



## Rise of the Phoenix 105<sup>th</sup> Battery Museum

Like that mythical bird that never dies, the 105<sup>th</sup> Battery Historical Collection is rising again within Barce Lines, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment RAA at Enoggera, Brisbane.

The Collection has been in storage for almost five years after being dismantled in 2010 to facilitate a new building programme at 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment. With the assistance of young Tigers from the 105<sup>th</sup> Battery, it was moved from commercial storage to a temporary garage in Enoggera and from there is slowly deploying into its new home.

What a great new home it is! Following presentation of a proposal by battery historian Arthur Burke to commanding officer Lt Col Nick Foxall, six rooms in the former RAP building opposite Regimental Headquarters were allocated for the museum. One is large and airconditioned and is fast becoming the new Bade Room—the display that presents an overview of the 105<sup>th</sup> Battery from its formation in 1916 up to today.

The other five rooms are all adjoining off a central corridor and represent the key periods in the life of the Battery:

- Malaya Room (1955–57).
- Vietnam Room (1965–66 and 1969–70).
- Vietnam CP Room (1969 ‘flying’ command post built into a connex).
- East Timor Room (2000–2004 including Bougainville, NW Australia and the medium guns).
- Afghanistan Room (2004–today including Iraq, Observation Battery and M777 battery).

The Battery and the Association are deeply indebted to Lt Col Foxall for this generous allocation which will allow for the first time, a balanced display of the Historical Collection. They also truly appreciate the financial support of the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland who provided grants in excess of \$4000 per year to facilitate four years of storage in commercial premises.



*Vietnam Room*

It took five years to establish the original museum, so one must not expect that this new venture will be completed tomorrow. All the rooms have been painted, sheeted and cam netted where required and all display cabinets repainted. Each room has a mannequin in the dress of the era at its entrance and some have others inside. Arthur Clendinen has reconstructed the ‘Flying CP’ of 1969 which is a replica of the Vietnam command post built inside a connex shipping container.

Arthur Burke is now at the stage of converting boxes of artefacts and pictures into powerful displays on walls and in cabinets to tell the history of the Tiger Battery. As he progresses, there are numerous pictures and signs which have to be updated and reproduced. All this takes time, but Arthur guarantees that the final product will be a great improvement on the original museum.

So, like the phoenix rising from the ashes, the 105<sup>th</sup> Battery Museum is re-emerging from the dust of storage and will soon be in full flight again. What better gift could our Association donate to RAA heritage in this year of the centenary of the Gallipoli landings at ANZAC Cove?

**Arthur Burke OAM**  
**Curator and Manager**  
**105<sup>th</sup> Battery Museum**  
February 2015



## Official opening of the 105<sup>th</sup> Battery Museum

Doctor Robin Bade gave a most complimentary and very personal address to open the new 105<sup>th</sup> Battery Museum following the awards parade on 6 October 2015.

She thoroughly enjoyed the Bade Room named to honour her husband, the 105<sup>th</sup>'s forward observer and Australia's first officer killed in action in Vietnam. Her husband, Professor Michael Parkin said that Robin



*Robin receiving miniatures*

was delighted and very proud to receive the Association's boxed set of Ken's miniature medals and awards.

All present filed through the six rooms of displays. The young Gunners were educated, the old Gunners reminisced, partners were shown 'There's me', and many asked, 'What's that for?' Historian Arthur Burke and Curator Arthur Clendinen were delighted with the many complimentary remarks received.

And so, from humble beginnings in 1997, the 105<sup>th</sup> Battery Historical Collection has finally come to display fruition as an impressive museum. The 105<sup>th</sup> Battery Association thanks all those who brought this dream of Arthur Burke's to reality. Whilst it is difficult to list everyone who has provided significant assistance over the years, the following must be formally recognised for this latest presentation:

- + 1 Regt RAA—CO Nick Foxall, BC 105 Trevor Watson and the personnel of the 105<sup>th</sup>.
- + 105 Bty Assn—Jim Box, Ian James, Arthur Clendinen and Arthur Burke.
- + Finance—Peter Caisley and ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland.

***Arthur Burke OAM***

***Curator and Manager***

***105<sup>th</sup> Battery Museum***

March 2016

### **Images of the Museum**

An overview of cameos from the Museum are shown on the next pages.

# 105th Battery RAA Museum 1st Regiment RAA Enoggera - 5 June 2015



1-Bade Room entrance



2-BR welcome wall



3-BR The Great War



4-BR Between the Wars



5-BR Malaya and webbing



6-BR Vietnam



7-BR Peace and Iraq



9-BR Medium Guns Afghanistan



10-BR Obsn Bty M777 Howitzers

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11-Malaya Room entrance



12-MR background and HQ



13-MR A Troop



14-MR Command Post



15-MR GPO Box Arty Board



16-MR B Troop



17-MR from the scrapbooks



18-Vietnam Room entrance



19-VR home bases

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20-VR guns and forward observers



21-VR the blokes



22-VR FO's home



23-VR National Servicemen



24-Vietnam Command Post Room entrance



25-CPR types of CP



26-CPR flying CP story



27-CPR inside the flying CP



28-CPR bty flag future Research Library

# 105th Battery RAA Museum 1st Regiment RAA Enoggera - 5 June 2015



29-East Timor Room entrance



30-ETR East Timor



31-ETR Olympics CHOGM Bougainville and boat people



31-ETR Solomons Cwth Games Medium Guns



32-East Timor and Bougainville flags



33-Afghanistan Room entrance



34-AR Afghanistan



35-AR flag from forward operating base



36-AR Observation Bty M777 Howitzers