



President's Report for 2013 - 2014

Members; once again it is on a sad note that I present this report, we have lost three more members of the Association and they are, Reg (Doc) Clatworthy, John (Jack) Milligan and Albert (Alby) Sheridan. May they rest in peace?

The first thing that I would like to talk about is membership, I spoke about this last year and I think it is important enough to speak about it again. We have a vacancy on the Committee this year and I hope it will be filled, this vacancy involves some travelling and I hope this does not deter people to put their names forward, I travel from Mackay for these meetings and as such I incur some expense, which I am happy to do for the Association, in fact all of the Committee incur expenses, which they are also happy to absorb. I would hate to see the Association collapse. Remember four of the members on the Committee are in their late seventies and at some stage the younger members have to take over.

Due to attrition and some members not renewing their yearly subs, which I have sent out reminder notices without results, we have five from 11/12 and seven from 12/13, also there are 39 members from last year.

Gentlemen, if you have a friend or know someone who was in the Bty, please try and encourage them to join the Association. Our actual figures are; 125 Life, 17 for 14/15 and 39 from last year, this gives us a total of 181 members, when I became President, we had 210 members.

Last ANZAC Day was the poorest attendance that I have seen in Brisbane. **GENTLEMEN, YOU SHOULD BE PROUD TO MARCH BEHIND YOUR BANNER**, there are a lot of members who live in or around Brisbane who could make the time to come and march.

As I said last year I travel from Mackay just so I can



march behind our banner. This year the Association was invited to attend the 1st Regiment's Dawn Service and several of us did and on behalf of the Association, I laid a wreath at their Cenotaph, after the service there was a barbecue breakfast.

The annual boat trip in conjunction with 105 Bty was a no go and I know there were a lot of pissed off people, hopefully this can be rectified for next year or we find somewhere else to meet after the march.

I spoke about this last year and I will speak about again this year and then I hope it will be the last time I will have to chastise people for this. We are a non-political, non-religious ex-military organisation, and as such, there should not be anything put in our Newsletter or on the website, that would offend some members.

Out of our futures fund, your Committee thought it was appropriate that the 'A' Field Battery Association donate two thousand dollars towards the restoration of the 18pr gun and limber, to be used for the centenary celebrations of the 1st World War. This was the weapon that the 1st Bty (A Bty) used and was used by the Bty right up until the 2nd World War.

Finally I would like to thank your Committee for all the work and travel they have done in the last twelve months, especially our Treasurer, Bob who has done a great job once again.

Gentlemen, would you please show your appreciation to the past Committee by acclamation. Thank you and all the best for 2014/2015.

P.S. Something that I forgot; If any of our widows would like to come to our reunions, they are most welcome and we would love to have them join us.

Ron (Tex) Bassan

A Reminder From The Secretary:

We now have a total of 39 unfinancial members, if you are one of them would you kindly contact Tex Bassan or Bob Cunningham to renew your membership

Some photos from the Australian Artillery Association's 2014 National Gunner Dinner







“A” FIELD BATTERY ASSOCIATION, Inc. Annual General Meeting.



Annual General Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Events Centre, Caloundra, Queensland on Saturday 23rd. August 2014.

Meeting Opened:

The meeting was opened at 1005 hours by the President Ron Bassan.

Present:

As per the attendance book.

Apologies:

B. Czislawski, A. Williams, R. Slaughter, R. Althaus, R. Noonan, N. Cook, A. Conacher, C. Castles, R. Martin, P. Kimble, D. Green, D. Spearpoint.

Public Liability Insurance:

The members were informed that under the Queensland Incorporation Act. Rules we do not have to hold Public Liability Insurance.

Departed Comrades:

One minutes silence for the following comrades: Reg (Doc) Clatworthy, John (Jack) Milligan, Albert (Alby) Sheridan and all previous departed members.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting which was held at Sawtell RSL, Sawtell N S W on the 10th. September 2013 were read by the Assistant Secretary, Ray Alcorn and were confirmed by J. Barnes and seconded by R. Hart as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes: Future AGMs.

AGMs will now be a three (3) day event over Friday, Saturday and Sunday and will be held in the second weekend in September, unless otherwise notified.

Inward and Outward Correspondence:

The inward and outward correspondence were read by the Assistant Secretary and it was moved by T. Jobson that the inward and outward correspondence be endorsed. Seconded by Ian Leven and carried.

Business Arising from the Correspondence:

Discussed as read.

President's Report:

The President, Mr. R. Bassan read his report for the year past and it was moved by F. Ruddick that the report be accepted. Seconded by J. Pollock and carried.

Business Arising from the President's Report:

Membership of the Association has fallen from 226 to 181 Members.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer Mr. Bob Cunningham read his audited report and it is attached. The Treasurer moved that his report be received and seconded by J. Barnes and carried.

Positions Vacant:

The President declared all positions vacant and asked for a show of hands or secret ballot to be conducted. He then asked David Harris to conduct proceedings

Voting Positions and Incumbent:

President:	Ron Bassan. Carried
Vice President (2)	Ian Leven Carried
Voting from floor.	Ray Alcorn Carried
Assistant Secretary.	Ray Alcorn. Carried
Treasurer.	R. Cunningham. Carried
Committee Members.	(2) G. Kittelty Carried V. Greck. Carried

Non Voting Positions.

Editor.	Ron Slaughter
Assistant Editor.	Don Sinclair
Property Officer.	Don Sinclair
Liaison Officer Queensland.	Ray Alcorn
Liaison Officer New South Wales.	Robert Noonan
Liaison Officer Australian Capitol Territory	Clive Castles
Liaison Officer. Victoria.	Harry Cook
Liaison Officer. Tasmania	Alvin Conacher
Liaison Officer. South Australia	Robert McEvoy
Liaison Officer. West Australia.	Max Ptolomey

Web Master. Peter Kimball

Auditor. David Harris

Advocate. Len Fanning

Patron Barry. Campbell

General Business Pertaining to a General Meeting:

- A. Terry Jobson moved to send a vote of thanks to Don Green for his assistance in custodian of the NSW Banner. Seconded John Pollock and carried
- B. The President informed all that the Henry Green Room is to be re-established at Enoggera.
- C. Terry Jobson moved to send a vote of thanks to Don Sinclair for all his work for the association. Seconded by F. Ruddick and carried
- D. Ray Alcorn moved that the 2015 Annual General Meeting to be held at Ballina, NSW from the 11th. To the 13th. September 2015.
Seconded by T. Jobson and carried

Meeting Closed:

The meeting was closed by the President at 1100hours

**“A” Field Battery Association Inc.
Treasurer’s Report
2013 – 2014**

Our Income and Expenses for the year are both higher than usual at over \$14,000. This is due to the payment of our Sawtell reunion in September 2013 and our Gunner Dinner here at Caloundra in March 2014. Both these payments have gone through our books in the same financial year 2013/14. Another item for mention is the \$2,000 donation to the RAA Historical Company to help in the cost in restoring an 18 pounder gun plus equipment. This is an important Anzac Day Centenary Project in Canberra which includes a limber, harnesses for the team of horses, and authentic style gun crew uniforms with an all-up total cost of over \$300,000.

The funds for our donation have been transferred from our Future Project Fund term deposit which was set up for such purposes.

Our Current Account is still quite healthy and starts our new financial year with a balance of \$6,025.80 as seen in our Balance Sheet. This is only \$199.23 less than our previous year. Once again out thanks to all those generous members for their donations which this year total \$1,609.00 and is a great help to our reunions and other activities.

All members are welcome to view our books of accounts which include our Auditor’s Report and all transactions and Minutes of meetings during this financial year.

**R. Cunningham
Treasurer 23rd September 2014**

A' FIELD BATTERY ASSN. INC.		
<i>Statement of Income & Expenses</i>		
<i>1st JULY 2013 - 30th JUNE 2014</i>		
<i>Last Year</i> 2012 - 2013		<i>This Year</i> 2013 - 2014
	INCOME	
\$1,560.00	Annual Fees	\$1,020.00
\$400.00	Life Subscriptions	\$800.00
\$70.00	Shirts (Sold to Memb,s)	\$0.00
\$15.00	Caps	"
\$0.00	Badges	"
\$0.00	Name Tags	"
\$36.00	Car Stickers	"
\$0.00	Plaque	"
\$0.00	"A"Batt Book	"
\$0.00	"A" Batt CD & DVD	"
\$0.00	Postage Merchandise	\$0.00
\$0.00	Merchandise General	\$0.00
\$0.00	T'fer from Investment a/c	\$2,000.00
\$590.00	Donations	\$1,609.00
\$205.00	Bus/Boat Trips Anzac Day	\$250.00
\$2,028.00	AGM Reunion Sawtell & Caloundra	\$8,960.00
\$0.58	Interest - S21 Bank a/c	\$0.61
\$4,904.58	TOTAL INCOME	\$14,760.61
	EXPENSE	
\$780.89	Shirts Purchased Stock	\$0.00
\$0.00	Caps " "	\$0.00
\$266.25	Badges " "	\$0.00
\$0.00	Name Tags " "	\$0.00
\$0.00	Car Stickers " "	\$0.00
\$0.00	Plaques " "	\$0.00
\$0.00	Postage Merchandise	\$0.00
\$320.65	Postage General	\$414.45
\$554.75	Printing & Cartridges	\$627.36
\$76.83	Stationery	\$28.93
\$0.00	Phone Expense	\$0.00
\$250.00	Bus/Boat Trips Anzac Day	\$250.00
\$300.00	Donations RAA Hist. Coy.	\$2,000.00
\$0.00	AGM Reunion Sawtell & Caloundra	\$11,072.50
\$40.00	General Expenses - Wreath D/serv	\$120.00
\$0.00	Transfer to term Dep.	\$400.00
\$45.00	Office of Fair Trading	\$46.60
\$2,634.37	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$14,959.84
\$2,270.21	NET INCOME	-\$199.23

Below are a couple of interesting articles from the Brisbane Courier, July 1894 and Goulburn Herald September 1901. Sent in by David Troedel, our friend from 104

DEFENCE FORCES. BRISBANE FIELD BATTERY. ANNUAL COMPETITION PRACTICE.

The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933) Tuesday 24 July 1894

ANNUAL COMPETITION PRACTICE.

The Brisbane Field Battery proceeded to Sandgate on Saturday last for the purpose of completing its annual competitive practice, which it had been found necessary to abandon on the 30th June owing to the targets having been blown and washed away by a squall before the practice could be completed.

The Battery was under the command of Major J. P. G. Foxton, and there were also present on duty Captain W. A. Hoghton and the section commanders, Captain F. S. Hely and Lieutenant G. Pocock, the guns used being the four nine pounder muzzle-loading rifled guns of 6cwt. Major L. D. Jackson, R.A., Artillery Staff Officer, acted as umpire, and the range party was in charge of Lieutenant Black, of "A" Battery, Permanent Force.

The targets, which had been erected on Nudgee sands under the direction of Sergeant major Catchpool, R.A., were placed at ranges estimated at about 1500 yards and 2000 yards respectively, that at the shorter range consisting of three 6ft. by 6ft. canvas targets placed in line and presumably representing a company or half-company of infantry in line ; while that at the longer range consisted of three 6ft. by 6ft. targets placed one behind the other, with fifteen yards interval between them, thus representing the head of a column of troops advancing on the battery.

Shrapnel shell is the recognized projectile for use against an enemy under such conditions, but in order to obtain the full effect of shrapnel it is necessary for the officer commanding the battery to ascertain and verify the exact range, which is accomplished by firing trial shots with common shell, with



Major Justin Fox Greenlaw Foxton of the Brisbane Field Artillery

percussion fuze to burst on impact. This is the process known as "ranging" the battery. The ammunition allowed for each range in this competitive practice consists of ten rounds of "common," for ranging purposes, and ten rounds of shrapnel, making in all forty rounds.

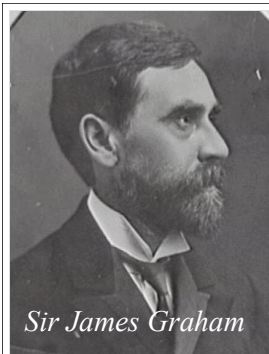
The firing commenced at the shorter range, the distance of the target being found to be between 1625 and 1650 yards. After the tenth round of common shell had been fired, shrapnel fire with "time" fuzes was commenced, and appeared to be very effective, the targets being well riddled with bullets, and the framework of the left-hand one being shot away at about the fourth round.

On completion of the ten rounds of shrapnel attention was turned to the targets at the longer range, which were found by "ranging" to be as nearly as possible 2000 yards distant; after which the regulation ten rounds of shrapnel were fired at them, also with excellent effect. "

The conditions of the practice are that upon examination of the targets by the umpire, he awards two points for every "lodge" or "through," that is, for every hit, and a maximum of forty points for "fire discipline." The time allowed for the whole forty rounds is twenty-five minutes, and a deduction of four points is made for every thirty seconds occupied beyond that time.

In order to qualify for first-class badges for the year a battery must obtain at least forty points for "fire effect" and thirty for fire discipline," making a total of seventy points,

On examining the targets after the firing on Saturday it was found that there were seventy five hits, scoring 150 points, from which had to be deducted twenty four for overtime, leaving still 126 points for "fire effect." The umpire's award is thirty five for "fire discipline," so that the battery may be said to have done exceedingly well in having scored 161 points where it was only necessary to obtain seventy for a "first class."

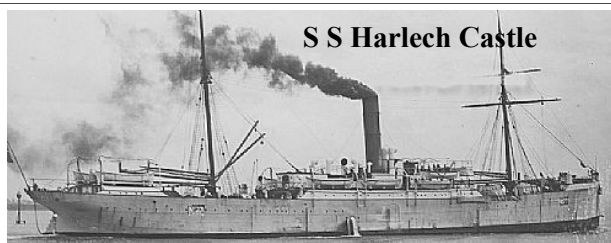


Sir James Graham

WELCOME TO "A" BATTERY.

The members of "A" Battery and the other soldiers who returned by the SS Harlech Castle were welcomed by the citizens of Sydney at the Town Hall on Monday evening, about 4000 persons being present.

Amongst the speakers were Sir James Graham (mayor) Mr. See (premier), and Major-General French, all of whom spoke highly of the work done at the front by "A" Battery. Major-General French said he had had forty years' service with the Royal Artillery, and had at one time every branch of that arm under his command, and he could confidently say that "A" Battery was the equal of any section of the mounted portion of the Royal Artillery. Mr. See presented the war medals, the battery filing past him for that purpose, the favorites receiving hearty cheers from their comrades. Inspiring music was rendered by the R.A.A. Band and several solos were rendered.



S S Harlech Castle

Goulburn Herald (NSW : 1881 - 1907) Wednesday 18 September 1901



These two interesting historical photos also sent in by David Troedel
In this 1916 file photo, Australian artillery soldiers operate a large caliber gun at the Somme front, in France during World War One.



In the infamous Somme region of France, a French 270 millimetre mortar cannon bombards the German trenches, inspiring terror, destruction and lowering enemy morale. A crane needs to be used to transport the large ammunition rounds to feed this beast.

Caleb Shang was one of Australia's least likely war heroes, but the shy Cairns man returned as Queensland's most decorated soldier of his time

When Private Caleb Shang returned home to Cairns on March 21, 1919, "at least 3000 souls" turned out on the wharf at dawn to greet the hometown hero. The mayor was there as well as "infants in arms"; the Returned Services League had assembled in the "fullest possible strength", the Cairns Citizens' Brass Band played See the Conquering Hero Comes and the town was "astir", The Cairns Post reported.

When the jubilant crowd first spied their war hero on the deck, they possibly wondered what the fuss was about. At 170cm and 51kg, Shang was an unlikely looking hero – more like a jockey than a fearless soldier, a shy, quiet man whose voice was drowned out by the crowd as he tried to speak. Yet Shang had returned from the bloody campaigns of the Western Front with two Distinguished Conduct Medals and a Military Medal, making him not only the first decorated soldier of Chinese descent, but also the then-most decorated Queensland soldier. Shang's gallantry, survival and even presence in WWI were remarkable on many



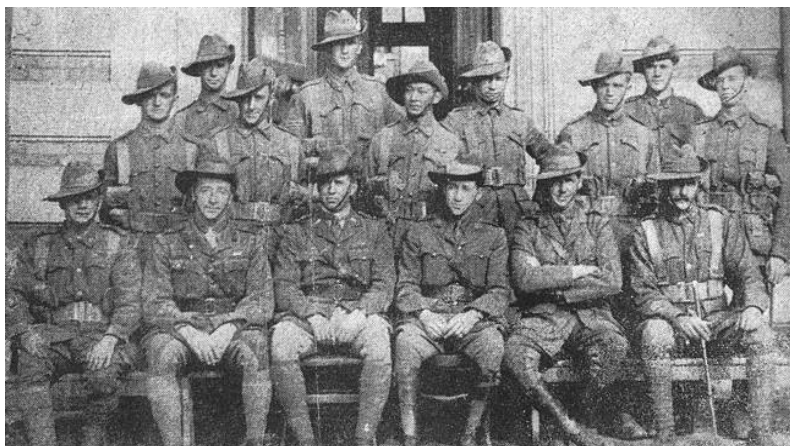
fronts.

Firstly, Shang was a half-Chinese man in the Australian Imperial Force – a rarity at a time when only Europeans were considered eligible for service.

Secondly, he was a runner, signaller, scout and sometime sniper who would not only infiltrate enemy lines but also sketch enemy positions once there.

Finally, Shang's 47th Battalion fought in some of the war's bloodiest battles – Pozieres, Messines, Passchendaele, Ypres, Bullecourt and the Somme. In all, it lost 661 men and suffered 1564 casualties. Its losses were such that the battalion was disbanded in May 1918. The 47th had one of the war's highest casualty rates, according to Deayton, losing about 200 men at the battles of Messines and Passchendaele.

He was awarded the Bar of the DCM when defending the pivotal city of Amiens, where his 12th Brigade and the



Copy pic from Maryborough Chronicle Private Caleb Shang from Cairns (standing center - fifth from left). Shang was awarded two Distinguished Conduct Medals and a Military Medal.

13th suffered a stunning 1230 casualties. Shang not only ran rifles several times to the front lines through intense enemy barrage, but also volunteered to remain to run ammunition and man a machine gun post to cover for his company as it retired.

His brigade commander wrote that Shang had "excelled himself by his wonderful powers of endurance,

World War I: Snapshot of Australia at the time of the outbreak But what was Australia really like when the first Anzacs sailed to war?

Population. Australia's 1911 Census recorded the population as 4,455,005 with the median age of 24 years old. Just over 4 per cent of the population was aged over 65, in a category named "old age".

Men between 15 and 64 made up almost two-thirds of the population.

Sydney was the biggest city, Hobart the smallest.

The Immigration Act of 1901 restricted migration to people primarily from Europe, meaning the country was largely Caucasian.

Indigenous population. In 1914 there were no accurate figures about the size of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Indigenous Australians were excluded from the Census, denied civil rights under the Constitution, and disenfranchised from voting.

The Defence Act also prohibited Aboriginal people from serving in the military.

Despite that, more than 400 Indigenous men went to war. They were given equal pay during the course of the conflict.

Education. Australia enjoyed a high level of literacy, with 96 per cent of the recorded population older than five able to read.

Many children from working class families had to leave school before the age of 12 to do a trade.

The states had different education systems. In New South Wales, children between 6 and 14 were required at school for at least 140 days a year.

In 1912, Queensland started to set up free high schools for some students. General, commercial and domestic science courses were offered.

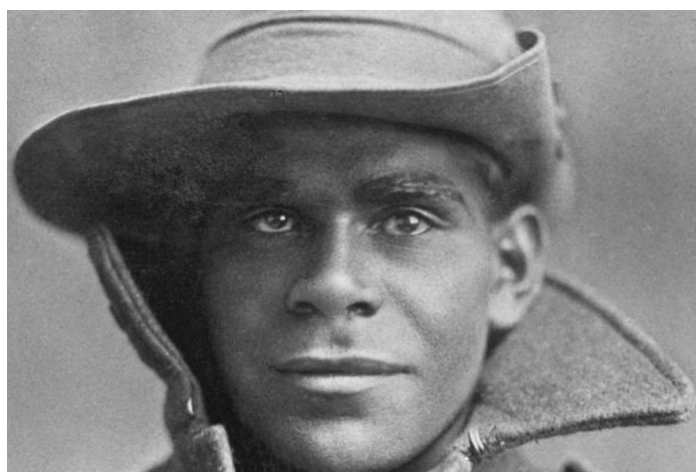
Shopping. In 1914, Melbourne was the seat of the federal government and also the nation's de facto shopping capital. "Melbourne was a rich and sumptuous city, not that distant from Paris or London in its facilities and demeanour," historian Michael McKernan said.

The first Coles variety store opened in 1914, selling hardware, haberdashery, stationery and kitchenware, with nothing costing more than one shilling.

Mark Foy's was a popular Sydney-based department store. Its 1914 winter catalogue showcased 108 pages of fashion, including corsets and hats.



Photo: The Aldred family in Victoria, circa 1914.



Private Miller Mack, 50th Battalion. Whilst serving in France he became ill and was evacuated to England where he was diagnosed with severe bronchial pneumonia. He died from his illness in Adelaide



Photo: Shoppers at the corner of Oxford and Liverpool streets in Sydney in 1909



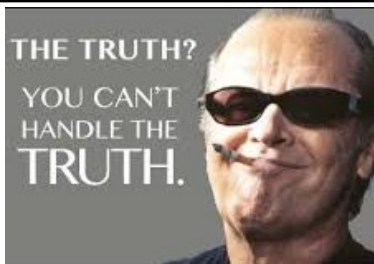
School portait of Kobble Creek State School, Queensland, 1914.



EDITOR APOLOGISES

Due to the unexpected over reaction by one of our members to page 9 containing news of a political nature in the May issue, the editor apologises for publishing this page of inappropriate though rather bland political comments.

Most importantly though, while some of our readers seem to be accusing David Harris for the blunder, that is definitely not so, David is blameless and the editor accepts full responsibility for the dissent and will certainly refrain from any future items concerned with politics. However I am prepared to quit as editor if our committee and members consider that the page was of such importance.



Chapter 350 of the ongoing Harry Stop Smoking Saga

Harry rang me for a chat the other day he stated that he has given up smoking, "Yeah, yeah," I replied. "and NSW are going to win the State of Origin, one day." C'mon stop laughing you gunners I know he has given up many times before but this time he sounds fair dinkum so let's give him the benefit of the doubt, we've done it many times before.

Sportsbet have offered \$6 that he will take it up again. What is your opinion? Write a comment to the editor to be included in the next newsletter



From June Harper Secretary of EDWV at Hervey Bay, via Fred Ruddick

On July 20, 1969, commander of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon. His first words after stepping on the moon, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind", were televised to Earth and heard by millions. But just before he re-entered the lander, he made the enigmatic remark: "Good luck, Mr. Gorsky."

Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival Soviet Cosmonaut. However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programs.

Over the years many people questioned Armstrong as to what the "Good luck Mr. Gorsky" statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled. On July 5, 1995, in Tampa Bay, Florida, while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26 year old question to Armstrong.

This time he finally responded. Mr. Gorsky had died and so Neil Armstrong felt he could answer the question.

In 1938 when he was a kid in a small Midwest town, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. His friend hit a fly ball, which landed in his neighbor's yard by the bedroom windows. His neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Gorsky.

As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky. "Sex! You want sex?! You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!"



KEN. AGNEW
 TOM. BANFIELD
 CLARE. (BONNIE) BASSAN
 TREVOR. BEER
 FRANK. BERRIER
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 ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY
 NEIL HARDEN
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 KEN. KENNEDY
 BOBBY. LEWIS
 JOHN. MACDONALD
 BARRY MARR
 I.G. MATHERS (KIA. Vietnam)
 IAN. MEIBUSCH A.M
 JACK MILLIGAN
 E.J. (LOFTY) MOORE
 BRIAN. MURTAGH
 R.J. PARKER (OAS. Vietnam)
 R.J. (JIM) PONTING
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 PETER. RAINSBURY
 CLIVE. RALFE
 JOHN SALMON
 BRIAN. SCOTT
 PETER. SEDDON
 ALBERT (ALBY) SHERIDAN
 ALAN. SINGH
 NOEL. SMALL
 R. F. SMITH
 BRIAN. WHISKER
 JOHN. WHITELAW. AO,CBE
 BERNARD. (PLONKY) WINE
 GUS. WOOLFE
 JOHN. WORBOYS

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.



Albert Ernest (Alby) SHERIDAN
 1938 - 2014



HERBERT REGINALD "Reg"
CLATWORTHY 1930 - 2014



JOHN SAMUEL "Jack" MILLIGAN
 1938 - 2013

"A" FIELD BATTERY ASSOCIATION. Inc. COMMITTEE 2014 - 2015

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Log on to our website and you can read the latest and all the past newsletters
An amazing collection of photographs and news items covering the 1940s to the present day with A Field Battery. **This website is addictive, with the news, links, notice board and a great selection of music while you browse away.**

One of the best websites available and kept up to date by Kimbo.

You will want to put this address into your favourites

<http://afdbty.australianartilleryassociation.com>



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