

1871

# A Field Battery Association, Inc.

# National Newsletter

## AUGUST 2015



2015



### From the President's Chair.

G'day fellow members.

Welcome to the August edition of the National Newsletter, I thought we were not going to have a winter up here in Mackay but in June and this month we have had a couple of weeks of cold nights, one night it was 2.7

degrees Celsius, the daytime temperature between 19 and 25 deg. I feel sorry for you people living down south, like my sister who lives in Canberra.

Ron Hart has been readmitted to the Wesley, Brisbane, his leg is not getting any better, so if you are in Brisbane, go and give him a visit, he will love that. David Harris had a fall and is recovering, he will not be at the reunion as he and Anne will be cruising the Pacific on a trip to New Guinea.

We still have the five unpaid members for 14/15; please pay if you are one of these. Subs are now due for financial year 15/16, subs are still \$20 or if you want to become a Life Member, it will cost you \$200.

I must apologise to some people who did not get their newsletter, if this happens, please go into the 'A' Bty website and you will find a copy there.

I am very disturbed by the lack of members who are coming to the reunion at Sawtell, I do not know why this is happening as everyone voted to come back to this lovely town. The RSL looks after us very well and I always look forward to going there. How many people are we going to get to come to Canberra? I had a senior's moment last newsletter as the cost for Sawtell is \$149.00, not \$154.00 as I put. The people who paid \$154.00 will be reimbursed the \$5.00; they must have been having the same moment. Remember people money must be paid by the 31st August. Our widows are very welcome to come along to the reunions.

Finally I would like to wish 'A' Bty a very happy birthday as it turned 144 years old on the 1st. A barbecue and drinks were had on the 7th at the Bty Gunners club to celebrate the occasion. I was invited but it is a long way from Mackay to Brisbane for a couple of hours, sent my apologies.

That's all from me for now.

Semper Paratus.

Tex



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

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

Hereby nominate.....

For the position of .....

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

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

### Acceptance of nomination

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

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

\* Please Print

# Our Annual General Meeting and Reunion is at Sawtell RSL, NSW.

Hoping for a big response, especially from our Vietnam boys and partners.

**The Reunion will be from Friday 11th until the evening of Sunday 13th September 2015.**

The Programme and Cost for the Reunion are:

**Friday 11th: Meet and Greet, 1800hrs for 1830hrs,**

**Sawtell RSL. Cost \$22.00**

**Saturday 12th: Annual General Meeting, 1000 hrs. Sawtell RSL, upstairs, right hand room.**

**Saturday Lunch: own responsibility.**

**Saturday Evening: Semi Formal Dinner, 1800 hrs for 1830 hrs, Dining Room, miniature medals to be worn. Cost \$42.00.**

**Sunday 13th: Recovery Breakfast, 0800hrs, Dining Room, Cost \$20.00.**

**Bus Trip: Depart: First Avenue, in front of RSL, 1000hrs. Cost: \$35.00. The tour takes in many towns including Nymboida and Dorrigo. Lunch to be provided by the Assn.**

**Farwell Barbecue: Sawtell Golf Club: 1830hrs for 1900hrs. Cost \$30.00.**

**Cost all Functions: \$149.00.**

**Bookings must be in the Secretary (Tex Bassan's) hands by the 31st August, cheques to be made out to the 'A' Field Battery Association Inc.**

Alternatively you can pay into Heritage Bank A/C no. 8732884 S21 BSB code 638-070.

**Make sure you identify deposit with your name.**

**Please do it NOW !!**



**The Sawtell Hotel.**  
51-55 First Avenue, Sawtell, NSW, 2452.  
Phone: 02 6653 1213.  
Web. Sawtellhotel.com

## Coasters Motel & Apartments.



77 First Avenue, Sawtell, NSW, 2452.  
Phone: 02 6653 1541.  
Email.

reception@coastersmotel.com.au  
Web. www.coastersmotel.com.au

## Sawtell Motor Inn.

57 Boronia Street, Sawtell, NSW, 2452  
Phone: 02 6658 9872  
Email.  
info@sawtellmotorinn.com.au  
Web.  
www.sawtellmotorinn.com.au



**PLENTY MORE**



**Sawtell RSL Club** is a bright and colourful meeting place for Members and their guests. open daily from 10 am

Facilities include a vast variety of Dining alternatives, Oasis Bistro open every day for lunch (noon to 2pm)& dinner (6.30 to 8.30pm). Indoor and Outdoor lounge areas and a Family friendly atmosphere.

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

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

Here by nominate.....

For the position of .....

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

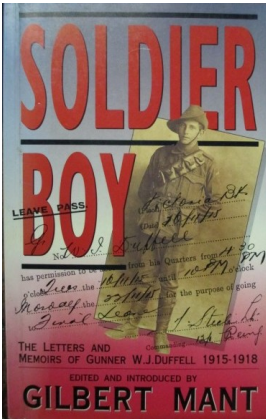
Seconder\* .....Signature.....

**Acceptance of nomination**

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

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

\* Please Print



In March 1990, an old shoe box was uncovered in a Port Macquarie garage. In this box, 153 letters were found which dated from WW1.

The letters had been written by No 9898 Gunner William John Duffell. Duffell was a member of 1st Australian Field Artillery Brigade (1 FAB) serving on 2nd and 22 nd Batteries.

Gunner Duffell enlisted in late September 1915 a few weeks before his 18th Birthday. He served in Egypt, France and Belgium. He was returned to Australia in October 1918, unfit for duty, a few days before his 21 st Birthday.

A compulsive letter-writer and diarist, Duffell promised his mother to write home and he did - at least once a week every week.

This book would be of immense interest to researchers wanting to follow the life and times of a FAB unit and more particularly 1st Australian Field Artillery Brigade . Letters exhibit high detail about every day life.

This article submitted by Ray Alcorn , he saw a plaque on a wall when visiting London recently which commemorated Gunner Arthur Sullivan, VC.

**Sullivan, Arthur Percy (1896–1937) VC**  
by Anthony Staunton

Arthur Percy Sullivan (1896-1937), soldier and banker, was born on 27 November 1896 at Prospect, Adelaide, son of Arthur Monks Sullivan, storekeeper, and his wife Eliza, née Dobbs. Educated at Crystal Brook Public School and Gladstone High School, he joined the National Bank of Australasia at Gladstone in 1913 and was transferred to Broken Hill, New South Wales, and then to Maitland, South Australia.

Sullivan enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Force on 27 April 1918 and embarked in July as a general reinforcement. He transferred on 5 October to the artillery, but the war was over before he was allotted to a unit in France. Promoted acting corporal on 23 May 1919, he joined the British North Russia Relief Force five days later and was officially discharged from the A.I.F. on 12 June. The relief force landed at Archangel in June and July, and relieved most of the original 1918 expeditionary force which included nine A.I.F. members. Sullivan was with the 45th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, in L. W. de V. Sadleir-Jackson's brigade which moved 150 miles (241 km) down the Dvina River.

On 10 August the British attacked on the Dvina front in order to demoralize and disorganize the Bolsheviks and so give time for an unhindered evacuation of North Russia. During the attack, which was a complete success with minimal British casualties, Sullivan won the Victoria Cross. His unit was cut off and, while fighting their way back to their lines, an officer and three men fell from a narrow plank into a deep swamp on the Sheika River. Without hesitation and under intense fire, Sullivan jumped into the water and rescued



all four, bringing them out singly. The evacuation was completed by late September and the relief force was demobilized in England. Sullivan left for Australia on 1 November without waiting to be decorated by the King. He was presented with the V.C. in Adelaide in April 1920 during the tour of the Prince of Wales who smiled and said to Sullivan: 'Aren't you the man who ran away from father?'

Known as the 'Shy V.C.', Sullivan was a popular personality. At Fairfield, Melbourne, he married Dorothy Frances Veale with Anglican rites on 5 December 1928; they were to have three children, including twins.

After the war Sullivan had rejoined the National Bank and in 1929 moved to its Sydney office; in July 1934 he was appointed manager of the Casino branch. He joined the Australian contingent to the coronation of King George VI and took with him the ashes of British V.C. winner Sergeant Arthur Evans who had died in Australia.

On 9 April 1937, eleven days after handing over these remains, Sullivan died when he accidentally slipped and struck his head against a kerb in Birdcage Walk near Wellington Barracks, London.

After a military funeral, his ashes were returned to Australia and placed in the Northern Suburbs crematorium, Sydney. In 1939 a memorial plaque was erected on the gates of Wellington Barracks.

His wife died in 1980, leaving his V.C. to the Australian War Memorial where it is displayed in the Hall of Valour.



## 'A' Field Battery Association RAA, Inc.

**Committee Meeting:** The meeting was held at Daryl and Luanne Bassan's residence, 21 Ascot Crescent, Samford, Queensland at 1000 hours EST, on Wednesday 25 March 2015.

**Meeting Opened:** The meeting was opened by the President, Mr Ron Bassan at 1010 hours EST.

**Present:** Ron Bassan, Bob Cunningham, Greg Kittelty and Ray Alcorn.

**Apologies:** Vince Greck, Ron Hart, Ian Leven.

**Visitors:** Margaret Kittelty, Don and Carol Sinclair.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting which was held at Ian and Wendy Leven's residence, 76 Dolphin Drive, Ballina, NSW on Saturday 6 December 2014 were read by the Assistant Secretary, Mr Ray Alcorn and were confirmed by Greg Kittelty as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Seconded  
by Bob Cunningham and carried.

**Business Arising from the Minutes:** Nil.

**Inward and Outward Correspondence:** The Inward and Outward correspondence was read by the Assistant Secretary, Ray Alcorn and it was moved by Bob Cunningham that the Inwards correspondence be received and the outward correspondence be endorsed.  
Seconded by Greg Kittelty and carried.

**Business Arising from the Correspondence:**  
Discussed as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, Mr Bob Cunningham, presented his report and it is attached. The Treasurer requested that the following cheques be passed for payment: 767033 and 767034.

The Treasurer moved that the payments be approved and the report be received. Seconded by Ray Alcorn and carried.

### General Business:

**a...** Sawtell AGM. Mr Bassan is negotiating details for the AGM with Sawtell RSL.

**b...** Canberra AGM. Ian Leven and Ron Bassan are going to Canberra in the near future to recce details for the 2016 AGM

**c...** Mr Bassan is compiling a list of names of attendees at the Dawn Service in Enoggera Barracks for security reasons and to be forwarded to the RSM 1 Regt. Bob Cunningham is to obtain wreath and card.

**d...** Guns for ANZAC Day. Access is needed to Enoggera Barracks to clean the guns. Don Sinclair to arrange.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Committee will be held at Ron Bassan's residence, 6 Harveys Road, Beaconsfield Queensland, at 1000 hours on Thursday 9th July 2015.

**Meeting Closed:** There being no further business, the President closed meeting at 1205 hours and thanked the members for their attendance.

**President Ron Bassan**

**Assistant Secretary Ray Alcorn**



If you would like to visit or send a card to our good mate Ron Hart, the address is:

**Mr. Ron Hart  
Wesley Hospital  
451 Coronation Dr..  
Auchenflower.  
Qld. 4060**



## Doll kept inmates amused

Mike Derry | 15th Jul 2015

JOEY was the only inmate of the Changi prisoner of war camp in Singapore that did not lose weight. That's because Joey was a ventriloquist's doll that helped keep up the spirits of the inmates.

Joey's owner was Tom Hussey, who was born in Mackay, he was orphaned and reared by the Salvation Army, and an old performer taught him ventriloquism. Mr Hussey joined an amateur group known as the Snap Company which performed in the area. In 1940 the male members of the company all enlisted in the army, although were assigned to different units.

Mr Hussey served with the 2/10th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. When he was sent to Singapore Mr Hussey took the first of the Joeys he handmade with him. He arrived in Singapore on February 18, 1941, and in October was detached from his regiment to serve with the AIF Concert Party.

He was reported missing in Malaya in 1942, but it was later found that he was a POW. He became a member of the Changi Concert Party. Mr Hussey also spent 18 months working on the notorious jungle railway in Thailand.

The concert party created elaborate productions which were so popular with the Japanese soldiers they filled the front rows of the 78 concerts given in three years. Mr Hussey was in the first group of POWs evacuated from Singapore in 1945. He took with him his latest Joey, one of three he made in Changi and whose clothes were covered with the signatures of prisoners.

The last Joey was made from rubber tree, parts of aeroplanes, a nurse's cuff, a Red Cross parcel box, coconut



**LITTLE MATE: Tom Hussey with his ventriloquism doll called Joey**

fibre and other objects. With only a knife, a hacksaw blade and a file, Joey took six months to make and was painted with a mixture of ground chalks and oil.

Joey's clothes also bore the signature of Lady Mountbatten, the wife of the Allied commander in the Far East, she reportedly asked where she should sign, and Mr Hussey told her anywhere she liked. "I will put it over his heart," she said.

Back in Australia the doll was put on display in the Mackay and Bundaberg districts. Mr Hussey donated it to the Australian War Memorial in 1947.

Joey was a part of the War Memorial's display for years, but started to deteriorate.

It is no longer on display, but is still held in the War Memorial's collection.

## The Malayan Emergency

On 16 June 1948 three British planters were executed by communist terrorists (CTs) and a State of Emergency was declared by the British government.

One early tactic was to move many Malays in fringe areas to new villages, to keep them away from the Malay Chinese communist influence. From 1951, the British started a campaign to 'win the hearts and minds' of the Malays, as well as defeating the CT guerrillas. The tactic was to isolate the guerrillas from community support, and drive them into the jungle where existence was difficult. Patrolling would keep them on the move, and break up their concentration of strength, wear them down, and destroy their hidden supply and ammunition caches. Aerial bombing would also be a part of this continual harassment.

The Malay and British governments asked Australia for military support. The Australian government was keen to



**One for the family album; a smiling British Commando in Malaya holding the severed heads of two dead guerrillas.**

help; Communism seemed to be on the spread in Asia; support would stabilise a friendly government in the region, it would also show that Australia was a good ally ready to help its South East Asian Treaty Organisation allies.

It also suited Australia to meet any potential enemy in other countries: Prime Minister Menzies said in 1955, '...if there is to be war for our existence it should be carried on as far from our shores as possible'. By 1955, when Australian troops arrived in Malaya, the war against the CTs was being won, but needed a long and wearying 'cleaning up' process - in which the Australians took part.

The Malayan Emergency was the colonial government's term for the conflict. The rubber plantations and tin mining industries had pushed for the use of the term

"emergency" since their losses would not have been covered by Lloyd's insurers if it had been termed a "war"



Received a letter from Max Van Dyke that reminisced on the A Field Battery attached troops as he recalled people like medics Doc. Ptolomey and Doc. Clatworthy, our unit Pay rep Paul Clough, the cooks and of course the LAD.

**DOWN MEMORY LANE :**

Australian Army Catering Corps (AACC) Malaya 1957 to 1959. Cpl. Paddy Adams, Pte Ron Battersby, Pte. Peter Draper, Pte Pat Flanagan, Pte Macca McRae and Sgt. Ray Turner.

These “bait layers” kept us fed and watered and predated agood meal, sometimes under hard and difficult conditions.

Hungry soldiers are always difficult to please and our ration scale wasn’t that flash in those days. The cry “Who called the cook a bastard; who called the bastard a cook ?” often rang out, hopefully in good spirit. Thanks to all the “Babbling brooks” for a job well done.

I remember Vodka Smith in whites as a trainee cook at Lintang Camp during the Alpha Troop days. Good old Vodka, Tom Caldwell’s story on Vodka’s swim in the Penang Straits shows the courage he possessed.

Whilst on the subject of cooks....Who remembers in 1956, when the Battery conveyed from Georges Heights to Jungle Training Centre Canungra and a Wiles cooker was on tow ?

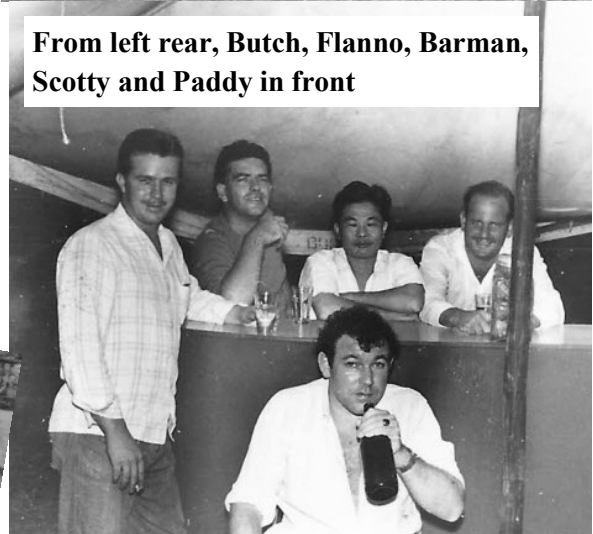
The sight of the convoy and the Wiles cooker on the highway at 30 - 40 miles per hour, boilers fired up and Pat Flanagan in the Wiles hanging on like grim death to get to the harbour position to prepare the evening meal.

OHS and RMA would have hung drawn and quartered all involved.

Perhaps Tex can come up with the drivers name. Very few members would not be able to say that “1957 to 1959 were bloody good years



**Flanno’s kitchen**



**From left rear, Butch, Flanno, Barman, Scotty and Paddy in front**



This is an email sent to Tex from Capt. Brian Barltrop concerning his Landrover that has a history connected to A Field Battery. For all you non sandgroppers the Eastern Goldfields encompasses Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Coolgardie

**Hi Mr Bassan,**

**I have been doing some research on a 110 Landrover FFR I own and note that its in service life was spent at 8/12 Medium Battery, A Field Battery and 1 Regt RAA.**

**It now gets used extensively in support of Army Cadet activities in WA mostly the Eastern Goldfields area.**

**Regards,  
Brian  
Barltrop  
Capt(AAC)**

Thanks,  
Brian



## How Anzacs' Battle at Nek went wrong

One hundred years ago, Australian soldiers charged and died at The Nek, a battle immortalised in the Peter Weir movie Gallipoli. It's one of the standout scenes of Australian movie history - champion athlete Archie Hamilton dashes towards the enemy trenches, freezing on the final frame as Turkish bullets smash into his 18-year-old chest.

For large numbers of Australians, most of their understanding of the complex Gallipoli campaign stems from the 1981 film Gallipoli, directed by Peter Weir, complete with its themes of mateship and pointless loss in a foreign war.

This depicts the attack at a position known as The Nek on the morning of August 7, 1915 - 100 years ago next month. It powerfully shows what happened - lines of soldiers cut down in hopeless charges, with those waiting to attack knowing full well they are going to their deaths. But it doesn't attempt to explain the bigger picture and it blames the British for a wholly Australian tragedy.

### Here's what happened.

With the campaign stalled, Australian and British commanders came up with an ambitious plan for a final breakthrough. This was the August offensive that opened on August 6, 1915 as Australian and New Zealand units set out to seize crucial high ground north of the Anzac positions.

To distract Turkish attention, Australians attacked at Lone Pine. Later that night, British troops began landing at Suvla Bay, eight kilometres north.

The attack at The Nek was timed for 4.30am the next day. It has been described as a diversion like Lone Pine but Australian War Memorial historian Ashley Ekins says it was no such thing. The Nek sat at the apex of the Anzac enclave and was key to a crucial feature called Baby 700, which had changed hands five times in one day in fierce fighting following the Anzac landing. "The aim was to knock out some nine to 11 tiers of trenches on Baby 700.

It was assumed the Kiwis would have captured Chunuk Bair and would be assaulting down the ridge line towards Baby 700 while the Australians attacked upwards," Ekins said. But pretty much everything went wrong. Historian David Cameron says even with the benefit of hindsight, capturing about 40 separate trenches covered by massed rifle fire and machine guns was optimism on a tragically grand scale. The Nek itself was a narrow ridge - its name Afrikaans for mountain pass - with Turkish lines on the higher side.

Problem one was that the Kiwis hadn't yet captured Chunuk Bair and were in no position to support the attack. Australian commanders still opted to proceed. Their plan was for artillery to hammer Turkish trenches, rising to a crescendo then halting at 4.30am as the first wave charged. Because of narrow frontage, just 150 could attack at once. There were to be four waves, two by members of the Victorian 8th Light Horse Regiment and two by the West Australian 10th Light Horse.

As soldiers crouched in their trench, bayonets fixed, ready to charge, the artillery suddenly halted seven minutes early. That has been blamed on failure to synchronise watches

and it left commanders in a quandary - wait or attack and risk being caught in a renewed barrage. They chose to wait and precisely at 4.30am, a whistle blast sent soldiers clambering from their trenches. The Turks were fully ready. Machine guns and hundreds of rifles opened fire and most fell within 10 metres. A few minutes later, the second wave met precisely the same fate.

By this stage, it should have been called off but someone reported seeing a marker flag in the Turkish trench line, suggesting some had made it. So the next 150 West Australians were ordered to get ready. By now Turkish artillery had joined in and those waiting clearly knew what was ahead. Colonel Noel Brazier, commander of the 10th Light Horse, objected, saying this was nothing but "bloody murder". But in headquarters, acting brigade commander Colonel John Antill insisted the attack proceed.

Soldiers shook hands, farewelled one another, charged and were cut down. Historian Charles Bean wrote that with that regiment went the flower of WA youth, sons of old pioneering families who flocked to Perth to enlist at the outbreak of the war.

Two were Gresley Harper, 31, and his younger brother Wilfred, 25, who Bean said "was last seen running forward like a schoolboy in a footrace, with all the speed he could compass." He was the inspiration for Archie Hamilton.

By now, officers in the line decided enough was enough but Antill again insisted the fourth wave proceed. Brazier appealed directly to Brigade Commander Colonel Frederic Hughes. For half an hour, soldiers waited as the matter was debated. Finally, Hughes relented and the fourth wave was told to stand down.

But in one of those appalling misunderstandings of war, a wave of the hand was interpreted as the go order and those on the right charged and others followed. Their fate was precisely the same.

Hughes and Antill, both Australians, are the true villains of The Nek. Cameron says a quick glance across no-man's land would have told them there was no chance the Turkish lines could be breached.

As the sun rose over The Nek, the ground lay strewn with the dead, and the wounded who would soon be dead, as there was no chance they could be reached. From the two units, 234 had died, and another 133 wounded. Turkish casualties were negligible.

When the war graves unit returned to Gallipoli in 1919, The Nek was strewn with bones of Australian youth lying where they fell four years earlier. Most were interred in a mass grave, now The Nek Cemetery, beneath the very ground on which they fell.

One of the few identified was Trooper Harold Rush, buried at Walker's Ridge cemetery. His epitaph famously reads: **"His last words, Goodbye Cobber, God bless you."**



**Brigadier General Frederic Hughes on board a transport ship**



## Talisman Sabre 2015 comes to a close in ceremony in Brisbane

AFTER 20 days of increasingly intensive operations on land, air and sea, Exercise Talisman Sabre 2015 has come to a close with an official ceremony.

The official ceremony was held on Monday held on board the United States Navy Flagship USS Blue Ridge in Brisbane.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence Darren Chester said the Australia-US bilateral military exercise marked a significant milestone in building the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) combat training,

readiness and interoperability. "This is the first time the exercise has taken place simultaneously in two strategically important locations," Mr Chester said. "The Bradshaw Field Training Area, south west of Darwin in the Northern Territory and the Shoalwater Bay Training Area near Rockhampton in Queensland have again proven their worth in terms of mid intensity and high end training."



**An Australian Army 155mm gun on display at the Talisman Sabre Open day held at the Showgrounds on Sunday.**

**Photo: Chris Ison**

One of the key activities was a large amphibious landing by Australian soldiers from 2RAR and US Marines at Fog Bay near Darwin. The Royal Australian Navy's Bay Class Landing ship HMAS Choules worked alongside the US Navy's amphibious force to deliver Australian and US

personnel onto the beach. "By all accounts this operation has been a tremendous success," Mr Chester said. "We have learned a great deal about how to operate alongside the US Navy and the US Marine Corp as a result of what was a textbook amphibious operation. "The feedback from the local community has also been very positive. "Shoalwater

Bay near Rockhampton again showed its value as a Defence training area. Australian Army units exercised alongside the US and New Zealand Military at Shoalwater Bay to test and adjust their training and procedures. "Defence remains committed to training at Shoalwater Bay in the future," Mr Chester said.

## I Corps Band partners with Australian Artillery Band BRISBANE,

Australia – The U.S. Army has many traditions; some even date back to before the Revolutionary War.

One tradition many still remember is the drummer leading Soldiers into battle. Today, the I Corps Army band does not lead Soldiers into battle. Instead, they travel with Soldiers to provide musical support and build morale.

Recently, the 56th Army Band, I Corps, partnering with the 1st Regiment, Australian Artillery Band, during Talisman Sabre 15.

Talisman Sabre is a biennial exercise, consisting of U.S. and Australian forces with a contingent of 30,000 participants. I Corps is using this exercise to validate as a Combined Forces Land Component



**Sgt. Daniel Schroeder, The 56th Army Band, I Corps, with 1st Regiment Australian Artillery Band Soldiers led by Warrant Officer 1st Class John Franklin, band master, during a practice session on Gallipoli Barracks, Australia, July 7. The 56th Army Band partnered with the 1st Regiment RAAB during Talisman Sabre 15**

Command. "Our mission is to provide whatever support we could to the Soldiers participating in Talisman Sabre 15," said Staff Sgt. Michael Placker, a tuba player with the 56th Army Band. "Partnering with the [1st Reg. Band] gave us an opportunity to interact with another unit similar to ours and learn how they do things."

Both bands started rehearsing together shortly after arriving at Gallipoli Barracks.

Placker and his fellow band members had to adjust to how their counterparts operated. "It interesting to see the same things done a different way,"

Placker said. "But music is one of those things that crosses every border and, no matter the language, you can speak the same."

The ceremony provided both bands an opportunity to showcase an alternate side to each military.

We have blended great together and are still learning a lot from each other





The F90 assault rifle has been well-received by soldiers in various trials.  
Photo: courtesy of Thales

## **Australian Defence Force orders EF88 assault rifle from Thales. 7 August 2015**

Thales has received a contract from the Australian Department of Defence to supply F90 assault rifles to the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Under the terms of A\$100m (\$73.6m) contract, the company will supply 30,000 F90 rifles and 2,500 SL40 grenade launchers, as well as spare parts and various ancillaries.

Two versions of the rifle will be delivered, including a standard rifle with a 20in barrel, and a carbine with a 16in barrel. Thales Australia Armaments vice-president Kevin Wall said: "Our soldiers deserve the best possible equipment and the F90 delivers on all counts. "Enhancing the Austeyr is the most cost-effective way to deliver a capability upgrade, and we've worked closely with defence and army units to design, test and manufacture this world-class weapon. "The F90 is born from over 100 years of engineering and manufacturing expertise at Lithgow, and this is the latest chapter in Lithgow Arms' long contribution to Australian military operations."

Manufacturing work under the contract is scheduled to be carried out at the company's facility in Lithgow, regional New South Wales.

Deliveries to the ADF are set to commence in the next few weeks and will take place over six years.

In ADF service, the rifle will be known as the Enhanced F88 (EF88), marking a significant enhancement of the original Austeyr F88, a modified version of the Steyr AUG used by the service since 1988.

The EF88 rifle will be equipped with an enhanced day sight, foregrip and a grenade launcher attachment for grenadiers, and is scheduled to be issued more broadly to ADF from 2016 as part of the rollout of LAND 125 Phase 3C - Soldier Enhancement Version 2-Lethality project.

Thales is currently exploring export opportunities for the F90 in various markets worldwide.

Thales Australia (formerly ADI Limited) is a primary defence contractor for the Australian Defence Force. Thales Australia is best known for its naval ship repair operations, and currently leases the Captain Cook graving dock at Garden Island Naval Base in Sydney, New South Wales and also leases and occupies many of the buildings there.

ADI's large site in St Mary's in western Sydney is progressively being repatriated for residential development with their munitions capability being consolidated in Benalla, Victoria and their testing facilities being sold to Vipac Engineers and Scientists. ADI manufactured the Steyr AUG based, F88 Austeyr assault rifle at Lithgow Small Arms Factory



The picture shows 6th Division Ordnance QF 25-pounder Short guns being towed behind jeeps during a parade at Wondecla in Queensland. Date 17 July 1944. The jeeps were sourced from the United States and the guns were an Australian variant of a British design.

Units of the Australian 6th and 7th Divisions arrived on the Tableland in January 1943 and began establishing tent encampments around the settlements of Wongabel, Wondecla and Ravenshoe



William Boyd starred as Hopalong Cassidy in this 1938 film. Oddly, both Clark Gable and Robert Mitchum experienced their first big breaks in movies playing bearded villains in westerns starring William Boyd.

Clark Gable was officially proclaimed the "King of Hollywood" during his Golden Age heyday.

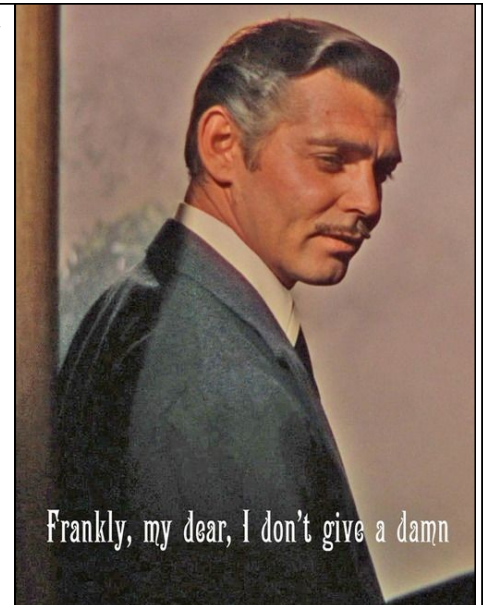
Initially considered too rough-hewn to play the romantic lead, Gable's virile persona soon earned him scores of fans in films like "A Free Soul" (1931), "Red Dust" (1932) and "San Francisco" (1936).

He won an Oscar for his role in Frank Capra's "It Happened One Night" (1934), made women swoon as Fletcher Christian in "Mutiny on the Bounty" (1935), and charmed as roguish Rhett Butler in the epic "Gone with the Wind" (1939). Gable's delivery of the latter film's classic line, "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn," was soon among the most quoted in the history of cinema.

An oft-married Gable briefly found romantic bliss with his third wife, comedienne Carole Lombard, whose premature death in a 1942 plane crash permanently dampened Gable's insatiable lust for life.

After distinguishing himself in combat during World War II with the Army Air Corps, Gable returned to Hollywood in 1945, albeit with a noticeably diminished spark.

His final performance, however, also proved to be one of his best, when he was cast opposite troubled co-stars Marilyn Monroe and Montgomery Clift in "The Misfits" (1961). As befitting his iconic stature, America was informed of Gable's sudden passing in 1960 with the reverent headline "The King is Dead."



## Some Quotes on Ageing Gracefully

**Bob Hope** : She said she was approaching forty, and I couldn't help wondering from what direction.

You know you are getting old when the candles cost more than the cake. Middle age is when your age starts to show around your middle.

**George Burns** : When I was a boy the Dead Sea was only sick. By the time you're eighty years old you've learned everything. You only have to remember it. You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there.



First you forget names, then you forget faces. Next you forget to pull your zipper up and finally, you forget to pull it down.

**Lucille Ball** : The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly and lie about your age.

A man who correctly guesses a woman's age may be smart, but he's not very bright.



**Mark Twain** : Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

**Sir Norman Wisdom, OBE** : As you get older, three things happen. The first is your memory goes . . . and I can't remember the other two.





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.  
*Lest we forget.*



**KEN. AGNEW**  
**LES ASHBY**  
**TOM. BANFIELD**  
**CLARE. (BONNIE) BASSAN**  
**TREVOR. BEER**  
**FRANK. BERRIER**  
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**BERNARD. (PLONKY) WINE**  
**GUS. WOOLFE**  
**JOHN. WORBOYS**

**Vale Leon Pullen 2nd. February 1930 - 24th. July 2015**

Remembrance from Don Sinclair.. I first met Lee Pullen when I was doing my Nasho at Wacol, 11 Battalion in 1956. He was a Sergeant on staff. Barry Stark and Lofty Castles would also remember him from those days. Later he showed up at 1 Field Reg. at Holsworthy as a gunner as his rank in was not substantive at Wacol. Next time we met was when he came to Malaya. He was back to being a Sergeant. A really nice bloke. This is a photo of him on a boat trip in Malaya. He is in the middle front. Saint Sinclair.





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