

# 1871 - 2021

## 'A' Fd Bty Association Inc.

### National Newsletter

# January 2021

#### **President's Report.**

Greetings one and all, and welcome to the new year. The past one was one I am sure most of us would rather forget. It has made us rethink what we took for granted in life and tried to adapt to the current way of things. There are some good things to report in this newsletter and some not so good as well. I will get the latter out of the way first. I received the following email from Phill Adams, the youngest son of David Adams, on the 19<sup>th</sup> January.

Good morning Gents, my name is Phill Adams , David's youngest son, sadly David passed away last Saturday 16 January after several weeks of illness, his funeral service will be at Norwood Crematorium Mitchell ACT at 1030 am, Monday 25 January 2021.

A great man 90 years young, married 70 years, he will be sadly missed.

Kind regards

Phill Adams

David was our ACT liaison officer of only several months standing. A sad loss for his family and for those of us who served with him. A wreath was sent to the funeral on behalf of the Association. And now on with the rest of the news.

#### **1) 2020 AGM.**

Our 2020 AGM was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 using a combination of traditional and modern communications facilities. Due to the covid-19 situation, it was not possible for a major gathering of members at any one place to occur, so as well as having a Zoom electronic media setup we also had a small socially-distanced gathering of members at my residence. In all, there were enough for a quorum and the meeting went ahead with not too much trouble.

The election of office-holders in the Association occurred as I had outlined in the previous newsletter, that is, all current committee members were elected unopposed for the next year. Ample notice was given for others to nominate for any position and since none were forthcoming, and there were no objections, we were all re-elected. I thank the membership for their continuing confidence in our stewardship of the Association and we will be giving it our best shot for the coming year at least.

Murphy's Law struck with at least one of the Zoom attendees, Peter Kimball, whose internet went down at exactly the wrong moment and he had to ring in to continue his attendance. Some of the others who had expressed a desire to attend via Zoom also failed to materialise. I can only hope their service is up and running again. The Zoom application is looking like it will be a permanent fixture at all future AGM's, either because of covid border restrictions or to allow remote or infirm

members to attend without the expense and inconvenience of actually travelling long distances. I think this is going to be the way all of our meetings will have to be organised. Its a brave and different new world out there and we had better learn to move with it or get left behind.

The AGM brought up some new ideas covering several topics. Several suggestions were made by attendees and will be considered and acted upon by the committee at our next meeting. Continuous improvement has been a catch-cry of many much larger organisations and there is no reason why we should not strive to do better as well. And it is good to see the membership getting involved and contributing in a productive way.

## **2) 2021 AGM.**

The next AGM will be held at Sawtell NSW over the second weekend in September, 2021. At this stage, it is only a proposal, not a definite arrangement, due to the fluctuating situation with covid-19 lockdowns and border closures. There is every chance it will go ahead but governments being what they are may see things differently when the time comes. Anyway, we will continue to work towards the Sawtell AGM with Zoom access for those unable to get there. If it turns out we cannot travel at the time, it will just have to be a full-on Zoom AGM like the last one.

So, gentlemen, circle the second weekend in September on your calendars and, just in case, brush up on your Zoom practices too.

## **3) Refurbishment of Henry Green's Grave.**

As requested by Ms. Sheila Green, our association has taken no further action regarding the grave upgrade. We do have a "donations" account set up and ready to go if and when it is needed, but at this stage we will be in "stand-by" mode until required.

## **4) 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

I have still not had any more information from the Army's coordinating committee for 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities apart from what I have already circulated. We are on their mailing list so we should be getting updates as soon as they occur.

## **5) Going National.**

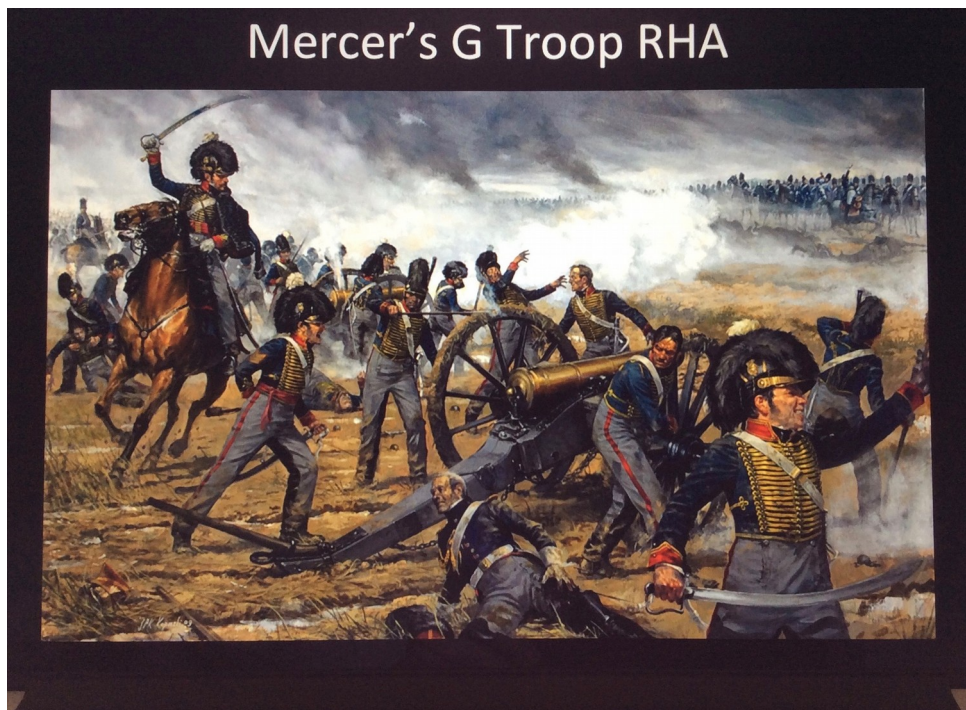
I have still not heard anything from the QLD Department of Fair Trading regarding the requirement to have a QLD secretary. I think they probably have other more important things to worry about at the moment so we will give them a few more months to work it out before I start to harass them again.

## **6) Other News.**

An enquiry by Mrs. June Duggan was made to Tex regarding the restoration of a 25 pounder in a park in Coonabarabran which is in desperate need of refurbishment. I spoke to Graham Hampton from the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society to see if they are aware of any organisations that could do refurbishment work on the particular gun she was concerned about. He tells me that there are no such groups that he knows of in Australia, and that she should perhaps write to the local council to see if they can do the work since it belongs to them and it is in their park.

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

**Captain Cavalie Mercer**  
**Troop Commander**  
**G Troop – Royal Horse Artillery**  
**in**  
**The Battle of Waterloo**



A British Troop of guns in the battle of Waterloo was commanded by a Captain Cavalie Mercer. G Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, consisted of five (5) 6 pounder field pieces and one (1) howitzer. The men were well trained and the Troop was well provisioned with ammunition.

G Troop was on the extreme right flank of Wellington's army and because of changes in the battle, the Troop was moved to the centre of the line, where there was heavy fighting. G Troop was very vulnerable, however there was an infantry square close at hand the Troop could escape too.

French Heavy Cavalry of Napoleon's Imperial Guard began to position for an attack on the guns. Wellington sent an aide to inform Captain Mercer to move his horses and men into the infantry square for protection. *Mercer refused to leave his guns and instantly decided to stand and fight.* At 1515 hours on 18 June 1815 a division of French Imperial Cavalry attacked and the gunners retaliated with heavy fire from all guns. When the cavalry failed, Napoleon ordered his Grenadiers of the Imperial

Guard to attack. Again the gunners stood firm and opened fire with case-shot at close range, causing heavy casualties among the French Grenadiers. Napoleon was incensed with the failure of the cavalry and grenadiers. He ordered his Curassiers to attack the guns. Mercer waited until they were within 50 metres and opened fire. Mercer was prepared for all charges and this time he double-loaded his guns with case-shot over ball. When the guns fired the whole front rank of Curassiers fell from the case-shot and the ball that followed took out the following ranks.

The ground became impassable with the French dead and wounded men and the multitude of horses. It was not possible to launch any more assaults on the gun position.

Remarkably, G Troop only had 5 men killed and 15 wounded, and he lost 69 horses in the fight. G Troop fired 700 rounds of ammunition in that short afternoon engagement. Although Mercer and his gunners stood their ground, Wellington was not happy with him disobeying orders, and it was some considerable time before Mercer was promoted.

Major Ray Alcorn (rtd) standing behind Captain Mercer's grave at a church in Exeter, UK.








# 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. Currently out of XL.
Shirts, Polo (Old Pattern)	\$35.00	
DVD, "Malayan Episode"	\$10	Currently out of stock. 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

DAVID ADAMS 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 CLIVE CASTLES KEITH CHRISTENSEN RAYMOND CLARKE REG CLATWORTHY HARRY COOK PAT DALY RAY DAVIS TOM DAWSON DON DONKIN MBE JOHN DOWNES R.M. DUCAT (OAS Malaya) RICHARD DUGGAN NOEL EGAN REGINALD ETIENNE JOHN CHARLES FERGUSON BEVAN FILCE MAURICE FONTAINE GEORGE FORSYTHE MAX FRANKLIN M.K. FUSSELL (KIA Afghanistan)	BILL GALLAGHER LANCE GILKINSON ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY GEOFF HAACK BARRY HANDLEY NEIL HARDEN MICK HARKEN DAVID (BANGER) HARRIS RON HART B.D. HENDERSON (OAS Malaya) TERRY JOBSON REG KELLY KEN KENNEDY JOHN KNIGHT BOBBY LEWIS BILL LIDDELL OAM KENNETH LYONS JOHN MACDONALD BERNARD McMAHON BARRY MARR I.G. MATHERS (KIA Vietnam) IAN MEIBUSCH A.M LLOYD MITCHELL KEVIN MITCHELL JACK MILLIGAN E. J. (LOFTY) MOORE BRIAN MURTAGH JIM PONTING R.J. PARKER (OAS Vietnam) DARYL PATCH GODFRAY PRIEST AM DAVE QUIRK JOHN RAINEY PETER RAINSBURY	CLIVE RALFE ALEX REYNOLDS JOE ROUSE JOHN SALMON CBE BRIAN SCOTT PETER SEDDON PETER SHARP JOHN SHEEHAN ALBERT (ALBY) SHERIDAN ALAN SINGH NOEL SMALL R. F. SMITH ALLAN (BRUNO) SNEDDON 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
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### **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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