

**9 HAA/LAA REGTs
GUNFIRE REPORT
Sep 2009**

Quite a number of our members supported the City of Sydney ANZAC Day March and post march Gunner reunion at the Menzies Hotel (Sporters Bar). Those seen on the day included Phil Easton, Peter Mogg, Nev Newton, Gordon Blinkhorne, Kerry Gillis, Addie Flippence, Barry Lloyd, Bill Vanderveer, Vic Willey, Don Collins, Roy Mellior, Graham Martin, Bob Owens, Dennis Dousset and Owen Rowlands. Peter was unable to March but arranged for our banner to be "On Parade" and joined us at the reunion where the beer flowed almost as freely as anecdotes from Addie Flippence. Garry Dowd applied for leave as he attended his local RSL sub branch activities at Foster/Tuncurry.

We were again supported by members of the 233 ACU St George (thanks to Barry Willoughby) and the following cadets proudly carried the 9 HAA/LAA Banner:

- . Cadet Natasha Binns
- . Cadet Maddison Gilhooly
- . Cadet Anson Nguyen, and
- . Cadet Mitchell Rice.



Left to Right – Kerry Gillis, Gordon Blinkhorne, Roy (Bunny) Mellier, Peter Mogg, Phil Easton, Addie Flippence, Vic Willey.

We again supported the mid year Bevan Lennie lunch held at the City of Sydney RSL and members who attended included myself and Pearl, Ray and Fay Carlin, Vic and Anne Willey, Alex Sawyer, Barry Lloyd, Dick and Pam Gray and Leigh Haines.

As advised earlier, the 9 HAA/LAA Banner was not paraded at this year's Reserve Forces Day Parade. I attended the proceedings to see for myself how the revised parade format compared to former years – Phil Steen and myself kindly accepted an offer from 21 Fd Regt to parade with them. There is no doubt that it was a good spectacle but there were few spectators. There was lots of standing as evidenced by my sore back (not as young as I used to be) and the emphasis placed on Standards and standard bearers confirmed that it would not be possible to participate without at least two members attending the training/rehearsal sessions. I personally prefer the march down Macquarie Street. After the parade, I retired to the Rugby Union Club for the Gunner reunion where I was joined by Paul Vanderveer and Ron Whitby. Paul is still hobbling after an operation on his foot that does not detract from his enjoyment of a cold one. Barry Willoughby of 23 Fd Regt Association is to be congratulated for organising this venue for the gunners.

Our association members filled a couple of tables at the Gunner Dinner in August when a great night was had by all. Dressed in their finery were Ray and Fay Carlin, Roy Mellier, Addie Flippence, Alec and Olga Sawyer, Vic and Anne Willey, Ted and Mrs Tait and Pearl and myself. Bob and Mrs McGlynn had signed up to attend but unfortunately, Bob had to seek a leave pass because of illness.

Vale

Members will remember Lt Harry Passfield who served as 9 LAA Regt QM in the early 1970s. Harry passed away at Wellington NSW on 21 Apr 09.

Phil Easton
President
9 HAA/LAA Regts Ass'n