



# The Germ Journal



**Issue Number: 40**  
**31 March 2011**

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Welcome to the March 2011 Edition of the Germ Journal (the Ex-104 Battery Member's Newsletter).

**Vale: Kevin Ruel Scrimshaw (SCRIMMY)**  
**8 February 1946 – 25 January 2011**

Scrimmy's passing was a low light in the last quarter.

Graham Floyd has provided us with the following eulogy:

Scrimmy was born at Paddington Hospital on the 8 February 1946. His schooling at Secondary level was undertaken at Kogarah Boys High and at an early age he was determined to enlist into the Army.

He joined the School Cadets and then the then CMF. His CMF service came about because his father would not sign his papers until he finished an apprenticeship. His determination was already being displayed, for not only did he complete an electrical apprenticeship by day; he also attended TAFE at night to complete an electrical engineering course.

When Scrimmy enlisted in 1967 he was already an experienced soldier from his CMF days and more "worldly" due to his civilian work. This was very evident throughout his 6 years with 104 Fld Bty.

On our 1<sup>st</sup> Tour he was promoted to Bombardier, a little over 12 months after enlistment. Already he was breathing down Bruce Johnston's neck for quick promotion! We cannot let our 1<sup>st</sup> Tour slip by without mention of that MOUSTACHE!

Between tours Scrimmy transferred from the guns to FO duties. Scrimmy and Flood were among the first and only OR's to attend an Officer's Course. In Oct 1970 they attended the FO Basic with Scrimmy topping the course with Flood close behind (perhaps that spoilt it for those to follow!).

An almost fatal vehicle accident at High Range shortly before we left on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour followed by a serious illness had us all in doubt as to whether he would be able to make the Tour. 104 were already in country when Scrimmy joined us. Once again his determination saw him through.

Scrimmy was discharged in 1973 and pursued an outstanding career with Tetra Pak. 104 Reunions were very important to Scrimmy and he never lost his "love" for this family.

Sadly Scrimmy was diagnosed with cancer in August 2010.

A very courageous battle followed until he passed away in late January 2011.

Rest in Peace, Scrimmy.

**Vale: Jason Robert Galland**  
**21 August 1970 – 28 January 2011**

I was informed of the passing of Adrian (Shorty) and Dot Galland's son Jason at the early age of 40.

Shorty and Dot, the 104 Battery Family are thinking of you and express there sincere condolences.

## Contact List Updates:

If any Germ has an E-mail address that is not recorded on the Contact List please let me know (corcorf@bigpond.net.au). It will save time and money if all I have to do is mail out electronically.

New/Change of address, etc.: -

Brian Armstrong's email address:  
[reddato@fwi.net.au](mailto:reddato@fwi.net.au)

Gary Harrington's new address:  
20/65 Northern Hwy  
Echuca 3564  
Phone: 54822051  
Email unchanged.

I'm still looking for email addresses for Bruce Cowan, Rod Cocking, Peter Small, Mike Clee, Stuart McArthur, Ted Watson and Joe Candy.

If any one can help me out it would be appreciated?

## 12 Field Regiment RAA Association:

To all 104 Battery Germs,

This is disgracefully my first inclusion into the Germ Journal. I have to admit that Frank Corcoran has always given us a chance for contribute to the journal, but for some reason we have never done so. From now on, I promise that the Association will contribute to the Germ Journal. This will be an addition to our quarterly news letters we already send to our Association members.

The Association now has around 325 members; sadly around 60 members have become unfinancial since August last year. This is a worrying trend and we have sent out reminders to all those who are unfinancial. I feel sure in many cases it was just forgotten and like last year most of the renewals will come in eventually.

Now some of you may be asking what you get for your ten dollars per year. First of all, members of the Association are covered by insurance for any function that is held by the Association including all Batteries the Association represents. If 104 Battery were to hold a function independent of the Association **all members of the Association** are covered by our insurance we pay each year to the Royal Australian Artillery Association. The insurance premium costs the Association around five hundred dollars per year. Your Association is planning a Regimental Reunion in Adelaide in 2012 and a large part of the costs for this reunion will be paid by the Association. We are envisaging a contribution by your Association of around \$6,000.00. We also send out a newsletter four times per year.

As you can see from just the three points above the membership fee of \$10.00 per year is but a drop in the ocean. The birth of the Association was just over five years ago when we had a Regimental Reunion in Newcastle. At that Reunion the R.S.M. of the first tour of Vietnam, Les Partridge, suggested that we form an Association inclusive of all 12 Field Regiment Batteries that toured Vietnam and this was inaugurated. Since the evolvement the Association, it has grown in leaps and bounds and we have a bank balance any Association would be proud of. Most of the money has come from items we have sold to ex-Gunners via our website or though our Treasurer. This happened in the early years of the Association.

By the time you read this we will hopefully have had our AGM. We need a quorum of ten members to be in attendance. Every year we struggle to find enough members to attend or even run for a position on the Executive Committee. I know that we have members all over Australia but we also have a lot of members in close proximity to Sydney, who could attend and participate in the running of our Association. This year I am happy to say that 104 Battery's, Graham Floyd (Floody), is nominating for Vice President and he will be more than welcome.

Over the years the Association has been accused of being to 102 Battery centric and I honestly can not see why this occurs. I have in the past encouraged members from all Battery's to be part of the Executive

Committee. We have in fact had John Sullivan of 104 Battery as immediate Past President and the late Kevin (Scrimmy) Scrimshaw on the committee. We also have Graham Ryland, ex HQ Battery. We have a great website that includes photos of days long passed from all Batteries of 12 Field Regiment. The site is becoming a little stale now and we welcome contributions from anyone from any Battery who wish to contribute. The contributions must be sent to our Secretary or myself as this is a stipulation by our Webmaster. We will then forward them to the Webmaster to put on the web site. The Webmaster has been great and all the work that he has done for us is gratis.

As from this month the Germ Journal will be available for viewing via our website **12fieldregiment.com**. It will be on a page headed Germ News.

Well that's my lot for now. Until next time.

Kind Regards,

Rob "Cossie" Costello.

The Association AGM was held on Friday 25 March 2011. The following Members were elected to the various positions.

President, Rob Costello.

Vice President, Graham Floyd.

Secretary, Ian Ryan.

Treasurer, John Beer.

Committee, Laurie Bird.  
Ray Glover.  
Rob Lowry.  
Tony Marshall.  
David Prizeman.  
Graham Ryland.

State Representatives.

Neil Mangels (Tas).  
Stuart McEwan (WA).  
Trevor Bryant (SA).  
Dale Quigley (Qld).

#### **Royal Australian Artillery Association:**

No Report this quarter.

#### **National Artillery Museum at North Fort, North Head:**

I guess everyone is aware of what is happening up at North Fort. We can only watch and wait to see what happens with the Museum.

#### **Reunions:**

Adelaide 2013;

I received this note from Bob Dehle

It is only two years away from our next get together, this time in the city of churches, Adelaide.

Our next meeting with the staff at the Adelaide Shores Resort at West Beach will be straight after Easter, at which time we will be given an indication of the 2013 rates for the different types of accommodation

available there. The resort is not able to take individual bookings more than two years out from an event, so we will organize to take booking from June 2011.

Please lock in the dates 23rd April to 27th April 2013 for the formal part of the Reunion and plan to come early and stay longer to enjoy what Adelaide and surrounds has to offer.

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McCracken SA 5211  
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Mobile: 0407406110  
Email" [bobdehle69@bigpond.com](mailto:bobdehle69@bigpond.com)

**Items of Interest:**

Contributions from around the country follow;

Rob and Rosemary Brooker's News: -

Hi all,

We went to Adelaide for Christmas with all our kids and grand-daughters to enjoy time with both our Mums, so that was very enjoyable. Since then, we have been to Temora in NSW where Rob played lawn bowls. Rob also went to Cowra for a 4 day competition, so he is keeping busy and getting lots of Vitamin D.

Our granddaughters are now in Kindy and Preschool. We can't believe how fast they have grown. We have been busy helping our son Steven in the last few months, since he injured his knee and had reconstruction surgery to repair his ACL and other damage. It made us think how difficult it is when you can't drive. When we downsize, we will plan to have good access to the local bus service if we ever need it.

We talked to Ric and Toshiko last week to get an update on their Christmas holiday, Ric's medical treatment and to confirm that Toshiko's family is safe in Japan. Toshiko said she hates earthquakes, which is why she left Japan 40 years ago and I can understand how she feels. We had left a couple of messages on their answering machine and then I sent a text message. Ric said that he had been having issues getting emails and phone messages, but he received the message on his mobile, so that was good.

We were planning to go to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey next year, but with the unrest in that area, we decided that may not be a good place to be, so we are now organising to go to South America in April 2012. I am doing the planning and Rob said to let him know when it is time to pack his bags!

Regards to all.

Rosemary and Rob

Ray and Fay Carlin's News: -

G'day Frank,

Roof on, brickwork finished, wiring done, wall and ceilings installation starts next week, still living in hootchie, er... caravan. @\$&\* Beechwood !

A good roll up of Germs at Scrimmy's Funeral, a dignified send off for a dignified digger

Nothing else to report

Regards

Ray and Fay

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

The main attraction in the Corcoran household has been the preparation for Nadia's wedding on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April. The wedding is at RIVA a Restaurant/Function Centre at the St Kilda Marina here in Melbourne and the cheque book is getting a real work out. Doesn't anybody elope any more?

I have to share this Paulaism with you all. Nadia had the final fitting for her wedding dress last Friday and afterwards Paula said to her not eat any junk food between then and the wedding, otherwise she would not fit into the dress on the day. Then in the next breath Paula said I'm not cooking tonight we are having Hamburgers and Chips from the Fish Shop.

Jacko, Deadly, Frank Flegg and I had lunch over at Springvale RSL a couple of weeks ago. It was good to catch up with the big bloke, Fleggy, as he managed to get away from the pastoral empire that he runs at Marong.

I'm afraid my Water Polo days are numbered, my arms can't take the grappling and throwing any more and I don't want to do a real damage that prevents me from swimming altogether. I always said it was a non contact sport but no one ever did believe me. I referee our Sunday morning game now and that allows every one to play rather than be rostered to referee as was the case previously. Being abused as a referee or player it doesn't make much difference to me.

You will recall I was involved in establishing an Honour Board at the Woomera Area School for past students that had served Australia in times of conflict, post World War 2. The RSL in Adelaide are sponsoring a Best Player Medal for all the ANZAC Day matches played in all the Football Leagues through out SA. I had an email from the RSL State President, Jock Statton, to see if I would be interested in having the Woomera Football League ANZAC Day Match's Medal named after me, as I went to school, worked, played football and was a veteran from Woomera. I was rather humbled by the approach to be quite honest and I had to explain to him I was a bit of a draft horse when it came to football. However, if the locals had no objection it would be an Honour. So there you go.

Paula and I trust every one has a great Easter and ANZAC Weekend and if you are traveling drive safely.

Frank and Paula

Mick and Jan Crawford's News: -

Hi Frank,

Just to let you know that on a return trip from Canberra, Jan and I traveled via Nerriga and Tianjara (the road has now been re-aligned and fully sealed except for about 8 kilometres near Braidwood) to Jervis Bay and had a very pleasant lunch with Jim B2 at the Huskisson RSL. Afterwards we visited the Marine Rescue Base with "The Major" as he is fondly called by the other members. He is in fine form and we had a good chat about the Battery.

I can fully recommend a trip via Nerriga from Canberra to Nowra or Jervis Bay. It takes about two and a half hours. A worthwhile stop off point is the lookout at Tianjara Falls.

Last month I was delighted to run into Dennis Gorrick at a coffee cafe in Manly. He is very much involved with amateur swimming in NSW. He was at the cafe to sign off on a deal with a swimming costume firm. It was a pity we didn't have more time to catch up.

I will be marching on ANZAC Day locally at Forster. It will be good test for the new hip.

All the best to the Germs and have an enjoyable ANZAC Day.

Mick

Dick Duane's News: -

G'day fellow Germs,

I'm about 10 metres above high tide, so I have no probs with flooding. But my brother and wife Ann (some might remember Ann from Townsville, a teacher at the time) had their home at Indooroopilly flooded to the eaves. Piano, Moran leather lounges, electricals and floor coverings all done for. Any thing too heavy or large that couldn't be shifted by 2 people to higher ground, ended up on the footpath. Kitchen and all plaster board walls, gone. Somewhat similar to Marysville, but the house still stands. With time, will repair.

Sincere thanks to all who donated to the flood appeal.

Cheers.

Dick

John Hannon's News: -

Germs,

We got through the cyclone almost unscathed, one of the trees ended up against the house but I lost at least 40 trees and palms in my rainforest. We lost power for a week but no one was hurt so all is fine.

Hanno

John and Barbara Herbert's News: -

Greetings to All,

Hope everyone is healthy and happy. We have been kept busy the last six months with John's mum and her partner who have both been battling cancer. They now seem to be on the mend, fingers crossed.

John's health is okay, although he has just gone to the doctors. He is 70% deaf and he is trying to get something to help. The first set of hearing aids proved unsuccessful so he will have to try something else.

I've been doing a bit of casual teaching, need to keep up to date with what's happening with children. Must say it is an eye opener!!

Cheers

Barb and John

Gordon and Sue Johnson's News: -

I received a few emails from Johnno over the quarter, which I have strung together.

Good day girls and boys,

The flooding here in Brisbane is mainly in the areas near the Brisbane River and also around Ipswich. Most of the Germs I know live in the northern areas of Brisbane. We just got heaps of rain but no flooding. Bribie Island was cut off by road, Russ Pullen lives there but I think he's out nomading at the moment. I'll let you all know if I hear any other news.

I'll just give you the information on the new 104 Op Battery, maybe it will be of interest to the rest of the gang. The battery now doesn't have any Guns, they do target observation only and that data is then sent back to the Guns. A Field Battery is the Battery they are working with within 1 Field Regiment. The manning of the Battery is the BC, BSM, 3 Sergeants, 3 Bdrs, 1 Cpl Q Store, Signallers and Drivers. All up a total manning of around 30 people and all they do is the actual target recognition. This can be done by any

method including remote controlled aircraft and some of the Battery personnel have done the course on them in America. This is basically what we were told the day we visited the Battery at Enoggera. I hope this gives the boys a bit of an insight into our old Battery

Just a bit more on the Battery. The remote controlled are used using mouse type joysticks, one works the planer and the other works the camera/GPS system. Once they lock onto a target the info is sent by computer back to the Gun Battery Command Post. They obviously still have the conventional FO Parties, the BC still has his Sergeant and also a Bdr and Sigs etc. The Sig Courses are run for all at Pucka by the tankies and for the last part of the course the arty blokes go to the School of Arty to do their arty section of the course. The first part of the course is all Corps, big changes from the old days eh.

Cheers

Johnno and Sue

Phil and Glen Johnston's News: -

Frank, no great problem re floods from un-usually heavy rain-fall in Qld.

My mate from just down the road has registered 48 inches (old gauge but workable) of rain since December 1, 2010, the majority in the recent week or two. At times we had 50 mls or close to 2 inches per hour. In my location we did not have too much of a problem due to the access of our excessive water to vent to sea. It was over the revetment wall a number of times and needed constant re-adjustment of the boat and a clean-up today. The tides eventually cleared the problem out to sea. My immediate thoughts are for blokes like Chicka Hayden and others that may not be on high ground.

My heart goes out to those (and so many of them) that cannot and could not do anything to counter the force that confronted their homes and areas. No one thing can fix human tragedy in society, we work, build and live in flood prone areas, fact of life, because they produce.

My particular gripe at the moment is the lack of political brains (federal AND state) to flood-proof our (Australia's) highways (our major access up and down the east coast) so that vital access and re-supply can happen instantly and not wait until roads are rebuilt and bridges made safe. At this stage the vast majority of water and its destructive forces has moved from North Queensland down through Bundaberg, Gympie, the Lockyer Valley (a whole small town wiped out there) Toowoomba, Brisbane and now heading for Goondiwindi and NSW to spread out and lessen the impact. But all the while destroying peoples (families) livelihoods. We the people and by extension (political forces) do seem to become preoccupied with big issues like NBN (with dubious benefits for the cost), perhaps to re-claim lost votes and forget about the basics like people and their survival and production.

Do the right thing first, its not as if we do not have data that says this happens in our area and climate. Alas we still have the cyclone season ahead of us.

Cheers mate

Phil and Glen.

Col Jones' News: -

I received this note from Col.

Scrimmy considered me his mentor. We met again in Coffs Harbour in 2003 and I wrote this.

**"SCRIMMY"**

My dear lost friend with whom I served in war,  
How truly thrilled I am to know you live,  
And reflecting on the evil that we saw,  
How much obliged I am that you did give,  
Abundance of yourself without redress,

As duty bound we were to serve our task,  
Divided not by consequence and stress,  
Though of your better thought I did not ask.  
I served with many but you are one alone,  
Who shared a friendship that I perceived as true,  
And that has lived like marrow in my bone,  
For from a precious seed your friendship grew.  
Bless you mate and thank you for your time,  
Love to your wife, from me and from mine.

Col Jones.

Mal and Sue Nowill's News: -

G'day Frank,

First time I have written into the Journal and as you can see I am not at my home address. I am currently deployed to Darwin spending my time between here and Dili, in East Timor. Sue is still looking after the Olive Grove back in New Zealand whilst I am swanning it up here in the "Top End". Life is good both here and in NZ although living on a RAAF Base has its challenges.

If anybody is passing through this way my contact details are below.

Cheers

Mal and Sue

Greg and Barb Petersen's News: -

Hello Frank,

We are fine here where we are. We live about 20 km from the CBD on the north side of Brisbane. Absolutely devastating the images we are seeing on the television, as is all of Australia, I imagine. We are so thankful we live in the 25% of Queensland that has not been affected by the flood. Some people's lives will never be the same again. Incomprehensible, we are the lucky ones.

Natalie and her husband are in NZ at the moment due home next Monday. At this stage there is no access to their house with road closures, so chances are they will have to come here, but maybe in three to four days the roads could open and providing there is no structural damage access will be available.

Hope all is well

Greg and Barbara

Russ and Marilyn Pullen's News: -

Hi Frank and Paula,

It has been a bit different here on the home front, for a few months anyway. I had open heart surgery on 4 January, a double bypass, aortic valve transplant and aortic root replacement. All going well but always something to whinge about, the valve is mechanical and the ticking noise is very loud and disconcerting to say the least.....there are alternatives of course.

So we are heading north to see the new grandson and then on to as far as Ayr (perhaps) depending of course on the weather. We will be away until about June/July.

Both of us well, Cooeee.

Russ and Marilyn

#### Denise Scrimshaw's News: -

Denise and Paula had a good talk on the telephone recently.

Many Germs contacted me in regard to Scrimmy's passing and asked me to pass on their respective condolences to Denise, son Ian and his wife Margaret and their two children Alex and Liana.

Denise asked me to pass on her many thanks to all the Germs that sent their condolences.

#### Barry and Sue West's News: -

I received the following updates from Barry who is courageously battling his illness.

December 2010:

Dear family, friends and colleagues,

As mentioned some weeks ago now, the initial drug therapy with the Thalidomide/steroid treatment gave some positive results, with the M-Protein levels falling. I was due for another review with the haematologist on 29 November (which went ahead), but it appeared that the M-Protein levels (a measure of the growth rate of the cancer) were again rising, so as a check, I had further tests done in early December, and again about two weeks ago. Unfortunately, the M-Protein levels are still continuing to rise, which isn't the news I really wanted to hear. What that means for me is that in early January, I will most likely be put onto a new course of drug therapy, using the "Son of Thalidomide" as the haematologist described it, stronger and hopefully more effective. From there I guess I will be closely monitored to check out the progress or otherwise of the protein levels to see if they are being slowed down. All trial and error stuff really, but what else does one do? In the meantime, I'll continue to hope 2011 will bring better news than did 2010.

On a brighter note, Susan and I had an early Christmas celebration last week, with Christine, David and Oliver down from Darwin and David's Mum down from Tamworth, staying with us for a week. David's younger brother Paul (recently returned from Afghanistan) also dropped in. David's father (a Vietnam veteran) passed away last year. Chris, Dave and Oliver have now returned to Darwin, madly packing up all their goods and chattels as they head for Adelaide from 6 January, with David getting a posting to Adelaide (Hampstead Barracks). It was great to see them all (and especially Oliver) after so long, and maybe we might get the opportunity to see them a bit more often in 2011. Susan and I are now looking forward to having Christmas with Simon, Cheree and Cheree's family on Saturday.

Well, that will do for now, and we will endeavour to keep you all informed as news (good or bad) comes to hand.

January 2011:

Hi everyone,

Well the latest news as at 11 Jan was not brilliant, but here goes. Since Nov. 29 last year I have had a number of blood tests to monitor how the cancer was reacting to the Thalidomide/dexamethasone chemo treatment and unfortunately, after the initial burst the cancer took over fairly quickly, with my M-Protein levels continually rising from 4 (relatively low) back up to 16 (not good!). Consequently, on 11 Jan. my Haematologist placed me on to a newer treatment (approved in USA in 2006, and UK in 2007) combining Lenalidomide with Dexamethasone. So really, all we have done is replaced Thal. with Len. The Lenalidomide is a derivative of Thalidomide (actually more like a second cousin than the son of, as referred to in one of my previous emails), but is considerably stronger, and recent studies in the USA have shown a success rate of 29% over the Thalidomide treatment, so I guess we can say phase 2 is now under way. One of the downsides of this new treatment is that the Lenalidomide has some more serious side effects over the Thalidomide, but I won't go into those. The plan now is to monitor the progress over the next 4-6 months and depending on the results, whether I'll be looking at stem cell therapy further down the track. Only time will tell. My next review with the Haematologist is planned for the 15th March, but blood monitoring will continue on a more regular basis and as usual, I'll keep you informed of the progress.

March 2011:

Family, friends, colleagues and ex-service friends,

#### Health

Susan and I have just returned from a visit to the haematologist, but not armed with the news we were hoping. I have been on a new drug (Lenalidomide) now for several months, but long enough to assess its effectiveness, and unfortunately, my M-protein levels (a measure of the aggressiveness of the growth of the cancer) continue to climb. In fact they are now at the highest level so far measured, which isn't good news. Anyway, looks like I am now going to try another new treatment involving a drug called Bortezomib combined with corticosteroids. Always wanted to be a human guinea pig. Apparently these drugs will result in a number of unpleasant side effects, which I won't go into (but if you are interested, I suppose you could always Google it up anyway). Eventually, depending on the success or otherwise of this treatment, it looks like I could then go down the path of stem cell replacement therapy as a follow on from the Bortezomib treatment. Only time will tell. As I said, not the news we were hoping for, but hey, there's another day out there, and I'm planning to keep fighting for as long as it takes. What other choice do I have? I've had my up-days and down-days over the last few months, but I make no apologies for the fact I'm not ready to throw in the towel while there are other options out there to be trialled. I see other army mates succumb to the "Big C" and I say to myself "things to do, places to go" yet, so don't rush me, I'll be there when I'm good and ready, but it ain't just yet thanks. Just hope the Big Fella in the sky is listening.

Wish the news were better, but I guess I'll have to take it as it comes.

#### Family

Susan and I are looking forward to becoming grandparents of twin boys, as our youngest (Simon) and his wife Cheree are expecting twins in June. That will make three grandsons, with daughter Christine and SIL David's son Oliver in Adelaide. Christine and David recently moved to Adelaide from Darwin, with David a WOII at Hampstead Bks and Chris working as a civvy at Edinburgh.

#### Information wanted:

In April 1968, 4 Fld Regt fired it's last round in Vietnam, that was followed by 12 Fld Regt firing its first round in country. I was present during that ceremony and shortly after the fire mission, I "snaffled" one of the solid brass cartridge cases from that mission. I believe that it may be either 4 Fld's last round or 12 Fld's first round, but I have no way of knowing. The following information is stamped on the cartridge case and would appreciate if anyone out there might shed some light on it.

LS-501-9 105 mm M14 Type 1

1945 Lot No EM-5-262

Around the firing cap is stamped: -67LS137-345M28B212-

Guess that will do for now

Regards to you all, and thanks for your continued well wishes and support.

Barry and Susan

#### General:

Next Edition will be June 2011 and I expect a few tall stories to come out of the Easter/ANZAC weekend that are suitable to be printed in the next Germ Journal.

Up the Ol' Red Rooster.

*Frank Corcoran*