

Book Review

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Editor RAA Liaison Letter

105th Battery - A Concise History by Arthur Burke

ISBN 0-97500389-1-5, published by Arthur Burke in 2005, printed by Goprint Brisbane, Soft Cover, 48 pages

In the tradition and style of the *4th Field Regiment Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery - Historical Guide* written by Colonel A.R. Burke, Colonel Commandant Northern Region and published in 2003, he has now published *105th Battery Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery - A Concise History*.

It is written in a relaxed style that is easy to read and understand. This is supported by a layout which is very logical and leads the reader through the history. A strength of the booklet is the comprehensive use of the names of individuals of all ranks and the linking of them to events. This approach gives the book a very personal feel especially for those of us who have been members of the Battery.

The book takes the reader through the history of the Battery from its origins in world war one to its conversion from a field to a medium battery in 2005. The statement by Colonel Burke in the preface that the publication claims to be nothing other than an aide-memoire, in my personal opinion, undersells the importance and quality of the publication. The detail contained within the edition is a testament to the meticulous research undertaken by Colonel Burke prior to compiling it. Anybody who knows Colonel Burke would appreciate that he would not have published the booklet had he not believed the content was accurate, relevant and contributed to the preservation of our Regimental history and most importantly would stand up under the rigour of close scrutiny by fellow historians.

The publication includes a lineage overview, a concise history that includes a detailed section on the two tours of South Vietnam by the Battery; and notes on the meritorious unit commendation, Tom Simpson Memorial, and Ken Bade History Room. There is something of interest for everyone in this small but still comprehensive booklet. There is a brief article on the Tom Simpson memorial in this edition of the Liaison Letter. From my personal perspective the section on Captain Ken Bade, a forward observer killed in action during the first tour of Vietnam, was of particular interest to me as he is an old boy of my secondary school (Toowoomba Grammar School). I was not aware that he was the first Australian officer killed in South Vietnam until I read this booklet.

For any current or former member of 105 Battery or for that matter any student of Gunner history this publication would be a fine addition to your professional library. It is six dollars well invested.

The publication is available for sale from the merchandising officer, 105th Battery RAA Association Inc, 2/8 Sun Court, Banksia Beach QLD at a cost of six dollars including packaging and handling.

Note: *The 4th Field Regiment Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery - Historical Guide* is available for sale from Paddy Durnford, Curator, 4th Field Regiment Historical Collection, Chau Pha Lines, Lavarack Barracks Townsville Qld 4813 at a cost of six dollars. See RAA Liaison Letter 2004 - Spring Edition page 119 for further information.