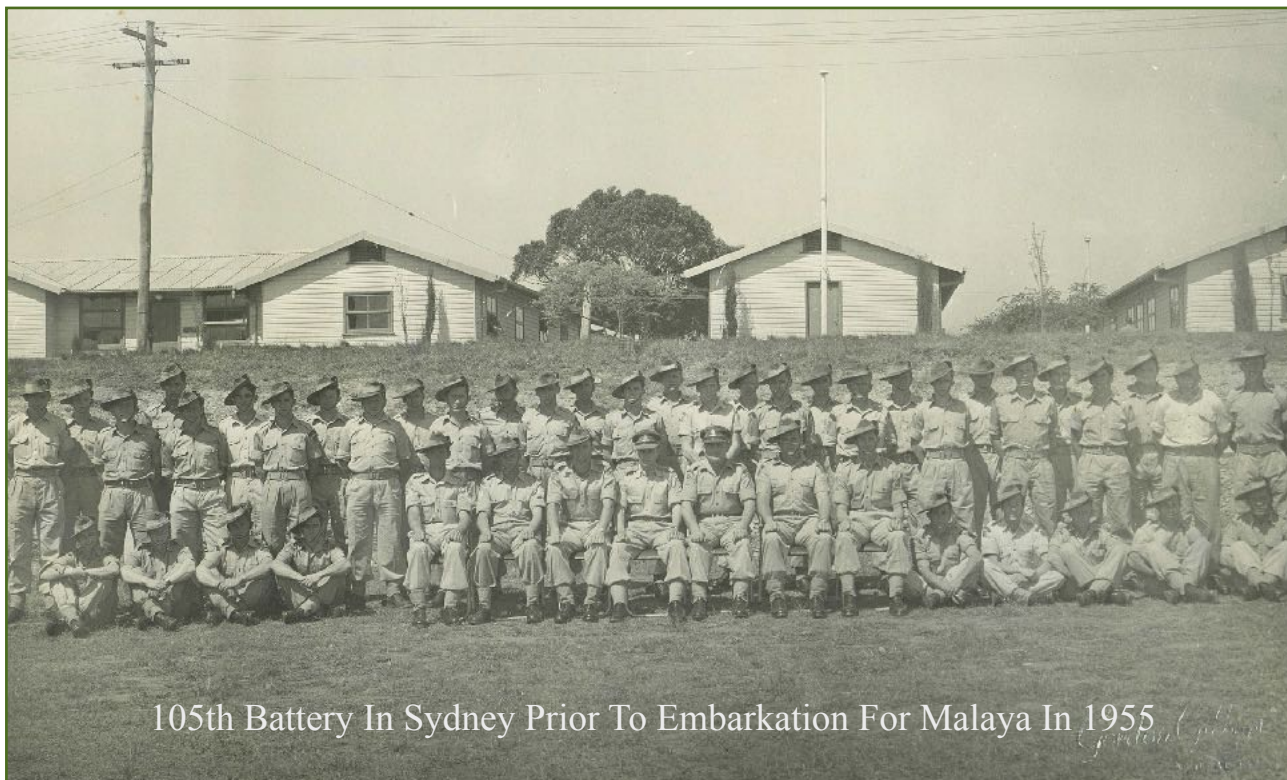


Tiger Rag

Tiger Rag 65, pdf, November 2025



105th Battery In Sydney Prior To Embarkation For Malaya In 1955



Handover Parade at Nui Dat On Completion Of Tour Of Duty In 1966

WELCOME

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

Editor

Paul Stevens

Phone 0417 028 321

tigerrag105@gmail.com

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The first four pages of this issue contain important information relating to the legislative closure of the 105th Field Battery RAA Association (Incorporated).

Please familiarise yourself with the material and be prepared to attend the on-line meeting on 2 December 2025 or fill out the proxy form relating to the meeting and return it to Jim Box, the Association's Secretary.

After the meeting on 2 December a more informal Battery Association will continue to exist, reflected in its website, and the six-monthly publication of *Tiger Rag*.

As noted in the last *Tiger Rag*, 2025 marks the 70th anniversary of the deployment of 105th Battery to Malaya, and the 60th anniversary of its first deployment to South Vietnam. To mark these occasions this edition contains photographs and short histories of each deployment.

Elsewhere readers will find the usual Tigers' Tales, a couple of curiosities to be explored, and some photos from the Welcome Home march that will stir memories among the second tour veterans.

Unfortunately, this edition does not contain the usual report from today's battery. Pressure of work. Not a problem on this occasion, but still a timely reminder that the magazine can only continue if Association members contribute. There is plenty of time to send something in for the next edition in May 2026.

In the meantime, my best wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

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

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 in future editions

FORMAL CLOSURE OF THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

The motion to close the incorporated Association carried at the Annual General Meeting of 7th October 2023 could not be finalised by the date in the motion due to bank issues with the Association's account at the time, and the requirements of the Incorporated Associations Act Queensland. It became necessary to transfer the Association's bank account, and to defer the closure of the incorporated association.

Progress on the closure of the Association as an incorporated entity has been reported in previous editions of the *Tiger Rag*, and on the Association website. It is now time to formalise the closure, and thus this issue of *Tiger Rag* contains:

- A copy of the Notice of Meeting And Motion for a Special General Meeting on 2 December 2025 issued by the Association's Secretary.
- The Agenda for that meeting.
- Proxy forms relating to that meeting.
- The closure balance of the Association account.
- The President's Audit Statement as required by Queensland legislation

105th Battery RAA Association Inc

Notice of Meeting and Motion – Special Resolution

Special General Meeting at 10.00 hrs (AEDT) Tuesday 2nd December 2025

Online Microsoft Teams® Meeting 9:00 am - 10:00 am (EST); 10:00am – 11:00am (AEDT)

Meeting links: [Special General Meeting 105th Battery RAA Association | Microsoft Teams | Meetup-Join](https://teams.live.com/join/932042344619?p=5EWKM8R1UVIkh7QvPu)
<https://teams.live.com/join/932042344619?p=5EWKM8R1UVIkh7QvPu>

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.live.com/join/932042344619?p=5EWKM8R1UVIkh7QvPu)

Meeting ID: 932 042 344 619

Passcode: BS25SR

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

The following is a Special Resolution Motion by the Management Committee, 105th Battery RAA Association Inc:

That the closure motion resolved unanimously at the Annual General Meeting on 7th October 2023 be amended to delete the date of 31st July 2024, and that the closure of the incorporated association proceed in accordance with the applicable legislation.

PROXIES

Members are encouraged to nominate a Proxy particularly to vote on the Special Resolution Motion, and any other motion voted at the Special General Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Jim Box

Secretary, 105th Battery RAA Association Inc

10 November 2025

FORMAL CLOSURE OF THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

105th BATTERY RAA ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 29 019 141 006

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING 2nd DECEMBER 2025

PRESIDENT
David Gourlay

SECRETARY
Jim Box

VICE PRESIDENT
Paul Stevens

TREASURER
Peter Caisley

AGENDA

1. 10:00 hrs ADST (Daylight Saving Time NSW) - Opening & Ode .
2. Attendees
3. Proxies:
4. Apologies:
5. Quorum.
6. Confirmation of Minutes of 7th October 2023 Circulated in TR61. Moved by Secretary.
7. President's Report
8. Secretary's Report
9. Treasurers' Report & Financial Report
10. Vice-President/ Tiger Rag Editor's Report
11. Special Motion.
That the closure motion resolved unanimously at the Annual General Meeting on 7th October 2023 be amended to delete the date of 31st July 2024, and that the closure of the incorporated association proceed in accordance with the applicable legislation.
12. Meeting Close.

FORMAL CLOSURE OF THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

PROXY FORM

I, (name)of (address)
being a member of the 105th Battery RAA Association hereby appoint:

..... or failing this member,

of (address)

as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the General Meeting of the Association to be held at 10.00hrs (ADST) on the 2nd December 2025 and at any adjournment thereof.

I instruct my proxy to vote **in favour* **against* of the Special Resolution at the meeting.

** strike out whichever is not desired or otherwise leave uncrossed if open.*

Signature:

This Proxy must be lodged with the Secretary prior to the commencement of the designated meeting.

By email to: 42.105as@gmail.com

By Text to: 0411 758 433

By Post to: The Secretary 105 Bty RAA Ass'n, 5 Ruth Street, Birkdale Qld 4159.

*Note that an oral vote not supported by a written proxy cannot be accepted.

BALANCE SHEET

105th Battery RAA Association Inc

As at **2nd December 2025**

	2 DECEMBER 2025	31 JULY 2025
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		1598
Net Total Current Assets		1598
Retained Profits/ Accumulated Losses		
Current Year Earnings	(725)	(10132)
Retained Earnings	0	48
Total Retained Profits / Accumulated Losses	(725)	(10084)
To be transferred to the Australian Artillery Association	873	1598

FORMAL CLOSURE OF THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

105TH BATTERY R.A.A. ASSOCIATION INC.

PRESIDENT

David Gourlay
0414 430 998
dgourlay47@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Stevens AO
0417 028 321
jphstevens@bigpond.com



5 RUTH STREET
BIRKDALE Qld 4159
<https://www.105bty.asn.au>

SECRETARY

Jim Box
0411 758 4433
42.105as@gmail.com

TREASURER

Peter Caisley
0408 160 196
petercaisley@gmail.com

ADIN 27 017 141 000

Members,
August 2025
105th Battery RAA Association.

30th

Office of Fair Trading, Queensland
Incorporated Associations,
GPO Box 3111
Brisbane, Qld 4001

STATEMENT OF VERIFICATION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS 2025

I am pleased to report for the Association's financial year as at 31st July 2025, that the association's financial records show the association keeps adequate financial records that correctly record and explain transactions and enable a true and fair financial statement to be prepared.

BALANCE SHEET

105th Battery RAA Association Inc

31 JULY 2025 31 JULY 2024

Assets

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents

Bank Accounts

1598

11,730

Total Cash & Cash Equivalents

1598

11,730

Inventory

Total Inventory

-

-

Total Current Assets

1598

11,730

Total Assets

1598

11,730

Net Assets

1598

11,730

Equity

Other Equity

Members Funds

1598

19,936

Total Other Equity

1598

19,936

Retained Profits/ Accumulated Losses

Current Year Earnings

(10132)

(8,738)

Retained Earnings

48

532

Total Retained Profits / Accumulated

(10084)

(8,206)

Losses

Total Equity

1598

11,730

Yours sincerely,

David Gourlay

David Gourlay
President
105th Battery RAA Association

TIGERS' TALES

Splinter Galbraith OAM



It was pleasing to see in the King's Birthday Honours List that Splinter had been awarded an OAM for his service to veterans and bowls in Queensland

Ray Hartigan



It was also pleasing to receive notification that Ray had been made a Life Member of the Renmark RSL, of which he had been not only a member but President and Public Officer. He had also been instrumental in the creation of ANZAC Trust Youth Awards to young folk in the

district who displayed the qualities of what could be essentially called the ANZAC spirit.

Sandy Sanderson

Sandy's son, Ken, visiting the Australian War Memorial to research his father's service, came across this photo of his father taken by the Courier Mail, date unknown. Does anyone remember the occasion?



Bob Long

On Vietnam Veterans Day, Bob attended the Kawana RSL Sub Branch ceremony on the Sunshine Coast, where he ran into **Tassie Woodard**, who's in good health and living in Caloundra.

Tassie served in 105 Battery in Wacol, transferred to 111 Battery when it was posted to Butterworth in 1964, and then went to SVN with 101 Battery in 1969. Bob has his contact details if anyone is interested.

Greg West and Wally Conway

Greg and Wally commemorated Vietnam Veterans Day in Brisbane



Gordon Pound

Gordon reported that he spent Long Tan Day with David Anderson, with whom he had served on 4 Field Regiments' second tour.

"There being no Vietnam specific memorial," said Gordon, "we took the Andersons to lunch then adjourned to the ANZAC war graves at St Nicholas' Church, Brockenhurst, of which I have told Tiger Rag readers before."



TIGERS' TALES

Geoff Jebb, Ken Murphy, Bruce Stark

On 31 August 2025, Malaya and Borneo Veterans Day, the Australian Government held a National Commemorative Ceremony in Canberra to mark the 75th Anniversary of Australian service in the Malayan Emergency. The initial contribution in 1950 came from the RAAF. It was not until 1955 that ground forces were committed.

The ceremony's handsome Order Of Service booklet can be downloaded from the DVA website. Strangely, its history section mentions only B Troop, 105th Battery deploying to Malaya in 1955, even though it subsequently includes a photo of an A Troop gun firing at night.

Geoff, Ken and Bruce from the Association attended the service, the latter two having deployed to Malaya with 101 Battery. Geoff laid a wreath on behalf of 105th Battery. Ken (left) and Geoff (right) are shown below.



Nigel Linnell

On a trip to Europe, Nigel was recently in Malta, where he noted the impressive location of the saluting battery, and its ceremonial firing.



WHAT'S MAKING NEWS

New Long Tan Book



Brigadier Kevin O'Brien (Retired), who served in Vietnam in 1970-71 and went on to command the 1st Division Artillery and become a member of the Defence Honours And Awards Tribunal, has just published a book examining the reality of the

battle of Long Tan and its wider impact. It's worth a read and can be purchased at longtanbook.com

RAA Liaison Letter

The Liaison Letter is produced periodically by the Head of Regiment's Staff and is a great source of what is going on in the Gunners, book reviews, tactical thoughts, and, in its 'Cannonball' section, aspects of Australian artillery history.

The 2024-2025 edition of the Liaison Letter can be read on line on the Australian Artillery Association website:

https://www.australianartilleryassociation.org/liaison_letter/2024-2025/RAA-Liaison-Letter-2024---2025-Edition/index.html

70th ANNIVERSARY - MALAYA



When a British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) was established in Malaya in 1955, its Infantry Brigade Group included an Australian infantry battalion and a RAA field battery. The battery assembled as 'M' (for Malaya) Battery at Georges Heights in April of that year, and three months later was officially raised as 105th Field Battery.

On 6 October, the Battery under Major Bruce Bogle set sail for Malaya on the White Star liner *MV Georgic*, shown below.



On board the BC kept everyone busy with courses, PT, lessons in Malay, and lectures on Anti-Terrorist Operations in Malaya (ATOM). Two-up schools, crown and anchor and poker were banned, or at least driven below decks.

On arrival at Penang the Battery proceeded to Butterworth where members lived in tents while the *Basha Huts* (concrete floors and walls and roofs of woven coconut fronds) of Quebec Lines,

grew up around them. Married members lived in the Garden Estate, Tanjong Tokong between Georgetown and Penang.



Basha Huts, Quebec Lines

The Battery consisted of a headquarters; two Troops each of a CP, four 25-pounders; and administrative elements. The CPs (picture below) produced gun data using firing tables and the artillery board to determine bearing and range.



The guns all had gun rules on which the reader for each charge could be set to the gun's muzzle velocity, producing an adjusted elevation to achieve the range ordered by the CP. Meteorological data was sometimes available, but tended to be unreliable.

Training commenced on 7 November 1965, but because the Battery had to await Australian approval to join the action against communist terrorists (CT), operational deployments did not begin until 1 January 1956.

A Troop deployed initially to Salak North in Perak State to support the Malay 1st Federation Infantry Brigade. B Troop deployed to the Dublin rubber plantation in Kedah State in support of 2RAR. At 1900hrs, from B Troop, the BC fired the first operational round of the tour.



Dublin Estate

The Battery's deployments are shown on Page 13. It was common for firing to take place away from the base locations at temporary troop or roving gun positions, occupied for anything from 12 hours to one or two days.



A Troop Position

Throughout the tour the Troops operated independently, the exceptions being during calibration at Port Dickson in January 1956, during Chinese New Year the next month when both Troops were at Bongsu Forest Reserve in South Kedah, and in late June 1956 when B Troop

deployed a Section to reinforce A Troop in support of a significant contact

The Gunners' basic task was to place harassing fire on suspected CT locations by day and night. Local government security committees advised the Troop Commanders of the areas to be engaged.



Waiting For Action

Each Troop maintained local defence measures, assisted with local security measures, and conducted patrols. Dhoby (washing) and char (tea-making) wallahs, mainly Indian gentlemen, were attached. British rations were issued, and the scale allowed for tins of 50 cigarettes.

In addition to gunnery commitments the Battery was tasked with periodic internal security duties and the provision of a ready reaction element. On these activities, Battery members worked alongside Malay police, and occasionally came into contact with local inhabitants



Geoff Jebb and native tribesmen

Married men were granted four days stand down per month. Recreational leave was taken twice per year. Favourite leave destinations were Singapore, Johore and Penang



Johore

Local leave was taken whenever time permitted.



Time Off

Tiger Beer was a popular drop. While B Troop had its own unofficial mascot - 'Digger' the pig - it was the Tiger label that ultimately inspired the Battery emblem.



An Emblematic Drop

Both troops returned to Butterworth for rest and retraining during December 1956. They acquitted themselves well during the Brigade

Commander's annual inspection, and ended the year with a swimming carnival, children's Christmas party, and a unit dinner.



The Gunners' Mess

The Battery returned to operations in January 1957.



On the move

Each Troop worked in a similar fashion to the year before, sometimes with air OP support. Both operated at some stage close to Malay-Thai border, in B Troop's case working alongside Malaysian 5.5-inch and 3.7inch gun regiments.



Harassing Fire

In addition to commemorations of Anzac Day in both years, ceremonial occasions marked the Battery's tour. The most prominent was A Troop's 101-gun salute to mark Malaya's independence from British rule (Merdeka Day) on 31 August 1957, claimed to be the first salute of this size fired by an RAA battery.



Merdeka Day Salute

A salute was fired on 31 October 1956 for the Duke of Edinburgh, who was en-route to open the Olympic Games in Melbourne. A 27-man guard was mounted for Remembrance Day 1956, during which one gun fired a single round at the start and another at the finish of the two minutes' silence. And a 21-gun salute marked Queen's Birthday on 13 June 1957.

Perhaps the most dangerous incident in the two years occurred on 28 September 1956 when a round in the barrel of a B Troop gun exploded prematurely in the bore. Thankfully, the six men wounded all recovered.



Damage From Premature

Sickness and tropical diseases took their temporary toll during the tour, but the only death

was that of Bombardier D K Sutton who was killed in a civilian car accident. He was buried with full military honours in the Taiping Cemetery.



A Troop was withdrawn from operations in early August 1957 and B Troop joined them in Butterworth in mid September. In firing more than 88,000 rounds during its tour, the Battery had made a significant contribution to the Emergency by driving CT into corridors where they were vulnerable to ambush by the supported infantry.



Observed Mission

As the Battery prepared to sail for home on 19 October 1957, the Brigade Commander thanked it for the 'rapid and flexible support [it had] always given', and described it as the best administered unit in the brigade group. The Australian Army Commander FARELF called it 'the best Australian unit in FARELF'. Major Bogle received a Mention in Despatches for his most professional service, and WO2 F A Pellatt and WO2 P H B Pritchard received CinC FARELF Certificates for their meritorious endeavours.



MALAYAN TOUR DEPLOYMENTS

Date	Component	Deployment Area	Operation (Note 1)	Guns Based At	In Support of (Note 2)
1 Jan - 11 Feb 56	A Troop	Perak	Shark North	Salak North	I Fed Inf Bde
1 Jan - 11 Feb 56	B Troop	South Kedah	Deuce	Dublin Estate	2RAR
16 -25 Jan 56	Battery	Port Dickson	Calibration	Port Dickson	N/A
12 - 21 Feb 56	Battery	South Kedah	Deuce	A: C Coy 2RAR B: Dublin Estate	2RAR
21 Feb - 28 Nov 56	A Troop	Perak	Shark North	Salak North	1 Fed Inf Bde, 1 RSF, 2RAR, 1/6GR
21 Feb - 1 Jul 56	B Troop	South Kedah	Deuce	Dublin Estate	2RAR, 1 Malay
23 Jun - 1Jul 56	Section B Troop	Perak	Shark North	Salak North	2RAR (with A Troop)
1 Jul - 14 Sep 56	B Troop	Perak	Shark North	Tanah Hitam	1 RSF
15 Sep - 7 Oct 56	B Troop	South Kedah	Deuce	Butterworth	1 Malay
8 Oct - 28 Nov 56	B Troop	Perak	Shark North	Tanah Hitam	1RSF, 2RAR
4 Jan - 31 Mar 57	B Troop	Perak	Shark North	Tanah Hitam	1RSF
6 Jan - 14 Feb 57	A Troop	Perak	Shark North	Salak North	1 Royal Lincolns
15 Feb - 3 Mar 57	A Troop	Perak	Rubberlegs	Tronoh	3 Malay
4 Mar - 5 Aug 57 (25 - 30 Jun 57)	A Troop	Perak	Shark North Eagle Swoop	Salak North	2RAR, 1 Royal Lincolns 2RAR
1 Apr - 4 May	B Troop	Perak	Framework	Bemban	Batu Gajah DWEC
15 Jun - 10 Sep 57	B Troop	Perak	Shark North Framework Seagull Wax	Tambun	1 Royal Lincolns 1 Loyals, 1 Fed Inf Bde 1 Loyals
11 - 13 Sep 57	B Troop	Perak	Framework	Kroh	Kroh DWEC

Note 1

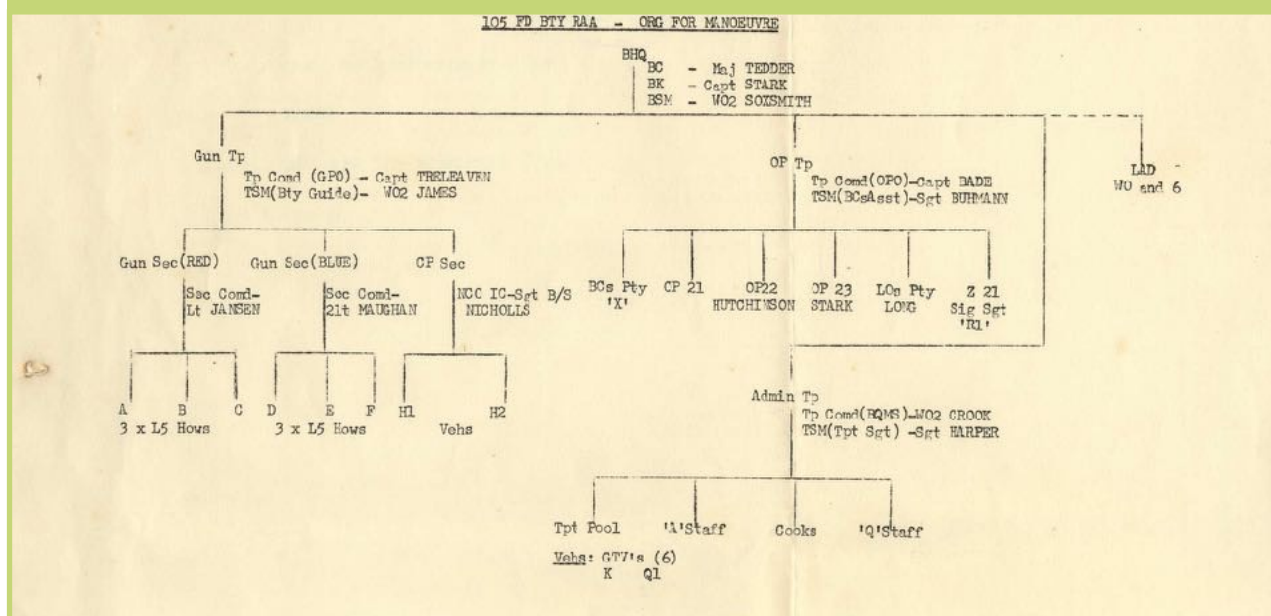
Operation Shark North aimed at destroying communist influence in the Kuala Kangsar and Upper Perak districts. **Operation Deuce** was a search and security operation in Kedah. **Operation Rubberlegs** was a search mission in the Kuala Kangsar/Kinta districts. **Operation Eagle Swoop** was a specific search mission. **Framework operations** aimed at isolating guerrillas from their support base. **Seagull Wax** was probably a codename used by the 1st Loyals for a specific activity.

Note 2

I Fed Infantry Bde = 1st Federation Infantry Brigade. I RSF = 1st Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers. 1/6GR = 1st Battalion, 6th Gurkha Regiment. 1 (3) Malay = 1st (3rd) Battalion, The Malay Regiment. 1 Royal Lincolns = 1st Battalion, Royal Lincolnshire Regiment. DWEC = District War Executive Committee. 1 Loyals = 1st Battalion The Loyal Regiment

Photographs in this article came from Geoff Jebb, Colin Cunningham, the Hoad Collection, Wikipedia, and Arthur Burke's collection

60th ANNIVERSARY, SOUTH VIETNAM, 1ST TOUR



On 29 April 1965, Australia committed the 1RAR Battalion Group for service in South Vietnam under command of Headquarters Australian Army Force Vietnam, and under operational control of 173rd (US) Airborne Brigade at Bien Hoa. 161 Field Battery RNZA (four L5 Howitzers) provided the artillery support.

When the Army considered expanding the force, CO 4th Field Regiment was tasked to prepare a battery. He chose 105th Battery, the then priority light-scaled sub-unit. Strengthened with personnel from across the regiment, the Battery exercised in the Amberley-Flinders Peak area and underwent a week of helicopter moves and live firing at Tin Can Bay. Its commitment to Vietnam was officially confirmed after return to Wacol on 19 August 1965.

The Battery, less an advance party, departed from Brisbane aboard HMAS *Sydney* on 14 September 1965



Landing craft ferried the Battery ashore at Vung Tau on 28 September, from whence it was flown by C130 to Bien Hoa.

With an Australian and New Zealand battery in location, commanders decided that the Tigers would be in general support of American forces, but might alternate in direct support of 1RAR on airmobile deployments.

The organisation of the Battery during the tour is illustrated by the wiring diagram above. The HQ, Gun Troop, observers and LO were linked by a communications net using AN-PRC 25 radios. Sufficient additional personnel were provided to constitute a small pool of reinforcements.

On 30 September 105th Battery began occupying its allocated perimeter position, to be known as Perak Barracks, surrounding the guns and ammunition bays with sandbag bunds, and excavating weapon pits.



The Battery Guide, WO2 Jesse James, a Korean veteran, supervised the construction a complex and much-admired, barbed wire entanglement, and the Battery manned two machine-gun pits for local defence.

Personnel were accommodated in tents. Over time a Battery Office, Q Store, kitchens and messes were established, along with a canteen dispensing dry goods and beer at two cans per man per day when not on operations



On 2 October 1965, at 1135 hours, Sergeant Don McDonald's Alpha Gun formally fired the initial Australian artillery round in the war. Two day's later, the first operational shoot was a landing zone preparation for 1st Battalion, 503rd US Infantry Regiment. Eight days later 80 members of the Battery marched through Saigon in a 'Welcome to Vietnam' parade .

The CP produced firing data using the newly-introduced Plotter Fire Control and associated firing tables and instruments. It used the engagement of known (datum) point to determine the meteorological effect when 'met' telegrams were unavailable.



As the guns had not been fully calibrated before arrival in country, early attempts were made

to redress this situation, or at least ensure MVs were adjusted so that rounds from individual guns fell together. Gun rules at each gun, such as those carried below, converted the range ordered by the CP to elevation according to the gun's muzzle velocity (MV).



By 16 October the Battery had fired 1000 rounds, and a week later it undertook its first operational deployment, flying by Iroquois to Ben Cat, 50 km north-west of Saigon to support 1RAR in the Iron Triangle.



Subsequently, as shown on page 18, the Battery took part in nine search and destroy operations whilst with the Airborne Brigade. The only non-operational deployment was a trip to Phan Rang in November 1965 to commence affiliation with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, which the Battery would be supporting on a subsequent operation. While there the Tigers demonstrated an air move, and conducted direct and calibration firings.



Armed with the 105mm L5 Pack Howitzer, the battery was equipped for air mobility. A number of its deployments were made in this fashion.



But half the time it moved by road



On the majority of operations, the Battery was In Direct Support of an infantry battalion. The BC's party was collocated with Battalion Headquarters to provide artillery advice and coordinate fire support.

Thickish vegetation typically cloaked areas of operations and Forward Observation (FO) parties were attached to infantry companies, navigating by compass bearing and paced distance, typically ordering missions by map grid references so deduced, and then adjusting fire by sound. Because battalions had four companies while the Battery possessed only three FO Parties, the Kiwis provided an FO Party on some occasions, and on others the LO's Party became an FO Party.

Asked to describe the gun positions occupied on these early operations, one Gunner responded, "We were by ourselves, no digging in other than weapon pits. Dozers were not invented then, and neither were fire support bases (FSB). We did piquets around the perimeter, and clearing and standing patrols. I can't remember claymore

mines or splintex. Nor can I remember wire, or close infantry support. We felt isolated, dead tired, and somewhat scared".



On two occasions when with the 173rd the Battery's support proved particularly decisive. On *Operation Hump* in War Zone D, Kiwi FO, Captain Bruce Murphy, was awarded the Military Cross for skilfully directing fire from the Battery to protect two platoons from A Company, 1RAR. It was on this operation that the Battery was exposed to the grim reality of war when American dead were temporarily evacuated to its gun position. It was also at this position that for the first and only time ammunition was delivered using parachute extraction of pallets from a cargo plane flying at low level (LOLEX).

The second and perhaps more critical occasion arose during *Operation Silver City*, again in War Zone D. When American guns ran low on ammunition, the Battery fired continuously for four hours assisting an American battalion to repulse VC assaults.

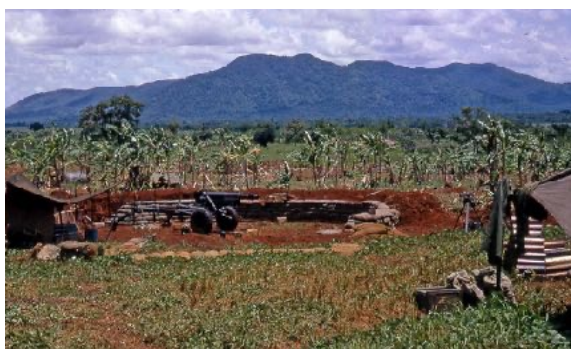


When the fighting ceased that battalion counted more than 265 enemy casualties within 100 metres of its position. Its commander wrote to Peter Tedder: "Thanks for saving our lives. I have never seen finer shooting".

While operating with the 173rd, Captain Ken Bade, a FO, shown on the right with John Long in the photo below, was killed in a booby trap explosion during Operation Crimp, and Gunners Dick Hall, Frank Gulyas, and Sandy Lloyd, along with Bombardier Charlie Elwell, were wounded in action. Gunner Tom Simpson, died from cerebral malaria. Lieutenant Gordon Pound contracted the same illness, and fortunately recovered after repatriation to Australia.



After working with 173rd Airborne Brigade to secure the Nui Dat area for 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF), at 1800hrs on 5 June 1966 105 joined 161 and 103 Batteries under command of 1st Field Regiment RAA and 1ATF. Allocated a position on the perimeter of the Task Force base, the Tigers repeated the construction of defences they had done at Bien Hoa.



An early operational task with 1ATF was to provide Direct Support to 5RAR for a cordon and search of Binh Ba. The Battery returned to its base location on 18 August, just before the fighting at Long Tan commenced, during which the regiment fired almost constantly for three hours at high rates of fire in gathering darkness, driving rain, and clouds of propellant fumes.



The GPO, Lieutenant John Jansen, kept the gun line aware of the tactical situation as the Gunners maintained accuracy of lay despite the conditions, fogged up sights, and fatigue. As the BK, Bruce Stark, recalled, "it was all hands to the pumps serving the guns and unboxing ammunition. Everyone was flat chat. I even had the cooks, the LAD and the 131 Battery detachment involved."

In quieter times during the tour, entertainers such as Bob Hope, Lucky Starr and Pat Wordsworth - the 'Big Pretzel' - helped the Tigers forget the conflict for a while.



The Battery left Vietnam on 24 September 1966 having fired approximately 30,000 rounds. It could be justly proud of its achievements, but disappointingly the Government disallowed acceptance by the 1RAR Group of the United States Meritorious Unit Commendation for outstanding service with 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the South Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Commendation. It would take until 1991 and 2015 respectively for these decisions to be overturned. However, during the tour Sergeant L W (Stretch) Fanning was awarded the US Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service; and Gunner Tom Simpson (posthumously) the South Vietnamese Armed Forces Honour Medal.

FIRST TOUR DEPLOYMENTS

Date	Operation	Area	Gun Position	Deployment Method	Remarks
23-26 Oct 65		Ben Cat/Iron Triangle	Un-named grid ref	Iroquois	DS 1RAR
5-9 Nov 65	Hump	Dong Nai	LZ Queen	Iroquois	DS 1RAR
20-30 Nov 65	N/A	Phan Rang	N/A	C123	Affiliation 1st Bde, 101st Airborne Div
11-19 Dec 65	Checker-board	Ben Cat/Michelin Rubber	Un-named grid ref	Road	GS 1st Bde, 101st Airborne Div.
1- 7Jan 66	Marauder	Plain of Reeds	LZ Whiskey LZ Collins Bao Tri	Road/Chinook	DS 1RAR
8-14 Jan 66	Crimp	Ho Bo Woods	King	Road/Chinook	DS 1RAR.
4-7 Feb 66	Round-house	War Zone D	Phoenix	Road/Chinook	DS 1 RAR
21-24 Feb 66	Mastiff	Michelin Rubber	LZ Kennel. Div Arty FSB	Chinook/CH3/ Iroquois	DS 1st Bn, 2nd Inf Regt
27Feb - 1 Mar 66	Phoenix	Tan Uyen	Un-named grid ref	Road	DS 1RAR
9-22 Mar 66	Silver City	War Zone D/ Song Be	LZ12/Bugs Bunny	Chinook	DS 1RAR
4-6 May 66	Dexter	Phuoc Thanh	Boot	Road	DS 1st Bn, 503rd Inf Regt
23 May-5 Jun 66	Hardihood	Phuoc Tuy	Indian/un-named grid ref	Road	DS 5RAR
5 Jun 66	(Occupy IATF base)	Nui Dat	YS429668	Road	Road
7 -14 Jul 66	Sydney 1	Nui Nghe, Duc My	Tennis	M113	DS 5RAR
10-13 Aug 66	Holsworthy	Binh Ba	Un-named grid ref	Road	DS 5RAR
16 – midday 18Aug 66	Holsworthy	Duc Trung, Binh Ba	Temporary position Nui Dat	Road	DS 5RAR
26 Aug -8 Sep 66	Toledo	North East of Nui Dat	4 Temporary positions	Road	GS 1ATF
9-18 Sep 66	Vaucluse	Nui Dinh	Near French Fortress	M113/road	GS 1ATF

Photographs in this article were drawn from those provided by Peter Treleaven, John Long, Ian Morley, Wayne (Lefty) Wright, Shane Oxenham, Snow Hurman, and Larry Barker

CURIOSITIES

Photographs from Bien Hoa during the first tour of Vietnam show small shipping containers (Conex) being delivered to the battery position and emplaced alongside the central road. A quick enquiry amongst some members has not revealed their purpose. Does anyone know?



This photo from the second tour shows the CO 5RAR, LTCOL Colin Khan, firing a round from Dave Gratwick's gun. Dave has identified Brenton George as the No 3 and Willie Willemson as the No 2 but does not recall the occasion or the FSB at which it occurred. Can anyone help? The FSB has to be one after late October '69 because gun rules, like the one next to the CO, were not used before that time.



Got up at 5am, 8km run completed, came back prepared a vegetable smoothie for breakfast.... Don't remember the rest of the dream....

WHY IS IT THAT I HAVE ONE BAR ON MY PHONE IN MY LIVING ROOM BUT THE TALIBAN CAN UPLOAD A VIDEO FROM A CAVE IN AFGHANISTAN?

Being twenty in the seventies was much more fun than being seventy in the twenties.

WELCOME HOME MARCH

Ted Robinson provided these photos, which are sure to bring back memories for second tour veterans

After The March



The Sunday Get Together



LEST WE FORGET

Graeme Maughan



Former Association President and Life Member Graeme Maughan passed away in Brisbane on 9 June 2025, survived by his wife Isobel, his two children, and their families

Graeme was born in Warwick, Queensland, and

completed secondary school in Brisbane. When he graduated from OCS Portsea in June 1963 he “wanted to fly Army aircraft and decided the Artillery was the best Regiment from which to launch.”

He joined 105th battery in Vietnam after Gordon Pound contracted cerebral malaria, deferring flying training to take up the posting.

Afterwards, Graeme spent 17 years with Army Aviation. As a flying instructor he was awarded a Queens Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air by the RAAF for his service at Point Cook in 1969/70. He was later one of the few Army Aviators to be awarded the the RAAF Air Force Cross, in his case for the enviable flying safety record of

the School of Army Aviation while under his command.

Graeme left the Army in 1984 and joined the Department of Aviation as an Examiner of Airmen in Adelaide, a stepping stone to his selection as Aviation Manager and Chief Pilot with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. He held this position for nearly 14 years before finishing his aviation career with Flight West in Queensland as a Check and Training Captain.

In retirement Graeme turned to tennis coaching and enjoying his family. He made a grand contribution to the Battery Association, serving as its Vice President in 2006-2007, and its President between 2008 and 2013.

Vale Graeme Maughan

Juergen Raasch



Association Life Member Juergen Raasch passed away unexpectedly on 24 June 2025, survived by his wife, Bev, his two children, and their families.

Born in Berlin in 1942, Juergen migrated to join family in Papua New Guinea, completing secondary schooling at St Peter's College in Brisbane.

He enlisted in the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (PNGVR) in 1959, and served with them until entering the Officer Cadet School, Portsea in 1963. On graduation he was posted to 4th Field Regiment.

Juergen served in Vietnam with 101st Field Battery in 1966/67, after which he returned to PNG as a Captain staff officer on the headquarters.

Back in Australia, he initially joined 8th Medium Regiment before spending the remainder of his military career

in Queensland in regimental and staff positions, which included service with 1st, 4th and 11th Field Regiments. He transferred to the Reserve in 1986, and left the Army in 1991.

After taking his discharge, Juergen was for many years the practice manager at his wife's GP practice in Townsville before he and Bev moved to Toowoomba in 2020.

He enjoyed family time, coached soccer, indulged his model train hobby, and was a member of the PNGVR Association.

Vale Juergen Raasch.

Roger O'Dwyer



Association life member Roger O'Dwyer passed away in hospital on 23 August 2025, survived by his wife, Lynn, his four children, and their families

Roger was born and completed primary schooling in

Boggabri before undertaking secondary schooling as a boarder at St Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill. Afterwards he returned to Boggabri, working in a bank.

Called up for National Service in 1968 he trained as an Operator Command Post and deployed to Vietnam in the 105th Battery in 1969. His engaging nature, sense of humour, practicality and sporting prowess made him a popular member of the Battery.

On RTA, Roger returned briefly to Boggabri before beginning a career in real estate at Springwood in the Blue Mountains. He bought his own agency in Hunters Hill in 1975, later holding the Ray White franchise for the area until his retirement in 2011.

In his working life and retirement Roger enjoyed his connection with the Hunters Hill community, serving twice as the local Rotary Club President. He was a staunch supporter of the Battery Association and a regular attendee, with Lynn, at reunions. He enjoyed his family, and following his favourite rugby, rugby league and cricket teams.

Vale Roger O'Dwyer.

John Macpherson



Association Life Member John Macpherson passed away in Bowral on 10 March 2025 survived by his children and their families.

Born in Rockdale, John attended Penshurst Public School before completing his secondary education at St Andrew's Cathedral College and Trinity Grammar. A fine

school sportsman, he chose a career in the Army, graduating top of his class from Portsea in 1954.

He served at 12 National Service Training Battalion, 1st Field Regiment and 1RTB before joining 4th Field Regiment and 105th Battery in 1962.

His next posting was to 7th Field Regiment, and he attended Staff College before serving on Headquarters AFV in 1970/71. A posting to the Defence Staff in London followed, and he later served on Headquarters 2nd Division. He left the Army in 1981 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel to provide stability for a growing family.

Based in Strathfield, John held executive positions with the Institute of Chartered

Accountants and the Building Owners Authority, contributed to the management of his children's schools, and was active in freemasonry and Rotary. After later moving to the Southern Highlands, he guided tours at the Bradman Museum.

Throughout his adult life John was a proud member of the Clan Macpherson, becoming President of the clan's association in Australia. His strong interest in artillery history saw him volunteering at the forts around Sydney and Newcastle, and he left a legacy by recording the history of the RAA's Air OP.

Vale John Macpherson

Michael Thompson

Association Life Member
Michael M Thompson passed away in Canberra on 2 June 2025 aged 89, survived by his wife, Judy and family.

Born in Northam, West Australia, Mike graduated into the artillery from OCS Portsea in 1954. After postings to 14 National Service Training Battalion, 111 LAA Battery and 1st Field Regiment, he was one of the original members of the Australian Army Training Team

Vietnam. Between August 1962 and November 1963 he served with the Weapons Committee, Hiep Khan Training Centre, near Hue; and later the ARVN School of Artillery at Duc My.

On RTA, Mike was posted to 4th Field Regiment for a number of years, during which time he obtained an Economics and Accounting Principles degree. He commanded 105th battery on its return from Vietnam in 1966,

and then, after attending Staff College, also commanded 111 Battery.

In 1969/70 Mike attended the Royal Military College of Science in the UK, and until he completed his career in the rank of Brigadier his service thereafter consisted of a series of ever more senior armaments and defence studies postings in Canberra, Washington, and London.

Vale Mike Thompson.

EXTENSION OF THE RAA NATIONAL MEMORIAL

The RAA National Memorial stands atop Mt Pleasant in Canberra, overlooking on one side Defence Headquarters and the parliamentary triangle, and on the other the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Plaques on the walls of the Memorial, which was constructed five decades ago, commemorate service in conflict between 1885 and Vietnam, but not in more recent times. Nor is there provision for the future.

The extension of the Memorial's walls aims to rectify the situation in keeping with the original design and provide a place of connection, reflection and commemoration for all Gunners, as well as their families, friends and members of the public".



An Artists Impression Of The Extended Memorial

The Association has made its donation to the project. Other donations are encouraged. They are tax deductible and can be made through www.artilleryhistory.org

IN MEMORIUM

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

