



The Germ Journal



Issue Number: 44
31 March 2012

Welcome to the March 2012 Edition of the Germ Journal (the Ex-104 Battery Member's Newsletter).

VALE:

Terence James Hayes (Lofty)

Lofty was a long serving Artillery soldier and a lot of the National Servicemen may not have know him but certainly all the Regulars would have. Terry (Lofty) Hayes passed away on 15th December 2011 at the age of 72.

He was originally Air Defence but later came to Field Artillery, mainly 131 Div. Loc Bty. He had a very big funeral in Brisbane and some of the Gunners who attended were Russ Pullen, Leo Nicholson, Harry Lynus, Shorty Galland, Ian Board, Neil Layton and Gordon Johnson.

Lofty was very well known and very highly spoken of by members who knew him well. Lofty was 6 foot 7 and a half inches tall and a big boy to go with it.

Dennis John Hend

I received notice from Ian Ryan and regret to inform you of the passing of Dennis Hend earlier this month. Dennis served in H.Q. Battery and 2 tours in Vietnam, 7/09/1966 - 3/05/1967 with 1 Field Regiment and again, 7/05/1968 - 11/03/1969 with 12 Field Regiment.

Dennis is survived by his wife, Lyn.

Rest in Peace Terry and Dennis.

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.: -

Welcome aboard to Ken Hayes
Email address car1410@adam.com.au

Shorty Galland's new email address
agalland4@gmail.com

I am having trouble getting in touch with the following Germs who may have changed their respective email addresses. John Ryan, Grahame Collins and Laurie Frederiksen, so if anyone can help out it would be appreciated.

12 Field Regiment RAA Association:

Received from Graham Floyd.

Attached is the spiel that has been provided to the ABC, who are televising the Adelaide March, for inclusion in the Germ Journal. I have also included a photo of the Assn. Banner (sorry hardcopy in black and white). The Assn. has a sound membership base and as part of the President's Report, which I will deliver at the

AGM 24 Apr 2012, I will be stressing the need to attract new members as well as retaining existing members.

I believe that slowly but surely the Assn. is becoming a Regimental Assn. as was originally intended. It is still a work in progress as evidenced by the numbers for the Adelaide reunion; 92 at last count; we really do well at 104 Reunions.

We have members from all the Batteries, including 161 RNZA attending, with 102 having the largest contingent.

Have a great ANZAC Day and stay well.

Kind regards.

Flood and Jude.

Royal Australian Artillery Association:

No Report this quarter. However, Brian Armour sent me a RAAHC Update to go in the Germ Journal as things are starting to get back to normal at North Head after Army's departure last year. It is attached.

Reunions:

104 Battery Reunion Adelaide 2013

We have had acceptances for a total of over 70 members and partners so far, but we are stalled at the moment. Adelaide Shores have said they will still accept bookings at the 2011 prices for at least the next three months to help in this regard. Some members are paying for the accommodation on a monthly basis, so when you get here it is all paid for, not a bad idea.

I hope that those of you that have decided to come but have not booked yet will take advantage of the offer by Adelaide Shores and get in quick.

With regard to the program, we have tours organized for the Wednesday 24th April and Friday 26th April, so a chance to see the city sights as well as our renowned wine districts of the Barossa Southern Vales and the Adelaide Hills.

Please contact me if you need any assistance

Best Wishes

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Items of Interest:

Contributions from around the country follow;

Rob and Rosemary Brooker's News: -

We had a very pleasant morning tea at Old Parliament House with Jacko and Kath when they came to Canberra to visit the National Gallery. They gave us an update on the guys in Melbourne.

Rob has been busy since Christmas with Bowls and has been away for several Country Lawn Bowls Competitions. He is happy as his game is continuously improving. He has been a Reserve for Summer Pennants as we will be away for the Finals.

We leave Australia for a 5 week holiday in South America at Easter time. We are traveling to Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil and Argentina, featuring the Galapagos Islands, Amazon, Machu Picchu and Iguazu Falls. It is an exciting and busy tour so it should be a challenge for us, despite us doing lots of walking to get fit. We had heaps of vaccinations and bought our malaria tablets to take. Rob has been able to get a lot of his scripts through DVA as they now cover travel immunisations. We will be in Sacred Valley on Anzac Day and will be thinking of you all.

Our kids are all going well. Our younger granddaughter started school this year and has been given her own special tall chair so she can work properly and see over her desk. She was a preemie baby and has a bit of growing to catch up.

We have had a very mild summer in Canberra this year with lots of rain. In fact, we had 258 ml in 6 days early in March. Thankfully we had no damage to our property, but it was wonderful to finally get some sun.

Regards to all.

Rosemary and Rob

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

Not much happening on the home front here. I have had the all clear on my 9 month check up. The next stage is a PSA check at 12 months and if that's clear I will probably go out to a 12 month cycle of checks.

We had a great Christmas and New Year in Tassie with all the family. I have been back since for a few days as we are lucky with the cheap airfares. I got a return ticket to Hobart for \$170 but had to pay \$140 for parking at the airport. It does not seem to equate to me.

Anyway all the best for the Regimental Reunion in Adelaide and I'm looking forward to catching up with a few Germs here in Melbourne over the ANZAC Week.

Frank and Paula.

Dick Duane's News: -

Greetings fellow Germs,

A quiet life with no surprises. This ANZAC Day I will be uptown in Brisbane again hoping to catch up with Jeff Haack again. He marched last year and was totally beat at the end. So was I. With fewer people marching the pace is like a gallop. I cannot handle it, I will have to get a skate board, I'm getting OLD

Best of health to all.

Cheers.

Dick

Wes and Hellen Hall's News: -

Hellen and I would like to wish all who march under the new 104 Banner all the best and hope you have a great day.

We would love to join you but I am unable to fly at the moment. I am trying to fight off a second hip replacement unsuccessfully and four hours in the air is beyond me at the moment.

Cheers to all the Germs.

Hellen and Wes.

John and Sigrid Hannon's News: -

Hanno is back at martial arts training and instructing after a shoulder rebuild. I do 3 gym sessions a week and 4 martial arts lessons and instruct on others.

To help with fitness, I gave up the booze, except for Saint Patrick's Day and rides with the Bike Club.

I am still playing in an Irish Band but drink water, much to everyone's surprise

Hanno

Chika and Vicki Hayden's News: -

Hi guys,

Congratulations and well done with the Banner. It will be a proud Anzac March this year and I agree that the first presentation of the Banner should be in Melbourne. I just wish that I could be there with you, but God willing I'll join you in 2013.

Cheers,

Chika

John and Barbara Herbert's News: -

Hi all,

Not much news from sleepy little Tomerong. We spent a few days at Phillip Island with our local VVAA group and had a good time. The Vietnam Museum was very interesting.

We have just returned from our monthly barbeque with local group, becoming more involved, which is good.

Looking forward to catching up with all the Germs who will be in Melbourne for Anzac Day.

Hope all are well.

Cheers,

Barb and John

Lee and Rosemary Stockley's News: -

Hi Frank

August to October 2011, we spent eight weeks travelling to London and taking a 21 day tour of Britain and Ireland with Trafalgar Tours, which was terrific but mostly one night stays, which we found very tiring. From there we went back to Istanbul and did a private tour of Gallipoli. This was absolutely brilliant, the guide spent 14 hours with us (4 hours travelling each way) and showed us all that we wanted to see and more. He even suggested that we go to the Military Museum in Istanbul the next day however, he didn't mention that it was about an eight kilometre walk, we made it and it was certainly worth every step. They even had a band recital with all members decked out in Ottoman Empire uniforms and playing musical instruments from that period.

From Istanbul we took a flight to Rome and on the first day there we ran into Peter and Pauline Whitehead near the Spanish Steps!!!! After four days we took another Trafalgar Tour to Tuscany, which was more relaxing as we spent 6 nights in the one location. We saw enough of the area to put it on a "need to revisit" list. We came home via Hong Kong, six nights there was enough, so many people, so many high rises and too much pollution. A lot different from our last visit 25 years ago.

In February we decided we need another holiday to get over the last so headed to Bali for 3 weeks. Very relaxing sitting by the pool and reading, can't wait to go back.

Rosemary is heavily involved with her role as State President of the Ex-Wrans Association and now one of the Guardians of the ANZAC Memorial in Sydney as well as being our sub-Branch Secretary. This means that she is never home so the holidays are our time to catch up away from the phones.

My work as Pensions Officer at our RSL Club has dropped off considerably because DVA has now stationed personnel at the major ADF bases, either permanently or part time, but my role as Curator of the Military Memorabilia in the Club still keeps me busy.

I hope all are enjoying good health and looking forward to Adelaide in 2013.

Stockers

Barry and Sue West's News: -

January 2012

Dear family, friends and colleagues,

The good news. After the stem cell transplant in November and my recent bone marrow biopsy and blood tests, I visited my haematologist and she reported that the cancer paraprotein levels were now too low to measure and that I am in remission (technically, Very Good Partial Remission, as the cancer is not curable and hence full remission is not possible at this stage). What that means is I've got about another 18 months currently (keeping in mind that when diagnosed in mid 2010, I had 9 months). Of course, I still have about 5 million stem cells in frozen storage as well as an added bonus. Anyway, I'm now off all my medication except for a protective antibiotic and Susan and I are looking at a cruise somewhere for a few weeks (pending getting travel insurance of course).

Susan and I thank you all for your support over my many months of hospital visits and treatment (just for the record: upper right arm replacement, 4 separate bouts of radiation therapy, three separate chemotherapy treatments, a stem cell transplant and 'a partridge in a pear tree') and we now looking forward to some sort of normality in our life for a while.

March 2012

I had a bi-monthly review with the haematologist and the news is all good (or at least, as good as it gets). All my blood and kidney function tests were within the 'normal' range, one of my protein levels (indicative of my immune system being compromised) was elevated, not surprising seeing as they brought my immune system down to zero for the stem cell transplant, but most importantly, the paraprotein levels (the cancer indicators) were too low to detect. If the little bastards want a fight, they are gonna get one.

I still have ongoing issues relating to my lower back (initially, the cancer hit the base of my spine, and permanently damaged some of the nerve endings there. Consequently, I get a lot of lower back pain if I try to stand or walk for any length of time, hence my mobility is somewhat reliant on a wheelchair, walking stick and a wheelie walker. I am permanently on pain killers, starting to be like an 'old' person, also there is the partial loss of mobility of my right arm (having had the humerus replaced by a metal prosthesis). Having said that, I am feeling better now than I have over the last two years. I put a lot of that down to the love and care I have had from Susan, as well as the medical treatment (awful as it was at times) but I'm not sorry to see the end of the chemo and radiation, at least for the time being, so it's time to make hay while the sun shines (that is of course if the rain stops here in Canberra, otherwise we are going to need an ark) While we are both reasonably well (accepting of course that partial remission for 18 months is "well"), we have been taking the opportunity to have lunches or dinners with friends and colleagues from work, Vietnam Vets and the Australian War Memorial and we have been spending some time with our now 9-month old grandsons when the opportunity arises. They are at an interesting age now, just started crawling and wanting to explore the whole house like, "Nanny and Poppy, these DVDs look interesting, can we get them out and chew on them." Really though, they are just gorgeous, but mischievous little boys. Anyway, to finish off, Sue and I are off on a short P&O Cruise (9 days) around Noumea and Vanuatu 7 April to 16 April, just to see how things work out. Hopefully, very relaxing, with a crew and captain that all speak English and

not Italian, so should be ok (not that I have anything against Italians) and we are looking forward to it. Will keep some of you posted on the cruise.

Cheers

Barry and Susan

General:

As I mentioned in the last Germ Journal group of 14 Victorian based Germs banded together to have a 104 Battery Banner commissioned, at their own expense, for use on ANZAC Day and other suitable occasions. A copy is attached (sorry hardcopy in black and white) and it will be presented on ANZAC Day 2012.

The contributing Germs; Myles Charter, Alan Jackson, Neil Denham, Rick Polley, Laurie Owen, Graham Floyd, John Thompson, Brian O'Donoghue, Michael Fowler, Dave Mathers, Neil Graham, Frank Flegg, Terry O'Brien and Frank Corcoran.

Next Edition will be June 2012.

Up the Ol'Red Rooster.

Frank Corcoran