

1871 - 2021
'A' Fd Bty Association Inc.
National Newsletter
August 2021



Happy Birthday

'A' Bty RAA

150 Years Young

President's Report.

1) 150th Anniversary of 'A' Bty.

There were plans for 150th anniversary celebrations and ceremonies all over Australia to mark the occasion, but as with everything these days, covid-19 stepped in and we had to cancel the Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne events because of it.

The Canberra event went ahead with the 150 gun salute being fired but I have yet to hear from anyone who was there. There were similar events in other major centres as well, one being Townsville with a salute fired from the top of Castle Hill. A swag of photos were published on Facebook so I took the liberty of borrowing two for the newsletter.



150-gun salute at Castle Hill, Townsville, QLD



150-gun salute at Mt. Pleasant, Canberra, ACT.

2) 2021 AGM.

It looks like covid-19 has struck again and interrupted our plans for the AGM in Sawtell. Currently, Sydney and Brisbane are both in lockdown, not to mention other travel restrictions between states and even between LGA's in the same city. As a result, it is inevitable that we have to cancel our arrangements for Sawtell and organise another Zoom socially-distanced AGM. If you have already booked travel and accommodation for Sawtell (as I had), please don't forget to notify them that you won't be coming this year. Non-notification may incur a late cancellation fee.

To this end, I would ask that all those who wish to attend the AGM using Zoom, please let me know by email so I can ensure we have the numbers for a valid AGM. It will still be held at 10.30 am on Saturday 11th September 2021. We need a minimum of 11 attendees, although I am hoping that we will get many more than that. The last AGM was barely legal, due to last-minute disasters with internet access etc. If you wish to attend, you can use your PC, a laptop, a tablet (Apple iPad etc), or even a mobile phone. There is no compulsion to participate, you can just be a spectator if you wish, as long as we have at least enough members attending to satisfy the QLD Department of Fair Trading rules. Once I have the list of attendees, I will email out the Zoom meeting details which comprises a meeting number and a passcode number. If you wish to practice your Zoom beforehand, let me know and I will set up a meeting and we can discuss the settings you need.

3) Refurbishment of Henry Green's Grave.

I have recently heard from Ms. Sheila Green in relation to the refurbishment of Henry Green's grave, she says that due to covid and some delays in deliveries they may not make the 1st August deadline. This is not an unusual situation, everything has been upset by covid and is something we must expect in our lives from now on, at least until there is no more covid in the community.

When the upgrade has been completed, I will get some photos and publish them in this newsletter. I have seen the preliminary draft and it looks to be a fitting monument to Australia's first gunner.

4) Vale.

We have received notification of three more members who have passed away recently, the first being Edward Hawken who served in Malaya during the Emergency. The second was Rodney Althaus, a past BC of 'A' Bty. The third was Peter W. Walton, BQMS from 1969 to 1972. All were well-known and liked among their contemporaries. The Association wishes to convey our deepest sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families.

5) Donations.

We have recently had some financial donations to the association of substantial amounts. Donations such as these are very welcome at a time of very low interest rates and rising costs. I won't mention the names or amounts of the donations, but you know who you are and so do the committee. I would like to express gratitude to the donors on behalf of our membership and committee for your commitment to the association by putting your money where your loyalty is. Once again, much appreciated, thanks to you all.

R. F. "Dodger" Noonan
President
'A' Fd Bty Association Inc.
11th August, 2021.

RECOGNISING THE AUSTRALIANS WHO SERVED IN THE INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION

On 11 August 1966, a peace treaty was signed between the Indonesian and Malaysian governments, bringing to an end the Indonesian-Malaysian Confrontation.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the Confrontation was an undeclared war that began in 1962 involving New Zealand, Britain, and troops from Australia arriving in Borneo from March 1965.

“This year marks 55 years since the end of the Confrontation,” Minister Gee said.

“Malaya gained independence from the British in 1957 and the expectation from the Malayan Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman, and from the British, was for North Borneo to join Malaya in a new federation of Malaysia.”

The conflict had a focus on whether the former British colonies of Sabah and Sarawak which bordered Indonesian provinces on Borneo, would become part of Indonesia or of the newly federated Malaysia.

The Confrontation began in December 1962 with an attempted coup in North Borneo by pro-Sukarno rebels known as the Kalimantan National Army who tried to capture the Sultan of Brunei.

In 1962 northern Borneo was made up of the British controlled Brunei and the colonies of Sarawak and North Borneo (now known as Sabah). The rest of the island was made up of Indonesian provinces of Kalimantan.

Australian forces became involved in the conflict through our membership in the Far East Strategic Reserve and fought as part of a larger British and Commonwealth force under British command.

“During the conflict, Australia provided training and supplies to Malaysian troops, along with a number of Royal Australian Navy vessels to patrol the area,” Minister Gee said.

“On the 11th of August, the Last Post at the Australian War Memorial will feature Private Victor Herbert Richards of the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

“Private Richards was wounded in action in a firefight in Sarawak, Borneo on 15 June 1966. He was evacuated by stretcher at night to a jungle heli-pad and evacuated by RAF helicopter the following morning. He tragically died of his wounds in hospital on 20 June, aged 24.”

The Indonesian forces supported the coup leader, Sheikh A.M. Azahari. Although the coup itself was quickly suppressed by British and Gurkha soldiers, armed incursions from the Indonesian side of the border into northern Borneo continued, and Indonesian soldiers began to join Azahari's supporters.

On 11 August 1966 Indonesian President Suharto signed a peace treaty with Malaysia. The treaty recognised that the North Borneo states of Sabah and Sarawak would continue to be part of the Malaysian Federation.

“Tragically, 23 Australians were amongst the 114 Commonwealth serving members who lost their lives in the Confrontation. A further eight Australians were wounded,” Minister Gee said.

“I urge all Australians to pause for a moment today to remember the selfless service, courage and sacrifice of those who fought in the Indonesian-Malaysian Confrontation, and those who gave their lives in service of our nation.”

For more information, visit <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony>

Ray Payne OAM




Veteranweb Network

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, XL out of stock.
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 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

DAVID ADAMS	MAX FRANKLIN	DAVE QUIRK
KEN AGNEW	M.K. FUSSELL (KIA Afghanistan)	JOHN RAINEY
R. G. ALTHAUS	BILL GALLAGHER	PETER RAINSBURY
LES ASHBY	LANCE GILKINSON	CLIVE RALFE
DENIS ALFRED ATHERTON	ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY	ALEX REYNOLDS
TOM BANFIELD	GEOFF HAACK	JOE ROUSE
CLARE (BONNIE) BASSAN	BARRY HANDLEY	JOHN SALMON CBE
TREVOR BEER	NEIL HARDEN	BRIAN SCOTT
FRANK BERRIER	MICK HARKEN	PETER SEDDON
S.J. BLANCH (OAS Malaya)	DAVID (BANGER) HARRIS	PETER SHARP
N. L. J. 'COCO' BOSTOCK	RON HART	JOHN SHEEHAN
DOUG N. BRYAN	EDWARD HAWKEN	ALBERT (ALBY) SHERIDAN
MALCOLM J. BUGG	B.D. HENDERSON (OAS Malaya)	ALAN SINGH
DONALD CALLAGHAN	TERRY JOBSON	NOEL SMALL
GORDON CARMICHAEL	REG KELLY	R. F. SMITH
TOM CARRUTHERS	KEN KENNEDY	ALLAN (BRUNO) SNEDDON
CLIVE CASTLES	JOHN KNIGHT	LESLEY (SQUIZZY) TAYLOR
KEITH CHRISTENSEN	BOBBY LEWIS	ROHAN THOMPSON
RAYMOND CLARKE	BILL LIDDELL OAM	IAN UHLMANN
REG CLATWORTHY	KENNETH LYONS	PETER W. WALTON
HARRY COOK	JOHN MACDONALD	DONALD DAVID WEIR
PAT DALY	BERNARD McMAHON	BRIAN WHISKER
RAY DAVIS	BARRY MARR	JACK WHITEHEAD
TOM DAWSON	I.G. MATHERS (KIA Vietnam)	JOHN WHITELAW AO, CBE
DON DONKIN MBE	IAN MEIBUSCH A.M	BERNARD (PLONKY) WINE
JOHN DOWNES	LLOYD MITCHELL	GUS WOOLFE
R.M. DUCAT (OAS Malaya)	KEVIN MITCHELL	JOHN WORBOYS
RICHARD DUGGAN	JACK MILLIGAN	
NOEL EGAN	E. J. (LOFTY) MOORE	
REGINALD ETIENNE	BRIAN MURTAGH	
JOHN CHARLES FERGUSON	JIM PONTING	
BEVAN FILCE	R.J. PARKER (OAS Vietnam)	
MAURICE FONTAINE	DARYL PATCH	
GEORGE FORSYTHE	GODFRAY PRIEST AM	

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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<http://afdbty.australianartilleryassociation.com>

