



President's Report.

Items.

1. Anzac day - wearing of army hats – results of my letter to minister.

Towards the end of 2017, I tabled a letter at my local RSL sub-branch meeting which I asked to be forwarded through the RSL to the appropriate minister (Defence or Vet Affairs) via the RSL lobby people. It was basically to request the government to legalise the wearing of military corps badges on Anzac day, which a lot of ex-servicemen already do. I read the letter aloud to the meeting and it received a round of applause, so I thought it had a reasonable chance of being implemented. Unfortunately, at the following monthly meeting, the president of the sub-branch had decided not to forward the letter onwards. As a result, and about a year later, I sent it to the minister for Defence with a CC to Vet Affairs as well as the shadow ministers. I thought that it would make a fairly good election sweetener for getting the whole ex-services onside with whoever had it in their party policy to implement. I also pointed out that the letter was a personal view and was written before I became president of the association and so should not be regarded as the association's stance on the issue. Recently I received a reply from the minister stating that while it is still against the law to wear military insignia, the authorities turn a blind eye to it on Anzac day. To my mind this just sidesteps the issue, and it leaves everyone vulnerable to "nuisance" charges if a particular policeman takes a set against you for any reason. This could affect one's rights to a firearms licence. It could also result in a federal criminal record which would affect one's ability to travel overseas, as a lot of countries won't allow entry if you have had a criminal conviction. So at this stage, I will not be wearing a beret or slouch hat with a corps badge on it, even on Anzac day, until such time as the law is changed. Again, this is a personal viewpoint and is not a directive to anyone else, but it is maybe something to think about, and perhaps a letter to your local member or the minister if you feel strongly enough about the issue.

2. Making the association a national body.

Since our last committee meeting, I have been making some unofficial enquiries regarding the status of our association. We are currently registered as a not-for-profit incorporated association under QLD law. This was fine while the majority of officeholders were QLD residents, but since taking members for all other states into the fold, it does place some restrictions on who can hold the secretary's position. Under QLD law the secretary must live either in QLD or within 65 km of the border. This rule means that no other members can run for secretary unless they meet this requirement. As it now stands, our president, vice president, treasurer, and one other committee member all live outside the "resident" zone, and I foresee the day when Tex might like to put his feet up for a while, or travel extensively, and let someone else do the paperwork.

To get around this limitation, we can have the association registered with ASIC as a national body. This does not change any of our operating methods or responsibilities, but it means that any member, regardless of their location, may run for any office in the association.

So far, I have downloaded a stack of legal documents from the QLD Office of Fair Trading, plus picked the brains of people in the ATO and ASIC. I have yet to comb through the documents, but the process seems fairl straightforward. At a later date I wil outline in detail what needs to be done, and the motion will be put at the (hopefully) next AGM for members vote on whether we change or not. I have zero legal training but I am aware that we must perform due diligence before any such changes are voted on, and if anyone out there would like to contribute knowledge, experience or even just an opinion to this issue, I am all ears and will gladly accept any and all suggestions

3. Results of Officeworks disaster.

Some time ago I took on the role of merchandise officer, for the selling of association caps and T-shirts etc. I thought it would be a good idea to use the Officeworks “Mailman” system as they are considerably cheaper than Australia Post. The aim was to save our members a few dollars wherever we could. However, during 2018, out of 5 items I posted using this system, 3 were lost. Two were eventually found and delivered but extremely late and after a lot of phone calls and emails. The last one, a DVD of the Malayan Episode, was never found and a claim for the amount of money we lost was processed by them. They would not cover the extra cost of sending out anouter DVD, as it was considered not a direct loss. They did, however, refund the \$18 that we were out of pocket from the loss of the original item.

I have decided to go back to using Australia Post, as they are somewhat more reliable than the Officeworks system, which was for us a 60% failure rate. The idea was good but the implementation leaves a lot to be desired. I have notified Officeworks of their shortcomings. Whether they act on my suggestions is up to them but either way, I will be using Australia Post from now on. So if the cost of postage seems a little steep to you, as it does to me, I think its better to pay a bit more but actually receive what you paid for instead of having the item disappear into another dimension, with pot luck as to whether it turns up or not.

4. Membership Drive.

I have tried to rouse some Esprit-de-Corps for ex-A Bty members on Facebook to join the Association, but so far as I am aware, the only response was a lot of “likes” and some comments on previous members exploits. I did encourage them to contact our Secretary for details on joining, but I don’t know if I have had any impact. Perhaps Tex has heard from some new prospective members. But I will persevere with the push for members, and maybvbe we can all encourage membership on the upcoming Anzac Day among the marchers with the various A Bty gatherings around the country. And speaking of Anzac Day, I hope everyone has a happy and safe one. See you in the next Newsletter.



‘A’ Battery training

From the Secretary

G'day fellow members,

Well at long last after 15 years I am no longer President. I must thank Dodger Noonan for standing for the position, as I said in the last newsletter; "If we did not get a new president, then the association would have to fold".

We had the current Battery Commander, Maj Jacob Beale and Battery Sergeant Major, WO11 Mark Wheeler at our AGM and I must thank them for coming and giving up their precious time.

If we could not get a new President, the BC was going to stand in until we could get one, thankfully this did not happen.

The AGM went very well with some Victorians coming out of the woodwork.

The new committee is, President, Robert (Dodger) Noonan, Vice President, Richard (Rick) Polley, Secretary, Ronald (Tex) Bassan, Treasurer, Gregory Kittelty, Committee Member, Ian Leven.

All the committee were in 'A' Field Battery, Malaysia, 1967 – 1969.

The dinner went very well and I must thank Les Maher for organizing the weekend, as everyone should know, Les is not a well man at the moment. Hope you get well soon Les. We were lucky as we had our Patron, Barry Campbell come to the dinner.

There were five old and bold from the Malayan Emergency, and they were; Barry Campbell, Hughey Spark, Rex Martin, Les Maher and I, most of the others were from Malaysian Confrontation. Notice there were no members from Vietnam, as they were off doing their own thing, good luck to you, when you all have passed away, the 'A' Field Battery Association will still be going.

We had a visit to the Vietnam Veteran's Museum, Phillip Island, on the Sunday, and to our surprise, on display was the old Brisbane banner. It would have been nice if someone had asked the association if they would let the banner go to the Museum. We also noticed that they did not have an Assn plaque, this has now been rectified. We also had a nice lunch at the Phillip Island RSL.

It is my sad duty to let you know that we have lost another Malayan Emergency member, and he is, Raymond Clarke, may he rest in peace.

At the AGM, I asked the BC; would 'A' Battery host the next AGM, and he has agreed to this request, the only downside to this is, Jacob and Mark will not be there, as they are being posted at the end of the year. Jacob said that the new Battery Commander, Nick Bartletta and Battery Sergeant Major, Matt Dawson are just as keen as they are. I wonder if any 'A' Bty Vietnam will come to this. Also I spoke to the BC. About the 150th Anniversary which is less than three years away. We had a couple of suggestions which will be discussed at a later date.

That's all for this newsletter.

RONALD ARTHUR BURKE

Obituary Condolences



RONALD ARTHUR BURKE

O.A.M.

Colonel (Retired) of Aspley

Passed away 16 January 2019

surrounded by his family.

Dearly loved husband of Di (dec). Loved father of Sean, Justin and Lisa. Loving pop to Madi, Sam, Nick, Jess and Lachie. Loving brother of Mary.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Service for Arthur to be held at Albert Street Uniting Church, Brisbane on Thursday 24 January 2019 commencing at 1:00pm.

Medals to be worn

ANTON BROWN FUNERALS

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From Ian Uhlmann. The Rum Issue

We were on a gun position East of Ipoh in 1957 when I was called to the Command Post. The GPO, 2Lt Noel de la Hunty, was seated on the tailboard of a GMC truck. "Who is our commanding officer" he asked. I replied, "we are an independent battery attached to 28th Commonwealth Brigade, and as such we do not have a CO, but Red Ned Sedden is our Battery Commander" "Correct" said the GPO, "but where is he?" "I do not know, I have not seen him for months" I said. "This has serious implications". Said Noel "We are on active service, so that means he is missing in action." I said that this was stretching things a bit, but he ignored me. "Who is the 2ic?" he said. "That would be the BK, but I haven't seen him this year." "Who would be next in line to be Commanding officer" he said. "It would have to be you" I said. "Good" he said. "Who is our RMO?" "We don't have one" I responded. "Who carries the first aid kit?" "I do" I replied. "that makes me the CO and you the RMO" he said. "Look what I have found at the back of The Manual of Military Law." He said, "If the RMO recommends, and the CO agrees, a rum issue may be made to the soldiers of the unit". "I have sketched out a Requisition, you sign here and I will sign there. This was done, and the order was given to the British ration vehicle. In due course the rum turned up. It was in a ceramic jug covered with a split bamboo case, and it was labelled "Ghurkha Rum." The GPO lined us up with lids to our water bottles and gave us each a tot. It was the most horrible drink I have ever tasted. Years went by, I was at Russell Offices. There was a parade going by and the students at the ANU were protesting a visit by Dean Rusk. I don't remember the reason, but it was during the Vietnam War. The lead marcher was carrying a pig's head on a stick, and a pair with large yellow flags followed him. As the marchers approached I heard a familiar voice scream "Bastards". It was the now Captain de la Hunty, and he was endeavouring to climb over the police barricade. I leaned forward and caught the strap of his Sam Brown. After a brief struggle he turned and recognised me. "Those are Viet Cong flags," he said. "And those are press photographers" I replied. "If you had got to the flags you would have become famous, but your career might not have held up". "Do you remember the Ghurkha rum?" said Della., "I was on a course in the UK last year, and they sent me a bill for the rum on the grounds that the Australian Army was not entitled to rum issues"

We chatted for a while, but I never thought to ask if he paid. Knowing Della, I presumed he did not.

Ian Uhlmann November 2008



Made around 1900 by J. & E. Stevens, this is known as the Artillery mechanical bank.

OLD people have problems that you haven't even considered yet!

An 85-year-old man was requested by his doctor for a sperm count as part of his physical exam.

The doctor gave the man a jar and said, 'Take this Jar home and bring back a semen sample tomorrow.'

The next day the 85-year-old man reappeared at the Doctor's' office and gave him the jar, which was as clean and empty as on the previous day.

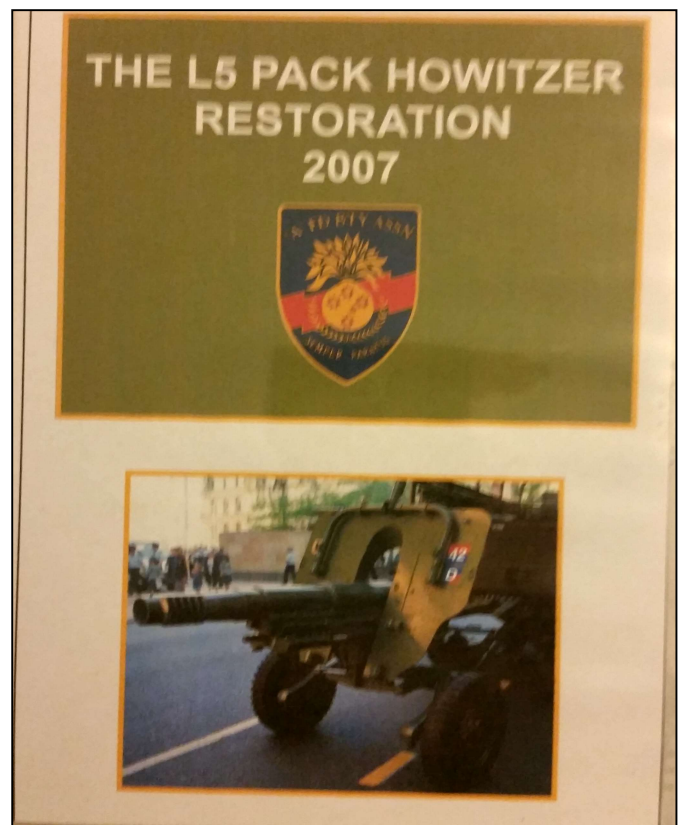
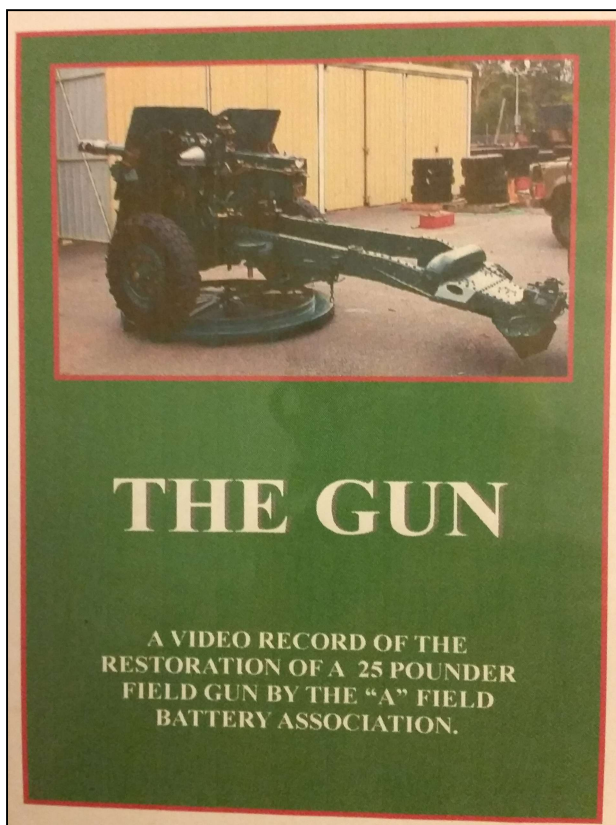
The doctor asked what happened and the man explained, 'Well, doc, it's like this--first I tried with my right hand, but nothing. Then I tried with my left hand, but still nothing.

'Then I asked my wife for help. She tried with her right hand, then with her left, still nothing. She tried with her mouth, first with her teeth in, then with her teeth out, still nothing.

'We even called up Arleen, the lady next door and she tried too, first with both hands, then an armpit, and she even tried squeezing it between her knees, but still nothing.'

ALL THESE ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM DODGER NOONAN. (CONTACT DETAILS ON BACKPAGE

Item	Selling Price (Ea)
Caps	\$15.00
Car Stickers	2 for \$6.00
Badges, Plaque	\$25
Plaques, Complete	\$40.00
Books “Malayan Episode”	\$20.00
Shirts, Polo (New Pattern)	\$35.00
Shirts, Polo (Old Pattern)	\$35.00
DVD, “Malayan Episode”	\$10
DVD, “The L5 Pack Howitzer Restoration”	\$10
DVD, “The Year of the Road Runner”	\$10
DVD, “Cinesound Newsreels, October 1958”	\$10
DVD, “The Gun”	\$10
Vietnam Veteran sticker	\$3
UCG sticker	\$3



ARTY FACTS

WWII - WORLDS LARGEST ARTILLERY PIECE

The largest gun ever built was the "Gustav Gun" built in Essen, Germany. Upholding a tradition of naming heavy cannon after family members, the Krupp family - Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach.

The strategic weapon of its day, the Gustav Gun was built to crush crushing Maginot Line forts protecting the French frontier. To achieve this, it weighed 1344 tons with a bore diameter of 800 mm (31.5") and served by 500 crew members.

Two types of projectiles were fired using a 3000lb. charge of propellant and a 16,540 lb. concrete-piercing projectile.

Craters from the HE shells measured 30-ft. wide and 30-ft. deep, penetrating 264-ft. of reinforced concrete before exploding! Maximum range was 47.2 km with concrete piercing projectiles. Muzzle velocity was approximately 1,000 ft/sec.

Three guns were ordered in 1939. Alfred Krupp personally hosted Hitler and Albert Speer (Minister of Armaments) at the Hugenwald Proving Ground during formal acceptance trials of the Gustav Gun in the spring of 1941. In keeping with company tradition, Krupp refrained from charging for the first gun - 7 million Deutsch Marks were charged for the second (named Dora after the chief engineer's wife).

France fell in 1940 without the assistance of the Gustav Gun, so new targets were sought. Plans to use Gustav against the British fortress of Gibraltar were scrapped after General Franco refused permission to fire the gun from Spanish soil. Thus, April 1942 found the Gustav Gun emplaced outside the heavily fortified port city of Sebastopol in the Soviet Union.

Under fire from Gustav and other heavy artillery, Forts Stalin, Lenin and Maxim Gorki crumbled and fell. One round from Gustav destroyed a Russian ammunition dump 100 feet below Severnaya Bay; a near miss capsized a large ship in the harbour.

Gustav fired 300 rounds during the siege wearing out the original barrel in the process. Dora was set up west of Stalingrad in mid-August but hurriedly withdrawn in September to avoid capture. Gustav next appeared outside Warsaw, Poland, where it fired 30 rounds into Warsaw Ghetto during the 1944 uprising.

Dora was blown up by German engineers in April 1945 near Oberlichtnau, Germany, to avoid capture by the Russian Army. The incomplete third gun was scrapped at the factory by the British Army when they captured Essen.

Gustav was captured intact by the U.S. Army near Metzendorf, Germany, in June 1945.

Shortly after, it was cut up for scrap thus ending the story of the Gustav Gun.

US Troops astride Dora after capture



The **Smith & Wesson Model 29** is a six-shot double-action revolver chambered for the powerful .44 Magnum cartridge, manufactured by the U.S. company Smith & Wesson. It was made famous by and is still most often associated with the fictional character "Dirty" Harry Callahan from the Dirty Harry series of films starring Clint Eastwood. It remained primarily the province of handgun enthusiasts, some law enforcement personnel and hunters until 1971, when Clint Eastwood made it famous as "the most powerful handgun in the world" in the movie Dirty Harry. At the time of its introduction, the Model 29 was indeed the most powerful production handgun.

I know what you're thinking. "Did he fire six shots or only five?" Well, to tell you the truth, in all this excitement I kind of lost track myself. But being as this is a .44 Magnum, the most powerful handgun in the world, and would blow your head clean off, you've got to ask yourself one question: Do I feel lucky? Well, do ya, punk?

The Ordnance QF 25-pounder Short

was an Australian variant of the British Ordnance QF 25-pounder field gun/howitzer.

The gun was developed by modifying the 25-pounder's design to improve its mobility during jungle warfare.

Development began in 1941, and the weapon first entered service with the Australian Army the next year.

It was used by several Royal Australian Artillery regiments during fighting in the South West Pacific Area, before being declared obsolete in 1946.

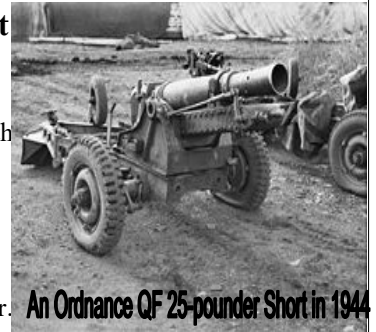
The development of the Ordnance QF 25-pounder Short was an important achievement for Australia's defence industry, and provided the Army with a weapon suited to conditions in the South West Pacific.

Nevertheless, the gun's performance was inferior to that of the standard 25-pounder, and it received a mixed reception from artillerymen.

The difficulty of deploying artillery in New Guinea led to a need for a gun which could be broken down into light parts and transported by aircraft or jeeps.

The Army had only a small number of British 3.7 inch Mountain Howitzers, and Australia's request for United States M116 75mm pack howitzers was not immediately filled. In September 1942, the Army's Director of Artillery, Brigadier John O'Brien, suggested that a variant of the 25-pounder be developed to meet this requirement.

The process of designing the gun began in September 1942, and an acceptable weapon was ready by January the next year.



An Ordnance QF 25-pounder Short in 1944



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
LES ASHBY DENIS
ALFRED ATHERTON
TOM. BANFIELD
CLARE. (BONNIE) BASSAN
TREVOR. BEER
FRANK. BERRIER
S.J. BLANCH (OAS. Malaya)
DOUG N. BRYAN
MALCOLM J. BUGG
DONALD CALLAGHAN
GORDON CARMICHAEL
TOM. CARRUTHERS
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REG CLATWORTHY
HARRY COOK
DON DONKIN MBE
RICHARD. DUGGAN
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TOM. DAWSON
JOHN. DOWNES
NOEL EGAN
BEVAN FILCE
MAURICE FONTAINE
GEORGE. FORSYTHE
MAX. FRANKLIN

MAX. FRANKLIN
M.K. FUSSELL (KIA,
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BILL GALLAGHER
LANCE GILKINSON
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NEIL HARDEN
MICK. HARKEN
DAVID (BANGER)HARRIS
RON HART
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BOBBY. LEWIS
BILL LIDDELL OAM
JOHN. MACDONALD
BARRY MARR
I.G. MATHERS (KIA. Vietnam)
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KEVIN MITCHELL
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JIM PONTING

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PETER. RAINSBURY
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JOE ROUSE
JOHN SALMON
BRIAN. SCOTT
PETER. SEDDON
JOHN SHEEHAN
ALBERT (ALBY)
SHERIDAN
ALAN. SINGH
NOEL. SMALL
R. F. SMITH
LESLEY (SQUIZZY)
TAYLOR
ROHAN THOMPSON
IAN UHLMANN
DONALD DAVID WEIR
BRIAN. WHISKER
JACK WHITEHEAD
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

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2017—2018

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