shape, half red and half blue, was worn with the blue to the front ('leading'). A great deal of controversy has taken place regarding this colour patch.

The British Army wore oblong patches to distinguish arms of the Service, using red and blue for both Royal Artillery and the Royal Engineers - red to the front for Artillery and blue to the front for Engineers. It would appear that colour patches worn in 1914-18 by the various Australian Artillery Divisions did not conform to a standard of red or blue to the front. In fact, several Divisional Artillery colour patches were worn with blue to the front - and the red and blue patch was worn by at least one Australian Infantry Battalion and also a Mobile Veterinary Section of the Light Horse during the First World War.

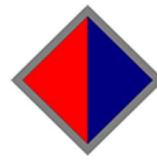
It has been suggested that the red and blue indicated first the red flash of artillery fire followed by the blue smoke. However, in 1935 Standing Orders for Dress, it was laid down that all CMF (Militia) Artillery Divisions would wear colour patches uniformly with red to the front. In 1940 this gave rise to the idea (quite erroneous) that 7th Div Artillerymen were wearing their patch back to front. This was not so as 2nd Div Artillery (1914-18) adopted this original patch with the blue to the front. Whether it was originally intended for them to wear red to the front cannot be ascertained.

When using the colour patch as a logo on correspondence or displaying it other than on a uniform the blue is always to the left, which is the 'leading' side of the page or dressing from left. The 7th Division Artillery units (1939-1945) wore this patch on the top of both sleeves and the puggaree with the blue to the front. As the patch is only worn on the puggaree today this gives the impression that the blue is always on the right even when it's displayed elsewhere. This is not so as the blue is always on the left as stated.

Below is an example of the current colour patch worn by the 4th Field Regiment and the correct way to display it both on and off the uniform.



Left side of uniform
when displayed off the uniform
e.g., letterheads, plaques, doors, etc.



Right side of uniform
as worn on the puggaree