



4TH FIELD REGIMENT

[SVN]

(1967 - 68)

(1970 - 71)

ASSOCIATION

September 1990

Bulletin No 3

4th Field Regiment (SVN) Association Committee

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President: To be elected.

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Editor/ Membership Secretary: Peter Bruce

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SOUTH VIETNAM MAPS

As a fund raising venture the RAA Historical Society is offering for sale 1:100,000 maps of SVN which show nearly all the Fire Support Bases occupied by Australian troops. The maps are for sale at \$5.00 each plus \$3.65 postage. Orders with cheque or money order to The Secretary, RAA Historical Society, PO Box 42, MANLY NSW 2095.

NEW MEMBERS

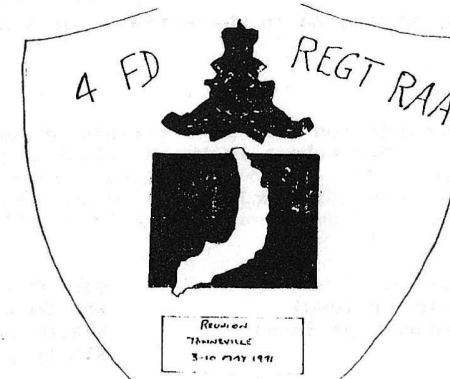
Welcome to those new members who have joined recently and a reminder that all it takes is to drop me a line enclosing \$5.00 for the annual subs (due as at 1 March by the way) and include a current address.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

With the donation from Brian Swift and Kerry Boyce of the banner we are in a position to make a donation to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. An Amount of \$250.00 has been allocated to the fund.

BATTERY PLAQUE

Toby Tyler has suggested we get a plaque struck for the reunion. He has put up the following design.



Another suggestion is a port crock or special labeled bottle. Port seems to be the rage at the moment and we could probably get a crock done for around \$8 to \$10. The plaque would cost about \$20 each plus a initial cost of \$200.00 to set it up. Comments for or against would be appreciated.

4th Field Regiment
Royal Australian Artillery

MANNING: 1967-68

CO LTCOL R.J. GARDNER
RSM WO1 L.M. ALMOND
BC HQ BTY MAJ
BC 106 BTY MAJ E.D. CAPE/MAJ P.J. JONES.
BC 108 BTY MAJ J.E. JENVEY

MANNING 1970-71

CO LTCOL B.C. FORWARD
RSM WO1 D.W. DONKIN, MBE
BC HQ BTY MAJ K.R. HALL
MAJ K.W. MCKENZIE
106 BTY MAJ D.J. GILROY
107 BTY MAJ G.T. SALMON
MAJ K.R. HALL
MAJ K.W. MCKENZIE

-4-

TRANSPORT

Transport to Townsville is up to your own devices. Costs are against us all. Pat Kitschke advised that Fallands Bus Lines would put on a bus Adelaide/Townsville, return for about \$5000.00, so unless we could guarantee large numbers it's out of the question. Someone mentioned RAAF flights, well I'm afraid those of us still in the service have no guarantee of a seat. For those interested in share travel, check the list of who is attending and try and work out something between yourselves.

On the plus side we will be arranging transport in and around Townsville, for most of the functions. Full details of pick up points etc will be advised closer to the reunion.

On the minus side, we may have to pay for some of the transport, but it will be kept to a minimum.

OUTLINE ITINERARY

Since the last edition we're changed the itinerary slightly. Broadly it looks like this:

Friday 3 May: Informal get together at the "Cleveland Hotel" (the old Louths) from 1900 hrs.

Saturday 4th May: 4th Field Regiment Birthday Parade 1000 Hrs.
Regimental Luncheon 1200 hrs
Townsville by night, 1900 hrs.

Sunday 5th May: Church service 0800 hrs, Lavarack Chapel. Family day at the Mingela Picnic Park meeting.
Champagne & chicken lunch. 0900-1800 (approx)

Monday 6th May: (Public Holiday in QLD) Magnetic Island bar b que.

Tuesday 7th May: Free day. Golf for those inclined. Association Dinner-1900 hrs.

Wednesday 8th May: A day with the Regiment.

Thursday 9th May: Free day.

Friday 10th May: Farewell bar b que, 1200 hrs.

Notes:

1. Tue and Wed may be changed around to fit in with the Regiment

badges for each of the units vehicles. All this took place even before approval was given on 7 July 1965 to number the new Battery '107' when it was formed.

Finally on the 1st August 1965 authority was granted for the raising of 107th Field Battery, to be completed by 1 Sep 1965. This of course presented no problems as 107 Field Battery was now already operational. In fact 107 Field Battery moved to Tianjara on 2nd August 1965 for its first exercise and fired its first round for 22 years on 8 August 1965. The original and the present 107th Battery had some interesting links. The first BC's of both the old and new 107th Batteries were both killed in action, MAJ C.H. Patterson DSO at Ploegsteert Wood, Belgium on 14 April 1917 and MAJ P.J. Badcoe VC in Huong Tra province SVN on 7 April 1967 while serving with the Australian Army Training Team. MAJ I. Marfell DSO who succeeded MAJ Patterson remained as BC of the 107th Field Battery until the Battery returned to Australia in 1919. His sword and Sam Browne which he wore in France was presented to the BC of 107 Battery by Geoff Johnson who used them in service with the 7th Brigade C.M.F. in the post-war years of the 1920's. The sword and Sam Browne remains in the possession of each succeeding Battery Commander. Finally, the loose links between the original and re-formed batteries are reinforced by the annual competition for the Black Sheep Cup. This cup was originally won by 107 Bty in France in 1917 and fifty years later, after being re-named the 'Black Sheep Cup' was won by the right section of 107 Battery in the first annual competition. After re-forming the Battery spent most of December 1965 and January 1966 on various exercises at TIANJARA.

1st Field Regiment was to go Vietnam but 107 Battery was to be left behind. The Battery was stripped of all eligible soldiers and by May 1966 had been reduced to 1 Officer and 20 Other Ranks. The remainder of that year was taken up in accumulating stores and personnel and in training so that the Battery would be capable of participating in exercise "Barra-Winga" which was held at Shoalwater Bay. It was on this exercise that the current sub-units of 4 Field Regiment served together for the first time. 107 Battery was placed under command of 4 Field Regiment which for the exercise consisted of an RHQ and 108 Field Battery bolstered by 104 Medium Battery to achieve a three battery regiment.

1967 was a very important year for the Battery. March saw the Battery taking part in the Staff College demonstration followed by exercises and courses in April and May, but it was on the open day staged on 17th of June that was the climax of the year. It was at this open day that the 'Black Sheep' of 107 Field Battery became the 'Rampant Ram' of today. Major Marfell's Sam Browne and sword were presented and the annual competition for the Black Sheep Cup was started. After the running of a Battery Jungle Warfare course and participation in exercise "Noisy Pitta" with 8 BAR at Shoalwater Bay, the advance party left for Malaysia on the 1st of September to be followed by the main body who relieved A Battery on the 16th September 1967.

Wednesday 8th May: On the enclosed return, we're asked for rank and ECN /Trade you performed while in SVN. Today we are in the hands of the Regiment, so be prepared. Can the FO/FO Acks remember their drills? Can the layers remember the sequence of lay? Will Tim Makinson remember his red pen? It will be an early start, and no wives or children today I'm afraid. We SHOULD be home by dark!!

*addes
✓ Mike*

Thursday 9th May. Free day. (see below)

Friday 10th May: Farewell bar b que at the "Seaview Hotel". Timings TBA but it will be around 1200 hrs, concluding about 1600 hrs. There will be a chance to "soldier on" for those so inclined. This will be chance to say good bye to representatives from the Regiment.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FREE DAYS.

1. Great barrier Reef Wonderland - includes, aquarium, Theatre, and Queensland Museum. Combined entrance fee of 18.00. kids 4-14 half price.
2. Bus day trip to a variety of destinations range from 18.00 to \$45.00.
4. Relax by the pool?
5. Hire cars are available from about \$80.00 per day, for those who want to do their own thing.

COSTING.

One of our main aims is to keep costs down where possible. As a guide, these are expected costs, per person for food only, and payment in advance would be appreciated if possible. Final collection will be at the door on 3 May.

FRD 3rd:	Welcome function	\$10.00
SAT 4th:	Luncheon	10.00
SUN 5th:	Picnic Lunch	15.00
MON 6th:	Bar B Que	5.00
TUE 7th:	Dinner	30.00
FRI 10th:	Bar B Que	<u>10.00</u>
TOTAL:		\$80.00

Prices shown are expected maximum, and any left over will be put back into functions.

All Correspondence to:
WO1 P.J. Bruce, OAM
Artillery Centre
P.O. Box 42
MANLY NSW 2095

ANZAC Day in Sydney this year saw the unveiling of our new banner. Thanks to a generous donation by Brian Swift and some excellent work by Kerry Boyce, we were able to march behind our 4 Field Regiment Banner. The banner drew quite a few favourable comments and has prompted 12 Field and 1 Field Regiments into action to get something similar. Thanks also to Sergeant Steve Boyd from the School of Artillery who varnished the poles and arranged for some chrome dipping to be done.

The march was one of the biggest ever seen in Sydney for some time and was matched by the very large crowd at the Dawn Service. After the march we all gathered at The Marble Bar at the Hilton Hotel. This was the designated meeting place for all Sydney Gunners and we decided to stay with them. Although we had quite a good turn up there were a few of the old faces missing. Early warning - next year the place to be on ANZAC Day is Brisbane. More details later.

The main subject in this issue is the reunion next year in Townsville. To date, there are 50 members attending with 31 wives/girlfriends, and 25 kids. It's not too late to put your name down so let me know as early as possible if you can make it. I was in Townsville this year for their birthday parade and they put on a damn good show. The CO LTCOL Jim Catchlove is right behind our visit and has assured us it will be a reunion to remember. The RSM, WO1 Steve Finch is the co-ordinator of the event. More details latter in the bulletin.

After distribution of the last edition we received 25 envelopes returned to sender. Keeping track of addresses is a problem. We've included the latest mailing list in this addition with thanks to Mick Sullivan for preparing it all. Please try and notify any change of address and if you send us an address of a mate, please ensure it is current.

Regards,
Peter

THE REUNION

The following have indicated they will or may be attending:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ian Prewett | Gane Doyle + 1 |
| D. Helmrich + 2 +1 | Norm Grundell + 1 |
| Jeff Shields + 1 + 2 | David Lynch + 1 |
| Harry Dainton + 1 | Peter Oakes |
| Mick Long + 1 + 2 | *David King |
| Tony Sergeant + 1 | *R. Guzzubbo |
| Steve Glover + 1 + 3 | Brian Jansen + 2 + 2 |
| Don Donkin + 1 | *Pat Kitschke + 1 + 2 |
| Moe Armstrong + 1 + 2 | Ray Harper + 1 |
| Phillip Button + 1 | *Graham Coe + 1 |
| *Bill Smith + 1 (child) | *Allan Henderson |
| *Greg Wilkinson + 1 | George Allingame + 1 |
| PJ Smith + 1 | *Barry Artup |
| *Dave Larter | *Vincent Galea + 1 |
| John Lenz + 1 | *David Anderson + 1 |
| John Wilson + 1 | Neville Tickner + 1 + 2 |
| *Alex Pavlovich | George Stevenson |
| *Michael Berriman | *Dave Holmes |
| Peter McDonald | *Dave Gilmer + 1 |
| *Geoff Gray + 1 | *Garry Sharpe + 1 + 2 |
| Syd Farrow | *Mervyn Bignall |
| Lloyd Greentree | Tommy Oliphant + 1 + 2 |
| *Graeme Lucas + 1 | Ian Johnson |
| *Bill Fox | Bob Poletti |
| Toby Tyler | Peter Bruce |
| | Des Spurr |

*Indicates interested in share travel or accommodation or both.

ACCOMODATION

Limited accomodation will be available at the barracks but it will be pretty sparse. Stretchers in the MI block might be the best we can do depending on numbers. If you want accomodation at the barracks let me know on the attached form and we'll see what we can do. Motel prices vary but as a guide the Cleveland Hotel has offered us corporate rates of:

Standard Suite (1-2 persons)	\$46.00 per room/per night
Family Suite (4 persons or less)	\$56.00 per room/ =
Executive Suite (4 persons or less)	\$72.00 per Suite/ =
Extra person in room	\$10.00 per person/ =

The Cleveland is the old Louths Hotel and is right in the centre of town. There are numerous other motels around but if you can get together and make a bulk booking you'll be better off. Doug Frew, manager of Cluden Park Motor Inn will consider special rates for bulk bookings. (5 mins from Lavarack but 15 mins out of Town). Ph (077) 784555.

LETTERS

Toby Tyler has transferred from Malanda to Townsville, with QLD Police. Toby is doing some ground work for us in Townsville.

Merv Bignall advises he is now living on the Gold Coast but not yet married. Hopes to make it to the reunion.

Steve Daanen advises he has gone back to his pre-army days of painter and decorator. Thanks for Shanes address, and if anyone can help out with Fred Johnstones (Ex BDR clerk) address, Steve would like to know.

Alex Pavlovich retired from the army in August, after 21 years plus. Alex is "still single and happy", and off on a tour of the home Country. Alex plans to live at Lemon Tree Passage and play bowls.

Greg Wilkinson advised he has a farm merchandise store in Gromalling W.A. Is asking after Tim Mooney and John Stevens if anyone help out. Sorry about the 1st edition Greg - copy enclosed.

Geff Shields held a get together of some of the West Australians in May. He advises that there are 106 Bty plaques available from John Burridge on 09 3841218- cost \$35.00 with about 3 months delay.

George Allingam wrote to remind me that we are all getting older. Thanks George - I'd nearly forgotten. Georges eldest son Nick is in 2nd year and the youngest son James has just started High School. Middle girl is in last year of High School. George, there's one thing worse then no kids in primary school - no kids at school!

Ray Harper advises from Townsville that there are now 3 services clubs: Townsville Sub Branch, Thuringowa City Sub Branch, and Vietnam Veterans Association, Thuringowa City Sub-Branch. Ken Adams is over in England for 3 months. Thanks for the news Ray.

I've taken the liberty of "editing" the above letters. When time and space permits, I'd like to print the whole letter.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Friday 3 May:

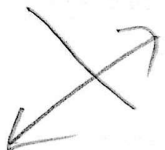
A chance to meet everyone and register in. We'll be in one of the function rooms at the Cleveland Hotel, right in the centre of Town. You'll receive your nametag, details of all functions, transport etc, and will be able to leave us a contact number. Light bar snacks will be provided.

Saturday 4th May:

Transport will be provided to the Regiment, where we will really be made to feel part of the parade. Families welcome. Some will be quite amazed at the difference to the Barracks. After the parade we will join the Regiment for lunch and the traditional cutting of the birthday cake. After the luncheon there will be a chance to have a drink with members of the Regiment in respective messes. Transport will be available back to accommodation in time to change and prepare for "Townsville by night". Details TBA.

Sunday 5th May:

First up a church service at Lavarack Barrack Chappel. Transport provided. Details TBA. Next up is the Mingela Races. Bush Picnic Races at its best. Transport provided, and a chicken & champagne lunch will be available. Should be a great family fun day. A couple of surprises in hand too!! Transport will drop you back at your accommodation.



Monday 6th May.

Public Holiday in QLD. We'll all meet at the ferry terminal and go over to Magnetic Island. Bar BQ lunch, and a chance to explore the island or lie on the beach and relax. Full details provided later.

Tuesday 7th May:

Free day. Game of golf at Townsville golf club, hosted by John Wilson. Tee off from 0800 hrs. Association dinner at a venue still to be confirmed but you are asked to be there by 1900 hrs. Guests will include CO, RSM, and members of the Regiment. Transport to and from will be provided. In selecting the venue, we have tried to stay middle of the road to keep costs within reason. Hopefully there will be a chance for a dance or two after dinner. At the dinner we will show our appreciation to the Regiment for looking after us. (see separate item).

1968 saw elements of the Battery training in Brunel, Vietnam and the East Coast of Malaya as well as the usual exercises at Asahan. The year was climaxed by the Brigade inter unit sports competition where the Battery seven a side rugby triumphed over all, including the Kiwis. One last ceremonial occasion of note occurred when the Battery held ground for the presentation of colours to 8 BAR in January 1969 the Battery Emplaning Officer lost his first vehicle when H1 was dropped from a Royal Malaysian Airforce Sikorsky helicopter somewhere in the jungle between Kluang and Kanga Kaharg. Not satisfied with this effort he managed to drop the replacement H1 from 400 feet during an exercise conducted in March 1969. Not even the Black Sheep Battery could manage three in a row, at least that was what people thought, but in May 1969, during trials with a Scout helicopter, parts of 'D' gun were jettisoned into the Malacca Straits. In spite of these 'minor' incidents 107 Field Battery left Malaysia with its good reputation enhanced to join 4th Field Regiment in TOWNSVILLE to prepare for the Battery's tour in Vietnam.

After intense training at High Range, the Jungle Training Centre and on exercise with 8 RAB, 107 Battery departed for SVN in May 1970. Very little is recorded of the Battery Tour in SVN, and this should be corrected. To this end, anyone with a story to tell is asked to put it down and provide it to me for inclusion in "4th Field Regiment in SVN" to be published "one day". Photos would also be welcome.

RETURNS.

Would those attending please complete the enclosed form and return it to me as soon as you can. Most bookings have now been made, but it is never too late to put your name down. We'll have to put down a deposit on some of the venues and we'll have to have a final cut-off date of 1 April 1991. Any late cancellations could leave us in a bit of a bind so please cover all approaches before you do pull out.

Extra details on the reunion will be provided only to those who have indicated they are attending.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

Mick Long has suggested we consider "Life membership". I'd be in favour and would suggest it be by approval of the committee and with payment of say \$200.00.

Any comments, for or against would be most welcome.

PRESENTATION TO 4 FIELD REGIMENT

Several ideas have been suggested for presentations to the Regiment. Whatever is decided it should be of benefit to or for use of members of the Regiment now and in the future. Whether it be a photo album of the Regiment in SVN, or some sort of trophy, all suggestions or ideas are most welcome. I feel at this stage we could spend up to \$300.00, and plan to make the presentation during the association dinner.

THE HISTORY OF 107TH FIELD BATTERY "THE BLACK SHEEP OF THE RAA"

107 Battery was first raised in Sydney in 1915 as 28 Battery as part of the newly formed 7th Field Artillery Brigade, which also comprised 25th, 26th and 27th Batteries. After initial training in the rudiments of military discipline, the Brigade had a farewell march through the streets of Sydney, before leaving their base at "THE WARREN" MARRICKVILLE at 0300 hrs on the 11th of May 1916. The Brigade moved by tram burdened by the necessities of greatcoat, bandolier, rifle, and kitbag to the Quay where they embarked at 0600 hrs on board the SS 'ARGYLLSHIRE! After 63 days of living under cramped conditions steaming without lights and with only brief stops at Durban, Capetown and Dakar the Brigade arrived in England on the 12 July 1916 and was moved immediately to the Training Camp at Larkhill.

During the next four months of intensive training the Brigade was transformed into an efficient fighting unit ready to go to France as the Artillery of the famous 3rd Division A.I.F. under the command of General Sir John Monash. The Brigades first introduction to warfare was in the allegedly quiet section of Armentieres where they met the famous Madamoiselle; this was followed by twelve months in Flanders at such places as Zillebeke, Ypres, Ploegsteert Woods, Pascherdale, Hell Five Corner, Messines, Dickenbusch and Mennin Gate. Then there was the forced march in 1918 from Bailleul to Doullens where 85 miles of terrible roads were covered in 100 hours as the call came to stem the German breakthrough in the Somme. This was followed by the experiences of Armiens, Villiers Brettenearix, Bray Perone and Bullecourt. At the end of the war 107 Battery had 181 all ranks to celebrate the Armistice after having lost 60 killed in action of whom 41 were gassed, 12 died of wounds, 1 died of illness and 119 were wounded.

On returning from France in 1919 the Battery became part of the 7th Field Regiment located first at North Sydney and later at Willoughby NSW where it remained till 1939. In that year 107 Battery was sent to Geraldton WA as part of the 8th Brigade Group. In 1942 the four 4.5 inch guns were replaced by 25 pounders. Although the Battery was on active service conditions it did not see action in World War 2. The last official act of 107th Field Battery was to march through Sydney on the 29 October 1943 before being disbanded in November of 1943. On 1st of June 1965 LTCOL R.M. C. Cubis, CO of 1st Field Regiment requested authority from RAA 1 DIV to raise an additional Battery. During the initial stages of the formation it was felt that the Battery should have a suitable emblem that would in part reflect the nature of the unit. Since the Battery was being raised from 'resources' not considered essential to other established units in the area, members of the battery felt like 'poor relations' in a setting where other units were preparing for service in South Vietnam. With this situation in mind the Black Sheep was adopted as the Battery emblem. A metal sign depicting a very sad looking black merino ram was produced on the front of the Battery area along with