



BADE ROOM REFURBISHMENT



Early this year, it was decided, with some professional help, to update the Ken Bade History Room at 105th Medium Battery, Enoggera. Arthur Burke had the right connections—his sister Mary Reid, a Master of Cultural Heritage and curator of the Victoria Barracks Museum in Melbourne, and his daughter Lisa, a graduate Interior Designer, duly offered assistance that was eagerly accepted. Arthur then approached 1st Field Regiment for funding and the 2IC, Major Brian Conradi looked upon his request favourably. The room was to be ready for ANZAC Day.

A scale drawing of the room was presented to Mary who set about planning the layout with Arthur. Lisa visited the room and proposed a colour scheme which, when applied, changed the whole ambience of the room to that of a warm welcome. Air conditioning and special lighting were discussed and purchased by the 105th Battery Association. Timber and plaster were another concession and finally consent was given to purchase it by 1st Field Regiment. We had three weeks to work the changes!

Then came the bombshell; the room was to open on 19 April for a stour by local dignitaries!

A plea went out for help and was answered promptly by Chris Cybulski, Tony Nelson, Doug Watts and Ian James, who mentioned that Graeme Maughan was also only too willing to assist—and did. Each gave as much time as they could willingly, and without them the task would not have been completed. They deserve high thanks and praise.

As with all renovations, things did not go smoothly—not having sufficient timber, screws, plugs and so on involved multiple trips to Bunnings and Mitre 10. As if this were not enough, on 17 April, whilst preparing the walls for painting, the work was so furious that the heat from sweaty bodies set off the fire alarm. (Well actually it was the dust from the sanding but this sounds more dramatic!).

After a rather long period of time the fire brigade arrived. Words were exchanged and with the help of the fire brigade sergeant the alarm was disconnected for the rest of the day. One and a half hours lost! Security was to be informed if the alarms needed to be disconnected again. This occurred on the 18th with a further twist when the alarm went off again and another 1½ hours was lost when the Area Commander arrived to announce that they had not sanctioned the work. (The fire brigade did not turn up.)

Verbal consent was given, work proceeded and the painting was finally finished. Meanwhile, Arthur and his sister Mary had laid out all the displays in his family room and photographed each so that Arthur could set about preparing the displays in reality when the paint had dried. Mary returned to Melbourne and Arthur finally completed the Bade Room displays late on the night of the 18th with the exception of one item.

Early on the morning of the 19th, Fred, a WW1 mannequin gunner had to be dressed in his uniform with boots, leggings, bandolier and gas mask. Fortunately all went together well and the room opened on time thanks again to the readily given help by all previously mentioned. The Room was also a draw card on the official opening day after the 1st Field Regiment Dawn Service on 25 April 2007.

Last but not least, Di Burke and the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland must be warmly thanked for their generous donation of \$3828 and the use of printing, copying and laminating facilities. Without these, the displays themselves could never have been given their professional appearance.

Please feel free to contact me (Arthur Clendinen) on 0413 246 731 to arrange a visit to the Bade Room at any time. Why not come whilst you are up this way for the 2007 Reunion?

Arthur Clendinen
Honorary Curator
Bade Room