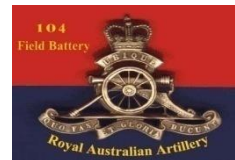




The Germ Journal



Issue Number: 65
30 September 2017

Welcome to the September 2017 Edition of the Germ Journal (the Ex-104 Battery Member's Newsletter).

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).

New/Change of address, etc.: -

Updated addresses:

Brian and Sandra O'Donohue's updated email address: Briano.odonohue1@bigpond.com

Dave and Sharyn Prizeman's updated email address: djprizeman@gmail.com

Looking for updated email address:

John Smith (Smiley), Bob Braid, Tony Galea, Paul Sambrook, Peter Small, Peter Robinson, Greg Mathews and Tony Faull seem to have changed email addresses. If anyone can help with a current email address, please let me know?

12 Field Regiment RAA Association:

No Report this quarter.

Royal Australian Artillery Association:

No Report this quarter.

104 Battery, 1 Regt. RAA:

The current Germs of 104 Battery have really embraced the Germ Journal and consider we former Germs remain part of the 104 Battery Family. I was overjoyed to receive the following contributions from the Battery

From the BC

Without question, 2017 has been a significant year in the history of the fighting 104th. With the split from 'A' Bty in late 2016, the Germs have worked hard to re-establish the Bty identity, whilst achieving not just some demanding and novel training, but also significant support to the wider Army, particularly during the first half of the year (the ironically-named 'reset' phase of the Force Generation Cycle).

The new CO (LTCOL Matthew Smith) gave me a task at the start of the year: to turn 104 Bty into counter-battery fire specialists. This is no small challenge: you can only imagine how hard it is to fight the enemy's self-propelled systems with our towed guns. The troops have risen to the challenge however, and achieved some incredible results. As proven on Exercise HIGHSIDE, they can go from live firing to being packed up and off position in under five minutes—an impressive feat, particularly given the sheer size and complexity of the M777 howitzer and the new vehicles.



Speaking of vehicles, 2017 has also seen the complete replacement of our Land Rovers, Macks and Unimogs with the new vehicle fleet: Mercedes-Benz G-Wagons replacing the Rovers, and the MAN HX77 and 40M replacing the Macks and Unimogs respectively. The MAN trucks offer a lot of opportunities, but I would be lying if I said they were without their challenges: they are much bigger, more powerful vehicles, and this has necessitated changes to the way we do business. The benefits outweigh the limitations however, and the HX77 in particular can drop its tray onto the ground, providing a ready-made platform for stores and ammunition—and the ease of resupply means our logistics brethren can feed the guns that much easier.

There is still much to achieve in the short time until Christmas stand-down. The Bty will deploy on Exercise GUNNER in mid-October, where our observers will work with our supported unit (2/14 Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry)), advising them in their live-fire battle runs. We will also conduct modified safety pistol gun shoots (which can only be described as 'artillery duels'), and culminate in a danger close practice, where we will bring the big 155 mm shells within 350 m of the observers.

Following from that exercise, we will transition into a busy courses period. Of note, the Bty will build its counter-fires capability by receiving two Lightweight Counter-Mortar Radars (LCMRs) and conducting a training package facilitated by 16 Air-Land Regiment. The inclusion of these radars will fundamentally change how the Bty looks, deploys and fights, and will help inform Army's future acquisitions, such as new artillery weapon and surveillance systems. Whilst other units have weapon-locating radars, they do not use them in this role: 104 Bty will not only become unique within the RAA but will have the only artillery radar detection and engagement capability within Army.

In closing, I would like to thank all Germs—both past and present—for their efforts and support throughout 2017. Our serving officers and soldiers have achieved much more than I thought possible, and they should be as proud of their efforts as I am of them. We also draw strength from the support of the Association and I will do my utmost to continue developing this relationship. Ideally, I would like to see an Association visit to a live-fire exercise... perhaps something to try and fit into the 2018 training program.

Major Robert O'Donnell
Battery Commander, 104th Battery

Regiment Athletics Carnival

By LT Nicholas Buckland
Fire Support Officer

On 01 Sep 17, 104 Battery participated in the Regimental athletics carnival at the University of Queensland. The carnival consisted of events ranging from the 3000mtr run down to the 100mtr sprint and field events such as Long Jump and Javelin.

Throughout the day we had some of our lead Germs such as PTE Wagstaff racing well, achieving the overall female athletics champion medal and GNR Bains placing in the top three in the 3000mtr, 800mtr and 400mtr events.

104 Battery had on the day many members competing in two or even three separate events and cheering on the other Battery members as they competed for points for the award of Champion Battery.

The Germ spirit was in full swing with our Battery support cheering on our youngest member, GNR Reudavey who performed well in the sprints and worked hard all day protecting our mascot 'The Germ' from the other battery rivals.

The event turned out to be a fantastic day away from barracks for the Battery. All members had the ability to compete in either a track or field event and 104 Battery placed second in the overall point tally. Well done by all competitors.



BDR Dunn - Javelin



GNR Thompson – Long Jump



Germ Tug of War Team led by WO2 Rogan

Exercise Coral

By LT Michael Robinson
Command Post Officer

Exercise CORAL was conducted in two phases over the course of the month of August. The first phase of Ex CORAL was conducted from the 07–17 Aug 17 and included training personnel on a multitude of weapon systems including the newly introduced upgrade of the Mk19 Automatic Grenade Launcher (AGL), the Mk47 AGL. With enhanced sighting systems and a compact lightweight design this new piece of equipment will equip the Gun Line with the necessary firepower to identify and neutralise a wide range of threat systems.



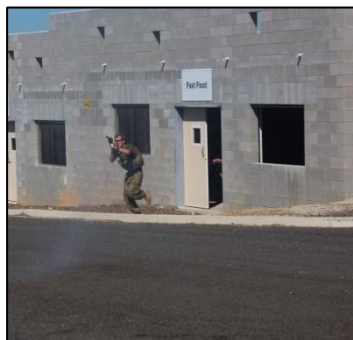
The second phase of Ex CORAL was conducted from the 21–25 Aug 17 and included a wide array of valuable training. The main effort was the qualification of JNCOs as safety supervisors on Category B (support weapons) and C (field firing) ranges and the qualification of the Gun Line on the Mk47. The supporting effort for phase two was the proficiency training of all Regiment members on all Gun Line weapon systems including the 84 mm Carl Gustav anti-armour weapon, the Grenade Launcher Attachment (GLA) and the new EF88 (Service rifle).

Finally, the tertiary effort: close quarter battle training. Utilising the Urban Operations Training Facility, Gunners were exposed to establishing and defending a Gun Position in an urban area.



104 Battery

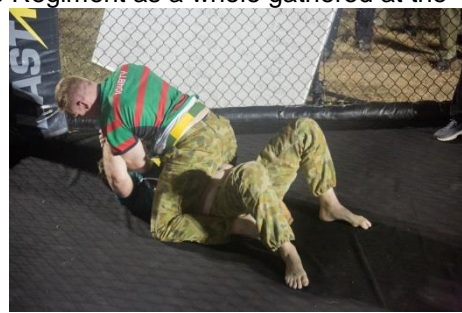
104 Bty was tasked to support the conduct of Ex CORAL. This included providing range safety staff, transport support and ammunition supervisors for a multitude of ranges. Ranges conducted by the Bty during the exercise were the 600m Electronic Class Range where EF88 training was conducted; the Direct Fire Support Weapon Range for the 84mm, GLA, and 66mm anti-armour weapon training; and the Mk47 range to qualify Gunners on our new section defence weapon. These ranges were conducted during the day allowing time for deployment training by night. 104 Bty deployed into the field and was able to improve its gun drill, occupation routine, section defence and Command Post drills. Overall, Ex CORAL was a valuable exercise that allowed 104 Bty and the Regiment as a whole to prepare for combat. 104 Bty members displayed a high level of professionalism and dedication to duty, continuing the legacy of 'The Germs'.



Fight Night

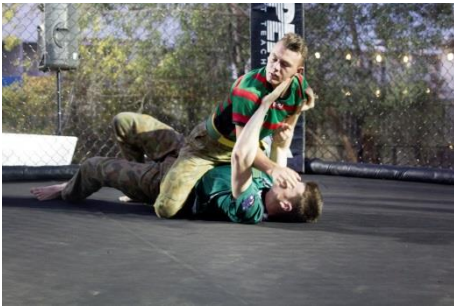
By LT Jeremy Duff
Training Officer

On the night of Tuesday the 15th of August, the Germs and the Regiment as a whole gathered at the Gunners' Club for what would be the first fight night Army had held in almost a decade. Whilst not taking the traditional format of a boxing bout, it instead was in the form of a non-



strike Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) competition so that we could avoid the scrutiny of the Brigade Health Officer. Each Battery was to provide two fighters in five different weight classes.

Prior to the night the Germs had proven themselves in the weekly training we had conducted for the previous three months. We started from scratch: with no knowledge of BJJ, we learnt the basics of Guard, Mount and Side Control, followed by the submission techniques of the Arm-Bar, Guillotine, Front and Rear Chokes, and the Kimura. In the beginning we were a sorry bunch of individuals but after hours of grappling and rolling over those three months, we were still a sorry bunch of individuals except we were now covered heavily in bruises. The training culminated that morning under the guise of a Resilience Day—for us it was the time to hold selections for who would represent the Germs that night.



The following Germs demonstrated their prowess and were selected to represent the Bty against 'A' and 105. In the <73 kg class we had BDR Dole (CS 22) and GNR Townsend (JFECC), <79 kg class LT Duff (TRGO) and BDR Field (A Det), <85kg class GNR Williams (A Det) and GNR Parker (B Det), <91kg class GNR Moszko (21) and BDR Marcus (C Det), ≥91kg class LBDR Phillips (21) and BDR Szumowski (D Det).

With beer flowing freely for those not competing, we gathered in Mess Dress (Officers, WOs and SGTs) and General Duties Polyesters (2F) (JNCOs and GNRs) to support our fighters and heckle the others. Congratulations went to BDR Dole, BDR Marcus, LBDR Phillips, GNR Moszko, and GNR Townsend who forced their 'A' or 105 Bty opponents to submit or tap out, with a pat on the back going to LT Duff, BDR Field, BDR Szumowski, GNR Parker and GNR Williams. In the end the Roadrunners ('A' Bty) won the night overall, the Germs a close second and the Tigers (105 Bty) third.

Most importantly not one soldier took a step back in either the morning or evening competitions: for those who submitted or tapped out, it was only after the pain that was being inflicted surpassed their tolerance or they were on the verge of passing out from lack of oxygen. That night we also proved you'd rather be a Germ than a Big Pussycat.

Reunions:

Received from Geoff Laurie.

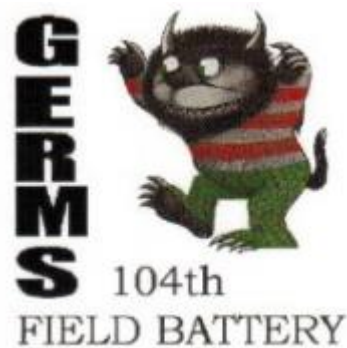
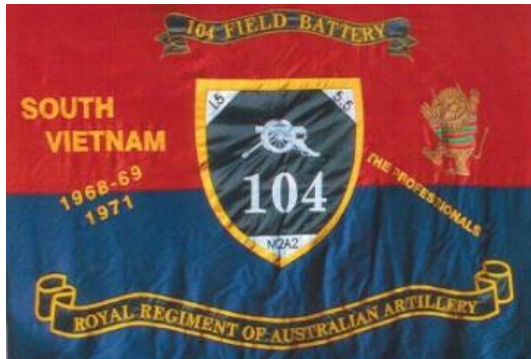
The South Australian Gunners Dinner

I can only advise that the SA Gunner Dinner will be held on Thursday 26th October, at one of the restaurants at Regency Park College of TAFE. This year we plan to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein.

Details are yet to be finalized, but the all-up cost for a 3-course meal and drinks, is unlikely to exceed \$50 per head.

Any of your members will be welcome; if any are interested they can contact me on this email address (raaassocsa@gmail.com) and I can provide them with the details when finalized.

Geoff Laurie



October 5th, 2017

104 BATTERY REUNION GOLD COAST 2019

With a little over 18 months until the 2019 Gold Coast reunion, we are excited to say that we currently have approx. 70 people who have indicated to us that they are attending! We'd love to see as many 104 Bty members as possible!!

Have you let us know that you are attending?

Included below is a full list of attendees to date. If you have responded that you are attending, could you please check the list to ensure we have captured the correct information from you. If anything looks amiss, please let either Ron or myself know.

Are you planning on attending but haven't let us know yet??

Please notify us as soon as possible. We need a clear indication on numbers so we can book in venues and activities. It's also important to book your accommodation as soon as possible as the Treasure Island Tourist Park is booking up. All Studio Units are booked out and the number of Ensuite Cabins and Courtyard Family Cabins remaining is very limited.

Do you know of a member that hasn't received an invitation to the reunion?

Please let us know so we can forward them an invite. I believe most members have been contacted but I'm sure there's some that we didn't have contact details for.

Do you have any questions, comments or queries?

Please don't hesitate to contact us via email so we can answer any queries!!

Looking forward to catching up in 2019

Peter Whitehead

The last reunion in Canberra - 2016...



2019 REUNION ATTENDEES

NAME	TREASURE ISLAND ACCOM		DEPOSIT PAID
	YES/NO	NUMBER	
Armstrong Brian & Sue	Yes	2	2
Bennett Laurie & Mary	Yes	2	0
Bethune Muzza & Mary	Yes	2	2
Burns Phil & Mary	No	0	2
Caporn Ian & Joan	Yes	2	1
Carlin Ray & Fay	Yes	2	2
Casey Ron & Jan	Yes	2	2
Daley Bill & Christine	Yes	2	2

Eddington Bob & Katie	Yes	2	1
Ferraro Tony & Tina	Yes	2	1
Floyd Graham & Judy	No	0	2
Frost Brad & Amanda	Yes	2	2
Galea Tony	No	0	1
Graham Neil	No	0	1
Hayes Ken & Christine	No	0	2
Johnson Gordon(John) & Sue	No	0	2
Macauley Ian & Gai	Yes	2	0
Marshall Bob & Judy	Yes	2	2
Martin Peter & Hazel	Yes	2	1
Mathers Dave & Carol	Yes	2	2
Murry Bob & Trish	Yes	2	2
Nation Peter/Lohmeyer Bec	Yes	2	2
Nicholson Leo & Marilyn	Yes	2	2
O'Reilly Mike & Zannette	Yes	2	0
Pearce Mal & Margaret	Yes	2	2
Pullen Russ & Marilyn	Yes	2	2
Prizeman Dave & Sharyn	No	0	1
Robinson Charles & Jackie	Yes	2	2
Ryan John & Louise	No	0	2
Scrimshaw Denise	Yes	5	5
Sexton Peter & Carol	Yes	2	2
Shipard Bob & Liz	Yes	2	2
Smith Keith & Liz	Yes	2	2
Stockley Lee & Rosemary	Yes	2	2
Triffit Tim	No	0	1
Whitehead Peter & Pauline	Yes	2	2
Wilson Alan	No	0	2

TREASURER'S REPORT

31st August 2017

The following is the financial statement of 104th Field Battery Reunion Account as at 31 August 2017:

Opening Balance	\$1614.22
Deposits	\$3060.00
Interest	\$ 0.03

Balance \$4674.25
Expenditure \$ 800.00 (Southport Yacht Club) Function Chq No 000026
Date 23 Feb 2017 Receipt No 40636
Current Balance \$3874.25
Current Financial Attendees: 61

If you still need to pay your deposit...

Bank Details:

Commonwealth Bank
104 Field Battery Reunion 2019
BSB: 06 2593
Account Number: 1050 1946

Should anyone wish to pay by snail mail, my address is:
269 Ron Penhaligon Way
ROBINA QLD 4226
Phone: 0403 326 722

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You are receiving this email because you are part of the 104 Field Battery Reunion.

Our mailing address is:
Vietnam Veterans Reunion 104 Battery
PO BOX 390
Paradise Point, Qld 4216
Australia
peterwhitehead50@gmail.com
[Add us to your address book](#)

ANZAC Day 2018

Received from Rick Polley.

Hi Germs,

Next year 2018, the Melbourne 104 Bty banner will not be at the Melbourne March. In 2018 for a change the Melbourne banner will be partaking in the Albury Anzac Day March, which is up Dean Street. A few of the Melbourne crew have already booked accommodation for the 24th and 25th April with their partners.

This invitation is not for blokes only as our trip to the Geelong Anzac March in 2016 with partners was a huge success. Also, this invite is for all Artillery and their friends no matter where you live. We just love to catch up while we are still able.

Albury is easily accessible by Road, Rail or Air. There is plenty of accommodation to choose from. FYI Myles Charter and I are booked into the Albury Regent Motel in Dean St. We decided to have an extra night so we have booked the 23rd 24th and 25th.

I can be contacted on email <polmarik@bigpond.net.au> or mobile 0417 314 890.

Cheers

Rick

Items of Interest:

Contributions from around the country follow;

Rob and Rosemary Brooker's News: -

We had a busy weekend watching the football finals. Our teams were not there, but we were thinking of the Jacksons. They are probably still celebrating the Tigers win!

We have been helping the kids lately. Trudi and Matt have bought a new house on a 6 acre block and we helped them with the move. Steven had his 40th birthday and had a party to celebrate. On babysitting duties at the moment for the school holidays.

At the end of this month we are going to Vietnam and Cambodia for a 3 week touring holiday with a Mekong River Cruise. We stop over in Singapore on the way home. We are flying with Singapore Air in and out of Canberra for the first time so will enjoy the shorter travel time. Rob has been to Asia numerous times with the Army but this is my first Asian holiday. The itinerary looks interesting with lovely restaurants and no ration packs.

The weather is warming up and our garden is going berserk despite a very dry year here with only 299 mls. of rain so far this year.

Regards to all,

Rob and Rosemary

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

Hi to all the Germs,

Well Paula and I have been in Hobart nearly 10 months and we survived the winter.

Things are looking pretty permanent as we have bought an apartment in Battery Point. It is a 3 bedroom 2 bathroom apartment. The apartment area is 237m2, a courtyard that is 42m2 and terrace 63m2. So much for downsizing. Our new address is:

42 Salamanca Square
Battery Point Tas. 7004

We are in walking distance of the CBD and for those that know Hobart, the Salamanca Markets are outside our door.

We are currently busy unpacking all our items that have been in store the past 10 months. I am never moving again, what a job. We hope to physically move in this month when we get set up. The apartment we are currently in is fully furnished and we are locked into a lease until mid-December. However, as 3 bedroom apartments are scarce to lease in Hobart I am hoping I can break the lease if the Agent finds a new tenant. If I can't then that's the cost of doing business.

I trust this finds all Germs and their families well.

Cheers.

Paula and Frank

Dick Duane's News: -

Greetings Fellow Germs,

My nephew signed me up to Facebook. I do not know how to work it as yet, but give me time.

Following the last Germ I have had a biopsy on my prostate. No surprises. A low level cancer. No treatment thus far. Blood tests in 8 to 10 weeks and if it has increased then I suppose treatment will begin. As the specialist said you can die with but not from.

Hope everyone is staying as healthy as possible.

Cheers from me.

Dick.

Ian and Gai Macauley's News: -

News from the West

Been very quiet here over winter but Phil Burns (Driver 104 2nd Tour) is recovering well from shoulder surgery he had a couple of months ago. Phil's wife Mary has been running the various City to Surf events across the state and is raising money for Epilepsy WA in memory of their late son Stephen. Phil and Mary have a site <https://chevroncitytosurf2017.everydayhero.com/au/stephen-s-angels-2017>. Any donation will be most welcome.

'Til next time

Ian Macauley

Lee and Rosemary Stockley's News: -

News from Stockers and Rosemary,

Our 7 Weeks in Ireland, Wales Scotland and England. We fly into Dublin and spent time exploring Temple bar area and the Guinness Storehouse, a little chilly even though it was officially Summer. Loved the Guinness in the Storehouse and the panoramic view from the Gravity Bar on the top floor.

We spent time in Galway on our way to overnight in Westport then on to Killarney, Dingle and Tralee, lovely lush green scenery all by way of the Ring of Kerry, then onto Killybegs the largest fishing port in Ireland. We drove along the Wild Atlantic Way to Slieve League, which is the highest accessible cliff in Ireland.

Off to Dunluce Castle before going to the Giant's Causeway. Spent time in Derry looking at the paintings on wall and buildings in Belfast. We did the Political Tour, this is a must to see both sides of the story then off to the Titanic Exhibition another must see. We went to Cushendun Beach where the 4th season of Game of Thrones was shot, called in at Carrick-a-Rede to cross the rope bridge very cold and windy lucky bridge was not closed because of the wind. Then to Portrush and then Belfast for another drink at Crown Bar not far from Europa Hotel most boomed hotel in Belfast. Back in Dublin seeing my girl Molly Malone then ferry to Holyhead, very rough crossing a lot of people reaching for sea sickness bags. Picked up new car and drove to Aberystwyth (Wales) for 3 days, jumped on the Rheidol Railway steam train to Devil's Bridge, Aberystwyth Castle and War Memorial then off to Swansea.

Went Zip Lining in Blaenau Ffestiniog in Wales stopped at Brecon for a visit to the Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh memorabilia dating back Zulu wars to today deployments. Dumfries focuses on Robert Burns then Edinburgh for the Tattoo (Wonderful). Durham for the Cathedral and then to Goathland, which is called Aidensfield in the TV series called Heartbeat. Whitby where Captain Cook sailed from to discover Australia, Scarborough and York on the way to Southwell on the way to Stratford-Upon-Avon. Other things we did, stayed in the Cotswolds at Long Compton, picked up a canal boat at Aldermaston for 4 days got down to Henley-on-Thames and returned to Aldermaston wharf 30 locks and 10 swing bridges. Four nights in London Covent Garden, we went to the Keys Ceremony at The Tower of London the oldest ceremony in the world. Went to a musical show called Kinky Boots (Excellent) and then long flight home.

As I keep saying you must travel while you have your health. Don't wait.

Enough raving from me to all the Germs good health.

Ubique

Rosemary and Lee

General:

Thank you to all those Germs who have taken the time to contribute to this edition of the Germ Journal. Next Edition of The Germ Journal will be our Christmas Edition 2017.

Up the Ol'Red Rooster.

Frankie Concoran