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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 45 2nd May 2016

1. Another Anzac day Gone:

So another Anzac Day passes into history. I hope everyone had a memorable day wherever you observed it. We're all another year older, greyer and more frail, but Anzac Day each year allows us to show that our camaraderie, mutual support, and genuine affection for each other remains strong. May we all be fit and happy when the next one rolls along.

2. February Service for Ian Scott:

In the last issue of the Bulletin, I reported on the moving ceremony which was held at Camperdown in February to honour the sacrifice of Ian Scott (HQ Battery) at Fire Support Base Coral. This prompted Andy Forsdike to send us this report of Andy's participation in that ceremony. Thanks for this, Andy. I can imagine that it would have been a very wrenching experience for you, bearing in mind you were right there with Ian and Chris.

Hi Trevor, I also attended the service at Camperdown for Ian Scott. I went to his sister's house and met Ian's wife who has since remarried. She is still good friends with Ian's sister, Pat. There were approx 200 turned up at the cemetery. There were 3 of us from Coral. It was a very moving service. Pat kept introducing me to everyone and kept saying Andy was alongside Ian when he was killed. You can imagine the questions I was asked, and in the end I had to walk away.

*Keep up the good work, and yes I will be in Sydney on Anzac Day.
Travel safe, Andy*

3. The Information Bulletin Goes Global:

Yes, it's true. Our humble Information Bulletin is now read all over the world. After last month's issue, I received the following email from Stan and Margaret Carbines.

*Hi Trev and Jean,
Just letting you know that we just read your newsletter while driving along between Valencia and Barcelona. Next stop is a vineyard for afternoon wine tasting. It's a hard life but someone's got to do it!
Love,
Stan and Margaret PS. We'll have one for you too!*

Well excuse me! Alright for some.....

Seriously though, I caught up with Stan and Margaret on Anzac Day in Sydney and heard more about their wonderful trip. Seems that they had a terrific time.

4. A Missing Gunner:

We have received a request from Jeanne Ronald in Queensland who is trying to find out about the Vietnam service of a relative - Allan Joseph Duke. He appears to have been in 12 Field Regiment during its second tour. He has never been a member of this Association, but there may be some of you second-tour blokes out there who remember him and can help Jeanne.

If you can provide any information that might help her, please get back to me and I'll put you in touch with her.

I was wondering if someone would be able to assist me. I am undertaking family research and trying to locate 'Allan Joseph Duke' Service No 138225 who enlisted with the Army and served between 05 February 1971 and 02 September 1971 in the 12th Field Regiment. Other details I have he was born in 21 April 1949 in Charleville, though other records have Roma Qld. His rank was a Bombardier. The medals he was awarded were AASM47-75/Vietnam medal/ADM/ANSM/Vietnamese Campaign Medal.

If you have any contacts or any information, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Jeanne Ronald

5. Myths and Legends About Vietnam Vets:

Over the years, there have been some assumptions and opinions about Vietnam Vets that have made their way into mainstream thinking.

Recent research has shown that much of what is popularly believed about Viet Vets is just not true.

President Flood has sent us a copy of that report which busts so many of those myths. It is attached to your email containing this Bulletin for your interest.

6. Members Using Panadol Osteo:

Pepe Prendergast (1 RAR) received this email from one of his members and has passed it on to us for the information of our members who may run into the same obstacle.

I went to the doc to ask for a new script for osteo panadol / osteomol and my regular doc was on holidays so saw another. He said those tabs were no longer available on the PBS & DVA. I checked with the pharmacist who checked the DVA site.

They are available via script if DVA accepted an arthritic / osteo condition.

I phoned the clinic advising them of this which they checked on, and said a script would be ready tomorrow. You may wish to remind members of this.

7. An Invitation to Join 1 RAR's Commemoration Activities in Townsville:

Any of our members who might be travelling in the vicinity of Townsville in mid-May, or who may wish to make a special trip, are advised of the following invitation from 1 RAR. I'm told that arty blokes would be especially welcomed as guests.

3.

***1 RAR COMMEMORATIVE PARADE
13 – 14 – 15 May 2016***

The CO and RSM of 1 RAR invite all past and present members especially Vietnam Veterans to a weekend of activities that commemorates the Battalion's involvement in Vietnam to be conducted at Coral Lines over the period 13-15 May 2016. Activities include:

Friday 13 May

Commencing 0900h. Tour of Coral Lines including displays and presentations

1500h. Happy Hour conducted by the 1 RAR Association NQ Branch at the Townsville RSL

Saturday 14 May. *1500h Commemoration Parade Coral Lines*

Post Parade Function at the Patrick Bugden VC Club

Sunday 15 May. *Free time for individuals and groups to organise separate activities/reunions.*

More information will follow as it comes to hand

Mick Johnson, President 1 RAR Association, NQ Branch TOWNSVILLE QLD 4817

8. Merchandise:

QM Laurie Bird is still selling all-weather jackets and they remain at the very competitive price of \$55 including postage. With winter coming on, these warm, wind-proof and water resistant jackets would be a great asset. 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).

It was good to see so many Association ties and caps being worn with pride during the Anzac Day functions that I attended in Sydney. They looked smart!

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.