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NEWSLETTER JULY 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another three months has passed and the Association continues to gather new members which is very gratifying for the Committee.

We are still receiving good feedback on the Newsletter so we will continue to try and maintain a high standard and keep members informed.

Unfortunately we have lost many members and friends in the last months in particular a fine officer in Brigadier James Ryan AM MID.

The Committee tries to let all members of the Association know of passing of members and those on sick parade, it would be very much appreciated if members could notify the Secretary as soon as possible if they hear of the death or illness of one of our members.

In these uncertain times it has been impossible due to Government regulations for members to attend funerals and even visit the sick. It has been unfortunate that we have not been able to attend any funerals to pay our respects and give them a good Gunner farewell which they deserved.

We have now received some very good End of Mission profiles from our members which we will continue to publish in each Newsletter.

These profiles have been commented on and appreciated by members who have been interested in what old mates they haven't seen for years have done with their lives.

It would be very much appreciated if more members could spare a few minutes to compile one and send to the Secretary.

As you are aware due to the Corona virus our annual reunion and AGM has been postponed until September 2021 in Coffs Harbour.

Unfortunately this AGM in 2020 was to be the time for the Election of Office Bearers so if there are no objections from you, the members, we will hold over the elections until the AGM next year.

In conclusion the Committee hopes that you and all your family have not been affected by the Corona Virus and have all remained healthy as can be expected. Hopefully many restrictions are being lifted

PROFILE

ANTON (TONY) MEISINGER

1966/67 TOUR

I was born in 1937 in a place called Vienna, Austria. At the ripe old age of 18 I decided to migrate, mind you I had never heard of Australia. Is it the place where kangaroo are jumping over the fences in cities?

The ironical fact is, I left Austria because I did not want to do National Service, but for some reason decided to join the Australian Regular Army. Anyway after all that I had not only done various courses etc, I finished up going to Nui Dat, SVN as a Command Post Operator with 101 Fd Bty. I was on duty the day of the pre-em, and not long after as I recall circumstances prevailed that I was seconded to the Q

Store. My introduction to the Q Store was that I was told "You are going daily from the Task Force to a place called Baria". Where on earth is Baria? "Don't worry, you can't miss it, it's on the way to Vung Tau" Where is that place? "Don't worry you will get there one day"

Anyway I got to Baria and after much pointing etc I found the store I was to be dealing with. There I exchanged dirty greens for clean ones as much else that I thought was needed, like ice to be sent forward with cold drinks. Part of my duties was to manager the OR's canteen.

This was my introduction in the art of 'Wheeling and Dealing'. As the supply ship Jeparit was not coming and I thought our blokes forward would like some beer, I got a pallet of lovely Tiger Beer, rusty and in sandbags. I also struck a deal with some Yankee Sgt to sell me a pallet of Yankee Beer. With each can to cost the princely sum of 12 cents, but the deal cost me a pair of GPs?

Later I thought our blokes would like some bread rolls. After discussing it with our cooks and the Vietnamese woman I was dealing with, made a deal that for 2 bags of flour I would get the same amount back in bread rolls that equated to 1 bag of flour.

I was also dealing with the PX and got their catalogue on what was available like watches, radios. Tape recorders and got whatever our blokes wanted. Before I finished I had also been able to get Dolls and Silk from a lass in Baria, so got whatever was needed.

On my second tour in 69/70 I was posted as a ledger clerk with HQ Bty at RHQ, 1 Fd Regt. Whilst at 1 Fd Regt I spent some months at Da Nang in the Q store resupplying the advisors in the province.

On return to Australia I was posted back to 101 Bty at Enoggera.

In 1971 to 1976 was posted to 16 Air Defense Regiment at Woodside, S.A. and promoted to SSgt acting BQMs.

In 1976 I did a short stint with 4 Fd Regt in Townsville with a Bty as BQMS

From 1977 to 1980 I was posted to Artillery Reserve units in Newcastle and Frankston as QM.

I was discharge from the Army in 1980 at Woodside, South Australia.

After discharge from the Army I worked in a small goods company in Nairne, S.A. from 1981-95.

I have been incapacitated since suffering from Strongyloides (a round worm infestation) which I picked up in SVN and have endured it ever since. When I first put in a claim for various disabilities I was told by DVA that I was never at the Task Force in Nui Dat and that I was stationed at Vung Tau, which was typical of DVA at the time.

PROFILE

16500 SGT BRIAN E. FLEWELL-SMITH

1969/70 TOUR

I don't know where this is going to take me but here goes (although my story won't be as interesting as Alan Batchelor's; no fighter aircraft, doodle bugs or the like). I should also add that as I served for 31 years, so my story might end up as long as Alan's.

I was born in Brisbane in Jan 43, remaining there until I joined the army in Nov 61 at the age of 18. My mother, a 19 yo, had married my father, a 32 yo, a widower with three young boys. They went on to add two sons and a daughter to the brood. I was the last of the six.

I was educated by Catholic nuns and Christian Brothers, a vicious mob of bastards, both lots, so by the time I completed Queensland Scholarship (year 8) in, Dec 56, I had had a gutful of that system and refused point blank to go to high school, so I entered the workforce a month later when I turned 14.

I worked in a woodworking factory for a year, then got an apprenticeship as a panel beater. After nearly completing my fourth year I packed my toolbox one day and walked out, mainly because I never got on very well with my boss. His voice calling out, "You can't leave, you're apprenticed to me." still puts a smile on my face. Six weeks later I joined the army.

After completing basic training it was on to the School of Artillery along with the likes of John Pollock, where we were warmly welcomed by Bull Storey, the BSM of Regimental Training Wing, which is a story (no pun intended) in itself. After six weeks of picking up paper and painting rocks we started a six week's course on the new Italian Pack Howitzer. This was the first course to be conducted for GNR's, along with another being run at the same time for NCO's from 4 FD REGT, our future unit. Suffice to say we were only too happy, at the end of the course, in Jun 62, tears of joy in our eyes, to wave good-by to Bull. I thought "That's the end of you mate." but how wrong I was.

John and I were posted to 4th FD REGT on the second ridge at Wacol, where we joined 101 BTY. 105 BTY was the other gun battery. On the day we arrived the new Pack Howitzers' were being unboxed on the parade ground. A week or so later we started a six week's conversion course on the new, you guessed it, Italian Pack Howitzer, listening to the belly aching of the old gunners on how good the 25 Pounder was compared to the Pack Howitzer. By the end of the course, 12 weeks training in all, we knew the gun inside out which put John and I well ahead of those dwelling on the past.

The new Battery Commander was Bill Silverstone, a very hard taskmaster, but you knew where you stood so I had no complaints. I ended up on a gun with Jim King as the No 7. A positive attitude and hard work paid off for John and I and we got our first stripe in May 63; for me it was 18 months after I joined, a little less for John. The 'senior gunners' were not impressed and much animosity ensued! A further promotion to Bombardier followed in Mar 64. The 'senior gunners' were even less impressed. More animosity. From memory, John was also promoted on the same day.

Two months later I was posted to 111 LAA BTY at Holsworthy to go to Butterworth, Malaysia. We did the two week trip, via Manus Island and Borneo on HMAS Sydney arriving at Singapore in Jun 64. It was then on to Butterworth by overnight train; all unscrewable signs were removed by the next morning. Anti-aircraft artillery was certainly a big change to field artillery. The next two years were mostly spent sitting around an airfield bored out of my mind waiting for the Indonesians to attack.. The highlight of the trip was when I was promoted to Sergeant on Xmas eve 1964, three years, one month and 2 days after enlisting. The 'senior' Bombardier's were not impressed.

I returned to Australia with the battery in Jun 66. Mid winter at Woodside after the tropics was pure hell. Actually, it was much worse. Three months later I was posted to the Royal Military College in Canberra. It was just as cold but the buildings were centrally heated. In those days RMC was a set three years posting, but at the end of 67 I was posted to 101 FD BTY, 1 FD REGT at Enoggera to go to Vietnam. By then I had married, having met up with a girl I knew previously, after my return from Malaysia. Robyn and I have now been married for 53 years.

After much hard training we headed off to SVN in May 69, two days late. I left Robyn to look after two children, Kristine 25 months old and Stephen 5 months old. Unfortunately, Kristine had developed severe epilepsy when three months old, having dozens of seizures a day, which caused severe brain damage, so I had the worry of leaving Robyn in that situation, as well as the usual work responsibilities. To say I did not have an easy time in SVN is an understatement.

On return to Australia I was again posted to RMC to complete the remainder of the three year set period. In Dec 72, I was posted to 8 MDM REGT, Holsworthy, as Battery Guide, 102 BTY, (the BG rank at that time had been lowered to S/SGT). Unfortunately, Comrade Goff, had ended nashos the week before which caused a glut of NCO's, so all promotion was frozen. In Nov 73, 8 MDM and 12 FLD merged to form 8/12 MDM REGT I was finally promoted to S/SGT after 18 months. I think in part because of the situation where I charged another Sgt, who had repeatedly kept saying I could not give him orders even though I was the BG. He found out after the CO dealt with him that I could. Yes, I can hear some people saying that that fits my profile.

In Jul 76, I was promoted to WO2 and posted to 10 MDM REGT, Geelong where we now live. Those who have served with ARES know it is somewhat different. After three and a half years, in Jan 79, I was posted as BSM, 1 FD REGT, first ridge, Wacol. For the first year I was BSM, HQ BTY then the second year I went 'home' to 101 BTY as BSM. All told I had been a GNR,L/BDr,BDR,SGT and WO2 in 101 BTY. In Dec

80, I was posted back to 10 MDM REGT as RSM. I chose to go back to Geelong as the facilities for Krissy were excellent here. Unfortunately, I was medically downgraded while there so missed out on the proposed move back to 1 FD REGT as RSM.

THEN AFTER 3 YEARS I WAS GOING TO TAKE DISCHARGE. But I was offered a posting to HQ 4 BDE in Melbourne as RSM. So, I said, 'Yes.'

THEN AFTER 2 YEARS I WAS GOING TO TAKE DISCHARGE. But I was offered a posting to DSU Sydney as RSM (commonly referred to as the RSM, VIC BK's). So, I said, 'Yes.'. Among the usual duties I was responsible for the weekly guard mount and the cenotaph ceremony at Martin Place. While there I was told I was one of two people on a panel for selection as RSM, RMC, but I would have to do the (recently introduced) RSM Course at the Infantry Centre. As I had been a drill sergeant there for three years and I had been an RSM for six years I said, 'No'. That left only one remaining on the panel and it was not me!

THEN AFTER TWO YEARS I WAS GOING TO TAKE DISCHARGE. But I was offered a posting to the School of Artillery as RSM. So, I said, 'Yes.'

THEN AFTER THREE YEARS I WAS GOING TO TAKE DISCHARGE. But I was offered a posting back to DSU Sydney (which had merged with DSU Randwick so had doubled in size). So, I said, 'Yes,.'. In the second year I was told I was one of two on a panel for selection as RSM 6 Training Group in Tasmania. A taxpayer paid holiday to Tassie sounded good to me. I was also told rumours of redundancies occurring. By now I was the lowest medical classification so I knew I would be the first to go. That in fact happened. So that left only one on the panel for Tassie and it was not me. Bugger! They offered me 'voluntary' redundancy and, as I did not wish to spend years in the bowels of some HQ's, shuffling files for some lazy bloody Major, I said, 'Yes, 'I'll be a volunteer.'

SO, I TOOK MY DISCHARGE. Not willingly, as there was no taxpayer paid holiday in Tassie. We arrived at our house in Geelong, along with our goods and chattels, two days before Xmas, 92. I admit it was a lonely feeling. Two days later when Robyn went to cook Xmas lunch she found out our 6 years tenant had burned out the oven and the grill and had not told the estate agent. At 1151 I burst into the local chicken shop, which was closing at 1200, and grabbed the last two chickens and the remaining baked veggies. Merry Xmas and welcome to civvie street!

In 95, after a five-year fight with DVA, two weeks before appearing before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, I was 'granted' TPI. Thank you kind Sir! Since then we have been enjoying life as much as we can, with many trips, about 40+ to Tassie, and other places around Australia and the world. I achieved one long held wish last Sep when I went to the USA and did tours of three Civil War Battlefields. Krissy now lives in supported accommodation nearby and Stephen is married and doing well in advertising.

All told I had a good run; even after I was medically downgraded. The Directorate of Artillery looked after me due to my family situation, but I was also willing to work with them. I was also fortunate to marry a girl who has a strong, gregarious personality, fits in anywhere and was willing to put up with army life (as well as me). Would I do it all again? Yes, I guess I would. I liked the life, regardless of all the ups and downs, that happen in any profession anyway.

BF-S

N.B. THE AUTHOR WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE THE READERS THAT NONE OF OUR TRIPS WERE SPONSORED BY NOR PAID FOR BY THE TAXPAYER. BUGGER!

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Passing Parade

213813 Brigadier (Retd) James Walter Ryan AM, MID, 1966/67 tour passed away 21 May 2020 in Bowral, NSW.

The Association has been informed of the passing of 4720104 Gnr Allan Eglinton 1969/70 tour who passed away 17 years ago.

Also the passing of 38613 Gnr John A.T. Blackman 1966/67 tour who passed away in 2017.

Sick Parade

Barry Faulkner in Cairns is not the best.

Dick Finney's wife Gloria has advised that Dick had an accident last September, he is now a quadriplegic in residential high care.

His neckbones had badly degenerated and when he fell no more than a metre, they damaged his spinal cord. He had 2 operations to relieve the pressure, but the damage done could not be undone. Dick started his army career as a gunner and transferred to RAEME after completing the basic fitters course in 1955. He would be the oldest member that served in 101 Battery that commenced their service with "C" Observation Troop which was re-designated 104 Locating Battery in 1955 and 101 Battery in 1957. Dick served with 101 Battery LAD in Malaya and Vietnam.

Nick Marshall 1966/67 tour isn't doing too well. Nick (formally BC 101 Bty) is in a Nursing Home in Narrabeen, Sydney.

Herb Lynam 1966/67 tour is not all that well up in Point Vernon in sunny Queensland.

We wish all the above members and anyone else that has health problems all the best.

101 Battery Association Website

Don't forget members you can log on to the link below to view our Membership Roll, Honour Roll, History, Photos of both tours of Vietnam, Previous Newsletters. You can also catch up with old mates you may have lost contact with, you can go to the Membership Roll look for their name and if their name is underlined they will have an email address. You just click on their name and an email will pop up addressed to them and you can send it off and Bobs your uncle.

https://www.australianartilleryassociation.com/other_association/101_bty_association/101_bty_assn_index.htm

Looking for our Oldest Members

We would like to put the call out to find out who are our old members. Our reckoning is that our oldest member is Max Beck, Malaya Tour. Max was born 1 Oct 1931.

If you are within a handful of years of Max and don't mind admitting to it we would like to hear from you or get your family to contact us by email b.collins13@outlook.com

Letters to the Editor

How many of our Members have been tested and found to have the Parasite by the name of "STRONGYLOIDES (Strongyloidiasis)? The reason I ask is you see, should any Veteran and or any Family Members are found to have cancer and are have this Parasite, then they can never have chemotherapy as this would kill them. You will find information on the internet however it only gives you treatment of Stromectol.

As I have suffered with this parasite since my second tour to Vietnam in 1969, on and off since that time and have passed on the Parasite to family members.

I'll be interested to hear from you regarding this matter how many members are aware of it. You may not even be aware of it but it can be detected with a simple blood test.

Ed> The above letter was received from Tony Meisinger who did 2 tours of Vietnam with 101 Battery. If anyone would like more information on this subject or you have had it and would like to speak to Tony just give him a call on 08 8552426.

The History of the reformation of 101 Bty

The following information was received from David Troedel on Major David Davies who was a life subscriber to the Association until his death in 2011. This should be read in conjunction with the history written by Kev Salter that appears on the Battery's website.

I was in email contact with David Davies for quite a few years up to his death.

He was a very interesting character and was quite happy to supply me his service details when I put out the call to our members over 20 years ago.

I have recorded information from David and other members from their memories on the formation of 101 Battery.

Though on re-reading the document the last line is incorrect, 102 Field Battery should read 102 Light Battery.

Some of the information I received from David Davies was a bit muddled as he was getting on in age and his memory on some things was a bit muddled and I used information from other members to clarify the early events.

Though it is pretty clear that 104 Locating Battery moved to Holsworthy in April 1957 and was then known as Q Battery and when the CO of 1 Field Regiment (Lt Col John Howard) asked David what number he wanted the Battery to be and he chose 101.

I have also recorded the record of service for Major Edward Ussher Gooch who took over command of the Battery from David Davies (he was the BC when I joined the Battery) Major Peter John Norton who took us to Malaya.

Formation of 101 Field Battery. By Major D. J. Davies

In February 1957, I was posted to 1st Field Regiment at Georges Heights, New South Wales. The task given to me by the CO, Lt Col S. A. Fletcher, was to take over the remnants 104 Locating Battery from Major Eric Nowel, and convert it into an 8 Gun, Field Battery of 2 Troops. It had to be ready to be the Depot Battery for the School of Artillery by the 30th June 1957 as 'A' Field Battery was to replace 105 Field Battery in Malaya. There was one WO2 (Norm Orchard) and about 25 OR's in the Battery, all of whom were Surveyors or Signalers, making a sound start for the formation of the Troop and Battery Command Posts, and the rest came in a steady trickle from all round Australia. The BSM was a very efficient Warrant Officer, who was invaluable in sorting through the drafts of OR's posted from units all over Australia. Initially I was given one 2Lt, but until the Troop Commanders arrived, two senior subalterns were lent from 'A' Battery as Acting Troop Commanders. The troops, guns and other stores arrived piecemeal until establishment was reached in May. In April, 1st Field Regiment received orders to move to Holsworthy into the lines vacated by 12 National Service Battalion which was being disbanded. 1st Field Regiment moved to Holsworthy late April, early May, by which time the Battery was nearing full strength except in officers, the BK, Jack Kelly was the last to arrive. The Battery was now at full strength. In June 1957, WO2 Norm Orchard was posted to the School of Artillery and WO2 Eric Morris replaced him. The Battery received its name when the CO asked me what I would like the Battery to be called, I chose 101. Initially 101 Battery occupied E Block, but in July the CO, Lt Col E. J. Howard moved the Battery to A Block nearest to the road. The other units were 'A' Battery on notice to

move to Malaya under Major Peter Seddon in C Block, Major Peter Norton raising 102 Light Battery equipped with 4.2 Inch Mortars, in D Block, the Regimental HQ personnel in B Block and the Signals Squadron in E Block. In the first week in July, 101 Battery fulfilled its task as Depot Battery, with the IG, Major Ken Fullford reporting that although a little slow to react, the shooting was excellent. The Battery Captain was Capt Jack Kelly, who later became Commander 1st Division. The Battery was shooting when Sputnik was passing overhead. The Regiment did its first major Exercise at Tianjara State Forest in November with 101 and 102 Batteries deployed in different parts of the range. Some of the layers achieved their specialist status and pay. In January 1958, I became the 2IC of 1st Field Regiment and Major E.U. Gooch was posted as BC, 101 Battery.

Notes from original members of 104 Locating Battery/101 Field Battery.

Syd Farrow School of Artillery 12.7.56. Posted to 104 Locating Battery 26th September 1956. Entry in F Med 4 - attended RAP Holsworthy late April 1957 (Unit 104 Locating Battery)

Jim King. School of Artillery 5.12.56. On completion of Basic Gunnery course 5 personnel were nominated to attend the first available NCO's course. The school gave Jim the option of staying at the school until the course started. He elected to march out with the course to 'A' Field Battery at Georges Heights. He went to Tassie Challenger's gun as a gun number and went on exercise to Tianjara, sometime after the exercise Jim was informed that 104 Locating Battery was converting to a Field Battery and those personnel selected for the NCO's course were to march out to 104 Locating Battery at Middle Head to assist Sgt Mick Cole & Sgt R Thompson to train members of 104 Locating Battery on 25 Pounders. The Battery was called Q Battery and carried out this task until they moved to Kododa Barracks at Holsworthy which was vacated by 12 NSTB. Jim moved out of the Battery in late June to commence the NCO's course at the School from 1st July to 20th September 1957.

Len Cooper. Len advised that he was the last Orderly Sergeant of 12th National Service Training Battalion and in that capacity, he mounted duty on 6th May 1957. At 0001 hrs, 7th May 1957. Kokoda Barracks became the home of 1st Field Regiment. Len remembers the date as his daughter was born on 7th May 1957. Sergeant's Len Cooper & Jack Malone marched into the 101 Battery Orderly Room on the 7th May and the BSM, Norm Orchard asked who had entered first, which was Jack Malone who was informed he would go to 'A' Battery and served in Malaya from 11.10.57 to 4.10.59. Len served with 101 Battery from that date and served in Malaya.

Clive Castles. Clive Castles, Don Sinclair and Barrie Stark all enlisted in the ARA direct from 11 National Service Training Battalion and were on the same Basic Gunnery course. Don's Record of Service shows- Transferred to School of Artillery 15 January 1957. Transferred to 1st Field Regiment 5th June 1957, if date is correct. As Don said they went to 1st Field Regiment as soon as the basic gunnery course finished. Posted to 'A' Battery 31st July 1957 for service in Malaya. Clive said that they waited for a couple of months at the school before the next Field course commenced and did a lot of gardening under Potts & Jones (who were waiting for the NCO's course to start) Clive said that they went to Holsworthy in June 1957, to 104 Locating Battery for a while in the old lines that the Nasho's wrecked before leaving, He remembers the Battery was known as Q Battery there before becoming 101 Battery.

Eric Dean. Was on the same basic gunnery course as Clive Castles and went to Holsworthy with him, “kind of started off Delta Troop”.

Barrie Stark. Barrie was on the same basic gunnery course as Don Sinclair and Clive Castles and he wanted to go to the Regiment with the rest of the course but as he was recommended for the next NCO course, he stayed at the school until it commenced on 1.7.57. He went to 1st Field Regiment, 102 Battery on 30.10.57 (as per his Record of Service Records) 101 Battery 4.8.58.

John Campbell. He said that he was on the same course as Barrie Stark and went to 102 Battery at Holsworthy in 1957.

Bruce Stark. “He was my BC when posted to 1st Field Regiment in May 1957” (email in reply to the passing of David Davies)

Other members that served in 104 Locating Battery/Q Battery/101 Battery Ken Edwards Ray Clarke Robert (Rocky) Pearce Harry Iddon (BC’s Ack, per David Davies) Gavin Andrews (per David Davies, though David may have remembered him as A/Adj, 1 Fd Regt)

Have you got a Story to Tell?

The following invitation was received through the RSL system:

“My name is Kade Jones. I am an independent film maker looking to film and document veterans stories regarding their experiences during war and battle conflicts.

The aim of my project is to record and document veterans accounts and experience during war so we have detailed accounts from veterans in their words and the stories are not lost once they pass. I am looking to interview veterans from the following conflicts:

- [World War II \(1939–1945\)](#)
- [Korean War \(1950–1953\)](#)
- [Malayan Emergency \(1950–1960\)](#)
- [Borneo Confrontation \(1963–1966\)](#)
- [Vietnam War \(1965-1973\)](#)
- [Gulf War \(1990–1991\)](#)
- [War in Afghanistan \(2001–present\)](#)
- [Iraq War \(2003–2009\)](#)
- [Operation Astute \(2006–2013\)](#)
- [War on ISIL \(2014–present\)](#)

I will need to work on this project over time to achieve the proper goals and outcomes to be reached and will involve the following steps:

1. To establish a data base of all veterans
2. Obtain information regarding veterans who would be interested in being interviewed
3. Set up an appropriate time and location with veteran to conduct interview
4. Obtain footage from which the veteran was apart
5. Compile a documentary style story based on the specific veteran

I am contacting you regarding this project to see if you could assist by providing the names of veterans and contact details who would be interested in telling their story and having it documented.

If you could assist in helping me to find interested veterans or pointing me in a direction where i could find interested persons , that would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me on 0491075753 if you have any questions.”

Kind Regards

Kade Jones 0491 075 753

Australian War Memorial – Commander’s Diaries 1 Fd Regt 1967

The link below can take you to the Commander’s Diaries 1 Fd Regt 1967. There are a lot more articles that have been released from the Australian Secrets Act such as the Battery Commander’s Diary 101 Fd Bty Malaya. There are also photos and Commander’s Diaries of both tours of Vietnam. It takes a bit of surfing of the site to get what you want but it is very interesting. Have Fun!

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1372992?image=3>

National Gunners Dinner August 2021

The following email was received from the RAA Assn. (Qld). Please keep in mind that our Association Reunion/Dinner is planned at this stage for about the same time in Coffs Harbour.

“We are very happy to advise that the *Australian Artillery Association* has decided to organise another NATIONAL GUNNERS' DINNER, in **August 2021** .

You will find a wealth of information on the AAA website - <http://australianartilleryassociation.com/> - and there is a specific page devoted just to the dinner: just click on the banner on the home page.

All who attended the previous dinners at Caloundra in May 2017 and August 2019 gave unreservedly positive feedback i.e. we all had a bl---dy great time, so please consider registering for this third event. There is already a reservation for multiple tables for RAA Assn.(Qld), under name of **GORE**, so if you are registering and would like to be located with other RAAAQ members, please note this name on your registration. Also, very important, make sure you include your own **surname & service number** when transferring your deposit to the organisers' bank account. The registration form is quite self-explanatory, however please don't hesitate to ask if you have queries. Whatever we can't answer, Graham and Kim will know for sure!”

Ubique

Peter Gore

Honorary Treasurer

0408 073 944

Foot Note: Members are reminded that our Association dinner is planned to be held in Coffs Harbour on the 19th September 2021. This was the date 55 years ago that 101 Battery 1st Tour arrived in South Vietnam. If registering for the Gunners Dinner 101 Bty Association has a table that you can request to sit at.

Our President's Life in China (continued)

Well things here in China have improved considerably since our last Newsletter, things are slowly returning to normal

We are still restricted to wearing masks on Public transport, in taxis and shopping Malls and shops. When you get onto bus/train/enter shopping malls you also have your temperature taken. However it is good to get around again.

There are still some health restrictions around, like Chinese Nationals are sent a QR Health code to their phone which they sometimes have to produce. I carry a paper version of it as non-Chinese cannot normally get it as the code has part of their National ID number on it. .

I have just spent several days in Shanghai, a very modern, clean and vibrant city. Because I live in Hubei Province where the Corona virus started, my wife had to produce her QR code to get train tickets, enter stations and when booking into hotels so we could leave the Province. I had to visit my local hospital and have a Corona Virus test done; they then gave me an additional paper pass.

My travels in China so far are mostly on the fast bullet trains which are amazing, there are many classes of train here but we only use the D class and G class ones. The D class cruise between 250-300klms per hour and the preferred G trains between 300-350klms per hour, both very smooth and quiet. For example when we travelled to Shanghai we travelled from our city Huangshi to Nanchang 278klms in 1 hour 50 minutes with 5 stops, changed trains there to Shanghai another 1020klms in 4 hours, with 6 stops, a total travel time for 1298klms was 5 hours 50 minutes. Without all the details there are 3 classes of seats on the bullet trains, Business, First Class and Second class.

I have included a train photo and the First Class seats which we tend to use but the Second Class are very comfortable too.

China is a very interesting country to visit, the people are very friendly, helpful and if they only have little English, perfect strangers will stop you and say hello in the streets. Surprisingly most of the shops and road signs are in both Chinese and English so it is really easy to get around.

John Pollock



Arrrrrh Those were the Days



1st Tour – Returning to Australia – Nick Marshall in foreground



1st Tour - Visit of Unit by Air Vice Marshall Ky - Foreground On the right of him in the photo is Nick Marshall

A Very Interesting Article

Did you know... that the only combat soldier to have been awarded the Victoria Cross twice was a New Zealander?

Charles Hazlitt "Pug" Upham was a second lieutenant and an infantry platoon commander in the New Zealand 20th Battalion when he won his Victoria Cross for a series of remarkable exploits, showing outstanding leadership, tactical skill and utter indifference to danger during the German invasion of Crete between 22 and 30 May 1941. These included capturing three machine-gun posts on 22 May, leading his platoon forward while under heavy fire on 25 May, and on 30 May he sprang an ambush on an advanced party of the enemy, killing 22. For these actions, he was recommended for the VC. When advised of the award, his first response was "It's meant for the men."

He was evacuated from Crete to Egypt and fought in North Africa. During the First Battle of El Alamein, he was commanding a company of his battalion and had the rank of captain. At El Ruweisat Ridge on 14-15 July 1942, he killed a truckload of the enemy, a tank and several other vehicles and guns with hand grenades. During the fighting he was shot in the elbow but continued to lead his men until exhausted and suffering from serious blood loss, he went to the regimental aid post for treatment. He immediately returned to his men and remained with them throughout the day during heavy artillery and mortar fire. He was again severely wounded and with his company reduced to just six men, he was captured.

He made several unsuccessful escape attempts during his captivity and was eventually sent to Colditz Castle where serial escapees were held. When King George VI was told of the recommendation that Upham receive the Bar to the VC, he asked firmly, "Does he deserve it?" His divisional commander replied, "In my respectful opinion, sir, Upham won the VC several times over".

After the war, Upham was invested with the bar to his VC for his actions at the First Battle of El Alamein. He was also mentioned in despatches and received the Greek Order of Honour.

The most highly decorated Commonwealth soldier of World War II, he returned to his native New Zealand and became a successful farmer. He died on 22 November 1994, aged 86. His medals are held at the National Army Museum in Waiouru.

An Anzac legend.

Manning Detail 101 Bty 1966/67

The Association does not have a manning detail record of 101 Battery first tour of SVN, so the Committee and with the help of a few members have tried to put together the manning detail that we can remember. We are asking for input from member's memory to concur, disagree or add to the manning detail below. Please email or phone any of the Committee (email and numbers at beginning of newsletter) to give us your feedback please. We know there were a lot of changes during our deployment so we want it as close as possible to our original deployment. Any reinforcements can be added as Supernumerary.

101 FIELD BATTERY MANNING SOUTH VIETNAM 1966-67

Battery Commander

Maj Nick Marshall

Battery Captain

Capt Brian Johnstone

BSM

WO2 Frank Buxton

Battery Guide

WO2 Max Sare

Section Commanders

2Lt Mal Piece Lt Juergen Raasch

BCs Party

Sgt John Pollock

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 ?

FO Party B Coy

FO Ack

Sig Gnr Vic Rowe

Sig Gnr Keith Ball

Captain Jim Ryan

Bdr Herbie Zeller

Sig Gnr Trevor Plant

Batman/Sig Gnr Barry Gross

FO Party C Coy

FO Ack

Sig

Sig

Batman/Sig

Capt Steve Gower

Bdr Mick Allwright

Gnr Jock Arbuthnot

Gnr John Achilles

Gnr Peter McNamee

FO Party D Coy

FO Ack

Sig

Sig

Batman/Sig

Lt Barry Winsor

Bdr Jock Gunn

Gnr Greg Bentley

Gnr Dick Cliff

Gnr Jeff Cheyne

Command Post

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------|---------|--------------------|
| GPO | Lt Knox Napier | | |
| OPCP Sgt | Sgt Tony Mayfield | 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 Craig Campbell |
| OPCP | Gnr Col Hanson | Sig | Gnr Les Hobson |
| Sig | Gnr Don Pidgeon | Sig | Gnr Knockers White |

Alpha Gun

| | | |
|------|-----|--------------------|
| N0 1 | Sgt | Bob Booth |
| | Gnr | Neil Bradley |
| | Gnr | John Hollingsworth |
| | Gnr | Les Jobling |
| | Gnr | Clive Weaire |
| | Gnr | Robbie Osbourne |
| No 7 | | ? |

Bravo Gun

| | | |
|------|------|--------------|
| No 1 | Sgt | Jim King |
| | Gnr | Ross Coggan |
| | LBdr | John Forbes |
| | Gnr | Maurie Groth |
| | Gnr | Harry Hughes |
| | Gnr | Rod Urghart |
| 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
Gnr Dave Von Bertouch
Gnr Ted Meikus
Gnr Bob Allport
Gnr R. Teshchendorff
No 7 Bdr Trevor Madley

Echo Gun

No 1 Sgt John Woolhouse
Gnr Bert De Witte
Gnr Bull McCloud
Gnr Aldo Pante
Gnr Ian Toy
Gnr John Blackman
No 7 Bdr Ray Smith

Foxtrot Gun

No 1 Sgt Barry Parker
Gnr Dinger Bell
Gnr Dallice Ryan
Gnr Ron Hennegan
Gnr Chuck Heals
Gnr Ralph Forbes
No 7 Bdr Jack Lennon

Orderly Room

Bdr Terry Porter
Gnr Brian Collins

Q Store

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

Hygiene

Gnr Herb Lynam
Gnr Dennis Taylor

Transport

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Transport Supervisor | Sgt George Farley | | |
| Transport NCO | Bdr Frank Roughan | | |
| 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 | | |

LAD

Sgt Dick Finney Sgt Cook

Cpl Bob Leggo Cpl Cook

Cfn Merv Franks Pte Cook

Cfn Graham Sertori Pte Cook

Cooks

Sgt Norm Johns

Cpl Harry Kent

Pte Mick Deer

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 :

Bdr Peter Prewett, Gnr John Trennery, Gnr Ian Bourne, Gnr Denton Taylor, Gnr Steven Taylor

Reinforcements

Gnr Colin Freeman to Gnr Graham Cuskelly's place.