



President's Report.

1. AGM Weekend.

Our AGM weekend went fairly much as planned, with none of my misgivings about transport coming to pass. We had one group of visitors staying in Chermside and another staying in Mitchelton. For those of you (like me) with no knowledge of Brisbane's geography, they are both about 12 km from the city centre but Mitchelton is a lot closer to Enoggera.

Our transport worked out very well, the Toyota minibus being capably driven by Gunner Morgan Newell-Marx. He got us all in to the city for the Friday night dinner by 6 pm at the United Service club and delivered us all safely back to our digs at the end of a convivial evening. Our thanks must go to Major Nicholas Barletta, the BC of 'A' Bty, for organising the transport for us. It all went like clockwork. Nicholas was our guest at the dinner. Due to the disruption to our normal planning of these events, a last-minute decision was taken to subsidise the dinner from the Association's funds. Thanks must also go to Rosie Chapman, the Events Coordinator of the United Service club for organising our evening. The wine selection was well enjoyed by our members and the 3-course meal was outstanding.

Our Saturday morning AGM was conducted in the Officers' Mess at Enoggera Barracks, again courtesy of Major Nick Barletta and with the able assistance of Lt. Duncan McNicol. The ladies spent the time sipping on lattes in the lounge while we conducted our business in an adjoining room. As you can see on the back page, most of the positions' occupants remain the same after the elections with several exceptions, firstly that of newsletter editor. Ron Slaughter has retired from that position and it is now a vacancy until we can get someone else to volunteer. We are also in need of an A.C.T. Liaison Officer since the passing of Clive Castles recently. This position is just a contact point for those who may live in the area. Perhaps someone might also like to become the Properties Officer, handling the sales of our merchandise.

After the AGM, we adjourned to the Gunners' club for a barbecue lunch. We were then escorted over to the gun park where we were given a guided tour of the equipment currently in use by the battery, including the M777 155 mm guns and tractors by the BC, as well as L/Bdr Fale Fale and Gunner Jesse Field. They have come a long way since the L5/M2A2 and International Mk.3 trucks. The next stop on our travels was the Henry Green Room, the 'A' Bty museum which has been painstakingly equipped single-handedly by Don Sinclair. Although a lot of items have seemingly 'disappeared' since the move from Holsworthy to Enoggera, Don has put a truckload of loving care and thought into the design and layout of the room and it is a credit to his endeavours. Many thanks from the Association, Don, and I am sure I speak on behalf of all who were there that day.

The next item on our busy agenda was something that wasn't originally planned. The Regiment and the RSL had decided to organise an open day for the public on the same day we were having our AGM. So at 3 pm, the BC took his leave of us to prepare for a parade and we were bussed over to the entrance to the open day field. Entry tickets were supplied by our driver. Contrary to what the weather bureau said, the entire weekend was sunny and dry with the exception of Friday evening, but that didn't matter because we were all inside the club.

The Army display stands were many and varied, as were the eatery carts, and the day was well-attended by the Brisbane public who turned out in droves. There was a dog-handling display being staged when we arrived. Later in the day there was a ceremonial Beating the Retreat parade, followed by a rendition of the 1812 Overture by the band accompanied by some M2A2's firing blanks for the sound effects. I have never seen so many young kids scream in terror after the first shot but once their hearing returned they were all okay.

It was around 7 pm by the time we were asked to leave. One of our number (Tex) actually tried to leave through the wrong gate and they didn't want to let him in again. But after some smooth talking he was escorted back through the grounds to the correct gate by a lieutenant, no less. As it turned out, the bus arrived at the same time as he did so there were no hold-ups.

Our Sunday activity was supposed to be a tour of Fort Lytton, a coastal battery installation which has now been turned into a museum. However, due to the unexpected amount of walking around at the Enoggera open day, the continuing possibility of rain, and the fact that the Fort was having an open day too (large crowds, mainly schoolkids) we had no starters for that tour. Our committee took the opportunity on Sunday morning to hold our committee meeting in my hotel room which was the size of a small mansion. It turned out to be a family type room. It must have been the only room they had left because there was only one of me and I'm not that big. There were plenty of shopping and browsing opportunities for the rest of the day which most of us took in the nearby shopping mall. The Brook hotel at Mitchelton had a good meal service and plenty of beer so our stay there was as comfortable as we needed for the weekend. Although it was mostly a low-key event this year I think it went reasonably well. There were no major dramas, transport worked well, events (planned and otherwise) all coordinated in with each other and there was plenty of time to catch up with old friends and comrades from the past. It goes without saying that much wine and beer was consumed in the process.

In conclusion, I am giving early warning notice of next year's AGM. At this stage we have decided to hold it at Sawtell. Tex, our hard-working secretary, has the contact details for the RSL club there and we will fill in the details by the next issue of the newsletter. And we will revert to the usual time, the second weekend in September, for the AGM weekend. That should give everyone plenty of notice to get themselves organised and attend. I would like to see a bigger roll-up next year, we only had 17 for the dinner this year and barely a quorum (12, minimum is 11) for the AGM.

2. 150th Anniversary.

It was brought to my attention at the Gunners' Dinner in Caloundra recently that the year 2021 will be the 150th anniversary of the inauguration of 'A' Fd Bty. Rumour has it that the Department of Defence may be organising some ceremonial activities to mark the occasion, quite possibly in Sydney, and in light of that I have written to the minister requesting that if possible, our little band of brothers be remembered, mentioned and/or included in such activities. I have only just posted the letter so I am not expecting a reply much before the next newsletter. I will keep you posted on developments in regard to this.

In a similar vein, I am told by Tex that he is going to try to get Australia Post to issue a stamp commemorating the event. We might also try pushing our luck and get the mint to make a special issue coin, \$1 or \$2, for the same thing.

3. Special Project.

It was decided at the AGM that as a special project in the lead-up to the 150th, we locate and restore or replace the headstone of Henry Green, the first enlisted soldier in the Australian army (regimental number 001). I have asked Don Sinclair, our resident historian, if he could supply me with any details he may have about Henry Green's resting place, somewhere in Sydney's eastern suburbs, so I can do a recce and see what needs to be done and its approximate cost. We don't have a bottomless pit of money but if it runs into a large sum we might be able to garner some more from Defence as a special project. As late as Tuesday 29th October, I received an email from Waverley Cemetery with a map of how to locate his grave and that they had lodged a request with the Green family for permission for us to go ahead with the project. Still waiting on a reply from them.

4. Going National.

I have lodged an enquiry with the NSW legal advice group, "Justice Connect", which has a free legal advice service to not-for-profit organisations like ours. They have all of our organisation's details and their legal team will contact me by phone with the information we need to make us into a nationally registered association where the office of secretary is not restricted by state of residence. I have just received notice of an appointment to speak with one of their lawyers this week, and will publish the results in our next newsletter.

There has been some disruption to the email distribution of our newsletter lately, due to the ill health of our editor and web master. Hopefully, we can remedy this situation and resume full production and distribution with this issue.

And finally, for all those members who may be a little behind in their annual subscription, or if you think you might be, please contact our secretary, Tex Bassan, to ascertain your financial status and/or bring yourself up to date. It is \$20 per annum or \$200 for life membership. A lot of our members don't have email and require a printed copy of the newsletter to be mailed out.

Regards,
R. F. "Dodger" Noonan
President
A Fd Bty Association Inc.



M777 155 mm gun.



Gun tractor, 40 tonnes of power and ammo. Not so sure about speed.

'A' BTY BC's Report

Major Nicholas Barletta

As I write we are now in the final phase of another busy year and the Battery is looking forward to a well earned Christmas break. 2019 has seen a significant contribution from 'A' Battery in supporting operations across the world and in exercises closer to home. Our contingent of soldiers and officers from Task Group Taji VIII in Iraq returned to Australia with other 1st Regiment members in June. They conducted a hand over with members of 2/14 LHR who are supported by a small element of the 1st Regiment. The Battery has supported three rotations of the Joint Fires Training Team for Operation Augury in the Philippines. We have also deployed members of the Battery to Malaysia as part of Rifle Company Butterworth and to Tonga in support of a training team. At present a small number of soldiers remain on operations and we look forward to their safe return in 2020.



'A' Battery members on Operation Augury with the Armed forces of the Philippines.



'A' Battery soldier with a JGSDF counterpart firing an M777

Back on home soil the Battery has provided the lions share of support to Regimental and Brigade exercises. In March the training year began with Exercise Barce in Shoalwater Bay. The activity allowed our new detachment commanders and FOs to focus on technical gunnery. The Battery has focused on the use of digital mission procedures which has been a common theme throughout 2019. By the conclusion of the activity the Battery was able to have effective fire on target within two minutes of the initial call for fire. As a new Battery Commander this year and after four years away from the RAA on external postings, the exercise highlighted to me the effectiveness of our new equipment. The M777A2 and our digital fire control systems are truly world class and we have come a long way since the introduction into service of this equipment. Exercise Barce also coincided with 4th Regiment's Exercise Shot Start and Exercise Chimera. 'A' Battery along with 106th Battery took the opportunity to conduct the first multi Regiment full digital engagements. In April the Battery commemorated ANZAC Day 2019 with the rest of 1st Regiment at the Gunners Club and at the Brisbane City March. It was an honour to have Don Sinclair represent the association at the dawn service and lay a wreath on behalf of the members.

The combined exercises Diamond Sprint and Southern Jackaroo were the main events during May and June. As part of Southern Jackaroo 'A' Battery formed a composite gunline with the 2nd Battery, 12th Artillery Unit from the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force. This was the first time Japanese Artillery have deployed to Australia for an exercise. 'A' Battery's efforts allowed the JGSDF to conduct their first base bleed munitions engagement beyond 25km, a feat they cannot achieve due to small training areas in Japan, and their first live artillery engagements coordinated by UAV. The exercise also saw close cooperation with the Forward Observers and Mobile Fire

Controllers from the US Marine Corps rotational Force in Darwin. Diamond Sprint culminated with four combined Live Fire Battle Runs involving 6th and 8th/9th Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment supported by 'A' Battery, 2 CER and the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment. The three Combat Team activities involved sequential live Platoon attacks on three objectives supported by Live Artillery and M1A1 Abrams Tanks. 2 CER Sappers also conducted a live SOSRA with Bangalore Torpedo.

After a short turnaround back in Brisbane the Battery again deployed on Exercise Talisman Sabre. The 'A' Battery gun line skilfully concealed themselves deep behind 1st Brigade enemy lines while the Battery JFECC and JFTs supported the 8/9 RAR Battlegroup Ram. Highlights of the Activity included the gunline's ambush and destruction of a CH47 attempting to bypass the Battalion and a number of successful Infantry and Tank Raids supported by Artillery on unsuspecting 1st Brigade Battle Positions.

The final exercise for 'A' Battery was Exercise Gunner during September. Due to the heat and lack of rainfall throughout most of Queensland this year the exercise was restricted by a total fire ban so no live fire was conducted. The Battery was able to conduct Urban infantry tactics training as well as some additional dry fire training before returning to the barracks.

Over the weekend of 11-13 October the Battery had the pleasure of assisting with the A Field Battery Association AGM in Brisbane. I thank Robert Noonan for the invite and the association for having me at the United Services Club Dinner and am pleased we were able to support the AGM on Saturday. We were able to host the AGM, a BBQ lunch at the Gunners Club and show the attending members some of our new equipment and vehicles. They were also able to view the Henry Green Room which Don Sinclair has spent a significant amount of time setting up. The AGM coincided with the Battery participating in the 1st Regiment Beating the Retreat Parade and a performance of the 1812 Overture. I hope the members who were able to attend enjoyed the day.



Beating the Retreat Parade




This year sees the Battery farewell a number of members who are moving on to new postings or away from Army. I would like to thank CAPT Josh Childs, the BK, for his efforts this year as he posts to 53rd Battery in Puckapunyal along LT Duncan McNicol and SGT Gardner on promotion to WO2. CAPT Loughlin O'Keeffe and SGT Dayne Anderson will both depart to instruct at Duntroon, CAPT Luke Arbuthnot will post to CTC. I congratulate BDR Troy Price who will promote to SGT and post to 4th Regiment. BDR Damien Williams, Fletcher Watters and Eric Dole will also post out of the Battery. Finally, I would like to thank SGT Samuel Dirs who has decided to depart Army after many years of excellent service. To all those leaving the Battery I wish you best of luck and I thank you for your time and hard work while serving in 'A' Battery. You are now a part of the long and proud history of this Battery.

A Field Battery RAA Association Merchandise Price list

NOTE: All prices are for goods only. Postage will be extra and will vary depending on weight of order. Contact Dodger Noonan on

Mobile: 0407-904-506

Email: noonanrf@bigpond.net.au

Item	Price (Ea)	Comments
Caps	\$15.00	
Car Windscreen Stickers	2 for \$6.00	
Badges, Plaque	\$25	
Plaques, Complete	\$40.00	
Books "Malayan Episode"	\$20.00	
Shirts, Polo (New Pattern)	\$35.00	Sizes S to XXXL
Shirts, Polo (Old Pattern)	\$35.00	
DVD, "Malayan Episode"	\$10	Currently out of stock, last one lost by Officeworks. More copies available soon.
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 bumper sticker	\$3	
UCG bumper sticker	\$3	



They shall grow not 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	M.K. FUSSELL (KIA Afghanistan)	JOE ROUSE
LES ASHBY	BILL GALLAGHER	JOHN SALMON
DENIS ALFRED ATHERTON	LANCE GILKINSON	BRIAN SCOTT
TOM BANFIELD	ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY	PETER SEDDON
CLARE (BONNIE) BASSAN	GEOFF HAACK	PETER SHARP
TREVOR BEER	BARRY HANDLEY	JOHN SHEEHAN
FRANK BERRIER	NEIL HARDEN	ALBERT (ALBY)
S.J. BLANCH (OAS Malaya)	MICK HARKEN	SHERIDAN
DOUG N. BRYAN	DAVID (BANGER) HARRIS	ALAN SINGH
MALCOLM J. BUGG	RON HART	NOEL SMALL
DONALD CALLAGHAN	B.D. HENDERSON (OAS Malaya)	R. F. SMITH
GORDON CARMICHAEL	REG KELLY	LESLEY (SQUIZZY)
TOM CARRUTHERS	KEN KENNEDY	TAYLOR
CLIVE CASTLES	JOHN KNIGHT	ROHAN THOMPSON
KEITH CHRISTENSEN	BOBBY LEWIS	IAN UHLMANN
RAYMOND CLARKE	BILL LIDDELL OAM	DONALD DAVID WEIR
REG CLATWORTHY	JOHN MACDONALD	BRIAN WHISKER
HARRY COOK	BARRY MARR	JACK WHITEHEAD
PAT DALY	I.G. MATHERS (KIA Vietnam)	JOHN WHITELAW AO,
RAY DAVIS	IAN MEIBUSCH A.M	CBE
TOM DAWSON	LLOYD MITCHELL	BERNARD (PLONKY)
DON DONKIN MBE	KEVIN MITCHELL	WINE
JOHN DOWNES	JACK MILLIGAN	GUS WOOLFE
R.M. DUCAT (OAS Malaya)	E.J. (LOFTY) MOORE	JOHN WORBOYS
RICHARD DUGGAN	BRIAN MURTAGH	
NOEL EGAN	JIM PONTING	
BEVAN FILCE	R.J. PARKE (OAS Vietnam)	
MAURICE FONTAINE	DAVE QUIRK	
GEORGE FORSYTHE	PETER RAINSBURY	
MAX FRANKLIN	CLIVE RALFE	

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.

<p align="center"><u>President</u> Robert (Dodger) Noonan 284 Smithfield Rd., Fairfield West NSW 2165 Phone: 02 9604 5163 Mobile: 0407 904 506 noonanrf@bigpond.net.au</p>	<p align="center"><u>Vice President</u> Rick Polley 24 Valepark Crescent Cranbourne VIC 3977 Mobile: 0417 314 890 polmarick@bigpond.net.au</p>	<p align="center"><u>Secretary</u> Ron (Tex) Bassan 6 Harveys Rd., Beaconsfield QLD 4740 Phone: 07 4942 5433 Mobile: 0447 911 116 texbassan@yahoo.com.au</p>
<p align="center"><u>Treasurer</u> Greg Kittelty Unit 2004 "Ultra" 14 George Avenue Broadbeach QLD 4218 Phone. 07 5539 8174 Mobile: 0477 184 168 gmkittelty@hotmail.com.au</p>	<p align="center">COMMITTEE</p> <p align="center">2019 – 2020</p>	<p align="center"><u>Committee Member</u> Ian Leven 76 Dolphin Drive West Ballina NSW 2478 Phone: 02 6686 3478 Mobile: 0412 813 488 leftylev1945@yahoo.com.au</p>
<p align="center">State Liaison Officers</p>		
<p align="center"><u>Patron</u> Barry (Combat) Campbell</p> <p align="center"><u>Editor</u> This position is currently unfilled. Any volunteers for this job please contact Dodger Noonan for details and instructions.</p> <p align="center"><u>Assistant Editor</u> Don (Saint) Sinclair thesaint@tpg.com</p> <p align="center"><u>Property Officer</u> Robert (Dodger) Noonan 0407 904 506</p>	<p align="center">NSW Robert (Dodger) Noonan 0407 904 506 noonanrf@bigpond.net.au</p> <p align="center">QLD Peter (Kimbo) Kimball gunner117@bigpond.com</p> <p align="center">VIC Les Maher 03 5134 2687</p> <p align="center">ACT Position currently vacant. Applications welcome.</p>	<p align="center">S.A. Bob McEvoy bottleart19@gmail.com</p> <p align="center">W.A. Max Ptolomey</p> <p align="center">TAS Alvin Conacher 03 6428 6267</p> <p align="center">Web Master Peter (Kimbo) Kimball gunner117@bigpond.com</p>

The best way to share your message or photos is to contact Kimbo, our Webmaster.
Want to keep up with the latest?
Log on to our web site and you can read the latest and all the past newsletters.
An Amazing collection of photographs and news items covering the 1940's to the present day with
'A' Fd Bty.
This web site is addictive, with the news, links, notice board and a great selection of music while
you browse away. One of the best web sites available and kept up to date by Kimbo.
You will want to put this address into your favourites.

<http://afdbty.australianartilleryassociation.com>

