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## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Well another year has passed and the Association still grows even as we the members get older each year, to which the Committee and are very happy to see. We hope that you and your loved ones had a joyous and happy festive season and that you all have a truly good and prosperous 2020. We covered all our major milestones reached last year in our regular Newsletter so I won't summarize those details apart from saying how great it was to catch up with so many at the National Gunner Dinner in August, Especially those veterans' from Malaya at their Last Man standing reunion. Looking at them I am sure they all have many good years left in them.

At this stage I must thank the rest of the committee for all the hard work they put in last year to make this Association the success it now is. That is in spite of us all being far removed from each other by distance. What did we do before Emails and mobile phones?

### **UBIQUE**

## **PROFILE – David John Troedel** **Malaya 1959/61**

Born 10th August 1939, St Vincents Hospital, East Melbourne, Victoria. Lived in Balwyn, a suburb of Melbourne until I was 12 years of age. Went to Balwyn State School and Mont Albert Central School. In 1952 my parents purchased a poultry farm at Langwarrin on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria. Went to Frankston High School. In September 1956 we moved to Caulfield as my mother had to look after her aging mother. Worked for the AMP as an assurance clerk in 1957 and then worked as a herd tester at Gunbower in 1958 until I was called up for national service on 17 April 1958. Enlisted directly into the ARA from national service on 30 July 1958. After 7 days leave was sent from Southern Command Personnel Depot to the School of Artillery and to Bull Storey's disbelief arrived on the bus from Manly. After 13 weeks at the school I was posted to 1 Field Regiment, 101 Field Battery at Holsworthy on 6 November 1958 as a TARA, Field. Went on Exercise Grand Slam in 1959 and sailed with the Battery for Malaya on 18 September. At Butterworth I was posted as a gun number. In July/August 1960 I did a Basic Cooks Course in Singapore. When the Battery joined 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery at Terendak on 17 October 1960 I worked in the RAP as a Regimental Medical Orderly until we returned to Australia. Attended a Regimental Medical Orderly's Course at BMH, Kumunting, Kuala Lumpur in January 1961. On return to 4 Field Regiment at Wacol on 13 November 1961 I stayed with 101 Battery until April 1962 when posted to Headquarter Battery and went to Survey Troop. Met Pat who was an Army Nurse at 1 Camp Hospital, Yeronga in 1962 and we were married on 12 January 1963 in South Brisbane. In August 1962 I attended 1/62 Regimental Survey Course at the School of Artillery. Promoted Lance Bombardier in February 1964. In March 1964 I attended the 1/64 Advanced Artillery Survey Course at the School of Artillery. I elected discharge on 29 July 1964 at the expiration of my engagement. We moved to Melbourne and I was employed at Golden Poultry, Sommerville for 8 1/2 years. Commencing as a freezer store man and ending up assistant production

manager. I enlisted in the Regular Army Reserve on discharge and transferred to the Regular Army Emergency Reserve in February 1965.

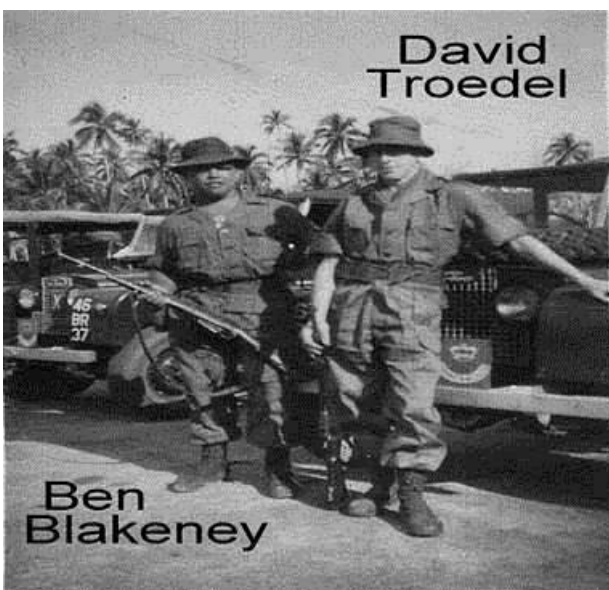
Was discharged in 1969 at the expiration of my engagement. Enlisted in the CMF in December 1970 with 15 Field Regiment at Dandenong. Transferred to 132 Divisional Locating Battery in November 1971. In March 1973, I was employed by John Lysaght, Australia at the new cold steel plant at Westernport. Worked in the production control department as a scheduler, scheduling supervisor and export liaison officer. Discharged as a Bombardier from 132 Divisional Locating Battery in October 1964. Re-enlisted in the Army Reserve, 132 Divisional Locating Battery in October 1975. Promoted Temporary Sergeant in November 1975, Sergeant 1978 and Staff Sergeant June 1981. Transferred to OCTU, 3 Training Group September 1981. Promoted WO2 in 1982 and was Platoon Commander, Course 20 that graduated in December 1983. my time as an instructor and platoon commander at OCTU was the highlight of my army career.

I have instructed recruits, junior and senior NCO's and artillery surveyors but instructing officer cadets through their 2 year course was very rewarding.

Also when you are posted outside your corps you realise that what we learnt in Artillery was in most cases far superior to what other corps instructors knew.

Our time under Bull Storey at the school was unique to say the least.

In November 1985 I transferred to the Brisbane office of Lysaght's later known as BHP Sheet Products at Lysaght street, Acacia Ridge where I worked as a Customer Services Officer. Transferred to OCTU, 1 Training Group, Wacol in 1986. Discharged 17 May 1987. Twenty-nine years after being called up for national service. In October 1997 I accepted a redundancy package from BHP and joined Union Steel at Northgate, Brisbane as Purchasing Manager. Retired from Union Steel in March 2000 and drove to Townsville for 4 Field Regiment's 40th Birthday. Went on to Cook Town and home to Brisbane by the inland route. In August 2000 Union Steel asked me to go to Sydney and fill in for the Purchasing Manager there until he could be replaced. They put Pat and myself up in a unit overlooking the water at Cronulla. We were there for 4 months. In 2001 we drove across to Perth and came back to Adelaide on the Indian Pacific, could not get to Sydney as the 4WD could not go through the Blue Mountain tunnels on the vehicle wagons. Then went to Tasmania with the 4WD on the Princess of Tasmania and stayed there for 3 months touring the island. In 2002 we purchased an acre and house in Toowoomba which kept me busy mowing lawns and gardening. Downsized to a house and small block closer to town in 2013.



# PROFILE – Dave Richard-Preston

## 69/70 Tour

### END OF MISSION: Dave Richard-Preston (David Kent)

Born in Brisbane, 23 May 1948. The hyphenated handle is no modern affectation – it goes way back. An Army oldie, but a goldie: “FALL OUT – the soldier with two fathers!”

Army No.: 1734007 (just kidding, actually 700).

Career Summary: Rose to the dizzy rank of Gunner; Units served in – One (01).

Awards: No more than RFAS standard Nasho fare. Funny thing though, I could have easily got out of National Service – I was thrown a life raft by some do-gooder doctor. I had my entry medical just a few weeks after returning from the Australian Championships and Olympics Trial (Mexico City, 1968) for the Marathon. Firstly, this doctor was alarmed at my 36bpm resting pulse rate. That explained, the last test was to do a squat. I couldn't, as I was still carrying an achilles injury from the previous track season. This doc says to me, “If you don't want to do National Service, I'll fail you right now.” I declined his offer, much to his chagrin.

So, Service commenced 17 July 1968, with Discharge 16 July 1970. Right there, is something else odd: I have no idea why my Discharge Certificate includes in the Type of Employment During Service, “Gun Number duties with Artillery” (along with “Signaller”). I can't recall doing a single day's duty on a Gun! I was a Signaller from go to whoa.

Rookies: After getting a short-back-and-sides haircut (yeah, I was going to be a jump ahead of the Recruit Training NCOs), it was off to Singleton. As soon as we arrived, the Platoon Sergeant lines us up and says, “I'm going to walk behind you all, and tap you on the shoulder if you need a haircut”. Talk about telegraph the predicable! Without so much as a sideways glance, comes tap, tap, tap, ....., “You, you, you, .....” Determined to have the last word, I got my first and last ever crewcut.

Rookies was fine. I was selected to be 2IC of the Guard. The Army can claim little credit for my drill. It was primarily due to my four years in the crack Cadet Unit in Queensland. Further, counter-marching in the Unit's Pipe Band for three years added a bit of panache. For the record, I was a bagpiper – my drumming was strictly for the rock 'n roll band I abandoned for the Army (sniff).

I had but one disappointment with Rookies. I was deprived of Passing Out. When Sports Day came around, I knocked a couple of minutes off the cross-country course record. Next day I'm wheeled into the CO's office. The Lt Col explained that the Army wants me to run for them in the annual Inter-Services Carnival. I responded, “No thanks, Sir, I really want to be in the Passing Out Parade”. He was taken aback, but then made me an offer I couldn't refuse. Without my heart in it, training consisted of three hour Boozer sessions each night at Holsworthy. I underperformed.

Worse was to follow. I'm then rushed to North Head to catch-up on Corps Training. I'm greeted by no less than Bobby Fulton, “Hurry-up Richard-Preston, we're holding the start of a cross country race for you.” 3km, out-and-back? That's not a race, it's a warm-up! I'm beaten into second place by a 110m hurdler!

Off to 101 Bty: A carload of us rock up to the Orderly Room to be bawled out by Vic Rowe, “you blokes are two days late!” How were we to know that the surf along the North Coast was going to be so good? Actually, although Vic was one seriously screwed-up dude (already had a tough TOD under his belt), he had moments of real empathy. For instance, when the traffic abated after the Bernie Garland incident, Vic knew I was manning the radio and transmitted, “Your friend 'Mike' (Johnny Mole) will be o.k.” I was astonished. “13, thank you. Out.”

Now, let's skip all that Exercise stuff (Tin Can Bay, Shoalwater). To me, it didn't bear much resemblance to the 'real thing' in The Nam. For example, digging-in??? Not out with the Grunts, anyway.

On to South Vietnam. Well, that is, after a misfire with the plane nor taking off after we had boarded. I fell asleep and was awakened by an Officer saying we were alighting. Half wacked, I remonstrated until the message sunk in. That Officer was Lt Dennis Barrow (spooky, eh – when you read on). Lennon's Hotel (on the Government) for a night was a memorable bonus with our girlfriends/wives – though neither the BC nor the 'Treasury' were amused, apparently! Dennis tells that story with aplomb.

Turning 21 just a few weeks into TOD was a little 'low-key' and probably not what my family and friends would have anticipated during my charmed pre-Army life! Several months were in the Bty Command Post, followed by a few months in the BC's Party. I was packing the radio in a chopper with the BC one operation watching the show below, when a pang of conscience hit me – maybe I should take my turn down there. About the same time I was hit with a personal bombshell, *"Dear Dave, oh how I hate to write ....."*. Several hours per day alone in an FSPB foxhole was becoming 'unhealthy' for me. The perceptive John Bertram acquiesced to my request to relieve an FO Sig. Graham Bain's name came to mind. In no time flat I found myself in V4 lines – Sig, no less, than to Dennis Barrow, and doing 'Leaping Larrys'. I maintain, to this day, those Kiwis kept me alive in and out of the bush! What a bunch of top soldiers and scallywags on the piss, were V4 – sing and play till the Never Inn closed, then a massive muckan (cook-up) in the lines. Watching them then 'dry out' on the first few days of each op was excruciating, however. (NOTE: For more riveting reading (?), see my article on V4 Reunion, Barnham, 7-9 May 2019, published in September 101 Assn newsletter.)

#### Some Extraordinary Moments:

- Watching the Chinook turn turtle – a horror in slow motion, until the fireworks started (see Phil Kline's and other accounts).
- First day, my first operation, two kills (courtesy of attached riflemen) as a group of VC walked straight into us while we were fine dining. The adrenaline never stopped pumping for the remaining months, coupled with the sometimes eerie quiet following the cacophony of a contact.
- Being present at the dedication of the Long Tan Cross, three years to the day of the battle.
- Hearing that long-time friend Derek Nixon-Smith (9RAR) stopped an RPG with his head – a miracle survival, and he now with half a skull to prove it; then learning an esteemed school mate (Ian Kingston, A Coy) was KIA (3 Sept '69, Op Burnham).
- The dry wit of John Bertram punctuating the gravity of FSB CPs; and the eloquence of Alan Bachelor helping mitigate a charge I faced. (Ah, the affinity of distance runners).

Oh, the shame of our non-reception on return to Australia. Virtually smuggled back into the country and dispersed under cover of dark. I was angry (and went 'wild') – we had been just doing our job (and did it well). Joined the RSL immediately (49 years total continuity), and never experienced any of the disdain from old diggers that others apparently did. Nevertheless, for years I was circumspect about when I wore the RSL badge in public or at work – even when I 'came out' (no, not that way) after the Welcome Home (1987). In the last 15 years of my career, however, I enjoyed the irony of being a manager in a very 'leftish' University.

I met Chris in Melbourne and we married in 1974; was lured to Canberra for 11 years; then moved to Brisbane for 21 years. We have two kids and five granddaughters. Retired in 2004, and when Chris retired in 2007, we shot through to the temperate climate and magic of beautiful Bermagui. Enjoy bowls, golf, tennis, and diverse other interests and commitments (including JP) – day-to-day health permitting (the big one being Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia). Especially, don't mind mucking around on guitar for my own amusement, or for the bemusement of indulgent friends. Have a Degree which has been about as useful as a fob pocket in a singlet. Been a Life Member of 101 Bty Assn since 1999, and appreciate the dedication of those who have served on its Executive.

#### Some Legacies of War:

- I still sit with my back to the wall, facing the door, in restaurants.
- OCD – Chris can tell some beauties about that.
- It took 20 years for my only (physical) war scar to fade – from that bloody tent peg I tripped over in Nui Dat.
- It changed my life profoundly, though I don't regret the experience.

**"Dave, End of Mission. Out."**

## Secretary's Report

2019 was a very successful year for the Association where we have seen financial membership rise and also interest by members has also risen. Unfortunately we mourn the passing of members through the year. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and hope that 2020 will provide a healthy and happy year for members and family.

### Annual Membership

It is time to renew your annual membership for those that prefer to pay yearly. It is only \$10 and for those who would like to be a life subscriber it is a one off payment of \$101. The committee would like to have members support from those that have never subscribed so please get behind our Association and make a payment. You can send your payment by way of deposit at a Commonwealth Bank to "101 Field Battery Association" BSB 064413 A/c No 10066148 and just ask them to put your surname as a reference so we know who it is from, or for those that still have cheques send your cheque made out to 101 Field Battery Association and Address it to Ross Teschendorff, 19 Edro Avenue, BRIGHTON EAST, VIC, 3187.

### Annual Reunion and AGM 2020

It is time to start thinking of where to hold our next reunion towards the end of August. So far we have had 3 suggestions, they being Dover in Tasmania, Coffs Harbour in New South Wales or Cairns in Queensland. If you have a suggestion for another place and you would be willing to help organize it please let us know. We would also like to receive member's feedback on their choice of venue of the 3 places mentioned above so far. Send me an email please.

### Memorabilia

We have bought more stock of our Battery Plaques and Battery Caps which have proven to be very popular. The plaques are \$70 including postage. They can be hung on a wall or are self-standing on a desk or shelf. The caps are \$30 including postage.

### Member's Contributions

Please continue to send in your contributions to the newsletter. Whether they old recollections from your army days or new ones it doesn't matter. Just email them to me The Secretary at the email address above. Here is the first one for 2020.

### John Pollock

I have settled down very well in China and love it; the people are very friendly and open. At the moment my wife and I have just lodged an application for a Spouse visa to allow us to return to Australia where we hope to settle in Queensland. However, being the Government it can take between 13 and 16 months for the offshore applications to be approved. We came here to lodge the application offshore as if we had lodged it at home the onshore ones take 24 to 36 months?

We have purchased a beautiful apartment in Huangshi city in Hubei Province Central China, a pretty city on the banks of the Yangzi River with many lakes in and around. Cost of living is very cheap, food, clothes transport etc apart from health which I have covered apart from DVA, I can travel anywhere in the CBD by Taxi for around \$1.45 or anywhere in the bus for 25 cents.

I was surprised that being a communist country that they celebrated in full swing Halloween and Christmas, over the festive season all the major Malls and shops had Christmas trees, decorations and carols blaring out.

My wife has shown me many beautiful and spectacular places so far, many klms from here. Yichen, Shanghai, Wuzen Watertown where we caught up with Brian Collins, his wife and friends from where he lives. Before Christmas we went to Macau which is an eye-opener with its many, many over the top Casinos and hotels. We always take the amazing bullet trains very cheap, fast and very comfortable in all the different class seating. From here to Macau for example on the top of the range Gtrain was 1280 klms with five stops took 5 hours 30 mins, they cruise at between 300-350klms per hour, very quiet and no sensation of speed. I would highly recommend anyone wanting to travel to Asia have a look at China it has a lot to offer, and is so cheap.

Take care, stay safe and well.

## **UBIQUE**

### **Missing Members**

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the following Life Subscriber members?

Nick Marshall ex Battery Commander 66/67 tour last known living in Avalon NSW.

Rod O'Neill 69/70 tour last known living in Jenilla NSW.

### **Rest In Peace**

Through some research it is with regret that the Association informs members of the passing of the following members of 101 Battery that served in Vietnam:

55435 Gnr Phil L. ALLEN (Life Subscriber of our Association) - Passed away 22 September 2005 - 69/70 Tour

38613 Gnr John A.T. BLACKMAN – Passed Away 18 May 2017 – 66/67 Tour

18380 LBdr James McINTOSH - Passed Away 19 July 2000 – 66/67 Tour

2788132 Bdr Derek C. SHEPHERD (Life Subscriber of our Association) – Date not known of passing – 69/70 Tour

### **End of Mission Statements**

In our last newsletter I asked members to write a personal history so when the time comes we can let our members know your history, I received **(1)** response!! We can also use it in our newsletter. If you could just take 15 minutes and type an email up and send it to me, similar to the profiles that have appeared in our newsletters.

### **Thoughts**

Steve Jobs dies a billionaire, with a fortune of \$7 billion, at the age of 56 from pancreatic cancer, and here are some of his last words... ☹️ ☹️ ☹️

“In other eyes, my life is the essence of success, but aside from work, I have a little joy. And in the end, wealth is just a fact of life to which I am accustomed.”

“At this moment, lying on the bed, sick and remembering all my life, I realize that all my recognition and wealth that I have is meaningless in the face of imminent death. You can hire someone to drive a car for you, make money for you – but you cannot rent someone to carry the disease for you. One can find material things, but there is one thing that cannot be found when it is lost – “LIFE”. ❤️

Treat yourself well, and cherish others. As we get older we are smarter, and we slowly realize that the watch is worth \$30 or \$300 – both of which show the same time. Whether we carry a purse worth \$30 or \$300 – the amount of money in the wallets are the same. Whether we drive a car worth \$150,000, or a car worth

\$30,000 – the road and distance are the same, we reach the same destination. If we drink a bottle worth \$300 or wine worth \$10 – the “stroller” will be the same. If the house we live in is 300 square meters, or 3000 square meters – the loneliness is the same.”

“Your true inner happiness does not come from the material things of this world. 🌍 Whether you’re flying first class, or economy class – if the plane crashes, you crash with it.”

So, I hope you understand that when you have friends or someone to talk to – this is true happiness! ✔

### ☀ Five Undeniable Facts ☀

- 1 Do not educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy. – So when they grow up they will know the value of things, not the price.
- 2 Eat your food as medicine, otherwise you will need to eat your medicine as food.
- 3 Whoever loves you will never leave you, even if he has 100 reasons to give up. He will always find one reason to hold on.
- 4 There is a big difference between being human and human being.
- 5 If you want to go fast – go alone! But if you want to go far – go together.

And in conclusion... 🗨

👤 🇮🇳 The six best doctors in the world 👤 🇮🇳

- 1 Sunlight
- 2 Rest
- 3 Exercise
- 4 Diet
- 5 Self-confidence
- 6 Friends

Keep them in all stages of life and enjoy a healthy life. 😊

Whichever stage in life we are at right now, with time, we will face the day when the curtain comes down.

Treasure Love for your family, love for your spouse, love for your friends...

Treat yourself well. Cherish others. 🌸

“Love the people God sent you, one day He’ll need them back.”



## Vietnam War Casualty Information

Attached is a sheet with interesting information about Australians who died on active service during the Vietnam War. This information has been distilled from the data provided by the Australian Government to the US Vietnam Veteran Memorial Fund Education Centre project, with the intention that the Australian information would be included in the facility. The information provides insight into the age, state of birth, foreign nationality, Service and unit of those who died.

Unit Code	Number
1 RAR	53
5 RAR	51
6 RAR	51
7 RAR	35
9 RAR	35
1 FD SQN	34
AATTV	34
2 RAR	31
3 RAR	27
4 RAR	24
8 RAR	18
1 ATF	12
1 ARU	10
A SQN, 3 CAV	9
B SQN, 3 CAV	8
9 SQN	7
2 SQN	6
12 FD REGT	5
RANHFV	5
2 SAS	4
4 FD REGT	4
1 FD REGT	3
104 SIG	3
161 RECCE	3
1 OSU	2
1 SAS	2
102 FD WKSP	2
105 FD BTY	2
110 SIG	2
131 DIV LOC	2
17 CONST	2
2 AOD	2
3 SAS	2
32 SSS	2
8 FD AMB	2
HOBART	2
HQ AFV	2
1 ALSG	1
1 APC	1
1 DIV INT	1
1 DIV MP	1
1 DIV SUP	1
1 FD HOSP	1
106 FD WKSP	1
2 COD	1
21 ENGR	1
26 TPT SQN	1
3 FD TP	1
3 TP, 1 APC	1
52 CSP	1
522 SIG	1
55 ADV	1
55 ENGR	1
A SQN, 1 ARMD	1
AFVAWU	1
AFVMP	1
B SQN, 1 ARMD	1
BSF	1
C SQN 1 ARMD	1
RANCD Team 3	1

Total 521

Rank	Number
PTE	253
CPL	47
LCPL	40
WO2	33
SPR	29
SGT	24
TPR	15
LT	12
2LT	11
CAPT	7
SIG	6
MAJ	6
GNR	6
LAC	5
SSGT	4
AC	3
PLTOFF	2
CFN	2
FLGOFF	2
WO1	2
BDR	1
SMN	1
SQNLDR	1
SUBLT	1
CPO	1
FLTLT	1
LBDR	1
CHAP	1
PO	1
LACM	1
LTCDR	1
AB	1

Total 521

Home State	Number	%
New South Wales	170	32.6%
Victoria	90	17.3%
Queensland	81	15.5%
South Australia	47	9.0%
Western Australia	47	9.0%
Tasmania	14	2.7%
Australian Capital Territory	2	0.4%
Unknown/Overseas	70	13.4%
Total	521	100.0%

Place of Birth	Number	%
Australia	447	85.8%
UK	39	7.5%
Germany	10	1.9%
Holland	6	1.2%
Ireland	4	0.8%
Italy	3	0.6%
Unknown	3	0.6%
Ukraine	1	0.2%
Papua New Guinea	1	0.2%
Finland	1	0.2%
Denmark	1	0.2%
India	1	0.2%
Wales	1	0.2%
Latvia	1	0.2%
South America	1	0.2%
Canada	1	0.2%

Total 521 100.0%

Service	Number	%
Army	495	95.0%
RAAF	17	3.3%
RAN	9	1.7%
Total	521	100%

Age At Death	Number
18	
19	10
20	35
21	75
22	154
23	60
24	36
25	13
26	18
27	14
28	16
29	17
30	12
31	12
32	7
33	5
34	3
35	1
36	3
37	8
38	2
39	8
40	2
41	2
42	1
43	1
44	2
45	
46	
47	
48	2
49	
50	
51	1
52	
53	1
54	
55	
56	
57	
58	
59	
60	

521



The photo below was sent in by John Pollock and it is of the March Out parade of 101 Bty prior to going to Vietnam in 1966.

### **Recognise Anyone**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

MAY/66/0303/NC

### **Wanted a Tank!!**

The Darwin Military Museum is looking to purchase a WWII or post war tank to become an iconic part of the museum collection. Any condition considered ... anywhere in Australia!! If you have such a 'beast' please send details to: Norman Cramp, Museum Director

[Norman.cramp@darwinmilitarymuseum.com.au](mailto:Norman.cramp@darwinmilitarymuseum.com.au) Phone: 0418 844 682.

### **Homegrown 'digital' rifle makes average marksmen deadly experts**

*The Australian*, October 30, 2019

A Lithgow factory that has armed Australian Diggers from Gallipoli to Afghanistan is building the world's most modern rifle — a "digital" gun that can lift a soldier's accuracy of first shot by up to 400 per cent.

Dubbed the Future Soldier Weapon System, it uses a computerised sight and automated firing technology to identify targets and overcome human error, making average marksmen experts.

It is also a “networked” weapon, allowing Diggers to see enemy combatants identified by other soldiers, and giving commanders the ability to assign targets to specific members of a unit.

The FSWS is the product of a five-year research and development program at the Thales-owned Lithgow Arms.

The Australian was given a preview of the weapon ahead of the release of a new history of the Lithgow-made Austeyr rifle, standard issue for Australian soldiers for the past 30 years.

The new digital rifle is being designed as a next-generation weapon for Diggers, but Thales hopes to export it to friendly nations.

“This is the most significant change in small-arms technology since the introduction of the cartridge case,” said Thales Australia chief executive Chris Jenkins. “It’s not technology for technology’s sake — it’s technology to deliver a huge uplift in effectiveness on the battlefield for Australian soldiers. And that’s a lifesaving effect.”

## RIFLING THROUGH HISTORY

The “Future Soldier  
Weapon System”



**Designed:** Lithgow  
*Produced at Lithgow,  
prototyping under way*  
**Rate of fire:** TBA  
**Effective range:** TBA

### SPECIAL FEATURES

- ⊕ Augmented sight, smart targeting
- ⊕ Identifies targets (humans, drones etc)
- ⊕ Automated firing system, assists in hitting the target’s “kill zone”
- ⊕ Networked    ⊕ Lightweight (about 2kg)

The Lithgow Small Arms Factory, 150km west of Sydney, opened its doors in 1912, supplying more than 100,000 Lee-Enfield .303s to Australia’s World War I Diggers. It produced Vickers and Bren machine guns in World War II, the L1A1 SLR used by Australians in Vietnam, and the army’s current rifles, the Austrian--designed Austeyr F88, and its successor, the EF88.

But the new project is unlike anything that preceded it. The rifle’s sensor suite and targeting algorithm can recognise human and non-human targets, such as drones, and enable a soldier to see better in all weather conditions.

The system fires the rifle at the optimum moment after a target is selected and the trigger pulled to achieve a “kill shot”.

If the system fails for any reason, it reverts to being a “dumb” weapon that operates like any other rifle.

Thales expects the futuristic weapon to be ready for sale within five years, coinciding with the Australian Defence Force’s assault rifle replacement procurement in 2024-25.

The sighting and automated firing system has already shown dramatic results, lifting the probability of a soldier's first round being a hit from 20 per cent to 80 per cent with minimal training, but the completed rifle is expected to deliver even greater performance benefits. A prototype version weighs in at just 2kg, compared with 3.44kg for the EF88.

The development of the weapon comes as Chief of Army Rick Burr prioritises a new "accelerated warfare" doctrine.

### **Australian War Memorial – Hall of Memory**

This video is well worth watching, very interesting, just click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMxsogy>

### **Company Logo**

The following email has been received from B Coy 6 RAR Association for information. 101 Bty First Tour of course was in support of them. A company logo is an important part of a Company and its main purpose is to promote that Company.

B Coy 6RAR founded it's Company Logo in June 1966 in South Vietnam and that being a Phantom. It does not represent a warlike symbol.

B Coy completed 2 tours of Vietnam and fought all its battles and conducted all operations under the Phantom logo.

That logo tells veterans the name of the company and is connected to their memories for life.

Chief of the Army issued a directive that death symbols will not be tolerated and that it was arrogant, ill-considered and eroded the ethos of today's Army.

Past Veterans are aghast as history is being lost with the Phantom now not being recognised since its foundation over 50 years ago.

Is a phantom logo a representation of a death Symbol when you compare that to a black panther which is today's B Coy 6RAR.

I would appreciate any comments. Henry Chisholm Pl Sgt 4 Platoon 6 RAR 1966/67.

### **Military Tour/Cruise PNG**

The following has been received from RAAA (Q) for member information.

I am forwarding this information received from ex-Gunner **Graham Bowley** who has undertaken various military tours over the years.

He has included details of an upcoming tour/cruise to PNG - Milne Bay etc.

Please note that RAAA(Q) **is not promoting or endorsing** this tour, I'm just sending around the network for your interest.

**From Graham:**

**Matt McLachlan Battlefield Tours** is having a PNG WW2 history cruise as a 200 person block booking on the normal **P&O 11day tourist cruise on Pacific Dawn ex Brisbane on 26 August 2020** – Prices are above the normal fare but include lectures and shore tours of battle areas. You can google his site for all info, it visits Milne Bay and Rabaul battlefield areas.

Rabaul: on 23/1/42: Jap invasion force overcame defenders and murdered 160 at Toll plantation and Rabaul became their main naval base for Solomon's/PNG. Japs were there till 1945.

Also in 1914, Aust troops took the radio station from the Germans near the war cemetery - seen on shore tour.

Interesting in the open air war museum are two Harley Davidson military motor bikes made by the Japs in the 1930s - one is a half track and similar to the ones the Germans had in Europe - very rare.

At Milne Bay Aust/US troops had built an airfield and Japs landed to take it on 25/8/42.

The 9th/25th/61th Btns were reinforced by 3 guns/95 gunners of 9Bty 2/5th Fld Regt on 16/8/42. Japs pushed up to airfield and then were driven back.

Ranging was by sound and "splinter" and by dropping shells in the bay and adjusting back onto the narrow strip of land where fighting took place.

FO Lt E Gilhooley, whose framed photo hung in 5 Fd Regt RAA Officers mess at Kelvin Grove, was killed with whole party at K B Mission on 28/8/42.

Cpl French was killed on 4/9/42 and awarded VC wiping out a machine gun just a short distance from where the cruise ship docks - there is a memorial park with plaques including to 5 Fd Regt.

The Japs evacuated on 5/9/42 in what is known as their first complete defeat on land in WW2.

Anyone interested can read of Milne Bay in the book in most library's "A Bastard of a Place" that's all about PNG battles, and also **Graham Bowley** has been on two ordinary P&O cruises to the area and has a few photo albums and can give a run down on what the towns are like etc. phone **0415 127 959**.

Graham lives at Bridgeman Downs and has been on a Matt McLachlan tour of Guadalcanal.

Also one of the islands visited for markets and swimming is Kiriwina Island and on the horizon ships can be seen in the passage to Rabaul but in May 42 this was the site where a Jap carrier went down in the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Anyone interested should make their own inquiries as there are no recommendations as to presenters and guides or value, but it is a normal cruise as far as food and entertainment and drinking and other shore excursions etc

**Thanks for reading**

**Graham**

**Please use contact details Graham has provided, should you like further information.**

### Paraprosdokians

The following is an extract from the December newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Inc. sent in by John Zanotti:

First time I heard about paraprosdokians, I liked them. Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (Sir Winston Churchill loved them).

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you ...but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. Knowledge, is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of an emergency, notify..." I answered "a doctor."
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find someone older than me.
18. Rapid solid hits are better than a slow tight grouping in a gunfight.