# **Tiger Rag**

Issue 63, pdf, December 2024



Photograph taken in November 1965 during the first tour of SVN by Larry Barker. (I'm not sure why this gun has its shield on when in Larry's other photos of the period the shields are off - Ed)

'Tiger Rag' is the newsletter of the 105th Battery RAA Association Inc.

Editor and Publisher Paul Stevens Phone 0417 028 321 tigerrag105@gmail.com

## IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome

President's Report

Archiving Tiger Rag

**Tigers'** Tales

**Balls Ornamental** 

**MV** Georgic

**Operation Hump** 

The Web Of Intrigue

From the Current Battery

Artillery History

Membership List

Lest We Forget

In Memorium

## WELCOME

Welcome to *Tiger Rag 63*. With the impending closure of the incorporated Association and the expiration of funding for printing, the newsletter is now being sent by email, so it's important for you to advise any email address changes to <u>tigerrag105@gmail.com</u>

I've broadly adopted the format of previous editions. Surf's Up has been re-labelled as Web Of Intrigue - a change, they say, is as good as a holiday - and there are a couple of items of interest, one relating to the Battery's deployment to Malaya, and the other to an operation during the first tour of Vietnam. I'll be looking for something from the second tour or Afghanistan next time around and would welcome any suggestions or photos you may have. Get in touch. Please! The only way I can keep *Tiger Rag* going is with your help.

Please also note the article on archiving Tiger Rag in a couple of pages time. If you could help it would be much appreciated.

I trust you enjoy this edition. As I said, get in touch. Give me your reaction and overwhelm me with material for the next one. I'm looking to send it out mid '25. In the meantime, have a great Christmas.

Ubique Paul Stevens Editor

## APOLOGY

In the last edition, because of a misunderstanding on my part, I included Malayan veteran **Max Wickham** on the In Memorium page. I'm pleased to report Max remains in good health, and I apologise sincerely to him and his family for the upset caused by my mistake.

Some images in this newsletter have been sourced from the internet. Where known, the copyright holder is acknowledged. The publisher makes no claim to ownership, and will gladly acknowledge the originator future editions of the newsletter

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

## **Closure Of The Incorporated Association**



The Committee continues to work through the closing of the incorporated Association in accordance with the resolution passed at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Progress has

been slower than expected, primarily because our bankers, Suncorp, ceased cheque transactions on the Association's account, and it became necessary to transfer to the NAB, which has branches closer to the Treasurer's location in Taree.

The assets of the Association now consist only of its bank account. The residual merchandise has been written off at cost and, as previously advised, gifted to the current 105th Battery.

For the incorporated Association to be finally closed, the funds in its bank account have to be dispersed, a final audit completed, and a Special General Meeting conducted to authorise the lodgement of the closure documents.

The annual audit of the Association's funds as at 31 July 2024 showed a balance of \$11,730 (see the Balance Sheet on the next page). From these funds, the Association needs to reimburse the Treasurer, who paid some Association bills from his personal account during the banking hiatus. It also needs to cover four additional costs: those to extend the life of the website, those relating to the final audit, those associated with the Special General Meeting, and the government charges relating to closure.

From what remains, again as previously advised, a gift will be made to today's Battery to support future awards to soldiers of merit and the maintenance of the battery's history, and then what is left will be donated to the Australian Artillery Association.

We have completed the arrangements for transfer of the funds to the Battery. This has been time consuming because of the need to comply with Commonwealth requirements regarding non-public monies, the periodic absence of the battery's executive on exercise, and the flow-on effects of the banking issue.

Final steps in the closure will now follow. With Christmas nearly upon us, those steps will extend into the new year, and I imagine the concluding Special General Meeting will take place in February 2025 or shortly thereafter.

Our plan is to conduct this meeting remotely. The relevant papers will be sent to members, and you will be able to submit your return electronically.

Best wishes to you and yours for the festive season,

## **David Gourlay,** President



# **Balance Sheet**

## 105th Battery RAA Association Inc As at 31 July 2024

	NOTES	31 JULY 2024	31 JULY 2023
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents			
Bank Accounts		11,730	15,052
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents		11,730	15,052
Inventory			
Inventory		-	5,416
Total Inventory		-	5,416
Total Current Assets		11,730	20,468
Total Assets		11,730	20,468
Net Assets		11,730	20,468
Equity			
Other Equity			
Members Funds		19,936	19,936
Total Other Equity		19,936	19,936
Retained Profits / Accumulated Losses			
Current Year Earnings		(8,738)	(2,825)
Retained Earnings		532	3,356
Total Retained Profits / Accumulated Losses		(8,206)	532
Total Equity		11,730	20,468

# ARCHIVING TIGER RAG 1-62

As Editor, I have contacted the national library system about archiving *Tiger Rags* 1-62. I found no indication that copies had previously been lodged.

The library system would have accepted original electronic versions, but we only have scans for issues 1-50.

The State Library of Queensland has offered to store printed copies. The problem is that we do not have a compete collection. I have spares of editions 51-62, but spares of previous editions that were stored at the museum at Enoggera were lost during its closure.

If we are to proceed with lodgement we need to reconstitute a collection. If you have good clean copies to TR 1 to 50 that you would be willing to donate, please contact me at <u>tigerrag105@gmail.com</u> or on 0417 028 321

Happily, the Cutler Research Centre of the RAA Historical Company (see later article) is willing to store the electronic versions of all the *Tiger Rags* that I hold, including those that are scanned.

## TIGERS' TALES

## John Smith.

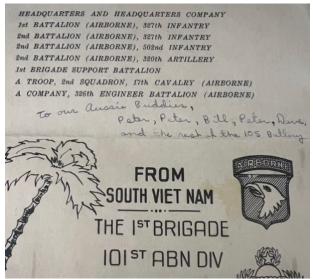
Responding to the suggestion in the last *Tiger Rag* that he, as Transport Sergeant, went to RHQ during the battery's second tour, John replied:

"While the battery's trucks went, I did not. I remained and was utilised as the Officer/Sergeant's Mess manager, Fire NCO, relief Section Commander and, of course, Orderly Sergeant.

One one occasion when the battery deployed close to Long Binh [probably FSB Nick 13-22 May 69] I was sent up to Long Binh itself as the Battery Q Representative (I had no Q training) under Fred Price. I also relieved Russell Humphries on Bravo on some of the FSB.

## Peter Kable

Peter sent the following Christmas card received from friends made during the Battery's visit to Phan Rang in November 1965.



The three Peters mentioned on the card were himself, **Peter Haylock** and **Peter Bradley**, the Bill was **Bill Hudnott**, and the Dave was **Dave White**.

**Gordon Pound** 

Gordon visited Australia in August during which time he caught up with Alan Hutchinson and Bruce Stark in Canberra. Unfortunately, Peter Tedder was interstate.



Gordon, Bruce and Alan

"Fourteen days before my flight," wrote Gordon," came an appointment to have a dodgy heart valve replaced, something I had been waiting on for a year. I should have made a choice, one or the other but, rather stupidly chose both. Consequently, although I was able to meet three key objectives I had in mind, I was in no condition to do much more.

Two of the three objectives were military. First I attended the 107 Battery birthday in Townsville on I August (I went to VN with 107 as **George Salmon's** BK in 1971). Second, for the first time I was able to attend the Long Tan Day ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra. Sadly I saw no one that I knew, quite unlike the dedication of the Memorial itself all those years ago.

Being well on the road to full recovery, I hope that I'll find more old comrades the next time I visit. This last trip having been so restricted I'm determined to fit in another"

## **TIGERS' TALES**

## **Ray Hartigan**

Ray, second tour detachment commander who is now a grape grower in Renmark and prominent figure in the local RSL, sent the following clipping from his local newspaper.



The nub of the story is that growers like himself are being forced to grub out vines at considerable expense because of the wine industry economics. Production costs are something like \$350 per tonne, and the wineries to which they sell - not 'good corporate citizens' in Ray's eyes - are offering way less. "Growers and businesses," Ray told the paper, "both need financial stability to ensure agricultural communities remain sustainable. I'm sick of being told I'm living I want to live in a in an economy. community." That's a sentiment with which we would all agree.

Despite the adversity Ray's sense of humour remains. "Feel free to use the article" he said. "The thought of generating sympathy for me from the Battery has a certain appeal!!!"

## **Bruce Stokes**

Bruce sent in a report of a new Vietnamese military museum, which opened on 1 November with free entry until the end of the year. Google Military Museum Hanoi for details.

#### **Ray Chapman**

In early November, Ray and wife Shirley celebrated her 80th birthday with a function in Teralba Park, Brisbane. Amongst those present were **Chris and Stanis Cybulski, Erin Bradley, John and Di Dolton, Ian James and daughter June, and Marney Wickham and partner Grant.** "*A little 105 Battery get together,*" reported Ray, " and a good and enjoyable time was had by all."



Ian James, John Dalton, Stanis Cybulski (striped top), Chris Cybulski

Which letter is silent in the word "scent," the S or the C? Why is there a 'd' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?

## **BALLS ORNAMENTAL**

## Max Hawkins, BC, 1971-72

It was Brisbane towards the end of 1971 and the [Vietnam] war had just been called off for all but the Training Team. This may or may not have been a good thing, but it did the leave the Battery at a bit of a loose end. However, within a week an alternative was presented to us. As part of the Brisbane Waratah Festival there was to be a riverbank rendition of the 1812 Overture and a Gun Salute needed to be provided for the closing strains. We had received a good chit from the CRA of 1 Div for our build up for deployment and so a touch of Gun Drill would be no trouble.

But an orchestra being supported by Gunners wearing Working Dress Ceremonial (clean starched greens) would be somewhat infra dig. So the big challenge became not to protect ourselves against counter battery fire but rather to scrounge something to impress the Brisbane natives and not upset the dreaded General A. L. MacDonald, then GOC Northern Command.

For those fortunate enough to be too young to remember A.L., he was a fierce chap who personally would rove the command seeking out any soldier deviating from proper dress. To go through his office seeking any sort of fancy dress was to invite disaster as well as refusal. So we put the matter of dress into the hands of **Bill Richards**, the Assistant Adjutant, although we had to agree to let him command the detachment as a reward.

As usual, Bill did a sterling job. Somehow he went through Command stores to produce white jackets, blue trousers, sexually ambiguous sashes, and pith helmets with spikes on top.



The last were fine for Gunners and NCOs, but Bill's research revealed that Officers (viz him as he was the only one) n e e d e d 'Balls Ornamental' on their chapeau. Not to be outdone, he obtained a Royal Marine officer's helmet, ripped off the

badge and replaced it with a proper Gunner badge.

Well, it all went well. Mind you, the performance on the day came as a surprise for both John Humphrey, our CO, and A. L. To protect John, we decided not to make him part of the clothing plot. And A.L having been effusively congratulated by the Brisbane Lord Mayor on HIS contribution to Waratah 1971 was rather constrained in any punishment he would like to have meted out to the extravagantly dressed Gun Detachments.

I don't like to spoil a good story, but actually Gunners of all ranks wore helmets with a ball on top because, back in those days, helmet spikes caused considerable annoyance to their horses.-Ed

## **MV GEORGIC**

(Images Courtesy of Wikipedia)

On 4 October 1955, the guns and stores of the newly-formed 105th Field Battery were loaded onto the *MV Georgic* in Sydney. Two days later, the main body embarked and set sail for Malaya.

*Georgic* began her life as the last ship to be built by the British White Star Line. She was fitted with a diesel power plant rather than steam boilers, thus the designation MV, Motor Vessel. Launched in 1931 she plied the transatlantic route for White Star and then Cunard carrying 479 Cabin class, 557 Tourist class and 506 Third class passengers.



In April 1940, *Georgic* was converted into a troopship able to carry 3,000 passengers. Fifteen months later, anchored off Port Tewfik at the head of the Gulf Of Suez, she was bombed and set ablaze, leaving her half submerged with a flooded engine room and a blackened and twisted superstructure.

Despite the damage, the authorities decided the ship was salvageable. She was first re-floated and towed to Karachi, and then sent to Bombay where she was repaired to the extent that she could sail for England under her own power. Here she was rebuilt as a troopship, emerging in December 1944 with a considerably changed appearance.



After repatriating troops, civilians and prisoners following the war, *Georgic* was refitted as an emigrant ship with single-class accommodation for 1,962, regularly travelling to Australia until being detailed in 1953 to bring troops back from the Korean War.



Although the British Government announced that *Georgic* was to be withdrawn from service in 1955, she was chartered by Australia for two last emigrant runs, and was thus available, on her way home, to take Australian troops to Malaya that October. Those on board included 2RAR; 105th Battery; an Engineer Troop; Signals, Service Corps, RAEME and Provost components; a Medical and a Dental Section; and a Chaplain.

After disembarking this force, *Georgic* sailed for Singapore and then Vung Tau, where she picked up a contingent of French troops, for return to Algiers and Marseille. Back in the UK she was removed from service and sold for scrap.

# **OPERATION HUMP**



Bruce Stark, BK of 105 on its first tour in SVN, recently received an issue of the electronic magazine F R O N T L I N E (frontline.asn.au) featuring the recollections of a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade of an assault on 8

November 1965 made by the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry (1/503rd) during *Operation Hump* in War Zone D.

The infantry elements in this operation (5-9 November 1965) were 1/503rd and 1RAR, with artillery support provided by two batteries of the 3rd Battalion, 385th (3/385th) Artillery Brigade and 105th Battery.

The FRONTLINE story speaks of the 1/503rd engaging in one of the fiercest battles of the Vietnam War against a dug-in NVA force on Hill 65 east of the Song Be River, with the paratroopers determinedly holding their ground and ultimately driving off the enemy. It recounts that the battalion suffered 48 killed and 90 wounded, and the NVA 403 dead.

The Brigade after action report recorded 391 enemy KIA, and noted that while the artillery fired in support, it was only able to apply six missions at the height of the fighting because of the closeness of the enemy and the spread and movement of friendly troops.

The largest 1RAR contact occurred on the evening of 8 November. Alpha Company ran up against entrenched force and suffered a number of casualties, including two KIA who could not be recovered.

105th Battery provided fire support during the contact and the company's move to a new location the next day. The company commander reported that the fire was extremely accurate and directed with great skill. OC Delta Company also recorded that on the operation "the gunnery of 105th Battery was excellent, and their efforts left little to be desired with regard to close artillery support".

During the operation there were two unusual occurrences. First, body bags containing US casualties were temporarily deposited at the gun position, a sobering reminder of the reality of war early in the battery's tour.

Second, with ammunition running low on 9 November, a LOLEX (low-level extraction) resupply was arranged. This entailed a drogue parachute dragging ammunition out of a cargo aircraft flying close to the ground.



The drop was not particularly successful, with some boxes breaking open when they hit paddy bunds, scattering the rounds inside.

After the operation the two Alpha Company casualties, LCPL Parker and PTE Gillson, were recorded as MIA. Their remains were finally recovered in 2007 and returned to Australia for burial. Second tour 105th Battery veteran and Vietnamese linguist, **Walter Pearson**, was part of the recovery team.

# **THE WEB OF INTRIGUE 1**



While the Association will cease to be an incorporated entity, our website will continue for a few more years. Both it and *Tiger Rag* will help

## NEW AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WEBSITE



The Australian Artillery Association, which represent the interests of "Gunners all over Australia – Gunners all", has 'upgunned' its website.

On the website <u>https://</u> www.australianartilleryassociation.org/

you can access:

- a link to the *Army News*;
- video interviews with past and present Gunners;
- information on the National Gunner Memorial; and
- a link to the 2024 National Defence Strategy and the latest on the RAA batteries and regiments.

## AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM VETERANS MORTALITY LISTING

A website now exists listing Australian Vietnam casualties across all the Services drawn from data provided by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

The list includes veterans who have passed since Vietnam. Data in spreadsheet format lists the names, unit, and brief details of the related incident or date of death. to keep you informed on Association and RAA issues.

Accordingly, we encourage you to continue to contribute information to both *Tiger Rag* and this website, and in particular to advise the newsletter editor and/or the Webmaster of any 105th Battery members who pass away. Future electronic additions of *Tiger Rag* will appear on the website, and you should check on the Events Page regularly to find who is your regional Association representative.

The website includes information on how to search the spreadsheet, and also includes a link to a form for notification of deceased Vietnam veterans currently not listed. Data is updated periodically. Link to: https://www.amvif.info/

## THE WORLD WAR BEFORE WW1

NATIONAL **ARMY** MUSEUM For those with an interest in military history, why not visit the National Army Museum website- for a look at "the Butterfly Effect" in a world war 1756 – 1763: <u>https://</u>

www.nam.ac.uk/explore/seven-years-war.

The war started in North America in 1754 with battles between the British and French, and spread into India, the Caribbean and Europe.

I'll call it a smartphone the day I yell "Where's my phone?!" and it yells "Down here! In the couch cushions!"

# THE WEB OF INTRIGUE 2

## **KEEPING SECRETS**



Recent media informed the Australian public of an alleged Russian spy in our Defence Force.

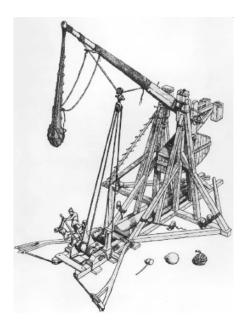
At a defence industry conference, Major General Brett Mousley, Head of Intelligence Capability,

commented on the decade ahead for intelligence, surveillance and targeting capabilities. He stated that "the core feature of any intelligence service is keeping secrets, which makes public engagement (about and with our Defence forces) a tricky business."

Read further at: <u>https://</u> <u>www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/</u> <u>2024-10-31/defence-intelligence-seeks-</u> <u>collaboration-industry</u>

### **FROM TREBUCHET TO M777**

A couple of years ago the CO 1st Regiment held a Trebuchet competition between the Batteries.



As the image shows, a trebuchet was a medieval catapult with, as a browser search on the subject would show, a range of up to 300 yards.

So how did the simple Battery gunnerbuilt trebuchets go? They sent a rockmelon about about 35 metres, clearly demonstrating that those medieval gunners, albeit with a lot more time and material, knew a thing or two about throwing projectiles.

## **DRONE WARFARE**



Armed drones are common weapons in the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. Now the Switchblade 300 is to be added to Australia's defence arsenal. Find out more a t https://

www.australiandefence.com.au/defence/ l a n d / g o v e r n m e n t - a n n o u n c e s switchblade-300-order.

Also announced was the introduction of the loitering munition, OWL-B. Link to: <u>https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/</u> <u>news/army-to-introduce-owl-loitering-</u> <u>munition</u>.

For defence against drones, Australia has developed a weapon using an Electromagnetic Pulse. Read what this smart counter-attack device can do at <u>https://</u> <u>www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/</u> <u>2024-09-24/shockwaves-battlefield</u>

Teach a person to fish and you feed them for a day.

Teach a person to use the internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, even years!

## FROM THE CURRENT BATTERY

## **BK**, Captain Matthew Tunks, Reports

Overall, in 2024 105th Battery had a highly productive and successful training year. It participated in a series of live fire exercises, providing its members with opportunities to refine and build upon the skills they had developed in 2023.

On *Exercise BARCE* the battery conducted defence of the gun line, a BC's fire plan, and the establishment of gun positions in an urban environment. These activities highlighted the battery's ability to effectively plan and execute complex operations in challenging, high-tempo settings.

Subsequently, we participated in a Combined Arms Training Activity and the 7th Brigade's *Exercise War Fighter*, during which we conducted live direct-fire and danger-close practices, platoon attacks, and the breaking of contact. This was preparation for potential real-world operations and enabled us to practice fire discipline, communications, and coordination with other units.

Later in the year, 105th Battery took over responsibility of the Ready Battle Group from 104th Battery, successfully completing all readiness requirements. This was a significant milestone, representing the culmination of two years of hard training.

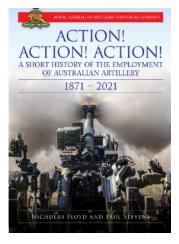
To top off a successful training year, 105th Battery won the Regimental Fight Night, demonstrating its members physical provess over other sub-units.



Tiger Rag 63

# **ARTILLERY HISTORY**

## **Action! Action! Action!**



Action! Action! A Short History Of The Employment Of Australian Artillery 1871-1921, has been recently published by the RAA Historical Company.

Co-authored by Lieutenant Colonel Nick Floyd and Major General Paul Stevens, this 260 page soft-cover publication is richly illustrated with photos and maps.

Reviews can be found on the RAAHC website, which also accepts online orders at **\$23.00** per copy, including postage. Go to: <u>https://www.artilleryhistory.org/</u> and click on the image of the book.

## The Cutler Research Centre



The RAA Historical Company's library at North Head holds thousands of artillery-related documents, books, photographs, manuals, videos, and maps. To make access to this collection easier, the Company has transformed the library into a facility with on-line access known as the Cutler Research Centre (CRC).

Persons interested in what the CRC holds in relation to a particular topic can log in through: <u>https://ehive.com/collections/201005/cutler-research-centre</u>

Once logged in, the enquirer can enter their search topic, and the system will display the items in the CRC catalogue relating to that field. For example, if the enquirer entered 'Fort Scratchley', the system would display catalogue references for 25 maps, 16 technical drawings, and two box files.

At this stage, most catalogue items cannot be read on-line. Having found an item of interest, the enquirer sends a request to the CRC - <u>cutlerresearchcentre@artilleryhistory.org</u> - for more information. Major General (Retd) Tim Ford manages the CRC and the team of volunteers who curate the collection and answer enquiries.

The CRC is a valuable repository of artillery history. If you have a query, get in touch. If you believe you have something that might bolster its collection, email an electronic version to managercrc@artilleryhistory.org for evaluation. The CRC is seeking additional volunteers, particularly those with Gunner experience in the Sydney area. If you are interested, contact the manager. And if you would like to make tax deductible donation to the running of the centre you can do so at : https://www.artilleryhistory.org/donations.html

# **105th Battery RAA Association Membership List**

#### QUEENSLAND

Kevin Agombar L James Allman L Donald Armstrong L Robin Bade HL Geoff Baldwin L Alan Battersby L D Barker HL Bluev Bellis L Paddy Best L Ben Bolton L2 Robert Booth L Rona Borgges HL Jim Box L2 Lyn Cane HL Muriel Casey HL Ron Casey L John Cathcart L2 Ray Chapman L2 Chris Chriscoli L Joe Clendinen L Arthur Clendinen L2 James Cliff HL Graham Cole L Peter Cole L Wally Conway L2 Ian Cossart L June Cottee HL Noela Creighton HL Adam Cullen L Colin Cunningham L Joanne Cunningham HL Chris Cybulski L2 John Dalton L Mike De Sousa L Andv Devine L Bill Drewe L Paddy Durnford L Alan Duval L2 Charlie Elwell L George Fancsali L Len Fanning L Bill Fearon L Leslie Gaffney L2 C. Gann HL Charles Geljon L Ian Gill L2 Robbie Goodwin L Tony Gorsch L2 Boris Green L2 B(Yorky) Greetham L Nigel Groves L2 Gary Hallam L2 Sandra Hanson HL Lynden Harbour L John Harper L2 Ian Haywood L Ray Heath L

John Hickev L Russell Hill Snow Hurman L2 lan James L5 Ian Jewell L Zane Johnson L Suzanne Johnstone HI Don Jones L Khalid El Khaligi L Jim King L2 Val Konias L Stephen Lewis L Denise Lloyd-Kelly HL Bob Long L John Long L2 Trevor Luchterhand 12 Steven Macfarlane L Trevor Madelev L Margaret Malone HL Helen Manley HL Paul Maloney L Graeme Maughan L2 Jocelyn MacKenzie HL Christina McCauliffe HI Barbara McConnell HI Hazel McLean HL Lisa McMaster HL Bruce Mitchell L Peter Monks L Peter Morish L2 lan Morlev L2 Sue Morrell HL Tony Nelson L2 Jason Neville L2 Ray Nevin L Darryl Nicholls L Tony O'Toole L2 Shane Oxenham L2 Ivan Parkes L2 Karen Pinnell HL Don Quinn L Juergen Raasch L Phillip Ratcliff XF Ted Robinson L Fred Rudduck L2 Kev Ryan L Shane Saunders HL David Scheiwe L Greg Smith L2 John Smith L John Soper L2 Philip Sparkes L2 Doug Stapleton L

Barrie Stark L2 Jim Symon L2 Louise Symon HL Griff Thomas L Pat Thomson HL George Van Liessum

Val Voyzey HL Don Waddingham L Graeme Wallace L2 Ian Ward L Doug Watts L Ian Webster L Greg West L Evan Williams L Cliff Wilson L John Wilson L Ron Woodforde L2

#### NSW

Carmel Armstrong XL Don Begg L2 Mark Britton L Peter Bruce L Peter Caislev L2 Michael De Percy L Phil Dowd L Barry Fagan L John Gliddon L David Gourlay L2 Dick Hall L Ray Howe L2 Alan Hutchinson L Deb Johnston HL Peter Kable L2 Garry Kennedy L Peter Lawler HL John Macpherson L2 John McMahon L2 Lance Melbourne L Rebecca Montague HL Geoff Mulherin L Ken (Spud) Murphy L Judy Mussared HL Tom Nguyen L Peter Niven L Gordon O'Brien L Roger O'Dwver L2 Walter Pearson L Raymond Perry L Bill Pyle L Bill Richards L Noel Rodda L Yvonne Rodgers HL lan Rudd L Llynne Salom HL Frank Sommerton L Alan Styles L2

Peter Whalan L Dave White L2 Hewitt Whyman L Barrie Winsor L2 Alan Winter L John Wood L2 Keith Woodlands L

#### WA

Ross Bradley L2 Craig Campbell L Mike Dean L2 Merv Dux L Graham Fitzgerald L David Gratwick L2 Doug Hayward L Con Kikeros L Stephen Kirwan L Frank Kohlmann L Eric McDonald L Jan McLeod HL Ian Paton L Svlvia Perrin HL Trevor Prideaux 19 Ian Smith L Ric Stingemore L Bruce Stokes L Peter Traynor L Peter Treleaven L2 Nick Waldon L Marianne Walker L Rick Walsh L Laurie Willey L

#### VICTORIA

Stephen Banfield HL Roder Carlisle L2 Alfonso Cerone L Ken Fitzpatrick L David Forster L Terry Geddes HL Roger Gialanze L Andrew Guest L David Hodges L Sandra Hodgson HL Mervyn Jansson L Norman Johns L Nigel Linnell L2 Bruce Mitchell L Raymond Perry L Tony Poole L Daryl Povey L Bob Savige L Lou Schembri L Sandy Simpson HL Rick Sund L John Szymanski L Ronald Thorp L Tony Wade L2

#### ACT

Geoff Annett L2 Brent Clarke L Monica Cossart HL Khalid Elkhaligi L Geoff Jebb L Bruce Stark L2 Paul Stevens L2 Ray Stone L2 Ray Sunderland L2 Peter Tedder L2 Mike Thompson L William Wright L

## SA

Andy Bence L John Dawkins L George Drummond L Garry Forster L Brenton George L Ray Hartigan L2 Michael Hawkins L Graham Pendle L2 Ziggy Przedworski L Don Raggatt L Brian Slee L Mike Terrell L Mick Veale L2 Paul Vincent L2

#### TASMANIA

Barbara Challenger HL Gerry Dekker L2 Marney Wickham HL Max Wickham L Lefty Wright L2

## NT

Norman De La Cruz L Graham Woodward L2

#### UK

Gordon Pound L2

# **LEST WE FORGET**

## **Bob Cunningham**



Life member Robert (Bob) E. Cunningham passed away on 30 July 2024, survived by son Peter and daughter Joanne and their families.

Well known to many of our Association members who served with him

in the pre-Vietnam era, Bob also served in 'A' Battery, and for may years was President and Treasurer of its Association..

Medically discharged in the '60s following a car accident, Bob became an accountant, and after retirement worked with our Association member, the late Don Sinclair, on the successful restoration of the 25pr and L5 ceremonial guns used in the Brisbane Anzac Day march.

## **Phil Perrin**



Philip passed away on 12 August 2024, survived by his wife Sylvia, his two children and their families.

A National Serviceman, Phil graduated into the

artillery from OCS Portsea in 1957 and served in 105th Battery in the early 1960s, after which he was posted to the School of Artillery and then to Woomera as a Captain launch officer. He then joined 131 Div Loc Battery and served with the detachment of that sub-unit in Vietnam in 1968.

On return to Australia Phil served again at Woomera, this time as the unit OC. Afterwards he attended staff college, and subsequently undertook staff postings in Sydney, Canberra and Perth before taking his discharge in the latter city, the capital of his home State. In retirement he was the Executive Officer at Perth Legacy.

## **Alan Johnston**



Association life m e m b e r A l a n Johnston passed away on 27 June 2024 survived by his wife, Debbie and four children. Born in Kellyville, NSW, he joined the Army wanting to serve in the infantry but ended

up with the guns.

He deployed to Vietnam with 1st Field Regiment HQ in early 1969, but because of casualties amongst 105th Battery's observers, he joined the FO Party with D Coy 5RAR in April. Shortly after participating in the battle of Binh Ba (6 June 69) he was wounded in a mine incident in Dat Do and returned to Australia. He was back in Vietnam by November and served the rest of the Regiment's tour.

On RTA, Alan became a PTI and was posted to RMC. A chance meeting with 5RAR's former CO, Brigadier Colin Khan, led to a job as Army Recruiter in the Northern Rivers region of NSW where he met his wife

# **LEST WE FORGET**

Debbie and spent the rest of his life. He lived in Ballina and made a huge impact within the local Seagulls Rugby League Club mentoring and encouraging young players.

#### **David (Hughie) Spark**



David Euan (Hughie) Spark passed away on 23 June 2024, aged 88, survived by his wife Dot and step children.

Hughie served in Malaya with 'A' Battery from 1957 to 1959, and in Malaysia with 103rd Field Battery from

1961 to 1963.

He served two tours in Vietnam, first with 103rd Battery in 1967/68 and then with 105th Battery in 1969 On this latter tour he was the Detachment Commander of Foxtrot Sub from the battery's arrival until August, and the Battery Guide for the remainder of the deployment.

Hughie's story is covered in some detail in *Tiger Rag 56*. After the Army he spent many years in the trucking business before working on a family grape farm at Mildura. In retirement he and Dot enjoyed caravanning and lived for a while at Lakes Entrance before returning to Mildura.

#### **Brian Angus**

Brian passed away in Spearwood, WA, at the beginning of May 2024, aged 89, survived by his wife Leona, and brother Malcom and family.

He joined the ARA at aged 16, serving first with 3RAR and then 1RAR in Korea in late 1954 and early 1955 before joining 105th Battery in Malaya between 1955 and 1957.

Unfortunately, contact with Brian's family has currently been lost, and no additional information is available.

## Don McLeod



The Association has recently been advised that Don passed away on 29 September 2020. He is survived by his wife Jan, his three children, and seven grandchildren.

Born in Shorncliffe, Brisbane, in 1936, Don joined the

Army Apprentices' School after undertaking his secondary education. Allocated to RAEME, he served with 105th Battery on its first tour of SVN in 1965. He remained in the Army until the mid 1980's, discharging in the rank of WO 1.

Don was then employed in the security industry until 1998. In retirement he enjoyed travel and assisting others with his technical skills and with family research.



Tiger Rag 63

# **IN MEMORIUM**

Max Almond Brian Angus Francis Armstrong Ken Arthur **Denny Atherden** Tony Averbe Peter Badcoe VC Ken Bade Glen Baker Tom Banfield Lawrence Barker John Barrett Joe Bartlett Murray Batten Craig Beck OBE Greg Bentley Mick Bierton Stuart Birnie **Trevor Blay** Bruce Bogle Ken Borgges Bill Bostock Ernie Bradley John (Jock) Bradley Peter Bradley Stan Briggs Phil Brown Ken Buhmann Roy Bullpitt Arthur Burke OAM Phillip Button Frank Buxton Cyril Cahill Barry Cane Gordon Carrol Denis Casey Colin Challenger James (Tassie) Challenger Neville Charles Keith Christianson Peter Cimbaljevic Raymond Clarke Richard Cliff **Richard Coldwell** Gordon 'Mick' Cole GC William Cole Les Cooper Keith Cossart Warren Cottee Arthur Cox OAM Max Creighton Jack Crook

Murray Cubillo R.M.C. Cubis MVO **Bob Cunningham** Jack Davidson John Davidson Tom Dawson Douglas Dodson Bert Downes Len Dyer Tubby Easton Brian Edwards Allan Ellis Keith Elsley Robert Evans Les Faulkner John Felsman Maurice Fletcher Peter Fleming Brien Forward OBE Bernie Franey Splinter Galbraith Ken Gann Joe Geddes Ron Gibson Pat Gowans OAM Brian Greetham Alan Grice **Hughie Griggs** Peter Groves Frank Gulyas 'Jock' Gunn Jim Haim Roger Hanlon Terry Hansen Ray Harper Ron Hart Lester Hedge Les Henderson **Bob Heveren** Les Hilderbrandt Lawrence Hoad Jim Hodason Joe Holmes Ray Hooker OAM Colin Howard K.(Pop) Hughes **Russ Humphries** Alan Hutcheson Graham Hyles Vic Irwin **Bill Isles** John Jackson Stanley David James MBE Merv Jansson

Jim Jauncy (Bega) Les Jobling **Bill Johnson** Alan Johnston Gordon Johnstone Alex Karas Pat Kearns Colin Kelly Terry Kliese Jim Lawler Alan Laws Ron Lees Des Leonard John Lillis Dennis Lindgren Sandy Lloyd RD MacCullough Ken MacKenzie Douglas MacPherson Joe Makowski Peter Mallon John Malone **Bill Manley Bob Mantell Dick Matthews** Col Maynard Robin Medcalf Ross McCann **Bill McAuliffe** Pat McCarthy John McConnell BEM Arthur McDermott Don McDonald Don McDougall Barry McLean Don McLeod **Bill McMillan** Archibald McNally Jock McPhail Frank Mitchell Kevin Mitchell Jimmy Moggach Jack Moses Lindsay Mussared Wallace Musgrave **Bob Myers** A.J. Nall Jim Neill Alan Nelson Graham Newstead Nipper O'Brien Barry O'Neill Allan Otton

Peter Overstead Fred Parratt Frank Pellatt OAM Phil Perrin Tom Pietzner Victor Pinnell Terry Plowman Jim Poland **Glenn Polson** Ray Pratt Fred Price Phil Pritchard **Brian Printer** Tony Quinn John Randall Ian Reid Jim Reynolds Mike Richards Gordon Rickards **Geoff Saunders Rick Rickerby** Gordon Robinson **Robert Rodgers** Frank Roughan Peter Rye Gerry Salom George Salmon AM Kevin Saloway Lindsay Sanderson Ted Saunders Bruce Scrivenor Jim Scutts A.E. Shaw Kevin Sheehan **Robbie Shields** Keith Simmonds Fred Simmons Tom Simpson Don Sinclair Joe Soxsmith Ashley Spann Pat Squibb **David Spark** Peter Starkie **Barrie Stillwell** Ken Summersford John Suthers Don Sutton Bruce Taylor Leslie Taylor Rex Taylor Lachie Thomson AM Graham Tippetts Keith Towning

Ken Townsend Glen Traill Bruce Tye Ivars Valuks Barry Voyzey Peter White Richard (Dick) Wickenden Jon Wickham Albertus Willemsen Wayne T. Wright Colin Young



# **Canungra Vietnam Memorial**



A new Vietnam Memorial with public access at the Training Centre at Canungra was dedicated on 18 August 2024.

On the memorial, units are shown on corps-related plaques. The 105th Battery Association made a financial contribution to the production of the RAA plaque.

