



**4TH FIELD
REGIMENT**

(1967 - 68) **[SVN]** (1970 - 71)

ASSOCIATION

February 1990

Bulletin No 2

-10-
Treasurers Report

As at 5 January 1990 our bank balance was \$533.28. This has been verified by Bill McMillan who came out of retirement long enough to sign his name at a recent gathering of members at North Head. Donations/subs received during 1989 and to date in 1990 include:(all \$5.00 unless indicated)

Toby Tyler (10.00); Al Thompson; Dennis Byrne; L. Walpole; K Cooke; I. Schulz; M. Bignall; D.Anderson; I. Prewett(10.00) B. Foster; W. Smith; A. Pavlovich; R. Radcliffe; M. Beck; I. Johnson (10.00) R. Hall (25.00) D. Alderton; T. Sargeant; B. Prager; W. Cargill; R. Hooper; C. Trimble; W. McMillan(20.00); S. Farrow(20.00); R. Creilly(20.00); T. Makinson (10.00); D. Larter(10.00); A. Betts(10.00).

For those who remember being coerced by John at the function after the welcome home parade we collected \$362.00. Expenditure in 1989 was \$124.75 for postage. Interest received was \$34.13.

107 Battery History

The current members of 107 Battery are trying to improve the Battery history books. Of particular interest is the sixties period. They are looking for names, events or activities of interest of any kind which may update their records. Photos if you can spare a copy would be most welcome but please try and identify as many as possible in each photo. I'm sure many of you will be keen to look through the many battery photo albums when we visit the Regiment.

-3-

Wife Carol and I towed a caravan over to Adelaide for the Grand Prix in November last year. Dick and Val Bush did the trip as well and we were all very well looked after by Gary and Shirley Sharpe. Apologies to those in SA we didn't get to see but as you can imagine it was a fairly rushed trip.

Don Donkin (RSM of the Regiment during second tour) has kindly accepted the position of Patron of the Association. Don is known to well over half the members of the Association and I'm sure you'll all agree he is an ideal choice for the position. Don has been out of the Army for some years now but is still actively involved with the Protocol Department of the NSW Government.

Finally my thanks to all who offered to help out in any way. All new and updated addresses have been included on the distribution list but please ensure that any address sent in, is current.

Regards



Jim Wright - Busy as the proverbial in NT with business, President of RAA Assoc (NT), member of VVAA (NT) and now state rep for our assoc. Hope to get back to NT sometime this year Jim - a great spot.

SGT Mick Sullivan - still serving and still involved with boxing. Sullie recently (authors licence) controlled a boxing tournament held to raise money for the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children. Sullie also trains a couple of up and coming lads.

John Torpey - sent us the following report on ANZAC Day 1989:
"A splendid sunny autumn day in Melbourne attracted a record number of marchers before a very large crowd of spectators. The dawn service was attended by about 6000, a large proportion of whom were young people. 108 Bty was represented at the dawn service by Paul O'Hara, Lyle Wells, John Torpey and Herb Manning. It was a bit dark to see if any other 4th Field members were there. Breakfast was provided at the Artillery Depot in Batman Ave which is the general meeting place for artillerymen. If anyone from interstate is in Melbourne next ANZAC Day and is a bit lost, do drop in. WO1 Gabby Hayes is QM at the Depot and Keith Martin is the RSM of 2/15 Fd Regt. Lunch was provided by the 2/2 Artillery association."

About 50 returned servicemen marched behind the RAA Banner. In addition to those mentioned above were Ian McNaughton, Ian McLean (he was a replacement on Billy Bostocks gun), Rodger Bonness, Bruce Patterson, and Anthony James from 106 Bty were those in the march that I met. After the march we joined 106 at their meeting place on the banks of the Yarra near the boatsheds where we caught up with more of 106 Bty. This is not a comprehensive list and I apologise to those omitted. In addition to those mentioned, Nobby Clark returned to Australia after 10 years in Edinburgh; Henry Gavel, A. McLean and ? McWilliam attended."

Thanks very much for that John. I hope you will be able to report on ANZAC Day 1990 and anyone else please feel free to jot down a few lines and send them in.

Toby Tyler - Currently at Malanda Police Station, and was concerned about the state of photographic and other history of HQ Bty. Toby has compiled a photo album and donated it to HQ Bty but in fact a lot more is required. If any one can help please contact either myself or the BSM of HQ Bty direct.

The open day at the Regiment will be an excellent chance to see how today's soldiers are doing it tough and should be quite a treat. New guns, vehicles and radios as well as command post and survey equipment will be on hand for you to try your hand at.

Providing we get all the returns in by 1 June a confirmed itinerary and final details of the reunion will be published by end August 1990. Tim Makinson did a bit of scouting around in Sydney with regard to air fares and came up with the following examples. Normal air fare Sydney to T'ville \$756.00 return. By booking at least 30 days in advance and staying 7 nights its down to \$463.00 return. Once we get an idea of numbers attending I'm sure the state reps might be able to get a few deals going. For those who won't be able to attend, not to worry, over the next five or ten years we'll try and have a reunion of sorts in each capital city, but for now put away \$20.00 a pay and join us in T'ville.

By the way there is talk of a round of golf on one of the free days so try and fit the clubs in. If you don't play you can caddy or carry the eskey.

The Artillery Centre

Some of you have probably been wondering about this "Artillery Centre" well here's a quick run down on it. In October 1989 the final decision was made to move several Head of Corps out of Canberra and relocate them with the Corps Schools. The Directorate of Artillery moved to North Head and opened shop at the redesignated Artillery Centre on 4 December 1989. With the move, North Head Barracks became The Artillery Centre, however the School of Artillery remains a complete identity and operates as it always has. Headquarters Artillery Centre, is basically Directorate staff, consisting of the Director of Artillery (COL R.V. McEvoy MBE ADC), a Staff Officer Grade One (SO1) (LTCOL V.H. Williams), 2 SO2s (MAJ G.G. Collinson and MAJ J.C. Platt), the Regimental Master Gunner (WO1 P.J. Bruce OAM) and a SGT Clerk (SGT C. Bateman). There are three other Directorate staff, one in Canberra and two in Melbourne who are responsible for career management of RAA officers and men. Apart from taking over some office space there is very little effect on the School of Artillery and the mess's still operate as before.

All correspondence to:
WO1 PJ Bruce OAM
Directorate of Artillery
ARTILLERY CENTRE
PO Box 42
MANLY NSW 2095

EDITORIAL

They tell me the older you get the faster the years roll by. Don't I believe it. It doesn't seem like 12 months ago when we got Bulletin no 1 out and here it is 1990 already. For those interested, I turned 40 in December last year and as you can see by the above address I've changed jobs too. Had a great time as RSM of 8/12 Medium Regiment and was extremely proud and honoured to receive the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia in the New Years Day Awards. Have started at my new appointment as Regimental Master Gunner working with the Director of Artillery here at the Artillery Centre. (More about the Artillery Centre later on).

Response to Bulletin No 1 ranged from 'excellent' to 'no comment'. Maybe we touched a raw nerve here and there with the formalization plan, but I believe if we are to survive as an association we must get our act together now.

In a similar publication called 'Per Medium' put out by the 2/1st Medium Regiment Association, letters to the editor are published as a way of keeping their members in touch with one another. I'm sure a lot of you must get sick of hearing what us 'still serving' members are up to but I for one would be interested to hear what everyone is and has been doing over the years - within reason of course. How about a letter or two?

Speaking of letters, the annual \$5.00 subscription is due by 1 March. A statement of accounts appears later in the bulletin but as far as funds go, posting takes its fair share and the proposed banner for the Association will cost us a quid or two. Hopefully we will be able to get a banner for every capital city eventually with Adelaide already having one thanks to the efforts of Lindsay Walpole and Co.

The 1991 Reunion is to go ahead. It will be held in Townsville over the period 3 to 10 May 1991 mainly to co-incide with 4th Field Regiments 31st birthday on the 4th of May. The CO of the Regiment, LTCOL Jim Catchlove has indicated he is more than happy to have us up there and has offered to put on a few extras for us. I believe it will be a great opportunity to relive past experiences and see how today's members of the Regiment are handling Army life and the vigors of Townsville.

4 th Field Regiment (SVN) Association
Committee
Patron: D.W. (Don) Donkin MBE.

President: To be elected.

Secretary/Treasurer: Peter Bruce, *OAM*

Editor/Membership Secretary: Peter Bruce, *OAM*.

State Representatives:

QLD: Mick Long 20 Shepherdson St Capalaba 4157 Ph (07) 3903223

NSW: Allen Betts 7 Burruga Ave, Terry Hills Ph (02) 4502331

ACT: Brian Swift 18 O'Sullivan St Higgins 2615 Ph (062) 546986

VIC: Graham Claughton, 22 Warringa Ave, Hoppers Crossing 3030
Ph (03) 7492665

TAS: Warren Barnard Elliott Hall, Anglesea Barracks Davey St Hobart
7002
Ph (002) 232552

SA: Lindsay Walpole 4/1 Sarah St, Marleston SA 5033 Ph (08) 3711755

WA: Johnno Johnson 19 Highbury Cres Beckenham WA 6017 Ph (09) 4587549

NT: Jim Wright Lot 25 Abrus Rd Kumpty Doo NT 0836 Ph (089) 88 1981

4 Field Regiment (SVN) Association 1991 Reunion

As mentioned earlier, the 1991 reunion is to go ahead as planned in Townsville centering on the weekend 4/5 May 1991. A proposed outline itinerary is as follows:

- Friday 3 May: Informal get together at Louths Hotel from 1900 hrs.
- Saturday 4 May: 4 Field Regiment Birthday Parade (timings TBA)
Regimental Luncheon
Regimental open day followed by Townsville by night!
- Sunday 5 May: Magnetic Island fishing /diving/swimming/bar b q
trip
- Monday 6 May: Free day (no Bill, not a free day in the Mess)
- Tuesday 7 May: Association dinner at 1900 hrs (venue TBA)
- Wednesday 8 May: Visit High Range Training Area
- Thursday 9 May: Free day
- Friday 10 May: Mixed happy hour at one of the locals (The Vale?)

I must stress that at this stage everything is proposed only. Once we have a fair indication of numbers attending we will be able to firm up most of the detail especially where it involves the Regiment. Those planning to attend are asked to complete the enclosed form and return it to me by 1 June 1990. If by then you are still unable to confirm attendance please let us know anyway and confirm; one way or the other as soon as possible. Accommodation and transport to and from Townsville is up to your own devices however if you contact your state rep he may be able to help out in some way. I know there are a couple of blokes tied up with the tourist industry so maybe someone could help at either state or everyone level. Accommodation in Townsville ranges from 5 star to a tent at one of the caravan parks so they should be able to cater for all tastes and pockets.

Wives, girlfriends or both are welcome at all functions, and children at most so there should be very few complaints from the Mrs. If per chance some of us got "lost" one evening I'm sure they would understand.

Roger Hall - Roger inquired about the possibility of obtaining a 106 Bty Plaque. Unfortunately they are no longer available that I know of but if anyone can help out, Roger is at 9 Peterson St, Rockhampton, 4700 or phone ah 079 223112.

Rex Radcliffe - keen to keep in touch.

Alex Pavlovich - soon to retire to Lemon Tree Passage and take up bowls!

Bill Smith - Keen for Townsville reunion and suggests adds in Reveille etc. We'll place adds in several publications in the near future. Billy was also sure there were several misprints in the last bulletin eg. CAPT ??? B. Swift and WO1 ??? Jones. No mate, all correct I'm afraid to say.
(PS Swifty discharged recently but is still active in the ARES).

Bill Fox - (Svy BDR 67-68) worked for the Government for a few years, couldn't settle down and move to Ballina and owner/operated a concreting business, untill ill health forced him to leave. Currently studying full time at Northern River College of Advanced Education, completing a Bachelor of Business Degree. Offered the services of computer. Thanks Billy, and will keep you in mind as membership/ mailing sec if your still interested. Thanks for the other names too.

Ian Schulz - Hope you can make it ot T'sville Ian.

Ian Prewett - Prew and Gail are up in Weipa these days. Thanks for the donation Prew. Hope you both can make it to T'sville.

David Anderson - David was one of, if not the instigator of our association. Davids work has now taken him to Melbourne and like so many people these days it takes up most of his time. Thanks for the offer of help anyway David.

Mervyn Bignall - Last seen courting an old flame in Sydney and talking of marriage in October 89. Could that be our Merve?

Kerry Cooke - Keen to get to Townsville and revisit some of the old watering holes and stamping grounds.

Bo Plenty - Consider yourself in Bo. Sorry I missed you last year but hope to catch up with some of you in March. Bo advises that John "Rusty" Russack is no longer with us.

One of the biggest happenings at North Head is the proposed opening later this year of the RAA museum. The RAA Historical Society has been active for several years now and pending confirmation from both State and Federal Governments that the North Fort area can remain as a home for the museum it is planned to open the tunnel complex and a gun display towards the end of the year. If you ever in the Manly area and can spare an hour or so drop in and see us and we should be able to organize a sneak preview. The Historical Society is always looking for new members, so if anyone is interested they can contact me at the Arty Centre. Several members of the Society get together on Wednesday afternoons and either work on restoring old guns or cataloging some of the piles of old records they have accumulated.

Royal Australian Historical Society of Western Australia

The WA society is very active with the Lighton Battery restoration project at Buchland Hill. Further information from:

The Secretary,
RAA Historical Society of Western Australia
c/- Hobbs Artillery Park
Stubbs Terrace
KARRAKUTTA

or phone 383 6371

Royal Australian Artillery State Associations

As mentioned in the last bulletin RAA Associations are active in each state. For further information contact your state rep.

P.J. Smith to Captain IG on Gunnery Wing S of A.

Garry Jones to 2 Training Group at Ingleburn.

Dave Larter to Development Wing S of A.

Scobie Dobbs to Divisional Artillery Sergeant Major (DASM) at HQ 1 Div Arty in Brisbane.

"Gunner" Makinson from Mudgee to Sydney.

Bill Foxall to Land Command Headquarters in Sydney

Gabby Hayes to QM 2/15 Field Regiment in Melbourne.

Letters

We received letters from the following with extracts where appropriate:

COL Dennis Byrne - still serving and keeping in touch with his old FO party.

MAJ Warren Barnard - still serving as OC DSU Hobart but with plans to settle in Tasmania. Barney sent us names and addresses of 108 Bty (67-68)

Christopher Trimble - we had him down as Trimbole on the last list. Apologies Christopher now at 27 Whiteley Dve TROTT PARK SA 5158.

Bert Prager - now 77 Riveria Ave, Terrigal NSW 2260.

Tony Sargeant - keen to make it to the reunion wherever it's held.

Wayne Cargill - Sorry Wayne, I was in Tassie just recently but a bit pressed for time and we arrived on Hobart Cup day and nobody was home anyway. Will try and catch up with Taswegins in June.

Max Beck - I've still got the slides Max.

Al Thompson - Sends regards from Mackay to all ex 106 mbrs.