

RUNNING SHEET FOR ROTTNEST COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

10 NOVEMBER 2010

Good morning everyone

1 Introduction

My name is Don Young and I am Chairman of Engineering Heritage WA

Our group is occasionally referred to as a Dad's Army of engineers, which is probably a little more relevant today in that we are commemorating the achievements of Australian Army Engineers over 70 years ago.

Before we commence the ceremony would you please observe radio silence by switching off your mobile phones. The latrines are over to my ...

In the event of enemy attack we shall all move to slit trenches at the rear of this building.

2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Ownership of Land

3. Formal welcome, recognition of distinguished guests and apologies

On behalf of Engineers Australia I would like to welcome you all here today and recognise distinguished guests :

We have Colonel Michael Page; Assistant Commander of the 13th Brigade of the Australian Army; Flight Lieutenant Phil Jones, Executive Officer Royal Australian Air Force, Pearce; Colonel Don Rae and his colleagues from the Royal Australian Artillery Historical society; Lieutenant Colonel Robert Gianatti, Royal Australian Engineers Association; Mr Laurie O'Meara, Chairman, and Mr Geoff Totterdell from the Rottnest Island Board; Mr Owen Peake, Chairman, Engineering Heritage Australia; Dr Michael Hobbs, grandson of Lt general Sir J J Talbot-Hobbs; Ms Pia Hellier, grand daughter, Peter Hickey, great grandson and Ms Adele

Glauert, niece of Brigadier Frank Hussey; Professor Mark Bush, Vice President of Engineers Australia WA Division; and Mr Max Hipkins, Councillor of the National Trust of Australia WA Division.

Apologies have been received from Mrs Peta Salmon, daughter of Brigadier Frank Hussey; Dr Eizabeth Constable MLA; Mr Bruce Campbell; Captain Brett Dowsing, Commander HMAS Stirling; Mr John Moynihan, and Mr Tom Perrigo.

As many of you will know, Tom Perrigo, currently CEO of the National Trust WA, was the first Environmental and Education Officer on the island.

He was resident here from 1984 to 1990 and was responsible for establishing the Rottnest Guides and their tours and initiated the conservation of the defence facilities. Tom very much regrets not being able to attend today.

Introduce Mr Owen Peake

I would now like to introduce Mr Owen Peake, Chairman of Engineering Heritage Australia.

Mr Peake has been a member of the board of Engineering Heritage Australia for 8 years, the last 3 as Chairman.

He had a long and distinguished career in the Northern Territory Utilities organisations from 1968 until he retired in 2002.

He has had a long term keen interest in engineering heritage matters and I now invite him to address you on the topic of *Engineers Australia Engineering Heritage Recognition Program*.

Thank you Owen

I would now like to introduce Colonel Michael Page, Assistant Commander, 13th Brigade Australian Army

Colonel Page was born in the UK but educated in Western Australia. He graduated from the Officer Cadet Training Unit in 1982 and joined the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. He has had a number of command appointments with the Royal Australian Regiment in WA and in the ACT. He is a graduate of the Australian Army Command and Staff College, Queenscliff, completing his course in 1999.

He was promoted to Colonel in 2007 and posted to the position of Director Army Personnel agency, Perth. Subsequently he was appointed as an Honorary ADC to the Governor General of Australia. He is currently Assistant Commander of the 13th Brigade of the Australian Army.

I invite Colonel Page to address you on the topic *Fremantle Fortress-Rottnest Island World War 2 Coastal Defence Facilities*.

UNVEILING OF PLAQUE

Colonel Page and Mr Laurie O'Meara will now unveil the plaque.

ACCEPTANCE OF PLAQUE

Mr Laurie O'Meara will now formally accept the plaque on behalf of the Rottnest Island Authority

I invite Mr Owen Peake to make some closing remarks.

Lunch will now be served.

The special train to Oliver Hill leaves no later than 12.30 pm. It has to leave Oliver Hill on the return journey no later than 1.30 pm. To give more time at the site would you please move up to the train station as soon as possible. The train will leave earlier if we are all there before 12.30.

CLOSING REMARKS

On behalf of Engineering Heritage Australia I would like to thank Engineering Heritage WA members for their work in researching and preparing the nomination of Fremantle Fortress – Rottnest Island WW2 Coastal Defence Facilities for an Engineering Heritage award. I would also like to recognise the work done by Engineers Australia WA Division staff, Janice Lake, Fiona Thorniley and Tim Davies.

I would like to thank the Rottnest Island Authority for their support in preparing the nomination and their valuable assistance in arranging the ceremony. In particular I would mention the work done by Patsy Vizents.

Today we have unveiled an Engineering Heritage National Landmark disk.

I understand that it will be fixed in a prominent position at the nearby train station, together with a small explanatory panel which will explain to viewers the significance of the award which was commemorated today.

I would like to congratulate the Rottnest Island Authority for the work they have done, and are doing, in restoring the defence facilities. I would also pay tribute to the work being done by the Rottnest Volunteer Guides in conducting tours of the facilities.

It is my hope that the publicity this award has generated will increase the number of visitors to the island for the purpose of viewing the outstanding example of engineering heritage that is Fremantle Fortress-Rottnest Island WW2 Coastal Defence Facilities.

Thank you