

1871 A Field Battery Association, Inc. National Newsletter MAY 2016 2016




From the President's Chair.

We have lost another three of our OLD & Bold, and they are; John Knight, Ron Hart and Harry Cook. The way it is going there will not be any of us left from the Malayan Emergency era.

John Knight served with the Bty from 1955 till 1958 and was a driver in Alpha Troop, he was a very likeable person, when we came home; John transferred to Engineers as a plant operator and served out his army career in that Corps as a Cpl. John passed away on the 13th March.

Ron Hart was one of the people who were instrumental in the formation of the 'A' Field Battery Association Inc; Qld Branch, as it was known back in 1997 when it was formed. The inaugural meeting was held at Ron and Sue Hart's residence at Cooroy. Ron was in Alpha Troop and served with the Bty during the Malayan Emergency. Ron passed away on the 21st April.

Harry Cook was in Bravo Troop and served with the Bty during the Malayan Emergency as a Gun Number. Harry was likeable rouge who seemed to get himself into trouble; I recall one instance where Harry crashed his car into the drain outside the Green Parrot night club on Penang Island. When Harry left the Army he had some interesting jobs for a rouge; a prison guard at a Northern Territory jail and a Sheriff in Sydney. Rest in peace gentlemen, we will miss you.

For the younger soldiers, we were an eight gun battery, with two four gun troops and a HQ troop.

Due to the ill health of one of my Vice Presidents we were unable to get to Canberra to check out a venue for our AGM and Reunion (Also there is too much going on, 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan) so the committee have decided to hold our AGM & Reunion at the Sawtell RSL once again, you must agree that they look after us very well and Sawtell is such a lovely town.

The AGM & Reunion is for the second weekend in September, Friday 9th to Sunday 11th, 2016. The Programme and Cost for the Reunion are:

Friday 9th: Meet and Greet: 1800hrs for 1830hrs. Oasis Bar. Cost \$24.00

Saturday 10th: Annual General Meeting: 1000hrs. Board Room or Cocktail Annex. Lunch: Own Responsibility.



Saturday Evening: Semi Formal Dinner, 1800hrs for 1830hrs. Norm Roland Lounge. Coat, tie and miniature medals are to be worn. Cost \$46.00

Sunday 11th. Sunday Breakfast: For this to be provided we must have 40 people attending. If this is provided by the club it will cost \$22.00, if not, it will be up to the individual to purchase breakfast at one of the many Cafes in Sawtell. Anyone who pays the \$22.00 and breakfast is not provided, will be reimbursed.

Bus Trip: Depart; First Avenue, in front of RSL, 1000hrs. Cost: \$40.00. Tour to be advised in the next newsletter. Farewell Dinner: Oasis Bistro; 1830 for 1900. Select from menu. Cost \$30.00

Cost all Functions: \$162.00

As this will be my last AGM as President, it would be great if all the members made an effort to attend. There were a lot of members, who voted to come back to Sawtell, who have not attended since. I extend this invitation to the Battery Commander and Gunners of 'A' Bty and to all ex 'A' Bty members, this includes attached troops.

Next year on the 27th May 2017, there is to be another Gunner Dinner. This will be Semi Formal as per our dinners. This will be held at the Events Centre, Caloundra. If you did not go to the last dinner, ask someone who did, I believe that this event was the best function I have ever attended. We have booked a couple of tables, so if you want to sit with us, put your booking under 'A' Bty Assn. To book, go to the Royal Australian Artillery Assn and register on line. Bookings are filling fast, so hurry.

There will be a happy hour on Friday 26th May 2017, from 1600hrs to 1900hrs, at the Event Centre. Saturday 27th September the dinner is from 1620hrs for 1700hrs to 2000hrs, 3 hour drink package included. During dinner we will be entertained by the 1st Regiment band. There will be a 30 minute break and then at 2030hrs a dinner dance will commence with a live band and conclude at 2300hrs. Wives and partners are cordially invited. Cost is \$175.00 per person. This function is a must for all Gunners, be they serving or retired.

That's all from me for this newsletter; hope to see you all at Sawtell. Tex

Anzac Day in Sydney 2016 Report

Once again Sydney turned on a beautiful day weather-wise for our annual Anzac Day get-together. We had a good contingent which included a sizable number of later-generation ex-A Bty members. Good to see the young ones carrying on the tradition. All in all there were about 40 of us.

For those in other states, our state government in their infinite wisdom have decided that they should not have removed all the trams and tracks back in the '60s and are now in the process of redressing that situation. As a result they are ripping up George Street to lay new ones, which was the usual route for the march, and have re-routed our march along Elizabeth Street. This is a somewhat shorter route but does not go past the Cenotaph. The salute/eyes left was taken at the War Memorial in Hyde Park instead.

A mixed blessing in a way, tradition has been broken for possibly the first time since the Cenotaph was officially unveiled on Anzac Day 1927. On the other hand, it was a shorter walk to the pub afterwards. You be the judge.

Speaking of pubs, our usual watering hole, the Coronation in Park Street, has become somewhat overcrowded of late due to new management closing down the upstairs bar and reducing the size of the downstairs bar to

install a smoking room and poker machines. Vince Greck did a recce around all the likely substitutes and found a pub called Maloneys, to which we all adjourned after a quick one at the Coronation. Plenty of room as Vince had reserved a sizable area for us. Plenty of beer and food to be had so it looks like it may become a permanent fixture on the Anzac Day agenda in future.

Vince has also organised the Hornsby RSL pipe band to be our regular music providers for every Anzac Day. So it now looks like we won't be taking pot luck with the music as in the past.

A special mention must also be made of our banner bearers this year, another two young ladies from the 233 St. George District Cadet Unit. They were Lance Corporal Haralambous and Cadet Strehler. Thank you ladies, a good job well done and a credit to your unit.

Also worth a mention is the fact that as we had no officer in charge at the head of the RAA, the eyes left was given by ex-Gunner Geoff Johnston (Johnno). I always thought that Johnno could put that non-stop voice of his to better use one day and now he has. Well done, Johnno.

This year the weather held out for the entire day and well into the night so I imagine there were quite a few headaches and bleary eyes the next day.



Young offenders restore war relic

Brian Bennion | 12th Apr 2016

A GROUP of young offenders have brought the RSL's treasured war relic back to its former glory.

The 25-pounder Howitzer, which has been a familiar sight in front of the North Ipswich RSL club for many years, was handed over to the Ipswich RSL Sub Branch at a ceremony at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. The 10-week restoration project, dubbed Operation Shell Drake, involved plenty of grinding, rust removal, polishing and painting under the supervision of soldiers from 7th Combat Brigade of the Royal Australian Artillery's 1st Regiment.

The regiment brought in the Howitzer's modern day equivalent, the M777, for the ceremony, which towered over the 25-pounder.

But the Howitzer stood out as an important piece of history, with brass polished, a shining muzzle and new paint after thorough preservation work by a group of young offenders at the Wacol centre.

The project also gave the presentation an impressive backdrop with a mural showing the pride the youths took in the work, painting the words Respect Anzac, courage, teamwork and initiative.

Project creator East Coast Apprenticeships CEO Alan Sparks said the project was a great opportunity for young offenders to give something back to their community. "It's been a real joy watching the young people return the 25-pounder to its former glory and learn some valuable skills in the process," Mr Sparks said. "They also discovered some long-forgotten brass features on the gun, which they have restored. 'It's hoped that the young people involved may consider a trade or military career upon their release.'"

Ipswich and Railway RSL sub branch presidents Phil Gilbert and Ray Watherston said the project was vital in protecting the war relic and they would push ahead with plans to locate the gun at Memorial Gardens, outside Soldiers' Memorial Hall at Nicholas St.



Ipswich RSL sub branch president Phil Gilbert accepts the gun from East Coast Apprenticeships and members of the Royal Australian Artillery's 1st Regiment.

Ipswich RSL Sub Branch president Phil Gilbert said the 25-pounder would be a landmark outside the hall and its war museum, but Ipswich City Council was yet to agree to the location.

During the Second World War the 25-pounder gained legendary status because of its exploits in the deserts of the North African Campaign and in the jungles of New Guinea. It remained the artillery's primary field weapon until the mid-1960s.

Partners in the restoration project included the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, RSL Queensland, East Coast Apprenticeships (ECA), 1st Regiment Royal Australian Artillery, TAFE Queensland SkillsTech and Ipswich City Council.

RSL Queensland State President Stewart Cameron CSC said the project connected young people to Australia's service men and women and the country's proud military history. "This is a wonderful hands-on experience which I'm sure will live long in the memories of these young people," Mr Cameron said. "It's particularly significant that its completion comes in the lead up to ANZAC Day and in the year that marks the centenary of the RSL."



H In the February newsletter Tex mentioned that Allan (Bruno) Sneddon is in an aged care facility at **Bayside Aged Care. Room 11. 136 Marconi Road Bonnells Bay. NSW. 2264.**

E Tex mentioned that if you were in the vicinity you could go and pay him a visit.

L He would love to see you, he has had Parkinson's Disease for the past twenty years and is still going strong.

BRUNO June Sneddon has sent an email saying that Tex's note in the newsletter produced some results shortly after. Kim McGrath was one who visited him with some photos.

June informs us that they have finally got a phone connected into Bruno's room, **the number is 02 4070 5380** for anyone who would like to give him a call. June says that Allan is a bit slow in answering and not always in his room but she is sure that he would love to hear from old gunners



Revealed for the first time: Australian POWs in Crete were the subjects of vile medical experiments by a Nazi doctor during World War II

17 March 2016

World War II Nazi experiments on Australian POWs on Greek.

Researchers discovered files regarding SS doctor Friedrich Meythaler, he knowingly injected Australia POWs with hepatitis from German troops. Their story had been forgotten until Sydney-based researcher uncovered it

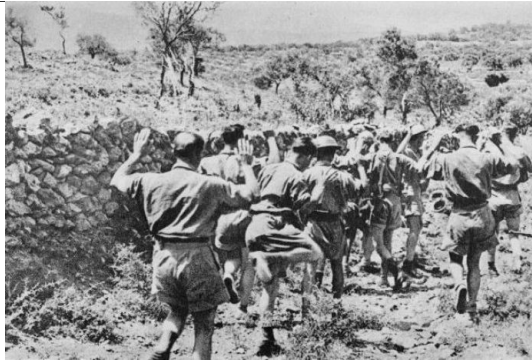
Australian troops were among those subjected to atrocious wartime experiments by Nazi doctors during World War II, researchers have revealed.

The Sydney Jewish Museum's resident historian, Professor Konrad Kwiet, and doctor and academic George Weisz have been investigating files. Dr Weisz found files detailing how five Australian prisoners of war were intentionally infected with hepatitis when they were held captive.

An SS doctor, Friedrich Meythaler, carried out the experiments while the men were held captive on the Greek island of Crete after being captured when Germans invaded the island in May 1941.

The doctor, who was studying human-to-human infection of hepatitis, monitored the men, finding after a few days they had enlarged livers, then increasing temperatures, among other symptoms.

Although they did not die from the experimentation, Prof Kwiet told the ABC it was not known if and how long the men suffered. Prof Kwiet believed the experiments



Allied soldiers surrender to German troops in Crete



Australian anti-tank gunners resting, soon after their withdrawal from the Vevi area of Greece

amounted to war crimes. 'It falls into an area where those who are subjected to those crimes did not die, but we don't know as to whether these experiments have had longer effects on the person.'

One of the POWs escaped to Egypt, before being shipped to Australia and reportedly notifying the military. The other four were eventually taken back to a POW camp in a region of Germany. One died after being shot while attempting escape, while the other three survived their imprisonment and eventually returned to Australia.

Prof Kwiet told the ABC 'it's a totally forgotten or unknown chapter in the history of Australian military men exposed to German experimentation.'

Dr Meythaler went on to publish his findings on

hepatitis and become an expert in the field, as well as becoming director of medicine at Nuremburg Hospital and a professor at Erlangen University 'He was engaged in experiments that the Nazi regime offered him, enhancing his career and moving into an area of research that he normally would not have achieved in a more civilised or democratic society,' Mr Kwiet said.

In a bizarre coincidence, Prof Kwiet - who was born in Germany in 1941 - found out while researching the story that once, long ago, his mother and sister, who were both doctors, met Dr Meythaler.



Czechs produce new RM 70 Vampir rocket artillery system

PRAGUE, Czech Republic, April 13

Excalibur Army Ltd., a Czech defense company, is producing a next-generation rocket artillery system called the RM 70 Vampir.

The RM 70 Vampir replaces the RM 70 Grad system once used by Warsaw Pact countries and utilizes a Tatra T-815-7 truck platform fitted with an armored cabin with biological and chemical weapons protection capability.

Construction of the first RM 70 prototype started in February of 2015 and gunnery trials were conducted last fall. So far two complete batteries of Vampirs have been produced, along with two battery commander vehicles and one battalion commander vehicle. Excalibur Army said they are interconnected with a fire control system. "Many military forces retired their rocket artillery systems in the past few years," the company said. "However, recent conflicts show that they are still in demand. Excalibur Army offer Vampirs as a modern system with high combat value and a very attractive price tag."



Former WWII nurse, Anne Leach, 101, at the State War Memorial

101-year-old army nurse Anne Leach recalls a life of service [The West Australian on April 25, 2016](#)

Wearing her original distinctive World War II nursing uniform, her service medals and bright lipstick, Anne Leach has become a familiar and much-loved sight on Anzac Day.

So much so that those who regularly attend the parade through the city look out for her and often approach her afterwards for a photo and a chat. And so it is no surprise when a complete stranger wanders up as Mrs Leach is having her photograph taken by [The West Australian](#) at the State War Memorial.

After hearing that Mrs Leach, 101, served in World War II, Jennie Bayley, visiting from Brisbane, asks if she can take a photo too. "Thank you and congratulations," Mrs Bayley whispers to her subject and, then turning to others gathered around, says to all: "We owe them a debt of gratitude." It is a common sentiment.

Letitia Anne Sylvie Metzke was born in Meekatharra on June 15, 1914, and when she was 11 her father John moved the family to a farm near Cuballing in the Great Southern.

Anne, as she became known, did her general nursing training at Perth Hospital (now Royal Perth Hospital) and then went to the children's hospital in Subiaco (now Princess Margaret Hospital) as a staff nurse.

When war broke out in 1939 she applied to join the Australian Army Nursing Service and in July 1940 was called up to work at a military hospital in Claremont.

In 1941 she boarded the Aquitania in Fremantle, headed for service in the Middle East with the 2/7th Australian General Hospital. She served in Palestine, Syria and Egypt, enduring harsh extremes of heat and cold, including the first snow to fall in the Hebron Hills for 40 years, while living in tents with three other nurses. Heavy rain at one stage meant the nurses went to work in gumboots.

The hospitals cared for the wounded from battles including El Alamein and the nurses were kept busy with more than 1000 patients at any one time, with the tally reaching 1527 in August 1941.

In Palestine she met Vernon Leach, who was serving in the 2/16th Battalion, and they married back in Perth in

1943, when Capt. (later Major) Leach was on leave.

After a brief honeymoon, Capt. Leach was posted to New Guinea and Mrs Leach took up a post at 110 Australian General Hospital, where she remained until the end of the war, retiring with the rank of captain. Mr Leach was appointed as magistrate to the Gascoyne in 1943, and the couple had two sons and two daughters.

Mr Leach tragically drowned while fishing north of Carnarvon in 1956 and Mrs Leach and her four young children returned to Perth.



Anne Leach in a war time photograph with her husband Vernon

Mrs Leach not only returned to nursing as a volunteer, she also threw herself into numerous administrative roles during long associations with the Red Cross, Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Returned and Services League. In 1983 she was awarded the coveted Florence Nightingale Medal by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and received an Order of Australia in 1994.

Mrs Leach remembers her days nursing in the Middle East as hard work but recalls with great fondness "our boys". "They were marvellous, our boys," she said. "Their caring for each other was pretty good and they practically worshipped us I think. "We looked after them pretty well."

Today she intends to proudly take her place in the Anzac Day parade again. It is, she says, a time she catches up with friends but, more than anything, it is a day to remember the boys. "I would not like Anzac Day to go by without remembering," she said. And she will proudly pin her medals to the uniform. "I do feel proud," she said. "I wouldn't let an Anzac Day pass without wearing them."



Anne Leach, second from right, in the Middle East in 1941

RSL Queensland brings ANZAC history to life during centenary celebrations

By Ana Garcia Fri 1 Apr 2016, 6:40pm

A group of Queensland teenagers has brought the ANZAC spirit to life as part of the RSL's centenary celebrations, being held at Fort Lytton in Brisbane.

To mark the occasion, the teenagers dressed in replica and authentic military uniforms, re-enacted battle scenes and gained a taste of life as an Australian Soldier.

Two of the teenagers who played soldiers in the re-enactment, Katie McKeaten and Rebecca Cooper, are both in the Air Force Cadets. They said it was an honour to play soldiers, describing the ANZAC legacy as something close to their hearts. For both girls, the Armed Forces is a way of life, with a strong family history of service to Australia.

Katie McKeaten, 17, said her grandfather had fought in Papua New Guinea. "I can't imagine what he would have gone through, fighting for our country, because I've never done it," she said. "It's really a special thing to be able to wear a uniform that represents the same organisation."



Photo: Rebecca Cooper, Katie McKeaten, Michelle Archer, Tom Bruun, and Sam Cooper.
(Supplied: RSL Queensland)

The teenagers said the re-enactment gave them an appreciation of what Australian soldiers in past conflicts have experienced. Rebecca Cooper, 17, said she could not stop thinking about the soldiers who fought for their country. "I had to sit for two hours in the sun whilst re-enacting, that was nothing in comparison to those who have fought wars for weeks, months, years, in the same uniforms that we were wearing today."

This colourful re-enactment helped launch RSL Queensland's ANZAC Appeal, which runs from April 1 through to April 25.

State Secretary of RSL Queensland, Scott Denner said the re-enactment gave the cadets an understanding of what it was like to be a teenager and fighting in a war. "The young cadets who came along and dressed up in those period uniforms, it just gave them a greater ability to appreciate that people who were really their age, seventeen and eighteen year olds, certainly joined up in World War 1 and 2. "It just gave them the ability to appreciate effectively what those kids would have gone through."

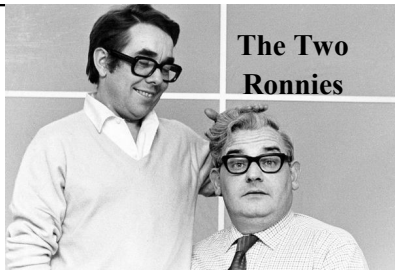
Ronnie Corbett's funniest jokes, quotes and one-liners as comedian dies aged 85

31 Mar 2016 By Charlotte Wareing
Legendary entertainer Ronnie Corbett has died at the age of 85.

Ronnie started his career on David Frost's satirical comedy the Frost Report in 1960 before moving on to sitcoms Sorry! and No - That's Me Over Here! Ronnie was perhaps best known for his legendary work alongside pal Ronnie Barker. The pair first worked together on the Frost Report before developing their own comedy, the Two Ronnies which included musical performances and sketches.

To celebrate the many laughs Ronnie brought us, here's some of his best gags.

- 1 "French wine growers fear that this year's vintage may be entirely spoiled due to the grape treads' sit-in."
- 2 "A cement mixer collided with a prison van on the Kingston by-pass. Motorists are asked to be on the look-out for 16 hardened criminals."
- 3 "We will be talking to an out of work contortionist who says he can no longer make ends meet."
- 4 "All those who believe in psychokinesis raise my right hand."
- 5 "This is a message for seven honeymoon couples in a hotel in Peebles: Breakfast was served three days ago."



The Two Ronnies

6 "A man was marooned on a desert island. One day a beautiful woman arrives in a wet suit. 'When did you last have a smoke?' she asks. 'Five years ago.' So she gets out a cigar and he smokes it. She unzips her wet suit a bit and says, 'When did you last have a drink?' He said, 'Five years ago.' So she gets out a bottle of

Scotch and he has a drink. Then she unzips her wet suit a bit more and says, 'And when was the last time you played around?' He looks at her in amazement and says: 'You're not telling me you've got a set of golf clubs in there?'"

7 "There was a fire at the main Inland Revenue office in London today, but it was put out before any serious good was done."

8 "West Mersea police announced tonight that they wish to interview a man wearing high heels and frilly knickers, but the Chief Constable said they must wear their normal uniforms."

9 "We'll be talking to a car designer who's crossed a Toyota with Quasimodo and come up with the Hatchback of Notre Dame."

10 "After a series of crimes in the Glasgow area, Chief Inspector McTavish has announced that he is looking for a man with one eye. If he doesn't find him, he's going to use both eyes."

The Dunny Out The Back

They were funny looking buildings, that
were once a way of life,
If you couldn't sprint the distance, then you
really were in strife.
They were nailed, they were wired, but were
mostly falling down,
There was one in every yard, in every house,
in every town.



And if by chance that nature called sometime through the
night,
You always sent the dog in first, for there was no flamin'
light.
And the dunny seemed to be the place where crawlies liked
to hide,
But never ever showed themselves until you sat inside.

They were given many names, some were even funny,
But to most of us, we knew them as the outhouse or the
dunny.
I've seen some of them all gussied up, with painted doors and
all,
But it really made no difference, they were just a port of call.

Now my old man would take a bet, he'd lay an even pound,
That you wouldn't make the dunny with them turkeys hangin'
round.
They had so many uses, these buildings out the back,"
You could even hide from mother, so you wouldn't get the
strap.

That's why we had good cricketers, never mind the bumps,
We used the pathway for the wicket and the dunny door for
stumps.
Now my old man would sit for hours, the smell would rot
your socks,
He read the daily back to front in that good old thunderbox.

There was no such thing as Sorbent, no
tissues there at all,
Just squares of well read newspaper, a
hangin' on the wall.
If you had some friendly neighbours, as
neighbours sometimes are,
You could sit and chat to them, if you left
the door ajar..



When suddenly you got the urge, and down the track you
fled,
Then of course the magpies were there to peck you on your
head.
Then the time there was a wet, the rain it never stopped,
If you had an urgent call, you ran between the drops.

The dunny man came once a week, to these buildings out the
back,
And he would leave an extra can, if you left for him a zac.
For those of you who've no idea what I mean by a zac,
Then you're too young to have ever had, a dunny out the back.

The Dunny Can Man Can Handle Pans

The six o'clock swill entered the history books in
1955 in NSW and 1966 in Victoria, and no-one mourned its
passing. Similarly going the way of the dinosaur, either from
cultural changes or technological advances, have been 78 rpm
wax records (not to mention vinyl), radio serials, fish and
chips wrapped in newspaper and innumerable other items,
skills or facets of everyday life that were simply superseded
by a better, or just more modern, alternative.

Here in urban Australia we take it for granted that we
can flush our toilets several times a day, with little or no
thought about the process of removal of such waste. The
sewerage pipes take care of it. We don't need to think about it.

But deep sewerage is a relatively new
phenomenon. Many of the older generation
remember well the days before indoor, flushable
toilets.

The days of the dunny, the thunderbox,
the shed up the back, the outhouse, the
sh*thouse, the building at the bottom of the
backyard which was often covered by a creeper,
perhaps a choko or a morning glory.



The bluestone-cobbled laneways that the inner-
suburbs of Melbourne are so renowned for were not
designated so that 21st century families could build double-
garages with convenient rear-access. They were actually there
to provide access for the 'night soil' collectors who came by
during the night once or twice a week with their horse and
cart, collecting a removable pan of waste from each outhouse
and replacing it with a new one. 'Night soil' - such a delicate
euphemism for human excrement!

And what, once it was collected, was a night soil
collector to do with his bounty? This was an issue that local
authorities struggled with over a long period of time.

The City of Kingston local history website highlights
that, "Much to the annoyance of many local residents the
sandy soil in the Shire of Moorabbin was seen by some
councils as a prime dumping ground for this accumulating
waste," while the Monash City history pages detail
how in the Oakleigh area,

Despite various attempts to ban it as
harmful to the health, night soil was a major source
of fertiliser for the surrounding market gardens and
how, in the early part of the 20th century, there
were many attempts to prevent market gardeners
taking produce to Melbourne and bringing manure
back on the same carts.

Gallipoli Art Prize awarded to Chinese-Australian artist Jiawei Shen for work *Yeah, Mate!*

By Lucy Marks 20th. April 2016

Former serviceman in the Chinese Army Jiawei Shen has been awarded the 2016 Gallipoli Art Prize for his depiction of Anzac mateship. The Chinese-born Australian artist won the award for his work *Yeah, Mate!* which he said captured what the Anzac spirit meant to him: mateship, courage and humour - even in the darkest times.

The large-scale oil painting is an adaptation of a black and white photograph which hangs in London's Imperial War Museum, and shows an Australian digger carrying an injured soldier over his shoulders at Gallipoli.

The photograph by Ernest Brooks has no name but includes the caption, "At Anzac Cove, an Australian bringing in a wounded comrade to hospital. The men were cracking jokes as they made their way down from the front".

"This photo is an icon of the First World War, the Anzacs," Shen, who 30 years before was making his money sketching tourists at Circular Quay, told the ABC.

The artist said by transforming the photo that way and painting it at a size "larger than life", the viewer could be taken "back to that time" and drawn into that very moment a century ago. "In the war itself, the people, the soldiers [can] express their [bravery], their heroism, their comradeship," Shen said. "When you see the photo carefully, you can see



Yeah Mate! by Jiawei Shen took out the 2016 Gallipoli



The photograph Shen based his painting on is hanging in the Imperial

he is smiling, the soldier ... talking, joking. "[But] they're facing the dark days."

Shen arrived in Australia in 1989 and has lived among an artist community with his family at Bundeena on the outskirts of southern Sydney for 20 years. An ex-serviceman himself, Shen said he began painting the artwork on the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing last year.

He donated an earlier version to the local Bundeena RSL. Secondary to his feeling of duty to Australia, he sought out to immortalise the "good qualities" of human beings during war. "In the war, the people express many good qualities - at the same time there is evil - [but] this Anzac spirit is a very brave, very good side," Shen said.

Having spent years in the Chinese military as a soldier and artist, Shen said he was "deeply moved" when attending remembrance ceremonies in Australia in the early years after his arrival in Sydney. "Australian people have a very unique way to celebrate their servicemen," Shen said.

Shen collected \$20,000 in prize winnings, a long way from his earlier \$20 fee for sketching tourists.

Now a multi-award-winning artist - with subjects like Pope John Francis and Crown Princess Mary of Denmark in his repertoire - he dedicates some of his success as a portrait artist to this early sketching practice.

It is a practice he remains connected to by sketching people free of charge at the National Portrait Gallery and his local art community.

Vietnamese orphan found on a rubbish tip: "I wouldn't be here, if I wasn't found by them."

April 25, 2016

Jacqueline McKenzie was found as a toddler, lying malnourished and sick with tuberculosis, alone on a rubbish tip in Bien Hoa about 1969. The Vietnamese-born Australian was rescued as an orphan by Australian nurses who served at Bien Hoa Hospital. She relays the story while sitting next to three women, in a shady spot near the Anzac Day march.

The three women were civilian nurses at that same Bien Hoa Hospital. Looking at the former nurses adoringly, Ms McKenzie says, "I wouldn't be here, if I wasn't found by them."

Shortly after she was discovered, Ms McKenzie was nursed back to health and cared for at a nearby orphanage.

She was rescued as part of a private humanitarian

effort opposed by the Australian and South Vietnamese governments but accomplished nevertheless by a determined Melbourne woman named Elaine Moir in 1972.



Betty Lockwood, Jacqueline McKenzie, Helen Taplin and Dorothy Angell

Four-legged hero Sharne is the most deployed military working dog in Australian history

April 24, 2016

ON a minus-ten-degree night in 2011, a man and his dog lie sleeping in their swag. When the sun rises in the early hours in Afghanistan, they wake and after a feed, begin work.

On this day it's a combat mission to search for explosives on the sandy road to the north, on another it might be to investigate a suspected enemy compound. But their routine is always the same: the dog leads the way, the men and women follow behind.

At 12 or 13-years-old, Military Working Dog (MWD) Sharne is retired and enjoying life at home with Corporal Kane Tiller, his wife and their children.

And while her greatest love is reserved for tennis balls and barbecued treats, this 17kg Kelpie Staffy cross is a heroine. Sharne has served as an Explosive Detection Dog (EDD) in Afghanistan four times, making her the most deployed MWD in Australian military history.

Cpl Tiller — chief trainer of the EDD Section at the School of Military Engineering at Holsworthy — served with Sharne on three of these deployments. “If you ask any soldier, ‘what do you reckon about the doggies?’ they all have a story to tell. The dogs have had an impact on every soldier deployed to Afghanistan or to other areas, even in Iraq now. You can’t calculate the number of lives they have saved,” he said.

About half of all EDDs come from rescue shelters and animal welfare organisations who contact military dog handlers if they think they have an animal that might be suitable for work in a war zone.

Sharne was found tied to a post with no food or water at a property in Queensland in 2005, she weighed just 8kg when she was taken to an animal shelter. It's a far cry from where she is now — arguably (and according to Cpl Tiller) the greatest MWD of all.

She has worked with handlers in some of the most high-risk and high-stress conditions experienced by military personnel and animals in war zones.

She has found thousands of explosive devices and was a comfort to both dogs and men when Sapper Darren Smith and his EDD Herbie were killed by an explosive device in Afghanistan in 2010.

For that, she is loved dearly. “I once told my wife, ‘Sharne is the only other woman I would rather spend time with than you’,” Cpl Tiller said.

Sharne's life now involves cuddles, lots of treats and walks to school in the morning. She steals food off plates and sleeps inside.

On Anzac Day, Sharne accompanied Cpl Tiller and his family, colleagues and friends to the dawn service at the School of Military Engineering.

She was wearing a purple poppy, also known as an “Animal Poppy”. Just as red poppies commemorate men lost at war, the purple poppy remembers those animals who died during service.

Sharne also wore her best coat and the two medals she has won for her service to country.



Corporal Kane Tiller says he couldn't calculate how many lives Sharne has saved.



Kelpie Cross Sharne may be retired now but she still has plenty of energy



Corporal Kane Tiller with former military dog Sharne dressed in her best coat and army medals

2/8663 KNIGHT John William.

Passed away on the 13th. Of March 2016

John resided at Gladesville and was the loving husband to Margaret. Loved father to John and Sharon. Grandfather to Mitchell, Belinda and Rebecca. Aged 78 years "Lest We Forget".

John served with "A" Field Battery from 1955 until 1958 and was part of the Battery during the Malayan Emergency, he was a driver in Alpha Troop.

His Funeral Service was held in the South Chapel of the Rookwood Gardens Crematorium on Friday (March 18th, 2016).



2/8980 HART Ronald Webley.. Born October 1937

Passed away 21st. April 2016

Ron was one of the founding members of the A Fd Bty Assn, having hosted the initial formation meeting at his residence.

He served with A Fd Bty in Malaya from 1957-59. He will be sadly missed by family and mates alike.

The funeral service was held at: Drysdale Funeral Services 27 Butler Street, Tewantin, QLD on Fri 29 April. Ron was laid to rest at the Cooroy Cemetery Cooroy.

Lest We Forget



3/5662 COOK Noel Harold

passed away 3rd. May 2016

Noel (Harry) Cook passed away at Heidelberg Repatriation hospital.

His funeral service was held at LE



PINE Funeral Chapel 513 Greensborough Rd Greensborough 2.30pm 10th May 2016.

Harry was a member of Bravo Troop A Field Battery during the Malayan Emergency from 1957 to 1959.

After the Army, he had ten years as a prison officer, then joined the NSW Sheriff's Department and had 28 years there and retired as an Inspector.





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
S.J. BLANCH (OAS.
Malaya)
DOUG N. BRYAN
MALCOLM J. BUGG
GORDON CARMICHAEL
TOM. CARRUTHERS
KEITH. CHRISTENSEN
REG CLATWORTHY
HARRY COOK
RICHARD. DUGGAN
R.M. DUCAT (OAS.
Malaya)
PAT. DALY
TOM. DAWSON
JOHN. DOWNES
BEVAN FILCE
MAURICE FONTAINE
GEORGE. FORSYTHE
MAX. FRANKLIN

M.K. FUSSELL (KIA,
Afghanistan)
ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY
BARRY HANDLEY
NEIL HARDEN
MICK. HARKEN
RON HART
B.D. HENDERSON (OAS.
Malaya)
REG KELLY
KEN. KENNEDY
JOHN KNIGHT
BOBBY. LEWIS
BILL LIDDELL OAM
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)
(JIM) PONTING

DAVE. QUIRK
PETER. RAINSBURY
JOHN FRANKLAN RAINEY
CLIVE. RALFE
JOHN SALMON
BRIAN. SCOTT
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JOHN SHEEHAN
ALBERT (ALBY)
SHERIDAN
ALAN. SINGH
NOEL. SMALL
R. F. SMITH
LESLEY (SQUIZZY)
TAYLOR
IAN UHLMANN
DONALD DAVID WEIR
BRIAN. WHISKER
JOHN. WHITELAW.
AO,CBE
BERNARD. (PLONKY)
WINE
GUS. WOOLFE
JOHN. WORBOYS

In Memory of Our Departed Comrades

This page is to pay tribute, as we honour those members of A Field Battery who have passed away but are by no means forgotten. We remember them as friends and comrades in happy and sad times. Most of them we knew as young soldiers and others, in later years developed a close friendship as we grew older

If you know of a departed A Field Battery member who is not listed here, please contact us and we will update the list. Thank you.

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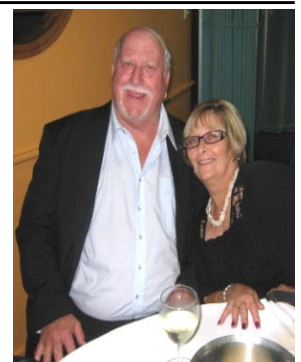
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Log on to our website and you can read the latest and all the past newsletters
An amazing collection of photographs and news items covering the 1940s to the present day with A Field Battery. **This website is addictive, with the news, links, notice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