

# H.M. Wilson Archives

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INTERVIEW -

BRIG. B.F. HUSSEY (*Material Uncle of Barbava King*)

BY COL. M.A.S. WILLIAMS

Start of Side A  
Taped in June, 1981

FH .... the end of 1932 I was posted to Perth, the only time I served in Western Australia in the Army, although I am a West Australian. I was here nine months as the Adjutant of 13th Field Company and Staff Officer of technical units in Western Australia and after nine months in that posting I was transferred into a secondment with the Department of the Interior and spent the next nine months or so in Sydney and then moved over to Rottnest Island to look after the construction of the defences there. This was early 1935.

MW Can I just interrupt you there and ask a question. In 1933 it's reported that there were surveys carried out on the island for the actual location of the two batteries, one at Bickley and one at Oliver's. Who would have done those surveys?

FH I'm not sure who did the surveys but it would be, I think, the Survey Unit, in fact, if we look at this map this probably gives us a clue as to who probably did it. If you see the top line there and read that, they were probably the people who did it I think.

MW Well this says triangulation by 4th Australian Field Survey Company RAE. It puts a date on it, but not until later, 1941.

FH Yes

MW But the original work must have been done before then presumably?

FH Yes, it would have been, but I think it would have been by the Army Survey people. Incidentally, in 1933 General Sir Talbot Hobbs and Colonel Whitelaw and Major Payne, a Staff Corps Officer, and I, went to Rottnest on the Lady Forrest, which was the Customs Vessel, and we selected the sites. I went over as Engineer Adviser but the whole idea

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1: Item 240 - Interview with  
Brig. B. Frank Hussey by Col.  
M.A.S. Williams (1981 June)