

THE LAUNCESTON VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY CORPS

This narrative was taken from the menu of the 110th Anniversary Dinner of the Launceston Volunteer Artillery and 6th Field Regiment RRAA held 6th June 1970 in the Launceston Hotel. The narrative was inscribed on a plaque which was unveiled at the hotel by Colonel C.M Fotheringham, ED, Colonel Commandant of Artillery, Tasmania Command

The Launceston Voluntary Artillery Corps was formed as a result of this Advertisement in the Launceston "Examiner", of June 5th, 1860.

"Launceston Citizens' Volunteer Rifle Corps – The government having accepted the offer of service of the above Corps, the subscribing members are requested to attend the Launceston Hotel on Wednesday evening, 7th June, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of taking the oath of allegiance and other important business."

At this meeting, after the reading of a letter from the Colonial Secretary it was unanimously resolved that the name of the Corps be changed to "Launceston Volunteer Artillery Corps". Three companies of fifty men each were formed under Captain R.C.B. Home and training commenced. Members supplied themselves with uniforms and paid an entrance fee of 2s.6d and a further amount of 2s. monthly. Officers were elected annually.

From 1866 the corps manned the 8 inch smooth bore guns at Fort Cormiston. These guns and other historical items may be seen at Patterson Barracks, Launceston. Two 2.5 mountain guns used from 1884 are now located at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart.

From 1870 to 1878 Government support was withdrawn from the Volunteer movement and all Corps with the exception of the L.V.A. were disbanded in 1875. Throughout this "winter of neglect" the Corps continued to parade, under command of Captain Alfred Harrap, which earned it the distinction of being the oldest continuously serving Volunteer artillery in the British Commonwealth outside Britain.


Members saw service in every major campaign from Soudan in 1885 to Vietnam in 1965. The most highly decorated Australian in World War 1, Lt –Col H. Murray, VC. CMG, DSO & bar, DCM, Croix de Guerre, was introduced to army service during six years with the L.V.A.



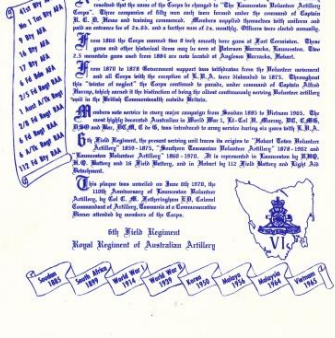
6th Field Regiment, the present serving unit traces its origins to "Hobart Town Volunteer Artillery" 1859-1875, "Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery" 1878-1902 and "Launceston Volunteer Artillery: 1860-1970. It is represented in Launceston by RHQ, H.Q. Battery and 16 Field Battery, and in Hobart by 112 Field Battery and Light Aid Detachment.

This plaque was unveiled by Colonel C.M Fotheringham, ED, Colonel Commandant of Artillery, Tasmania Command at a Commemorative Dinner attended by members of the Corps.

A copy of the programme for the Anniversary Dinner is shown below.

PROGRAMME FOR 110TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

<p style="text-align: center;">A U T O G R A P H S</p> <p>C.M.F. Member of the Military Board, _____</p> <p>The Premier of Tasmania, _____</p> <p>Director, Royal Australian Artillery, _____</p> <p>Commander, Tasmania Command, _____</p> <p>Mayor of Launceston, _____</p> <p>President, Launceston Artillery Association, _____</p> <p>Commanding Officer, 6th Field Regiment, _____</p> <p>Representative, Honorable Artillery Company, _____</p> <p>Visitors :</p> <p>Serving Members :</p> <p>Former Members :</p>	<p>LAUNCESTON ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION</p> <p>and</p> <p>6th FIELD REGIMENT, ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY</p>  <p>110th Anniversary Dinner.</p> <p>LAUNCESTON VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY CORPS</p> <p>LAUNCESTON HOTEL 6th June, 1970.</p>
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<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;">  <p style="text-align: center;">The Launceston Volunteer Artillery Corps</p> <p>was formed as a result of the Advertisement in the "Launceston Examiner", of June 5th, 1868.</p> <p>"Launceston Examiner" Launceston 22nd Corps - The Government having accepted the offer of service of the above Corps, the following regulations are reported in detail at the Launceston Field on following morning, June 6th, at 10 o'clock, for the purpose of taking the oath of allegiance and other important business.</p> <p>At the meeting after the reading of a letter from the Honorable Secretary (I have unfortunately omitted that the name of the Corps is changed to "The Launceston Volunteer Artillery Corps". These regulations of the day were only those issued under the command of Captain R. E. H. Howe and including command. Members supplied themselves with uniforms and with a certificate for of the day, with a further vote of the meeting. Officers were elected accordingly.</p> <p>From 1868 the Corps assumed the name of the 6th Field Regiment. These regulations and other historical items may be seen at Launceston Museum, Launceston. Also a number of guns from 1868 are now housed at Launceston Museum, Launceston.</p> <p>From 1870 to 1874 Government suggested that Launceston should be the Launceston Regiment and all other Corps with the exception of R.E.H. Howe's were disbanded in 1874. Throughout the "years of neglect" the Corps continued to grow, under command of Captain John Brown which resulted in the formation of being the oldest continuously serving Volunteer Artillery unit in the British Commonwealth outside Britain.</p> <p>A number who served in every major campaign have. Another 1880 to 1885. The 1880-1885 campaign was fought in South Africa. The 1880-1885 campaign was fought in South Africa. The 1880-1885 campaign was fought in South Africa.</p> <p>From 1885 to 1914 the Corps continued to grow and in 1914 was reformed as "Launceston Volunteer Artillery" 1885-1914. "Launceston Volunteer Artillery" 1885-1914 and "Launceston Volunteer Artillery" 1914-1918. It is reported in Launceston by R.E.H. Howe and 18 Field Regiment, and is listed by 112 Field Battery and 112th Artillery.</p> <p>The plaque was unveiled on June 6th 1970, the 102nd Anniversary of Launceston Volunteer Artillery, by Col C. M. Fotheringham, E.D., Colonel Commandant of Artillery, Commandant of Launceston Museum obtained by members of the Corps.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6th Field Regiment Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery</p>   </div> <p>Plaque unveiled at the Launceston Hotel on 6th June, 1970, by Col C. M. Fotheringham, E.D., Colonel Commandant of Artillery, Tasmania Command.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">P R O G R A M M E</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chairman : Lt-Col R. O. Brown, E.D.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque. 2. Drinks. 3. Dinner. 4. Loyal Toast. 5. "Why We Celebrate", Mr. Justice G. H. Crawford. 6. "Fallen Comrades," President, Launceston Artillery Assn., Col M. L. Fotheringham, E.D. 7. "6th Field Regiment," Commander, Tasmania Command, Col P. H. G. Oxley. 8. Response, Commanding Officer, 6th Field Regiment, Lt-Col P. R. Patmore, E.D., supported by another member of the Regiment. 9. "Our Guests," Bdr E. J. Braithwaite. 10. Response, CMF Member of the Military Board, Maj-Gen N. A. Vickery, M.B.E., M.C., E.D., supported by Director, Royal Australian Artillery, Col M. P. O'Hare, O.B.E.
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