

1
8
7
1

A Field Battery Association, Inc.

National Newsletter

October 2008

President Ron Bassan's Report

2
0
0
8

President's Report for 2007 – 2008.

Members; it is once again on a sad note that I present my Annual Report for 2007/2008.

It is my sad duty to report to you that we have lost more friends last financial year and they are: - Clive Ralfe, Earnest (Lofty) Moore, Reverend Robert (Bob) Gray, Bernard (Plonky) Wine and Peter Rainsbury. Also Faith Gray has passed away since Bob's death and two old 'A' Bty men, George Xureb and Maj Gen. John Stevenson have also passed away. May they all rest in peace? I don't know what is happening to me, when you look around; you are surrounded by old people, except me of course.

ANZAC DAY in Brisbane was poorly attended, the ones that did turn up enjoyed themselves immensely, with the cruise and barbecue on the Brisbane River. I believe the turnout in Sydney was not that great and they did not have great weather. I would love to see more members come along to the Capital Cities and march under their historical and impressive banners.

Your Committee has been busy the past financial year with two Committee Meetings at Ray and Lorraine Alcorn's residence, Chapel Hill, Brisbane, on the 11th December 2007 and 26th April 2008. The June Committee Meeting was held at the Brookvale Travel Lodge, Brookvale, Sydney, on the 7th June 2008. I was hoping that a lot of our members from N.S.W. would attend. We had Wayne Brooking, Don Green and their partners attend as visitors. We all had a great time. I must thank all the Committee for their time and money spent on travelling to these meetings.

This year has been exceptionally busy for Bonnie and me. Firstly organising the distribution and posting of the Army Combat Badges. They came in two lots, Vietnam first then Korea and Malaya, then trying to get current addresses for people who did not let us know they had changed their address. There are some outstanding badges and the people are:- Jim Holmes, Don Sinclair, Don Weir, Jack Milligan, Laurie Aitken, Leon Anderson, Reg Anderson, Tom Caldwell, Paul Clough, Barry Handley, Don Handley, Brian Jansen,

Bob McNeish and Fred Rudduck. If anyone thinks they are entitled to the ACB and they have not received same or their name has not been read out, please let me know and I will endeavour to find out if you are entitled to it

Secondly, we left Mackay on the 24th April for the march in Brisbane on the 25th and arrived back in Mackay on the 9th June. Luckily we had friends and relatives to stay with in Brisbane, Canberra and Sydney.

Thirdly, I must thank Lorraine and Ray Alcorn, Margie and Brian Miller and of course, Bonnie, for representing the Bty at the Battle of Coral celebrations in Canberra on the 12th – 14th May. I had the added honour of representing the Bty in the laying of a 12 Fd Regt Plaque in the Sculpture Gardens, Australian War Memorial. Ray, Brian and myself attended the National Gunner Dinner, this was the first since 1977,

Then on the 14th we attended the solemn occasion at the Australian Artillery Memorial, Mount Pleasant, Canberra, with the presentation of the scroll by the Governor General, Maj. Gen. Michael Jefferies to the CO, 8/12th Mdm Regt RAA, to recognise the service of 102 Fd Bty at the Battle of Coral and the Bty to be called 102 (Coral) Fd Bty.

The only thing wrong is that 102 are not on the order of battle and I find this appalling. The only thing missing was our Banner, which was supposed to be taken to Canberra.

The Australian War Memorial bought ten of our Malayan Episode books for \$20.00, for re-sale. It is requested that members let us know if they know of anyone who is sick, so we can inform the rest of the members and send them a get well card.

The Committee would like to thank all the people who made generous donations to the Assn, this was a considerable amount.

Our membership is 199 financial members till the 31st July 08. We have twenty three members who have not paid for 07/08, remember if you have not paid your membership for 08/09 then you are unfinancial and there are 73 of you. Please, if you know of someone who served in 'A' Bty, get them to join the Assn; we need as many members to join as possible, with the mortality rate rising we need the younger members so the Assn continues.

All the people who have not attended one of our functions, here at the Coach House before, I make you welcome and please everyone else make them welcome to the best Bty Assn in the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

I would like to thank John Smith, who is not standing for Committee at this AGM; John has been one of our Vice Presidents since we became one Association.

I would like to thank Bob Cunningham for all the work he has put in since he became Treasurer, as you will see when Bob presents his Treasurers Report, we are in a reasonable position and we have nearly enough money invested to cover all our Life Members.

Finally I would like to thank all the Committee for their hard work and dedication. Bonnie, for having to put up with me, Don, as a Vice

President and in charge of the property, Bob, I have already mentioned, Ray, for his attendance at the ANZAC DAY Committee and Committee Meetings and for being a gracious host, Ian, as a Committee Member and his input, the next Committee meeting in November is at Ian Leven residence at Teven, N.S.W; that is if you re-elect him at this AGM.

I would like to give a special great big thank you to two people behind the scenes and they are our hard working Editor, Ron (Butch) Slaughter, who is doing a marvellous job with the new look Newsletter and Peter (Kimbo) Kimball, our man on the internet who just keeps on working behind the scenes and nothing is too much trouble. Thank you and all the best for 2008/2009.

Ron (Tex) Bassan (President)

From the President's Chair

G'day Fellow members,

Welcome to our fourth edition of our Newsletter for 2008. I am not going to make this a big report as I want the Annual General Meeting minutes and the Presidents Report to go into the Newsletter.

Since the last edition we have had our Annual General Meeting and Reunion and I think that the members who attended had a very good time. We had Apologies from the Battery Commander, Maj. Alwyn Payne and the BSM, WO2 Dion McRae, due to operational commitments they were unable to attend but hope to come along next year.

We had quite a few new faces come along this year and I believe they were made welcome; we had Dave and Beryl Adams, Ian and Wendy Leven, Don and Kay Green, Wayne Brooking, Eric Smith, Michael and Susan Blaxland, David Demaid, Warren and Susan Trautner, Tom and Sheila Caldwell and Brian and Joy Privett. These people were all first timers at Maroochydore. I believe our National Servicemen, intake No 2 who came to the Bty at Terendak, Malaysia, are going to try and get the twenty five of them to come along next year. I would like to thank the people who donated prizes for our most successful raffle and they are: - Bonnie Bassan, Coco and Dee Bostock, Pud Gilkinson, Noelene and Bernie McMahon and Sue Hart.

I have just returned from Perth and while we were there Reg and Sylvia Anderson made us very welcome and they have the most loving family I have ever met, they took Bonnie and myself out to Denis and Rosemary Atherton's place and we had lunch with them, most enjoyable, we went to dinner with Max Ptolomey, Rodney and Flo Robertson and their daughter. On the Friday before we left, we had to go to Reg and Sylvia's for dinner and the whole family was there to greet us.

Finally on a sad note, I must inform you all that Neil Harden passed away on the 18th October. Rest in peace Neil, he will be sorely missed.

That's all from me for this newsletter,
Semper Paratus

Tex

Tex Becomes an Honorary Sand Groper

Tex and Bonnie relaxed in the friendly family environment of Reg and Sylvia Anderson while they were in Perth.

The diverse age group of this close and loving family kept our Preso and Secretary entertained during their visit.

Judging by the contented look on Tex's face, I think they may have forced a couple of Swan Lagers on him.



“A” FIELD BATTERY ASSOCIATION Inc. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

Meeting held at Maroochy River Coach House, David Low Way, Maroochydore, Qld, on the 13th September, 2008.

Meeting Opened: By the President, Ron Bassan, at 1000hrs.

Attendance: As per the attendance book.

Apologies: Patron Barry Campbell, Rex Porter, John Smith, Bob McEvoy, Alex Reynolds, Dodger Noonan, Max Vandyke, Maj Alywn Payne, WO2 Dion McRae, Tom Banfield, Ron Gerahty, Neil Harden, Mick Quinn, Brian Scott, Noal Rodda and Reg Matherson.

Public Liability Insurance: The members were informed that under the Qld Incorporation Act, rules, that we do not hold Public Liability Insurance.

Visitors: Max Blaxland and David Demaid.

Departed Comrades: The President asked for a minute's silence for departed comrades, Clive Ralfe, Earnest (Lofty) Moore, Reverend Robert (Bob) Gray, Bernard (Plonky) Wine, and Peter Rainsbury, also, Faith Gray, George Xureb and Maj Gen John Stevenson.

Presentations: To be done at the Annual Dinner.

Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting: The Secretary, Clare Bassan, read the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting which was held at the Brookvale Travel Lodge, Sydney, NSW, on the 15 September 2007 and were confirmed by Mr Lloyd Mitchell. Seconded by Mr Clive Castles and carried.

Business arising from Minutes:

Army Combat Badge, President to read out names of members who are still waiting in his Annual Report.

Nursing Sisters serving in Vietnam during 'A' Bty's tour of Duty. The President told the meeting that he had contacted

Daryl Patch and Daryl said that he has had only four responses and that we should run with these, so as soon as Daryl gives us names, we will present them with Life Membership.

Anniversary of the Battle of Coral: In President's Report.

Correspondence:

Inward: Letter from Qld Government, Department of Fair Trading, Annual Return of Association. Letter from Qld Legacy.

Outward: Nil.

It was moved by Mr Don Callaghan that the inward correspondence be received. Seconded by Mr Harry Cook and carried.

Business arising from Correspondence: It was moved by Mr. Ray Alcorn that we make a donation of \$100.00 towards the cost of the tour of veteran's disabled adult children, sponsored by Queensland Legacy to honour the 90th anniversary of the Armistice. Seconded by Mr Brian Czulowski. Mr Bernard McMahon moved an amendment that we increase the financial contribution to \$250.00. Seconded by Mr Max Ptolomey. The amendment was voted on and carried. The amendment now becomes the motion.

It was moved by Mr. Bernard McMahon that we make a donation of \$250.00 towards the cost of the tour of veteran's disabled adult children. Seconded by Mr. Max Ptolomey. The motion was carried.

President's Report: The President presented his report, which is attached.

It was moved by the President, Mr Ron Bassan that the President's Report be received. Seconded by Mr Peter Kimball and carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Mr Robert Cunningham, presented his audited report, which is attached. There was no discussion on the report.

It was moved by the Treasurer that his report be received. Seconded by Mr Bernard McMahon and carried.

The President explained that there would be no need for a ballot as all positions were filled by written nominations and there was no position where more than one person was nominating.

The President declared all positions vacant and asked Mr. Czulowski to take the chair and conduct the election of President

Voting Positions:

It was proposed by Mr Joe Rouse & Mr Harry Brodie that Mr Ron Bassan be President. Seconded by Mrs Clare Bassan. Mr Bassan accepted. There being no further nomination

Mr Bassan was declared President.

Mr Bassan resumed the chair and continued with the election of officers.

It was proposed by Mr Ron Bassan that Mr Ian Leven be Vice President. Seconded by Mrs Clare Bassan. Mr Leven Accepted.

It was proposed by Mrs Clare Bassan that Mr Don Sinclair be Vice President. Seconded by Mr Ron Bassan. Mr Sinclair accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mr Leven and Mr Sinclair were declared Vice Presidents.

It was proposed by Mr Ron Bassan that Mrs Clare Bassan be Secretary. Seconded by Mr Brian Czislowski. Mrs Bassan accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mrs Bassan was declared Secretary.

It was proposed by Mr Don Sinclair that Mr Robert Cunningham be Treasurer. Seconded by Mr Ron Bassan. Mr Cunningham accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mr Cunningham was declared Treasurer.

Committee:

It was proposed by Mrs Clare Bassan that Mr Ray Alcorn be a Committee Member. Seconded by Mr Ron Bassan.

It was proposed by Mr Ron Bassan that Mr Brian Miller be a Committee Member. Seconded by Mrs Clair Bassan Mr Alcorn and Mr Miller Accepted.

There being no further nominations for Committee, Mr Alcorn and Mr Miller were declared Committee Members.

Non Voting Positions:

Editor: Mr. Ron Slaughter

Assistant Editor: Mr Don Sinclair.

Property Officer: Mr Bob Cunningham.

Liaison Officer Qld): Mr Ray Alcorn.

Liaison Officer (NSW): Mr.Dodger Noonan

Liaison Officer (ACT) : Mr.Alex Reynolds

Liaison Officer (SA) : Mr.Bob McEvoy

Liaison Officer (WA) : Mr.Max Ptolomey

Liaison Officer (Vic): Mr.Rick Polley

Liaison Officer (Tas) : Mr.Bevan Filce

Web Master: Mr Peter Kimball.

Auditor: Mr David Harris. →

Advocate: Mr Richard Morrison. ←

Patron: Mr Barry Campbell. ←



General Business.

Annual Fees: Fees are to remain at \$20.00 per annum and \$200.00 for Life Membership.

Membership: We have approximately 200 members at present, sadly to say there are none from the Battery.

We should have at least 300 members with the amount of Gunners who served in the Battery. The two members who won free membership for next year are: - Reg Etienne and Dave Kelly.

The Treasurer, Mr Robert Cunningham spoke on changing the date of our financial year from 1st August-31st July to the Australian Taxation Office financial year, 1st July-30th June. This will be a change to our constitution, so we have to get approval from the Qld Govt's Department of Fair Trading. It was moved by Mr Robert Cunningham that we go ahead with this action. Seconded by Mr Alan Singh. Carried.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held at the Maroochy River Coach House, Maroochydore, Qld, on the 2nd Saturday of September 2009, commencing at 1000 hrs. There being no further business pertaining to our General Meeting, the President closed the meeting at 1110hrs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

For any input for future newsletters, you will find my email and postal address on the back page. The editor laps up any words of praise anything complimentary ensures publication

A letter expressing thanks to The Saint from Coco Bostock.

To the Editor.

I gave Donald (Saint) Sinclair a 25 pounder cartridge case that was the last fired by A Battery, (at the rear of the Kiwi lines at Taiping in 1959). He mounted the case and due to his absence I presented the Cartridge to Tex Bassan at the recent AGM.

I wish to thank the Saint for a job well done.

Norman (Coco) Bostock

Hi Butch,

Congratulations on the June Newsletter-very good. However it is a pity you used the Vietnam Vets report on Coral/Balmoral which unfortunately continues the down play of the 12 Fd Regt's role especially in terms the HQ Bty, Arty Tac etc contribution. The deployment was in effect 12 Field Regt less one bty. More significantly was the role of HQ Bty pers on the initial attacks - RHQ controlled the deployment it was not two indep btys-on the first night the Regt's casualties were primarily from RHQ with the unfortunate KIA of two fine young gunners and one WIA but their and the other HQ gunners valiant actions meant the RHQ area was not penetrated.

As listed below the VVs article the gunner input was:

12 Field Regt (including elements of HQ Battery and Arty Tac HQ) comprising 102 Field Battery, elements of 131 Div Loc Bty, 161 Battery RNZA and A Battery 2nd /35th US Artillery.

Also deployed was:

Elements 5th/2nd AA US Artillery.

Again well done yet again in producing a great Newsletter. Cheers and good luck, **Brian Murtagh**

The Report from Lt. Peter Watkins

The period June to October has incorporated the major 3rd Brigade exercise for the year (Exercise CATA), a week-long leadership activity held in Canberra, ongoing operations and several personnel attending courses

Exercise CATA was a month-long exercise held at High Range in Townsville, where 'A' Field Battery amalgamated with 107th and 108th Batteries to conduct the first Regimental-level exercise for 4th Field Regiment since mid-2005. No time was wasted in getting straight into Regimental fire missions and there was some hesitation and head-scratching for the first day or so – for many it was the first time they had ever participated in one! Everyone got the hang of things quickly, however, and by day seven the guns were firing with modified safety (no safety officers) and firing danger close missions. The Regiment fired thousands of rounds during the activity and the Number 7's were no doubt the hardest workers of the Exercise.

Whilst 'A' Battery were not able to compete against 107 and 108 in the field due to being used to round out their numbers, 'A' Battery were able to pit themselves against their poorer cousins on the sporting field in a range of events when they dominated the post-exercise sports competition... or would have if it weren't for some woefully sub-par umpiring. They were knocked out early in the Aussie Rules and fared no better in the Soccer. The obstacle course was a similar debacle, with the lads setting a stellar time but being slugged with some dubious penalties for alleged poor technique. The ray of sunshine was the only event in which there was no scope for subjectivity, the cross country, which 'A' Battery easily won, having a near-monopoly on the top ten places.

October is a significant month for those involved in operations. The 'A' Battery contingents to both East Timor and Afghanistan will arrive home this month, among them the Battery Commander, Major Alwyn Payne, who has been in Afghanistan for most of the year. The contingent of six Gunners seconded to 29 Commando Royal Artillery for the past six months will also complete their pre-deployment training and deploy to Helmand Province in Afghanistan, replacing Gunners from 8/12 Medium Regiment who have spent the last six months there with 7th Para Royal Horse Artillery. Next year, the Battery will likely be involved in deployments to the same theatres.



PTE Higgins ('A' Bty Cook) leads his Junior Leadership Course march-out parade.



Conducting a fire plan on Exercise CATA



Our Kiwi exchange BDR tackles the Bayonet Assault Course

In late September the Battery deployed to Canberra for a five-day exercise focussed on junior leadership. There were several activities including a visit to the Australian War Memorial, the RMC High Wire Course, Obstacle Course, Bayonet Assault Course, Leadership Reaction Course and the ADFA Pool High Wire Course. After each of the activities, which were all team-based, sections got together for discussions on the leadership lessons they learned during the activities.

On the courses front, several personnel from the Battery have recently completed courses, including the Junior Leadership Course (now required for promotion to Bombardier), Specialist Combat Communicators Course and Joint Terminal Attack Controller Course.

In late October the Battery will again deploy to High Range for Exercise Long Guns, a Divisional exercise that will see 4th Field Regiment, 8th/12th Medium Regiment, 1st Field Regiment and 161 Battery from New Zealand in attendance. This time 'A' Battery will take it's rightful place as *Callsign 1* and will not be broken down to round out the other 4th Field Batteries. We look forward to being the adjusting Battery for the first "*Fire Mission Division!*"



The Leadership Reaction Course at Majura

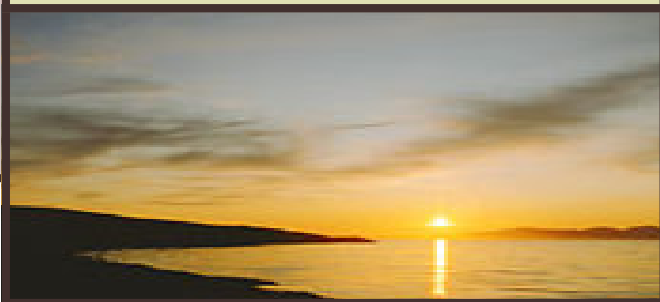
Editors Note– Bad news for our newsletter, this will be Lt. Watkins's last contribution as he has been posted to Townsville to become one of the 4 Field North people that he says he has always loved to whinge about. We all wish Peter the best of luck in his new posting with the knowledge that where ever he goes he will be successful.

Thank you Peter for all your previous excellent contributions to our newsletter.



*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
KEITH. CHRISTENSEN
RICHARD. DUGGAN
R.M. DUCAT (OAS. Malaya)
PAT. DALY
TOM. DAWSON
GEORGE. FORSYTHE
ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY
NEIL HARDEN
MICK. HARKEN
B.D. HENDERSON (OAS. Malaya)
KEN. KENNEDY
BOBBY. LEWIS
JOHN. MACDONALD
L.G. MATHERS (KIA. Vietnam)
E.J. (LOFTY) MOORE
R.J. PARKER (OAS. Vietnam)
DAVE. QUIRK
CLIVE. RALFE
R. F. SMITH
BRIAN. WHISKER
BERNARD. (PLONKY) WINE



NEIL HILTON HARDEN 1932—2008

I came in contact with Neil Harden in Malaya in 1958 when he was the Gun Position Officer for Alpha Troop, "A" Field Battery. I was told to report to him to be told that he wanted me to train as his Tara in Alpha Troop command post. I declined, as I then believed a gunner best serves on the guns. He approached me a few more times then one day whilst unloading hundreds of heavy boxes of shells from the back of a truck in the blistering heat, I glanced over to the command post tent, and there in the shade sitting on their chairs sipping cold drinks were the command post people.

Back at Butterworth I couldn't wait to contact Mr Harden to see if he still wanted me as his Tara. And so started my association with Neil Harden, my mentor and later my good friend.

I learned that this man was a great teacher and the most knowledgeable artillery officer that I was to ever know. He persisted with me through weeks of personal training and watched over me on the gun positions, correcting my mistakes always quietly encouraging, and never chastising. It was hard not to like him.

In later years I have enjoyed his company at his home on the Gold Coast, going out with him and our wives to Jupiter's Casino and of course sharing many good times at the reunions. He attended the reunions with his lovely wife Jude and in between his displays of dancing, found time for a joke and a drink. He was always great company. I liked and respected this man so much, and I will miss him.

Don Sinclair (Saint)



A Celebration of a Wonderful Life, of Accomplishment and Fulfilment, by Neil Hilton Harden 1932-2008

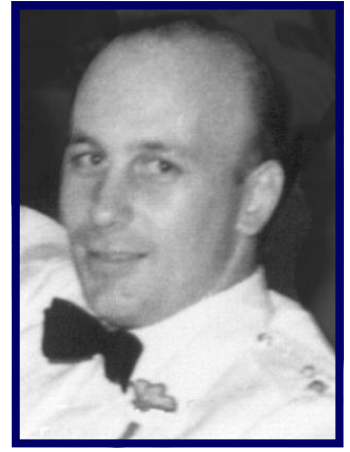


Neil Harden was my Troop Commander at Georges Heights in 1956. As a young soldier having just joined "A" Fd Bty, I was immediately impressed by this officer. He was a fine man and an exceptional leader. He gained my respect and admiration from the start of my military career.

He became a good friend after we left the Army and I have never wavered in my respect and admiration for one of nature's finest gentlemen. As a military leader he was outstanding and as a man he was up there among the best. A generous man with a cheerful and positive personality.

He will always be remembered.

Ray Alcorn



VALE

NEIL HARDEN

Colonel Neil Harden was regarded as an outstanding soldier and person by so many of his fellow soldiers. He owned, and will forever retain, a special place in the hearts and minds of those who served with him in his early years in the Royal Australian Artillery; and later in his career in the Australian Aviation Corps.

In this tribute to the life and character of Neil



Harden, it is our desire to share with you some thoughts which we hope will do justice to the memory of the warm-hearted and generous man, the loving husband, father and true friend that was Neil.

The foundations of the high esteem in which Neil was held within the "Gunner Family" were laid down and confirmed by the manner in which he always conducted himself in all phases of his relations with those who served closely with him in his RAA postings. But the setting in which he made his most defining mark as a soldier and man was, for those who served there with him, the two years we spent together in A Field Battery in Malaya from 1957 to 1959.

Neil's time in Malaya was spent mostly, and most productively, as the GPO of Alpha Troop. In those short two years of service in the Northwest States of Malaya Neil exerted a remarkable influence for good, on the character and careers of many of the young and impressionable men under his command. This was an important influence in the formative years of their Army careers. And which was later to be followed by their own successful careers, not only in the Army, but also, for some, the very successful careers they carved out for themselves in Civvy Street.

Neil recognised then, as others may not have

done, that many of the young (and maybe not so young) men of the Battery were possessed of many outstandingly fine qualities and had the potential to be not only fine, successful, soldiers but that they were some of the very best of examples of fine young Australian manhood. And so it proved, in later life, to be.

Many of those so closely associated with Neil in those days, still offer their opinion that he was a man they were prepared to follow gladly into whatever dangerous situations that their army service might have required. Truly, no greater tribute can be accorded a soldier by his fellow soldiers.

A generous man, Neil was always ready to offer wise counsel or lend a hand by putting his time and expertise at the service of his friends; and to offer the hospitality of his and Judi's home to their large circle of friends.

The old friends from his days in the Army were numerous and their friendships were deep and lasting and drawn from all ranks in the Army. In many cases the friendships originated in the days in which Judi was at Neil's side sharing the nomadic life of a soldier; others, however, even predated the advent of Judi as Neil's wife and helpmeet.

In particular, some of these very early friendships were formed in Neil's days as a cadet on the 3rd Officers Course at Portsea in 1953; others during his service in Australia with 12th National Service Training Battalion or with 1 Field Regiment at Georges Heights in Mosman NSW; or in other postings in Artillery before and after his return to Australia from Malaya.





Needless to say, Neil's and Judi's generously hospitable and sparkling personalities, (Judi provided the most exuberant sparkle; Neil being rather more calmly entertaining) attracted many to

their home to partake not only of outstandingly warm and friendly hospitality but also of reminiscences of good times past and shared.

Neil was a man of some quite remarkable attainments; and not only in his distinguished Army career. He was an adept in the use of many tools of trade and was therefore able to do much of the building work that went into his and Judi's home in Mermaid Waters. To see the outfitting and general set-up that was incorporated into their caravan was to wonder if there was no end to the man's talents. Naturally, with such a caravan, Judi and Neil did much holiday-exploring in Australia. Also naturally, if they were so close to the sea both at home and in their travels, Neil just had to become the proficient fisherman he did in order to provide fish for their dinner.

Proficiency in the arcane art of computer usage was another of Neil's many accomplishments; this of course is not something that is in the general preserve of most of us who are now in the ranks of Seniors Australians! Golfing was also another notable part of the very full life that Neil and Judi pursued with so much vigour and satisfaction. Appearing in TV advertisements was just another experience on this unfailingly vital life-team's agenda.

Neil habitually faced, in a remarkably calm and considered way, the many adversities, large and small, that most of us have had to face as part and parcel of life. Being calm and considered in dealing not only with problems but



also with the normal demands of every-day life was one of Neil's great strengths. It was, therefore, only to be expected that in his last and greatest adversity, Neil acted quite in character and calmly went along with the very bad hand that life had now dealt him.

But then, also, in his calm and considered way he displayed his usual strength of character and determination and set out to do his cheerful best to overcome his cancer. Unfortunately, the unexpected discovery of this tumour led to a ten month battle for survival, which ultimately Neil was to lose. Neil faced this battle with great fortitude, courage and good humour; always trying to reassure his concerned family and friends that he was doing fine.

We pay tribute to the strength of character and courage of Neil, and in doing so we do not forget the equally wonderful role that his beloved wife Judi, played in supporting Neil through this, the toughest time in their life together.

In the final analysis it can truly be said of Neil that in the judgment of his peers his virtues were many and large. He was a Good Man. Good in the best meanings of that word. And a Man in all that is fine and honourable in the best understanding of what defines a worthy Man.

We extend our most sincere and heart-felt condolences to Judi and family.

Neil will be sorely missed; not only by Judi and all of the members of their extended family; but also by the numerous members of his Military Family who also knew him well and held him in such high regard.

Farewell Neil. You were a warm and wonderful friend and will forever be greatly missed by those who knew and loved you.

Ron Gerahty

Eulogy for a Veteran

**Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.**

**I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.**

**I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.**

**When you awaken in the mornings hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush**

**of quiet birds in circled flight,
I am the soft stars that shine at night.**

**Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.**

-- Author Unknown

The following article is a copy of a condensed history of "A" Field Battery; compiled by Capt R. Millyn and Maj B. Murphy.

The original documents printed on very old foolscap paper by an even older Remington Typewriter were kindly forwarded by Alan Hutchinson.

A journey back in time to re-discover a cultural heritage of "A" Field battery, highlighting dates and events from its inception, in 1871 until the 1960s.

"A" Field Battery RAA An Historical Sketch

With the departure of the last Imperial Garrison from NSW in August of 1870, the Colony found itself, except for a handful of poorly trained and equipped militia, defenceless on the land and totally dependent on itself for correcting this dangerous state of affairs.

The NSW Government as a consequence, on the 10th May 1870, passed legislation which allowed for the raising of permanent forces in the Colony.



Earl of Belmore (1835 - 1913),

On the 1st. August 1871 the Governor of NSW, the Earl of Belmore, acting within the authority of this legislation, issued a proclamation authorising the raising of one Battery of Artillery and two Companies of Infantry. This Proclamation directed that the Battery would be known as the New South Wales Artillery.

On the same day the Governor made the following appointments

to the New South Wales Artillery:—

George John Airey, Lieutenant, Retired Half Pay, Royal Marines to be First Captain of the NSW Artillery.

Warner Wright Spalding, Late Royal Marines to be Second Captain of the NSW Artillery.

Also on the 1st August 1871, an ex-sergeant of the Royal Horse Artillery, Henry Thomas Green was enlisted in the NSW Battery as Battery Sergeant Major. BSM Green being the first non commissioned man enlisted in any of the Australian Colonial Permanent Forces, was fittingly allotted Regimental Number One in the NSW Artillery

All three of these men played major roles in founding and nurturing the infant Permanent Forces through the difficult early days, to become finally a force which caused many visiting senior British officers to compare it favourably with the Royal Artillery.

The Infantry Companies raised at the time as the Artillery Battery were disbanded in 1872, and Australia was not to have a Permanent Force Infantry Unit until the Darwin Mobile Force was raised in 1938; however, a second Permanent Artillery Battery was raised in 1876, with a third being raised in 1877.

The NSW Artillery at first were almost continuously employed in moving and mounting the guns in the different forts and special emplacements then being built at South Head, Middle Head, George's Head and Bradley's Head. They were also, when required, turned out as a Field Battery consisting of four 9 pounder S.B. guns and two 24 pounder howitzers - horsed by contract.

Greek Consul's House— Suakim 1885



With the raising of the two additional Artillery Batteries, No. 2 Battery became responsible for furnishing the Field Battery. Drivers were enlisted for the first time in 1878 and attached to No. 2 Battery.

In January 1885 the NSW Government offered a Battery of Artillery and a Battalion of Infantry for service in the Soudan. On the offer being accepted by the British Government a Field Battery was assembled from the NSW Artillery and were ready for embarkation within a fortnight and sailed on the 3rd March 1885 on the transports "Iberia" and "Australasian".

The Battery landed at Suakim on the 30th and 31st March, but were to see only limited active service as the campaign was almost at an end. The Battery embarked on the 17th May 1885 for return to Australia, but were commended by the Commander in Chief, Sudan, Lord Wolsley, for its most soldier-like appearance and exemplary conduct at a review a few days previously.

In February 1889 a Field Battery, designated "A" Field Battery, was established within the NSW Artillery, with officers and men being transferred from No.1, 2 and 3 Batteries. In fact most of "A" Field Battery's original officers and men had served in the Sudan with the NSW Artillery Battery.

"A" Field Battery's first OC was Major W.W Spalding; its first Battery Captain was Capt. H.P. Airey. The first Battery Sergeant Major was BSM W.F. Coleman and the first Battery Quartermaster was BQMS W. McMillan.

In January 1892, "A" Field Battery marched to Melbourne to participate in a Military Tournament. The Battery took part in the Artillery driving events, equitation, tent pegging, lemon slicing, etc.

An officer and 16 NCOs and men of "A" Field Battery were selected to proceed to England as part of the NSW contingent to take part in the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of 1897 honouring Queen Victoria. The "A" Field Battery detachment was attached to 56th Battery of the Royal Field Artillery of the Royal Artillery for instructional purposes from April to September 1897.

On the 3rd July 1897 the then Prince of Wales (Later Edward VII) presented the "A" Field Battery detachment with the Diamond Jubilee Medals at Buckingham Palace.

Queen Victoria on 14th July 1899 approved a proposal that the Permanent Artillery of NSW, Victoria and Queensland Regiments of the Royal Australian Artillery, 'A' Field Battery thus became "A" Field Battery RAA.

After the action at Magersfontein, NSW offered a Battery of Artillery for service in South Africa. When the offer was accepted by the British Government, "A" Field Battery RAA was brought to strength by drafts from the Garrison Companies of the RAA. "A" Battery embarked at Sydney on the 30th December and reached South Africa on 5th February 1900, disembarking at Cape Town on that date.

The Battery saw a great deal of hard service in South Africa, where after operating initially as a battery, it was split up into three sections, with these sections being attached to three different columns of the British Army.

"A" Battery's left section was instrumental in capturing General De Wets guns north at Pompeau Pan in February 1901

The Battery emerged from the South African Campaign with a fine reputation for discipline and battle efficiency.

On the return of "A" Battery RAA to Australia it became part of the Permanent Force of the Commonwealth, Federation having been achieved while the battery was on service in South Africa.

On 1st January 1903 "A" Battery RAA was reduced to the strength of an instructional cadre, being designated "A" Field Instructional Cadre.

The battery was again raised to battery strength on the 1st December 1910 when "A" Instructional Cadre was re-designated as No1 Battery Australian Field Artillery (Permanent).

On the 25th April 1911 King George V approved that the permanent batteries of the Field Artillery be designated the Royal Australian Field Artillery, the Battery becoming No 1 Battery ROYAL Australian Field Artillery.

As No 1 Battery RAFA the battery was the saluting battery at dedication of Canberra as the site of the National Capital City on 12th March 1912.

When the Great War Broke out in August 1914, the then OC of No 1 Battery RAFA Major S.E. Christian called a muster parade of the battery at Victoria Barracks on the day war was declared and called for volunteers for any Australian overseas force. The Battery stepped forward as nee man.

Major General William Throsley Bridges to whom fell the task of raising and training the Australian Imperial Force, ordered that No 1 Battery RAFA was to be taken with the AIF, "to serve as a model for the militia."



**Maj. Gen. Sir
William Throsby
Bridges**

No 1 Battery RAFA was brought to war strength by bringing to Sydney No 2 Battery and No3 Battery RAFA from Melbourne and Brisbane respectively. At Victoria Barracks the men of these two batteries were drafted onto the existing structure of No1 Battery RAFA and on the 14th August 1914 were attested for service in the AIF, with the Battery being re-designed as the 1st Battery, 1st Field Brigade Australian Field Artillery, which was commanded by the Battery's former OC, now Lt. Col. S.E. Christian.

The Battery sailed with the First Convoy in 1914 and after further hard training at Mena Camp Egypt, embarked with the AIF for Anzac. Here the Battery was only allowed to get one gun ashore.

At 0300 hours on the 26th April 1915, the Battery sent one gun ashore with its detachment under Lieutenant Irwin. The OC 1st Battery Major H.J. Sweetland, who had served with the Battery in South Africa, accompanied the gun ashore. The gun stayed in action the whole of that day, firing upwards of five hundred rounds at ranges not exceeding four hundred yards— an eighteen pounder shot gun.

Ordered back to the transport that same night, the gun and detachment was re-embarked and the Battery was landed at Cape Hellas a few days later with the remainder of the Australian and New Zealand Artillery

Here the Battery helped to support the costly attack by the AIF's 2nd Infantry Brigade towards Achi Baba. Later at Cape Hellas the Battery also supported attacks on the Turkish positions by the French Division and by the Royal Naval Division.

At Cape Hellas in June 1915, 1st Battery conducted

what is considered to be the first shoot with air observation by any Australian Artillery.

The Battery was later moved to Anzac proper, where one of its gun detachments was amongst the last troops to be evacuated from the Peninsular.

Back in Egypt, the Battery lost a large part of its officers and men to other Brigades of the Artillery of the greatly expanded AIF, though right up to the end the Battery had members of the old No1 Battery RAFA on its strength.

The Battery served with distinction in France and Belgium in all the actions fought by its division, the 1st Infantry Division. It also, at various times, supported British, Canadian, French and American attacks against the German positions.

After the Armistice, the 1st Field Artillery Brigade of the AIF moved into Belgium, where early in 1919 with the run down of the AIF, the 1st Battery was linked with the 3rd Battery as the 1st/3rd Battery.

In September 1919 the Battery was disbanded as an AIF unit in Belgium, and on the 10th September 1919 reformed at Victoria Barracks, Paddington as No 1 Battery RAFA under the command of Major Frank Thornthwaite, DSO, MC, who had served the Battery on Anzac as a Lieutenant.

During the visit of the Prince of Wales to Australia, the Battery provided the Royal Guard at Government House alternatively with RAGA. It also provided the mounted escort for His Royal Highness on all State occasions in Sydney.

During the Prince's visit to Canberra for the dedication of the proposed site for the future Parliament House of the Commonwealth, No1 Battery RAFA provided both the personal escort of the Prince and the saluting battery.

As a mark of appreciation of No1 Battery service to himself during his visit and also to commemorate the Battery's service in the South African and Great Wars, the Prince of Wales granted No1 Battery RAFA the privilege of wearing a white lanyard on the left shoulder.

"A" Field Battery RAA is the only unit in the Australian Forces which correctly wears its distinctive lanyard on the left shoulder.

On the 1st July 1927 the Battery was re-designated as the 1st Field Battery RAA. As the No1 Battery RAFA, the Battery had again gone to Canberra for an occasion of great national significance, the opening of the Federal Parliament on the 9th May 1927 by the Duke of York (Later King George VI).



**The Duke and
Duchess of York
arriving for the
opening of the
new Parliament
House in
Canberra on the
9th of May 1927**

Here at the Royal Review of the Australian Forces by H R H, No1 Battery RAFA in accordance with the traditional privilege of artillery when mounted, took the right of the line in precedence over all Australian Light Horse Regiments on parade.

The Battery was again reduced to cadre strength during the Great Depression, being re-designated the 1 Field Cadre RAA ON THE 19TH July 1930. During these difficult times the Battery held and enhanced its reputation as the finest single unit of the Permanent Military Forces.

On the 1st February 1939 the 1 Field Cadre RAA was again raised to battery strength and re-designated with its old title of "A" Field Battery RAA.

On the outbreak of World War 2 in 1939, the Battery again volunteered for active service, but in accordance with the then policy, this offer was not accepted. The Battery was employed as the Depot Battery for the School of Artillery until 1943.

Early in 1943, there being a requirement for special types of artillery in New Guinea, "A" Field Battery was reformed as 2 Mountain Battery AIF and proceeded to New Guinea, disembarking at Port Moresby on the 19th September 1943.

The Battery saw a great deal of varied action in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, with the Battery located at Torokina at the end of the war.

After the cessation of hostilities in August 1945, arrangements were made for Artillery representation in the Occupation Forces Australia was to send to Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces.

A small cadre from 2 Mountain Battery AIF proceeded to Balikpapan and at RAA Headquarters there formed the 6th Independent Field Battery on the 7th October 1945. The Battery sailed for Japan on 21st February 1946.

On the 21st February 1946 the Battery resumed its old designation as "A" Field Battery RAA. In Japan "A" Field Battery engaged in intensive training and also on several occasions supplied the saluting Battery for Allied Occupation Forces ceremonial parades in front of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

The Battery was withdrawn from the Occupation Forces in September 1948 and on arrival in Sydney moved into North Head Artillery Barracks to become once again the Depot Battery for the School of Artillery.

On the 25th May 1949 the Battery was incorporated into 1 Field Regiment RAA as a sub-unit, thus for the second time in its history losing its status as an independent unit and for the second time in its history becoming part of 1st Field Regiment RAA - the old 1st Field Brigade AFA of the 1st AIF.

With appropriate ceremonial the 1st Field Regiment RAA, with an escort provided by "A" Field Battery on the 28th November 1951 took over from 1 Fixed Defence Brigade the custody of the "King's Banner" awarded by the King Emperor Edward VII to 'A' Field Battery RAA in 1904 for its services in the South African War of 1899 - 1902.

On 1st September 1957 the Battery again became an independent unit and on the 20th September 1957 embarked for active service in the Malayan Emergency against the Communist Terrorists in that country.

The Battery served in the Malayan Emergency Campaign from September 1957 until August 1959.

On its return to Australia the Battery again joined



"A" Field Battery, base camp in Butterworth Malaya. September 1957 to August 1959

1st Field Regiment RAA as a sub-unit.

In 1965 the Battery again became a separate unit and in September of that year returned to Malaya, now the Federation of Malaysia, for active service in the Confrontation with Indonesia, as the campaign was known.

The Battery saw active service during this campaign both on the Malayan mainland and in Sabah in Borneo. The Battery returned to Australia in September 1967, and was after a period of leave and re-organisation, posted as a sub-unit to 19 Composite Regiment RAA.

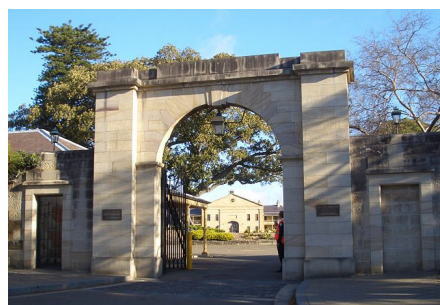
On the 20th November of this year "A" Field Battery RAA is to be the unit carrying out the Annual Beating of Retreat Ceremonial Drill at Victoria Barracks, Paddington - The Battery's old home.

At this parade the Battery will again carry the "King's Banner" on parade, the General Officer Commanding Eastern Command, Maj General Sir James Harrison, the senior serving gunner officer, will fittingly take the salute.

Maj General Sir James Harrison has kindly made arrangements for veterans of "A" Field Battery RAA to be present as his guests at the parade, a gesture much appreciated by all these men, each of whom will be the proudest men on parade as "A" Field Battery RAA again marches under the Clock Tower of the old barracks onto the parade ground with the "King's Banner" proudly borne high.



Original Officers' Quarters, Victoria Barracks, Oxford Street, Paddington,



Victoria Barracks Gate, Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney

ANZAC Day 2008 in Terendak Camp, Malacca, Malaysia

Terendak Camp is 20km north of Malacca and was occupied by 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade that comprised of forces from Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and a regiment of Gurkha's based at the nearby Sungei Udang camp. The Garrison was disbanded in 1970 when the confrontation with Indonesia ceased and the camp was handed over to the Malaysian government.

Terendak Cemetery is located within the camp and contains, amongst others, the remains of military personnel engaged in the Malayan Emergency, the Indonesian Confrontation and a small number from the Vietnam War.

The remainder of the graves are those of British and Commonwealth troops and their dependants who died in accidents or of natural causes during the Brigades occupation of the camp and the remains of some military personnel that were exhumed from other cemeteries and reburied in Terendak.

Immediately inside the cemetery gate is a memorial wall commemorating service personnel who died in Malaysia but whose remains were never recovered.

A group of 39 people recently traveled from New Zealand, Australia, USA and the United Kingdom to attend an ANZAC day



service and reunion in Terendak Camp on April 25th 2008. The group are all members of the Terendak schools website that comprises ex-pupils and teaching staff from the schools that were part of the Terendak Brigade.

Most of the group had been children of service personnel based in Terendak Camp during the 1960's and attended one of the military schools that were part of the Terendak Garrison. The group were accompanied by their spouses and a small number of ex-Gunners from the various Artillery regiments that had been part of the Terendak Brigade

At the cemetery, an ANZAC day service was conducted by Lt Colonel Laurence Smith MBE, RA. Wreaths were laid at the memorial wall by representatives of the three countries and flowers were also laid on a number of graves at the request of people not attending who have

family members buried there.

The cemetery is a credit to the Malaysian military who have kept it in good condition and have full time staff to maintain it. Families here in New Zealand and in other parts of the world who have family members buried in Terendak Cemetery can rest assured that their loved ones are being treated with the respect and dignity that they deserve.

After the ANZAC service, the group toured the rest of the camp visiting the housing areas, shopping centre, pools, beach clubs etc before departing the camp at 5pm.

The ex-service personnel with the group were taken on a tour of the Artillery Barracks where they had all spent several years of their service career.

The Malaysian military were very hospitable and provided them with transport back to the hotel at the end of their visit.



Major P J. Badcoe VC is one of many Australian and Allied servicemen buried at Terendak War Cemetery. It is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and is well looked after.

Maj. Badcoe was killed in action while serving as part of AATTV in Viet Nam in 1967 and was buried at Terendak by choice and with the approval of his family.

For his feats of gallantry and leadership, he won the Victoria Cross and the United States Silver Star; the Republic of Vietnam awarded him its National Order, three Crosses for Gallantry and the Armed Forces Honour Medal.

Major Badcoe had been highly respected by his Vietnamese and American comrades-in-arms.

Survived by his wife and three daughters, he was buried in the Terendak military cemetery, Malacca, Malaysia. His widow presented his decorations to the Australian War Memorial.



AGM AT BLI BLI SEPTEMBER 2008



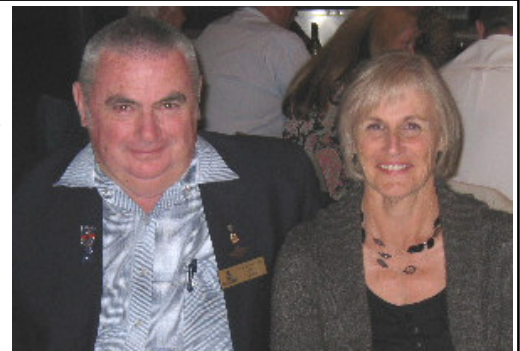
DINING WITH THE STARS

The Saturday night Dinner at our AGM reunion featured live entertainment which included the boss of the Motel, Lloyd, singing country and western and doing an impersonation of Elvis.

The throaty warbling of the late Rock and Roll King was there, but the raunchy, gyrating, pelvic pumping was missing.

C'mon Lloyd, we may be down at the end of Lonely Street called Bli Bli Motel, but we expect you to practise some pelvis thrusting exercises, for when you Shake, Rattle and Roll at next year's tribute to the glory days of the Blue Suede Shoes Man.

This Annual General Meeting will be remembered for the voting in of our youngest Vice President. Congratulations to Ian Leven, shown here with his lovely wife Wendy.

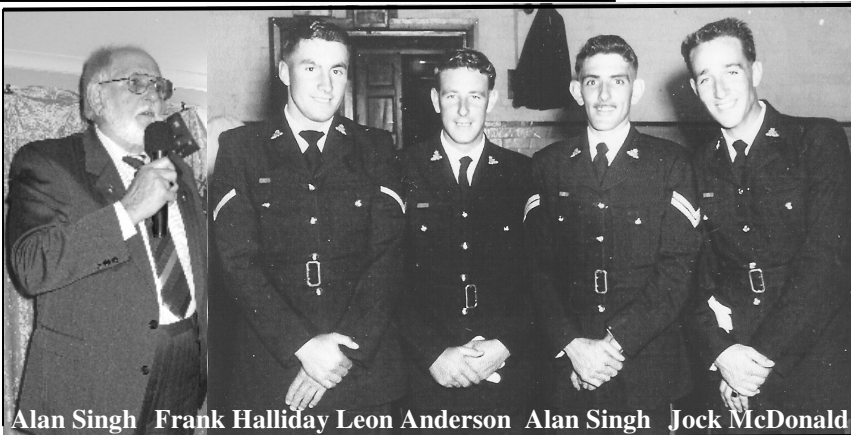


Ian and Wendy Leven

Ian was on the Committee last year and epitomises the need for our committee to gain more younger members to keep our association functioning with fresh ideas.

Raffle Prizes Galore

A table full of prizes tempted all those attending the AGM Dinner to buy tickets in the raffles, there must have been around thirty draws. Thanks to Bonnie, Coco and Dee Bostock, Pud Gilkinson, Noelene and Bernie McMahon and Sue Hart for their donations.



Alan Singh Frank Halliday Leon Anderson Alan Singh Jock McDonald

The old bloke on the left is not singing, however he did raise quite a few laughs at the AGM Dinner telling a few yarns, mostly about these young gunners from 1957,

Of course, the old, "Sir, I'm Gunner Singh."- "I don't give a stuff if you're gunna do a soft shoe shuffle." joke raised it's head again and sounded just as funny as when it was first aired in 1957.

I am looking forward to hearing it again in 2009



In 1943, I was a 10 year old paper boy in Perth , walking dreamily from The Grand Picture Palace, enchanted by a vision of the most beautiful woman I had ever seen starring in a movie called, This Gun For Hire. I was in love.

Veronica Lake Born in Brooklyn, New York November 14th. 1922 was a popular American film actress and pin up

model who enjoyed both popular and critical acclaim, especially for her femme fatale roles in film noir with Alan Ladd during the 1940s..

Her short and meteoric career took place during the first half of the 40's. The peak year was probably 1942, when she starred in several movies and was elected "top female box office star of the year" by Life Magazine.

She got her big break when teamed with the only actor in Hollywood relatively near to her in height, Alan Ladd,. who was 5' 6 and she was just 5' 2,

Every girl around. during this time copied her hairstyle, it was called the "peek a boo bang.". During the war, millions of women were working in factories to replace enlisted men. Such a hairstyle was dangerous when handling heavy machinery that needed both eyes wide open, and no long hair that could get stuck everywhere. The US government officially asked Veronica Lake to change her hairstyle and publicize it.

She agreed.



Veronica Lake took up flying in 1946 and in 1948 flew her small plane from Los Angeles to New York

Starting from the end of the 40's, for no precise reason, her career declined quickly, on a terrible downward spiral ,

Lake was unable to continue working as an actress. , and she drifted between cheap hotels in Brooklyn and New York City and was arrested several times for public drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

Ten years later, in 1962, a journalist discovered that the peek-a-boo bang girl was working as a bartender in New York

Her rapid rise to stardom and subsequent descent into alcoholism and obscurity is a story worthy of a Hollywood melodrama.

One day you are the queen, the star, the icon of your country, everyone loves you and want to be like you. The next day, you are a piece of useless forgotten trash haunting the streets and smelling of bad alcohol.

Described by **Bette Davis** as "the most beautiful person who ever came to Hollywood," her success was fleeting and after a string of broken marriages and long struggles with mental illness and alcoholism she died destitute and friendless at the age of 50.

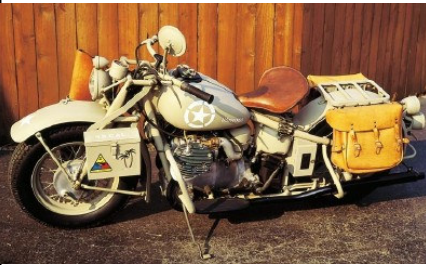
Lake has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6918 Hollywood Boulevard for her contributions to the motion picture industry.



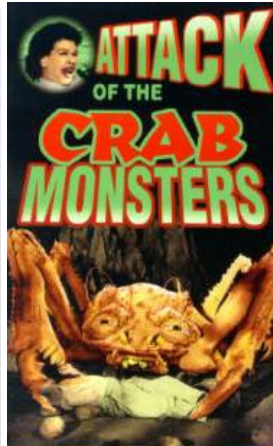
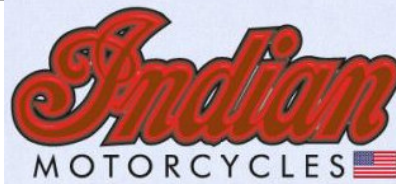
During World War 11, the US Army requested experimental motorcycle designs

suitable for desert fighting . In response to this request, Indian designed and built the 841.

The Indian 841 and the Harley-Davidson XA were both tested by the Army, but neither motorcycle was adopted for wider military use.



It was determined that the Jeep was more suitable for the roles and missions for which these motorcycles had been intended. Surplus 841s were eventually sold from the corporate warehouse in Springfield



Research team lands on an island when another boat coming up behind them hits a wave and a man falls overboard.

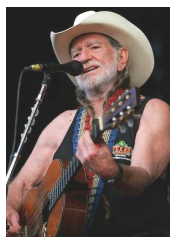
The man sinks and when his body floats up his head is missing.

On the island one of them discovers that they could be facing a giant worm or perhaps some other giant animal. The effects are crazy, this 1957 movie terrible beyond words.

"PSYCHO" (1960) -- Alfred Hitchcock was a master of building suspense, but he didn't shy from blood-and-guts horror, with "Psycho" a prime example of both.

It helps that the movie is in black and white so that there's still much left to the imagination -- such as the shower-curtain shadow of knife-wielding Anthony Perkins behind unsuspecting Janet Leigh, perhaps the most iconic scary movie moment ever.

The late Janet Leigh said she never liked showers after that, and who could blame her?

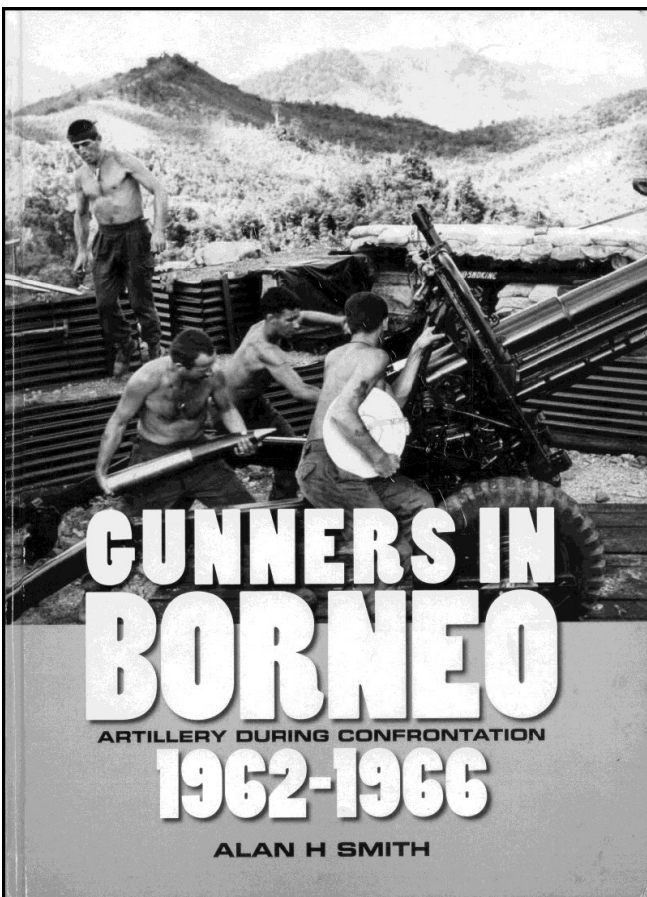


WILLIE NELSON, Born April 30, 1933

Nelson was born and raised in Abbott Texas, the son of Myrtle and Ira D. Nelson, who was a mechanic and pool hall owner

His grandparents William Alfred Nelson and Nancy Elizabeth Smothers gave him mail order music lessons starting at age six.

Willie played the guitar, while his sister Bobbie played the piano. He met Bud Fletcher, a fiddler and formed a band called Bohemian Fiddlers, while Nelson was in high school.



'GUNNERS IN BORNEO—Artillery During Confrontation 1962-66 "

Brings together for the first time an account of the most economical war ever fought from a mainly artillery per-spective. It uses the active service of 102 Battery RAA in the most threatened Western Division as an example of artil-lery operations, which were shared with other British and Malaysian batteries. During 1964-66, several Australian gun-ner officers were attached to British batteries. Two Aus-tralian battalions, 3 RAR and 4 RAR also deployed to become key elements in the Security Forces in the Western Division of Sarawak. Known as the Borneo or Confrontation war, it was fought by the Security Forces, a mix of British, Aus-tralian, New Zealand and Malaysian armies, navies and air forces for five years. They were augmented by a significant field engineer presence involved with infrastructure projects. The fledgling UK Army Air Corps made its reputation during the war, which was also a triumph for counter-insurgency and expeditionary warfare waged by the Security Forces against Indonesian terrorists and Regular Forces.

208 pages, contents, maps, illustrated, glossary, foreword, appendices, bibliography, Security Forces Order of Battle, nominal roll and index

Major General CMI Pearson, AO, DSO, OBE, MC (Retd) writes: "The importance of the artillery commitment is given in detail and will be invaluable as a record ... During Confrontation we were ... on the threshold of the electronic age ... It was of little use given the conditions all the servicemen op-erated under ... So this account is histori-cally most valuable to illustrate how im-provisation was a potent military

Major General John Whitelaw, AO, CBE (Retd) writes: "This is an appreciation of the use of artillery in Borneo during „confrontation" with Indonesia. It is a little known story ... a war with extraordinary military and political complexities ... During my service with Australian Force FARELF, the high reputation of our gunners, infantry and sappers in Borneo operations was well known and acknowledged. This work will fill a void in our Army history".

Exclusive offer to former and serving Gunners and Families
One copy + postage + GST... \$40
Two copies + postage + GST... \$70
Three copies + postage + GST... \$99
 Written by a well qualified Gunner and historian, this hardback book is a must on your bookshelf

Send Orders to :
 Gunners In Borneo
 RAAHC
 PO Box 1042
 Manly NSW 1655

Please send me ___
 copies as per the
EXCLUSIVE OFFER.
 Payment option 1:
 My cheque / Money Order
 for \$ ___ to cover the
 cost of purchase and
 postage is enclosed

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH

Payment Option 2:

I prefer to pay by Credit Card MasterCard Visa

Card #: _____

Expires ___ / ___

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

Posting address for your order:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Postcode:** _____

"A" FIELD BATTERY ASSOCIATION. Inc. COMMITTEE 2007-2008

Vice President.

Donald (Saint) Sinclair
60 Topsail Crt
Banksia Beach
Bribie Island. Qld. 4507
Ph. (07) 3408 9009
thesaint@tpg.com.au

President

Ron (Tex) Bassan
6 Harveys Rd.
Beaconsfield. Qld. 4740
Ph. (07) 4942 5433
texbassan@yahoo.com.au

Vice President.

Ian Leven
345 Teven Rd.
Teven, NSW. 2478
Ph. (02) 6687 8834
ianleven@optusnet.com.au

Hon. Secretary.

Clare (Bonnie) Bassan.
6 Harveys Rd.
Beaconsfield Qld. 4740
Ph. (07) 4942 5433
bonniebassan@yahoo.co.uk

Committee.

Ray (Bubbles) Alcorn.
14 Lambourn St.
Chapel Hill, Qld. 4069
(07) 3378 6906

Brian Miller
26 Marsh St.
Narangba, Qld. 4504
(07) 3886 9074

Treasurer.

Bob Cunningham
26 Kilburn St.
Chermside, Qld. 4032
(07) 3350 1394
carolchemside@optusnet.com

Patron: Barry (Combat) Campbell.

Editor. Ron (Butch) Slaughter. ronbutchslaughter@hotmail.com
6 / 8 St. Ives Dr. Robina, Qld. 4226

Asst. Editor. Don (Saint) Sinclair. thesaint@tpg.com.au

Property Officer. Bob Cunningham. carolchemside@optusnet.com.

Liaison Officer. Qld. Ray (Bubbles) Alcorn. (07) 3378 6906

Liaison Officer. NSW. Robert (Dodger) Noonan. noonanrf@bigpond.net.au

Liaison Officer Vic. Rick Poley & Mike Pitman

Liaison Officer. ACT. Alexander. Reynolds alexreynolds@netspeed.com.

Liaison Officer. SA. Bob. McEvoy. ehdesign@hotmail.com.

Liaison Officer. WA. Max. Ptolomey. (08) 9447 4783

Liaison Officer. Tas. Bevan Filce

Web Master. Peter. (Kimbo) Kimball. gunner116@bigpond.com.

Advocate. Richard. (Dick) Morrison. KEMARIE@HOTMAIL.COM

Auditor. David. (Banger) Harris

The best way to share your message or photos is to contact Kimbo, our Webmaster. Want to keep up with latest ? Log on to our website and you can read the latest and all the past newsletters
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/>



If you are receiving this Newsletter either through the post or on your computer please help us meet the expense of printing, posting, maintaining our website and a host of other expenses by sending the \$20 membership fee now to

**Hon. Sec. Clare Bassan
6 Harveys Rd.
Beaconsfield, Qld. 4740**

Disclaimer

This newsletter is produced for the membership of "A" Field Battery Association (Inc). Readers should not act, nor refrain from acting solely on the basis of information in this newsletter, on any matter. Neither the "A" Field Battery Association (Inc) nor the Editor accepts any responsibility for actions taken by readers. Views expressed by the authors contained in the newsletter, are not necessarily the views of the Association.