

Tiger Rag

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Tiger Rag is the journal of the
105th Field Battery RAA
Association

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WELCOME

The cover of this edition recognises that 2025 marks significant anniversaries for both our Malaya and first-tour of SVN members. To commemorate the occasion more fully I'm planning photo essays of both deployments in the next edition of *Tiger Rag*.

As your Editor, I would like to thank all those who contributed articles and photos to this edition. They're a reminder that this is your newsletter. It can only keep going if you send in material. Get in touch at tigerrag105@gmail.com

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As you will see from the table of contents, what you have before you contains a report from the President on the closure of the incorporated Association, topical news, and reports from members on Anzac Day and items of interest. Ted Robinson's experiences in the Queensland floods feature, Nigel Groves has forwarded some poetry, and the article in the last edition on 'Balls Ornamental' drew quite a response.

The contribution from the Battery is different this time. Rather than reporting on their activities, they have provided some material on how the Ukrainians are using their guns that I'm sure will be of interest.

The next edition is due out in October/November. Please keep your contributions coming in, especially Malaya and first-tour photos if you have them. Other commitments mean I won't be able to respond straight away in June, but rest assured I'll appreciate whatever arrives.

Paul Stevens
Editor

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

If your contact details or email address change, please update the Association Secretary at 42.105as@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings to all. I trust everyone had a great Christmas and New Year, and enjoyed the comradeship of Anzac Day. That said, I'm all too aware that some have suffered loss in

recent times, and I extend my condolences, and those of the Association, to all those affected.

I'm pleased to report we're moving towards formal closure of the incorporated Association. Creditors have all been satisfied, and a recent meeting of the Management Committee agreed to disburse the remaining funds, some \$6,698, as follows:

- The Secretary was granted funds to cover future website hosting, audit fees, and charges imposed by the Office of Fair Trading relating to closure. In total this was estimated to be less than \$1,000
- \$5,000 was allocated to the *Tiger Rag* Editor for the production of a 'coffee table' version of the battery history originally produced by **Arthur Burke** richly illustrated with photographs, and available to members for the cost of postage. More to follow as this project develops.
- Remaining funds, and any unexpended funds from the first two allocations, are to go to the Australian

Artillery Association in accordance with the closure motion agreed at the 2023 AGM.

With the funds disbursed, the Association's financials can be subject to a final audit and an electronic Extraordinary General Meeting held to formally close the incorporated body.

On another matter, I'm also pleased to report as well that printed copies of *Tiger Rag* have been successfully lodged with the State Library of Queensland, part of the national library system.

The Association is very grateful to those members who responded to the appeal for back copies in the last *Tiger Rag*. **Bob Long** generously donated his complete archive of issues 1-50, and we thank him most sincerely. The editor complemented these with copies of editions 50-62.

Electronic versions of all the printed *Tiger Rags*, and the subsequent emailed ones, will be stored at the Artillery Historical Company's Cutler research Centre.

In closing I wish you all well, and record my thanks and yours to **Jim Box** and **Peter Caisley** for their work on the incorporated Association's closure, and to **Paul Stevens** for the continued production of *Tiger Rag*. And don't forget to log on to our website 105bty.asn.au!

David Gourlay



105bty.asn.au

WHAT'S MAKING NEWS

New Veterans' Legislation

The April edition of *Vetaffairs* reported that, on 13 February 2025, Parliament passed legislation to simplify the framework for veteran rehabilitation, compensation and related benefits.

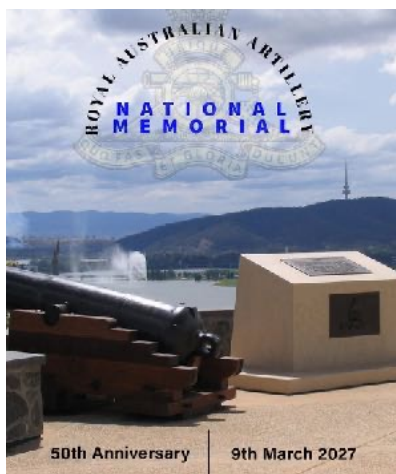
Quote. *"The legislation means that from 1 July 2026 the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) will close. All claims received from 1 July 2026 will be determined under an improved Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act.*

Payments being received under the VEA and SRCA prior to 1 July 2026 will ... continue uninterrupted (and will continue to be indexed).

The [new] Act does not change existing arrangements for income support payments such as the...Service Pension. Veterans with qualifying service will also be eligible for the Gold Card at age 70."
Unquote

For more information go to www.dva.gov.au/legislationreform

RAA National Memorial Extension Project



The RAA National Memorial atop Mount Pleasant in Canberra was funded by donations from the Gunner community and

corporate bodies, and dedicated by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 9 March 1977.

Panels on the Memorial currently recognise service from Sudan to South Vietnam. There is a need to expand recognition to include those who have served since, and those who may serve on future operations.

For this to happen the existing layout has to be sympathetically modified. The Regimental Committee has endorsed a concept design, and initial planning documents will be submitted to the National Capital Authority and the ACT Government shortly. The Head of Regiment has called on all Gunners - as individuals and associations - to lend their support by raising awareness and funds. **Donations are tax deductible.** To find out more go to www.artilleryhistory.org or www.australianartilleryassociation.org



Gurkha Gunners

In the UK, His Majesty the King has approved the formation of the King's Gurkha Artillery (KGA) to complement the service of Gurkha infantry in the existing Brigade of Gurkhas. It is envisaged that in due course the KGA will provide a battery in each of three Royal Artillery close-support gun regiments.

WHATS MAKING NEWS

Army Chief's Philosophy

How is the Army reacting to the Defence Review of 2023 and the challenges in our region? Read the response of the Chief of Army - Lieutenant General Simon Stuart AO CSC - by going to army.gov.au and selecting 'Speeches and Transcripts'. Look at 'Challenges To The Australian Army Profession' (25 November 2024) and 'Strengthening The Australian Army Profession' (3 April 2025) in that order.

The 10th Brigade.

Part of the changes to the Army after the 2023 Defence Review has been the formation of the 10th 'Fires' Brigade.

Located at Edinburgh, South Australia, the Brigade currently comprises a civil-military cooperation capability and three artillery units: 9 Regiment (ARes), six surveillance batteries; 16 Regiment, (to be relocated to Edinburgh late 2025) providing air defence and air/ground coordination; and 14 Regiment, comprising three Himars batteries and a fires integration battery.



Chief of Army and Commander 10th Brigade with Himars

14 Regiment's role is to provide depth/long range fire. Australia raised a unit with a similar purpose in World War 1. Initially titled the Siege Brigade, it was later known as the 36th (Australian) Heavy Artillery Group and then the 36th Heavy Artillery Brigade. Its batteries were numbered 54 and 55. In recognition of that heritage, the Himars batteries in 14 Regiment will be numbered 54, 55 and 56, and the fires integration battery will be 36 battery.

14 Regiment will occupy 'Horseshoe Lines' at Edinburgh. 54 Battery was formally raised in January this year. RHQ will be raised in January 2026. The remaining batteries will follow.

Long-Range Radars



The Government has announced the procurement of up to 14 multi-mission phased-array radars (see photo) to monitor potential threats and enhance the Army's long range fires capability. The radars will be built by the Australian firm CEA Technologies. Delivery is expected in 2027. They will be operated by a targeting regiment in 10th 'Fires' Brigade.

MEMBERS' ANZAC DAY REPORTS

Brisbane: Paul Stevens

Steady rain greeted the dawn services. We had no one at Enoggera, but I attended in the city. The rain held off for the later march, in which our numbers were small: Greg West and son Gordon, David Gourlay, Jim Box, Peter Caisley, Nigel Groves, Don Roach, Wally Conway, Les Gaffney with granddaughter Sophie, recently-retired Lyall Kitchiner, and myself. Trevor Madely marched with 101 Battery.



Greg and David led, Peter and Jim carried the NOK Flags, and two Lieutenants from the Battery - Oscar Stevens (no relation) and Luke McClay - carried the Association banner.

After the march the majority of those marching, joined by family and Arthur Burke's daughter Lisa, settled in for a long lunch at a restaurant on the river.

Tewantin: Ian Gill

Rain at Tewantin became real half way through the proceedings following the march through town. Veterans seated in front of the memorial were quite literally swamped by members of the public giving their umbrellas to those veterans foolish enough not to bring their own.



My feelings about the occasion were reinforced; it's Australia's true "national" day, a day of national pride and celebration without any of the rancour that has, and will always, surround 26 January.

Time really does (unfortunately) move on. Instead of world war contingents we now lead the march followed by a lot of "youngsters" with unfamiliar medals. Next thing you know we'll be driven in one of those magnificently restored cars that always make an appearance!

Sydney: Dave White

Light rain in Sydney for the dawn services cleared for the city march led by the Corps of Signals due to it being the 100th year since its formation. The RAN and RAAF had large contingents whilst the Army had none, probably due to major units migrating to Brisbane, Townsville and Darwin.

I only managed to find one other RAA member that I knew: Col Flatters, 103 Battery. The same for 1 RAR group first tour, only one poor chap in a wheel chair. Where are all the first tour guys? A similar result at the Coronation Hotel, but having served in most batteries over the years there were some familiar faces to have a beer with. Overall a good day.

MEMBERS' ANZAC DAY REPORTS

Sydney: Bill Richards

The attached photo is a 'then and now' of the B Coy 5RAR FO party consisting of me, John McMahon and Graham (Jimmy) Rayner, who were the sigs.

53 years later! A special day to finally catch up with two old friends.



We had a wonderful day in Corowa. The Dawn service and the 11am ceremony both had amazing attendances. After the service we went to Club Corowa for a few bevvies and watched Collingwood win the Anzac Day AFL footy. Ray is being treated for early stage lung cancer and asbestosis. Fingers crossed for good results from scans in early May.

Walkworth, New Zealand: Ken Murphy

Had the day in Walkworth, two hours north of Auckland. Laid a wreath on behalf of all Gunners. The Dawn Service was particularly impressive with some five to six hundred present. Was treated royally by the locals at their RSA with a nice breakfast and free beer!! Great to see the Kiwis still supporting the day and the amount of young people attending was very encouraging.



Corowa: Di Howe



Brockenhurst UK: Gordon Pound.

Once again I attended the ANZAC Day service on 27 April at St Nicholas's Church in the New Forest. Brockenhurst was the site of a NZ military hospital during WW1. Not all the patients survived and so the church's graveyard includes a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery.

MEMBER'S ANZAC DAY REPORTS



After the service, local children place posies on the graves. The photo shows Summer laying a posy on the grave of PTE E W Bollom of the 22 Battalion, watched with approval by Alice and Niamh, also members

of the 8th Brockenhurst Scouts. Their parents gave me permission to take the photo and for it to be published in *Tiger Rag*.

Thought you blokes back home would like to know that the people here genuinely appreciate the sacrifices made by the young ANZACs who came all this way only to die so far from home. The kids too are genuinely interested and proud to be asked to take part in the ceremony.

On the day the sun shone and there was an excellent turnout of locals, young, old and in between. The service included the playing of three national anthems, and combined with the Last Post there was a surfeit of saluting by those with the appropriate headgear.

AND SOME PHOTOS



Steve & Karen Lewis in London



Don Roach & Wally Conway



Les Gaffney & Sophie



David Gourlay & Nigel Groves



Marc Britton



Bill Drewe

TIGERS' TALES

Jim Symon - *MV Georgic*

Responding to the article in the last *Tiger Rag* on the *MV Georgic*, the ship that ferried the battery to Malaya in 1955, Jim recalled that while the battery departed from Sydney, 2RAR joined the ship in Brisbane (Moreton Bay).

He also thought that the guns were sent with an advance party two weeks before the *Georgic* departed. However, the battery war diary shows that the advance party departed on the *New Australia* five weeks in advance of the battery, and the guns and stores were embarked on the *Georgic* on 4 and 6 October 1955 respectively.

Alan Hutchinson - *Ill met by moonlight*

In 1966 Alan's FO Party comprised **Alan Laws, Barry Cane and Doug Stapleton.**



Hutch recalls an episode from when the party was attached to a company from the US 1st Infantry Division (the "Big Red One").

"Around 1am one night, in an ambush on a small track, I was manning our radio when I noticed someone moving slowly towards the middle of the killing zone. No one around me seemed to be awake and I found myself in a quandary. Was this a VC? Why hadn't anyone opened fire?"

As I eased off my safety catch many thoughts raced through my head. If I shot him, and he turned out to be a "friendly" (and

at that range, I could hardly have missed), I would not be at all popular with his comrades, and more than likely I would have ended up in a court-martial. If, however, I let him walk through and he turned out to be the forward scout of a bunch of VC nobody would be impressed.

Before I could make a final decision, the "stranger" spoke to me, asking: "Say buddy, can you tell me the time?" Breathing a sigh of relief, I automatically responded that it was just after 1am. He muttered: "Thanks, buddy", and returned from whence he came with no idea how close he had come to being shot.

That was the first, and last, time that I was involved with a US Army ambush, and I had no intention of being part of another. That proved to be the case."

Gordon Pound - *Lolex*

An article in the last *Tiger Rag*, prompted Gordon to write: *"I have attached a rather blurry copy of a caribou delivering ammo by Lolex during Op Hump. There is a better one on page 99 of my book 'What Soldiers Do' provided by Ian Morley, but the attached is of the first delivery.*



On that run he came in very low and collected foliage in the undercarriage. The pallet came out low and level and skidded to a halt intact, scaring the life out of 'Gomer' Pyle who was manning a forward sentry post directly in its path.

TIGERS' TALES

*Subsequent deliveries were made from a higher altitude, which meant that the pallets gained significant downward velocity as well as forward momentum. This caused them to break up and scatter rounds in the long grass which in turn required search parties of Gunners combing the drop zone to retrieve them. This was facilitated by the delivery of a mechanical 'mule' [see photo] which **Tom Simpson** drove to collect the rounds as they were discovered.*



Tom would stand on the bed of the mule to see above the grass, look around for a Gunner with a recovered round, then make a bee line for him.

It was not long after 'Hump' that both Tom and I went down with cerebral malaria. Sadly Tom did not survive. I have this wonderful, enduring memory of him doing his duty as always, cursing the conditions yet with the infectious broad grin that was his trade mark."

Bob Long - Remembering old mates

Bob wrote in to say that just after Barry Voysey passed away some years ago, Barry's wife, Val, gave him a framed copy of the photograph in the next column with the inscription: "With thanks for being a good friend to Barry and your assistance when he passed away"



The photo, believed to have been taken on Operation Hump, has been on Bob's wall since then. It depicts from left to right Laurie Willey, Barry Voysey and Alexander ('Sandy' or 'Bwana') Nall captured at the moment that their gun, along with two others, fired.

With Laurie's recent passing none of these Tigers are now with us, and the image is included in their memory.

Dave Gratwick - Vietnam memories

In the last *Tiger Rag*, commenting on an article that listed positions in the battery on its second tour, **John Smith** confirmed that, while nominally the Transport Sergeant, he "was utilised as the Officer/Sergeant's Mess Manager, Fire NCO, relief Section Commander and, of course, Orderly Sergeant." Dave, a Gun Sergeant at the time, responded, perhaps a little tongue in cheek, that he recalled John spending a good amount of time asleep on the Mess couch.

Dave also recalled that in the fire support bases the forward guns built strong points armed with an M60 machine gun, an M72 grenade launcher, spare ammunition for the same, and hand grenades. The boxes containing the hand grenades, and sometimes others with spare MG ammo, were used as steps into the strong point as they were firm footing.

TIGERS' TALES

"On one occasion," he said, "we were relieved in the FSB by another battery, and for some reason the fact that the strong point steps contained hand grenades and small arms ammo didn't get passed on. It wasn't discovered until the relieving battery was destroying the FSB prior to departing. I got a good mouth full from the relieving No 1, name forgotten!"

Bill Drewe - Best wishes

Bill (see Anzac Day photo) wrote in pass on his best wishes to **Ray Hartigan**, whose Charlie gun he joined as temporary Bombardier when '**Jacko**' Jackson returned to Australia. Prior to that he had been **Hughie Spark's** Foxtrot gun.

His message ran: *"Sorry to hear about the woes of the wine industry Ray. As a matter of fact I got an out of the blue call from Hughie about 15 years ago. He was growing grapes in Mildura at the time and had had enough. Please be assured Ray, I have been doing my very best to support the wine industry for 50 years now"*

Steve Lewis - Flying High

Steve and his wife (see Anzac Day photo) are touring in the UK. While there, his family shouted him a trip in a Spitfire. Lucky Fellow!



Dave White - Reunification Day, Vietnam



"To mark the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon on April 30, military parades were held throughout the country. This saluting battery of 15 captured M2A2s, was the deployed alongside the Saigon River.

I spoke to a Gunner Nguyen, who explained that the 15 guns were split into five sections each of three guns. Each section's guns fired in unison providing a bigger bang. Once all sections had fired four times, Number 1 section fired the final salvo.

An officer invited me into the CP. I showed him some images of our L5s, which he instantly recognised, and which triggered ten minutes of artillery talk. He told me that their blank rounds were filled with normal charge bags, which created less smoke than black powder.

The day in question went ahead as planned and by all reports was a great success.

TED'S TRAVAILS

Readers will probably be familiar with second-tour signaller Ted Robinson and his wife Pip, prime movers in the establishment of a Veterans' Retreat at Adavale, a hamlet of 72 hardy souls about 1000km west of Brisbane. After the torrential rain and flooding in Western Queensland in late March this year, the *Weekend Australian* of April 5-6 carried a story by Jamie Walker and Mackenzie Scott, which, courtesy of *The Australian*, I paraphrase here.

To begin with it made such a sweet beautiful noise, the rain drumming down on the roof of Ted and Pip's demountable home in the veterans' retreat. The rains, initially welcome, arrived on 24 March, propelled by a monsoonal trough that was later supercharged when Cyclone Diane crossed the West Australian coast and sent another burst of weather eastwards.

Two days later Ted and Pip went to bed early. Although it had been tipping down for days they weren't worried, every drop seemed like manna from heaven after a parched and punishing summer. Blackwater Creek, wrapping around their place, was running again.

At 3.30 am on March 27 Ted woke, disconcerted by a sound he couldn't place at first: water lapping at the floor of the demountable. Soon enough the torrent was up to their knees, and they began piling belongings onto the top of the fridge to save whatever they could. With mobile reception out, Ted used his satellite phone to get through to disaster coordination.



By dawn the flood stretched as far as the eye could see and their lives were in increasing danger. Heading for higher ground was not an option. Authorities put the word out

to every helicopter operator within flying range to get whatever they could into the air.

By 11.30 am the waiting lark was getting a bit much for Ted and Pip, so they cracked a beer to help pass the time, having by then scrambled onto the roof of their demountable.



Pip was picked up first, by a small mustering helicopter that, with others, was taking evacuees to a transfer site, from whence larger machines flew them to Quilpie or Longreach.

Another arrived to pick up Ted, but soon after lifting off it force landed in a metre or so of water in a neighbour's backyard. "All these alarms started going off and we weren't getting very high", Ted recalled. "The pilot said 'Oh s..t! It was a pretty fair thing to say. I flew in and out of choppers for 12 months in Vietnam and didn't have a problem. Come to Adavale and the bloody thing crashes'"

Luckily both Ted and the pilot escaped. Ted suffered chemical burns from the leaking Avgas, leaving his torso, forearms and calves blistered and inflamed. Rescued by a policeman in a dinghy, he was taken to the local council depot before being flown to hospital in Quilpie where he was reunited with Pip. "The whole thing," Ted said, "had been bit confronting"

BALLS ORNAMENTAL (2)

The last *Tiger Rag* featured an article mentioning old artillery helmets adorned, instead of a spike, with ‘balls ornamental’. I begin here with an apology to the author, **Mick Hawkins**, who I called Max in error. A silly slip on my part.

The article, which centred on support to a rendition of the 1812 overture at a festival in Brisbane, drew responses from two of the participants

Don Jones (photo below) reported that he and **Dennis Wood** and were the officers who were with the guns, and confirmed that they wore ‘balls ornamental’ whilst the Troops had ‘spikes’.



Don also confirmed that **Bill Richards** was indeed the Assistant Adjutant at the time, and, as **Mick Hawkins** suggested, organised helmets and jackets for the occasion. *“His other big achievement,”* Don reported, *“was designing the 1 Fd Regt rugby shirts (with the BIG RED NUMBER ONE) superimposed on the Arty badge. They were good shirts and we probably had the best team of my 20yrs of playing in the Army (heaps of Nashos) and won the comp..”*

For his part **Bill Richards** wrote *“I enjoyed seeing the article about the ‘Warana Festival’ and the 1812 Overture. We practised and practised and practised. I knew the score by heart by the time it came to do it. The funny thing was that the police warned people in their boats (it was held in New Farm Park beside the river) to move out from the front of the guns (we were using blanks with one-pound-weight charges). We slightly modified the overture to fire all six guns in the early part. Guess what happened! Six guns, a huge bang, and all the windows in their boats blew out! They were not happy. The police moved them on. The 1812 Overture is still one of my favourite pieces of music.”*



Cartoon courtesy of Bill Watterson, creator of Calvin and Hobbes

FROM THE BATTERY

UKRAINIAN ARTILLERY OBSERVATIONS

Recently, one of the Captains from 105th Battery deployed to the UK to assist in training Ukrainian soldiers. On return, he provided the following observations.

Deployment

The biggest threats to the artillery are drones and counter battery fire. Therefore, batteries almost always adopt positions where each gun of a battery is isolated from the others.

Counter Battery Fire Guns

These are typically batteries of 155mm Self Propelled guns, but the M777 as fielded by Australia is also used. Deployment areas are pre-determined, and within them the individual gun pits are marked and possibly dug by engineers before the guns arrive. To lessen the chances of detection the guns prefer to deploy at night, despite their thermal signature.

The guns are generally dug in because they are positioned close to the front to be able fire deep into enemy territory. Around the gun bunker, typically separated by 15-20m, are several smaller bunkers providing protection for ammunition and personnel. Generally, there are no more than 100 rounds at each gun.

Concealment from overhead observation is achieved with multiple layers of camouflage netting (which also act as drone nets) and sometimes the use of thermal blankets. The gunners may also run some sort of chicken wire to aid in overhead protection against loitering drones and in some instances may also resort to sliding over wooden sheets or tin. In addition to these passive measures, at the gun positions there

are jamming devices to interrupt drone feeds and shotguns to take on small armed drones.

The rule is to engage for no more than three minutes. Any longer invites Russian retaliation. After firing the crews conceal the weapon and seek cover. Typically, only one or two guns of the battery fire, with the others on-call. Ammunition is scarce, so the concept of anything more than 10 rounds in a mission is unfamiliar. Consequently, the weight of fire delivered is low.

General Purpose Guns

These guns are generally deployed so that they can reach around five kilometres beyond the front lines. They are exposed to the same threats as the counter battery fire guns, albeit to a slightly lesser degree, and similarly adopt dug in positions with overhead camouflage.

Targeting

For longer-distance targeting, seismic sensors, weapon locating radars and reconnaissance drones are commonly used. It appears that the traditional ground observer role has become largely obsolete, and that the forward observers are co-located with drone/surveillance units or at company or battalion headquarters. In some cases the gun lines are capable of conducting their own observation and engagement using their own drones.



WebP Image

FROM THE BATTERY

UKRAINIAN ARTILLERY OBSERVATIONS (CONTINUED)

Digital Fire Control

The Ukrainians use a system known as Kropyva on tablets and phones for digital fire control, command and control, and battle tracking. It is generally held at each gun platform. Starlink provides the connectivity. Similar in concept to the Australian Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, Kropyva displays mapping and satellite imagery and can compute firing data, incorporate meteorological measurements, determine crest clearances, connect to live drone feeds, and show the position of live drones on mapping.

Command and Control

The Ukrainian command and control structure is similar to the modern Australian structure with the controlling authority located at Brigade (Task Force) because of better situational awareness and the consequent ability to strike at the opportune moment, thus using scarce ammunition to best effect. Slower response times through Brigade can be frustrating, but fire is more effective because brigade has a better understanding of the 'bigger picture'.

Fire plans in support of operations are developed at Brigade or higher level. They commonly incorporate small armed drones to assist the attackers to get close to the objective after the artillery and mortars have had to cut-off for troop safety reasons.

Russian Offensive Support

As might be expected, Russia has a larger ammunition stockpile and a larger risk tolerance. It is believed that Russian operational safe distance for calling in artillery fire is significantly closer to own troops than Australian gunners would be familiar with. Some Ukrainians have reported that the Russians will engage their own occupied positions if it means that Ukrainians will die in the process.

The Russians sensor-shooter link is very speedy, with some speculating that they have gun units assigned to the task without the need to go through a controlling authority, or that their general artillery control measures are less restrictive.





PONDERINGS

Nigel Groves (Second Tour FO)

Recently, I was “inspired” by a fellow resident of River Park View, where I live, to try poetry as a way of distracting myself from my never-ending to-do list. The attached verses may be a bit personal, but I think you will understand the motives and meanings.

MAKING THE MOST OF IT

It started when I was twenty years old,
A letter from the government really left me cold.
I was in the bush trying engineering surveying.
And this letter told me that was all changing.

You see, I had been conscripted to serve,
In Her Majesty’s forces, if I had the nerve.
A friend of my brother’s who’d just done the same,
Advised me to make the most and avoid any shame.

So, I jumped into the challenge boots and all,
There was really no option to avoid the call.
Later on it would reveal,
It’s certainly best to make most of the deal.

At Scheyville it wasn’t too long,
I had thoughts, that it was all wrong.
But the earlier advice would prevail,
To make the most of this demanding travail.

It took six long months to get that pip,
You guessed right, that was only the start of it.
The next step was purely by chance,
Meeting my darling for a blooming romance.

You see, she was training in Randwick to be a nurse.

And the nearest posting was North Head. Did I curse?

No, I made the best of it and ferried back and forth,

From Artillery courses and the further North.

When the time came, I made the leap,

Why did I do it, jump into the heat?

I was told you must be insane,

But, like training for footy, you must get a game.

Vietnam was, like most of you know,
A bloody lottery where the dice that you throw,
Could result in battles for better or worse.
Yes, I can hear you mutter and curse.

But despite losing friends we survived for the better.

It made me a man and not a forgetter.

Yes, we all have to deal with all of this strife,
But that’s what it’s about, this wonderful life.

ANZAC DAY

What does Anzac Day mean to you?
Does it bring back memories real and true?
For some I guess the recollection could be sad,
Although, for most, I’m sure it’s not that bad.

The meeting again of friends old and new,
For me, stirs feelings that are still true.
Of when guns were blazing fast and hot
Supporting those in the jungle and their desperate lot.

All those who depended on the guns support,
Will never forget that radio report.
The call of “Shot Over” was the encouraging cry;
Then “Splash” before the shrapnel let fly.

The mateship and team spirit of those brothers,
When our lives depended on each other.
Yes that experience really is unique,
And brings lasting mateship to it’s peak.

Yes, our marching numbers are slowly dwindling,
But the spirit of Anzac supporters is still kindling.
It really is so great to realise,
That remembering service is the prize.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP LIST

QUEENSLAND

Kevin Agombar L
James Allman L
Donald Armstrong L2
Robin Bade HL
Alan Battersby L
D Barker HL
Bluey Bellis L
Paddy Best L
Ben Bolton L2
Robert Booth L
Rona Borgges HL
Jim Box L2
Erin Bradley HL
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
Chris Cybulski L2
John Dalton L
Mike De Sousa L
Andy 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
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 Hickey L
Russell Hill
Snow Hurman L2
Ian James L5

Zane Johnson L
Suzanne Johnstone HL
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 L2
Steven Macfarlane L
Trevor Madeley L
Margaret Malone HL
Helen Manley HL
Paul Maloney L
Graeme Maughan L2
Jocelyn MacKenzie HL
Christina McCauliffe HL
Barbara McConnell HL
Hazel McLean HL
Don McLeod L
Lisa McMaster HL
Bruce Mitchell L
Peter Monks L
Peter Morish L2
Ian Morley 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 L
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 Caisley 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
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'Dwyer L2
Walter Pearson L
Raymond Perry L
Bill Pyle L
Bill Richards L
Noel Rodda L
Yvonne Rodgers HL
Ian 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
Ian Paton L
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

VICTORIA

Stephen Banfield HL
Roger 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 Savage 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
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

Geoff Baldwin/Saunders



Association Life Member, Geoff Baldwin, later Geoff Saunders, passed away in Wooroolin near Kingaroy in Queensland on 8 May 2022, aged seventy seven.

He grew up in North Queensland, the son of Gladys Saunders, and Frank Baldwin. Gladys, of aboriginal descent, later married Len Waters, the only aboriginal fighter pilot during the Second World War.

Geoff joined the Army in his teens and served with 105th Battery on its first tour. He undertook a second tour with 4th Field Regiment in 1967 before discharging in January 1968.

After leaving the Army, Geoff took various jobs, and adopting his mother's maiden name after the death of his father. He ultimately made his way to the coal fields at Middlesbrough, where he became a union representative, a local councillor, and a senior member of the Labor Party.

When forced to take medical retirement due to a lung condition, Geoff moved to the Gold Coast and became involved with veterans' advocacy, before relocating closer to family support at Wooroolin in 2018.

Vale Geoff Baldwin/Saunders

Ian Jewell



Association Life Member, Ian (Jak) Jewell, passed away in Brisbane on 15 March 2025, aged eighty eight. He grew up in central Queensland, and worked for a short time as a railway porter before joining the Army, aged seventeen.

Nicknamed 'Sparkles', Ian was a driver during 105th Battery's tour of Malaya in 1955/56. He married his fiancé Gwen whilst in country.

After Malaya, he joined the SAS, serving with it in Borneo, and undertaking an exchange with the British commandos. His ability to tan deeply earned him the nickname 'Blackjack'. As a Warrant Officer, he served with the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam, in 1968-69 and 1971-72, earning awards of the SVN Gallantry Cross, the SVN Armed Forces Honour medal and the Cambodian National Defence Medal. His nickname shortened to 'Jak' during his service with the Montagnards, and he was known as that henceforth.

After discharge in October 1977, Jak tried his hand at a variety of jobs before settling in as a driver for Algas. In retirement he and Gwen enjoyed caravanning, and for many years he was a regular visitor to the Pandanas veterans' retreat near Cape York.

Vale 'Jak' Jewell

Laurie Willey

Association Life member Lawrence (Laurie) Willey passed away in mid March at Duncraig, WA, aged 80.

Unfortunately, *Tiger Rag* has not been able as yet to be in direct contact with Laurie's family. However, the Association is aware that he was born in Kyogle, joined the Army in 1964, served in Vietnam with 105th Battery on its first tour, and later deployed again with 4th Field Regiment. He joined 108th Battery in 1970 in Singapore and stayed with it, rising to the position of Battery Guide.

Laurie's final posting was to West Australia. He remained there on discharge in 1985, and until retirement worked in the WA Health Department.

Vale Laurie Willey

IN MEMORIUM

Max Almond	Douglas Dodson	Jim Lawler	Gordon Rickards
Brian Angus	Bert Downes	Alan Laws	Geoff Saunders
Francis Armstrong	Len Dyer	Ron Lees	Rick Rickerby
Ken Arthur	Tubby Easton	Des Leonard	Gordon Robinson
Denny Atherden	Brian (Sailor)	John Lillis	Robert (Buck)
Tony Ayerbe	Edwards	Dennis Lindgren	Rodgers
Peter Badcoe VC	Allan Ellis	Sandy Lloyd	Frank Roughan
Ken Bade	Keith Elsley	RD MacCullough	Peter Rye
Glen Baker	Robert (Taffy) Evans	Ken MacKenzie	Gerry Salom
Geoff Baldwin/Seymour	Les Faulkner	Douglas MacPherson	George Salmon AM
Tom Banfield	John Felsman	Joe Makowski	Kevin Saloway
Lawrence Barker	Maurice Fletcher	Peter Mallon	Lindsay (Sandy)
John Barrett	Peter Fleming	John Malone	Sanderson
Joe Bartlett	Brien Forward OBE	Bill Manley	Ted Saunders
Murray Batten	Bernie Franey	Bob Mantell	Bruce Scrivenor
Craig Beck OBE	Splinter Galbraith	Dick Matthews	Jim Scutts
Greg Bentley	Ken Gann	Col Maynard	A.E. (Artie) Shaw
Mick Berton	Joe Geddes	Robin Medcalf	Kevin Sheehan
Stuart (Ocker) Birnie	Ron Gibson	Ross McCann	Robbie Shields
Trevor Blay	Pat Gowans OAM	Bill McAuliffe	Keith Simmonds
Bruce Bogle	Brian (Yorky)	Pat McCarthy	Fred Simmons
Ken Borgges	Greetham	John McConnell BEM	Tom Simpson
Bill Bostock	Alan Grice	Arthur McDermott	Don Sinclair
Ernie Bradley	Hughie Griggs	Don McDonald	Joe Soxsmith
John (Jock) Bradley	Peter Groves	Don McDougall	Ashley Spann
Peter Bradley	Frank Gulyas	Barry McLean	Pat Squibb
Stan Briggs	'Jock' Gunn	Bill McMillan	David (Hughie) Spark
Phil Brown	Jim Haim	Archibald McNally	Peter Starkie
Ken Buhmann	Roger Hanlon	James (Jock) McPhail	Barrie Stillwell
Roy Bullpitt	Terry Hansen	Frank Mitchell	Ken Summersford
Arthur Burke OAM	Ray Harper	Kevin Mitchell	John Suthers
Phillip Button	Ron Hart	Jimmy Moggach	Don Sutton
Frank Buxton	Lester Hedge	Jack Moses	Bruce (Tubby) Taylor
Cyril Cahill	Les Henderson	Lindsay Mussared	Leslie (Squizzly)
Barry Cane	Bob Heveren	Wallace Musgrave	Taylor
Gordon Carrol	Les Hilderbrandt	Bob Myers	Rex Taylor
Denis Casey	Lawrence Hoad	A.J. (Sandy) Nall	Lachie Thomson AM
Colin Challenger	Jim Hodgson	Jim Neill	Graham Tippetts
James (Tassie)	Joe Holmes	Alan Nelson	Keith Towning
Challenger	Ray Hooker OAM	Graham Newstead	Ken Townsend
Neville Charles	Colin Howard	Nipper O'Brien	Glen Traill
Keith Christianson	K.(Pop) Hughes	Barry O'Neill	Bruce Tye
Peter Cimbaljevic	Russ Humphries	Allan Otton	Ivars Valuks
Raymond Clarke	Alan Hutcheson	Peter Overstead	Barry Voyzey
Richard (Dickie) Cliff	Graham Hyles	Fred Parratt	Peter (Bodgie) White
Richard Coldwell	Vic Irwin	Frank Pellatt OAM	Richard (Dick)
Gordon 'Mick' Cole GC	Bill Isles	Phil Perrin	Wickenden
William Cole	John (Jacko) Jackson	Tom Pietzner	Jon Wickham
Les Cooper	Stanley David James	Victor Pinnell	Albertus "Willy"
Keith Cossart	MBE	Terry Plowman	Willemssen
Warren Cottee	Merv Jansson	Jim Poland	Laurie Willey
Arthur Cox OAM	Jim Jauncy (Bega)	Glenn (Polly) Polson	Wayne T. Wright
Max Creighton	Ian (Jak) Jewell	Ray Pratt	Colin Young
Jack Crook	Les Jobling	Fred Price	
Murray Cubillo	Bill Johnson	Phil Pritchard	
R.M.C. (Dick) Cubis	Alan Johnston	Brian Printer	
MVO	Gordon Johnstone	Tony Quinn	
Bob Cunningham	Alex Karas	John (Ratsy) Randall	
Jack Davidson	Pat Kearns	Ian Reid	
John Davidson	Colin Kelly	Jim Reynolds	
Tom Dawson	Terry Kliese	Mike Richards	

RANDOM REFLECTIONS



**AS LONG AS
EVERYTHING IS
EXACTLY THE WAY
I WANT IT. I'M
TOTALLY FLEXIBLE.**

**It's 6 months
since I joined the gym
and no progress.
I'm going there in
person tomorrow, to
find out whats really
going on...**

**I helped my neighbour out with
something this morning and she
said to me, "I could marry you".**

**I couldn't believe it,...
You do something nice for
someone and they threaten to
ruin your life in return.**

**Men don't have
babies because
God saw the way
they handle a cold
and knew the
species would
never survive.**

**Procrastination is
totally a good
thing. You always
have something to
do tomorrow, plus
you have nothing
to do today.**

**The guy
at the furniture
store told me the sofa
would seat 5 people
without any problems.**

**Then it occurred to me,
I don't think I know 5
people without
any problems.**

**I GET MOST
OF MY
EXERCISE
THESE DAYS
FROM SHAKING
MY HEAD IN
DISBELIEF.**

