



"A" Field Battery Association Inc.



Incorporated in Queensland

National Newsletter

Incorporating Road Runner & Shell Drake Newsletters.

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From The President's Chair.



G'day fellow members,

The first thing I must comment on was the dedication of the plaque at the Australian War Memorial. The service went very smoothly and we had a roll up of about 175 people. We had about 26 personnel from 'A' Bty, in charge was Lt Brilliant, also we had Brig Gerard Fogarty AM, Director General WPRR, Lt Col Michael Kingsford, CO 4th Field Regiment, Lt Col Graeme Finney, CO 8/12TH Medium Regiment and their respective RSMs' and Battery Guides. We had people like Dave Kelly, immediate past Battery Commander, Brig Don Weir CBE, Bill Harkness, Alex Reynolds, Rod Althaus, Tom Williams, Ken Kennedy, Don Donkin, Dave Adams, Col Maynard, Garb Ellis, Peter Hewitt and not to forget our Patron, Barry Campbell. One I must mention is Peter Privett and his lovely wife.

A special thanks goes to Maj Gen John Whitelaw AO CBE and Col Peter Seddon for unveiling you plaque, thank you gentleman.

There is a lot of people I must thank, and they are: Lt Darren Brilliant, From 'A' Fd Bty, I would have been lost without Darren getting me addresses of serving members, our hard working committee, all the people who got me addresses (I would have been lost without my computr) We got a new member a few weeks before the dedication, his name is Bob Gray and he was a reinforcement to the Bty in 1959 in Malaya. Bob is a minister of religion, so we contacted him and he agreed to be our Padre. Thank you Bob.

I also must thank Mr Martin Hansen, from the AWM, without Martins help we would have been Knee deep in you know what.

On the 2nd of August we were given a tour of the Trealour Centre at Mitchell, it is a shame there were not more people as the tour was brilliant. Some of the thingsthey have at the centre are, Hudson, Canberra Bombers, DC3, two Hughie's being repaired, Coral Gun (you should have been there Max) M113's Centurion Tanks, Russian T34 Tank, in working order, and the vehicles, too numerous to mention, most in working order,even an old Wilds towed cooker. The amount of artillery pieces there is incredible, some of which are the only ones left in

the world, especially the German WW1 ordinances. Coming up on the 9/10th September is our annual reunion and AGM, if anyone is going to Maroochydore and they have not contacted Bonnie, could you please do so. If anyone wishes to nominate for Committee, there is a nomination form on the 'A' Bty website, this form has to be back in the hands of the secretary by 31st August. At the AGM I will be asking for the membership to be raised to \$20.00 pa, hopefully this will be passed. Reasons for this is the cost of running the Association is ever increasing and we now have a membership of 217. REMEMBER, all subs are due on from the 1st August, if you get in early you will only pay \$15.00 until the 10th September '06.

If anyone wishes to make a DONATION to the The 'A' Field Battery Association Inc, it would be most appreciated.

Something to think about for next year. It is the 50th anniversary of 'A' Bty going to the Malayan Emergency, 40th Anniversary of 'A' Bty returning from Malaysia and the 36th year of going and returning from Vietnam.

A reminder about the book Don Sinclair wrote on our Malayan experience 57/59, it is available from Don for \$40.00: remember once costs are covered all proceeds go to the Association Coffers. Also we have car stickers and 'A' Bty badges for sale.

One last thing I must mention is Rex (Sultan) Martin is not standing for re-election as Editor at the AGM, so we will be looking for a new editor.

I must give Rex the warmest thanks for the work he has put in to the Road Runner and the initial three National Newsletters.

That's enough rambling from me, see you all at the waterhole at Maroochydore.

Tex Bassan.



From the editor's Office.



Greetings fellow members, trusting all is well with each & every one of you. We lost some of our older members recently & no doubt they will be creating havoc in that 'Gun Park in the Sky'.

As you all should be aware, our AGM is not that far off into the very near future, the weekend beginning Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September 2006 incl. So, one would imagine that those that are going to attend have contacted our most working Secretary, Bonnie Bassan, by one of the many means of electronic aids that are now in our means of communications or even by that age old method of writing & sending by Aust. Post. It should be another great get-together, hearing the same old "When I was..." and usual fantasy tales plus some new inventive jargon etc, etc.

Let us not forget, that if you feel you would like to stand for one of the committee positions, please inform Secretary Bonnie or her layabout spouse, Pres. Tex Bassan before the meeting takes place as this means that those that have nominated for said position/s, will only be put to the count at voting time. If no written nomination/s has/have been received prior to the beginning of the AGM, then these positions will be called on from the floor.

While we are on it, don't forget that fees' are nearly due by the time you receive this issue, and it has come to notice that many of you have not updated your email address or maybe we have got it wrong. Anyway, what's done is done and it would be appreciated if you could forward our Web Master, Peter Kimball with your new or corrected email address.

At this juncture, as you know that I will not be standing for the honored position as your Newsletter editor this year after the AGM, I would like to thank all those that have contributed stories in some way to your National Newsletter, and hope there will be many more out there who will contribute articles of interest in the future.

The last but not least, I have to thank my bride (wife) Noelene for giving her endless time in the preparing envelopes, folding the many, many pages, and putting up with the writer for sitting at the computer, waiting, watching and counting the many hard copies coming from the printer, in other words, ignoring my ever-loving.

I believe that the next editor will also have his work cut out, so please give him your support as I feel the National Newsletter can only get stronger as time goes on.



It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve you.

Rex (Sultan) Martin.



This is an aerial view of the Maroochydore meeting.

V.A.L.E.



29391 A. JOHN WORBOYS.



Interred 11:00hrs - 14-06-2006 at
Southcreek Crematorium



2410307 / 213886
PATRICK (PAT) F. DALY



23/03/1931 to 01/06/2006

Pat enlisted on 07/03/1955 & discharged
from the Army on 20/01/1967.

Some of the postings Pat served in were:

103 AA Bty & 14 NSTB- 1956

12TH & 13TH NSTBs'- 1957

1Fd Regt RAA 102 Mortar Bty. (4.5")

'A' Fd. Bty- Malaya- 15-03-59 to 03-10-59

101 Fd Bty- Malaya- 04-10-59 to 15-03-61

102 HQ Bty- 1961 & 131 Div Loc Bty 1966.



TREVOR ERNEST BEER



Passed away: 25th May 2006

Survived by wife Margaret and children.



LEST WE FORGET.



The Gunners' Thunderbox Network.

Where information is gathered, analytically processed & distributed.



From the Email & letterbox...

To start the ball rolling:

Gotta love the Australian Military!!!

Three men – a Canadian Farmer, Osama Bin Laden and an Australian Army Engineer, are working together one day when they come across a magic lantern and a Genie pops out of it. "I will give each of you one wish, which is three wishes total," says the Genie.

The Canadian says, "I am a farmer, my dad was a farmer and my son will also farm. I want the land to be ever fertile in Canada." Pooooof! With the blink of the Genie's eye, the land in Canada was forever made fertile for farming.

Osama bin Ladin was amazed, so he said; "I want a wall around Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran so that no infidels', Jews', Australians or Americans can come into Our precious state." Pooooof! Again, with the blink of the Genie's eye, there was a huge wall around these countries.

The Australian Army Engineer says, "I am very curious. Please tell me more about this wall." The Genie explains, "Well, it's about 5000 feet high, 500 feet thick and completely surrounds the countries. Nothing can get in or out – it's virtually impenetrable."

The Australian engineer says, "Fill it with water."



Sick Report.

Don't know about the rest of you lot, but your humble editor was laid up with a crook back for a couple of weeks recently and let me tell you it was one of the most painful attacks I have had for some years, they put me on morphine patches to help relieve the pain and after many days I think they were working somewhat. Now I and my good lady

(CEO) of the house, have these rotten colds, and yes, we had our flu shots early in the piece.

If any of you old farts out there have painful afflictions, I would suggest to you, go see your medico or shrink and ask them to recommend you to a Pain Management professional, they can really help you control the agony.

Had to go to the Docs' yesterday (9/08/06) for various checks and they hit me with a "phenomena" injection that lasts for 5 years.

Go and get your free jab...



The above is the Memorial plaque laid at the Canberra War Memorial Musuem at a ceremony on Tuesday 1st August 2006.



Thre of our Members at Canberra for the Ceremony.
Ian Leven – Dodger Noonan – Geof Johnson.

I have been told that there were 15 ex Battery Commanders (one current) who attended the ceremony and 9 or so BSMs'. Not a bad roll up.

At the podium: Mr. Steve Gower AO.
Director, Australian War Memorial.

Seated L to R: Mr. Craig Johnston M of C, AWM.
Mr. Ron (Tex) Bassan, 'A' Fd Bty Ass'n President.
Rev. Bob Gray, Padre 'A' Fd Bty Ass'n.
Mr. John Smith, 'A' Fd Bty Ass'n V/President.
Lt. Col. Barry Campbell (Ret). Patron, 'A' Bty Ass'n.
Col. Peter Seddon (Ret) Former BC 'A' Fd Bty RAA.

The Origin of the White Lanyard

The lanyard had a genuine purpose in war. It was originally a piece of cord, approximately a metre in length, used to secure a jack-knife which was issued to both the artillery and the cavalry. The knife had a number of uses; the blade was for cutting loose horses which became entangled in the head and heel ropes of the picket line, and the spike of the knife was used as a hoof pick, for the removal of stones from the horses hooves. A fuse key was also attached to the lanyard.

Hanging loose, the lanyard soon became dirty and for the day-to-day barrack routine it looked out of place on an otherwise smart uniform; so for peace time purposes the lanyard was plaited and whitened with Blanco, to match both the white bandolier and the white waist belt worn by gunners of the day. The lanyard was worn on the left shoulder with the end containing both the knife and fuse key tucked into the breast pocket.

In 1920 the lanyard was moved to the right shoulder, simply because of the difficult problem of trying to remove the knife from the pocket underneath the bandolier. By now the bandolier and belt, worn with battle dress, had along ceased to be white, whilst the lanyard remained so.

The knife was removed in 1933 and the lanyard then became a straight cord, worn purely as an ornamental item of dress. In 1955 it was, for a short time, reintroduced in the plaited style, but it quickly went back to the straight lanyard currently worn today.

There is simply no truth either to any other popular story regarding the Artillery's white lanyard.

