



From the President's Chair.

G'day everyone,

Firstly, I would like to wish everyone a happy New Year and I hope you all had a great Christmas, and I do hope Santa brought you what you wished for. I had a nice time at my youngest daughter's place, surrounded by family.

There has not been a lot of activity over the last quarter; we had a

committee meeting at Greg Kittelty's residence, Robina, on the Gold Coast, last December and the next one is at Don Sinclair's residence, Bribie Island, on the 12th March. If anyone would like to come to one of our meetings, please feel free to do so.

There are five members who are unfinancial for the current year and four members who have not paid their subs for the past two years; *I will not mention names, as they know who they are.* Remember the subs help pay for the cost of producing this newsletter and for holding reunions. If any of the Life Members would like to make a donation, it would be greatly appreciated.

ANZAC DAY is fast approaching and I hope we have a good turnout in Brisbane and Sydney. The boat trip up the river is on again in Brisbane and as far as I know the cost will be the same as last year. People who want tickets please let me know ASP, as we have to acquire these from 105 Bty Assn.

That is enough rambling from me for this edition, all the best and see on ANZAC DAY.
Regards, Tex

A Little Story of Life Which Happened To me.

Last September my children shouted me to the Rugby League Grand Final in Sydney, this was held on the Sunday evening. The weather was terrible the whole time we were in Sydney and on the Monday the gang said "Let's go to Manly and have a look around" and I said "I am not going to Manly in this weather": so we all agreed to go and have a look at the Rocks and have lunch there, which we did.

While we were there I said that I would like to go to the Garrison Church, when we got there, we found that it was closed and locked, which was most disappointing. We all decided we would go and have a look at the Sydney observatory, all the years spent in Sydney and I had never been there, it was most interesting and the view from Observatory Hill was brilliant.

After our visit, we went down to Circular Quay to catch ferry around to Darling Harbour and have a drink at one of the bars. We sat at a table on the board walk and froze and watched the passing parade. My son, Daryl, suggested that we go up to the inner city, where he knew there was a great Spanish restaurant. When we got there after a three kilometre walk, we had

dinner. Have you ever seen a Spanish restaurant full of Chinese, well I have,

After dinner, the gang said "Let's go home"; I suggested that we walk up to Pitt Street and then down to Central, to catch a train to Rhodes, this we did and on the way down Pitt Street we came across the Civic Hotel, still in operation, as most of the other hotels which we all knew have long gone. I said to my daughter, Leanne and my son, Daryl "This is where I met your mother in January 1960". My daughter in-law, Luanne, said, "Let's go in and have a drink on Bonnie"; which we did.

When we entered the hotel, they were playing trivial pursuit, being run by a TRANNIE, HE/SHE talked us into playing, and we nearly got caught cheating by using our smart phones. We had several drinks on Bon and I let eve-

ryone at the pub know that this is where I met my wife. We came second in the game and got a \$30 bar tab, which we quickly finished. When the manager left with his boyfriend, he told the bar staff to give me a free drink on the house, this was for me meeting the love of my life at this pub. It seems that the old Civic that we knew is now a gay hotel, but we had a good time there. **Tex**



From Major Simon Hompas...BC. A Field Battery

'A' Bty 2012 Battery Commander's Report

New Years greetings to all 'A' Fd Bty Association members. I hope everyone had enjoyable and safe holidays.

True to form we have been busy so far but thankfully not as busy as this time last year when by now we were assisting with the Brisbane Flood cleanup and getting ready for our first bush trip.

The weather has again played its part though and Wide Bay Training Area was closed to us due to extensive rain. This has proved to be a blessing in disguise though as Exercise BARCE has now been tacked onto the front of Exercise OVERLORD to be held in Townsville in March. A little bit of history repeating will see the 'A' Bty gunline firing in support of 3 RAR's Exercise LONG KHANH, an interesting read from the November 2011 edition of this newsletter.

I mentioned in last years' newsletter that a few select members of the Battery are preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. After some very detailed and exhaustive administrative and technical preparation, fourteen 'A' Bty Officers, Sergeants and most importantly Bombardiers (plus others from the Regiment including immediate past CO and 'A' Fd Bty BC LTCOL Dave Kelly) deploy to the Afghan National Army, School of Artillery in Kabul.

They will be responsible for assisting the ANA Artillery Instructors in all aspects of how to execute Artillery operations for the burgeoning Afghan National Army. Judging from previous rotations, they will have a very busy time working within a multi-national coalition of instructors instructing on the Russian D-30 howitzer and manual predication (much to the horror of some of the LTs!).

To stay up to date with the latest news from their deployment, go to www.defence.gov.au and search for 'Artillery Training Team'.

The remainder of the Bty you might assume will have

a quiet year whilst the cats are away but quite the opposite. Following last years epic effort from the lads of 'A' Bty to bring the M777A2 into service, the first Battery in the RAA to do so, career courses, skill upgrades, sport and even a bit of time at home all took a back seat in 2011 and so will be made up with a vengeance this year.

We have an excellent group of up-and-coming young Gunners who will benefit from the opportunity to consolidate all their hard won knowledge and gain more experience.

2012 for 'A' Bty promises to be another year of development and consolidation. Unfortunately I will have to tender my and the BSMs (WO2 Nathan Cole who took over from WO2 Dave Nutini) apologies in advance for the Annual General Meeting, as we too will be deploying overseas. Good luck to all and can't wait to read the latest issue.



The D-30, or 122-mm howitzer D-30 is a Soviet Howitzer that first entered service in the 1960s. It is a robust piece that focuses on the essential features of a towed field gun suitable for all conditions. The D-30 has a maximum range of 15.4 kilometers, or over 21 km using RAP ammunition.

Artillery training team hits mark 29 April 2011

The Afghan National Army (ANA) Artillery Training School in Kabul reached an important milestone with its first graduates joining Afghan and ISAF combat elements in Kandahar Province.

Commanding Officer of the International Artillery Training Team – Kabul (ATT-K), Australian Lieutenant Colonel (LTCOL) Kane Mangin said that the school's first intake had been a success

The school, mentored by the Australian led ATT-K, prepares Afghan soldiers to become skilled artillerymen and is an important step towards Afghan security forces taking full responsibility for security in the coming years.

"The ATT-K comprises six member nations and our collective task is to implement and develop the school of artillery for the ANA," LTCOL Mangin said. "Our mission is to spread the capability of the ANA Artillery Branch across Afghanistan."

Although training includes live firing of the ANA's D-30 Howitzer guns and rigorous gun drills, an important aspect of the school curriculum is to teach basic literacy and numeracy skills.

The national literacy rate in Afghanistan is around 28% but for recruits it is only 14%. Therefore, these skills are

key to professionalising the Afghan National Security Forces, and are highly valued by the students.

The ANA
Artillery Training
School was the first
military school in
Afghanistan to develop



and run a literacy program for its students. "Most of the soldiers we receive come straight off the street and cannot read or write," LTCOL Mangin said. "Artillery is a technical trade requiring literacy and numeracy skills so we implemented a literacy program which gives our trainees basic fundamentals to do the job."

At any one time, the school typically has 440 students attending one of nine different courses.

The goal for the school is to provide artillery training to approximately 2100 officers and soldiers over the next twelve months, which translates to approximately 23 artillery batteries for the ANA.

The creation of these newest batteries indicates progress is being made and the future for the ANA Artillery branch is looking positive."



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 TOM. BANFIELD CLARE. (BONNIE) BASSAN TREVOR. BEER FRANK. BERRIER S.J. BLANCH (OAS. Malaya) **DOUG N. BRYAN** MALCOLM J. BUGG 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 NOEL. SMALL** R. F. SMITH **BRIAN. WHISKER** JOHN. WHITELAW. AO, CBE BERNARD. (PLONKY) WINE **GUS. WOOLFE**

JOHN. WORBOYS

Their Journey's Just Begun

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

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

F. Brennerman

Australians Killed in Afghanistan - Lest We Forget

Andrew Russell, 33

David Pearce, 41

Matthew Locke, 33

Luke Worsley, 26

Jason Marks, 27

Sean McCarthy, 25

Michael Fussell, 25

Gregory Michael Sher, 30 Mathew Hopkins, 21

Brett Till, 31

Benjamin Ranaudo, 22

Darren Smith, 25

Jacob Moerland, 21

Ben Chuck, 27

Timothy Aplin, 38

Scott Palmer, 27

Nathan Bewes, 23

Jason Thomas Brown, 29

Grant Kirby, 35

Thomas Dale, 21

Jared MacKinney, 28

Richard Edward Atkinson, 22

Jamie Larcombe, 21

Brett Wood, 32

Andrew Jones, 25

Marcus Case, 27

Rowan Robinson, 23

Todd Langley, 35

Bryce Duffy, 26

Ashley Birt, 22

Luke Gavin, 27

Stuart Nash, 21, was a Rifleman in the British Army.

He was born in Sydney and was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2008. He is not counted in the list of Australian casualties above.



The humorous stories submitted by Tom (Bulldog) Caldwell in the November Issue got such a great reception that we thought you may enjoy another couple of his memories.

This story goes back a long way, when there were tick gates on the border between NSW and Qld.

One such group of three blokes drove up from Holsworthy, on going through one of the gates on the way up they decided to take the Mickey out of the poor sole bloke manning the gate on the way back.

After taking their leave, on the way back they stopped a short distance back from the and one of them climbed into the boot.

When they stopped at the gate



the usual questions were asked. Do you have any animals, skins or the likes?

"No! mate" was the answer.

"Well give us a look in your boot," the gate keeper enquired

"No worries mate, its open," came the reply.

Now being an old car, before modern gas struts, it was operated by an outside handle and a prop inside.

On opening the boot the Tick gate operator was confronted by a body sitting upright that whispered. "I'm Dick the Tick, g'day."

The Gateman got such a fright he dropped the boot lid on the unfortunate occupant.

The whole joke backfired, resulting in a quick trip to hospital and the insertion of six stitches.

This next story features a mix up of words.

I am sure all of you ex gunners can remember fire orders between the OP and the gun position.

I don't know how they do it now but in the early days fire orders were transmitted by a Sig at

the OP to a Sig at the Tp command post in accordance with orders from the OP.

It went something like this. "Hello 25 for 26 troop target grid.... HE 117 right ranging ect."

This was repeated in full by the command post Sig.

Now comes the funny part, after the initial ranging came the order. "Concentrate over."

This was meant to infer that the OP wanted all guns to Concentrate on the ranging gun.

The Command post Sigs came back with. "But, I am concentrating."

This just about brought the house down

Happy Hour, Big Bang Cocktail

You never knew that Champagne could kick your bum, did you? Here's what gave this Champagne Cocktail it's name:

The French 75mm artillery gun is widely thought of as the first modern artillery.

It was the first to include a hydro-pneumatic recoil mechanism, which kept the gun's trail and wheels perfectly still during the firing sequence.

Since it did not need to be re-aimed after each shot, the French 75 could deliver fifteen rounds per minute on its target, either shrapnel or high-explosive, up to about 5 miles (8,500 meters) away.

Its firing rate could reach 30 rounds per minute only for a short period of time and with a highly experienced crew. These were rates that rifles of the time could not match.

If you didn't follow all that - trust me, it was a pretty awesome weapon to behold in WWI.



On to the drink, which received its name from this field artillery:

Just beware that the particular kind of intoxication that comes from the mystical dovetailing of gin and champagne is not for rookies.

The "French 75" Instructions:

2 oz gin (Preferably Bombay Sapphire)

1 tsp sugar (powdered if possible)

1/2 oz lemon juice

5 oz Brut champagne

In a cocktail shaker, combine the gin, sugar and lemon juice and shake well with cracked

> ice. Fill a glass halfway with ice and strain the gin mixture into it. Top off with champagne. Try not to become a casualty of war.



SEXY soldier Katrina Hodge shows the weapons of mass distraction which make her a Miss England semi-finalist.

The serving Iraq heroine, dubbed **Combat Barbie** by troops, is competing with the backing of military chiefs.

The lance corporal, who will be among 40 beauties battling it out for the title, said: "Girls in beauty pageants talk about wanting world peace but I'm out there trying to achieve peace for real." Bet she gets plenty of atten-shun.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

We in this Association are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and competent Editor who produces our newsletter on time and with interesting and sometimes very funny content.

This occupies a fair amount of his time and his pay is non-existent.

Whenever he contacts me for whatever, he always concludes with a to write something for the newsletter. It is

hard to refuse, but is it my job as his assistant to be in most cases the sole subscriber?

Get off your bums!!! There are a million stories available from the number of members we have when you consider the variances in their service and life styles.

Butch (that's the name of your editor) has tried many times to have a section of our newsletter put aside for Letters to the Editor, unfortunately few sent in any correspondence.

So how about you writing in and telling everyone about that bastard Saint, always wanting people to do things for him, and telling us what a bunch of lazy bastards we are. Go on I dare you!

When we attend our AGM's the talking never stops about all the times when, and what about the different views about the politics, pensions, the barmaids cleavage, your last trip to somewhere, the problems with the association, our

venues, your illness, and what ever happened to what's his name. Come on, when you lot start telling stories I can hardly get a word in. (now there is a subject for discussion).

You can even send in photos, Butch can copy them, and even make you look handsome, well, he will at least try.

Please don't treat this as not your problem. Ever given a thought to how much time Butch has to spend looking for articles that he thinks you may find interesting? He, like the rest of us, has other things to do too.

So, here goes, a bottle of something to the best letter in the next newsletter, I'll stand it this time to see how it goes as I can't believe that you people haven't got some barrow to push. (settle down Mr Morrison, please wait till after the election).

So that's my grumble for the month, now its your turn to reply.

Editors Note:

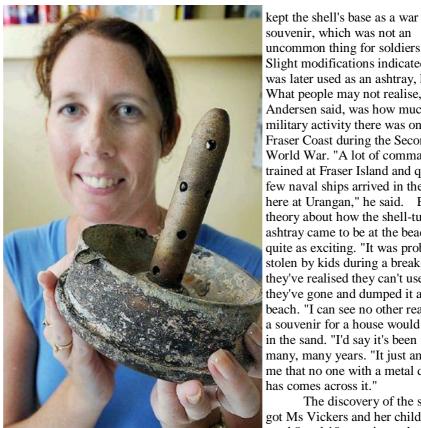
I totally agree with all the Saint's complimentary remarks about the editor. Recently he was bribed with a free beer and was also supposed to include a comment on how good looking The Editor is. Obviously even The Saint, an A grade bullduster, (which is an essential requirement for a Rabbitoh,) can't stretch it that far.

Blown away by a relic

Kristy Martin | 21st February 2012 This Second World War relic is definitely not the type of shell Karen Vickers expected to find at the beach.

The Hervey Bay woman and her mum Margaret were strolling the sand at Scarness when they almost tripped over part of an 1943 artillery shell. "There was just this little piece of it sticking out of the sand," Ms Vickers said. "We were about to stand on it when we realised it was solid brass. "Mum dug it out so no one else would come along and hurt themselves on it. "But when we actually pulled it out and saw the date on it, we thought, 'wow, this is important'." During the war, this piece of military hardware would have been loaded with explosives and enclosed by a large metal casing. "It's quite a find, I'd say," Ms Vickers said. "It's got lots of markings on it but we don't know what they mean. "We don't know if it's Australian made or American made, so it would be great to find someone who can give us the full story."

President of the Hervey Bay Historical Village and Museum, John Andersen, described the 69-year-old object as a "very, very unique" find.



Karen Vickers with part of an artillery shell from Scarness Beach that became an ashtray.

Alistair Brightman

He said someone had probably removed the casing and

souvenir, which was not an uncommon thing for soldiers to do. Slight modifications indicated that it was later used as an ashtray, he said. What people may not realise, Mr Andersen said, was how much military activity there was on the Fraser Coast during the Second World War. "A lot of commandos trained at Fraser Island and quite a few naval ships arrived in the bay here at Urangan," he said. But his theory about how the shell-turnedashtray came to be at the beach is not quite as exciting. "It was probably stolen by kids during a break-in and they've realised they can't use it so they've gone and dumped it at the beach. "I can see no other reason that a souvenir for a house would end up in the sand. "I'd say it's been there for many, many years. "It just amazes me that no one with a metal detector has comes across it."

The discovery of the shell has got Ms Vickers and her children, aged 8 and 10, wanting to learn more about its history. "My kids are certainly intrigued by it. "For them to get excited about this and take an interest in its history is fantastic," she

She plans to take them to the Maryborough Military Museum.

Brisbane ANZAC Day 2012-Post March River Cruise and Barbecue.

Once again, 105th Battery Association is hosting the post-march Brisbane ANZAC Day River Cruise and Barbecue on the 25th April 2012.

This is a great way to meet old members and friends and fellow Gunners and friends from other Batteries are invited. The invitation is also open for serving members of the Battery.

Please note that you will need to register early to secure your place on board the boat.

The cruise is conducted by Brisbane Star Cruises.

- (a) The vessel is the "Brisbane Star" and this catered cruise is limited to **100 persons.**
- (b) The cruise will depart from and return to Riverside Pier, located just upstream from the Pig & Whistle.
- (c) The cruise duration is for three hours departing at 1230 hrs.
- (d) The cost of the cruise and barbecue lunch is \$22 per person.
- (e) As for previous years, provided there are good numbers, the first beer/wine will be free.



enjoy Queensland's water view as we cruise the Brisbane River aboard the MV Brisbane Star

(f) The vessel is fully licenced, drinks, beer/wine are moderately priced. No carry on liquor is allowed.

To reserve your place on the vessel please notify the President/Secretary on 07 4942 5433 or email, texbassan@yahoo.com.au as soon as possible.

Before boarding we have a couple at the PIG and WHISTLE

S. Korea Ignores Threat from Pyongyang to Retaliate for Artillery Drill.

Monday, 20 February 2012 Steve Herman | Seoul

South Korea went ahead with an artillery drill Monday near a disputed maritime border despite an unusually explicit threat by North Korea to retaliate by shelling inhabited islands in the Yellow Sea.

Officials in Seoul say the morning exercise was routine and included the firing of self-propelled howitzers and mortars. Attack helicopters also joined the exercise on the western frontier islands.

A spokesman for South Korea's

Joint Chiefs of Staff says no shots were fired towards the
Northern Limit Line, which is the disputed maritime border.

Pyongyang Warns Seoul

North Korea, the previous day, warned inhabitants of the five islands to evacuate to avoid its possible retaliatory shelling. And in a message, carried by state radio and the official news agency just hours before the South Korean exercise commenced, Pyongyang termed the drill "a clear declaration of war" against the North.

The North Korean announcer says if South Korea fires recklessly, then it "will not escape punishment thousands-fold more severe than the shelling of Yeonpyeong island."

North Korea, on November 23, 2010, in response to a South Korean military exercise, bombarded the island, killing four people.



South Korean navy sailors in a speed boat patrol around South Korea's western Yeonpyong Island after finishing their exercise, near the disputed sea border with North Korea, February 20, 2012.

South Korean officials say residents of the five front-line islands were advised to take shelter in safe zones before its forces began the shelling exercise. The officials also say no reaction has been observed from the North's military, and there are no signs of any extraordinary troop movements. **US to Join South Korean Exercises** South Korea and the United States this week are also holding an antisubmarine drill in the Yellow Sea.

Beginning next Monday, they are to commence the first of two annual large-scale war games involving thousands of soldiers from both of their militaries.

Western intelligence analysts say the recent change of leadership in Pyongyang makes it difficult to assess the seriousness of the latest North Korean threat. They say that is because of a lack of a track record for the new leader, Kim Jong Un, compared to his late father, Kim Jong II. They also note there is scant intelligence about the leadership dynamics in Pyongyang since the elder Kim's death in December.

Professor Kim Yeon-su, a specialist on North Korea at South Korea's National Defense University, says he is not overly concerned about the latest warnings from Pyongyang. He points out they are not being issued by the highest entities in the North so they should not be exaggerated as a major threat to the South.

The professor says their timing is likely tied to the talks in Beijing later this week between the United States and North Korea.



THE WORK HORSE

GMC 6x6, 2.5 ton with winch and tropical cab in the Malayan Emergency as a gun tractor and general cargo carrier and

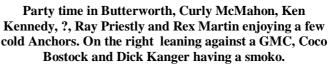
operated on any terrain or weather conditions and rarely failed any task. Drivers from this period in Malaya from 1957 to 1959 included:

Bill Gallagher, Lofty Castles, Bob Walters, Barry Marr, Ray Priestly, John Knight, Lance Gilkinson, Stretch Fanning, Tex Bassan, Jeff Jarvis, Rex Martin and Dick Kanger

SEXY REXY INFATUATED WITH THE GMC

Thanks to Rex Martin for this collection of nostalgia in praise of the 6 x 6 GMC and all of the talented drivers that we were blessed with in Malaya. The fascination that Rex has for this vehicle is certainly justifiable and I certainly agree that the GMC was one of the best and most versatile in the Army, it had everything. As a vehicle mechanic with A Battery I would have to agree that they were fairly simple to repair and did not require much special equipment.







Rex Martin aged
19 posing for the
press at Mascot
Airport.
August 1958 prior
to departing on
Air India to
Malaya via
Darwin, Jakarta
and Singapore,
then by train to
Prai

Australia Day 2012. Wall honours indigenous servicemen

They fought and died for their nation, some 700 indigenous West Australians who answered the call to arms during World War I and World War II, men and boys who willingly traded the company of loved ones and the comfort of sacred country for rifles heavy with duty.

They broke the law to sign up and fight, forced to hide their indigenous heritage with fake names, tramping between recruitment stations until they found those enlightened enough to look past the colour of their skin.

It was the bad old days before the 1967 referendum, when indigenous Australians were not given even the basic right of citizenship, but still they went to great lengths to risk their lives.

Their country did not love them, but they persevered, because they loved their country.

In the lead-up to Australia Day, 20 of those brave young indigenous soldiers from WA who never came home were honoured as great Australians who had shrugged off divisive shackles to fight for a future for all.

Under a blazing sun at Karrakatta cemetery, relatives, descendants and dignitaries, including WA Governor Malcolm McCusker, gathered at a new remembrance wall to mark the heroism of those brave men.

Moira Deron, 83, smiled as wreaths and roses were laid on the wall where her brother's name was etched in bronze. Ms Deron remembered the day when, as a 14-year-old, Pte Ronald George Anderson and their older brother Les jumped off a warship and swam into Fremantle because they couldn't wait to see their little sister. "I remember when they came back from fighting in the Middle East. They were so excited they swam ashore with two other boys."

Shortly after, the brothers were sent to New Guinea. In



September 1942, aged 21, Ronald was killed fighting the Japanese. Les, who would later die in that same hellish jungle, was there when they brought his body in. It was his birthday. Despite the prejudice against them at the time, Ms Deron said her brothers had been patriots. "They loved their country," she said.

The man behind the new remembrance wall, Vietnam veteran John Schnaars, said it bore the name of three of his great uncles killed in WWI.

The president of a group called Honouring Indigenous War Graves since 2005, Mr Schnaars has helped erect almost 130 headstones for first Australian servicemen in WA. He said while their remains were lost in foreign soil, the spirits of the 20 now had a place to return to.

Facing the remembrance wall, mere steps away there were tombstones bearing names such as "Smith" and "Calabrese"

Like a metaphor for the modern Australia Mr Schnaars believed in, the remains of men and women from all ethnic backgrounds shared the small plot of land with the spirits of the indigenous fallen, together and at peace.

"A" FIELD BATTERY ASSOCIATION. Inc. COMMITTEE 2011 - 2012

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An amazing collection of photographs and news items covering the 1940s to the present day with A Field Battery.

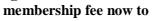
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