

Keith Glyde
6 Perry Street, Claremont 7011, Tasmania, Australia
ph: 03 62492950 fax: 03 62491011
email: kjglydey@bigpond.com

Mr RCM Topliss
29 Larool Ave
Lindfield NSW 2070

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Dear Danny,

Thanks for your letter of 16 April 2006. You have posed a very interesting question in relation to 28 and 107 Btys 1916-17, and yes I would have assumed that it was a straight swap of batteries myself. However in an article (enclosed) in an old "Australian Gunner" the present 107 Fd Bty, 4 Fd Regt RAA states that 107 (How.) Bty was originally raised as 28 Bty. At roughly the same time I noted in Vol 5 of Bean's "Official History of Australia, etc", Appendix 1 (enclosed) that he comments that "...at least in one case the guns and title of the batteries, but not the men, were exchanged.." I assumed at the time it may have referred to 28 and 107 Btys. It was not however until I obtained reprint copies of "The 7th FAB Yandoo" and "With the 27th Battery in France" that I was able to establish that officers and men listed under 28 Bty in the beginning of the book appear later as members of 107 (How) Bty. I was also intrigued by the mention in the former book that the new 27th Bty (from 36 Bty and one section 28 Bty) from 1917 was composed of Victorians, when I knew the original 28 Bty was from NSW and 36 Bty was from Queensland.

Then very recently I went through the embarkation rolls of 7 FAB (AWM 8) and was able to compare the regimental numbers of the men serving in the various batteries of 7 FAB at the Armistice in 1918 as shown in "Yandoo" with the embarkation rolls in 1916. This established beyond doubt that the men who embarked in 1916 as 28 Bty were serving as 107 (How) Bty at the end of the war. In addition, again comparing regimental numbers, I was able to establish that 107, 108 and 109 (How) Btys, 23 How Bde (from Victoria, SA, WA and Tas), were redesignated 28, 32 and 36 Btys about Sep 1916, and that 28 Bty of 7 FAB, 32 Bty of 8 FAB, and 36 Bty of 9 FAB absorbed elements of their respective brigade ammunition columns and were redesignated 107, 108 and 109 (How) Btys at the same time. In an ironic twist the new 109 (How) Bty then transferred to 23 FAB, and then in 1917 was partially absorbed by 107 (How) Bty, while 118 (How) Bty was raised for 9 FAB. Confused..? so was I, but you can't beat those regimental numbers to definitely establish peoples' movements. That is how 27 Bty in 1917 came to be composed of Victorian personnel. This conclusion has however been reached without reference to the war diaries which may contain more details.

The question about 48 (H) Bty AFA is a bit more tricky – as you say the Army List 1920 shows the battery as existing in Sydney with 4 AFA Bde, but no officers are posted to it at that date (1 Apr 1920) and I note that as at 1 Jul 1917 all the officers of the 44 (How) Bty as 48 (How) Bty was then numbered, were seconded to the AIF. On the other hand 48 (H.) Bty was directly ascended from No. 5 NSW Bty AFA raised in Sydney on 1 Jul 1904 and is shown as a battery to be maintained in "Distribution of Militia Forces 1919-20" of 24 Jan 1920. Therefore it would have received quotas of UT personnel from senior cadet battalions and presumably was commanded in the interim by an officer seconded from 22 or 25 Bty of the same brigade, the latter of which was over establishment in officers. MO 95 of 12 Mar 1921 (extract enclosed) clearly shows that 48 (How) Bty was to contribute its personnel to 107, 109 and 114 (How.) Btys

and 1 Div Amn Coln. It must therefore have been existing at that date. The initials NR I would say stand for "not raised" and I wonder if they in fact relate to 45 (How.) Bty which was the other howitzer battery allotted to Sydney and the existence of which is doubtful although MO 95/1921 does allocate its personnel to 114 (How.) Bty. Without the roll books and area officers' records it would be virtually impossible now to confirm anything from this particular period. My next "Army List" after 1920 is December 1922, I'm not sure whether a Staff and Regimental List was published in 1921.

Thanks for the addition of the Type 'C' regiment info, I'll add that in. Hope this info is of assistance.

Best Regards, Keith Glyde

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Keith Glyde', written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

6th (Army) Field Artillery Brigade

- 23.8.1915 18 Bty raised at Mitcham Camp, S Aust (by rail to Victoria and joins bde on 18 Oct 15).
- 26.8.1915 6 Fd Arty Bde commenced raising at Keilor Road Camp, North Essendon, Victoria, with Bde HQ primarily of Victorian pers, 16 Bty from Victorian and some WA pers, and Bde Amn Coln from WA and SA personnel.
- 6.9.1915 17 Bty and details Bde Amn Coln raised Claremont Camp, Tasmania (embarked *Mokia* for Melbourne on 7 Oct 15, joins bde on 8 Oct 15).
- 22.11.1915 Bde embarked on A.34 SS *Persic* for the Middle East [6 FA Bde details and horses on A.59 *Botanist*, sailed ex- Melbourne on 23 Nov 15], disembarked Suez on 21 Dec 15, by rail to Aerodrome Camp, Heliopolis.
- 17.2.1916 21st Battery raised at Moascar Camp, Egypt, and joins.
- 17.3.1916 Embark Alexandria on SS *Eboe* and *Arcadian* for Marseilles, disembark 23 Mar 16 and by rail to Le Havre for Western Front operations, Apr 1916-Nov 1918.
- 15.5.1916 21 Bty transferred to 22 Fd Arty Bde, 106 (How.) Bty joins ex- 22 Fd Arty (How.) Bde. 6 Fd Arty Bde Amn Coln absorbed by 2 DAC.
- 26.1.1917 Redesignated 6 (Army) Fd Arty Bde. Left and Right Sections 59 Bty, and one section each of 58 Bty and 115 (How.) Bty are absorbed by 18, 17, 16 and 106 (How.) Btys respectively.
- 17.2.1919 Demobilisation commences at Erpion, France.
- 9.3.1919 Bde disbanded, remaining pers transferred to btys of 4 Fd Arty Bde.
- 31.3.1921 *Perpetuated in the CMF in Tasmania by VI. Brigade AFA.*

7th Field Artillery Brigade

- 17.3.1916 Raised at the AIF Artillery Training Camp, Marrickville NSW from NSW personnel. Comprised Bde HQ, 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th Batteries, and 7 FA Bde Amn Coln.
- 11.5.1916 Embarked on HMT A.8 *Argyllshire* at Sydney, with 1st Reinforcements, disembarked at Plymouth, England, on 11 Jul 16 and moved to Larkhill.
- 3.8.1916 25 Bty to Fort Wallington, 28 Bty to Swanage, detachments to Winchester.
- 5.9.1916 Brigade concentrated at Larkhill, 28 Bty redesignated and reorganized as 107 (How.) Bty by now. The BAC is absorbed by 3 DAC.
- 31.12.1916 Embarked for France for Western Front operations Jan 1917-Oct 1918.
- 6.1.1917 27 Bty broken up and absorbed by sections into 25 and 26 Btys, a new 27 Bty is formed from personnel of 28 and 36 Btys and joins the brigade. 107 (How.) Bty absorbs a section of 109 (How.) Bty.
- 5.3.1919 Demobilization commences at Hautmont, France.
- 3.4.1919 8 Fd Arty Bde absorbed.
- 30.4.1919 Brigade absorbed into 3rd Divisional Artillery Quota No. 44.
- 1.5.1919 3rd Divisional Artillery Quota No. 44 now known as 26 Bty and is attached to 4 Fd Arty Bde.
- 18.8.1919 Final batch of personnel disembark at Sydney, Australia, ex- *Karmala*, bde ceases to exist.
- 31.3.1921 *Perpetuated in the CMF in NSW by VII. Brigade AFA.*

8th Field Artillery Brigade

- 17.3.1916 Raised at the AIF Artillery Training Camp, Maribyrnong, Victoria, from Victorian, South Australian, Western Australian and Tasmanian personnel, comprising Bde HQ, 8 Fd Arty Bde Amn Coln, 29, 30, 31 and 32 Btys.
- 20.5.1916 Embark Melbourne with 1st Reinforcements on A.7 *Medic*, disembark Plymouth, England on 18 Jul 16 via Port Natal and Table Bay.

- Brisbane, detrain 10 Jun 43, embark HMAT *Duntroon* on 11 Jun, disembark Townsville 14 Jun 43 and regt'l camp established at Rollingstone.
- 25.6.1943 Redesignated 6th Aust Field Regiment (AIF). GRO G.472/1943
- 16.3.1944 'B' Tp 16 Fd Bty detached to Chemical Warfare Experimental and Research Section at Ettie Bay to undertake CW shoots, rejoins regt on 11 Apr 44.¹⁴⁶
- 6.4.1944 Effective date of disbandment. SM3575¹⁴⁷
- 24.4.1944 To Wallgrove NSW by rail ex- Redlynch, rear party ex- Cairns on SS *Marella* for Sydney then Wallgrove on 30 Apr 44, dispersed on ARL. Concentrated Wallgrove between 26 May-2 Jun 44, pers m/o primarily to 1 Aust Base Depot – Personnel, and 1 Aust Naval Bombardment Group, between 22 Jun-18 Jul 44.
- 19.7.1944 Disbandment completed, remaining personnel posted to HQ 3rd Aust Infantry Brigade.
- 1.4.1948 Reformed at Hobart and Launceston as 6th Anti-Tank Regiment RAA.

7th Australian Field Regiment (AIF)

[War Office Ser. No. 45939]

- 31.3.1921 VII. Brigade AFA formed from personnel of existing units in NSW with Brigade HQ (from HQ 3rd AFA Bde and pers of HQ 4th and 5th AFA Bdes), 25th and 26th Batteries and 107th (Howitzer) Battery at Mount St, North Sydney, recruiting from Manly, Mosman and North Sydney, and for 107th (How) Bty, Millers Point, Rozelle and Drummoyne. 27th Battery was raised at Hornsby, drawing from Hornsby, Artarmon, Ryde and Eastwood. [1]
- 1.7.1922 26th Battery disbanded. [2]
- 1.1.1926 27th Battery relocated to North Sydney by now.
- 1.3.1930 Now 7th Field Brigade AFA, batteries redesignated 25th and 27th Field Batteries and 107th Field Battery (Howitzer). [5]
- 24.5.1930 Brigade concentrated at Warrane Rd, Willoughby by now (move commenced 1929).
- 31.1.1936 Redesignated 7th Field Brigade RAA(M). [7]
- 1.7.1939 26th Field Battery reformed at Holsworthy.
- 1.2.1941 Now 7th Field Regiment RAA(M), 27 Fd Bty absorbed as 'B' Tp 25 Fd Bty, 107 Fd Bty (H) absorbed as 'D' Tp 26 Fd Bty. [8]
- 1.10.1941 Cadre called up for full time duty at Wallgrove.
- 15.12.1941 Regt called up to WE less OR 1st Reinfts at Wallgrove NSW for FTD for the duration of the war.
- 20.3.1942 27th Field Battery completed raising about now at Narellan NSW. [9]
- 29.5.1942 Now RHQ 7th Aust Field Regiment, 25, 26 and 27 Fd Btys.
- 7.7.1942 Main body commences move to Melville, Western Australia, by rail over period 7/8 Jul 42, detrains 12/13 Jul 42 [adv party by rail 6 Jul, arrived Chidlow Camp 11 Jul 42], concentrated Bellevue on 30 Sep 42.
- 1.1.1943 Redesignated 7th Aust Field Regiment (AIF). GRO G.1/1943
- 21.9.1943 Personnel only embarked Fremantle on HMAT *Nieuw Amsterdam* for RAA Tng Centre, Greta NSW (some pers by rail), dispersed on ARL and concentrated at Wallgrove on 30 Oct 43. SD54851 of 10 Sep 43
- 17.11.1943 Effective date of disbandment. [15]
- 1.1944 Disbandment completed at Wallgrove NSW.
- 1.4.1948 Reformed at Willoughby NSW as 7th Field Regiment RAA.

¹⁴⁶ Fired quantities of B4 (tear gas) and Y4 (mustard gas).

¹⁴⁷ *Regimental Lists and Manning Tables of Officers on the Active List*, List No. 1, Vol. 1, of 15 Oct 44 states 24 Mar 44 as the date of disbandment however this would appear to be in error as the initial warning order notifying the movement of the unit to NSW for absorption is LHQ SD17185 of 1 Apr 44.

7th Field Regiment

- 1.4.1948 Raised at Warrane Rd, Willoughby, as a CMF unit with RHQ, P and Q Batteries and numbered to perpetuate the prewar and wartime 7th Aust Field Regiment located at Willoughby.
- 7.12.1951 R Bty raised at Hornsby.
- 12.2.1952 R Bty is transferred to 21st Field Regiment.
- 1.7.1955 A new R Bty, 7 Fd Regt, is raised at Willoughby.
- 1.7.1960 Absorbs 14th Field Regiment to form 7th Field Regiment on Pentropic Establishment with:
 RHQ and 'P' Battery at Willoughby (ex- 7 Fd Regt),
 'Q' Battery at Marrickville (ex- 14 Fd Regt).
DRA Liaison Letter, July 1960
- 1.7.1965 Reorganized on Tropical Establishment, HQ Battery raised at Willoughby about now but R Bty to be Restricted. GS Inst. 13/65 of 30 Jun 65
- 9.1965 P, Q and R Btys numbered as 26th, 27th and 28th Field Batteries although the latter remains Restricted.
- 1969 27 Fd Bty transferred from Marrickville to Willoughby.
- 1.11.1973 28th Field Battery formed at Willoughby from the personnel of 26th and 27th Field Batteries which were then disbanded. 5th Field Battery formed at Dee Why from the remnants of 9 LAA Regt and some personnel of HQ Bty, 7 Fd Regt, and joins 7 Fd Regt. 113th LAA Battery is attached ex- independent. Now RHQ, HQ Bty, 5 and 28 Fd Btys with 113 LAA Bty attached.
- 23.5.1974 7th Field Regiment Light Aid Detachment RAEME is absorbed into the establishment of 7 Fd Regt as Technical Support Troop. 38/74. A334-R1-47 of 23 May 74
- 1.10.1976 The 5th and 28th Field Batteries amalgamate at Dee Why as 28th Field Battery. 113th Field Battery joins (ex- 113 LAA Bty, previously only attached), located at Adamstown with a detachment at Willoughby formed primarily from ex- 28 Fd Bty personnel recruited in the western Sydney suburbs. 16/76. A342-29-6 of 10 Aug 76
- 1.10.1979 The Willoughby detachment of 113 Fd Bty is disbanded, remaining personnel to 28 Fd Bty.
- 16.3.1996 RHQ and HQ Battery relocated to Suakin St, Pymble.
- 6.1996 113th Field Battery relocated to new facilities at Adamstown, one troop re-established at Erina on the central coast of NSW.