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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 40 16/11/15

1. Vale Cyril Tee:

Members have previously been advised via our Welfare Report of the death of Cyril Tee (Driver with 102 Battery Vietnam 68-69). RIP Cyril. Lest we Forget.

2. Vale Robert (Bob) Sandow:

We have been advised of the recent death of Bob Sandow. Bob was a Gunner who served in Vietnam with 104 Battery from 5th February 1971 to 18th November 1971. Some of our members from 104's second tour may remember him.

Like Cyril Tee, Bob was not a member of this Association so we don't have many details.
RIP Robert. Lest we Forget.

3. Death of Major General Gordon John Fitzgerald AO (Retired):

We are advised that the general passed away on 10th November from the effects of lung and liver cancer. We have been sent the following details from ARTHUR BURKE OAM Colonel (Retired) Queensland Member Royal Australian Artillery History Company Sub Committee

Gordon Fitzgerald was born on 2 October 1934 and graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon on 12 December 1956. He joined the Royal Australian Artillery with classmates Don Quinn, Garth Hughes, Jock Jenvey, Cliff Dodds and Nick Marshall. Highlights of his distinguished career include: 102nd Field Battery in Singapore and Borneo, Senior Instructor at the fledgling Officer Cadet School Scheyville, the Royal Military College of Science prior to Staff College Camberley in the UK, Brigade Major Royal Artillery at Headquarters RAA 1st Division, second in command of 1st Civil Affairs Unit in Vietnam, Joint Services Staff College, Commanding Officer 1st Field Regiment RAA, Chief of Staff 1st Division, Commander 6th Task Force, Military Secretary, Chief of Personnel - Army and Deputy Chief of the General Staff. An obituary is currently being drafted.

General Fitzgerald's final parade will be conducted with full military honours at St Augustine's Anglican Church, 56 Racecourse Road, Hamilton, Brisbane on Thursday 19 November. The family has requested that those members attending wear medals and decorations as appropriate.

He is survived by two daughters, Jenny Duke and Linda Bridges. Letters of condolence should be sent to: Mrs Jenny Duke 74 Chandos Street Wynnum West Qld 4178.

Rest in peace Gordon John Fitzgerald - distinguished soldier, loving father and always a Gunner. Gone to the Great Gun Park up above at 81 years of age. Ubique Arthur

4. Annual General Meeting:

The Association's AGM was held at Ingleburn RSL sub-branch on 10th November. A big thank you to all those members who attended. There were 11 of us voting members there – only one more than a quorum, so it's clear that your attendance was very much needed.

A copy of the Minutes of that meeting is attached for your interest. Please file your copy for use at next year's AGM if you might possibly attend, or might wish to raise any points for discussion.

5. Australian Artillery Association Newsletter:

Our webmaster Graham Hampton, who is also webmaster for the AAA, has advised us that their newsletter is now available in a new format.

Hi Trev, We are now putting out our Newsletter as an eNewsletter in Flip Book format very similar to that which the Australian Army Newspaper is displayed as. Please feel free to pass the link around.

Below is the link to go to the eNewsletter November 2015 issue **however a few pointers if I may:**

- a. To view the eNewsletter you will need Adobe Flash installed on your computer, most if not all will already have this.
- b. Once open please go to the bottom of the screen and click on the "Full Screen" button – 
- c. Once the full screen is open go back to the bottom far left hand side of the icons and click on the "Table of Contents" button - 
- d. Note if you double click on any given page it will enlarge further with a "Zoom" control bar at the bottom that enables you to zoom to a level that is comfortable for you to read. To exit the zoom page simply double click on the page again and it will return to its original double page format.

The URL link is: http://australianartilleryassociation.com/publications/enewsletter_november_2015.html

6. Fundraising for the Orphanage in Vietnam:

In spite of some very generous donations from individual members, the total amount of \$4500 that was raised for the project to buy the much-needed car was a long way short of what was required. Accordingly, after some funds were allocated to essential purchases, there is a residual amount of \$2500 which Ian Dimond would like to go towards providing shade cloth for the sports program. The following report from Ian explains the situation.

Just returned from Vietnam (unbelievably hot and humid). Owing to that weather, the Sports program was seriously curtailed, as there is no shade whatsoever at this new location. I mention this as the contributions towards the vehicle project have not been forthcoming, except when the idea was first floated. The original contributions were put to excellent advantage as articulated in My Huong's thank you email.

To purchase a vehicle for the Orphanage appears to have been an overly ambitious venture. I spoke with My Huong and she agreed that it was indeed a very generous thought and offer, however raising the amount required may prove difficult. This is the reality! There is \$2500 in the account at present. These funds could possibly be used towards erecting a shade cloth cover over the playground. Can you please inform the members of the Regiment accordingly and once again thank those chaps who so generously donated. I look forward to any constructive thoughts/ideas as to how these funds can be productively utilised, bearing in mind it was at the suggestion of My Huong re-the shade cloth area. Best regards Ian.

7. DVA Gym Course for Vets – a Reminder:

On several occasions in previous issues, we have advised members of the gym and fitness programs provided for vets by the DVA. As I recall, Laurie Bird, Stan Carbines and Russell Ruygrok all praise the program.

Member Keith Foster has also done the program more recently, and sends us this report which further attests to the excellence of the service.

You probably know that DVA run a 12 month (only) gym course - not sure what it's called.

I did it about 4 yrs ago & the guys all found it so worthwhile we've kept it up at our own expense (it's v cheap at our local uni gym) The gym is closing so everyone is moving onto a DVA-paid-for exercise physiologist (except me - no disability thank heavens)

The exercise phystology scheme seems to be very generous and open-ended but the initial gym sessions certainly bonded the group and motivated everyone to keep going - excellent scheme actually. (Sadly we've had a number who've become too unwell to continue)

Most of us think it's one of the best things we've ever done - a bit of exercise and lots of talking nonsense Just thought you might find it useful. Keith Foster.

8. Soldiers' Poem:

As you know, we occasionally publish service-related poetry in this Bulletin. The following little gem (untitled) has been sent to us by President Flood.

I've had me share of rubber trees
and screamin' sergeant majors;
and livin' like a mongrel dog
in those stuffed out canvas cages.
Had me share of screamin' jets
and whoopin' bloody rockets,
beetles in me under-dacks
bull ants in me pockets.
Had me share of mud 'n slush and rainin' like a bastard;
And when it rains, it rains here mate,
A fortnight once, it lasted....
Had this bloody place Vietnam
And a war that ain't fair dinkum.
Had the swamps, and chook-house towns
Where everything is stinkin'.
Had me share of countin' days
And boots with ten-foot laces.
I've had me share, I've had it mate and up all them foreign places. ANON

9. Merchandise:

QM Laurie Bird is still selling all-weather Jackets and they remain at the very competitive price of \$55 including postage. Also don't forget the usual shirts (\$27), caps (\$15) and ties (\$27) etc. that are still available, as well as the CD featuring the 102 Battery theme song The Toucan Battery Blues, and a tribute song to the Centenary of Anzac called Lone Pine Lament (\$10).

Christmas will soon be upon us and any of these items would make magnificent gifts not only for your ex-Regiment mates, but also for family and friends who are proud of your service to your country.

To order please contact Laurie Bird on birdlawrence@outlook.com or phone him on 02 49548248.

The Association acknowledges the ongoing support of the Ingleburn sub-Branch of the RSL in the publication of these Bulletins, and thanks them for their assistance.