

From Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB



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*Master Gunner St James's Park*

To All Ranks:

The Royal Australian Artillery  
The Royal Canadian Artillery  
The Royal New Zealand Artillery

4<sup>th</sup> December 2019

*All Ranks, The Royal Australian Artillery*

**ST BARBARA'S DAY - 4 DECEMBER 2019**

It is my privilege, as the Master Gunner St James's Park, to send my greetings for St Barbara's Day on 4 December 2019, to all Gunners, serving and retired, and their families, in our extended community across the globe.

Last year and given the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice that came into effect on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, I reflected on the Great War which, through our dominating involvement, had "established our professional reputation and helped forge our regiments, geographically dispersed though we are, into one close knit family". I also stressed that the sacrifices of that generation of Gunners "should never be forgotten, despite the passing of this historical milestone".

This year we have commemorated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day, of Operation Market Garden and other significant milestones. And next year we will commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of both Victory in Europe (VE) and Victory over Japan (VJ) Days. It will also be proper to remember those who suffered terribly before and during 1945. I plan to be in Sabah Province, on the Island of Borneo, in August 2020 to pay my respects to upward of 2,500 British and Australian Prisoners of War, who were systematically murdered up to and after the end of the Second War. A significant percentage of these men were Gunners. Their deaths, having suffered truly appalling cruelty, is too often overshadowed by the European and Mediterranean theatres. It remains our duty to ensure the service and especially the sacrifice of all members of our Regiments is never forgotten, especially those that suffered, perhaps in relatively small numbers, in the most brutal of circumstances.

On a much brighter note, I had the pleasure of meeting the Colonel Commandant of The Royal Canadian Artillery, Brigadier General James Selbie, at the Alamein Dinner at Larkhill in October and enjoyed catching up on all the positive news from his part of our family. I'm looking forward to meeting elements of 20 Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery in June next year when they fire a Royal Salute at Edinburgh Castle to honour the anniversary of Her Majesty, our Captain General's Coronation.

Finally, I remain delighted that The School of Artillery at Larkhill continues to benefit from instructors from your Regiments; they add great value in many ways. I was also delighted that we had the pleasure of the company of Canadian, New Zealand and Australian military representatives on Remembrance Sunday in London as we paid our respects at the Royal Regiment of Artillery's National Memorial at Hyde Park Corner. Being together on important days such as that adds further substance to our continued fellowship.

Please continue to share your successes and seek further opportunities for us to work with each other; we are so much stronger and more effective together rather than as individual Artilleries.

I send very best wishes to you all on the day dedicated to our Patron Saint - St Barbara's Day.

Yours ever,  
Andrew Gregory.