

# *Gunner of Renown*



Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company

## **Major Francis Edward RESUGGAN, MBE, MSM**

**(1906-1979)**

Ted Resuggan was born at Merri Merri, Victoria, on 2 August 1906 and subsequently became a carpenter.

He joined the army on 3 September 1925 and spent several years with 2nd Heavy Brigade and obtained a Distinguished Pass on his Master Gunners Course in 1937. During his service with the RGA he rose steadily through the ranks to BSM of 1 Hy Bde and T/MG 9 Hy Bde. He transferred to the Australian Instructional Corps, was promoted W02 in the same year, and posted to Darwin Defences in 1938.

At the outbreak of WWII he was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of 2/1st Field Regiment then forming at Ingleburn Camp, NSW. He was a good leader and a very competent technical gunner. His leadership was tested early by the arrival of a draft of recruits from Newcastle, many dressed in civvies and some were in various states of inebriation. Ted asked in his usual sharp, distinct tone of voice: 'Can any of you bang a typewriter?' Some wag responded: 'How old is she, Sir?' Ted had found his first candidate for hygiene duty. Being a Master Gunner, he was regularly employed before practice or operations to calibrate the guns contributing to the accurate shooting for which his regiment was renowned in both Bardia and Tobruk attacks by 6th Division in 1940-41.

In the Greek campaign, Resuggan's leadership in the evacuation of the regiment on RN destroyers at Kalamata drew praise from all ranks. 'Who could forget the calm attitude of the RSM?' was a phrase that resurfaced at reunions. After Greece, Ted was posted to HQRAA 6th Division and, in June 1942, he was commissioned lieutenant and transferred to 2/14th Field Regiment. Back in Australia, he was promoted captain and adjutant of 11th Field Regiment in New Guinea 1942-43 and 57 Australian Composite Anti-aircraft Unit 1943-45, and served with Z Special Unit 1945-46.

Post-war he joined the BCOF in Japan as a liaison and administrative officer, followed by an appointment as Military Observer in Indonesia, 1949-50, on secondment to the Department of External Affairs. Promoted major in August 1952 he was appointed GS02 Directorate of Staff Duties at AHQ, followed by an appointment as DAA&QMG, Western Command, to help the Regular Army's training commitment to National Service Trainees from 1953. Later, as a Major, he was QM of the 17th NS Training Battalion until 19 May 1955 and was then appointed Commandant, Army Headquarters, Melbourne, until he retired in 1961.

During his overseas service in Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Greece, New Guinea, Borneo, Dutch East Indies/Indonesia, Burma and Japan, Resuggan was respected and admired by all ranks. He was awarded the MBE in 1945 and the MSM in 1956.

**“Major Resuggan died on 21 November 1979. He was survived by his wife Janet and his son and daughter from his first wife Dorothy, and their families”.**

Sources: Army Lists; E. Wood and O. Pearse, Obituary in *Kibble's Post*, April 2002" Alan H Smith.  
CARO files B2458,2147 & A6770.