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NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well another year has passed by; the years seem to be going faster as we get older?

We have had some good news for a change regarding the dreaded COVID-19, I am happy to see on the news over here that our members and the rest of the community in Victoria have had several restrictions lifted and life for them is now approaching normality as far as it is possible. Australia appears to have the disease well under control now.

With breaking news that a COVID-19 vaccine may be available early 2021 gives us some hope that our planned reunion in September next year will go ahead.

Unfortunately we have lost some more members in the last months and they have gone to the big Gun Park in the sky, hopefully catching up with all their mates. More regarding this is reported further in the Newsletter. For those with Email addresses Brian, our Secretary notifies them as soon as we are made aware of members passing or ill health.

It is also pleasing to see that in the last months we continue to see past Battery members contact us to renew membership or initially join the Association, even after in a couple of cases after 20-30 years of no contact. Perhaps as a result of being in touch with other members who receive our Newsletter who pass on Information?

Regardless of how they find out the Committee is more than happy to welcome them into the Association.

Wish all members and families a merry Christmas from myself and the Committee.

John Pollock

PROFILE

61658 WILLIAM JOHN TELFER

1966/67 TOUR

Born in Mt Gambier SA in 1946 and raised by my grandparents until I was nine. I then moved to Hobart to be with my father and quickly learnt I had to go to school, wear a uniform and learn some discipline. At high school I became a Prefect and ultimately, Head Prefect. It wasn't due to my scholastic ability but I was a good sportsman playing football, cricket and part of the rowing team. I left school, worked for a timber company in the office (I was good at maths so measurements were always accurate). Typical of small business if you hoped for promotion somewhere had to leave or retire. I decided life in the office was not for me, so I walked up the street and joined the Army much the shock of my parents.

In 1965 completed my basic training at Kapooka was looking for a posting to Artillery to become a Physical Training Instructor (PTI) but was told there was enough PTIs. No vacancies in the role I wanted came as a real surprise so I went with my second choice to become a gunner and after training was posted to 4th Field Regiment, 101 Fld Battery, Wacol.

In 1966 I went to Vietnam with 101 Fld Bty with some interesting happenings. One incident in particular I recall was being on shift on the radio in the Command Post. Very early in the morning the Sig Bdr came down the steps and thought he saw me asleep, so our friendly BSM told him to charge me. I fronted the BC and he asked me if I had anything to say, I responded with if I was asleep, were my eyes open or shut? At that time I slept with my eyes partly open, the response was they were open. Did a call come in on the radio and was it answered immediately, the response was yes it was. The charge was dismissed, but the BSM was not done.

A few days later I came off shift and went on the morning parade without clean boots and a tidy uniform much to the BSM's delight. You could see his revenge was about to happen. 'Got you Telfer, you're a disgrace to the Corps, back to the BC, seven days field punishment'. The punishment was like something out of a movie so there I was going around and around the Battery position (rain and sun made no difference), rifle above the head flat on the ground doing rifle drills twice a day. What kept me going was every time I ran past the boozier whoever was there gave a cheer, the BSM thought he could break me but that never was going to happen. It's fair to say the only time I felt things got somewhat scary was during Operation Bribie and the boys will know exactly what I mean. On return from Vietnam we moved to Enoggera and one weekend I drove to Sydney and was late back for the Monday morning parade. I arrived back about 0900 and the guys in our room

told me that the BSM was looking for me. I fronted up to the BSM's office thinking I was gone. He marched me into the BC's office, but I still had my beret on, I saluted the BC and thought this was strange, am I going to be charged. To my surprise he gave me my first tape as Lance Bombardier, basically being AWOL and getting promoted at the same time. A few months after this event I requested a Corps transfer to Royal Australian Corps of Signals. While waiting for approval, I was posted to 2RTB Puckapunyal (Pucka) as an RDI (Recruit Drill Instructor). I enjoyed the posting at Pucka as it meant travel to other States to pick up new recruits. One of the recruits I trained at Pucka was Normie Rowe, of course he got extra training and other duties and as we all know, he ended up in Tanks and did his time in Vietnam. It's fair to say he didn't play on his pop star status and was a good soldier.

In late 1967, the transfer finally came through and I was posted to Balcombe, Victoria to commence my Signals training. Whilst on leave in Hobart in 1968 I met a girl at a New Year's Eve party, became engaged on Anzac Day and married on Boxing Day. We've been married for over 50 years with a son and daughter and four grandchildren. So with a new bride, no time for a honeymoon, I commenced as a Tech Sig maintaining Generators and charging batteries and was posted to 1 Signal Regiment at Ingleburn. The next course was Technician Telegraph, fixing teleprinters and associated equipment in Communication Centres. I became exceptionally good at this and became a Telegraph Technician Instructor, did my promotion course to Corporal and received my second stripe.

In early 1972, a vacancy came up in the Com Cen in Bangkok, Thailand. I applied for the posting so there was a selection process. When asked why did I want to go to Thailand, my response was 'my wife has never been overseas'. I think the answer was such a surprise to the panel they gave me the posting and my wife and I were on our way to Thailand for a two-year posting at SEATO Headquarters. Did I enjoy the posting? It was a hard life living in a double storey house, housemaid, gardener and nightwatchman (paid for by the Embassy), weekends at the beach in the Ambassador's Beach House, Embassy parties and events. Our car driver spoke limited English and one morning, the transport van wouldn't start. When I asked what was wrong, he replied 'Mr, battery no have fire'.

On return from Bangkok I was promoted to Sergeant. The years progressed and I couldn't see any progress in my trade, so I applied to go Regimental. This was approved and I spent the next two years at 1 RTB as a Platoon Sergeant. 1 RTB was one of the best postings despite the hard work. You could see real results with your recruits. They went from long haired louts who arrived on the Wednesday afternoon bus, to disciplined young men. Many a parent would come up after the march out parade stating how proud they were of their sons. You know you've done a good job in shaping their future when that happens.

On completion I was posted to the School of Signals Watsonia as a Warrant Officer Class 2 for two years. My next posting was an independent unit at 127 Signal Squadron Ivanhoe as SSM and PMC of the All Ranks Mess until my discharge in August 1988. Having served almost 25 years and two children about to start high school, I decided if I didn't get out at this point, I would be too old for life in civilian street.

I Completed an Advanced Certificate in Horticulture, found employment at Mt Aitken Winery Gisborne and worked my way up to General Manager. I wanted to work closer to home so went to Expo Hire a company that sets up and delivers furniture Expositions and major events. Expo Hire was soon to downsize so being last in I was the first to go, so with my horticultural background I got a part time job driving tractors and mowers etc. with Serco. Two years later I secured a Warehouse Manager position with cosmetic company, Nutrimetics. 18 months on I was told that they were upgrading all their warehousing systems and I would not have the experience to deal with the new machinery (bollocks!). For the first time in my working life, I think this is where your age plays a part.

All through this, like many of you, I had been doing the rounds with DVA for two years in trying to get recognized for the Gold Card. Finally accepted and was able to retire with a good income.

One night my wife and I went down to Greensborough RSL, spoke to the President who I knew from my Army days. The Secretary at that time had walked out and the Committee had no Secretary. I offered to help out and having had experience with the Sgts Messes in a similar role, I've done the role for nearly 17 years.

I've done my share of Minute Taking and Disciplinary Hearings, the go between the Committee and CEO, established a Fellowship which facilitates a student from years 9-12 and a parent to travel to the Thai Burma Railway for Anzac Day, organizing Anzac and Remembrance Day services, Parade Commander on Anzac Day for both the dawn and later service for the Greensborough area, arranging stock and sellers for badges and poppies, maintaining the relationship with Simpson Barracks and so much more.

In 2014 I received Life Membership of the RSL and inducted into the Victorian RSL Hall of Fame, recognition of community work by the Banyule City Council with two Australia Day Awards.

As this goes to print, I have retired from the Secretary's role of the Greensborough RSL. COVID makes you realise that suddenly life is shorter than we think, it's time to start smelling the roses and just get out there.

Footnote: Bill was also Secretary of our Association for several years.

PROFILE

415380 THOMAS "PADDY" PRITCHARD

1969/70 TOUR



1 Fd Regt, 6 Brigade march through
Brisbane 1986

Past my Used By Date
(his words not mine!)

I was born in Belfast Northern Ireland on 23 December 1939. I left school at 14 years old and worked as a Letter Sorter and storeman for The Ulster Transport Authority, a government owned entity responsible for all Railways, freight, and Bus services outside of Belfast. At age 16 I started an apprenticeship as a Coach Builder at the UTA's Huge workshop where they built new Passenger Buses. Maintained rail carriages, freight trucks etc.

Just after my 19th birthday my family migrated to Australia arriving in Adelaide in early 1959. I decided that I would not pursue a career as a coach builder and enlisted in the RASR (O) commonly referred to as a three year reg on 14 April 1960. There were 2 Bombardier Instructors one of which was John Henry 'Ken' Buhmann. He had a lot to do with my choice of corps. Other well-known Arty guys in 1 Pl A Coy were Dick Creek, Sailor Edwards and Lee Covil. After Recruit and Corps training I arrived in A Field Battery, 1Field Regt RAA, Holsworthy in February 1961 and became a gun number on the gun commanded by Sgt Skeeter Wills. In July 1962, while on Victoria Barracks guard, I received the news that I was

promoted to LBdr. In October 1962 Promoted to Bdr Gun Number. In early 1963, with my 3 years almost up, I had indicated my intention to be discharged. I was called to in to see the BSM Dave Adams who offered me a posting to 13 Fd Regt Adelaide which I accepted. After signing on for another 3 years I was posted to 13 Fd Regt as a Bdr Driver in April 1963. In 1964 I qualified as a Driver Class 2, later to become Driver T109. In 1966 having completed my 3 year engagement I elected discharge. At my farewell, the QM Capt Alan Stead asked if I would be interested in continuing in my role as CMF FTD while I was looking for a job, which I accepted. This resulted in my attending the annual camp as the number one of a newly acquired L5 Pack Howitzer. 15 months later I realised that I had been having myself on, as I had not even looked for a job. That was when I signed up for 6 years ARA. In 1967 I qualified as a Transport Supervisor at The School of Transport Puckapunyal. At the end of 1968, realising that the world was passing me bye, I requested a transfer to 1 Fd Regt arriving in 101 Bty in Jan 1969. After unit training and BE Course at Canungra, I departed with 101 Bty for SVN in May 1969 and was promoted to Sgt Svr Tpt shortly after. In December 1969 the Bty Commander, Major Bertram decided I should spend some time on the gun line. I arrived at the Fire Support Base on Christmas day 1969 and became the Number One of Echo gun. That was the start of my best 5 months in SVN. It got me away from the two most dangerous things that I encountered in SVN, full strength beer and WO2 Noel Frasier 'Blowie' Forbes. I was a bit apprehensive at first but thanks to a well-trained gun crew and an outstanding 2IC in Bdr Ken Kuehlmann, I soon got back in the groove. I was keen to ensure that my records would record my return to the gun line and got Bdr Weeks (Orderly Room Clerk) to raise the necessary paperwork. This resulted in my remaining a gun Sgt after returning to Australia until 30 Aug 70. Sept 1970 to Jan 1971. I was reposted as Sgt Tpt Spvr 105 Bty . At that time the Regt was split with RHQ, HQ Bty and 101 remaining at Enoggera and 105 Bty at Wacol. Jan 1971 I was posted to 8 Mdm Regt and landed in 102 Bty and later continued after it became 8/12 Mdm Regt. Other 101 Bty 2nd tour identities who also arrived in 102 Bty were Brian Flewell-Smith (BG) Tiger Pember (Gun Sgt) and George Mason (Gun Sgt). January 1975 I was posted to 10 Mdm Regt in Geelong as Tpt Spvr and in Sep 1976 was promoted to SSgt in the newly created position of SSGT QMS1 or BQMS of the Battery in Colac. In January 1978 I was posted to 5/11 Fd Regt in Annerley Qld, on promotion to WO2, where I linked up with my good friend, WO1 Ken Buhmann who having been RSM and Divisional Artillery Sergeant Major was now the QM of 5/11 Fd Regt. We became very good friends. August 1979 I was posted to 1 Fd Regt as RQMS. In May 1981 the position was upgraded to a WO1 position resulting in my promotion to WO1. January 1982 I was posted to 5/11 Fd Regt as WO1 QM.

1 January 1983 I was appointed Captain PSO. In June 1983 I was posted to 1 Fd Regt as Capt QM. In July 1986 I was posted to 131 Bty as Capt QM. In November 1988 I received my final posting to LWC QM Wing on promotion to Major. By September 1989 I had had enough I left the Australian Regular Army after Twenty Nine and a half years. On request I continued in the job as ARES FTD until December 1989 when I left the military for good. I spent the

next 11 years driving a Yellow Cab around Brisbane before retiring completely in March 2001.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I would like to thank those members who have added to our newspaper throughout the year for their profiles and articles. Just reminding members we have Association Ties, Caps and Plaques for sale. I would like to wish all members and their families a Happy Christmas and a better New Year.

Brian Collins

In about May this year I tracked down where Nick Marshall (BC 101 Bty 66/67 Tour) was. He was located in a Nursing Home in Sydney with dementia. I spoke to a nurse on the ward and asked her if I could send a copy of our newsletter to him and would she read it to him and get back to me on any response he had. Fortunately his daughter Brigitte found my letter and newsletter in his room and read it to him and sent me the following email:

“Dear Mr Collins,

I am writing to you on behalf of my father, Nick Marshall. I must confess I have been meaning to do this for a couple of months, when post lockdown we were able to visit Dad again and found your letter in his room.

Dad is in Kokoda, as you are aware, though unfortunately is deep on the dementia path. This morning I was with him and I took your newsletters down again as well as 'A Pictorial History of Australians at War' that has the photo of him in Vietnam.

He enjoys reading them all and sometimes I get moments of recognition and insistence 'of course that's me'.

Otherwise I am sorry to say he does not remember those of us closest to him or can speak coherently. We did realise though that the war injury sustained (deafness from the guns he said) made him a very good lip reader so sadly as the brain is forgetting how to lip read, he is slipping into a quieter world.

Dad is generally in good spirits and still loves to wink at the female carers and saves his best smiles for them too.

I wish I could send you his thoughts and memories of the time in Vietnam though he was never forthcoming with myself and my brother.

Thank you for making the effort to find where Dad was, he had a couple of moves since mum died (in 2006) and we are unsure what else had been let slide in his life as dementia slid in. He was always such an organised person!!!

kind regards,

Brigitte Marshall”

We have sent Brigitte a Battery Plaque and copies of newsletters going back to October 2018, when the new Committee took over. Brigitte, her brother Graham and Nick's Grandchildren will read the newsletters to him when they visit weekly and place the plaque in his room. If anybody would like to pass on messages to Nick, contact me and I will give them Brigitte's mailing address. Brigitte will give us updates on his condition.

All the best Nick. (Sir)

Sick Parade

Tony Meisinger is recovering from an operation. Best wishes Tony.

Completed Manning Details

The following 2 manning details of the 66/67 and 69/70 tours are the completed details after member's input. Please feel free to contact the Secretary for any alterations you may have, they would be appreciated:

101 FIELD BATTERY MANNING SOUTH VIETNAM 1966-67

<u>Battery Commander</u>	Maj Nick Marshall
<u>Battery Captain</u>	Capt Brian Johnstone
<u>BSM</u>	WO2 Frank Buxton
<u>Battery Guide</u>	WO2 Max Sare
<u>Section Commanders</u>	2Lt Mal Pearce Lt Juergen Raasch

<u>BCs Party</u>	Sgt Tony Mayfield
Sig	LBdr Col Simpson
Sig	Gnr Kevin Perkins
Sig	LBdr Barry Smith
Batman/Sig	Gnr John Weaver

Bks Party

Sig/Dvr	Gnr Bill Telfer	Batman/Sig	Gnr ?
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FO Party B Coy

FO Ack	Captain Jim Ryan
Sig	Bdr Herbie Zeller
Sig Gnr Vic Rowe	Sig Gnr Trevor Plant
Sig Gnr Keith Ball	Batman/Sig Gnr Barry Gross

FO Party C Coy Capt Steve Gower
 FO Ack Bdr Mick Allwright
 Sig Gnr Jock Arbuthnot
 Sig Gnr John Achilles
 Batman/Sig Gnr Peter McNamee

FO Party D Coy Lt Barrie Winsor
 FO Ack Bdr Jock Gunn
 Sig Gnr Greg Bentley
 Sig Gnr Dick Cliff
 Batman/Sig Gnr Jeff Cheyne

Command Post

GPO	Lt Knox Napier		
OPCP Sgt	Sgt John Pollock	Sig Sgt	Sgt John Hughes
OPCP	Gnr John Pepperdine	Sig	Bdr Bob Crelley
OPCP	Gnr Peter Cusack	Sig	Bdr Neil Hughes
OPCP	LBdr Tony Meisinger	Sig	Gnr Chuck Heales
OPCP	Gnr Col Hanson	Sig	Gnr Les Hobson
		Sig	Gnr Don Pidgeon
		Sig	Gnr Craig Campbell
		Sig	Gnr Knockers White

Alpha Gun

No 1 Sgt Bob Booth
 Gnr Neil Bradley
 Gnr John Hollingsworth
 Gnr Les Jobling
 Gnr Clive Weaire
 Gnr Robbie Osbourne
 No 7 Bdr Peter Prewett

Bravo Gun

No 1 Sgt Jim King
 Gnr Ross Coggan
 LBdr John Forbes
 Gnr Maurie Groth
 Gnr Harry Hughes
 Gnr Rod Urguhart
 No 7 Bdr Bob Elliott

Charlie Gun

No 1 Sgt Len Dyer
 Gnr Graham Cuskelly
 Gnr Ken Williams
 Gnr David Bird
 Gnr Jim Trebley
 Gnr Neil McWilliams
 No 7 Bdr Blue Brooks

Delta Gun

No 1 Sgt Allan Grice
 Gnr Barry Faulkner

Echo Gun

No 1 Sgt John Woolhouse
 Gnr Bert De Witte

Foxtrot Gun

No 1 Sgt Barry Parker
 Gnr Dinger Bell

Gnr Dave Von Bertouch	Gnr Bull McCloud	Gnr Dallice Ryan
Gnr Ted Meikus	Gnr Aldo Pante	Gnr Ron Hennegan
Gnr Bob Allport	Gnr Ian Toy	Gnr John Trennery
Gnr R. Teschendorff	Gnr John Blackman	Gnr Ralph Forbes
No 7 Bdr Trevor Madeley	No 7 Bdr Ray Smith	No 7 Bdr Jack Lennon

Orderly Room
Hygiene

Bdr Terry Porter
Gnr Brian Collins

Q Store

BQMS S/Sgt Pat Wittig
Bdr Bdr Butch Davis
Stmn Gnr James McIntosh

LBdr Herb Lynam
Gnr Dennis Taylor

Transport

Transport Supervisor	Sgt George Farley	
Transport NCO	Bdr Frank Roughan	Dvr Gnr Steven Taylor
Dvr	Gnr Tony Lewis	Dvr Gnr Bob Meech
Dvr	Gnr Mick O'Malley	Dvr Gnr Rusty Baulding
Dvr	Gnr John Kokoschko	Dvr Gnr Darryl Dial
Dvr	LBdr Fred Coleman	Dvr Gnr Denton Taylor

LAD

Sgt Dick Finney Sgt Cook
Cpl Bob Leggo
Cfn Merv Franks
Cfn Graham Sertori

Cooks

Sgt Norm Johns
Cpl Cook Cpl Harry Kent
Pte Cook Cpl Mick Deer
Pte Cook Pte Bill Smith
Pte Cook Gnr Ron Woodforde

Medic

Cpl Medic Cpl Ray Dutton

The members listed below we are not sure what position they held on the original deployment : Gnr Ian Bourne,

Reinforcements

Gnr Colin Freeman to Gnr Graham Cuskelly's place. PteCook?

101 FIELD BATTERY MANNING SOUTH VIETNAM 1969/70

Battery Commander - Maj John Bertram
Battery Captain - Capt Alan Batchelor
BSM - WO2 Noel Forbes
Battery Guide - WO2 Stan Irvine
Section Commanders - 2Lt Merv Fennell - 2Lt Jim Fentiman

BCs Party

Sgt - Bdr John Niukkanen
Sig - Gnr Hec Grant
Sig - Gnr Trevor Jensen
Sig - LBdr Keith Marshall
Batman/Sig

Bks Party _Sig/Dvr Batman/Sig Gnr

FO Party A Coy

FO - Capt Ted Batterbury
FO Ack - Bdr Rod Acreman
Sig - Gnr Ron Keen
Sig Gnr - Bdr Steve Spence
Sig
Batman/Sig

FO Party C Coy

FO - Lt Dennis Barrow
FO Ack - Sgt Tony Lock
Sig - Gnr Hazel Nelson
Sig - Gnr Tony Parrelli
Batman/Sig

FO Party D Coy

FO - Lt Bernie Garland
FO Ack - Bdr Bull McLeod
Sig - Gnr Dave Richard-Preston
Sig - Bdr Vic Rowe
Batman/Sig

Command Post

GPO - Lt Bill Boyd
OPCP Sgt - Sgt Jim Booth Sig Sgt - Sgt Mick Lewis
OPCP - Gnr Tony Curtis Sig - Gnr David Amies
OPCP - LBdr Harvey Dunkley Sig - Gnr Graham Bain

OPCP - Gnr John Rule
OPCP -
Sig - LBdr Graham Baker

Sig - Gnr Pete Beaumont
Sig - Bdr Dave Callen
Sig - Gnr Chris Dunker

Alpha Gun

No 1 Sgt - Sgt Terry Bucknell
Gnr - Gnr Phil Allen
Gnr - Gnr Tom Blacker
Gnr - Gnr Jock Cresdee
Gnr -
Gnr - Gnr Les Giles
No 7 Bdr - Bdr Ken Kuehlmann

Bravo Gun

No 1 Sgt - Sgt Bill Cross
Gnr - LBdr Kelvin Howe
Gnr - Gnr Doc Holliday
Gnr - Gnr Whip Wilson
Gnr - Gnr Paul Craig
Gnr - Gnr Bruce Collins
No 7 Bdr - Bdr George Mason

Charlie Gun

No 1 Sgt - Sgt Tassy Woodard
Gnr - LBdr Paddy Winters
Gnr - Gnr Dennis Doring
Gnr - Gnr Gary Franks
Gnr - Gnr Les White
Gnr - Les Giles
No 7 Bdr - Derek Sheppard

Delta Gun

No 1 Sgt - Sgt Brian Flewell-Smith
Gnr - Gnr Mick Nolan
Gnr - Gnr Allan Thomas
Gnr - Gnr David Morris
Gnr - Gnr Allan Baldwin
Gnr -
No 7 Bdr - Bdr Ian Hotschilt

Echo Gun

No 1 Sgt - Sgt Graham Pember
Gnr - Gnr Harry Alidenes
Gnr - Gnr Stuart Henderson
Gnr - Gnr Trevor Moss
Gnr - Gnr Slim Lynch
Gnr -
No 7 Bdr - Bdr Neville Jolliffe

Foxtrot Gun

No 1 Sgt - Sgt Brian Ranson
Gnr - Gnr Dave Anderson
Gnr - Gnr Lewy Lewandowski
Gnr - Gnr John Papadopoulos
Gnr - Gnr Paul Quinn
Gnr -
No 7 Bdr - Bdr Noel Lesina

Orderly Room

Bdr - Bdr Kevin Weeks
Gnr - Gnr Bruce Wilkins
Gnr - Tim Knight
Gnr - Gnr Kevin Gill

Q Store

BQMS - SSgt Bob Whalley_
Bdr - Bdr Jeff Madden
Stmn - LBdr Greg Fletcher
Stmn - Gnr Allan Eglinton
Stmn - Gnr Allan Eglinton

Hygiene

Gnr Bill Pain
Gnr

Transport

Tpt Supervisor - Sgt Paddy Pritchard
Dvr - Gnr Phil Kline
Dvr - Gnr Bryan Baulde

Tpt NCO - Bdr Wayne Curtis
Dvr - Gnr Ron Beasley
Dvr - Gnr Norm Goller

Dvr - Gnr Rod O'Neil
Dvr -

Dvr - Gnr Greg Lauder
Dvr - Gnr Nev Payne

LAD

Sgt - Sgt Ron Merson
Cpl - Cpl Danny Trewick
Cfn - Cfn Ricardo Dere
LCpl - LCpl John Delahunty

Cooks

Sgt Cook - Sgt Bob Stoddard
Cpl Cook - Cpl Harry Kent
Pte Cook - Pte Engene Dombrose
Pte Cook - Pte Eddie Farenden
Pte Cook - Pte Bob Stoddart

Medic

Cpl Mark Richards

Not Sure of Positions they Held

Bdr David Ryan (Foxtrot Gun?), Gnr Darryl Johnson, Gnr Greg Law, Gnr Keith Martin, Gnr Ian McCleary, Sgt Mick Titmus (Cook), Bdr Derek Sheppard (Charlie Gun?)

Reinforcements

Gnr Keith Hulme (Apr 69 – Foxtrot Gun), 2Lt Gary Basford 30/11/69 – May 1970 (Sect Comd), SSgt John William, 2Lt Bill Richards, 2Lt Bil McLaughlin, LBdr Alan Crabb (Jun – Sep 69, Comd Post Sig. Lt Ben Lans,

Fire Support Base Coral

The following photos were submitted by John Pollock:

The morning after, cleaning up after a 6 hour night battle when around 600+ North Vietnamese regular troops tried to overrun the battery position. They got into one gun position but were driven out with us firing anti personnel splinter shells from the 105 mms followed by bayonets and grenades.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



P01769.010 AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01769.011

Passing Parade

35109 Patrick Joseph Wittig, Life member of our Association passed away on 6 November 2020 aged 84 after battling cancer for some time. His Record of Service appears below:



UBIQUE

Australian Government

Department of Defence

STATEMENT OF SERVICE

Full name:	<i>Patrick Joseph WITTIG</i>
Service number:	<i>35109</i>
Category of service:	
<i>Australian Regular Army</i>	<i>29 May 53 to 16 Sep 77</i>
<i>Army Reserve</i>	<i>08 Nov 77 to 25 Jun 80</i>
Employment:	<i>Storeman Technical, Quartermaster Sergeant</i>
Rank on discharge:	<i>Warrant Officer Class Two</i>
Postings:	
<i>Unallotted List Southern Command Personnel Depot</i>	<i>29 May 53</i>
<i>1 Recruit Training Battalion</i>	<i>05 Jun 53</i>
<i>School of Artillery</i>	<i>21 Jan 54</i>

<i>10 Field Regiment</i>	<i>05 Apr 54</i>
<i>1 Field Regiment</i>	<i>16 Nov 56</i>
<i>Royal Military College</i>	<i>12 Feb 57</i>
<i>4 Field Regiment</i>	<i>22 Apr 60</i>
<i>1 Field Regiment</i>	<i>18 Sep 66</i>
<i>10 Medium Regiment</i>	<i>04 Oct 67</i>
<i>1 Field Regiment</i>	<i>06 Nov 68</i>
<i>Headquarters 6 Task Force / South Queensland Area</i>	<i>15 Oct 69</i>
<i>108 Field Battery</i>	<i>01 Apr 70</i>
<i>106 Field Battery</i>	<i>14 Dec 71</i>
<i>Jungle Training Centre</i>	<i>27 Sep 72</i>
<i>2 Field Regiment</i>	<i>10 Feb 75 2/15</i>
<i>Field Regiment</i>	<i>30 Jun 75</i>
<i>5/11 Field Regiment</i>	<i>16 Aug 76</i>
<i>5/11 Field Regiment</i>	<i>08 Nov 77</i>

Operational Service/Deployment:

<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>19 Sep 66 to 11 Jun 67</i>
<i>Singapore</i>	<i>01 Apr 70 to 27 Sep 72</i>

Attachments:

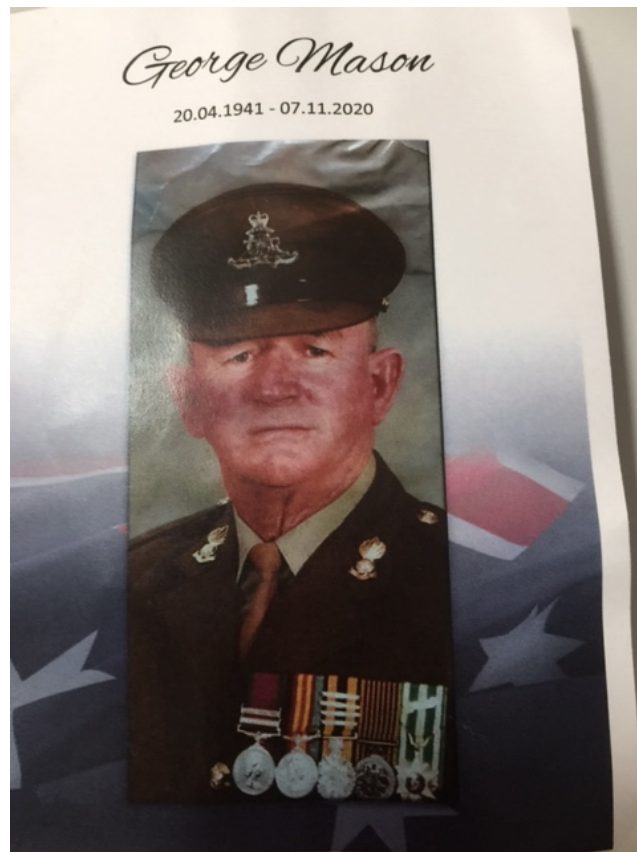
<i>Northern Command Personnel Depot</i>	<i>22 Apr 60 to 03 May 60</i>
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Honours and Awards:

Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp Vietnam
Vietnam Medal
Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp SE Asia
Defence Force Service Medal with First Clasp
National Medal with First Clasp
Australian Defence Medal
Long Service and Good Conduct Medal
Vietnamese Campaign Medal
Returned from Active Service Badge

53552 George Mason was a member of our Association and passed away recently aged 79.

His Record of Service appears below:



Member's Condolences

Could you please ensure that my and my wife's sincere sympathy at his loss is passed on. George was a good soldier who taught many young gunners how to be one. His wit and jovial personality lightened a lot of the hard times we all shared. thank you. **Chris Dunker 69/70.**

George Mason was a great gunner. I remember him fondly. A bloody ratbag of the highest order!!! Ubique George. **Gavin White 69/70**

Yesterday I attended the funeral service of my good friend WO1 George Mason. George and I were gunners together in A Fd Bty, 1 Fd Regt, Holsworthy in the early 1960s and were reacquainted in 101 Bty SVN second tour. George was Divisional Artillery Sergeantmajor I Division and WO1 Master Gunner School of Artillery. A number of veterans turned up including Lt Col Keith Hall who was CO 1 Fd Regt in the late 1970s also Ian Hotschilt 101 Bty second tour. Rest In Peace George. **Paddy Pritchard 69/70**

Australian Government

Department of Defence

STATEMENT OF SERVICE

Full name: George MASON

Service number: 53552

Category of service: Australian Regular Army

Date of enlistment: 09 Oct 58

Date of discharge: 19 Apr 96

Employment: Gun Number, Instructor,
Regimental Sergeant
Major

Rank on discharge: Warrant Officer Class One

Postings:

Western Command Personnel Depot	09 Oct 58
1 Recruit Training Battalion	29 Oct 58
School of Artillery	19 Feb 59
1 Field Regiment	09 May 59
102 Field Battery	01 Aug 63
102 Field Battery / 45 Field Regiment	17 Nov 63
1 Field Regiment	22 Sep 65
12 Field Regiment	18 Apr 66
Headquarters 1 Australian Logistic Support Group	13 Jul 66
1 Field Regiment	30 Nov 66
Jungle Training Centre	26 Nov 70
102 Field Battery	27 Nov 72
8 Medium Regiment	29 Jun 73
8/12 Medium Regiment	16 Nov 73
7 Field Regiment	02 Aug 77
School of Artillery	05 Nov 79
8/12 Medium Regiment	18 May 83
7 Field Regiment	23 Jan 85
Headquarters 1 Division Artillery	10 Dec 86
School of Artillery	04 Jan 89
Headquarters Training Command	24 Jan 90
2 Training Group	27 Jan 93
South Queensland Logistic Group	17 Jan 96

Operational Service/Overseas Deployment:

Singapore / Malaysia	17 Nov 64 to 22 Sep 65
(Special Service Sarawak	02 May 65 to 19 Jul 65)
Vietnam	13 Jul 66 to 03 Mar 67
Vietnam	09 May 69 to 07 May 70
Hawaii, United States of America	31 Mar 77 to 27 Apr 77
West Germany	08 Aug 84 to 09 Dec 84
New Zealand	11 Jul 87 to 20 Jul 87

Honours and Awards:

Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasps Malaysia and Vietnam

General Service Medal 1962 with Clasps Borneo and Malay Peninsula

Vietnam Medal

Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp SE Asia

Defence Force Service Medal with First, Second, Third and Fourth Clasps

National Medal

Australian Defence Medal

Vietnamese Campaign Medal

Pingat Jasa Malaysia

Returned from Active Service Badge

1201571 Peter Beaumont, 1969/70 tour passed away on 14th November 2020. Peter was not a member of our Association, he served with the FO Party, D Coy, 6 RAR.

Member's Condolences

Sad day, I served with Peter in the same FO party, we both served a full tour as FO Sigs. My condolences to his family. **Frank Bridges 69/70.**

RIP Peter. **Terry Porter 66/67.**

Life in China (Continued)

China is a very cheap place to live, very affordable in fact. I thought in this report I would concentrate initially on the cost of living.

Food:

Food is really cheap and the locals eat out much of the time even though buying food at supermarkets and shops is cheaper than in Australia. For example we rarely cook breakfast

at home because we can go over the road from our estate to several small shops and buy a reasonable meal for two for around 5- 10 RMB or A\$1.0 - \$2.00. We also eat frequently at Tom's Aussie Steak House where you get soup, Australian steak with egg, pasta, corn, and carrots plus salad bar, watermelon, rockmelon and usually one other fruit in season, tea and fruit juice for 85 RMB or A\$17.00 a head. Of course there are also many big, expensive restaurants here with excellent food along with 100s of cheap street food stalls.

Of course there are the familiar fast-food outlets everywhere, which by the way all offer fast home deliver: KFC, McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Starbucks, and Dairy Queen.

Clothing:

Clothing here is usually cheap and well-made however all the known brands like Adidas, Levi, Nike plus many European top brands here are expensive but not as pricy as in Australia. The US giant Walmart stores sell good quality clothes; the stores are huge and sell everything from clothes, all food items, electrical appliances etc, very much like Kmart and BigW in Australia.

Public Transport:

Here in Huangshi public transport is really cheap, with very frequent services. A local bus leaves the front of our estate every 8 mins and there is usually not long to wait for a taxi. We live on the northern outskirts of the city. We can catch a local bus to anywhere in the city, about 35 – 40 mins away for a set fare of 2RMB or A\$0.40 cents. A taxi anywhere within the CBD is a set fare of 7RMB or A\$1.40. Out to our place to and from the CBD is around 25 - 30 RMD or A\$5 – 6.00. Long distance by cab or Didi (Uber) is still cheap. We regularly visit friends in Ezhou city about 28klms north of here, the taxi costs 100 RMB or A\$20.00. Didi is only 85 RMB or A\$16.00

Train Travel:

Travel by train is really cheap considering the distance travelled and the modern High Speed bullet trains. From here in Huangshi to Shanghai is 1295 klms and takes under five hours the cost for a one way first class ticket is A\$102.00, second class is A\$64.00. The short distances are really cheap, it is 110 klms from our city to Wuhan and takes 35 mins, cost first class A\$9.20 and second class only A\$5.80. Longer trips are still very reasonable, from Huangshi to Weihai a distance of a little over 1700 klms takes 9 hours with about 10 stops. The second class seat is A\$165.00.

Travel to Xi'an (She- an)

We travelled 1200+klms to the city by bullet train in 5 hours. The city is one of the oldest in China was founded in the 11th century BC. Today's population is around 13 million and is 20 minutes' drive from the geographical centre of China. Within the city is the old city of 12 square klms still enclosed with the ancient wall. The original earth walls were commenced in 194 BC, the current stone ones were built in 1370 and are still all standing, it is 13.7 klms

long, base is 18m thick, walls 12m high with the top 14m wide with fortified points every 120m. The old city is still surrounded by a moat. We stayed in this part of town which was great. The city was the eastern start of the famous Silk Road to India and beyond. I have been fortunate to stand at this start point and also on a rehabilitated section of the Silk Road in Pakistan several years ago. Apart from all the historical sites in the city it is also the location of the famous Terra Cotta warriors and mausoleum of the first Chinese Emperor Qin Shi Huang, these life size statues are amazing with several 1000 of them, they were commenced in 247BC as soon as he became Emperor and was completed in 208BC two years after the Emperor's death by his son.

We also visited many other sites including the Mausoleum of the Yellow Emperor, and the spectacular Yellow river waterfall at Hukou. This was impressive but not like any other water falls in height. Because the river is 350m wide and narrows to 50m wide in a distance of 150-200m then falls about 10-20m but the speed of the water passing through is almost mind-blowing. It continues several klms 50m wide until becoming 350-400m wide again. One evening we attended a theatre production on the Silk Road's history in a huge theatre with around 1000 people in the audience, the section in which you sit then rotates slowly clockwise 360 degrees stopping at each of the six different acts in the show. The acts include live camels, real waterfalls and a cast of 150 Incredible.

John Pollock



Warriors



Xian



Xian



Hukou

DVA Claims

The following was published in RSL Queensland's newsletter however it would be the same throughout Australia and it has some good advice.

"RSL Queensland's free advocacy service can help you navigate the DVA claims process and ensure you get the best possible outcome.

Making a DVA claim for a condition or injury received during service can be confusing and time-consuming, but the advice and support of a qualified advocate can take the guesswork out of it. RSL Queensland Head of Veteran Services Graeme Alley says there are four main benefits of working with an advocate.

1. A GUIDING HAND

"RSL's team of advocates liaises with the DVA daily on behalf of their clients," Graeme says. "They'll ensure you've got all the documentation and evidence you need to prove your claim, and support you through the process. Claims can take some time to be assessed and approved, but our advocates will keep you informed at every stage." He says having the support of an advocate can be particularly helpful for veterans who are suffering from PTSD or mental health issues. "Our advocates will take the time needed to ensure veterans fully understand what is happening and why, or to reassure them if their claim is delayed.

2. SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE

RSL Queensland advocates are all knowledgeable about the Acts governing veteran compensation and the claims process. But they can also draw on a bank of knowledge and expertise from their colleagues across the organisation, some of whom have decades of experience in compensation and advocacy. Graeme – a veteran himself – points out that many RSL advocates are also ex-Defence members. "That means they share with their clients a unique understanding of what it means to have served and to have transitioned back into civilian life," he says. "This gives them the ability to empathise with their clients in a very different way."

3. A HOLISTIC APPROACH

While RSL advocates work to ensure veterans receive any compensation they're entitled to, they are also able to link them with other programs and services that will result in a better overall

outcome. “Above all, we’re focussed on wellness,” Graeme says. “We want to improve our clients’ quality of life and that’s often best achieved through a combination of factors – compensation certainly, but also things like rehabilitation services, social connection and support in finding civilian employment.” RSL advocates understand the full range of services and programs available to veterans – both from DVA and from ex-service organisations like RSL Queensland and Mates4Mates. They work with veterans to develop a wellness plan that incorporates all the elements that will result in the best possible outcome. “Sometimes if veterans are too focussed on compensation above all else, they may begin defining themselves according to their level of disability. We want them to focus on being well again,” Graeme says.

4. ADVOCATES ARE ON YOUR SIDE

“Ultimately, our advocates are only there to help veterans. Our advocacy services are provided completely free of charge, and you don’t have to be an RSL member to get assistance,” Graeme says. He encourages veterans to have a chat with RSL Queensland’s Veteran Services team to see what their options are. “Take the time to find out how we can help,” Graeme says. “Having an advocate by your side can make the claims process simpler and less stressful.” RSL Queensland’s advocates can work with you face-to-face, via telephone or online, including lodging your claim online.

[Find out more or contact our Veteran Services team.](#)

What have you been doing during Covid

Ralph Forbes, 66/67 tour has just finished slashing his cane near Bloomsbury in Queensland.



The Soldier Who Never Came Home

There's a bottle of beer in the Wihoe Forks bar,
From the rest on shelves it stands out like a star,
For its shape is old fashioned and just might perplex
And the label proclaims that it's Ballins Four X
It was bought long ago by a young soldier brave,
On his final leave these instructions he gave,
Don't sell it or break it, just keep it in store,
And I'll drink it when I come back from the war.
But the bottle still stands in the country hotel,
A memorial strange for the soldier who fell;
And travellers and locals take time out to think
Of the soldier who never came back for his drink.

Australian Artillery Association Memorabilia



AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
150TH ANNIVERSARY
CAR STICKER



The Australian Artillery Association has created a Car Sticker and a Artillery Sweetheart Brooch to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Artillery in 2021 now available for purchase. The Car Stickers have been produced at a size that enables the small background Artillery badges to be distinguishable on the sticker which measures 15.5 cm wide by 10 cm high. The Car Stickers are priced at 1 for \$5.00, buy 2 for \$10 and get a 3rd one free plus postage of \$1.10.

The Artillery Sweetheart Brooch is of a gold plated design encrusted with rubies, petite in size similar to the lapel badge worn on one's Service Dress and comes in a maroon coloured jeweller's case with the motto 'UBIQUE' embossed in Gold.

Priced at just \$45.00 each plus \$9.95 postage which includes Australia Post Tracking number.

For more information and to place your online order and pay for your Sticker or Brooch visit the Australian Artillery Association website <http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com>

Can You Help

The following request has been received:

“I have been tasked to see if I can contact any members of 132nd Divisional Locating Battery when it was a CMF and Reserve Bty from 1955 to 1987. It is for the Locating, Surveillance and Target Acquisition Association (LSTAA) and to do with the LSTAA ANZAC Weekend in Brisbane next year (2021). I already have some of the ARA personnel who were there but I have been trying to contact a WO2 Craig Cook through FaceBook but to date he has not answered me. I would appreciate it if you could put the word out to your address group to see if anyone wants to contact me. Email harrylynas0@gmail.com and mobile 0428 334 012.”

Indian Artillery

The war would be fought and lost in the time it takes to get this field piece into action.

Grunts will get a laugh out of this lot of peacocks.

Gunners will shake their heads in amazement & amusement! - **John Zanotti 69/70**

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/PaK1jFg8JBE>
<<https://www.youtube.com/embed/PaK1jFg8JBE>

And Just to Finish Off

The Nile Virus (Type C)

I thought you would like to know about this virus. Even the most advanced computer programmes from Norton, McAfee and others cannot take care of this one.

It appears to target those who born prior to 1951. The lockdown seems to be increasing the chances of being infected.

Virus Symptoms:

Causes you to send the same email twice. (done that)

Causes you to send a blank email. (that too)

Causes you to send an email to the wrong person. (yep)

Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you. (ah – ha)

Causes you to forget to attach the attachment. (done that)

Causes you to hit SEND before you've finished. (oh no not again)

Causes you to hit DELETE instead of SEND. (hate that)

Causes you to hit SEND when you should DELETE. (heck now what!)

The virus is called the C-NILE virus. A lot of us have already been infected with this deadly disease and unfortunately as we age it gets worse.

If you can't admit to doing any of the above, you've obviously caught the other strain – the D-NILE virus!

Many thanks to the office of Terry Young MP, Federal Member for Longman for the printing of this newsletter.