

1871



A Field Battery Association, Inc.

National Newsletter

July 2007



2007

President Ron Bassan's Report

G'day fellow members,

I hope everyone had a great Anzac Day, I know that I did and the attendance at Brisbane was much better than last year.

Our two guns looked very smart and I see that Arthur Burke is giving all the credit to Barry Stark in the latest RAA Liaison Letter, we know the truth and of course it was an ex 105 Battery member who did the work on the L5, Arthur forgets that the Bob and Saint team were in A Field Battery before they were in 105 Battery.

The reunion in Sydney is progressing slowly; we have forty names who have booked into the Brookvale Travel Lodge.

Remember, you have to book your own accommodation at the Travel Lodge. The phone number is; 02 8978 1200. Also could you please let Secretary Bonnie Bassan know that you are coming and also if you are bringing a partner.

I have had a letter from the Battery Commander of A Field Battery RAA and he will be attending the Annual General Meeting, also the dinner on the Saturday night.

The Battery is going to provide a coach, a driver and guides on the visit to the Battery on Monday 17th.. I have to talk to them and see if they can provide more than one coach.

The visit to North Fort on Sunday the 16th., I believe has been approved and a barbeque lunch will be provided, I do not know how much the lunch will cost at this stage and will let everyone know as soon as we get numbers. After lunch there is a walk through the old School of Artillery. You will be able to reminisce about all the things you did at the School; like polishing brass and waxing the ballroom floor, etc. There will be a charge for those people who go by coach.

The dinner on Saturday the 15th. is a formal occasion, so coat and tie are required; also miniature medals are to be worn.

The cost of the dinner is \$32.00 per head. As we have to have numbers and payment to the Leagues Club a week before the dinner, we will require payment to the Secretary by the 31st. Of August.

I hope everyone comes along and makes this a momentous occasion, a time to cherish for the rest of your life, as this may be the last time some of us see each other, due to advancing age.

I hope we have the best turnout for this occasion that we have ever had, as there has been a great deal of work put into this by your Committee.

We will have items for sale on this weekend, so bring your money with you. Items such as polo shirts with the Battery logo, caps, Saint's well researched book, car stickers, plaques and DVDs of plaque laying ceremony and our gun restorations.

In this Newsletter you will see a form to nominate for committee positions at the AGM. If you are going to nominate yourself or another person, the form; signed by yourself and two financial members must be in the hands of the Secretary by 31st. August.

All members who pay their membership fees before 31st. August will be eligible for their name to go into a draw for free membership 07/08. The first two people drawn out will have their fees refunded.

That's enough from me for this Newsletter; see you all in September.

Regards, Tex Bassan

Notice of motion from Daryl Patch.

Daryl Patch will move a motion at the AGM that: All nurses serving in Vietnam in 1971 be made Honorary Life Members of A Field Battery Inc.

THE PACK HOWITZER HEADS FOR NEW HOME

The Association's latest acquisition, an L5 Pack Howitzer has now been restored and was recently moved from Saint Sinclair's workshop at Bribie Island to its new home at 1st Field Regiment at Enoggera, Brisbane.

On arrival on a hired car trailer it was unloaded with the help of some 105 Bty Assn members who were busy putting their new History Room together in what is hoped will be the new Regimental Museum. The Colonel Commandant Col Arthur Burke was there to organize where in the building the gun will be stored and required the approval of the 2ic of the Regiment, who arrived to inspect the gun and decide where it will be placed.



The L5 is towed from Saint's garage.

The 2ic seemed concerned that the gun appeared to be in firing condition and on peering down the barrel said he was concerned if he could see daylight down the barrel.

He was informed that even though there was a welded plug in the barrel you can't see daylight down a barrel as the breech was closed.

Much jocularly from the older gunners, but the officer was excused his faux pas as he is a Service Corp Reservist.

The gun was finally placed in the foyer of the building but will be removed for its showing in the ANZAC DAY MARCH.



Being winched onto the trailer for its trip to Brisbane.



"A MAN IS NOT DRESSED WITHOUT A HAT"

Famous words, and true. So if you are going in the ANZAC Day march, a Gunners Dinner, a 50th Anniversary Reunion, meeting the Prime Minister, going out to dinner, a wedding, funeral, christening or just taking the family to the beach, be sure to be seen wearing your "A" Field Battery Cap. Be prepared for applause, autograph hunters, journalists, TV interviewers or just crowds of cheering public. **This cap is a chic magnet.**



\$15 ea. plus \$5 postage

WEARING YOUR "A" FIELD BATTERY CAP?

Well to be truly well dressed you will have to match it with your "A" Field Battery Assn polo shirt. No need for a two or three piece suit or an Armani Sports coat, a Van Heussen Shirt or even your favourite Jacky Howe blue singlet. This high quality fashionable polo shirt is acceptable wear for any occasion, and with your colour coordinated cap don't be surprised if you are asked to pose for a man's fashion magazine.



\$35 ea. plus \$5 postage

State your Bra size

All proceeds go to the A Field Battery Assn.

**Order now from our Vice President
Don (Saint) Sinclair
P.O. Box 808
Banksia Beach
Bribie Island 4507**

Thank you for purchasing these quality items. Your support helps keep our Association financial.

Anzac Day - Australia



Brisbane Banner



Sydney Banner



Ian Leven, Bob Morgan and Frank Berrier at Ballina



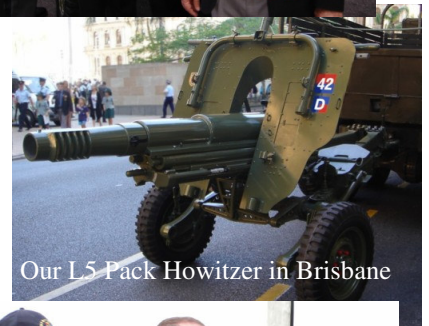
Anzac Day Brisbane-2007



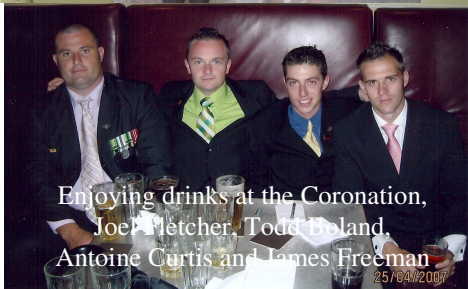
Jim, Butch, Dick and Bubbles



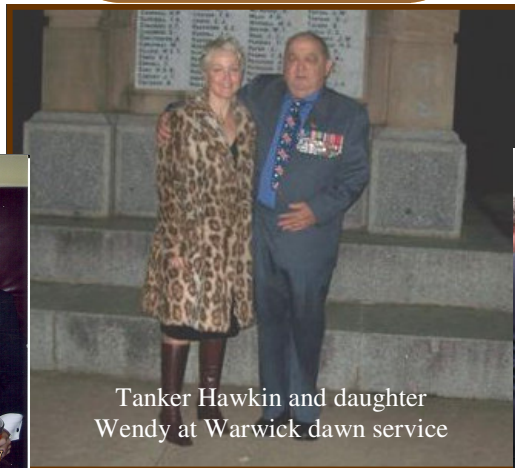
Saint explains the finer points to son Martin



Our L5 Pack Howitzer in Brisbane



Enjoying drinks at the Coronation, Joe, Fletcher, Todd, and James



Tanker Hawkin and daughter Wendy at Warwick dawn service



Rex Martin in Forster

WILD HOG



You may think that Bubbles Alcorn looks harmless as he sits on his Harley, but when he dons the leathers and puts on his black helmet with the dark visor, he becomes Bubba the Biker, one mean rev-happy, cool dude pumping that Hog along the Highway to Hell. You'd be real smart to steer clear of that boy; ya hear! Hey Bubba, I am real envious. 😊

Needed Only if You Have Changed.

If you are attending the Reunion in Sydney in September and you think your appearance may have changed in the last 50 years, could we recommend an 'A' Battery ID badge. Black on a gold finish with a magnetic clip. Will last a lifetime for only \$10 posted.

Contact the secretary.
Bonnie Bassan at 6 Harvey's Road
Beaconsfield Qld 4740.



"A" FD BTY RAA ASSN
**PETER
KIMBALL**

Anzac Day in Sydney. 2007

Anzac Day in Sydney report from Vice President John Smith.

Hello there people;

Another Anzac Day has come and gone, I must say that we down here had a whale of a time even though the weather wasn't all that crash hot, what with the rain for the morning service and during the parade as well.

During the march we had a couple of chaps retire from the march, but turned up at the Coronation: which was good. When we passed Dick Smith's all the chaps gave a hearty cheer, as usual.

I will mention that we had a Land Rover at our disposal for those that needed to ride, and John Downes was aboard that with a few others. Next year I would like to see anyone who is not too well, make use of the Land Rover.

The boys of The Battery looked after the Coronation side of the day and did a top job. I must thank the BSM Tony Kennedy, we were very well looked after. Thank you Tony, and all of the Battery for a great day. I must give a big thank you to the two new Gunners who were our standard bearers, Namely, Gunner Carmona and Gunner May, they were immaculate, even though they did get very wet.

I pass on; on behalf of all the older chaps a very big thank you to the BC Major Damian Hill and all of the Battery for a very good day.

Incidentally I had a visit at the Coronation from Terry Daly, who passed on his mother's thanks and best wishes to us all. Terry also mentioned that he had been in touch with the Berriers, and that Frank is going well.

Best regards to all of the Association, from **Smithy**.

Lining up for the march are Brian Czislawski, Don Donkin, Brian Privett, Max Vandyke, Kevin Mitchell, John Glidden, Tom Banfield, Damien Hill, Barry Campbell and John Smith.

I was lucky in that I attended the morning service at Penrith where the weather was kind to us, although it did shower after the service. I was lucky to scrounge a trip to Sydney with the Penrith Cadet Band, in their coach and arrived in town at 8am. Giving me plenty of time to cool my heels. Around 9am a few chaps started to turn up, but dispersed until around 10am., by that time there arose the usual loud ruckus from down the street, and I knew the A Battery boys were in town. Brian Czislawski and Tom Banfield were in town down from Queensland (it sure was good to see them), They were busy catching up with mates, and I had a hell of a time getting all of the chaps together for a photo, even then I missed a couple.

We finally moved off at 11.10am. in a shower-less break, for about 200 metres, then there was a halt and down came **THE RAIN**, we stopped for about half an hour, then it was stop, start to just before the Cenotaph, would you believe fine traffic from there onward.



All the marchers praised the smart appearance of our standard bearers, Gunner Carmona and Gunner May.



'A' Field Battery Operations Update



The Command Post in action

The last past three months have been a particularly busy period for 'A' Field Battery. A short leave period over Easter was followed immediately by ANZAC Day, a month-long exercise in Townsville (Exercise CATA), a short 'break' back at the Battery that included some parachute continuation training and then another three-week exercise at Shoalwater Bay (Exercise Talisman Sabre).

ANZAC Day was celebrated with the traditional dawn service held at 'A' Field Battery followed by a march through the city of Sydney and then drinks at the Coronation Hotel. Two members were also lucky enough to spend ANZAC day in Adelaide and take part in a reunion of members of 'A' Field Battery from the 1971 tour of Vietnam.

The exercise in Townsville was a brigade

exercise, with 'A' Field Battery amalgamating with 108 Field Battery for the duration. The exercise went off without a hitch and culminated in two danger-close practices and a live fire defence of the gunline at a fire support base. The gunline defence involved the concurrent engagements using direct fire, small arms, grenade launchers and anti-armour weapons.

The short time back in Sydney after Exercise CATA took in some parachute continuation training, with several members of the Battery being afforded the opportunity to conduct a night jump with, thankfully, no injuries being sustained.

In mid-June the Battery again deployed north for Exercise Talisman Sabre, a joint exercise with an American Marine Expeditionary Unit. The exercise is ongoing until early July, however several members of the Battery will get the chance to observe the Marines' M198 155mm Battery in action to see just how they do business.



A hill bears the brunt of direct fire



Members conducting defence of the gunline

On the operational front, the Battery still has several personnel deployed to East Timor on Operation Astute, and sent another small party on this deployment last week. Some members of the Battery are also looking forward to the



Current and former members of the Battery at Anzac Day in Adelaide

opportunity to deploy to Afghanistan later in the year as part of the third rotation of the Reconstruction Task Force.

The Battery's program for the rest of the year involves a further gunnery exercise at Puckapunyal in September followed by a courses period.

Website

'A' Field Battery has recently established it's own internet site at

http://www.defence.gov.au/army/A_FDBTY

This site is updated monthly and includes photos, news on recent events and activities, newsletters, historical information and a short video. If you wish to contribute any content or have any suggestions for the site please forward them to Peter.Watkins@defence.gov.au



*They shall not grow old,
As we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning,
We will remember them.*

**KEN. AGNEW
TREVOR. BEER
S.J. BLANCH (OAS. Malaya)
TOM. CARRUTHERS
RICHARD. DUGGAN
R.M. DUCAT (OAS. Malaya)
PAT. DALY
TOM. DAWSON
MICK. HARKEN
B.D. HENDERSON (OAS. Malaya)
KEN. KENNEDY
BOBBY. LEWIS
JOHN. MACDONALD
L.G. MATHERS (KIA. Vietnam)
R.J. PARKER (OAS. Vietnam)
DAVE. QUIRK
R. F. SMITH
BRIAN. WHISKER
JOHN. WORBOYS**



Letter to the editor



In volume No. 04 in August 2006, the previous editor Rex Martin submitted a rather brief but adamant article regarding the history of the white lanyard. As a former gunner during 1951 to 1957 I

find that time reference completely off the mark, also the pre-war WW11 period like nothing we were told when we first marched into Georges Heights.

White plaited lanyards were worn by all Artillery gun ranks up to Staff Sergeants, then Warrant Officers up, had the cord worn on the right shoulder.

'A' Field Battery gained the right to wear the lanyard on the left shoulder as from the opening of Federal Parliament in 1927, in recognition of the honour guard drawn from their ranks.

In 1951 only Warrant Officers and Officers wore the cord on the left.

The plaited lanyard was worn in the mid 40s as I have a photograph of a distant relative wearing one Rt / H with blackened curved metal epaulette "AUSTRALIA"

I first marched, in October 1951 to be issued with a cotton lanyard, so as others had done, into Christies in George St. buying spare cotton plus silk woven ones for wearing out.

I think I had about six, as when my lads joined CEBS I adjusted them for their size.

The cord was not common to all ranks until late 1959 or the early 60s.

The hat badge was still the swords/bayonets which we polished till 1952 when it was "war time" reblacked due to hitch in treaty signing with Japan.

I think that about 1952 the Tudor Crown Artillery badge became available, possibly ala Christies. Sometime before the first Queen's Tour in 1954 the Edward Crown was issued, but I am guessing as I was Korea bound with 1 RAR in Brisbane being issued with Tudor Crown RAR badges. On return to "A" Field Battery 1955 I received a set of E/C hat badges.

White lanyards are widely worn in the British Army, the RA, RHA and the Blues and Royals, a guards cavalry unit.

No doubt I have fouled some one's recollections, but this is what this Newsletter is all about.

Clearing out the cobwebs.

Edmund Wanzek- South Australia

You are invited to join us at the

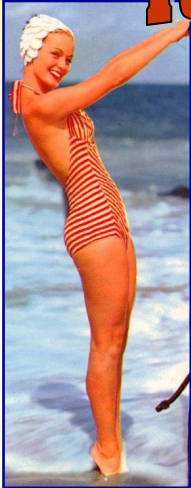
50 th. ANNIVERSARY

To be held at Brookvale Travel Lodge.

Book your room now. 02 8978 1200

You may notice some changes

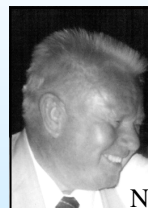
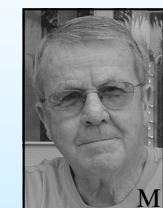
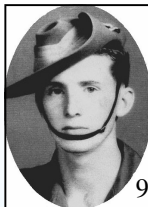
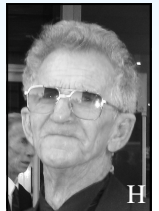
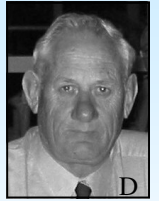
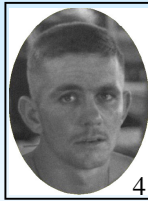
**from 1957 when you attend our reunion
on 14th.-17th. SEPTEMBER 2007**



Can you match the Then and Now pictures ?

1957

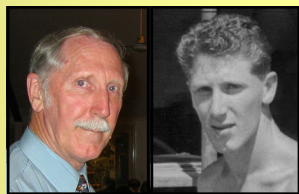
2007



**You will if you go to The Reunion at Manly in
September !**



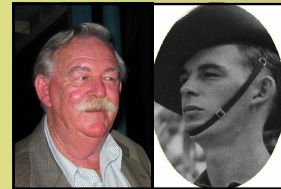
Ron Bassan



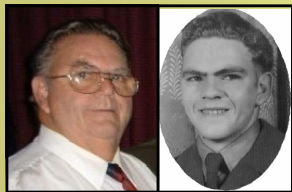
Bob Cunningham



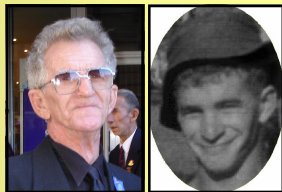
Peter Seddon



Ron Hart



Don Callaghan



Curly McMahon



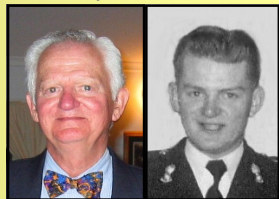
Norm Bostock



Dick Morrison



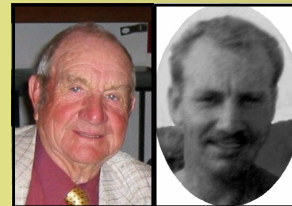
Don Sinclair



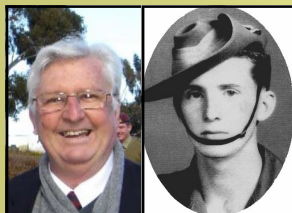
David Harris



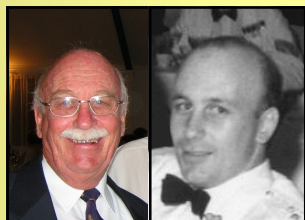
Clive Castles



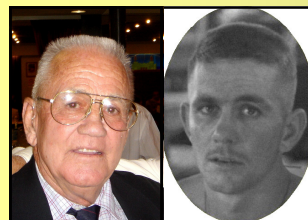
Lofty Moore



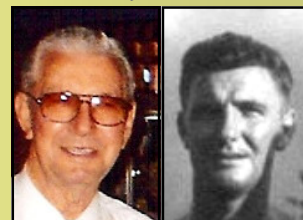
Ray Alcorn



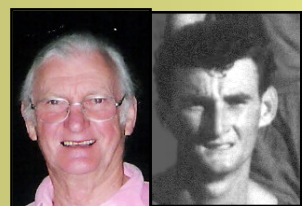
Neil Harden



Brian Czulowski



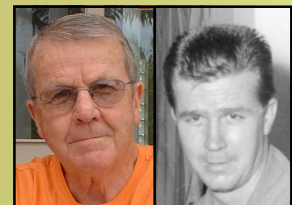
Tom Banfield



Barry Campbell



Max Vandyke



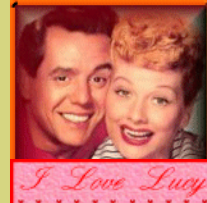
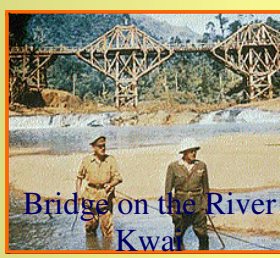
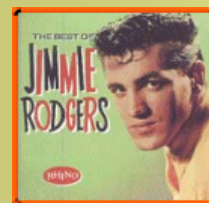
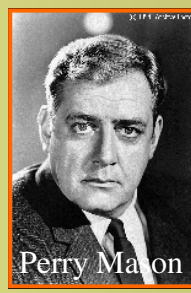
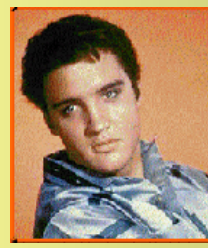
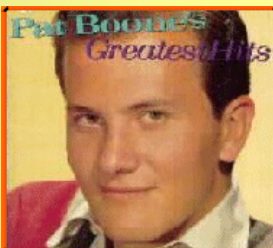
Ron Slaughter



Bill Liddell

MALAYA 1957 1959

50 YEARS ANNIVERSARY REUNION 1957 2007



RICHARD (DICK) WILFRED DUGGAN

Born 23 Nov 1936

Died 21 Jun 2007



I had seen Dick around the Regiment for some time. My first recollection was seeing him on the cricket field wearing white flannel trousers that were 6" too short.

In Malaya with A Fd Bty, Dick and Denny Atherton were promoted to sergeant and swapped troops, Denny went to A Bty and Dick got a further promotion by coming over to B troop. Dick was a natural at most sports but cricket was the most consuming. (test cricket) not the one day pyjama game, as he called it.

Dick had a big of rivalry with our Adjutant (Tom Flanagan) in the shot putt event. Dick laughed when he had to train with a house brick, while the Adjutant got to practice with the real thing.

Dick was up there with the best of any soldiers I have met in my time. I'm sure that if he had stayed in the army, he would

have soon become the Sergeant Major of the Army.

Dick was an imposing figure all 6'4" of him. And very proficient. He was efficient at whatever task he undertook. No nonsense and had very good man management skills. He had set back in the early sixties when he had a leg badly broken and there was talk of a possible amputation. But he worked on becoming fit again and a few years later he was back in the Army cricket team albeit this time, as a slow bowler.

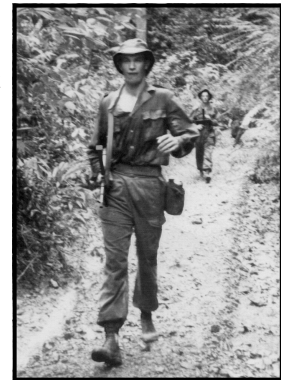
In 1967, Dick came to 108 Fd Bty as Bty guide and did a great job of bringing the Bty gun line up to a high level of efficiency.

After few months in Vietnam Dick was posted to 106 Bty as BSM and finished his tour with them.

Dick had other thoughts of the next stage of his life and became a ranger with the Wild life association where he stayed at the Warrumbungle Mountains Wild Life Park a few miles from Coonabarranban.

Dick was the Head Ranger, and his charming wife June who ran the park kiosk for their working life having moved into the town of Coonabarranban.

Dick will always be remembered as a top soldier and a wonderful man, husband, and father.



REST IN PEACE

Fond memories from Tom Banfield

RICHARD. Dick. DUGGAN

1936

2007



FROM DICK MORRISON.

In early February 1949 I arrived at the front gate of Granville Technical School, having caught the train from Berala to Granville to start my first year in secondary school.

Around the side of the main building I noticed some kids playing cricket in the school nets; Don Bradman's Invincibles team had just returned undefeated from England the year before and cricket was really big in Australia.

I noticed a big raw boned boy of 12 years of age bowling in the nets and I thought to myself this kid can bowl.

Cricket, at Granville was tough, you had to get to school early to get into the game, if you wanted to bat, you had to be able to bowl well.

It was not long before the raw boned kid was in batting and I soon discovered that this kid, could also bat.

After the initial roll call, first year boys had their name called out and were shown which classroom to attend, inside the class room I noticed that the cricketer had been assigned the same class as me.

That was the first time that I had met Dick Duggan; he was a very good student, quick to learn, well behaved, and, as I was to find out later on, a very good athlete, he always had a ready smile.

During our time at Granville we got to know each other very well and we both left the school after completing our intermediate certificate in 1951.

One weekend late in 1954 I was on a ferry to Manly when I saw Dick in an Army uniform at the wharf. "G'day Dick." "G'day Dick." he replied.

He was at the School of Artillery in North Head and told me that he was enjoying life in the Army.

On the 25th. September 1957 as the New Australia sailed from Sydney Harbour I walked to the side of the ship to watch North Head as we sailed by. Who should be leaning on the rail? but my old class mate Dick Duggan. "G'day Dick." "G'day Dick." he replied.

During our time in Malaya I came to observe what a fine soldier Dick was and watch him rise through the ranks to Gun Sergeant.

He carried this rank well and led, rather than push and shout.

He was well regarded by everyone in the Battery. He was a fine soldier, an athlete and a man's man.

When "A" Field Battery celebrated their 125th. Anniversary, I was able to catch up with Dick again and fill each other in on what had happened since Malaya. He told me about his service in Vietnam and his time as a Park Ranger at the Warrumbungle National Park. .

That day he also told me he was having some health problems, which I later found out was Rheumatoid Arthritis, and as a Pension Officer at Tamworth RSL I was able to advise him regarding help from DVA.

Whilst at Tamworth I used to travel to Dubbo and would call in to say "G'day Dick." at Coonabarabran.

It was during these visits that I came to meet and get to know his wife June and his family.

Dick loved Coona and Coona loved Dick; on one occasion I visited with Bubbles Alcorn and Shorty Callaghan and the four of us went to Dick's local pub for a drink and counter lunch. Dick ordered lunch first and the waitress told Dick she would bring his lunch out to the bar.

We ordered, and asked for the same treatment, "The only bloke that gets his lunch taken to him is Dick Duggan." she declared, "but seeing that you are mates of his, I will make this a one off exception." It pays to have friends at the Coona Pub.

Upon each visit I noticed The deterioration in Dick's health, and the severe increase in his pain level; however he seemed to accept the cards that he had been dealt and was always in good spirits

It is difficult to comprehend that he, of all people could be struck with this disease.

The last few years gave Dick no quality of life, but he had the love and comfort of June and his beloved family.

Those of us that served with Dick Duggan will always remember the Ram Rod Straight Digger with the infectious smile.

**REST IN PEACE GUNNER,
IN THE CRADLE OF THE WARRUMBUNGLES**



A high profile crack down on prostitution is in the pipeline once the Labour Party conference is over

Police sniffer dog finds crack in woman's bottom

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

President Clinton places Dick In Al Gore's hands

One-legged escapee rapist still on the run.

Man assists police in rape of nurse.

In a Japanese hotel: 'You are invited to take full advantage of the chambermaid.'

In a Bangkok temple: 'It is forbidden to enter a woman even a foreigner dressed as a man.'

Sick gift: Would the Congregation please note that the bowl at the back of the Church, labelled '*For the Sick*' is for monetary donations only.

Espied in a hotel in Colombo: "Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedchamber, the management suggest to patrons that the palm court be used for this purpose.

Found hanging in a bar in Bangalore: "Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar."

For Sale: Diamond cluster gold engagement ring. 'Forever' engraved inside band. Only six months old.

For sale: child's stool. hardly used. Great for use in garden.

Today both south and north ends of the Church are open. The vicar will baptise children at both ends. Meeting of the young mothers' club today. Those wishing to become young mothers please see the vicar in the vestry.

Ladies of the Church have cast off clothing and may be seen in the crypt every Tuesday evening

Rugby Commentator: "Andrew Mehrkens loves it when Daryl Gibson comes inside of him."

Motor Racing commentator: "The lead car is absolutely unique, except for the one behind it which is identical."

Weathergirl: "So Trevor, where's that eight inches you promised me last night? Oh, hell! Are we still on air?"
Becky Mantin - BBC weathergirl, the day after it was supposed to snow and didn't, to Black newsreader, Trevor McDonald

Astronomy commentator: "They seem cold out there, they're rubbing each other and it looks like he's just come in his shorts." Michael Buerk watching Phillipa Forrester cuddle up to a male astronomer for warmth during BBC1's UK eclipse coverage

Golf Commentator on caddy Fanny Sunneson: "Some weeks Nick Faldo likes to use Fanny, other weeks he prefers to play with himself."

Running commentator: "Paula has a quick look between her legs and likes what she sees."

Motor Racing commentator: "What does it feel like being rammed up the backside by Barrichello?"
James Allen interviewing Ralf Schumacher at a Grand Prix

Cycling commentator: "And there goes Juantorena down the back straight, opening his legs and showing us what balls he has!"

Weightlifting commentator: "This is Gregoriava from Bulgaria. I saw her snatch this morning during her warm up and it was amazing."

Dressage commentator: "This is really a lovely horse and I speak from personal experience since I once mounted her mother."

Paul Hamm, Gymnast: "I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father."

Boxing Analyst: "Sure there have been injuries, and even some deaths in boxing, but none of them really that serious."

Softball announcer: "If history repeats itself, I should think we can expect the same thing again."

Basketball analyst: "He dribbles a lot and the opposition doesn't like it. In fact you can see it all over their faces."

At the rowing medal awards ceremony: "Ah, isn't that nice, the wife of the IOC president is hugging the cox of the British crew."

Soccer commentator: "Julian Dicks is everywhere. It's like they've got eleven Dicks on the field."

Tennis commentator: "One of the reasons Andy is playing so well is that, before the final round, his wife takes out his balls and kisses them... Oh my God, what have I just said?!"

Mike Hallett discussing missed snooker shots on Sky Sports: "Stephen Hendry jumps on Steve Davis's misses every chance he gets."

Clair Frisby talking about a jumbo hot dog on Look North said: "There's nothing like a big hot sausage inside you on a cold night like this."

Steve Ryder covering the US Masters: "Ballesteros felt much better today after a 69."

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When you see Kimbo at our 50th. Anniversary in Manly next September, buy him a drink and thank him for the great job he has done creating our web-site. An amazing collection of photographs and news items covering the 1940s to the present day with A Field Battery. This website is addictive, with the news, links, notice board and a great selection of music while you browse away.

One of the best websites available and kept up to date by Kimbo.

You will want to put this address into your favourites

<http://afdbty.australianartilleryassociation.com/>



'A' Field Battery Association Inc. Nomination Form for Committee

We, the undersigned financial members of 'A' Fd Bty Assn Inc.

Hereby nominate.....

For the position of

Proposer*.....Signature.....

Seconder*.....Signature.....

Acceptance of nomination

I,.....
 A financial member of 'A' Fd Bty
 Assn Inc.

Accept
 nomination.....
 (Signature of Candidate)

* Please Print

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