

1871

A Field Battery Association, Inc.

National Newsletter

MAY 2013

President Ron Bassan's Report



From the President's Chair.

G'day fellow members,
I have to start this report on a sad note once again; we have lost another two

of our members, who we older Gunners would know and they are: John (Pinky) Salmon and Barry (Fatty) Marr. John passed away at home on the 17th March after a long hospitalization; John had a long and distinguished career with the Army, he served in Korea with the Kiwi artillery and was wounded, John attained the rank of Brigadier and was awarded the order of Commander of the British Empire.

Barry passed away on the 25th February, Barry also had a distinguished career, older gunners will remember Barry as a Driver in Alpha Troop and Butch reckons he was the best Driver he has ever seen (Besides myself of course). Barrie's Military History is on the Lest We Forget page. Margaret and Carol would you please accept our deepest sympathy for your loss. May these two outstanding Soldiers rest in peace?

We have lost another two old 'A' Bty members but were not members of the Assn. They are: Garb Ellis and Ted (Killer)



This photo was taken at one of our crazy pyjama parties at Butterworth. Barry is second from left and Killer Murphy on the right

Murphy. Garb was the Battery Guide in Malaysia, 1965 – 1967, and Ted was a Bravo Troop member during the Malayan Emergency 1957 – 1959.

On a brighter note, our reunion at Sawtell is getting closer; Butch has included details once again. The cut-off date will be the 31st August and all monies must be in the hands of the Secretary by that date, remember, it is \$130.00 per person for all events. I hope to see you all make an attempt to attend.

I spoke about the National Gunner Dinner to be held at Caloundra Qld on Saturday 23rd

August 2014 in the last newsletter. This event is being hosted by the Australian Artillery Association and is to be at the Event Centre, 20 Minchinton Street, Caloundra, Qld, 4551.

There is a three hour dedicated Military Concert by the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra, 1330hrs – 1700hrs.

There is a three course dinner with three hour drinks package, followed by Port; it includes a wind and string quartet to provide light background dinner music. Time; 1830hrs to 2400hrs. Cost is \$145.00 per person and bookings are essential. I asked if people were going to this marvellous event, as it is a once in a lifetime, to let me know so we can make a bulk booking, so far I only have six names.

We still have twelve members who are not financial for 2012/2013, and it is nearly the end of the financial year, if you are one of these members, please send your subscription and Doc you were not one of them, so you are financial for 2013/2014.

If you do not intend to be a member, could you also let me know, so I can delete you off the data base.

That's all from me for now, Semper Paratus Tex



**SAWTELL BEACH
CARAVAN PARK,**
5 Lyons Road, Sawtell
NSW 2452
ph. (02) 6653 1379,
free call 1800 200 111
or email

info@sawtellbeachcaravanpark.com.au



**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



This is from Dodger Noonan, a report on the Sydney Anzac Day March

Here is a bit of a story about Anzac Day in Sydney I was waiting for some good pictures to be sent to me but there must be a hold-up in the pipeline somewhere, so I have attached some I took with my phone. Not the best quality but then with our eyesight getting worse with every passing year it doesn't really matter all that much.

If they turn up before the next issue deadline I will forward them along with captions. Anyway, here is the story.

The weather for Anzac Day this year in Sydney could not have been better, lovely clear skies and a gentle breeze. Our form-up position is creeping steadily closer to the front of the march, we are now 100 metres further along than we were last year, testimony to our advancing years and the demise of

those who went before us.

It was anticipated that there would be only a handful of us at the banner this year, but we were pleasantly surprised by the arrival of about 30 still-serving and recently retired ex-A Bty members, or the "men in black" as I call them.

Those in attendance from our bunch and whose names I remember were Wayne Brooking, Don Green, Geoff Johnston, Mel Smith (down from Brisbane), Don Spearpoint, Terry Dooley and my good self. Reg Ettienne from an earlier age joined us as well.

Others present on the day but marching under other banners were Chris Coape-Smith, Geoff Grimish, Don Tait and Brian Armour.

Also present but not marching was Peter Berrier, son of the late Frank Berrier, a past president of the pre-amalgamated NSW A Bty Association.

A group photo was taken on the steps of an office

building and their presence gave us a respectable turnout for the march.

The march itself proceeded well, Dick Smith (of the electronic stores fame) was in his usual place holding up his "Thank You" placard (You're Welcome, Dick).

One other highlight was Geoff Johnston's granddaughter, nine year old Eleanor who marched with us wearing her great-grandfather's medals. She was very excited about the day and apparently didn't stop talking about it all the way home to Bargo, where she got to watch herself on the replay.

The Coronation Hotel held part of the upstairs room for us to share with another unit. Both groups got along well together, we even kept the noise down to a dull roar so they could hold their AGM at one point.

A collection was taken up for the nibbles plates organised by Don Green and provided by the staff.

A very pleasant and convivial afternoon, along with much beer, was had by all. **Regards to all from Dodger.**



Grandpa Geoff Johnston and lovely grand daughter Eleanor.



ex-A Battery marchers



Ron Pratt with his beautiful young great granddaughter Matilda Cornelius, during the Brisbane Anzac Day march 2013



Having a couple of coldies after the march on the Brisbane river cruise are The Saint, Bubbles and Paul Forsyth.

Congratulations to Paul Forsyth for his appointment as District President of the Sunshine Coast and Regional District RSL

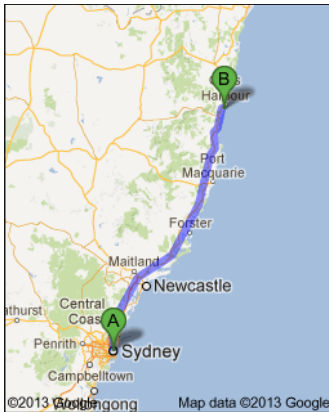
Book with Tex now for Sawtell on the beach

“Sunny Sawtell” is a beachside town just 10km south of the centre of Coffs Harbour., an attractive main street with great cafés and restaurants that are just a stroll from the popular swimming and surfing beach, and easy access to creeks and a National Park.

Sawtell’s First Avenue is characterised by the huge Moreton Bay fig trees in the colourful garden dividing the street. They protect and shelter not just the benches underneath but the entire main street. . Enjoy a movie at the renovated 1920s First Avenue Cinema or just take a look inside for its historic character.

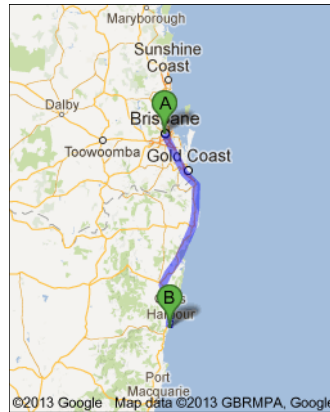
The Sawtell RSL provides plenty of entertainment options, while your dining choices are endless with anything from spicy Thai, exotic Indian and traditional Chinese to fresh local seafood and modern Australian cuisine.

This is the first of our of all our future AGMs to be held in Sawtell. Contact Tex Bassan now to confirm your attendance. Book your own accommodation, some good ones on the front page.



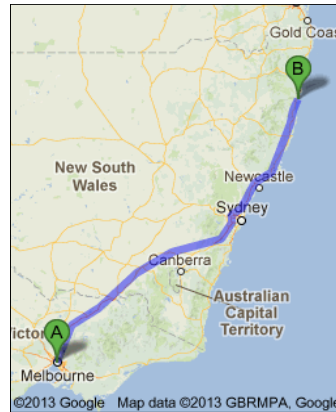
Driving from: Sydney To: Sawtell

Time: 5 hours 55 mins
Distance 525.0 km
Route: Pacific Hwy



Driving from: Brisbane To: Sawtell .

Time: 4 hours 34 mins.
Distance 402.5 km.
Route Pacific Hwy



Driving from: Melbourne To: Sawtell .

Time: 14 hours 10 mins.
Distance 1,393.6 km.
Route: National Highway

By plane You can fly to Coffs Harbour

Qantas (ph 131313) from Sydney or Lord Howe Island

Virgin Australia (ph 136789) from Sydney or Melbourne

Brindabella Airlines (ph Qantas) from Brisbane.

The airport is usually referred to by airlines as Coffs Coast and is located about a five minute drive outside the town. There is bus that runs into town from the airport. Taxis are also available

Sydney to Sawtell Train Service

	Cost.	Daily.	Daily.	Daily.
Sydney Central		07.15	11.35	16.12
Broadmeadow	\$20.99	09.35	13.55	18.32
Taree	\$46.80	12.38	17.10	21.33
Kempsey	\$58.91	14.33	18.54	23.15
Macksville	\$62.14	15.13	19.38	00.02
Sawtell	\$66.17	15.57	20.25	00.49
Coffs Harbour	\$66.17	16.05	20.33	00.57

Brisbane to Sawtell Train and Coach Service

Daily.	Train.	Coach
Roma St. Brisbane	07.30	15.10
Coffs Harbour	12.25	22.10
Sawtell	12.36	22.18

Country Link Phone bookings 13 22 32
email bookings @ countrylink.nsw.gov.au



Sawtell is a short distance from the Pacific Highway and about 5kms south of Coffs Harbour. If you are travelling North, look for the Sawtell sign 7kms south of Coffs Harbour. Leave the Pacific Highway and turn right onto Lyons Rd. Follow the road into Sawtell township. If you are travelling south, drive through Coffs Harbour on the Pacific Highway. Leave the highway just before you see a Mobil Service Station. Turn left onto Sawtell Road and follow it to Sawtell.

Sawtell RSL Club is a bright and colourful meeting place for Members and their guests. The club is renowned in the area as the Entertainment Centre of the coast, with activities ranging from International Touring Acts down to our weekly raffles and Bingo. Facilities include a vast variety of Dining alternatives, Indoor and Outdoor lounge areas and a Family friendly atmosphere.

**Tuesday 10th.Semi Formal
Dinner in Princess Room,
miniature medals to be worn.**



To be attended by all Batteries in 2014



GUNNER DINNER

et plurimus praeclarus spectaculum

Saturday 23rd August, 2014

- SPECIAL 3 HOUR MILITARY CONCERT AT THE CALOUNDRA EVENT CENTRE**
BY THE SUNSHINE COAST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
- \$145 pp • THREE COURSE DINNER WITH DRINKS PACKAGE**

SHOW: 1400 - 1700 HRS DINNER: 1830 - 2130 HRS
CONCLUSION 2359 HRS

The Australian Artillery Association is proud to host this wonderful and special evening bringing together all Gunners of all eras to share In this momentous occasion.

This is a Once-in-a-Lifetime opportunity to all Gunners to gather in one location and enjoy a First Class event.
DON'T MISS OUT !!



BOOKINGS & INFORMATION:

http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com/2014_national_gunner_dinner.htm

If you plan to attend this extraordinary event in 2014
Contact Tex Bassan now (details on back page) →

CA-BEAUTIFUL-LOUNDRAS

This will be a very special meeting attended by all the Artillery Batteries, allowing you to catch up with friends you may not have seen for many years. Although still 18 months away our President Ron Bassan would like you to confirm your attendance asap, you will find all of his contact details on the back page of this newsletter. This years AGM at Sawtell is important and you should confirm with Tex now, apparently there will be a large number attending, including a few West Aussies. However the Caloundra gathering of gunners will become a historical event so put your hand up now to become part of this unique artillery assembly.



**Do it
Now!**

Tex has to make a bulk booking for "A" Field Battery so please contact him ASAP



The Mount Isa RSL Sub Branch 25-pounder

After the Memorial Club was sold off last year, the Mount Isa RSL sub branch's historic 25 pounder has been relocated to George McCoy Park and restored by the Mount Isa City Council.

The new home for the historical piece is adjacent to the local Cenotaph and will be accompanied by an information board.

There is also the possibility that the park will be developed into a Remembrance Precinct

Maybe the A Field Battery crew that restored the old Ithaca RSL 25 pounder gun to the best in the world, with the result that it now features in the Brisbane Anzac Day March should offer some technical advice

ANZAC COVE

The background to the Gallipoli landings was one of deadlock on the Western Front in 1915, when the British hoped to capture Constantinople.

The Russians were under threat from the Turks in the Caucasus and needed help, so the British decided to bombard and try to capture Gallipoli.

Located on the western coast of the Dardanelles, the British hoped by eventually getting to Constantinople that they would link up with the Russians.

The intention of this was to then knock Turkey out of the war. A naval attack began on February 19 but it was called off after three battleships were sunk.

Then by the time of another landing on April 25, the Turks had been given time to prepare better fortifications and increased their armies sixfold.

Australian and New Zealand troops won a bridgehead at Anzac Cove as the British aimed to land at five points in Cape Helles - but only managed three.

The British still required reinforcements in these areas and the Turkish were able to bring extra troops onto the peninsula to better defend themselves.

A standstill continued through the summer in hot and filthy conditions, and the campaign was eventually ended by the War Council in winter 1915.

The invasion had been intended to knock Turkey out of the war, but in the end it only gave the Russians some breathing space from the Turks. Turkey lost around 300,000 men and the Allies had 214,000 killed - more than 8,000 of whom were Australian soldiers, in a disastrous campaign.

Anzac Cove became a focus for Australian pride after forces were stuck there in squalid conditions for eight months, defending the area from the Turks.

The Anzac soldiers who arrived on the narrow strip of beach were faced with a difficult environment of steep cliffs and ridges - and almost daily shelling.

At the height of the fighting during the landings of April 25, 1915, the waters around the peninsula were stained red with blood at one point 50 metres out.

Fierce resistance from the under-rated Ottoman forces, inhospitable terrain and bungled planning spelt disaster for the campaign.

Among those who suffered the greatest losses were the Anzacs Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who made the first landings, swept by an unexpected current to a narrow cove rather than the wide beaches the planners intended.

But despite the toll in human life, the campaign is seen as a landmark in the formation of national consciousness in the two countries.



Cannon in place: Troops landing at Anzac Cove in the Dardanelles during the Gallipoli campaign in 1915, which saw the Allies have 214,000 men killed

Fire: A 60-pounder heavy field gun in action on a cliff top at Helles Bay, Gallipoli, Turkey. Today marks the 98th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings



On their way: Australians soldiers embarking at Melbourne to fight in World War One in December 1914. Some 8,000 Australian soldiers died at Gallipoli



GUN REPORT TRIGGERS FAMILY TRIP

For all those members who read the article submitted by Reg Etienne in the November 2012 newsletter concerning the L5 guns purchased by Mangrove Mountain RSL in 1994, you will remember that when the paint started to peel from the display guns and revealed the numbers and tactical signs indicating, beyond doubt that these guns were indeed part of the Battle of Long Tan.

Proving how valuable any stories that are submitted to this newsletter; there has been a further delightful and unexpected outcome emerging from this story.

Reg Matheson recognised the gun as being the one that he was Gun Sergeant on when he served in Vietnam during the Battle of Long Tan and when he showed the article to his family, every one got excited and decided to make it a special family excursion to visit this historical memento of their patriarchs' service.

The gun is an authentic monument that the very close Matheson family could touch and admire; a nostalgic journey back to the sixties when their great grandpa, grandpa and father Reg was a fit young artillery Sergeant



Reg explains a few of the finer points of artillery to his son Russell who is the Federal Member for MacArthur



Four generations of the Matheson Family including great grandson, Austin all travelled to the Mangrove Mountain RSL to see the gun that Reg Matheson was the Gun Sergeant on, during the Battle of Long Tan



A young Reg receiving the Gun Detachment Trophy from the Commanding Officer of 26 Field Regiment RA in Malaya 1962.

Reg and his gun crew were judged winners over two British Gun Detachments from the Regiment. I feel sure that Reg should have also received high commendation for the starchiest shorts



Reg shows the gun to his two talented grand daughters, Alana who is a lawyer and Jessica, brand manager for ACP



Sgt. Reg with his gun crew, wife Shirley, son Russell and daughter Kerry

Thanks to Max Ptolomey for this interesting article about a company of West Australians serving in South Africa 113 years ago, We are all hoping that Max and some more of our A Battery West Aussies will be coming to our AGM in Sawtell next September

MAJOR GEORGE HATHERLEY MOOR First Western Australia Mounted Infantry

Major George Hatherley Moor, a former captain in the Royal Artillery, was an experienced soldier and leader.

A veteran of five years service in Natal with a mountain battery, he also saw service in Rhode's British Chartered Company, in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and action in the war against the Matabele in 1897. He was promoted to the rank of Major on 14 October 1899.

The Western Australian infantry company of 130 officers, non commissioned officers and men, under the command of Major Moor, left Albany on board the SS Medic on 7 November 1899, arriving in Cape Town on 27 November.

They were accompanied by infantry companies from Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria. In Cape Town the companies were amalgamated to form the First Australian Regiment under the command of Colonel J C Hoad of Victoria.

This was the first time that a troop representing the various Australian colonies had been formed for active service.

The newly formed regiment left for De Aar to join the Kimberley Relief Force and were active in the lines of communication between De Aar and Modder River. Major Moor's company was at Naauwpoort, when it was converted



to Mounted Infantry on 1 February 1900.

Major Moor led his men in operations and actions in Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

On 9 February Major Moor led a patrol of Inniskilling Dragoons and more than 20

West Australians, encountering nearly 400 Boers on kopjes east of Slingersfontein. The enemy opened fire, the Dragoons retreated and the Australians kept up the fight until nightfall.

The following day General Clements praised Major Moor and his men for their determination in frustrating the enemy's attempt to turn the flank of the position. Major Moor was the officer who rallied the West Australians, and led them in the dash against Botha's rearguard at Diamond Hill, taking part in a running fight lasting some 8 miles. Major Moor and four men were killed in action on 19 July 1900 at Palmietfontein.

When the news was received in Western Australia, flags were flown at halfmast throughout the colony. The War Graves & Graves of Conflict Division of The National Monuments Council of South Africa advise that Major Moor was buried at either Palmietfontein where he fell or the farm Karoo Spruit on Rhenosterspruit/ Yeomanry Koppie. His remains were disinterred in 1958 to the

Lindley Garden of Remembrance, some 20 miles south of where he met his death. He is commemorated on a central monument, listed under his Western Australian regiment.

On April 20th. 1901 The West Australian newspaper reported on his commemoration in Albany. Dr. Riley Bishop of Perth, conducted a special service in St. John's Church at 10am and unveiled the mural tablet to the late Major Moor. The

defence forces mustered for the church parade and the building was crowded.

The tablet. Which was provided by public subscription, is placed on the south wall. Above the inscription is the brass gun badge of the Royal Artillery, surrounded by the motto of that branch of service. Ubique Quo et Gloria Ducunt. (Wherever Duty and Glory Lead.)

The inscription reads as follows: **In memory of Major Hatherley George Moor. RA., who was killed in action in South Africa while gallantly leading the first detachment of the Westralian Contingent.**

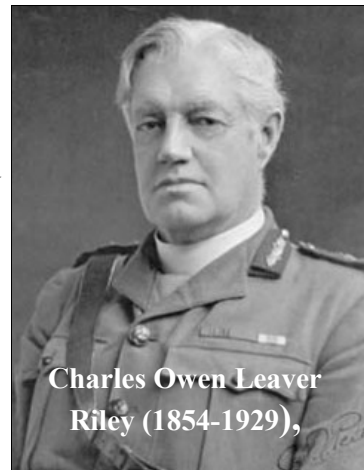
The hymns sung were Onward

Christian Soldiers; O God Our Help In Ages Past and Holy Father In Thy Mercy. His Lordship then said that he was glad to receive a memorial to so good a man.

The Bishop withdrew the veil and the bugle then sounded The Last Post call. The Bishop, in the course of a touching address, said Albany should be proud of sending such a soldier to fight for the Empire



1st Victorian Contingent departure on SS Medic from Melbourne on 28 October 1899.



Charles Owen Leaver Riley (1854-1929),



St John's Anglican Church Albany (Oldest Church in Western Australia 1848)



Despite Tom Caldwell spending some time in hospital, he still proves his "Bulldog" tenacity with his regular newsletter article. Hang in there Bulldog! Best wishes from Butch and all your old A Battery mates.

Anyone wanting to send a card, the address is:

**51 Lancaster Rd,
Mooroobark.
VIC. 3138**

The A Battery Swimming Team.

This tale probably originated at Holsworthy in the time we were preparing for our deployment to Malaya.

Every Wednesday we used to

get half a day off to participate in a sport. The usual choice was football, cricket in season and a few others.

My mate decided we should have a go at cross country running, so with a few others, we formed our team. The idea was that after lunch we would turn up in shorts and hockey shoes and start running down the road towards the back fence. One of the participants would leave his car, out of sight, we would hop in and adjourn to the pub in Liverpool for a couple of hours drinking. The reverse completed the afternoon.

In Malaya we were not far from the RAAF air base which had a swimming pool and a bar which was open at lunch time. The conditions were perfect to form a swimming team. We did not

Tom and Shirley



have much trouble getting a team together and we even had the use of a truck and a driver for the afternoon, every one in the team kept the secret and we spent quite a few pleasant times lounging by the pool enjoying quite a few cold ales.

We nearly came unstuck one time when a sergeant decided he wanted to join the team. We had a quiet word with him and it was arranged he could do all the swimming he liked as long as he did not spill the beans.

This went on for quite a while until the big day of the Carnival came along and all of us were expected to actually swim, none of us had seen the water for quite some time.

We had to make a good impression, so with much effort and pushing to the limit we managed to win on the day.

Regards Bulldog.



**Swim Training
for gunners**

Sadly we have to report the passing of two of our "A Field Battery mates. Our sincere condolences go out to their families'

2/9441 Edward J. (Killer) Murphy

Ted Murphy served with "A" Field battery in Malaya 1957 to 1959. Although given the nickname of Killer during his army service, he was known as friendly, happy gunner in Bravo Troop



5/1270 Allan Charles John (Garb) Ellis

Milton Ulladulla Funeral Service,

April 26th. 2013

Overseas Service in Korea, Malaya, Malaysia
Singapore, Vietnam

Date of enlistment, 6.10.1949

Date of discharge, 4.12.75



Gunner Christopher Maroschek

IPSWICH residents who watched the live coverage of the Anzac Day service from Gallipoli may have noticed a familiar face taking part in the sacred ceremony.

Gunner Christopher Maroschek was among the standing guard who stood as silent sentinels throughout the official dawn service event in Turkey.

The former Bundamba High School student and Goodna Rugby League member joined the Royal Australian Artillery in 2004.

Gunner Maroschek said he was humbled to represent the Australian Defence Force at Gallipoli. "It was a moving and emotional experience to remember our fellow men and women who sacrificed the most," he said.

**Thank
You!**

Thanks to the following members for contributing to this newsletter:

**Dodger Noonan, Reg Matheson,
Tom Caldwell, Max Ptolomey,
Ray Alcorn, Harry Cook's wife Ivy
and Joe Rouse.**

If you have a story that you consider worthy of appearing in this quarterly newsletter, please send it to the editor Butch Slaughter, contact details are on the back page.

The next newsletter is due in August





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
BEVAN FILCE
MAURICE FONTAINE
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
BARRY MARR
I.G. MATHERS (KIA. Vietnam)
E.J. (LOFTY) MOORE
R.J. PARKER (OAS. Vietnam)
R.J. (JIM) PONTING
DAVE. QUIRK
PETER. RAINSBURY
CLIVE. RALFE
JOHN SALMON
BRIAN. SCOTT
PETER. SEDDON
ALAN. SINGH
NOEL. SMALL
R. F. SMITH
BRIAN. WHISKER
JOHN. WHITELAW. AO,CBE
BERNARD. (PLONKY) WINE
GUS. WOOLFE
JOHN. WORBOYS



5/2915
Barry Edward
MARR

18/11/1937 - 25th Feb 2013



Malaya, 57 to 59, Barry was one of our best drivers. He could make the GMC 6x6 do anything, so it is not surprising that his military record is so impressive

Enlisted 14/03/55 Perth.
1Recruit Training Battalion 13/04/1955 Kapooka NSW
School of Arty, trainee 18/08/1955 Manly NSW
1 Fd Regt RAA (Gun No) 01/11/1955 Holsworthy NSW
105 Fd Bty Malaya (Gun No) 26/07/1957 Butterworth
Malaya 100 (A) Fd Bty (Gun No) 10/10/1957
100 (A) Fd Bty L/Bdr (Gun No) 26/03/1958
100 (A) Fd Bty Bdr (Dvr) 31/03/1958
A Fd Bty (Dvr) 08/12/1958
A Fd Bty Bdr (Dvr) embark Penang 04/10/1959
1 Fd Regt Bdr (Dvr) 22/10/1959 Holsworthy NSW
1 Fd Regt T/Sgt (Gun No) 19/12/1962
1 Fd Regt Sgt (Gun No) 01/07/1963
102 Fd Bty Sgt (Gun No) 01/08/1963
102 Fd Bty/45 Fd Regt RA Sgt 17/11/1963 Malacca Malaysia
P&EE Sgt, (Gun No) 11/12/1965 Pt Wakefield SA
P&EE S/Sgt, T/WO2 19/04/1967
P&EE WO2 01/03/1968
3 Fd Regt WO2 19/05/1969 Swanbourne WA
HQ Swanbourne WO2 QMS 04/10/1971
School of Arty WO2 QMS 15/05/1972 Manly NSW
1 Avn Regt Lt (A&T) QM 27/06/1973 Oakley Qld
1 Fd Regt Capt QM 03/11/1975 Wacol Qld
LWC Capt Instr Admin 22/01/1979 Canungra Qld
HQ 5 MD SO3 Pers 22/12/1980 Perth WA
School Of Arty Maj OC Admin 02/02/1982 Manly NSW
Keswick Barracks Maj for Disch 26/08/1983 Adelaide SA
4 Trg Group (ARES) Maj Instr 20/09/1983 Hampstead SA
4 Trg Group (ARES) Disch 04/11/1986
4 CSU Lt Col (ACC) CO 03/12/1990 Keswick Barracks SA
4 CSU Lt Col (ACC) Disch 04/11/1992

SALMON, John Robert.
Brigadier, CBE (Retd)
10.08.1926- 17.03.2013

Died peacefully at home. Loved and loving husband of Margie.

He was commissioned in 1946, serving in artillery and junior staff appointments in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, Japan, and in Australia.

In 1952/53 he served with 16th Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery in Korea from where he was invalided home after being wounded in action.

His artillery service includes a Long Air Defence Gunnery Staff Course at Manorbier, Wales, command of an Australian artillery battery in Malaysia and numerous instructional appointments at the Royal Military College, Duntroon and School of Artillery, North Head including that of Commanding Officer and Chief Instructor in 1967/68.



Ray Alcorn sent this emotional poem that highlights the vast difference that exists between the life, attitude and pensions of the common soldier compared to that of the typical politician.

“The willingness of future generations to serve in our military will be directly dependent upon how we have treated those who have served in the past.” — George Washington

George Washington undeniably comprehended the national importance of fairly treating those who have served in uniform — wisdom that has evaded Australia’s political elite for decades.

Just a Common Soldier (A Soldier Died Today) **by A. Lawrence Vaincourt**

He was getting old and paunchy and his
hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling
stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in and the
deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were
heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors,
his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they
knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old
Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a
soldier died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just
his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary and quite
uneventful life.
Held a job and raised a family, quietly
going his own way,
And the world won't note his passing,
though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their
bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing and
proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their whole life stories, from
the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier goes
unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare
of our land
A guy who breaks his promises and
cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of
war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country and
offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style
in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate to the
service that he gives.
While the ordinary soldier, who
offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps,
a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them for it
was so long ago,
That the old Bills of our Country went
to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians, with their
compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom that
our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with
your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician with his
ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has
sworn to defend
His home, his kin and Country and would
fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his
ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we
may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict, then
we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that
the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's
here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at
the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in
a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a
soldier died today.

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Joe Rouse recently sent me some items for the newsletter, below is a selection.

SAYINGS.

Most people remember compliments for a few minutes, "Insults for years."

If success is awkward for you to deal with, you will be holding yourself back from success.

Life is worthless, unless you give it value.

If you are serious about changing your life get serious about what surrounds you.

The best thing you can do for the poor, is not be one of them.

The present moment is the only time you have. Make something of this moment.

Being happy can be hard work sometimes.

Disasters aren't so disastrous if we tackle them a piece at a time.

You cannot get ulcers and laugh at the same time.

I, Harold Cook do solemnly swear by Almighty God that I will never ever again indulge in smoking that noxious weed, tobacco.

I will be duty bound to honour this promise. Forever and ever. Amen

How many times have we heard that from Harry, well it seems that he has finally been forced into doing something about it.

A few days ago he experienced pains in his chest and went to see his doctor who immediately placed him into Warringal Hospital, Heidelberg where he was operated on for a heart by-pass.

The operation has been successful and Harry is expected to live for many more years but the doctors admitted that it was a close one, caused entirely by cigarettes.

We will be watching Harry's struggle for redemption with hope and happiness, as the evil Grim Reaper stares in dismal disappointment.



Cute little Brielle Sully, 2, of Enoggera waves her flag at the Anzac Day march in Brisbane.

Picture: Mark Calleja

Rare collection of Gallipoli war photos uncovered

By Bruce Atkinson ABC journalist Apr 25, 2013

The Maroochydore RSL on Queensland's Sunshine Coast has uncovered a significant collection of pictures taken by an unknown soldier at Gallipoli in 1915.

The collection has gone on public display for the first time today at the Maroochydore RSL after the negatives were donated to the club last year.

RSL spokesman Drew Wall says most of the 40 previously unseen pictures taken at Gallipoli are in superb condition. "There's shots of the fleet, there's shots of diggers in slit trenches," he said.

"There's one shot of an artillery shell going off on a ridge. "Shots of mules carrying wounded.

"There's a very poignant shot there of a series of crosses in a gully with a trundle moving past, which is obviously carrying a body - very, very unique."

6th. May 2013



An Afghan National Army soldier fires a D-30 howitzer during a 205 Corps live fire exercise at Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Zabul province, Afghanistan. Afghan National Army soldiers from 205 Corps, have confirmed their readiness during a live fire exercise in Zabul province. Monitored by Australia's senior mentor 205 Corps Colonel John Shanahan



Photo: Soldiers on beach at Anzac Cove in Gallipoli in 1915. (Photo courtesy of Drew Wall from Maroochydore RSL)

"A" FIELD BATTERY ASSOCIATION. Inc. COMMITTEE 2012 - 2013

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

President / Secretary
Ron (Tex) Bassan
6 Harveys Rd.
Beaconsfield. Qld. 4740

Ph. (07) 4942 5433
texbassan@yahoo.com.au

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

Assistant Secretary.
Ray Alcorn.
14 Lambourn St.
Chapel Hill, Qld. 4069
Ph. (07) 3378 6906
gunneralcorn@hotmail.com

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

Committee
Greg Kittelty
6 Pearwood Lane
Robina, Qld. 4226
(07) 5593 1212
gmkittelty@bigpond.com

Patron:- Barry (Combat) Campbell.

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

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

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

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

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

Liaison Officer Vic.——— Harry Cook (03) 9478 2340

Liaison Officer. ACT.——— David Adams bdadams@lightningpl.net.au

Liaison Officer. SA.——— Bob. McEvoy. bottleart19@gmail.com

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

Liaison Officer. Tas.——— Ray Davis

Liaison Officer, Northern Territory.——— Peter Thomas

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

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

Auditor:- David. (Banger) Harris

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President / Secretary.
Mr. Ron. Bassan
6 Harveys Rd.
Beaconsfield, Qld. 4740

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