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## **NEWSLETTER JULY 2021**

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Another half year has come and gone and we are publishing another Newsletter. Unfortunately the dreaded COVID-19 is still with our members in Victoria, our thoughts and best wishes in this troubled time are with you and your families.

I can now report my wife and I are back in Australia living temporarily in Sydney. We hope to move to Queensland in the next few weeks.

I have completed my last China report in this Newsletter which I hope they have been informative from the point of view of a foreigner living there and giving an overview of what it is really like in that country.

It is good to be home but we miss the lifestyle and our many friends in China and I certainly really enjoyed the almost two years living there, hopefully when travel restrictions ease we can continue to visit there. It is wonderful country to visit with many places to see and explore. I assure you that you would receive a very friendly welcome from everyone you would come in contact with.

Plans have been finalized for the Reunion in Coffs Harbour in September with many indicating they will attend. Please let the Secretary know if you plan to attend. At this stage we have sent out information to all regarding the event. More from the Secretary later.

As you should be aware this year the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with functions all over Australia including a 150 gun salute fired simultaneously from all major centres in Australia.

John Pollock, President

(2)

**PROFILE**  
**HARRY HUGHES**  
**1966/67 TOUR**



In 1965 as a practicing yuppie from Geelong earnestly clambering up the corporate ladder with a big Australian Fire & General Insurance company, I followed with interest the government's plans to bolster our armed forces in light of activities in Vietnam. I also showed an interest in these activities in Vietnam and was sympathetic with the plight of people in South Vietnam.

So when my birth date was drawn in the first ballot for National Service I was a willing, albeit very green participant and after foiling the army recruitment staff that my short sight was no reason to claim I was unfit for service, I went to Puckapunyal with the third intake on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1966. At "Pucka" I soon learnt that I was of very ordinary intelligence, but otherwise suitable for soldiering and generally enjoyed the training, especially the physical training for which I was awarded a medal.

Corp training was with the Artillery at North Head, NSW and this was followed by a posting to Wacol, Qld to be in the first group of soldiers forming 101 Battery. With so few members

(3)

there was little army training, so some Aussie Rules players in the group formed a team and we played practice matches against local teams with a lot of success and for me this was a great time playing at a standard way above my grade. However I was there for the cause and mentioned to my commander that I was willing to serve overseas if the opportunity arose.

When I arrived in Brisbane I was approached by a local family who wanted to adopt me as a soldier away from home. They had learnt from my girlfriend's father, a WWII veteran that I was posted nearby. This family virtually stopped their lives and took me in as one of their own for the two, three month periods that I was in Brisbane before and after Vietnam. The time with this family was an amazing time in my life that I will never forget. That people can be so kind and generous..... they were and remain to this day, my heroes.

101 Battery was ready to be despatched to South Vietnam. In early September 1966 I was pumped with 22 vaccine needles and sent on 7 day pre-embarkation leave.

Another of life's wondrous experiences occurred on departure day. I was not a model child by any means and when a mate came to my quarters and said there was a bloke up in the carpark who said he was my father I just did not believe him. It turned out to be true and my parents had driven all night to see us off at Eagle Farm. We marched across the tarmac singing Waltzing Matilda. My parents and adopted family were seeing me off and I have only just come to realize in recent years what that must have been like for them.

We landed in Vung Tau with magazines fitted, were shipped by road to Nui Dat and settled in for 6 weeks acclimatization. On the third week we were sent by truck to our first operation. The next operation transport was by a Chinook copter and whilst we stood by waiting for it to land, got our bodies caked with red dirt, all underneath our clothes. When dropped I had to immediately go on patrol to check the surrounds then we were working on the guns pretty full on for the next few days. On the third day my sergeant taught me about "birdy" baths. It was the best wash I have had in my life and I still practise it today! I was fortunate to have been sent on every operation in which 101 Battery participated during the first tour and also went on quite a few patrols with the infantry who always seemed to be shorthanded. I found it heartening when sometimes as we were travelling through local villages the locals would stand on the roadside and cheer. I believed the Australian Task Force had achieved a great deal for the South Vietnam people and felt let down when eventually Australia withdrew, even though I realized we could not continue the effort without the U.S.

After Vietnam I participated in assisting with training exercises at Shoalwater Bay for a few months, was made a Bombardier and discharged 1<sup>st</sup> February 1968.

After the Army I decided to remember the good, forget the bad and just get on with life. On return to civvie life and my insurance company employer I was treated extremely well. The company ensured I did not lose any ground because of National service and in fact pushed me through the ranks quite rapidly. Something I will always commend them for.

(4)

However I did become a little restless after a while, left my employer, ran a mixed business for five years, joined an aluminium window and door fabricator for the next 5 years and then owned a steel fabrication business for another 5 years. After this I owned a fastener supply business for 12 months until my opposition bought me out. By now it is 1989 and I can no longer resist the urge to go north and took off for Queensland.

After a few weeks break, my partner and I bought a corner store in Redcliffe which we sold after 6 months and I took up an offer from a shop customer to work with a large window and door manufacturer in Brisbane. This, another 5 year stint came to an end when I clashed with my superior over what I believed was improper practises. I was a departmental manager, he was the CEO, and so I lost. My cause was justified 12 months hence when the board become aware of the practice and the CEO was removed.

So I bought a ute and become a subcontractor tradie until one day after a few months, I was approached by a major builder to tender for window and door works on a building project followed a few days later by another builder with a similar offer. After some resistance on my behalf because I did not have a factory or the set up in place to take on such work, both these guys kept coming up with how this was no excuse plus a good friend offered me a small factory space, so my partner and I began what was to become the major part of our life from thereon. The business began in the friends shed at Redcliffe and after 6 months, moved to a bigger rental in Caloundra, then to an even bigger shed in Caboolture. After a few years we took a second shed in the same complex. The business was always expanding and by now between factory and on-site staff, we found ourselves employing 48 people.

By this time we are in 2006 and decided to purchase an industrial block in the Northern suburbs of Brisbane and build our own factory. We moved into this building in April 2007. In this work I had found my vocation and thoroughly enjoyed every day.

This Hughes & Hessey Pty Ltd business successfully carried out sub-contract work over a period of 21 years until sold in March 2014. Work was completed on numerous large private and government buildings including universities, hospitals, factories, licenced clubs, aged care facilities and private dwellings.

It all came to an end when in 2012 my stepdaughter provided us with a granddaughter. We sold the factory, the business, the 156 acre farm at Wondia, our Caloundra house and moved to Victoria in 2014 to be with family. At 69 years it was also time to retire and perhaps time to seek out 101 Field Battery.

(5)

**PROFILE**  
**ALLAN (BALDY) BALDWIN**  
**1969/70 TOUR**



I Allan (Baldy) Baldwin was born at Muttaborra in outback Queensland on the 23/04/1945. We moved to Brisbane when I was 4 years old, went to Runcorn State Primary School until grade 8, then to Salisbury State High, I hated school so got a job. Completed my apprenticeship as a jobbing moulder in the Bundaberg Foundry, cut cane, drove a harvester and said that is enough.

On the 06/08/1968 I enlisted in the Australian Army and then all hell broke loose, arriving at Kapooka the following night we recruits were at home for the next 3 months woe is we, as we were held over for a Military Funeral for a Vietnam Vet from Wagga Wagga (what an experience).

I had put in my picks for my future in the Military, Artillery wasn't one of them, guess what, Artillery it was, so according to the know it all's I was in for worse than I had just encountered at Kapooka. Polishing brass, painting white rocks, polishing Ball room floors, (what have I got myself into)?

Not to worry us new arrivals at the School we were marched over to a captains office and to my delight I was up squadded to the next Gun Course, then off to 1 Fd Regt and on to 101 Fd Bty, you little beauty, life had changed for the better I thought. NO, no, no forced marches in full battle gear lead by the BK Capt Batchelor, every day, what was worse, polishing brass. Or Military Funerals.

(6)

My first exercise Tin Can Bay on Sgt Brian Flewell-Smiths' gun (no 4), I believe the first words Brian spoke to me were grab a pick and shovel and dig yourself a fighting pit over there, Our first fire mission, you assist the Bdr with the ammunition, ok I know it has really started. By the end of the exercise I had met the rest of the detachment and we all got on very well.

Next time out with the Bty was to Canungra (what a great place this was) for the worst torture they could impart on us poor soldiers, out of bed at sparrow fart and away, thank goodness It was only 3 weeks, introduction to heart break hill as it turned out my turn to carry the M60 all the way you little beauty, I never thought I was that bad or backward in learning. Next away to Shoal Water Bay, you never know what rain is until you have been on exercise there, I doubt that any of the Bty had any dry clothes by the end of the exercise.

Would you believe our pre-embarkation leave was the easiest part of Army training so far, I never got yelled at or anything like that. After leave we spent quite a bit of time at the RAP getting Needles and the such lectures on our dress for the trip to the airport and the flight to Viet Nam, the funniest part of the flight over, was breakfast in Singapore, Smell, purple yoked eggs and beer to wash the breakfast down. The funniest part of the trip was we had our black shoes, poly trousers and a civvy shirt on so people wouldn't know we were Military personnel.

On arrival in Saigon we were taken by truck by some out of the way track so we wouldn't run into the Bty we were replacing, as we were 3 days late arriving because of plane break downs, not our fault but they still do and I still do, ha, ha, ha. Now down to reality, off with the civvy shirt and on with our poly shirt, issued our weapons and ammo, told we are now in a war zone, which we had already guessed as there was a little bit of not so friendly fire on the perimeter of the air field. Time to board the plane to Nui Dat, (yes you guessed it, a Caribou) what a trip culminating in a sideways landing, in Nui Dat, trucks waiting and off to our home for the next 12 months.

Allotted our sleeping quarters, into greens and boots and on parade, even Blowie Forbes (BSM) and then our Gun Sergeants took charge and off to our Gun Platform for our time in Nui Dat, I think we had ammo down a hole off to the side at the rear of the gun.

Well enough of the drama now down to the nitty gritty, three weeks of learning how to handle and fire new weapons we would have to know about, sand bagging a new ammo bay, built to replace the old tent used for the 105mm rounds. We were extremely lucky as the day we transferred the ammo out of the tent and into the new ammo bay, Charlie had got the range to the tent and at 0500 the following morning fired a rocket smack bang into the centre of the tent, thank goodness, no ammo but our first real stand too in country.

Now off to our first Operation, not far down the road to FSB Virginia, not much happened until, I believe Alpha Coy, 6 RAR bumped into a bunker system and the Bty fired continuously for about 3 hours helping A Coy get away. During the Fire mission we were

(7)

resupplied with ammo by our drivers from Nui Dat, a great result for the Bty's first op. Next surprise was Husky Chuck arriving in their SP 155s, what a sight, a backup tracked truck with all their ammo and supplies.

It was all go from then on, a section of guns out for about a week then back and prepare for our second Operation at FSB Thrust down in the Dat Do area, the other sections turn to go out for about a week. In the mean time I had been selected for a Saigon Guard, enough said about that, a good week though with a good group. The rest of the FSBs I don't remember but I do remember a Centurion tank having an unauthorised discharge while being cleaned, about half of the Bty had been kicking a football in front of its position, a bloody big shock to all.

Towards the end of the tour I was told I had perforated ear drums, thanks to the BC Maj Bertram I stayed in Country and went home with the Bty. Home and on Leave what a great feeling. Then back to work at Enoggera, however 105 and HQ Btys had gone to Wacol, so we wandered about doing whatever was needed. At last we moved to Wacol and we were a real REGT again, the big Red 1, a very proud Regt.

In 1972 I was posted to 5 Fd Regt (CMF) and in 1974 back to 101Bty at Wacol, staying there until 1979 and off to P&EE Graytown staying there until discharge on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1980. End of my Army Career.

Civvy life was a bit of a drag until moving to WA and on to Paraburdoo in the mine (iron ore), into the first aid section and a couple of years later to the fire station as OIC Fire and Rescue. After 12 years in WA, back to good old QLD, did a bit of mowing and other odd jobs, then did a Pension Officers course with DVA and then on to an Advocate, I did this for a couple of years until I, with the help of others did my own application for a pension and at my second attempt I received my TPI.

That my friends is my life sorry it is not as Great as others but I enjoyed every minute of it and I would do it all again if necessary

Allan (Baldy) Baldwin.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

### **Passing Parade**

**326409 David Troedel.** David passed away yesterday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 after a bout with cancer. David served in Malaya 4 Oct 59 to 29 Oct 61.

David was a Life Subscriber of the Association and was the backbone of the 101 Battery Malaya Association, he will be greatly missed.

Condolence Emails

What a loss, the depth of the work that David injected into the history of 101 Battery was outstanding. Paddy Durnford

Many thanks Brian for this very sad news. Yes, I have been aware of David's contribution to the "101 Association " for a long time, and his presence and contribution will be sadly missed. John Bertram.

Please pass on my Condolences to his family. Rob Eade.

Dear Pat and family, The 101 Field Battery Association members were very saddened to hear of David's sudden passing this week and offer our sincere condolences to you and your family. David was an inspiration to the Association in particular his dedication to the Malayan veterans' over too many years to remember. His help extended to the Association's Vietnam Veterans too and his readiness to offer any assistance to our committee did not pass unnoticed.

Kindest regards,

John Pollock

President 101 Field Battery Association.

Thanks Brian for letting us know, it still came as a shock, if possible let his wife Pat know our thoughts are with her, we all admired David for his dedication and thoughtfulness displayed to all that he knew. Ray & Terina Heath.

RIP David. Terry Porter.

**1734589 Gregory William (Bear) Law.** Greg served with 101 Battery in Vietnam from May 1969 until May 1970. He was a Life Subscriber of the Association. Greg had suffered a massive heart attack. He was cremated on 4 March. He was 74 years old.

Condolence Emails

Bloody Hell, Bear is Dead. Reg Shepherd.

Sorry to hear about the 'Bear', my lasting memory of him is leaving the chopper on deployment to a FSB with an M60 in one hand and about 180 lb set of weights in the other, every gun Sgt would kill for a man like him on the gun. He will be sadly missed. Another good man down a couple of days ago – L/Bdr Harvey Dunkley, OP CP, and later a high-priced psychologist. Alan Batchelor.

Greg was an Amateur wrestler, he missed the Qld Championships because of our departure for Vietnam. Greg was a quiet bloke but loved a laugh. RIP Greg. Allan Baldwin.



(9)

**3166787 Harvey Thomas Dunkley.** Harvey served with 101 Battery in Vietnam from July 1969 until May 1970 and was a Life Subscriber of the Association. He was 73.

#### Condolence Emails

Harvey was a great bloke always looking for a laugh, RIP Harvey. Allan Baldwin.

**5714013 Paul Francis Attwill,** Paul served with 101 Battery in South Vietnam from 24<sup>th</sup> December 1966 to 10<sup>th</sup> June 1967. Paul's funeral was held in Karrakatta, Perth, Western Australia.

#### Condolence Emails

RIP Paul another to the gun park in the sky. Terry Porter.

**Major General Don Begg OBE.** Major General Begg served as Commanding Officer of 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment in Vietnam from December 1966 until June 1967.

#### Sick Parade

We have heard that Bob Crelley 1966/67 Tour isn't doing too good. We wish you all the best Bob. Also Herb Lynam, Ron Woodforde and Bob Allport all from 66/67 tour, best wishes gents.

Ian Hotschilt 69/70 Tour is in Greenslopes Private Hospital, Allied Health Unit, Any visitors would be appreciated. All the Best Ian. Good to see some of the 69/70 members have contacted Ian.

#### Update on Nick Marshall's Condition

Brigette, Nick's daughter has advised of the following:

"Dad continues on the same robust health and only his mind lets him down. Recently he enjoyed seeing a photo of me learning golf, as that was one of his many sporting passions though struggles now to stand on his own".

#### Gunner's Dinner 20/21 August 2021

The Gunner's Dinner celebrating 150 year Anniversary of the Australian Artillery is to be held at the Event Centre, Caloundra, Qld. Meet & Greet on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August and the Dinner on Saturday 21 August. 101 Battery has a table booked and 101 Battery Malaya have also got a table. When you register just indicate 101 Battery table. Cost of the dinner is \$175 per head. Inclusions can be found on the Australian Artillery Website.

(10)

Payment has been requested by the 30<sup>th</sup> June. However Registrations will be accepted up to 7 days prior (the later you register the less chance of getting the seat you want as the seating arrangement are done about 14 days out). For those that register late, after 30<sup>th</sup> June they are required to pay within 48 hours of registering.

### Reunion Memories – Enoggera Area Sergeant’s Mess 1994



#### 101 FIELD BATTERY VIETNAM 1966-1967 REUNION OCTOBER 1994

1ST ROW BDR F.C.COLEMAN. BDR R.T.PORTER. GNR B.L.COLLINS. BDR T.J.MADELEY.  
GNR R.J.WOODEFORDE. GNR A.L.HEALES. GNR T.MIEKUS. LB H.G.LYNAM.  
2ND ROW SGT A.GRICE. GNR J.HOLLINSWORTH. GNR B.W.HADDOCK. GNR R.A.FORBES. LB R.OSBORNE.  
GNR R.W.URQUHART. CAPT S.N.GOWER. MR J.A.CLIFF. GNR W.J.TELFER. GNR M.DALEY.  
GNR B.A.FAULKNER. GNR R.J.ALLPORT.

### 2021 101 Battery Association Reunion

It's getting close to our reunion 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September at Coffs Harbour and it promises to be a good one, 55 years to the day that the first tour departed for SVN. So far we have 29 indicated that they are attending, 3 from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour and their partners, 1 from Malaya and his wife, the rest from the 1<sup>st</sup> Tour. It would be good to see some more officers attend so far we have 2, come on show your support and come along and enjoy yourself. Please let me, Brian Collins, know by email [b.collins13@outlook.com](mailto:b.collins13@outlook.com) or on 0407162620 if you have not yet indicated you are going but would like to attend. If you need any further information give me a call.

Dress for the Dinner is Slacks and Coat. Miniature Medals to be worn if you have them otherwise the large medals.

### **Association Memorabilia**

Just a reminder we have stock available for purchase. Caps, Plaques, Ties and a few Association Polo Shirts with Operation Bribie embroidered on them.

### **Downloading Photos from Website**

Graham Hampton, Australian Artillery Association Webmaster, has advised he has unlocked the photos that appear in the photo gallery on the 101 Battery Website. If anyone wants to download the photos they can go to the website

[https://www.australianartilleryassociation.com/other\\_association/101\\_bty\\_association/101\\_bty\\_assn\\_index.htm](https://www.australianartilleryassociation.com/other_association/101_bty_association/101_bty_assn_index.htm) then;

1. Click on About Us
2. Double Click on the Album you want to download from
3. Double Click on the Photo you want
4. Click on the Download Symbol at the bottom right of the page.

### **101 Field Battery RAA 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour 1969/1970**

Alan Batchelor, Dave Richard-Preston and others have worked hard to come up with the updated Manning Detail of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour of SVN. If you have any comments please email the Secretary at [b.collins13@outlook.com](mailto:b.collins13@outlook.com)

#### **BC'S PARTY**

Maj John Bertram  
Sgt Mick Lewis  
L/Bdr Kevin Skippen  
Gnr Dave Amies - D Coy FO Party - Spare Sig  
Gnr Dave Richard-Preston - V Coy OP Party  
Gnr Paul Hayes  
Gnr Russell Robertson - Det Baria  
Gnr Tim Knight  
Gnr Rod O'Neill

#### **BK's PARTY**

Capt Alan Batchelor  
WO2 Stan Irvine  
Bdr Wayne Curtis  
Gnr Bill Pain  
Sgt Ron Merson - LAD  
Cpl Danny Trewick - LAD  
Cpl Mark Richards - Medic  
Cpl Ron Yallop - Air Dispatch

**FO PARTY A COY**

Capt Ted Batterbury - Arty TAC  
Capt Dick Wickenden  
Lt Bernie Garland - KIA  
Bdr Graeme McLaughlin  
Bdr Ron Orr  
Bdr Reg Sheppard  
Gnr John Mole - WIA  
Gnr Ron Keen  
Gnr John Klien

**FO PARTY D COY**

2Lt Graham Spencer  
Bdr Rod Acreman  
Bdr George Smyth  
Gnr Peter Beaumont  
Gnr Frank Bridges  
Gnr Hec Grant

**FO PARTY W COY**

Lt Bernie Garland - CP - A Coy  
2Lt Bill McLaughlin  
Bdr Sam Sammartino  
Bdr Greg Wilson  
Bdr Ian Hotschilt  
LBdr Keith Marshall  
Gnr George Royes  
Gnr Bill Murphy  
Gnr John Turner  
Gnr David McDowell - CP  
Gnr Tony White  
Gnr Brian McFarlane - HQ Bty

**FO PARTY B COY**

Capt Mick Wilson  
Bdr John Niukkanen  
Gnr Trevor Jensen  
Gnr Jeff Madden - B Sub  
Gnr Steve Madsen

**FO PARTY V COY**

Lt Dennis Barrow  
Bdr Bull McLeod  
Gnr Phil Blunden  
Gnr Chris Dunker  
Gnr Tony Parrelli - CP  
Gnr Graham Bain - CP  
Gnr Dave Richard-Preston

**COMMAND POST**

GPO - Lt Bill Boyd  
Asst GPO - 2Lt Jim Fentiman

**OP CPS**

Sgt Jim Booth  
Bdr Dave Callen  
Bdr Greg Wilson - W Coy FO Party  
Bdr George Smyth - D Coy FO Party  
LBdr Harvey Dunkley  
Gnr Peter Courtney  
Gnr Tony Curtis  
Gnr Hazel Nelson  
Gnr John Zannotti  
Gnr John Rule  
Gnr John Russell  
Gnr Paul Quinn  
Gnr Bob Winwood

**SIGS**

Sgt Tony Locke  
Bdr Vic Rowe  
LBdr Steve Spence  
LBdr Alan Crabb  
Gnr Dave Richard-Preston-BC's Pty-V Coy OP  
Gnr Reg Sheppard - Bdr - A Coy FO Pty  
Gnr Dave Thomas  
Gnr Tony White - W Coy OP Pty  
Gnr David McDowell  
Gnr Mike O'Reilly  
Gnr Ray Balmer  
Gnr Ian Nicol  
Gnr Graham Bain  
Bnr Tony Parrelli

**B SUB**

Sgt Bill Cross  
Bdr George Mason  
LBdr Kelvin Howe  
Gnr Bruce Collins  
Gnr Paul Craig  
Gnr Jeff Madden  
Gnr Whip Wilson  
Gnr Frank Mallan  
Gnr Jimmy Deggering  
Gnr Dingo McCleary  
Gnr Darrell Johnson

**GUN DETACHMENTS - SECTION**

**COMMANDERS**

2IT Merv Fennell  
2Lt Garry Basford  
2Lt Bill Richards  
2Lt Bill McLaughlin - W Coy FO Pty

**A SUB**

Sgt Terry Bucknell  
Bdr Noel Lessina  
LBdr Steve Arthurson  
Gnr Phil Allen  
Gnr Dave Anderson  
Gnr Tom Blacker  
Gnr Jock Cresdee  
Gnr John Wormold  
Gnr Keith Martin

**C SUB**

Sgt Tassie Woodard  
Bdr Derek Sheppard  
Bdr Nev Jolliffe  
LBdr Paddy Winters  
LBdr Graham Brown  
Gnr Garry Franks  
Gnr Les White  
Gnr Les Giles  
Gnr Dennis Doring  
Gnr Peter McArthur

(14)

**D SUB**

Sgt Brian Flewell-Smith  
Bdr Bill Wood  
Bdr Ian Hotschilt - W Coy FO Pty  
LBdr Graham Baker  
LBdr Alan Baldwin  
Gnr Slim Lynch  
Gnr Trevor Moss  
Gnr Wally Adlam  
Gnr Mick Nolan  
Gnr Bob Mair

**E SUB**

Sgt Tiger Pember - Transport  
Sgt Paddy Pritchard  
Bdr Ken Keulmann  
LBdr Danny Warren  
Gnr Harry Alidenes  
Gnr Greg Law  
Gnr Alan Thomas  
Gnr Ron Watson  
Gnr Gordon Carroll  
Gnr Stuart Henderson

**F SUB**

Sgt Brian Ranson  
Bdr Buck Ryan  
LBdr Joe Pausic  
Gnr Lewy Lewandowski  
Gnr Dave Morris  
Gnr John Papadopoulos  
Gnr Roger Hayman  
Gnr Ian Ellis

**NUI DAT COMPONENT**

BSM - WO2 Noel Forbes

**Q STORE**

SSgt Bob Whalley  
SSgt John Williams  
Bdr Keith Madden  
LBdr Greg Fletcher  
Gnr Alan Eglinton  
Gnr Rick Dawes

**ORDERLY ROOM**

Bdr Kev Weeks  
Gnr Kevin Gill  
Gnr Bruce Wilkins  
Gnr Mick Nolan - D Sub

(15)

**COOKS**

Sgt Mick Titmus  
Cpl Harry Kent  
Pte Eugene Dombrose  
Pte James Farenden  
Pte Robin Eade

**SOLDIERS WE WERE UNABLE TO PLACE**

**UNALLOTTED GUN NUMBERS**

Gnr Brian Bignell

**UNALLOTTED 104 BTY SOLDIERS**

Bdr R J Beasley  
Gnr Bill Blackmore  
Gnr R J Denman  
Gnr D J Dellamora  
Gnr A C Schilling

**REINFORCEMENTS 6 & 7/1/70**

LBdr D H Doyle  
Gnr K W Boyce  
Gnr P A Coppock  
Gnr P F Williams  
Gnr Keith Hulme

**TRANSPORT**

Sgt Paddy Pritchard - E Sub  
Sgt Tiger Pember  
Gnr Norm Goller  
Gnr Phil Kline  
Bnr Greg Lauder  
Bdr Bryan Baulde  
Gnr Nev Payne  
Gnr Keith Compt

**REINFORCEMENTS 11/3/69**

Gnr C D Allen  
Gnr A J Fox

**REINFORCEMENT 24/3/69**

Gnr P A Cawood

**REINFORCEMENT 27/8/69**

Gnr J F Killalea

**REINFORCEMENTS 28/11/69**

Gnr T H James  
Gnr J S Harvey

**REINFORCEMENTS 17/12/69**

Gnr P R Mathews  
Gnr Terry Maher

## Artillery Museum



*The entrance to the Combined Arms Heritage Learning Centre*

The initial design for the Puckapunyal Combined Arms Heritage Learning Centre (CAHLC) has been prepared by the design consultant, HDR Australia, and approved by Estate & Infrastructure Group (as the project lead), the Australian Army History Unit (AAHU), as well as representatives of the Head of Corps, Royal Australian Armoured Corps (HOC RAAC) and Head of Regiment, the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (HOR RAA).

This is an important step, as it allows Defence to present a costed design for consideration by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in 2022. If approved by Government, Defence will proceed with construction with an estimated completion date of December 2024.

Subject to Government approval, the CAHLC will be a purpose-built, modern museum facility to house the RAAC and RAA heritage collections. The CAHLC will support training and development of RAAC and RAA personnel as well as personnel across Army and Defence more broadly. It will also provide direct public access to the collections for veterans and their families and the wider Australian community. As the location is a 'greenfield site' — immediately west of the Puckapunyal Base main gate on Blamey Road—public visitors will not have to enter the Puckapunyal base to access the CAHLC.



HOC RAAC and HOR RAA agreed to an equal split of the approximately 4000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space and share the approximately 3000 m<sup>2</sup> of storage space. CAHLC's design is flexible to allow expansion if that is required at some future point. As with any museum, much discipline is required to ensure the RAAC and RAA heritage collections can be safely and securely housed within the facility.



**RETURNING FROM CHINA – travel under COVID-19 regulations. – John Pollock**

We finally managed to return to Australia on 12 April 2021, it was an exhausting trip along with frustrating moments. Planes and numbers allowed into Australia are strictly controlled and it was interesting to learn early on that although the Australian Government puts the cap on the number arriving in Australia, it is the airlines who have the say who travels and when.

We had to wait until April to fly home as the airfares from our Wuhan airport and Shanghai were out of our price. Up until end of March were between \$6-8,000 each. By flying out of Guangzhou 1300 klms south after 1/4/21 we got them for \$1,400 each.

Seven day prior to departure we had to complete on line a detailed Travel Declaration showing travel itinerary etc, email it to Aussie Border Force and next day received emails giving permission to enter Australia. On Friday 9/4/21 went to local hospital at 9.00 am and had our COVID-19 test, picked the results, in both Chinese and English at 2.30 pm.

We left our city of Huangshi in Hubei Province at 9.30am Saturday 10/4/21 and friends drove us the 160 klms to Wuhan International Airport where we got a lunch time one hour 45 min flight with China Southern to Guangzhou. Interestingly we were concerned we were not sitting together. My wife was in 42A and I in 42C, found out it was social distancing, in the three groups of 9 seats in our row only 5 were occupied. With all three flights we were given new mask, to be worn all the time, wipes and bottles of hand steriliser. We checked into the Pullman Hotel 100 m from the terminal for the night.

Next morning the fun started, two hours twenty minutes to check in.

We lined up and asked to scan a QR code with 12 mobile phone screens so as to complete a Travel Declaration and received a Red QR code, then another 4 screen Health questionnaire, received a green QR code, at the counter had examined passports, COVID-19 results, wife's Visa grant notice and email from Border Force Australia.

We then checked in our luggage and went through normal security to another barrier where we had our temperature checked, showed both the red and green QR codes and answered a couple of general health questions, then through Immigration. On boarding Singapore airlines budget line Scoot aircraft again social distance seating for the four hour thirty minute flight to Singapore.

We had an eight hour layover but fortunately Singapore has no restrictions on people transiting from China and only three other countries are allowed to.

(18)

Most countries in particular UK, Europe, India and South African, their airlines are not even allowed to land to refuel there. Luckily Changi airport is huge and in the transit area there were heaps of shops and eating places so the time went quickly. On boarding the 300 seat A330 aircraft at 1.00am we were amazed that there were ONLY 23 passengers and 12 crew members. Passengers were spread over the 3 economy sections, social distancing for couples as before but individual travellers had rows between them. We had good overnight flight arriving in Sydney at 11.30 am.

Arriving in Sydney had health check on leaving the aircraft and straight through Immigration and customs within 30 minutes. We were met by police and Defence personnel who loaded our luggage onto a bus after some delay waiting for it to arrive. Given more forms to fill in. When asked no one would tell us what hotel we were going to, evidently only the driver knew.

We were then taken to the Novotel Darling Harbour where two couples at a time were processed by police and more questions and details entered onto their laptops. More Defence personnel were there who escorted us to our room and delivered our luggage.

We were very lucky as our room on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor had spectacular views over Darling Harbour, Maritime museum and the city.

We had COVID-19 tests on day 2 and day 12 by visiting nurses who were stationed at the hotel.

Overall the 14 day quarantine was not too bad especially as we had two months and four days confined to our apartment in China last year. Hotel staff were very good, anything you need like snacks, toiletries etc were delivered within 10 minutes after your call.

The major disappointment was the standard of food, it was dreadful to say the least, and we accepted that it was delivered in either cardboard or plastic containers with wooden cutlery for health reason. We were given a set breakfast menu and a choice of two meals for lunch and dinner. The description of meals did not match the actual ones. They were also usually only just warm or cold. They had an in-house snack, drink, alcohol and light meal menu which you had to pay for. Fortunately we were not restricted to buying anything outside and having food delivered, on three occasions friend delivered home cooked meals. Twice we ordered take away.

We have seen many articles written by people stating people shouldn't complain at the quarantine standards as most hotels were 4-5 stars. True but to be confined to a room with no fresh air or opening windows and poor food which you have paid \$4,000.00 for the food should have been a high standard.

**A Poem about a Belt fed 25 Pounder****(1)**

The Yankee Officer gazed in awe  
 As we told him "Listen Sport,  
 The best damn Gunners in the world  
 Are the Kiwis, we have in support"

He agreed with us on their accuracy  
 But one thing he couldn't quite ken;  
 Was how in the time other gunners "Fire One"  
 The Kiwis are pumping out TEN!

Now the Digger's never stuck for answer-  
 And mishandles the truth, so tis said;  
 So we answered his question on the rate-of-fire  
 By saying "Their guns are BELT-FED"

"Belt fed 25-Pounders!!  
 Hell, man, I just can't agree.  
 Why, it's never been known in our Army;  
 This is something I just gotta see".

When he left we forgot all about it,  
 It was just part of a digger's day.  
 And nothing more was said in reference  
 'Till a Yank Major turned up one day.

He enquired of our Lt, "Where's these Kiwis  
 They're pretty good Gunners, tis said.  
 And one thing I must do is meet them  
 For I've heard their guns are belt-fed"

The Lt then tried to convince him  
 That it was just a joke; but I guess  
 You just can't disprove to a Major  
 What he's heard in the Officer's Mess.

On the map he was shown where to find them  
 And he trotted away like a kid.  
 While our Loot gave up all hope for Diggers  
 And cursed all the 'lying' they did

**(2)**

He'd gone down to see those 'New Weapons'  
 And nearly dropped dead on his feet  
 When informed by a typical Gunner  
 That these Wonders were now OBSOLETE

"OBSOLETE Belt-fed 25-Pounders!!  
 It's a shock I will never forget  
 We consider OUR Army the most up to-date  
 But we've never had that weapon yet"

Said the Kiwi, "It's been out for months now  
 We now use a gun twice as good.  
 You stack four shells on top – like a Bofors  
 One H.E. and three made of wood"

Now the Major just couldn't believe it  
 And knowing the Kiwis, who could?  
 But he humbly asked of the Gunner  
 "Tell me guy, why are three made of wood?"

Said the Kiwi "You know how the Chinese  
 Have a great wooden doors on their pits  
 As thick as the hide of a Provost  
 And nothing can blow them to bits?"

Well, we aim this new gun at the bunker  
 And fire the four shots you see.  
 The three bits of wood go KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK  
 And he opens the door and cops the HE"

Now the yarn did the rounds of Korea  
 Was enjoyed for a while then died out.  
 But, back in the States, there's a Major  
 Whom everyone's worried about.

For although he is known to be harmless  
 It is to his wife quite a shock;  
 That all they can get him to utter  
 As he stares into space, is KNOCK, KNOCK.

(20)

The end of the story came later  
And was laughed at for months by the Div,  
For the Major was further 'exploited'  
When he reached 'Where the Kiwis live'

Pete Paterson ('Banjo')  
Ex 1<sup>st</sup> Bn RAR  
Korea '52-'53, '54 – '55

The above poem was submitted by John Zanotti – Thanks John.

## To Finish Off

### ANZAC Day – Lest We Forget



The above Caption was submitted by Jimmy King – Thanks Jim

The Association would like to thank the office of Terry Young MP, Federal Member for Longman for the printing of this newsletter.