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A Field Battery Association, Inc.

National Newsletter

AUGUST 2010

President Ron Bassan's Report

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From the President's Chair.

G'day everyone,

It is with a sad heart that I must report the death of Major General John Whitelaw, Alan Singh and Frank Berrier, also the son of Dick and June Duggan, Richard.

John Whitelaw is a past Battery Commander of 'A' Battery and the work that he has done for the Regiment is outstanding. Most oldies would have known Alan and who can forget the story of him barging into Bull Storey's office, "I'm Gunner Singh" and the Bulls reply, "I don't give a dam if you are going to dance, get out of my office and knock". Frank Berrier was one of the old breed of soldier and we all should know the time and work that he put into the Henry Green Room and he loved the Battery. Frank was buried in his blues.

June Duggan has been going through a rough patch, after losing Dick three years ago, she has lost her son Richard, our deepest sympathy goes to you June.

Our AGM and Reunion is nearly upon us 10 -12th Sept at the Coach House and if you have not booked in yet, please do so ASP, phone number is: (07) 5448 4344.

As I stated in my last newsletter, next year is the 40th Anniversary of the Battery going to and returning from South Vietnam. For the occasion we are having an AGM and Reunion on the 12th.to the 14th. September 2011 at Sawtell, NSW, just south of Coffs Harbour. The itinerary for this weekend was in our last newsletter.

REMEMBER THIS IS FOR ALL EX 'A' BTY MEMBERS.

Accommodation for the three days are as follows:

SAWTELL BEACH CARAVAN PARK, 5 Lyons Road, Sawtell NSW 2452, there is 15 cabins being held at this venue for 'A' Bty, phone (02) 6653 1379, free call 1800 200 111 or

email info@sawtellbeachcaravanpark.com.au

SUNNY SAWTELL

Sawtell, named after Osmond Sawtell, was first settled by timber cutters in search of red gold (cedar trees) in 1863. The land sub-divided and the village began in 1923. The Sawtell Toormina area has plenty of activities for holidaymakers. In addition to the beach, there's a rock pool and sandy creeks for swimming. An 18 hole golf course, bowling green, croquet and 12 court tennis club.

Fishermen can choose between beach rock and estuary. Boat ramps are available at Bonville Creek and Boambee Creek.

SAWTELL MOTOR INN, 57 Boronia Street, Sawtell, phone (02) 6658 9872, email info@sawtellmotorinn.com.au.

THE COASTERS, 77 First Avenue Sawtell, phone (02) 6653 1541, email reception@coastersmotel.com.au.

There are Real Estate Agents who hire houses, one is **ATKINSONS Real Estate, Shop 1, 70 First Avenue, Sawtell, phone (02) 6658 1577, email are@hot.net.au.**

If people want more info, let us know and we will contact Dave Jackson who can find out for us.

All functions will be at the Sawtell RSL Club.

Prices:

Monday 12th, Meet & Greet, \$10 per person for nibbles.

Tuesday 13th, Lunch, own responsibility, Semi Formal Dinner, \$33 per person (for this you get a three course dinner).

Wednesday 14th, Recovery Breakfast, \$14 per person. For this you get scrambled eggs, crispy bacon, sausages, tomatoes, mushrooms, hash brown, baked beans, croissants & pastries, assorted breads & fruit loaf for toasting, fresh fruit salad, prunes and peaches, muesli & cereals, yoghurt & dairy products, fruit juices – coffee & assorted teas.

The cost of the barbecue and bus trip will be in the next newsletter. The number of people attending and monies for meals and bus trip must be in the Secretaries hands by the 31st July 2011 or you will miss out.

Until next time. Semper Paratus, Tex



‘A’ Fd Bty Newsletter Article

With thanks to Lt. Evan Parker

Again, 2010 has been a very busy year for the members of ‘A’ Field Battery.

To date the Battery has completed three field exercises, including our Battery level exercise Semper Paratus and support to 3 RAR’s Exercise Kapyong Warrior. Exercise Semper Paratus provided an excellent opportunity for the Battery to shake out and focus on and develop our technical and tactical gunnery skills.

During the exercise we engaged the spectrum of fire missions including conducting danger close engagements involving fire for effect at distances less than 300 metres as a culminating activity.

The exercise also put the Battery’s recovery skills to the test thanks to the unpredictable nature of the NSW Hunter Region weather bringing a significant amount of rain throughout the three weeks and resulting in a few of our vehicles becoming bogged on various occasions.

During Exercise Kapyong Warrior, the Battery deployed to provide support to 3 RAR Company live fire attacks. Although the exercise was lower in tempo from the Battery’s perspective, the overall aim of the exercise was achieved in good order as we engaged at danger close distances by day and night in support of 6 attacks conducted by the Companies.

This year the Battery also entered a team into 3 RARs Opie Trophy competition, named after Len Opie, DCM a veteran of Papua New Guinea, Korea and Vietnam, which is aimed at testing section skills.

Our team was led by BDR Connor and LBDR Kent who completed the arduous 3 day tactical phase in below zero temperatures at Lithgow National Park followed by a 60 km round circuit around Holsworthy Training Area with stands testing marksmanship



principals, navigation and the most important all arms call for fire. The lads from the Battery performed well in the competition, scoring better than a few of the rifle sections competing.

Aside from field exercises and maintaining our gunnery and general soldier skills, the focus for the Battery has been preparing for the relocation to Enoggera at the end of the year. Although the task of moving is significant, the process of preparing for the move is on track and the majority of the members of the Battery are well prepared to leave Sydney at the end of the year, many having already received posting orders.

Regardless of the busy year we have had so far, the changes that are occurring with the move and the fact that we have a busy few months ahead of us leading to the end of the year, the strong spirit and commitment that ‘A’ Field Battery is renowned for has not wavered.

The men and women of the Battery have performed admirably so far this year and there is no doubt that they will continue to do so.

It is not too late to book in now for The AGM and Reunion, a great weekend, Friday 10th. Sept, to Sunday 12th. Sept. 2010

MAROOCHE RIVER COACH HOUSE ★★☆☆

An absolute waterfront home-style resort, superb meals, entertainment and real hospitality. licensed bar,

Ph: 07 5448 4344 Fax: 07 5448 5602

Address: David Low Way Maroochydore Qld 4558.

PO Box 86 Bli Bli 4560

E-mail: info@maroochycoachhouse.com.au



**‘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.....

Secunder*.....Signature.....

Acceptance of nomination

I,.....
A financial member of ‘A’ Fd Bty
Assn Inc.

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

* Please Print

The Honourable Artillery Company



The Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) is the oldest surviving regiment in the British Army, and the second most senior in the Territorial Army.

The HAC can trace its history as far back as 1296, but it received a Royal Charter from Henry V 111 on 25 August 1537, when Letters Patent were received by the Overseers of the Fraternity or Guild of St George authorising them to establish a perpetual corporation for the defence of the realm to be known as the Fraternity or Guild of Artillery of Longbows, Crossbows and Handgonnes.

This body was known by a variety of names until 1656, when it was first referred to as the Artillery Company. It was first referred to as the Honourable Artillery Company in 1685 and officially received the name from Queen Victoria in 1860. However, the Archers' Company of the Honourable Artillery Company was retained into the late 19th century, though as a private club. Founded in 1781 by Sir Ashton Lever, it met at Archers' Hall, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London.

The Archers Company remained a part of the regiment operated from 1784 to the late 1790s, along with Matross, Grenadier and Light Infantry companies/divisions, with a Rifle or Yager Company introduced in around 1803.

The regiment has the rare distinction of having fought on the side of both Parliament and the Royalists during the English Civil War 1642 to 1649.



Honourable Artillery Company regimental wall shield



Gunners of A Battery, the Honourable Artillery Company, attached to the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade, crouch between their 13 pounder quick fire field guns and a cactus hedge near Belah, Palestine, in 1918.

In 1658 the Company moved from the site it had occupied at the Old Artillery Ground in Spitalfields to the current site south of Bunhill Fields Burial Ground on City Road.

Until 1780 captains of the HAC trained the officers of the London Trained Bands.

The Company served in Broadgate during the Gordon Riots of 1780, and in gratitude for its role in restoring order to the City, the Corporation of London presented "two brass field-pieces", which led to the creation of an HAC Artillery Division. (These guns are on display in the entrance hall of Armoury House.)

In 1860, control of the Company moved from the Home Office to the War Office and in 1889 a Royal Warrant gave the Secretary of State for War control of the Company's military affairs.

A WHINGE FROM THE EDITOR

All awards in the Australian system; previous to the ACB have been issued with a miniature insignia as part of a boxed set.

Qualified ex- service members are entitled to one full size ACB; qualified ex- serving officers and senior NCOs are also entitled to receive one miniature ACB at public expense.

All other ranks are entitled to wear an ACB miniature at formal occasions. Their miniature however must be purchased at their own expense.

This seemed to be a rather pompous display of out dated discrimination and when enquiries were made, the answer was. "They don't wear mess dress or attend military dinner functions."

The pretentious reasoning that soldiers leaving the army before attaining senior rank do not attend formal functions, do not wear formal attire and do not know what knife and fork to use is insulting; in fact most have become very successful in the more competitive environment known as civvy street.



The Infantry Combat Badge (ICB) and the Army Combat Badge (ACB) are dress embellishments issued by the Army to identify those who have served in combat.

Are we to assume that miniatures must only be worn on mess dress, that has been issued at public expense, or can they also be displayed with formal civilian attire?

If you consider this grievance is about the meagre amount of money involved; then you have missed my point. The issue is primarily that the distribution of this award should be

totally non-discriminatory.

A large percentage of SNCOs issued with miniatures at public expense earned their ACB before promotion to SNCO and have accepted the miniature badge without complaint.

You would think that there would be an outcry from all ranks, concerning this inequity

The silence has been deafening.

Editor: Ron Slaughter

Bill Mauldin

(29/10/1921 - 22/1/2003,)

William Henry "Bill" Mauldin was a US cartoonist, best known for his World War II cartoons about American soldiers. Born in New Mexico, his father was an Artilleryman in World War I.

Mauldin attended the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and fought as a sergeant in Sicily and other European battlefields.

He joined the Army newsletter Stars and Stripes as a cartoonist. There he perfected 'Willie and Joe', the muddy, weary "dogfaces" who portrayed the drabness of the foot soldier's life.



Bill Mauldin in Italy during WW II



"Run it up th' mountain agin Joe. It alnt hot enough."

needed to be addressed. Will Lang, a reporter with Time, heard about the meeting and questioned Mauldin about what happened. Mauldin replied, "I came out with my hide on. We parted friends, but I don't think we changed each other's mind."

When the comment appeared in the magazine George Patton was furious and commented that if he came to see him again he would throw him in jail.

After the War, Mauldin abandoned cartooning for a while, working as a film actor, freelance writer, and illustrator of articles and books, including one on the Korean War. A self-styled "stirrer-upper", Mauldin joined the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in 1958 and took up cartooning again, he won his second Pulitzer Prize that year.

Bill Mauldin died at the age of 81 in Newport Beach, California on 22 January 2003.

Syndicated in over 250 newspapers, Bill Mauldin battled injustice and pretence with irony and humour.



"Ordnance? Ah'm havin trouble with mah shootin' arm."

Despised by the conservative brass as disrespectful, but loved by the G.I.'s as one of their own, the cartoons won him a Pulitzer Prize in 1945.

Mauldin's cartoons often reflected his anti-authoritarian views and this got him in trouble with some of the senior officers. Gen. George S. Patton, commander of the Third Army, thoroughly despised Mauldin and his creations and would have silenced him if he could have. Mauldin disliked



Patton's insistence on battlefield spit and polish and what he regarded as his treatment of GIs as peasants.

In 1945 Patton wrote a letter to the Stars and Stripes and threatened to ban the newspaper from his Third Army if it did not stop carrying "Mauldin's scurrilous attempts to undermine military discipline." General Dwight D. Eisenhower did not agree and feared that any attempt at censorship would undermine army morale. He therefore arranged a meeting between Mauldin and Patton.

Mauldin went to see Patton in March 1945 where he had to endure a long lecture on the dangers of producing "anti-officer cartoons".

Mauldin responded by arguing that the soldiers had legitimate grievances that



"Spring is Here."



"A" Field Battery



Frank Frederick BERRIER
1927 - 10th. July 2010

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.

Their Journey's Just Begun

Don't think of them as gone away,
their journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets-
this earth is only one.

And think of them as living
in the hearts of those they touched...
for nothing loved is ever lost-
and they were loved so much.

E. Brennerman

KEN. AGNEW
TOM. BANFIELD
TREVOR. BEER
FRANK. BERRIER
S.J. BLANCH (OAS. Malaya)
GORDON CARMICHAEL
TOM. CARRUTHERS
KEITH. CHRISTENSEN
RICHARD. DUGGAN
R.M. DUCAT (OAS. Malaya)
PAT. DALY
TOM. DAWSON
JOHN. DOWNES
GEORGE. FORSYTHE
M.K. FUSSELL (KIA, Afghanistan)
ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY
NEIL HARDEN
MICK. HARKEN
B.D. HENDERSON (OAS. Malaya)
KEN. KENNEDY
BOBBY. LEWIS
JOHN. MACDONALD
I.G. MATHERS (KIA. Vietnam)
E.J. (LOFTY) MOORE
R.J. PARKER (OAS. Vietnam)
R.J. (JIM) PONTING
DAVE. QUIRK
PETER. RAINSBURY
CLIVE. RALFE
BRIAN. SCOTT
PETER. SEDDON
ALAN. SINGH
R. F. SMITH
BRIAN. WHISKER
JOHN. WHITELOW. AO,CBE
BERNARD. (PLONKY) WINE
JOHN. WORBOYS

Alan William SINGH
17th. August 1935 - 1st. July 2010

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 shall remember them.
Lest We Forget.

John. Stewart WHITELOW
11th. June 1921– 18th. June 2010





Alan William Singh

Alan was a boy from Bairnsdale, Victoria. His ancestry was a mix of Indian and European, born in Bairnsdale on 17th, August 1935, the eldest of 10 children.

His paternal Indian grandfather played an important role in Alan's young life. He called his grandfather

"Nangi." (Indian for grandfather.) and in turn grandfather called Alan "Lal.". They spent much time together and from this close relationship Alan learned to cook real Indian curries which many of his friends have feasted upon.

At 17 Alan joined the Army and started his very successful military career, highlighted by his time as the Battery Sergeant Major of 106 Battery on service in Vietnam.

In the Army, he met a young Harry Cook and they became close friends, the following are couple of stories Harry loves to relate.

While at the School of Artillery as a Gunner, Alan had to report to the RSM, who was a big man and a terror to young soldiers. Alan knocked on the RSMs open door and the RSM bellowed, "Who's there?" Alan reticently replied. "Sir, I'm Gunner Singh." The RSM bellowed back. "I don't care if you're gunna dance - get out!"

Alan also told the story of his grandfather completing military service in the Indian Artillery, after which he moved to South Africa at the time of the Boer War. During that war, an Australian Artillery unit was there

- "A" Field Battery - a unit with which Alan was to have a lifetime relationship. The Australian Army could not enlist his grandfather but because he ran a teashop in South Africa, he was offered the job of "cha walla." cha being slang for tea and walla meaning one who provides service. So Alan's grandfather became the first cha walla for "A" Field Battery.

Alan spoke about the time when he was, "10 stone, wringing wet.". Quite an accomplished athlete he won a silver tray in a 100 yard championship in 1961.

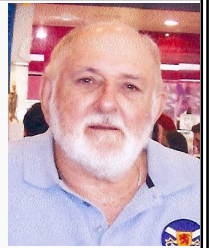
Soldiering was his life and his wife Shirley sometimes felt when she married Alan; she had joined the Army.

After Alan was discharged in 1987, he took the challenge of learning to fly and as a pilot would often charter small planes and fly local farmers and businessmen to locations in NSW and Victoria.

He loved the outdoors and in recent years backpacked around Australia, spent months living with a family in Bali and toured the UK for 10 months. His motto. "To live life to the full."

His four children, eight grandchildren, siblings and many friends are scattered throughout the eastern seaboard, so he would call in on his many visits.

Alan had a very positive outlook on life and he bore well the many afflictions that beset him and the frequent hospital visits of late.....He fought hard.



Frank Frederick Berrier

NX 504414 Regular Army
24373 R.A.A.

Francis Frederick Berrier... to many he was simply Frank,

Frankie, Uncle Frank, Silver Top, Bones, but to me he was always Grandpa. He wasn't just my Grandpa; he was the proud father of Peter, Michael & Tony, grandfather of Jason, Shayne, Chase, Rhys and Liam and great Grandfather of Michael and Kayla

Born in Sydney to Fredrick and Julia Berrier on Armistice Day 1927, he would be the only child from their marriage. At the age of eight months his mother died. He would spend the next eight years with his father.

In 1937, tragedy struck, his father suffered a heart attack and died. He was now an orphan and consigned to the child welfare department.

In April 1946, he joined the army for the first time, serving with the occupation forces of Japan.

On his return to Australia in 1949, he discharged from the army

and commenced work with the RTA. It was here that he met the love of his life, my grandmother Wynne Steain.

Their's was a love that would continue for 51 years, until her death in 2000. They married at St Michaels Darlinghurst in December 1950 and had two sons, Peter and Michael, and together with Anthony they became a family, he wrote to us over the years that the debt he owed her was incalculable, her support and love never wavering.

In 1950 he rejoined the Australian army, seeing further active service in the Malayan Emergency 1957 - 59. Of all the units he served in, it was his time with Royal Australia Artillery "A Field" Battery that he was most proud and looked back with great fondness.

During his time in the service of his nation he was awarded the meritorious service medal, for exemplary service.

Following his retirement in 1984 he threw himself into the "A Field" Battery association, and the museum at north head. He was extremely proud to be made a life

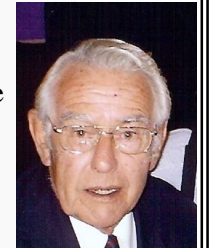
governor of the National Artillery Museum, Patron of the Henry Green Room at Holsworthy Army Barracks, and Vice-President & Life member of the "A Field" Battery Association.

He told me once he only had one regret in life, which was that he spent too much time away from my grandmother and his boys whilst in the army, a necessary evil as he thought the stability of the army was best thing for the family.

His personal philosophy was simple: "we pass this way but once, do good things".

As I stand here now I can say that you did pass this way, but all too briefly, and you did great things.

It was an honour to know you, and a privilege to have been your grandson. The world is poorer for not having you in it, and heaven is all the richer. I know you are above with Nanna and Michael, so I will sign off as you always did: **"UP THE RABBITOHS."**



**Major General John. Stewart
WHITELAW,
AO, CBE, (retd.)**

11th. June 1921– 18th. June 2010

**John Stewart Whitelaw AO CBE
was a career soldier in the Australian
Army who rose to the position of Deputy
Chief of the General Staff (1977–1978).**

**In retirement he was very active on
many councils and committees.**

**One of the central figures in the founding of
the artillery museum at North Head - Major
General John Whitelaw - died in Canberra on the
18th. of June , aged 89.**

**The main gallery at North Fort is named in his
honour.**

**Major General John Whitelaw enlisted in 10th
Field Brigade,Royal Australian Artillery (Militia) in
1937 as a cadet.**

**He was commissioned 15th March , 1940 and
subsequently served in artillery training units and
14th Field Regiment until 1942 when he became a
liaison officer on the staff of 2nd Australian
Division.**

**In 1943 he transferred to the 4th Field
Regiment and saw active service as a battery
captain, troop commander and forward observer in
New Guinea,Bougainville and New Britain until the
end of World War 2.**

**He returned to active duty in 1948 as adjutant
3rd Field Regiment and later on the staff of 13th**



**Infantry Brigade.Service followed
with 1st Field Regiment as adjutant
and battery commander of 'A' Field
Battery.**

**He again went overseas in
1970,this time as Chief of Staff
Australian Force Vietnam.**

**He was appointed a
Commander of the Order of the
British Empire by Her Majesty and
awarded the Bronze Star by the USA for this service.**

**Appointments followed at Army Headquarters
as Director of Military Operations and Plans,on
promotion to major general,as Chief of Operations,
Chief of Personnel and finally Deputy Chief of the
General Staff until retirement from the Australian
Army in 1978.**

**He was appointed an Officer of the Order of
Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in
1977.**

**After retirement, he continued his interest in
military history, particularly that of the Royal
Australian Artillery,as patron of various
associations and societies.in addition he has been
active in matters concerning veterans welfare since
1978.**

**All members of A Field Battery Inc. are proud
of their association with Major General John
Whitelaw and would like to convey our deepest
sympathy to his wife Nancy Lockhart Whitelaw his
children Virginia, Belinda, Angela and family.**

Richard (Dick) Duggan

21st Sept. 1961– 15th Jul. 2010



Graveside Farewell

Native Grove, Coonabarabran
Tuesday, 20th. Jul. 2010

**It is with great sadness that we
acknowledge the death of Richard
Duggan; son of our esteemed A Battery
comrade Richard.(Dick) Duggan.**

**Richard's death is tragically, just
three years after his father's passing.**

**We would like to express our
deepest sympathy to his mother June and
his family**

The Art of Artillery: A Brush With the Guns at London's Firepower Royal Artillery Museum

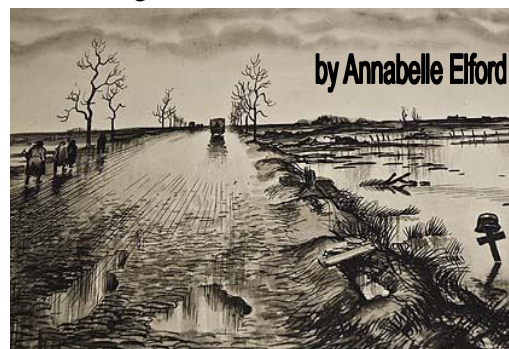
**A new exhibition
exploring how art
documents conflict has
opened at The Royal
Artillery Museum in the
Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.**

**A Brush With The
Guns comprises 50
artworks, including pieces
by contemporary artists and
items from the Museum's
own extensive art collection,
many of which are going on
display for the first time.**

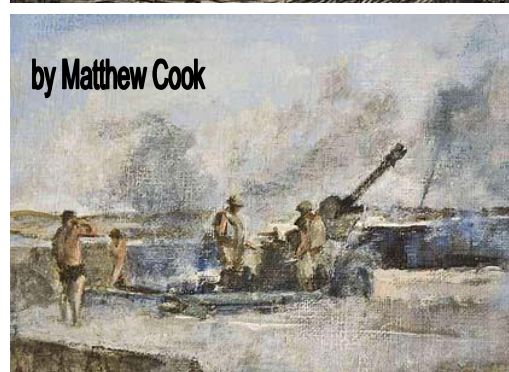
**Spanning more than
200 years, they range from
pencil and watercolour to
oils, appearing on a variety
of media from canvas and
paper to sketchpads, diaries
and notebooks.**

Contemporary works

**include pieces by noted artists
Matthew Cook (Times War Artist
in Iraq, 2003) and Annabelle
Elford, whose son served as a
Royal Artillery Gunner in
Afghanistan in 2008.**



by Annabelle Elford



by Matthew Cook



The Saint Remembers

My Dad once told me when I was about sixteen years of age,

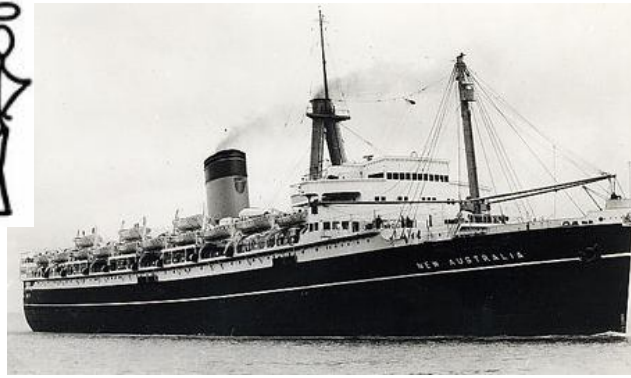
"Son", he said, "life is very short". Well I thought, what a bloody stupid thing to say. Here I was eighteen years old and had done so much and learnt just about everything there is to learn, and I still had three to four times as many years left. Anyway, every one knows how silly and ignorant parents are.

Now I look back and see how absolutely right he was, life is short, very, very short. Where have all those years gone. Seems like only yesterday that I was boarding a ship in Sydney for my first trip overseas, and I have just realized it was fifty three years ago.

I was on my way to Malaya as a soldier to fight the Communist Terrorists in what was called "The Malayan Emergency". All so quick, joined the Army, "A" Battery, getting nasty needles in my arm, off on pre em. leave, back to Sydney and then loaded on trucks and whisked away to Darling Harbour for a 'Gay Send-off'. (The English language has changed somewhat since then.) No Canungra, no jungle training, Christ I had only been in the Regular Army ten months and I'm off to War! Life is starting to speed up already.

But what I do remember most about that sea voyage was what happened at 8:15 PM on Sunday the 29th September 1957. **The ship hit a bloody oil tanker!**

What an experience for a young boy from Brisbane. On a ship sailing through the Barrier Reef, lazing on the deck enjoying beautiful scenery, beautiful sunsets, meals served by stewards, sitting in the lounge of this passenger ship after dinner enjoying a beer when WHAM. The ship has hit something, it heels over to the port side, there is an ear



shattering sound of tearing metal and the side of the ship is covered in sparks. I look out the window of the lounge and another ship is crashing and ripping along the starboard side of our ship. The sight and noise is awesome. It is over in a matter of minutes, then the air is filled with the sound of sirens, bells ringing, the public address system is telling everyone to don their life jackets and go to their boat stations. They didn't have to tell us that this was not a drill.

My life jacket is down in my cabin, I race for the stairs, we are being told not to use the lifts, everyone is coming up, I fight my way down, pass A deck, B deck, C deck, D deck, and finally E deck. My cabin is right up the front of the ship on the port side, I run down the long corridor to my cabin, no one is there, all the life jackets are gone, have to get back on deck.

Go back into the corridor and see red lights flashing and hooters sounding. All the watertight doors are closing. Coming down here for a



life jacket was not a good idea.

How do I get out? There was nothing in the bloody brochure about this! I see a sign, "emergency exit to boat deck", I open this steel door and inside is a steel tube running up with a ladder. I climb as fast as I can. Now other

people from other decks are trying to get in the tube and on the ladder. My head is pushing into someone's bum, but up we go, finally spewing out of a hatch on to the boat deck.

The deck is vibrating as the ship is going at full speed. I look out and back and the sea is on fire around the other ship, the lifeboats are being lowered and I find my group standing around at our boat station.

Well, that was about it. The ship stopped and dropped anchor. We were told to take off our life jackets and go back to our cabins, We weren't going to sink, but the ship had a hell of a lean to Port.

After six days the ship was temporarily repaired and we sailed off to Singapore at reduced speed and with no fresh water.

Many years later in researching a book about "A" Battery in Malaya I interviewed a retired Captain Holmes who was a young ships officer on the bridge the night of the collision. He told me of how the Captain had grabbed the wheel at the last moment and spun it over to Port avoiding a head on collision by only a meter. He explained what would have happened if we would have continued on the collision track hitting the fully laden oil tanker head on. Without going into details it is enough to say that having lived a good and sinless life, God had spared us.

Does anyone else remember that night? As the movie title said "A Night to Remember".

Saint.

For more details on this story and a others about the time spent in Malaya 1957 - 59 get a copy of The Saint's great book full of stories and rare photographs. **"THE MALAYAN EPISODE."** by Don Sinclair.

The Saint will also have his new CD available for the AGM at Maroochy

A recent email from John Johnson, the Liaison Officer for the R A A A(N T) inc. has informed us that on the 10th. June 2010 the Darwin Military Museum presented the unveiling of a new exhibit, displaying all ships involved in the 1942 Japanese attack.

Special Guest Jack Mulholland a WW11 Darwin Anti Aircraft Gunner was asked to unveil the display. Jack Mulholland, who was one of a gun crew on what is now Darwin's Esplanade is the author of the biographical account, "**Darwin Bombed.**"

Darwin Bombed - an A/A Gunner's Reflections

Darwin Under Attack 1942 - A unique part of Australian History

On the 19th February 1942 a fleet of 188 Japanese planes, high level bombers, dive - bombers and Zero fighters attacked Darwin. About two hours later 54 Japanese high level bombers carried out a second attack.

The 19th of February 1942 has become a unique part of Australian history, as it was the first time Australia had been attacked by a foreign power. Officially, on that day, at least 253 were killed and 350 wounded.

The two attacks were of such a size and ferocity that it was thought the Japanese intended an invasion.

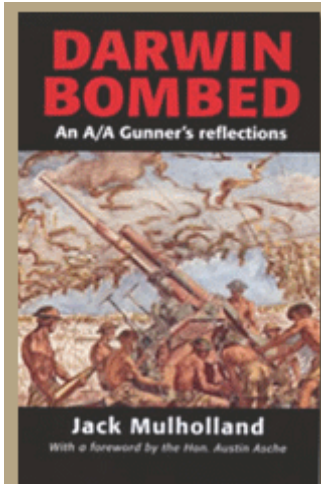
The book is an autobiography by an ex anti aircraft gunner who was in Darwin from 1940 to 1942. He was the firer on No.1 gun on the site known as the Oval, which was in the town overlooking the harbour and it was the first army site to engage the Japanese. From his elevated position on the gun the author had a good view of the battle between our navy and merchantmen against the Japanese.

Damage to the town, shipping and the aerodrome was extensive.

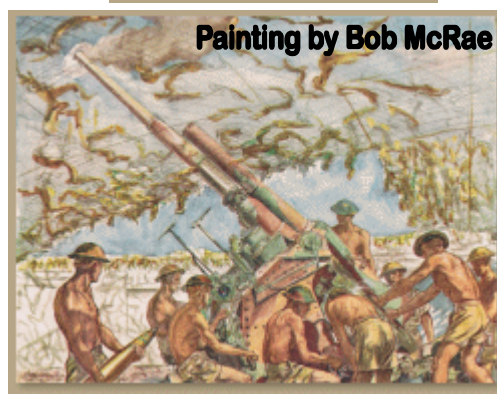
The government of the day, in its wisdom, decided to heavily censor the release of information and all news releases to the public. They were doubtful as to the effect the news would have on the peoples' morale. This action has restricted knowledge to an extent that many of our people are still unaware of the war in our north.

Sir Paul Hasluck in a speech to the NT Parliament in 1955 spoke of the 19th as "Australia's Day of Shame" and, in the author's opinion, some other poorly framed comments.

The media grasped those sensational points and have continued to use them.



An autobiography on the war in Darwin 1940 - 1942. By Jack Mulholland



Painting by Bob McRae

Their reiteration has badly maligned many people and has provided misconceptions of the early war in the NT. The author endeavours to analyse and examine the events causing such comments.

The book is a story of the 14th Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery who with two Pioneer Battalions, 2/3rd and 2/4th installed the ground - aerial defences of the town and manned those guns against the Japanese assault.

Because of the strict censorship many of the reports and interviews since the war are not correct. The book is an attempt to right the wrongs, to explain that we stood firm and do not deserve poor or ignorant reviews and reports.

The book contains about 90 original photographs of 1940-1942 and a brief epilogue up to the 2000's. Darwin Bombed provides an idea of the conditions under which army personnel in the NT existed and their response to the Japanese assaults.

An attack on Australia was something the nation had not been required to face and the government was unsure of its actions.

It was not until 1995 that the government recognised the personnel who defended Darwin.

The book is a gunner's reflections of the times, the conditions, the lack of equipment and its capabilities, the lack of aerial defence and the apparent lack of communications and co-operation between the services in the NT.

The book is an attempt to assist history and to explain that the boys and men defending Darwin did their duty to the best of their ability.

It is hoped the book will help in the passing of our history down to the nation's youth.

The book "Darwin Bombed", which provides an insight into an unusual part of our history, can be purchased online using your broadband connection using a credit card or Paypal. The book can also be obtained by direct request from the author at:

Jack Mulholland
Villa 1201 Henry Kendall Gardens
Wyoming NSW 2250 Australia

Email: jackmulh@bigpond.com

It is also available through shops at a cost of \$35.00. If ordered direct from the author there is a discount of \$5.00 (AUD), total being \$30.00 (AUD) *with* postage included.

The sale of each copy will provide a \$1.00 donation to the Darwin High School.



Proud to serve: A younger Les Maher (above right) shown with team off-sider Peter Aylett (above left). Les at the remembrance services (far right).

Distinguished vet remains humble

By ADAM IPSEN

MORWELL resident and distinguished Vietnam veteran Les Maher doesn't consider himself a great man, simply someone who had good training.

"What happened is you just react the way you were trained to react," Mr Maher said.

"That's simply it in a nutshell, you just react through training."

Called up for national service in 1955, he served as a gunner in the 'A' Battery Royal Australian Artillery during the Malayan Emergency.

The Malayan Emergency was a guerilla war for independence fought between Commonwealth armed forces and Malayan communists.

Malaya later became part of Malaysia.

Mr Maher served for two years and later joined the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) during the Vietnam War.

He served as an advisor to South Vietnamese Forces and served on operations with them during the conflict.

Several years ago Mr

Maher returned to Vietnam to help search for the remains of six Australians who were still Missing in Action (MIA) as part of "Operation Aussie Home".

One of the MIA's, Lance Corporal John Gillespie, had died during a helicopter crash Mr Maher had witnessed.

"It was in the Long Hai Mountains in Vietnam, I identified the site because I was on the ground when the helicopter crashed," he said.

"It was a medical evacuation for some of my wounded troops and when it crashed it killed two

further members of the training team.

"As far as I was concerned I left him (Gillespie) behind because I carried out the other dead."

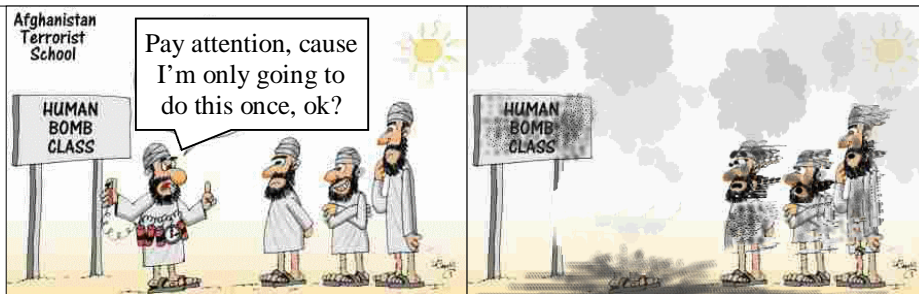
Mr Maher said the operation provided him with a chance to go back and find a fallen comrade.

"We backtracked to where it was and used GPS locators and references to the crash site," he said.

He said the Anzac spirit was about remembering people like Gillespie and all who fought at war.

This news item from the Latrobe Valley Express in April this year concerns an interview with one of our members Les Maher

Perhaps Al Qaeda is running out of instructors willing to blow themselves up to teach a lesson in explosives. "In most cases, an instructor will tape explosives to himself to show us exactly how it is done, and then, he pushes the button, blowing himself up. This is the best training we can get."



The Latest from Reuters News.
Al Qaeda Labour Problem

Suicide bombers in Australia are set to begin a three-day strike on Monday in a dispute over the number of virgins they are entitled to in the afterlife. Emergency talks with Al Qaeda have so far failed to produce an agreement.

The unrest began last Tuesday when Al Qaeda announced that the number of virgins a suicide bomber would receive after his death will be cut by 25% this April from 72 to only 60.

The rationale for the cut was the increase in recent years of the number of suicide bombings and a subsequent shortage of virgins in the afterlife.

The suicide bombers' union, the Southern Queensland Union of Islamic Bombers (or SQUIB) responded with a statement that this

was unacceptable to its members and immediately balloted for strike action. General Secretary Abdullah Amir told the press, "Our members are literally working themselves to death in the cause of Jihad.

We don't ask for much in return but to be treated like this is like a kick in the teeth".

Speaking from his shed

in Mudgeeraba on the Gold Coast where he currently resides, Al Qaeda chief executive Osama bin Laden explained, "We sympathise with our workers concerns but Al Qaeda is simply not in a position to meet their

demands. They are simply not accepting the realities of modern-day Jihad in a competitive marketplace.

Thanks to Western depravity, there is now a chronic

shortage of virgins in the afterlife.

It's a straight choice between reducing expenditure and laying people off. I don't like cutting wages but I'd hate to have to tell 3000 of my staff that they won't be able to blow themselves up, I would be as popular as Jason Akermanis at Mardi Gras"

Spokespersons for the union in the South East of Queensland, stated

that the strike would not affect their operations as "There are no virgins in their areas anyway".

Apparently the drop in the number of suicide bombings has been put down to the emergence of that Scottish singing star, Susan Boyle; now that potential martyrs know what a virgin looks like, they are not so keen on going to paradise.



The Editor Didn't Rubbish "Bin"

The Editor was recently invited to do an exclusive interview at a secret Aussie location with Osama Bin Laden and decided to ask him about his future plans.

The Editor's first question was. "While you are here Mr. Bin Laden, are we going to see any fireworks?"

Osama smiled and said. "Hey Butch just call me Bin, I can reveal that Al Qaeda were planning to blow up the State of Origin game," he whispered confidentially, "but one of their terrorists decided to "move the goalposts" and now they've decided to blow up the Australian Open Tennis in Melbourne instead."

He confessed that the decision for the proposed attack on the clash between the Blues and the Maroons had been a bit silly as there would be a lot of spectators from Lakemba at the arena.

Unfortunately for Bin and his suicide terrorists, but fortunately for the loyal Lakemba-rites their confidential plans have been made public so now he's decided to concentrate on bombing that other great imperialistic show of decadence and short skirts, the Australian Open Tennis



Championship in Melbourne.

Bin said, "Fair dinkum, mate it makes me feel crook in the old comic cuts that women Muslim players were banned from playing in their Burkha's so I decided to target the place with suicide bombers disguised as ball-boys!."

When I congratulated Bin on his fluent use of the Aussie lingo, he replied. "Yair, mate I pick it up a fair bit when I jump into me ute and go to Wallaby Bob's pub, wearing black stubbies, blue singlet and work boots, I look like a local bloke and fair dinkum, contrary to public opinion, I don't mind a couple of coldies."

Your Editor had to agree with him on that and then asked Bin about finances for these operations.

"Hey Butch! Don't get me started on that one." he angrily declared. "I came over here from Afghanistan with a fair bit of the old moolah and of course I'm on the dole but geez the price of explosives in Australia; dead set its enough to make ya spew."

It's a relief for us footy fans that the State of Origin is now out of danger and Al Qaeda are concentrating on blowing up the Australian Open Tennis, so if you have any tickets for this event give them to someone you dislike.

No, not Julia she will already be in the VIP box



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