



# 101 Field Battery RAA

Malaya 1959-1961

David Troedel  
57 Drummond Street  
Rangeville  
Toowoomba Qld 4350  
Phone (07) 4637 8774  
Mobile: 0477 033 059/0414 600 962  
Email: [davidpat@bigpond.net.au](mailto:davidpat@bigpond.net.au)

## November 2017 Newsletter.

Since our last Newsletter in 2016, eight members have passed on and I have found that four members from the address unknown list are also deceased. There are 20 members that we have lost contact with and 122 on the Honour Roll.

**Barry Dale Crossman** (Shorty) passed away in Townsville on 30th September 2016.  
29700

Born 7th April 1939, Sealake, Victoria

Enlisted 11th December 1957

111 LAA Bty 1958

101 Battery 20th January 1959

Malaya: Gnr 101 Bty 4th October 1959

26 Fd Regt. RA. 17th October 1960

4 Fd Regt. 27th October 1961

SVN: Sgt, 108 Bty, 4 Fd Regt. 7th June 1967 to 28th May 1968

Sgt Discharged 10th January 1969.

**George Godfrey** passed away in 1916.

15243

Born 11th January 1941, Mackay, Queensland

Enlisted 8th June 1959

111 LAA Bty

103 Bty, 4 Fd Regt, Wacol

Malaya: Gnr 101 Bty, 26 Fd Regt. RA. 23rd March 1961

103 Bty, 26 Fd Regt. RA. 26th October 1961

1 Fd Regt 16th November 1963

Malaysia: Gnr 'A' Bty 19th October 1965

Bdr 19 Comp Regt

SVN: Bdr & T/Sgt. HQ Bty, 4 Fd Regt. 12th March 1970 to 12th March 1971

Sgt. School of Artillery 1972

131 Div Loc Bty

WO2 Discharged 3rd September 1981

**Malcolm Bennett Jackson/McLeod** passed away in 1916.

29518

Born 2nd August 1939.

Enlisted 12th March 1957

102 Bty, 1 Fd Regt 1957

101 Bty 1959

Malaya: 'D' Tp, 101 Bty 4th October 1959

26 Fd Regt. RA 17th October 1960

4 Fd Regt. 23rd September 1961

1 Div HQ June 1962

Discharged 12th March 1963

**Eric Dean** (Snow) passed away 22nd November 2016.

41936

Born 17th October 1938.

Enlisted 11th September 1956

104 Loc Bty, 1 Fd Regt 1957

101 Bty, 1 Fd Regt 5th May 1957

Malaya: Gnr 'A' Bty 8th February 1959

101 Bty 4th October 1959, Med Evac 30th November 1959

Malaya: Gnr 101 Bty. 26 Fd Regt. RA 2nd December 1960 to 9th March 1961

& 16th April 1961 to 25th October 1961

103 Bty, 26 Fd Regt. RA. 26th October 1961 to 18th June 1962

Bdr AGWTU (Wommer) 7th August 1962

110 LAA Bty 1965

Malay-Pen: 110 LAA Bty 21st June 1966 to 2nd May 1968

AHQ (ASAO)

Sgt 1st July 1969

Sgt Discharged 10th September 1977

**John James Campbell** (Tubby) passed away on 9th January 2017.

29357

Born 12th August 1939

Enlisted 13th August 1956

102 Bty, HQ Bty, 101 Bty, 1 Fd Regt 1957

Malaya: Gnr 101 Bty 4th October 1959

26 Fd Regt. RA. 17th October 1960

4 Fd Regt. 27th October 1961

Discharged 12th August 1962

**John Michael Barrett** passed away on 20th September 2017.

5410718/53852

Born 13th November 1936

Enlisted 13th August 1958, Transferred to ARA 15th July 1959

Malaya: 'D' Tp, 101 Bty 4th October 1959

26 Fd Regt. RA 17th October 1960

4 Fd Regt. 27th October 1961

103 Bty, 1 Fd Regt 1965

L/Bdr Discharged 14th July 1966

**Andrew John (Jack) Balsillie** passed away on 30th October 2017.

VP16067/31224

Born 21st November 1929. Bendigo, Victoria  
Enlisted PMF 10th July 1945, Sapper, RAEME  
Victoria Lines of Communication Workshop  
3 Military District Workshop 23rd October 1947  
Transferred to ARA 12th August 1948  
Southern Command Workshop 1st January 1950  
3 Base Workshop 21st September 1953  
RAEME Training Centre 29th November 1957  
WO2, 'A' Fd Bty, LAD 31st July 1959  
101 Bty, LAD 2nd November 1959  
26 Fd Regt RA, LAD 17th October 1960  
RAEME Training Centre 10th October 1961  
AHQ (Melbourne) 18th December 1961  
3 Base Workshop 20th November 1964  
AHQ (Melbourne) 12th April 1965  
Lt & QM Melbourne Area Workshop 21 December 1967  
SVN: T/Capt, HQ 1 ATF, LAD 7th May 1969  
HQ AFV (Army Component) 8th November 1969  
3 Base Workshop 8th June 1970  
A Sqdn 3 Cav Regt, LAD 12th February 1972  
4 Fd Regt, LAD 21st April 1972  
4 Fd Regt 22nd May 1974  
HQ 2 Electrical & Mechanical Engineer Group 16th February 1977  
Sydney Workshop Company 6 June 1978  
Puckapunyal Workshop Company 25 December 1981

#### Categories of Service:

Permanent Military Forces 10th July 1945 to 11th August 1948  
Australian Regular Army 12th August 1948 to 28th February 1983  
Australian Regular Army Supplement 1st March 1983 to 22nd July 1985

#### Honours and Awards:

Member of the Order of the British Empire  
War Medal 1939-45  
Australia Service Medal 1939-45  
Australian Active Service medal 1945-75 with Clasps Malaya and Vietnam  
General Service Medal with Clasp Malaya  
Vietnam Medal  
Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp SE Asia  
Defence Force Service Medal with First and Second Clasps  
National Medal with First and Second Clasps  
Australian Defence Medal  
Long Service and Good Conduct Medal  
Meritorious Service Medal  
Vietnamese Campaign Medal  
Pingat Jasa Malaysia  
Returned from Active Service Badge

Jack was appointed an Honorary Gunner and also Administered Command of 4 Field Regiment.

Jack served as the Mayor of Bendigo from 1993 to 1994.

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of  
**Major Andrew John  
Balsillie MBE/RL**  
**'Jack'**

21<sup>st</sup> November, 1928 – 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2017



William Farmer Victoria Street Chapel, Eaglehawk

15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

Reverend Philip Burns

Organist: Stan Jackson

**Leon Joseph (Len) Cooper** passed away on 11th November 2017.

Born 16th August 1932

Enlisted 4th August 1954

Sgt 12 NSTB 10th August 1956

1 Fd Regt, 101 Bty 5th May 1957

Malaya: Sgt, 101 Bty 4th October 1959

26 Fd Regt. RA 17th October 1961

4 Fd Regt 30th September 1961

Lt 4 Fd Regt February 1963

1 Fd Regt February 1963

T/Capt, Adj/QM 15 Fd Fegt 1965

Capt SofA July 1967  
SVN: Capt 1 Fd Regt 25th June 1969 to 7th March 1970 and 4 Fd Regt 8th March 1970 to 18th June 1970  
Maj SofA June 1970  
SORA 2 (Ops) 3 Div February 1972  
HQ FF Comd 1973  
Trg Comd 1975 (Maj Admin)  
JSSC 1978  
Maj Retired 3rd August 1984.  
**MBE.** Artillery-Postwar Honours List  
Ancient Order of Saint Barbara (USA)

I found on Ancestry.com that the following members that we had lost contact with had passed away.

**Arthur Ronald Gale** (Ron) passed away in 1971. I was able to contact Ron's son and pass on the Army Contact Badge to him.

29659  
Born 12th June 1939  
Enlisted 14th October 1957  
1 Fd Regt 7th May 1958  
Malaya: 'A' Bty 24th March 1959, (AI) MV Accident  
'C' Tp, 101 Bty 4th October 1959  
26 Fd Regt. RA 17th October 1960  
RTA 15th March 1961  
Discharged 13th October 1963

**Bruce Charles Mulheron** passed away on 29th September 1990.

28955  
Born 14th January 1938.  
Enlisted 5th February 1955.  
Malaya: Gnr 100 (A) Bty 4th December 1958  
101 Bty 4th October 1959  
RTA 23rd November 1959  
Discharged 6th February 1961

**Brian George Dunstan** (Duckshit) passed away on 31st October 2009.

29901  
Born 20th April 1939  
Enlisted 10th June 1958  
101 Bty, 1 Fd Regt 1959  
Malaya: 'D' Tp, 101 Bty 4th October 1959  
26 Fd Regt. RA 17th October 1960  
4 Fd Regt. 16th September 1961  
Discharged 6th October 1965

**Malcolm Gordon Carter** (Tex) passed away on 28th December 2013.

42036

Born 3rd June 1938

Enlisted 11th December 1957

Malaya: 101 Bty 4th October 1959

26 Fd Regt. RA 17th October 1960

4 Fd Regt. 16th September 1961

SVN: Gnr ALS Coy 14th September 1965 to 2nd May 1966 & HQ 1st ALSG

3rd May 1966 to 20th September 1966

Sgt RAAOC, Discharged 15th May 1981

I heard that Bommer Brown had passed away but I cannot find any proof of his passing.

**Robert Stephen (Bommer) Brown.**

25293

Born 26th May 1928. Dubbo. New South Wales.

Enlisted 9th July 1945

Korea: Cpl, RAEME, 3 RAR 16th December 1951 to 28th February 1952 and 16th British Commonwealth Infantry Workshops 12th March 1952 to 14th January 1953.

Malaya: Sgt, RAEME, 101 Bty, 26 Fd Regt RA, LAD 16th December 1960 and 103 Bty 26th October 1961

WO1 Discharged 16th August 1974.

Sadly **Betsy Stewart** passed away on 6th May 2016 and

**Sally Burgess** passed away on the 6th July 2017.

**The following is the Eulogy Written by Norman Leslie Mills.**

Norman Leslie Mills was born at Sale in Gippsland Base Hospital, Victoria on 11th April 1937, the son of Alex and Alice Mills - one of six children - four sisters, Rae, Barbara, Helen and Kathleen, and a brother Graham.

Norm's education began at Stratford Primary School then on to Sale Technical School where he completed his Junior Tech Certificate. He left school at the age of 14 and undertook a 3-year apprenticeship as a motor mechanic at Sale Tech. He also played football and cricket for Stratford.

At the age of 17 Norm joined the Australian regular army. He was transferred to Kapooka, Wagga and went on to the School of Artillery at North Head, Manly. Whilst at north Head Norm played 1st grade Aussie rules with North Shore for four years. It was also while at Manly that he first met his now wife Yvonne.

Norm's first unit was the 103 Heavy Anti-Aircraft and then the 111-Light Anti-Aircraft Battery. It was from there he went to the 101 Field Battery at Holsworthy for a posting to Malaysia (then known as Malaya).

Norm and Yvonne were married in December 1958 just prior to heading to Malaysia where they lived and Norm served from 1959 to 1961.

On returning to Australia Norm was posted to 101 Field Battery, 4 Field Regiment at the Wacol Army Camp, Brisbane, Queensland for 12 months. It was here that their son Gary was born in March 1963. Norm was then posted back to 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery for another tour of Malaysia, defending the RAAF based at Butterworth for a period of six months. Norm returned home to his family Yvonne and Gary in Sydney but was soon after sent to Woodside, South Australia to be among those forming a new 110 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery. After 12 months in South Australia Norm was again posted back to Malaysia where he and his family spent another 2 1/2 years. It was while on Penang Island, Malaysia that Norm and Yvonne's daughter Leanne was born in July 1966. On returning to Australia from his third tour of Malaysia, Norm was posted to "A" Battery 12 Field Regiment at Ingleburn. This unit was then transferred to Townsville Queensland for a period of 12 months.

Following his time in Townsville Norm and his family moved to Sydney however Norm was then sent to Vietnam for a 12-month tour. While in Vietnam he spent six months in Baria with the Americans and then another six months on the guns at Nui Dat. On his return to Australia he was posted back to where he started to the School of Artillery at North Head, Manly. It was here that Norm took his discharge from the army. Following army life Norm took a job with Rank Industries of Australia for the next year. He then applied for a job with the Department of Main Roads as a service mechanic inside the north pylon of the Harbour Bridge. Norm then changed his line of work to driving tow trucks, removing breakdown that occurred on the Harbour Bridge. He also drove a sweeper at night for some time. It was while working here that Norm suffered a heart attack, which required a triple bypass and led to his retirement in 1992.

Norm enjoyed his retirement playing golf with the El Rancho, Forster and Tuncurry Golf Clubs. It is at Tuncurry that Norm and Yvonne have a holiday house where they have spent many holidays with family and friends.

Norm has many nicknames, one of which is "Bucket Arse" which I'm sure his army mates will all know him as. Another nickname was "Norman the Doorman". Many will remember Norm standing at the door of the El Rancho on Anzac Days where any ladies wishing to enter would have to supply a kiss before being granted entry.

Norm was a family man who loved and was greatly loved by his wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He had the pleasure of celebrating the weddings of three of his grandchildren in the last four years. His five great grandchildren also brought much joy and excitement into his life.

Norm led a very active and social life, was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need and was loved and respected by all those who knew him.

Norman Leslie Mills may be gone today, however he will never be forgotten and will always remain in our hearts.

RIP brother

### **The following story was supplied by Alan Jones son Ross.**

Dad joined the police force after a short stint as a truck driver after Malaya.

The story goes that one of his mates in Malaya, John Wilson from Adelaide, asked if Dad wanted a pen pal, Dad agreed and was writing to a girl named Lorrell (Mum), in Glenelg, Adelaide. Lorrell was a girlfriend of John's fiancée Denise. Dad was to be John's best man at John and Denise's wedding in Glenelg a week after arriving home. It was not to be, as dad spent the whole trip back in the ship's brig, charged for fighting and unbeknownst struck an NCO and then under open arrest was sent back to Wacol. Dad took his discharge from the army and within weeks proposed to mum and they were happily married for 50 years (up until Mum fell to Dementia they would sit on the lounge watching TV holding hands)

He was in uniform for a short period and heard of a shipment of Marijuana coming in from Victoria to SA, he staked out a house in Mums Volkswagen and apprehended them, he was then asked to be a founding member in SA of the Drug Squad what they now call the CIB (criminal investigations bureau) this covered areas like, murder, rape, child molestation, drugs, bikie gangs, insurance fraud etc and was stationed in Elizabeth, northern suburbs of Adelaide.

At some point Dad was involved in a directive of Donald Dunston the Premier of the state at the time to protect the homosexual community of Adelaide during a time when people were cornering and or soliciting homosexuals and beating them, some of the stories that came from this time Dad used to recall were very funny, especially when he took a fresh policeman to a homosexual wedding, the house was full of cross dressers and alternative types, Dad said every wall in the building saw that cops back and was like a cornered rabbit. In the early 1980's Dad transferred to Renmark where he worked to reduce the large marijuana growing trade and also worked with Jimmy James the black tracker, when inmates absconded from Cadel jail which is a transitional jail from the main jails back into society they at times would escape into the bush, Dad would get Jimmy and they would track them down in the bush and apprehend them, when I was young Dad taught me how to track and is a fun thing to do.

One time Dad booked a helicopter to look for marijuana plants from the air, they shared a chopper with the Fisheries Department, this thing had two sets of doors, one set with the SA Police Logo and one set with the Fisheries logo, anyway he thought it would be fun to buzz my school, so they were flying over the school until everyone come out then hovered over the oval spinning around (chopper pilot was a Vietnam Vet pilot), Dad said he saw a line of very angry looking teachers and decided it was time to move on (who were they going to complain to? J)

When he was in Renmark Dads police car was a red V8 Valiant Charger, everyone in town called Dad "Bluey" from the old cop show with a fat detective played by Lucky Grills, needless to say no one messed with Dad though and had the respect of the local criminals, a few of them have bought me a beer later on in life telling me that Dad was the best cop they knew, tough but fair, I was in the Paringa Hotel and this big bikie looking guy came up and said to me – you would have to be a Jones, I replied yes thinking that this is going to hurt, he then said can I buy you a beer as my old man was the best cop he ever knew, said that my Dad had put his Dad in jail – he was in the front yard and my Dad pulled up in the charger, his Dad was mowing the lawn, Dad said "I don't know we can't keep you off the grass can we" where are they? – round the back was the response – his Dad had a heap of dope plants growing in the shed, this guy told me that Dad handled everything professionally and respectfully, he would call in on the family whilst his Dad was away "on holiday" to make sure they were ok. Dad was always rescuing someone or something.

One time when Dad was still stationed in Adelaide we had a whole family move in with us – Mother and three children, the father was beating her and the kids, Dad packed them up after giving him a talking to (suggestion is there was not a lot of talking) and bought them home – her and Mum got on really well and they stayed with us (My Grandma, Mum, Dad and us three boys) 10 all in a three bedroom house for quite a while until they were back on their feet, they remained good friends and godfather to her son until Dads death.

After Renmark Dad then transferred to the Barossa Valley leading up to his retirement and thought up, designed and handmade wine glass holders that hang around your neck so you don't have to put your glass down when you're eating or walking around the winery tasting tables, his first big order was 10 thousand for the Sydney to Hobart yacht race and did this during retirement, he supplied most of the wineries in Australia, it did not make him wealthy but paid for a three or four month holiday every year.

Mum got Dementia at 66 and was placed in a Nursing Home a few years later, Dad visited every day to feed her etc until Mum was not there mentally at all anymore and then cut back to a few days per week, Mum is still in aged care.



Dad moved to Wallaroo on the SA coast and would travel each week to visit Mum, he was diagnosed with terminal Leukaemia on a Wednesday and passed the following week in the RAH here in Adelaide, when Dad passed I contacted the SA Police to use the Police Logo on his death notice and was refused, after canvassing the Minister about this not being allowed even though Dad had a distinguished service to the community they have now agreed to review the allowance to use the logo in certain circumstances for non-active members which we hope they will enact.

There are vast stories that Dad told us over the years – too many to recall but this is can say.

“There has never been and will not likely be another one like him and we miss him immensely”

Cheers  
Ross Jones

**Bill and Janice McMillan** are not travelling very well and cannot get around but send their best to all.

Sadly **Michael Seats** is now in full time care.

**Ray Heath's wife** has had a couple of serious operations but is home now and recovering well.

**Congratulations to Tom Martin's son Peter Martin APM for being appointed Commissioner for Queensland Corrective Services.**

Commissioner Martin APM commenced with Queensland Corrective Services on 13 November 2017.

Commissioner Martin APM has joined Queensland Corrective Services after a serving the people of Queensland for 38 years in the Queensland Police Service. As Deputy Commissioner, Regional Operations, he was responsible for the strategic direction, leadership, overview and review of the delivery of policing services across all five regions in Queensland.

Commissioner Martin APM is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland. He also holds a Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of Health, School of Psychology and Counselling at Queensland University of Technology, an Executive Master's degree in Public Administration through the Australian and New Zealand School of Government and Griffith University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Justice Administration.



*Ken Murphy has asked me to add the following to the newsletter.*

**A NOTE TO ALL BATTERY MEMBERS  
WARNING ORDER**

**101 BATTERY'S LAST STAND**

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE "SURVIVED" AND WANT TO GATHER  
TOGETHER ONE MORE TIME!**

**THIS IS THE FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH THOSE MATES  
WHO MADE 101 FIELD BATTERY THE PREMIER BATTERY IN  
THE CORPS**

**DATE: TBA**

**TIME: TBA**

**SUGGESTIONS WELCOMED**

**PLEASE LET DAVE KNOW IF YOU ARE INTEREST**

**For a long time Dave has looked after us. Sent Notices and cards and managed our limited funds.**

**Well our money is almost exhausted. So I am appealing to members to forward a SMALL (or large) DONATION to top up the kitty.**

**Dave is currently working on producing new Birthday and Christmas cards and there is the added cost postage when sending them, and our newsletters.**

**Let's ensure Dave doesn't have to put his hand in his pocket**

**Donations can be deposited in the 101 Fd Bty Malaya 1959-1961 Account  
Bank: Westpac Toowoomba  
BSB: 734-221 - Account Number: 78-9757**

**Or posted to Dave at 57 Drummond Street, Rangeville, Qld, 4350.**

*I (David Troedel) have a suggestion for a Last Stand in 2019 to celebrate and remember 60 years since we sailed for Malaya.*

**The 2019 National Gunner Dinner.  
To be held at the Event Centre, Caloundra, Queensland  
On Friday 23rd and Saturday the 24th August.**



We can gather on Friday night for the Happy Hour and book tables for our members and partners for the dinner on Saturday night. There is plenty of accommodation close to the Event Centre and we could all enjoy each other's company in a relaxed atmosphere.

**POSTSCRIPT.**

Dave what a brilliant idea to make our "LAST STAND" at the Gunner Dinner 2019.

To make this; our last one (the 60th anniversary of leaving OZ) among Gunners  
**IS INSPIRED!!**

Jeanette and I have attended one and they are a real experience!! It's a chance not only to share with the "LAST ONES STANDING" but to show them how REAL MATES go out (in style)

**COME ON YOU BLOKES AND BLOKESSES LETS MAKE IT ONE MORE TIME WITH FEELING** and support Dave's idea.

*Spud Murphy*

Some more interesting information on the life of Andrew John (Jack) Balsillie from the Australian War Memorial web site.

***Jack and the Singapore surrender table***

*16 February 2015 by Garth O'Connell*



This simple teak table is one of the most poignant physical reminders of one the darkest chapters of Australian and British military history, the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942. Along with tens of thousands of Indian, Malaysian, Singaporean and British lives approximately 15,000 Australian servicemen and women's fates were played out on this table.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

127903

With this surrender came massive military, social and political changes to not just the Asia Pacific region but to around the world. The ramifications of this rapid assault and downfall of the British Empire are still felt around the region today. Both Malaysia and later Singapore were new nations were born post-war from events which unfolded on this table.

If it wasn't for the interest, research and initiative of one man, Andrew John "Jack" Balsillie, this table may have not been saved for future generations.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL  
P09979\_029

In 1961 Jack was a serving Australian Army Warrant Officer with the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) on deployment to Malaya as part of the Australian Army's commitment to the Malayan Emergency. His role was to assist with the repairing of Artillery guns and other technical equipment across various parts of Malaysia. To alleviate the long hours of travel he took a copies of the New South Wales Returned and Services League Journal called 'Reveille' for he and his men to read. On one journey to Singapore in February 1961 he was reading an article on the 2/30<sup>th</sup> Battalion's ambush on Imperial Japanese troops at Gemencheh Bridge in Johor. He realised that he was actually on that very same Gemas-Tampin road through which hundreds of Japanese Army troops had cycled through 19 years before.

With his trusty copy of *Reveille* in hand, and with a picture of the bridge from the article he and his driver pulled over. Whilst inspecting the side of the road at the ambush location he found several Australian relics from the ambush including Australian manufactured .303 rounds, an old Army issued enamel plate and a grenade fuse cap. These discoveries sparked an interest that was to see him become a modern day Dr. Charles Bean, and collect from the battlefields of Malaya, Singapore and later South Vietnam some the most significant collection of objects from these campaigns in the National Collection.



In mid-1961 during a trip to Singapore and having learnt of the surrender of the British Commonwealth forces to the Japanese there, Jack visited the Ford Factory on Bukit Timah road. With him he had some wartime images of the surrender event he approached a member of the staff who had been there since the war. Inside the company boardroom they were able to identify the original teak table as the one which General Percival signed the surrender on 15 February 1942. The board room still had the original linoleum floor which still had hand written markings from the Japanese indicating where each respective representative was to sit (some of this lino was collected by Jack and it is held in the National Collection).

Jack enquired whether they would be happy to either sell or donate the table as a significant relic of the Australian contribution to the failed Malaya-Singapore campaign to the Australian War Memorial. He left his contact details, care of the Australian War Memorial, in the hope that they may donate the table.

Almost three years later, on 30 April 1964, Jack received communication from Ford Malaysia informing him that they had agreed to donate the historic piece of furniture, and the linoleum flooring, to the Memorial.

Ford's public relations unit then contacted Jack who then referred them onto Jack Rutherford, the then 'keeper of relics' (curator) at the Memorial in Canberra to coordinate their offer of donation. Through this direct communication to the Memorial, Ford Malaya then shipped the original table to the Ford headquarters in Sydney, from where the table and section of flooring were safely transported to Canberra in October 1964.

With the exception of short period during a gallery redevelopment in 1998, this table has been on permanent display for almost 50 years in the Second World War gallery. This significant period of time clearly indicates the reverence and respect that this iconic relic has within the Australian War Memorial. The table is daily the focus of the popular Volunteer guided tour through the galleries and due to the popularity of the table it is the subject of well attended public presentations by Curators.

Since 1971 there has been two replica Singapore surrender tables built and they are both on display in Singapore at the superb "Memories of the Old Ford Factory" at Upper Bukit Timah Road and at the Surrender Chambers Museum/Fort Siloso and at the popular tourist destination of Sentosa Island (formerly Blakang Mati, a former camp for Australian and Allied Prisoners of War). This latter replica table was built by the Australian War Memorial and gifted to Singapore in the mid 1970's.

A good colleague of mine, Dr Lachlan Grant features this table in his upcoming book "The Changi Book", details on the book can be found here His recently published book "Australian Soldiers in Asia-Pacific in World War II" is a 'must-read' on the Australian experience of the Malaya-Singapore campaign and later campaigns in the Asia-Pacific region. Another excellent reference specifically about the important work that Major Balsillie did in expanding the National Collection can be found in this most excellent research project completed in 2010 by AWM Summer Scholar Chelsea Mannix:

The Singapore Surrender table is one of the most historically significant relics held by the Australian War Memorial and it is my honour to help our veterans, families and visitors learn of and understand its deep significance and meaning to millions of people not just in Australia and the Asia Pacific but around the world.

*I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

