



## Royal Australian Artillery Association - North Queensland

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# GUNNERS GOSSIP

ON THE INTERNET IN COLOUR AT WEB SITE <http://www.st.net.au/~dunn/raa-nqld.htm>



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### \*\*\*\* PRESIDENT'S REPORT \*\*\*\*



SEE PICTURE DETAILS FIRST ARTICLE IN "KEN'S KORNER"

Greetings to all with a loud **BOOM !** .....

My opening 'PRESIDENT'S REMARKS' in the May 2004 issue of "GUNNERS GOSSIP" suggested they were to be my final to you as President and whilst the year 2004 races on in our still broken and divided world, our Annual General Meeting was conducted as scheduled at 0900h Sunday, 01 August 2004 and with the exception of the Treasurer, all the Committee members from 2003/04 nominated for the financial year 2004/05. Rona Borgges nominated for the position of Treasurer. *All were duly elected!*

August '04 proved to be a busy month for your Association, what with the "AGM" on Sunday morning 01 August, the "GUNNERS DINNER 2004" on Friday evening 06 August and "COMMITTEE MEETING" on Saturday morning 14 August and without any shadow of a doubt, the highlight of our August '04 calendar activities was our "GUNNERS DINNER 2004".

After pre dinner drinks in the quadrangle 1900h to 1930h, the proposed maximum of 240 Gunners/Regimental Members, Guests and their lovely ladies were seated in the Drill Hall at Jezzine Barracks. It was especially fitting that we had the dinner in this location as Jezzine Barracks was initially an Artillery Base from 1891 when an invasion by Russia was contemplated and it remained so until 1943 in World War Two when the Japanese threat was deemed to have diminished. In addition it is the home of two Honour Boards for those from the area who fell during both World Wars and the Korean conflict. These were initially located in the Townsville City Council building in Flinders Street [main city street/Townsville CBD] and were moved to Jezzine Barracks when the new Council Chambers were built and commissioned. They are a special reminder of those who served and paid the supreme sacrifice in defending our country.

Guests of honour were COLS Steve Goltz [Commander Land Command Artillery, Victoria Barracks] and Arthur Burke [Colonel Commandant – Northern Region from Brisbane] who both addressed the dinner. It was also pleasing to have our Patron LTCOL Greg Bilton in attendance and address our dinner. Others who traveled some considerable distance to be with us at the dinner were WO1 Phil Matthyson, our Regimental Master Gunner, new Association member Les and Dell Gaffney from Brisbane, Alan and Claire Campbell who are touring around Australia.

The "GUNNERS DINNER 2004" was a resounding and enjoyable success; it was particularly good to see so many serving soldiers in attendance as such occasions allow the old Gunner and the newer Gunners to get together and engage in conversation about what happened in years gone by and what now goes on in our Royal Regiment.

As your Association President/Dining President, during my address I expressed sincere thanks to Association member Paddy Durnford and his team of willing workers for organizing an excellent evening and gave a special vote of thanks to all who served or entertained the gathering, for without their help this function would have not been possible. It would be remiss of me if I did not make mention of our Secretary Ken Borgges, as Ken diligently attended to the dinner logistics paperwork including computer setup and printing of appropriate attendance/\$ payment, guest seating, seating plan, name place cards, menu etc and liaison with Paddy and his team, also keeping in appropriate contact with those involved from 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment. **WELL DONE GENTLEMEN!**

It was extremely pleasing to receive an E-mail message of "GOODWILL" from the President and members of the Royal New Zealand Artillery Old Comrades Association. The message received was over the name of our gunner cobbler Graeme B Black BEM Secretary/Treasurer. The message from our Kiwi mates was read by myself at our "GUNNERS DINNER 2004" and was extremely well received and applauded.

*In conclusion, the three (3) final paragraphs as contained in the 'Presidents Report' tendered at the 2003/2004 AGM and relating to the future direction of your Association read as follows;*

- 1. Vigorously promote to ALL members of 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment an invitation to become financial and supportive members of the Royal Australian Artillery Association – North Queensland.*
- 2. That all Association members be encouraged to approach any person they know who was or is a member of our Royal Regiment and encourage them to join our Association, and*
- 3. Justifiable support to your committee in respect of suggesting function ideas/locations, attendance at our arranged functions and constructive criticism.*

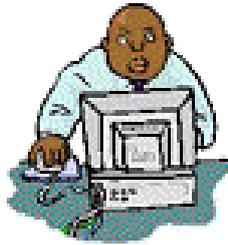
**Please remember that the future direction of your Association is most certainly based on your supportive participation!**

With best wishes to you all for healthy and happy times.

Ubique

**Eldon (Don) Bryant.....** E-mail: [artillery.oz@bigpond.com](mailto:artillery.oz@bigpond.com) □

## KEN'S KORNER



- \* **Denis Darmanin** (Malta) whose name appeared in the last newsletter inquiring about RAA buttons provided this. Thanks Denis. The photo of the gun immediately commencing the "PRESIDENTS REPORT" is in Malta where it was recently fired for the first time in nearly one hundred years. Denis in a very recent E-mail missive to Eldon Bryant sent numerous pictures of old artillery pieces and also writes 'Should you want, I can write a small feature on our Guns and re-enactment for your magazine'. Denis also mentions in another of his E-mail's; 'That's a great magazine', he is of course referring to our "GUNNERS GOSSIP" on the Internet!
- \* **Eldon Bryant** received correspondence from Italy asking for help in obtaining plans etc of a gun, preferably one from the time between 1900 and 1940, so that a model could be made. As luck would have it Wolf Setzinger has been trying to do something about a scale model L5 howitzer and had quite a bit of information on this. All was gathered together and forwarded back to Italy and we can only wait and see if this helps.
- \* The wine consumed at our Gunners Dinner caused quite a few headaches not only as a result of the night but also at the tasting to decide which wines should be used. Probably the blame for this should go to Vic Shields who was instrumental in obtaining it at the "right" price and giving such a range of both colours that had to be reduced prior to the function.
- \* For those who could remember the faces in the photo of the gathering of OLD gunners at the 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary function for Paddy and Denise Durnford published in the last newsletter but not the names. They were from the left: Paddy Durnford, Pru Marchall, Nick Marshal, Paulene Hansen, Terry Jobson, Margaret Jobson, Jan Farrow, Sid Farrow, Raelene Flatters, Col Flatters, Rex Martin, Denise Durnford, Noelene Martin, Mike Crawford and Jan Crawford. Hope people can now match face to names.
- \* I recently received a letter about a coming tour of Vietnam. It commences on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September and ends on Monday 4 October. The list of places being visited and the inclusions on the tour are too many to list here. The approximate cost is \$3500 per person. If anyone is interested the contact details are: Clayton Richards – 0357931298 – mobile 0423177957 – E-mail [petcla@futureweb.com.au](mailto:petcla@futureweb.com.au) or Dennis Weatherall – 0292351022 – fax – 0292351786 – E-mail [dweatherall\\_allways@atlasmail.com](mailto:dweatherall_allways@atlasmail.com)
- \* **We** may have to give consideration to changing the name of our mob. Although the name ends in North Queensland we currently have members in Far North Queensland, North Queensland, South Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Seriously it is very good to have our far-flung OLD Gunners together and keeping in touch.
- \* **Maybe Saddam** should have read the Quran (Islamic Bible) more closely as 9.11 reads: For it is written that a son of Arabia would awaken a fearsome eagle (emblem of America). The wrath of the eagle would be felt throughout the lands of Allah and lo, while some of the people trembled in despair, still more rejoiced. For the eagle cleansed the lands of Allah and there was peace. (Note the verse number 9.11 (11 September) and remember what happened in America on that date)
- \* The following newsletters/magazines were received for the period. They are available for a read at 18 Bainbridge St:
  1. Land Command Sitrep, April edition
  2. RAA Liaison Letter, May edition.
  3. UK The Gunner, May edition
  4. RAA Assn SA Newsletter June edition
  5. UK The Gunner, June edition

6. Townsville Nasho Newsletter July edition
7. UK The Gunner, July edition
8. The Tasmanian Artillery News June - August

\* The June Land Command Sitrep is available for a look on <http://www.bahamutns.com/normartillery/Jun04.doc> For some reason we have been dropped from the direct mailing list. An E-mail has been sent trying to correct this.

\* The RAA Regimental Funds is seeking contributions. The money raised is used to provide a source of funds that can be utilised for the benefit of all gunners. One of the most important uses of the fund is to support requests from RAA units and organisations to assist in the ongoing preservation and promotion of the Regimental heritage. Donations can be forwarded to: SO2 HOR, School of Artillery, Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal, Vic 3662. For \$120 you can become a Life Member which means you will never be asked to subscribe again and your name will be published annually in the list of benefactors that appears in the RAA Liaison Letter. PS at the June Committee Meeting it was decided that our Association would become a Life Member and the necessary application forwarded and accepted.

\* Beginning later in this newsletter is the Military Service History of Major General Walter Adams Coxen compiled by Christine Young and passed on to us by her husband Watson. This Australian Gunner commanded the largest concentration of guns ever assembled for support of an Australian force. Due to its length it will be completed in the next couple of newsletters.

\* One of the Battery Commanders of 4 Field Regiment was mentioned in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June. Major Charles Weller was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross of his performance during Operation Anode in the Solomon Islands.. See '**MEDIA WATCH**' for a photo and further particulars.

\* Question time?? Harry Kent recently heard the poem '*The Last Parade*' that is dedicated to the horses that had to be left behind in the Middle East by the Australian Light Horse after World War One. He is interested to know if there is a monument to these horses either in Australia or overseas. Answers please!

\* Vic Rae of the RAA Association of NSW has advised that they will be publishing a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue of their Gunfire Newsletter and is seeking input for this. It is expected that the cost of this will be \$20 to non-members and will include a CD ROM of all Gunfire's from the first in 1955.. Anyone interested can contact Vic on E-mail – [gunfire@hn.ozemail.com.au](mailto:gunfire@hn.ozemail.com.au)

\* Early Warning – 4 Field Regiment will be celebrating its forty-fifth birthday in style next May. A mounted parade, an 1812 Overture and exercising their right to the Freedom of the City of Thuringowa are planned. As well as these there will be various functions in messes. Anyone thinking of taking a holiday in that period may like to consider Townsville. More information will be advised as it becomes available.

\* If anyone in the Townsville area is looking for someone to mount medals they may like to try Tony Kealley. Tony is an ex-serviceman and can be contacted at 13 Hazlewood Crt, phone 47796992 or E-mail – [monster@myplace.net.au](mailto:monster@myplace.net.au)

\* 4 Field Regiment has obtained a new second in command. He is ex British army and brings with him a family that includes a 21-year-old and twin 18-year-old girls. Seems many of the young Lieutenants of the unit are very interested in this.

\* The 105 Field Battery Association reunion for 2004 is to be conducted in Canberra over the period 22/23 October. Anyone interested in attending can contact Greg West on 0733005303.

\* We received a phone call from a gentleman who was trying to find some information about his grandfather's World War Two unit, the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment. He was passed on to Paddy Durnford who was able to put him on to the right track. Another satisfied customer.

\* An ex grunt, Tony Blake, is organising a TV documentation on 'The Battle of Fire Support Base Coral'. Whilst he can obtain plenty of information from those in the Infantry he is looking for a more sophisticated and worldly input from Gentlemen of the Artillery who were there. Anyone with a tale to tell can contact him on E-mail: [ucdailoi@hotmail.com](mailto:ucdailoi@hotmail.com)

\* Some people have been having trouble with their First Home Owners Grant mainly caused when they have been deployed on operational service at short notice. The Minister Assisting the Minister of Defence has contacted the relevant departments asking for a more sympathetic approach be taken in such cases. Hopefully this will do the trick.

\* We received correspondence from James Eagles concerning the ongoing problem of the two World War One guns that were buried by the Townsville Council about 1969 and the lack of effort in their being reclaimed and displayed for future generations. I know there was a problem with asbestos content in both and they were probably disposed of when the problem of displaying such items containing this first raised its ugly head. Not with standing this they are a part of our history and if possible should be recovered and returned to their pristine glory for future generation to view. If anyone can help James in his endeavour please contact him on – sygnuseag@primus.com.au

\* Bruce Cameron MC is writing a book about the tank involvement in Vietnam called “Cannister – On – Fire”. So far he has RAEME, RAE, RAAF and possibly RAN involvement and would like input from the RAA being one of its supporting arms. Anyone with to contribute can contact Bruce on E-mail – [cameronshome@bigpond.com](mailto:cameronshome@bigpond.com)

\* If there are still some real OLD OLD gunners around who served in Korea we recently received some news from New Zealand of one of their Korean veterans. Captain Peter King DSO MC passed away some time ago and due to a lack of knowledge no mention of his service was included on his headstone. This will be corrected in October when the necessary information will be added at Whataroa. Better late than never.

\* Graeme Black from New Zealand informed us that the New Zealand Artillery’ Band was to compete in a contest in Christchurch. WO2 Dennis Schofield the bandmaster of the band let us know that they are now the National B Grade Marching Champions winning by nine points. They also performed creditably in the other sections entered. This year the band is celebrating their 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of continuous service and is planning a reunion/celebration at the end of September. Their website can be visited on – [www.artilleryband.co.nz](http://www.artilleryband.co.nz) or Dennis contacted on – E-mail [dennis@roblaw.co.nz](mailto:dennis@roblaw.co.nz)

\* Page 23 of the July edition of the UK The Gunner contains a feature mention for our “GUNNERS GOSSIP” Internet address. It would be interesting to know how many people visit our Web Site as a result of it.

**Ken Borgges...** E-mail: [kenborgges@bigpond.com](mailto:kenborgges@bigpond.com) ☐

## **MEDICAL UPDATES**



● Two lots of bad news were received on the one-day. The first was from Arthur Burke advising of the death of Tom Guivarra on 8 May. He did his gunner’s course at North Head in 1964. Tom was then selected for flying training but never forgot his Gunner roots and remained a Gunner at heart. The second was from Jim Ponting advising of the death of Eddie (Bluey) Weatherall also on 8 May. Blue will be remembered by many OLD gunners for his service in a range of orderly-rooms over a long period. That gun park in the sky is sure filling up fast and at this rate another one may have to be opened. Our condolences go to both families.

● We received the news of the death of Col Albright on 10 June. As most will be aware Col suffered from cancer and had deteriorated to such an extent that he was bedbound and in much pain. His funeral was held at the Townsville Crematorium on Tuesday 15 June and this was followed by light refreshments at the Alligator Bowls and Recreation Club where the crowd in attendance remembered the life and times of Col. † That gun park in the sky is sure getting crowded.

**This months thought;**

**“ From there to here, and from here to there,  
funny things are everywhere!! “ Dr Seuss.**

● **Warrant Officer Class Two**

**Colin Albrighton...**



*Col commenced service as a National Serviceman in January 1953 and joined the Regular Army in March 1965. Following training at 1<sup>st</sup> Recruit Training Battalion and the School of Artillery he was posted to 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment at Wacol, later the unit moved to Townsville. Apart from a few breaks he spent almost seventeen years in the unit.*

*He was promoted to Bombardier in February 1969, Sergeant in February 1972, Staff Sergeant in August 1980 and Warrant Officer Class Two in ????*

*Highlights of his career were service in Vietnam with 108 Field Battery commencing June 1967 and two years in Singapore, again with 108 Field Battery, commencing October 1969. (He and his family often reflected on this period as a wonderful time and they made the most of it)*

*Col was proud of his Army service, being a straight forward no nonsense type who only wanted to get the job done and do it properly.*

*He was especially proud of the fact that he was a member of a Sergeant's Mess for over fourteen years.*

*After a posting to 7<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment as RQMS he and Carroll returned to Townsville where he elected discharge in 1985.*

*He was well respected by those he served with both as a Senior Non Commissioned Officer and a Warrant Officer Class Two.*

● Our Eldon Bryant cannot get things right. He and Roslyn were due to travel south for a family wedding in June when he came down with a dose of something that had him almost confined to bed. Of course he struggled through and went down to that cold Southland.



● More bad news. We have been advised of the death of Alex Mason who was a long serving Reservist in 133 Battery etc and a member of the Locating Association. Our condolences go to his wife Dawn. That gun park in the sky is sure filling up fast.



● We are definitely a dieing group. Arthur Burke informed us of the death of another old gunner. Michael Bernard William MM was a National Serviceman who served with 106 Battery in Vietnam in 1967/68. He received his MM for continuing to man his radio and pass fire orders although he had been seriously wounded in the head. He was repatriated back to Australia to convalesce and was then discharged on medical grounds. For the rest of his life Mike carried a metal plate in his head as a result of the wounds. He subsequently joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and stress forced his retirement in 1996. A tumour in the bowel was detected in early June last year and although he underwent surgery he deteriorated until his death on 10 July. Another Gunner who will be sorely missed.□

**TRAVELOGUE**



**Visit to the Sultanate of Oman and Sri Lanka**  
By Jurgen and Beverly Raasch

**TRAVELOGUE COMMENCES NEXT PAGE (7).**

*(concluding the saga of the journey of Jurgen & Beverly Raasch)*

Supermarkets and stores have absolutely everything you can think of and then some more at prices we can only dream of. And then there are the Souks, ah yes the Souks, or local markets especially the Muttrah Souk in the old fortified city of Muscat. Gold and silver shops are in abundance wherever you look and people from all over the Middle East, Europe and the rest of the world piled up together in the myriad of narrow age-old passageways. I found that Steve Waugh as the favourite Australian has replaced Allan Border and that even the most primitive Bedouins generally regard Shane Warne in a less favourable light.

One of the highlights of our visit was a visit to Jabal Shams, a huge mountain range with the second deepest canyon in the world. Looking straight down a cliff for some thousand metres has an effect on the stomach. Another highlight was a visit to the recently completed Grand Mosque, arguably the biggest and most grandiose Mosque in the world. There are not enough words to describe the pomp and splendour that was put into this building; all the Arabic riches of old have been included with the most expensive bits and pieces from all over the world. Miles and miles of polished marble paving imported from Italy as was an eight-ton crystal and gold chandelier hanging in the main hall. It was literally breathtaking, as was the view of my dear wife who had to cover up almost completely Muslim style in order to enter the Mosque.

All too soon we were off again for a five-day visit to Sri Lanka. We had picked Sri Lanka on a whim because it sounded interesting and because we had not been there before and I am glad we did. There had been some instability just before we left and there was still a bit of uncertainty about the Tamils up north in the Trincomalee area. We had not planned to go there anyway and experienced no problems at any stage. I even got used to the soldiers all over the place and managed to have a yarn with a few of them. All the same, a 7.62mm round up the spout of an AK47 does have an impact on conversation.

Colombo did not leave a great impression, it was far too crowded and busy for us and we decided to head for the hills and visit Kandy, an old English mountain retreat. Again the drive of some 130km took basically all day, but was compensated by the beautiful scenery through the mountains. Passing numerous rice paddies surrounded by thick jungle brought back some unexpected strong memories of similar places in another country. We stayed in a lovely hotel in Kandy and as luck would have it, so did the English cricket team, there for the second test. I decided that this was too good an opportunity to miss and had a go at them about English cricket in general. When they countered with the Rugby win in Sydney I decided to play it safe by buying them another round.

Our highlights in Sri Lanka included a trip to the Elephant orphanage, a ride on an Elephant and a day visit to the old mountain fortress of Sigiriya that had been built several centuries ago on a huge rock some 200 metres high. How we managed to climb up to this thing I will never know, but we managed it after two hours hard climbing. Then on to look at numerous old Buddah statues and, of course, the famous 'Temple of the Tooth' itself in Kenndy.

No visit to Sri Lanka is complete without visiting the famous jewellery, silk and batique shops. Something we did with great gusto. Several blue, pink and striped sapphires later we staggered back for our return flight wondering just how we would get all our gold, silver, gemstones, silks and carpets back through customs. Fortunately our customs were only interested in the stale biccies that we declared.

I had timed our trip in such a way that I would be able to attend my 40<sup>th</sup> graduation reunion from OCS at Tweed heads. Although quite unbelievable Sri Lanka was as fascinating a place as Oman, even though in many totally different ways. We soon realised that we had badly underestimated our time requirement to travel from A to B and that we would have required at least ten days in order to see all the places we had planned to visit. But then, once you have seen one Buddha statue you have basically seen them all. We arrived at 0500h and had an immediate introduction to the much-maligned Sri Lankan traffic. It took over an hour to get into Colombo and to our hotel because the traffic was already full on. Although warned, we had not expected to be subjected to the sheer madness and chaos of Sri Lankan traffic that early in the morning and just hung on for dear life. There was no way that I was going to risk life and limb by even trying to drive myself and we hired a car with driver through our hotel. Definitely the way to go, it only cost the equivalent of A\$60 a day with about A\$5 tip for the driver.

We visited the old Dutch fort of Galle the following day, the 100km trip taking some six hours because of the bumper to bumper traffic involving cars, trucks, buses, people, cows, Tuk Tuks, dogs and whatever else, all using the road as best they could regardless of rules. Saigon traffic was a Sunday outing in comparison. Our driver confirmed to us that the second official language in Sri Lanka was the art of car horn tooting and we

soon learned to distinguish the many ways of expressing a driver's intention. Quite fascinating, but very hard on gunner ears. Galle however was quite interesting and we were able to watch a few overs of the first test between Sri Lanka and the Poms from the battlements of the old Dutch fort there.

It was great to see old mates again, especially Barry Winsor and Dick Wickenden. Yes – I had to go to Brisbane to see Dick!!

To those with a spark of adventure I can only highly recommend a visit to Oman and Sri Lanka. Visitor visas are now available on arrival in each country. Oman has a four-week visa for about \$20. Be warned however and be prepared for the 'extra funding' that will definitely be required if you wish to introduce your spouse to the delights of the Orient!!

### **Belated news from the Bryant's**

Eldon and Roslyn travelled to Brisbane on the 'Sunlander' train in January for a two-week holiday. The main reason for this was to help celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Roslyn's father. This took the form of an open day at his home and over one hundred turned up to help celebrate the occasion. It was a wonderful event with Roslyn in charge of organising and catering being the OLDEST child, ably assisted by her three sisters, two brothers, with on day assistance from husbands, wives and grandchildren of the immediate family. Eldon was in charge of making sure there was enough grog and it was at the right temperature. He even had to try a couple of beers prior to things starting just to make sure it was cold enough. A good way to celebrate such an auspicious occasion.

May '04 long weekend saw Roslyn leave the old fella at home and she flew off to Brisbane for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indooroopilly State High School. She had previously attended the 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebrations, but for obvious reasons does not like to admit she qualified to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> year get-together as a first year student of the schools official opening!!!

On a more recent occasion, they were off by plane in June to Brisbane for one of their nieces wedding. Staying at relatives helped keep the cost down after the plane trip. They went to Toowoomba for a day; reckon the Japanese Gardens there are well worth a visit and all around Toowoomba it was evidence of vast planting of seedlings had just been completed in preparation for the annual Carnival of Flowers. Brisbane's fresh climate was okay for a couple of weeks but they were glad to return to home and the tropics!

Eldon Bryant received a missive from an old Gunner Keith Cossart that contained news of the recent travels of he and his wife Monica. Here it is – In May we went to Sydney by train (free) and spent three nights at the Castlereagh Inn in the city. Visited my mothers sister (82) and caught up with the gossip on her family. Then we did the touristy bit. Walked down to the quay and looked around the Opera House then caught the ferry across to Watson's bay. We has a long and nostalgic walk around South Head, Monica's father was the Commanding Officer there in the early 50s and lived in one of the quarters. In addition my father had a quarter at the Macquarie Light House up the hill. We cast our minds back fifty years plus and kept saying hasn't it changed! The NSW Parks and Gardens people look after most of the area these days and are doing a good job. It is all very neat and clean. No army there these days but a small Navy presence. Had a fish and chips lunch at the famous Doyle's fish shop and then caught the ferry back to the quay and walked around the Rocks area before returning to our hotel on foot. We were completely b-----ed from walking all day so after an early tea retired to the cot.

The next day we caught a ferry across to Manly and after a walk around got the bus up to North Fort to the Artillery Museum. e found it most interesting and well presented. Walked through the tunnels etc for the first time since I was a recruit there in 1951. In those days the 9.2 guns were still there and it was all operational. They are doing a wonderful job of restoration in the old gun positions and trying to restore lots of old and very dilapidated equipment. Saw the inscribed pavers that we had purchased for my father, Monica's father and yours truly and that was good in itself.

Then back to the city by ferry and had a monorail trip in the city before dinner and then another early night. Next day we walked around the city and then caught the train back to Canberra. In all a very interesting three days and we achieved all we set out to do. We both agree we could not live in Sydney, too much hustle and bustle after quite old Canberra.

## More news on the travels of the Kent's

### 101 Battery Reunion – Darwin

We departed Townsville at 6.45 am on 19<sup>th</sup> April and arrived at Torrens Creek car park next to the hotel at 9.45 pm. For fifteen dollars we had a restful sleep in a place with power and all facilities. No names mentioned but somebody used the wrong shower block. Fortunately it was before the other campers were awake. 6.30 am saw us on the road again. At Jidgy bypass we had to fight the flies to get into the vehicle again. Some ideas of petrol prices are – Hughenden, 96.8 c – Cloncurry, 95.6c – Camoweal, 112c a litre. Left Camoweal at 3 pm and it was on to the Barkley Highway arriving at the three way roadhouse at 8.15 pm A bottomless cup of coffee was two dollars and a nice piece of Barra seven dollars and with salad sixteen dollars. At 9.45 pm we arrived at Barra Creek staying at Stuart's Memorial, a popular and very comfortable rest area The lou is on a rise, wheelchair accessible and a water tank.

At daybreak on Wednesday we headed for Dinmurra arriving at 10.30 am. Petrol price 121c. Reached Katherine at 2.30 pm, petrol price 99.9c. In late afternoon we arrived at Middle Arm, Cox Peninsula. A prawn farm is being established there and currently there are twenty ponds with the intention of expanding to one hundred. A processing plant is nearly completed and it would be a fisherman's dream to throw in a cast net and pull in so many large prawns.

At 11.00 am of Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> we reached Robinson's Barracks and met the Battery Captain of 101 Battery. He is a former English officer and was very excited about the reunion. He organised two BBQs and the meat was great. There was an opportunity to look at the equipment in the barracks and also a visit to East Point Museum. Dinner was at the RSL and the catering staff was surprised by the numbers and nearly ran out of food.

On the Saturday night the RSL opened the dining area especially for the visitors, Barra and vegies, sixteen dollars.

On ANZAC Day there was breakfast and then the bar closed at 5.30 am and everyone formed up outside and marched to the Cenotaph where there was an impressive Dawn Service. The crowd was bigger than Sydney or Melbourne. After the wreath laying ushers walked around with trays of poppies and people placed them on the memorial. A very impressive sight. Back to the RSL where there was a second breakfast served for those who wanted it. The bar closed again at 9.30 am and it was back to the park for the march that went past the saluting dais to the RSL down one side of the street and did a U-turn and proceeded back along the other side. This allowed the first half of the parade to watch the end of the parade march past. It was then a B-line to the RSL when the doors opened. One could hardly move. At 12.30 it was off to Robinson's Barracks Sergeant's Mess where we met the PMC and other members and a very fine buffet was provided. Off to the North Darwin RSL where they ran out of coldies (Darwin was hot). This prompted our departure and we returned to the motel car park for a kindly nap.

Monday - left the Leprocorn caravan park to visit the Adelaide River War Cemetery, a very moving moment. Tried to visit the Adelaide River Museum however it is only opened from May to October and we were two days early. Visited the B52 Museum where there are relics from World War Two and modern aircraft. Saw some airstrips used during the war, one was seven kilometres off the road and there we went for a burn. Fortunately no spitfires were trying to use it at the same time. It was in better condition than some of the old roads. Visited a World War Two American hospital site now a slab of concrete in a cleared area.

Homeward bound – petrol was 113 c at Malaranks, 118c at Daly Waters and 124.8c at the Three Ways. Thought we would run out of petrol forty kilometres from Camoweal, but we made it. Needed our winter woolies at Mt Isa and Prairy.

Arrived home tired after a very enjoyable trip during which we meet up with many old friends at the 101 Battery reunion. See '**Media Watch**' for the produce of the prawn farm and the Darwin Memorial.

Regards, **Harry & Wilma** ☐

**The Editor of "GUNNERS GOSSIP" is looking for more input from members for future issues of the "TRAVELOGUE" segment. After your next vacation, special event that take you out of Townsville, first or second honeymoons etc etc..... Please put pen to paper and send it in! Ed.**

### PERSONAL NEWS

- An E-mail was received from Jack Tattis in Brisbane asking about the state of the Artillery Association in that area and how to obtain information about the history of a particular gun. All was passed on to our local expert in such fields, Arthur Burke, who quickly responded to Jack either with an answer or a suggestion as to where information could be obtained. Good work Arthur.
- If anyone is going to build a house and wants some advice as to how to avoid the pitfalls involved ask our Steve Wilson. He and family moved into their new premises just before ANZAC Day this year after an ongoing battle with the builder. As a result of this Steve can now be qualified as an expert on what to expect with such a project. PS – the BLUE house at 44 Mueller St, Wulguru, Townsville can be seen for miles (or is that kilometres).
- Paddy Durnford had been trying to acquire Rising Sun badges for use at the Historical Collection at 4 Field Regiment. He mentioned this to Neil Lunney who searched South East Queensland for them. The outcome was Neil found someone who made them and obtained copies of seven types of such badges that had been used in our army. These go back as far as 1902 and finish with the one currently in service. Good work boys.
- We had a phone call from Ian Grey from the National Serviceman's Association in Brisbane asking for help in obtaining an artillery badge for the pocket of a blazer. Of course he was passed on to our man for these things, Arthur Burke. If anyone is interested in such an item let us know and we will find out the details. Ian can also be contacted on 0732079096.
- The Arnold residence in Cairns is filling up fast. First their son and family arrived from Germany in June then a daughter from Brisbane came for a visit in July. This was followed by the arrival of Jan's father in August. Although Ken always says there are plenty of beds available, this must have stretched being able to place bodies in beds. Hope you both enjoyed all the people getting together Ken and Jan.
- After reading our last newsletter on the Internet a couple of names from the past got in touch. First it was Allan Campbell (ex association member and ex 2 I/C 4 Field Regiment) who was in Exmouth, WA at the time. We had mentioned he and Claire are on a 'Tour De Australia' heading for Townsville about August. The offshoot is he wants to join us again. Of course an application for membership was despatched in a hurry to update personal details and we welcome them back to the fold. The second was Rex Martin. He had some nice things to say about the newsletter and again he asked about joining us. Forms forwarded and we welcome he and Noelene to our rag-tag group.
- As reported in a previous newsletter Eldon Bryant has transcribed a book compiling a series of six personal diaries from World War One. His fame for doing this has spread and photos and article appeared in the Northern Services Courier in May, whilst the Adelaide Advertiser used "THE SWANN DIARIES" as the main feature in their ANZAC Day 2004 Feature Lift out Saturday, 24 April 2004. (see '**Media Watch**' for more)
- Another members, Ray Clarke and has joined our band of merry OLD gunners. Ray is from NSW and real old gunner from as far back as the 50s and 60s. **Welcome...**
- Help is wanted to trace a real OLD Gunner. Ian 'Bulldog' Drummond was in 105 and 103 Batteries in the 1950s and 1960s and then elected discharge to join the Post Master General's department as a lineman. He was the Bestman at Ken and Rona Borgges wedding in 1966 and soon after disappeared into the woodwork. If anyone has any idea of what happened to him after that please contact Ken on either 0747796430 or E-mail – [kenborgges@bigpond.com](mailto:kenborgges@bigpond.com)
- Peter Kennedy has joined a lot of Gunners and bought a house in Townsville. His address is now 6 Durham Crt, Kirwan 4817. Looks like his family will be in the area for a long time to come.

- Brian Conyngham from South Africa and his wife Pat were off to the United Kingdom early in June for three and a half weeks. It was their first visit and he was looking forward to visiting England, Scotland and Wales including the Artillery Museum at Woolwich and the Imperial War Museum. As a result of this the planned visit to Down Under will have to be put back to next year. Hopefully we will receive a full report on his return.
- There was a BIG picture of John Jewell in his Coast Guard uniform in the Townsville Sun in June. The accompanying article gave an almost day-by-day account of his life. This included the twenty-nine years he has spent in the Coast Guard and how he met his wife. A copy of the photo is in '**Media Watch**'.
- We had a couple of visitors to Townsville in June. Ken and Jeanelle Murphy from West Australia and Bill and Jan McMillan from down south landed at Paddy Durnfords and a dinner at the RSL was arranged for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June with some OLD gunners turning up for drinks and a meal. It was good to see them and swap a few lies. Ken has been on the road for months and has made contact with many oldies from many years back, some that he had not seen for over thirty years. For those who remember Ken he is nearly twice the man he used to be if only in weight. It is doubtful if he would last very long on the basketball court these days.
- Our Jim Ponting had his photo in the Veterans Affairs newspaper in June with details about an RSL Day Club in Canberra. Good to see you are still keeping busy Jim. See '**Media Watch**' for more.
- The Editor of the UK 'The GUNNER' Magazine, Captain Jess Bate RA had a baby boy on 13 June. Oliver George Harry and as Jess politely put it the little bugger refused to budge and arrived exactly two weeks late. Must have been enjoying his stay inside too much. Congratulations to all involved.
- Our Graeme Black from New Zealand has found out there is a little more to being on the Committee of an Association such as ours. It may be he is somewhat slow like most of those sheep rearers down there but he is having trouble coping with all the questions being thrown at him. Hope this is not causing too much loss of sleep Graeme.
- Roslyn Bryant bought a flash set of golf clubs a while ago. Recently she had a lesson with the club professional and he watched as she shaped up to drive. Quietly he said to her "those little marks on the shaft are where you are supposed to place your fingers". If for no other reason that made it worth the time she spent on the lesson!
- James Francis attended the Victorian RAA Association dinner in June and forwarded a photo of him and others that attended. See '**Media Watch**' for the photo. In addition congratulations are in order for James and Peter Meester who celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their enlistment into the Army on 7<sup>th</sup> August.
- 4 Field Regiment has a new Chaplain, Mathew Donnelly, and he sure made an impact in the Northern Services Courier with two photos at his first attempt. Mathew is brand new to the Army and when first met had only been in uniform for four weeks. At the end of his fifth week he attended a formal dinner and gave his first grace at such an occasion, a daunting occasion for him. He was also called on to perform the same function at our Gunners Dinner on 6 August. Welcome Mathew.
- Another back in the fold. A past Patron, Colonel Richard Stanhope, who is currently Commander of the Combat Training Centre in Townsville had rejoined us. Welcome back Richard, Haylie and children. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces at our functions.
- Eldon Bryant received a letter from Angelo Vimercati the gentleman from Italy who was chasing details for a gun to build. He is still thinking about what type that will be produced and will keep us informed as to what occurs.
- Another couple dogging the cold down south was Doug and Pat Phillips from South Australia. They took a leisurely trip on the inland route up to Charters Towers and after suffering some tyre problems decided the Bruce Highway was the way to go up to Port Douglas. After a look around that neck of the woods they came down to Townsville to meet up with several OLD gunner friends then it was off back down south with several stops along the way to COLD Adelaide.
- An E-mail was received from Ross Smith who had been a member of 107 Field Battery, 4 Field Regiment from 1979 to 82. He informed us he had photos taken in that period and was requested to forward them to Paddy Durnford for the Historical Collection. Ross also requested help in trying to contact people from his era in

the Regiment especially any from the 6/79 Gun Drill Course at North Head. He can be contacted on E-mail – [rsmsmith@bigpond.com](mailto:rsmsmith@bigpond.com)

- It seems there are too many Jobsons around. Eldon Bryant received a message from Phillip Jobson who is the Secretary of the Friend of Firepower in the UK. He had been reading our latest newsletter and was amused to come across two other Jobsons, being our Chris and Terry. Phillip asked us to advise that anyone going to the old country has only to contact him and he can help arrange a tour of the Royal Artillery Museum for them.
- Eldon Bryant has been in contact with Brian Conyngham in South Africa. Brian has been a busy boy but has not forgotten he still owes us some photos of the Natal Field Artillery Monument. Probably will not get them for a while as he and wife Pat left for a visit to the UK in late July. This means the postponement of a visit down under until at least next year. □

## **An Australian Gunner** **Major General Walter Adams Coxen**

### **Background**

Walter Coxen was born in Surrey, England on 22 June 1870 and came to Australia at around seven years of age. Initially the military did not have any great attraction to him. One day whilst in conversation with his brother about their celebrated father, his brother said to him – “as father was such a great soldier, somebody has to keep the flag flying” – Walter did, and to such an extent as his brother could surely never have imagined. (this was quoted from ‘Table Talk’, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1930)

Coxen came from a family of fighting men dating back five centuries. The Coxen’s have served in both the Army and Navy as officers. One such officer was Lieutenant Stephen Coxen, 23<sup>rd</sup> Dragoons who was slain at Waterloo in 1815. General Coxen’s daughter, Mrs Dorothy Bowler today wears the ring of Lieutenant Coxen. Lieutenant Stephen Coxen took reinforcements to Waterloo, one hundred years later General Coxen took reinforcements to France.

As a youth Coxen went to school with two other eminent soldiers at Toowoomba Grammar School it was fellow pupil Chauvel who rose to become Sir Harry Chauvel, Coxen’s predecessor as Chief of the General Staff. At Brisbane Grammar School another pupil was Sellheim, who rose to become Major General Victor Sellheim.

### **Military Service**

Young Coxen, like many of his contemporaries, joined the Queensland Militia Garrison Artillery. Coxen joined initially as a Gunner.

1893 – February – Coxen was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Militia Garrison Artillery.

1895 – June – He was commissioned as Lieutenant in the Queensland Artillery. Permanent Military Forces.

1897 – Under went training in Siege Artillery and Coastal Defence at the British School of Gunnery at Shoeburyness, England. Coxen gained a 1<sup>st</sup> class certificate with honours.

1898 – Aldershot, England. Attended a course in Field Artillery.

1898 – November – Officer Commanding Queensland Garrison Troops, Thursday Island. 1899 – August – Promoted Captain while Officer Commanding Queensland Garrison Troops, Thursday Island.

1902 – July – Chief Instructor, School of Gunnery, Middle Head, Sydney. (other writings state the School was located at South Head since 1895) Coxen was in this position for five years, this was a time when procedures were becoming more of a technical or scientific nature, this, Coxen took in his stride having a great mathematical mind.

1904 – January – Promoted Temporary Major.

1904 – Conducted a course of instruction at Queenscliff, Victoria.

1905 to 1907 – Conducted Long Courses in gunnery at the School of Artillery.

1907 – Conducted the first practice shoot with 18 pdr field guns in New South Wales as part of a Long Course he was conducting.

1907 – November – Departed for England on the RMS China to undertake training at the Royal Military Academy (Ordnance College) Woolwich.

1908 & 1909 – The training resulted in the award of an ‘O’ certificate in Ordnance.

1908 – June – Became Substantive Major.

1910 – April – Company Officer, Coastal Artillery, Queenscliff, Victoria.

1910 – Became the Inspector of Ordnance and Ammunition, Army Office Headquarters in Melbourne at a salary of 450 pounds (900 dollars) per annum.  
1911 – January – Appointed Director of Artillery.  
1914 – August – Promoted Lieutenant Colonel and was temporarily given the additional posting of Inspector, Coastal Defences.

(to be continued next newsletter) □

### WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE RSM



### RSM SITREP

Since the last newsletter the Regiment has worked hard consolidating Corps skills and developing teamwork within detachments, subunits and the Regiment. This training included individual weapon training and live fire qualification practices, gun section level amphibious training, battery level air mobile training, simulated JOST technical missions and fire planning, Battery level deployment training, airborne deployment training by A Field battery, JNCO leadership training, and a Brigade level CPX.

We successfully confirmed the efficiency level of the Regiment during an extensive live fire exercise, EX CHAU PHA, which was conducted over three weeks in May at the High Range Training Area. In June each Battery carried this training into advanced practices when they were required to provide offensive support to each of their allocated battalion groups.

Feedback from the Battalions was very positive and we believe the Regiment is really heading in the right direction with regard to our technical ability. We now have the opportunity to improve on this during July and August prior to deploying on a brigade level exercise in September.

It has not been all work and we have managed to play a bit of sport. Due to some creative work by our operations staff we managed to get A Field Battery up from Sydney in early April to compete in the Regiment's winter sports competition.

As expected the sports were played in a very spirited manner that resulted in 107 Field Battery winning the overall winter sports competition for 2004. The individual sports results were;

Basketball 107 Field Battery,  
Hockey 107 Field Battery,  
Australian Rules 108 Field Battery,  
Soccer A Field Battery, and  
Rugby OP SPT/CSS Bty.

We took the opportunity with A Field Battery in town to hold an Officer's and Sergeant's Mess Regimental Dinner to celebrate the Regiment's 44<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Although the dinner was early by one month the opportunity of having the Regiment together in the same location presented us with the perfect occasion to dine together and celebrate our birthday.

I was pleased to see a strong attendance at this year's ANZAC Day Dawn Service after constant heavy rain overnight threatened to keep the numbers down. The war stories were in full swing after breakfast once the bar opened and it was good to see the new guard interacting with the old guard. This year the 104 Field Battery Association held a reunion in Townsville over the ANZAC weekend and a large section from their Association attended our Dawn Service.

Finally I look forward to catching up with everyone at this year's RAA Association NQ Dinner in August. Attendance for the Dinner has been excellent with just over 200 serving members indicating that they are coming. Until then keep your powder dry and stay safe.

## **Ubique**

**Bob Thompson** ☐

### **ANOTHER NOTE FROM GEOFF ANNETT**

The following was received from Geoff Annett and is an insight into the rationalisation behind the 'Sentinels' on the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" in America.

#### **Interesting facts about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Sentinels of the Third United States Infantry Regiment, "Old Guard".**

- 1....How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why? It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honour given any military or sovereign dignitary.
- 2....How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why? Twenty-one seconds for the same reason as one above.
- 3....Why are his gloves wet? His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.
- 4....Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time, and if not, why not? No, he carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.
- 5....How often are the guards changed? Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year.
- 6....What are the physical traits of the guards limited to? For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30 inches.

#### **Other requirements of the Guard:**

- 1.... They must commit two years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. They cannot swear in public FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES and cannot disgrace the uniform (fighting) or the tomb in any way.
- 2... After two years the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only four hundred presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.
- 3.... Their shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.
- 4.... The first SIX MONTHS of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone or watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorise who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis (the boxer) and Medal of Honour winner, Audie Murphy (the most decorated American soldier of WWII) Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.
- 5.... During Hurricane Isabel the Regimental Commander of the United States Third Infantry sent word to the nighttime Sentry Detail to secure the post and seek shelter from the high winds to ensure their personal safety. THEY DISOBEYED THE ORDER. During winds that overturned vehicles and turned debris into projectiles, the measured step continued. One fellow said "I've got buddies getting shot at in Iraq who would kick my butt if word got to them that we let them down. I sure as hell have no intention of spending my army career being known as the damned idiot who couldn't stand a little breeze and shirked his duty". In a time in our nation's history when spin and total b.s. seems to have become the accepted coin-of-the realm, there beat hearts- the enlisted hearts – we all knew and were so proud to be a part of – that fully understand that devotion to duty is not a part time occupation. While we slept, we were represented by some damn fine men who fully accepted their post orders and proudly went about their assigned responsibilities unseen, unrecognized and in the finest tradition of the American Enlisted Man.

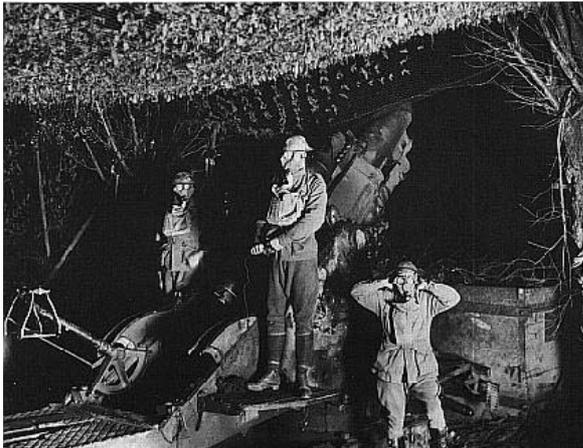
**Continued; The Sentinels Creed** See next page (15).

*My dedication to this sacred duty is total and wholehearted. In the responsibility bestowed on me never will I falter. And with dignity and perseverance my standard will remain perfection. Through the years of diligence and praise and the discomfort of the elements I will walk my tour in humble reverence to the best of my ability. It is he who commands the respect I protect. His bravery that made us so proud. Surrounded by well meaning crowds by day alone in the thoughtful peace of night, this soldier will in honoured glory rest under my eternal vigilance.*

(More in the next newsletter) □

## GUNNERS OF OLD

Continuing a pictorial series of guns and Gunners from the start of Australian Artillery;



▲ A 9.2-inch howitzer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Siege Battery in action at night at Ypres, Belgium, in late 1917. The gunners are wearing respirators. The overhead camouflage screen is to prevent observation of the position by enemy airmen. (AWM E693)

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2004/2005 SUBS!**



▲ Carrying ammunition to the Australian artillery behind Villers-Bretonneux on 7 August 1918 in preparation for the barrage which was to precede the attack the next day. (AWM E2849) □

## ARTILLERY SNIPPETS

### Artillery Regimental Lines and Barracks North Head Barracks

The barracks were erected during the period 1937 and 1938. They provided facilities for the headquarters and sub-units of the 1<sup>st</sup> Heavy Brigade, the Permanent Garrison Artillery unit in the Sydney area. Originally the military area of North Head included the barracks together with a battery of 9.2-inch Breech Loading Mark 10 guns located at North Fort. The name is derived from the location of the actual barracks, that is North Head at the entry of Sydney harbour. The guns and associated control and power supply systems were dismantled in 1960. The remaining emplacements, magazines and connecting tunnels now form the basis for the National Artillery Museum. The School of Artillery moved to North Head Barracks in 1945.

When the Directorate of Artillery moved from Canberra on 4 December 1989 (St Barbara's Day) it was collocated with the School of Artillery at North Head. The area was then referred to as the Artillery Centre. The Artillery Centre relocated from Manly to Puckapunyal at the conclusion of courses in 1997. □

## BADGES OF OLD



Tasmanian Permanent Artillery, 1887-1903. □

## WINE NEWS

Continuing our segments on wine tasting;

### Tasting Tips



### About Fortified Wines



<u>Style</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Suggested Foods</u>
Amontillado Sherry	Medium dry style. This includes fuller, not-so-dry styles with a deep colour and nutty flavour	Cream soups, bisques and nuts
Cream Sherry	In Australia a fruity, young wine with a sweet, grapey flavour	Usually consumed by itself
Fino and Dry Sherry	Fino is the driest and most delicate sherry with an intense yeasty flavour and 'bite' on the finish. Other dry sherries are softer and more mellow	A good starter drink. Either as an aperitif or with the first course. For example, soups and terrines. Fino can be served chilled
Muscat	A fortified wine whose name is derived from the Muscat de Frontignan grape. A magnificent dessert wine style, rich sweet and luscious. Dark red/brown to medium orange in colour. Developed grapey raisin characters. A fine after-dinner drink	Dried fruits, nuts, plain biscuits, light desserts and coffee. Also some cheeses
Vintage Ports	Made from the wine of one particular vintage (year). It will spend its first year in wooden casks, then left to mature further in the bottle. Medium red/purple to full brick red in colour. Aromas of tobacco – cigars are common. Berry – fruit flavour and firm tannin. Dry finish	Nuts, cheese (Blue, Stilton and mature Cheddar)

□

## COMING EVENTS

As we are at the commencement of a new Association and committee year, nothing had been planned and scheduled in the way of 'COMING EVENTS'. You will note that our first committee meeting for the 2004-2005 year will happen on Saturday, 14 August 2004, so here is a golden opportunity for Association members to make suggestions to your President, Secretary or any of your committee now or in the future. □

## ABOUT OUR HISTORY

Continuing a listing of plaques of headquarters and units of the Royal Regiment Australian Artillery;



### **48<sup>th</sup> Field Battery RAA.**

The plaque contains a shield with a scroll positioned above, inscribed '48 FIELD BATTERY' and one located below, inscribed 'ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY'. The background of the shield portrays the Regimental colours (red and blue) divided diagonally. The Regimental badge is in the upper section, whilst the South Australian State emblem (a piping shrike) is in the lower section. The plaque design reflects the long association of the battery with South Australia. □

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING



This will be conducted on the 14<sup>th</sup> August at 18 Bainbridge Street, commencing at 0900h. □

## MEDIA WATCH



### **Helping to restore law and order**



↑ **HONOURED** ... Major Charles Weller

◆ Major Charles Weller's performance during Operation Anode has been recognized with a Queen's Birthday Honour. Major Weller, from the Lavarack-based 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment received the Conspicuous Service Cross for outstanding service as the Chief of Staff, Headquarters Combined Joint Task Force 635 during the Solomon Islands crisis. While in the Solomon Islands, he was involved in planning tasks and he co-ordinated and was responsible for about 30 to 40 other majors as well as the headquarters staff. "I am honoured to receive the award," he said. "It's an amazing feeling to be acknowledged." "An element of this acknowledgement however, should go to the efforts of everyone involved in the headquarters," he said.

Courtesy 'Townsville Bulletin' newspaper  
Photo: EVAN MORGAN

↘ Courtesy Northern Services Courier Newspaper. ↘



↑ Laying wreaths at Thuringowa were SQNLDR Keith Robbins, 1 Combat Logistic Squadron and LTCOL Greg Bilton, CO of 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment.



↑ A combined detachment from 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment and 5<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment represented the Australian Army in the Thuringowa march ANZAC Day 2004.



↑ Memorial at Darwin after the ANZAC Day 2004 Ceremony. Harry Kent in the photograph background with Wilma in control of the camera?

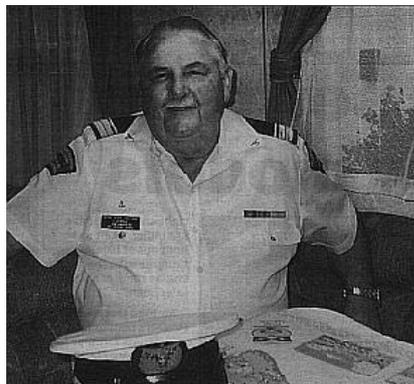


↑ Product of the Darwin prawn farm, put them back Harry, you have not paid for them!

↓ Bushie John takes to ocean waves.



↑ 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment supporters watch the cricket game in comfort. 3 Brigade Sports – They won the competition! [Courtesy Northern Services Courier newspaper]



↑ Life member of the Australian Coast Guard Association John Jewell, has seen many changes to the coastguard's role during his 29 years as a volunteer. Much could be scribed about the life and times of 'JJ', but unfortunately we do not have sufficient space in this issue, except to say that John started his working life on cattle properties and after working in the Gulf Country, he decided to have a look at the world. [Courtesy Townsville Sun newspaper]



↑ LBdr Greg Meller, AFG, picks a poppy following the Dawn Service in Gallipoli. The ADF official party to Gallipoli comprised 28 members of the AFG and the Royal Australian Navy Band to commemorate the 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing. [↑ Courtesy Army Newspaper – Photo by Sgt Troy Rodgers].

↓ Courtesy Northern Courier Services Newspaper.



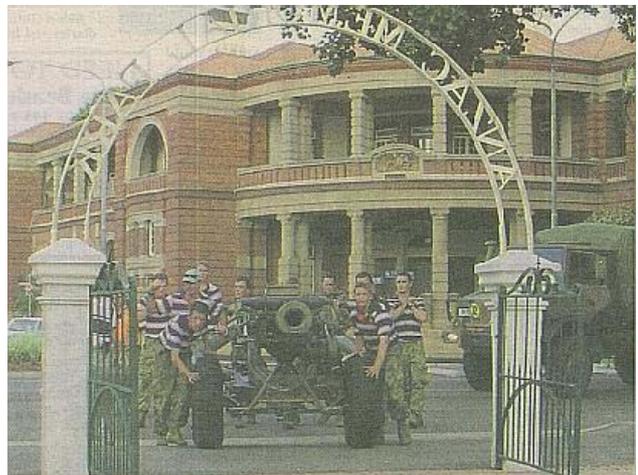
↑ Eldon Bryant trying to look grave! He is pictured with the six original WW I diaries and transcribed publication of "THE SWANN DIARIES" which were kept by Lieutenant Lyell K. Swann MM AIF AFC [Diaries commence: 14th February 1916, Enlisted Adelaide, S.A. 14<sup>th</sup> March 1916, Died France 14<sup>th</sup> November 1918.] Copies of "THE SWANN DIARIES" are available FOC in pdf format from Eldon at E-mail address; [The.Swann.Diaries@bigpond.com](mailto:The.Swann.Diaries@bigpond.com)

*Peter Dunn's*

**AUSTRALIA @ WAR**

**WWW.OZATWAR.COM**

Peter Dunn is the host for the Royal Australian Artillery Association – North Queensland "GUNNERS GOSSIP" newsletter Web Site and Peter's [www.ozatwar.com](http://www.ozatwar.com) Web Site is well worth your visit.



↑ Soldiers from 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment at Lavarack Barrack race a Hamel gun through the gates of Anzac Memorial Park as part of the Lest We Forget Anzac commemorative run. [Courtesy Northern Services Courier Newspaper – Photo by Leo Thomas]



↑ Victorian RAA Assoc. dinner June 2004. Pictured are WO2 P. Meester, P.J. Smith OAM, P. Bruce OAM, CAPT J. Francis. Peter Bruce and P.J. Smith were both in good form. Don't let the the summer mess kit fool you, it was bloody cold. ( Picture and caption received by E-mail from James Francis. )

**2004/2005**  
**YOUR YEAR OF SUPPORTIVE PARTICIPATION !**

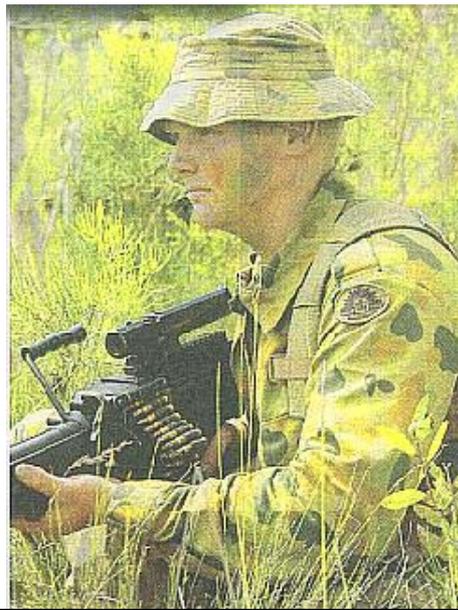
**Day Clubs come to Canberra**



**↑ Volunteers at the new Day Club in Canberra, Ross Keena, Jim Ponting and Coordinator Ian Gollings...**

The successful RSL Day Club program has come to Canberra, with a club opening in Woden Valley to provide a regular social program for members of the veteran community. RSL Day Clubs are a joint venture between DVA and the RSL NSW since 1977. Day Clubs also operate in most other states.

[Corteso Vet Affairs' newspaper]



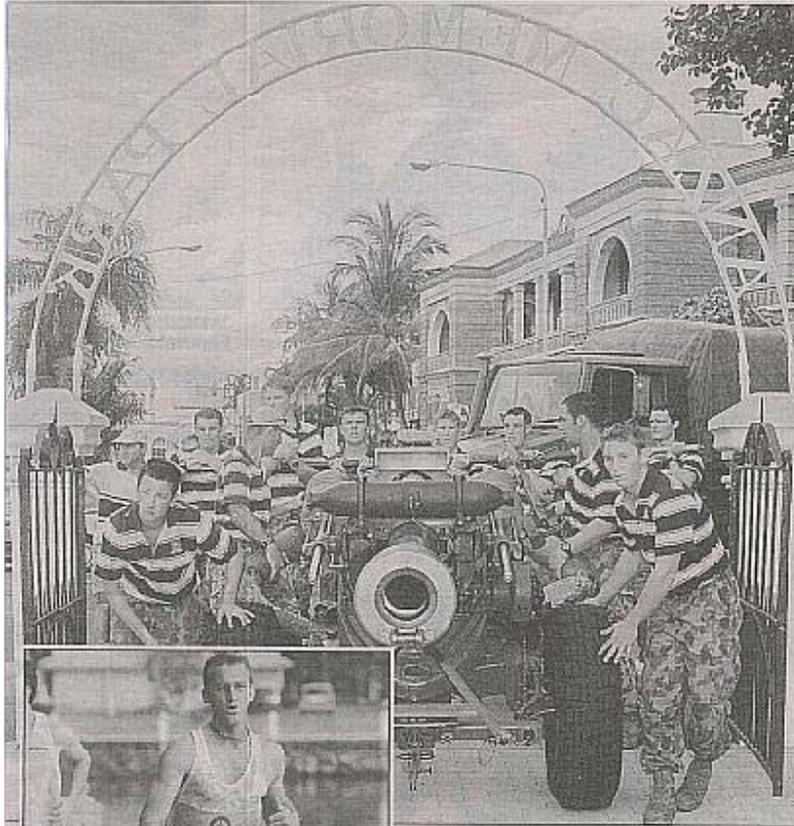
**↑ Gnr Michael Konig, 131 STA Bty, on IMTs at WBTA.**

[Courtesy Army Newspaper - Photo by Bdr Michael Edwards 131 STA Bty]



**↑ Another super action photograph from Denis Darmanin, Malta. ↑**

## EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY



**DIG EFFORT . . .** Cpl Macel Zevengerger from 10FSB with daughter Jessie, 2, and (top) members of 107 Field Battery get into the spirit Photo: EVAN MORGAN EM470250, EM447030

### Troops run for lasting legacy

**MORE** than 200 runners pounded out the 3km course in the third annual Lest We Forget Fun Run in Townsville yesterday morning.

The run had double last year's field and raised money for RSL welfare funds such as Legacy, which helps the widows and families of veterans.

"Hence the name (of the run), Lest We forget," WO1 Stephen Ward explained.

He said the run was from Anzac Park along The Strand to Jeanine Barracks and back.

The national program is organised by Athletics Australia, with the local event co-ordinated by Townsville Roadrunners.

The inaugural perpetual trophy, offered to the winning military team, went to 2RAR.

The 3km distance represents how far the original Anzacs travelled in boats to land at Gallipoli in 1915.

WO1 Ward said although the event was only three years old, it had grown in popularity every year.

[↑Courtesy 'Townsville Bulletin' Newspaper]

#### IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

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Management Committee.

**Web Site / 'Gunners Gossip' Current newsletter;** <http://www.st.net.au/~dunn/raa-nqld.htm>

Please direct any queries relating to the associations 'Web Site'

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# Imperial War Museum



↑ Pat Conyngham somewhat dwarfed under the huge gun barrels.



↑ Brian Conyngham pictured at the breech end of the guns.

Brian and Pat took these rather breathtaking pictures of the two 16 inch naval battleship barrels during their recent visit to England including Scotland [Edinburgh Castle, Imperial War Museum and many other museums were visited, including FIREPOWER] and whilst at Edinburgh Castle witnessed the firing of the 1 o'clock gun (in a drizzle). □

End