

Tracks of the Dragon - a history of Australian Locating Artillery
by Keith R. Ayliffe BEM & John M. Posener

As soon as artillery arrived on the battlefield, guns posed a threat to infantry and cavalry forces, as they cut swathes through men and horse alike.

There was an urgent need for accurate counter-battery fire to neutralise enemy artillery and soon methods of locating their gun sites were evolved.

Flash Spotters of the Great War, who detected enemy guns by observing their flash or smoke signatures, would be astonished by the capabilities of modern systems and satellite communications.

Sound-Ranging was then developed to detect enemy weapons and 'target acquisition' was born. No longer was there a reliance on the human eye to locate enemy guns and mortars.

In an attempt to neutralise the enemy's indirect-fire weapons, tactics and technology have been changed dramatically since those early days. By the Vietnam War, radar was in use. It had an important role in defending the Australian Task Force and in the battles fought by Australian infantry, particularly in various Fire Support Bases.

This book will be enjoyed by gunners of all persuasions and by an Australian community that is rightfully proud of the achievements of its defence force, both in the past and in the present.

The book is available from co-author John Posener KSJ at \$45 per copy including postage to addresses in Australia. Further details from jposener@tpg.com.au or by selecting 'Chevalier John Posener JP KSJ' at the foot of the home page of this website.