

## **Brisbane ANZAC Day 2025**

There was persistent heavy rain overnight in Brisbane and it continued on the pre-dawn drive to Gallipoli barracks. The usual large number of cars were lined up at the main gate to enter the barracks, to attend Gallipoli's Barracks many unit's Dawn services. The Royal Corp of Signals are commemorating 100 years of service, with 1<sup>st</sup> Signals Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade Signals Regiment and 136 Signal Squadron all based at Gallipoli's Barracks. [they had many marquees erected to protect attendees].

My entry was made easy by Sgt Rod Alchin 133 Bty. being at the main gate with a list of visitors to 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment [note- for those planning to visit Gallipoli barracks for the Regiment's family in June please complete the RSVP, on [locatingartillery.org](http://locatingartillery.org) notice board, to facilitate easy entry].

Like last year, the Regiment's Dawn service was held in the one of the Regiment's hangers and not at the Memorial wall in front RHQ. This was very fortunate for the large number of Locators, with young families & guests attending, they had dry seating out the rain. This year the main address was given by Brigadier Fern Thompson commander of 16<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade after which wreathes were laid by the CO Lt. Col. David Hickey for the Regiment, Russ Hamsey for LSTAA and Terry Erbs for 131 Bty Assoc. then families laid wreathes.



After the service, the normal gunfire breakfast was enjoyed by many and the two-up and crown & anchor games commenced.

From about 9.00 am Locators began gathering at the corner of George St and Charlotte St, where both banners had been delivered from the Regiment [thanks to the RSM Geoff Bruhn and Sgt. Rod Alchin for organising] Also thanks to the Regiment for the 4 banner carriers, who I suspect were "volunteered" by the RSM, they did a mighty job for us [well done fellas].



The march followed the usual route along George St. right into Adelaide St. and right into Creek St before falling out. The Locators followed the Artillery banner and truck, which obscured us partially during the ABC TV coverage although the commentary did explain in detail Locating's origins/history and the fact we too were commemorating 100 years of service.

Again, near the saluting dais, public access was impeded by the yet to be finished "Brisbane light rail", maybe next year the works will be completed and King George's Square and the surrounds will again be totally accessible to the public .

It was estimated there were near 150 Locators marching behind the two banners, an excellent turnout despite the wet weather. However, crowd numbers appeared to be down, probably because of the wet morning but thankfully during our part of march we missed the showers – but odd shower returned later for those in the beer garden at the Stockie! The wet weather also partly explains why I was the only Vietnam Vet at the Regiment's Dawn Service and marching behind the Locator's banner. Unfortunately, it's a sign of the times, with our numbers dwindling due to age and ailments. Missing this year were Phil Sheedy [chest pain but checked okay], John Bristow, Joe Losiak [knee problems], T.C.White [Greenslopes Hospital], Stan Briggs [plastic surgeon appointment], Harry Lynas [moving into care] and David Dodds [in care facility] – thinking of you all and wish you well. And of course, fellow Detachment mates 68/69, Russ Jackson and Pete Larkin, passed during the year, gone but not forgotten.



A fine, outstanding group of Locators on the steps of Stephen's Church for group photo.....



Then we all had a leisurely stroll through the grounds of St Stephens Church, around the corner to the “Stockie”, to welcome drinks with good company enjoyed by all. As the day progressed so the Two-up game commenced, hope the boys had some money left for the “uber” home!



As a postscript thanks to CO 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment RAA Lt. Col. David Hickey and RSM WO 1 Geoff Bruhn for their ongoing support to the Association and wish them well in their future postings in the New Year.