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## 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

### INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 48 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016

#### 1. Welcome to a New Member:

A big welcome to new member Hendrikus ("Ries") Chattillon.

Ries was a staff sergeant who served in Vietnam with 104 Battery from May 1968 to May 1969, so many of our 104 Battery members will know him. He lives in Popanyinning in WA, and his wife is Gladys. Hopefully we'll get to meet him at the reunion next year. Welcome Reis!!

#### 2. Cossie's Great Fire Sale!!!

Well, they say a new broom sweeps clean..... Our new QM Cossie is already cleaning out the Q-store ready for a new era, with some terrific bargains available for members. Here's his sales pitch.

*Time has come to have a total Q store clearance sale and start a fresh. So I am offering fire sale prices on the few of the items we have left in the Q store, most are below half price!!!!!!*

*We must clear these items to make way for other future items. We ask you all to support this fire sale as all funds earned will go into the bank and will probably support us all in up and coming reunions. There is around \$1200.00 value at marked-down prices sitting in the Q store so let's buy it and get the money in the bank where it will work for us!!!!!! All items offered are plus post-and-pack prices on a first in, first served basis!!!!!!!!!! Buy now.*

**Item 1. Regimental Caps.....** Count 63 Items **\$6.00 each.** (no-one has enough hats) Less than half price, buy now!!!!

**Item 2. Regimental Ties.....**Count 18 Items **\$18.00 each.** After all these years the beer and food stains must be building. Buy a new one now and attend your own funeral in a fresh new tie.

**Item 3. All-weather Jackets.....** I have only, 2 x XL and 2 x 2XL Jackets left in stock!!!! These warm good quality Jackets to clear at **\$25.00 each!!!!** Buy now.

**Item 4. Short and Long sleeve Chambray Shirts.....** Limited numbers and sizes. Who can buy a quality shirt like this for **\$15.00 each!!!!!!** Sizes and quantities are **Medium** 3 long sleeve, **Large** 2 short sleeve and 1 long sleeve, **XXL** 2 short sleeve 1 long sleeve, **XXXL** 3 Short sleeve, **5XL** 2 short sleeve.

**All quoted prices are plus postage**

To order please contact Cossie on email at [cossie0102@bigpond.com](mailto:cossie0102@bigpond.com) or ring him on (02) 4930 3359.

12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association is a Branch of RAA (NSW) Association Inc  
The Association ABN is 90 248 586 329. However, the Association is not registered for GST and is Tax-exempt

### 3. Long Shot to Help a Fellow Vet:

We've had a plea from Neil Lunney who is desperately trying to get recognition of an injury he incurred in 1964. He was with 102 Battery in Malaya, and with HQ Battery in Singapore for a while. He needs corroborative evidence as per the following transcript of his email. Is there a slim chance that any of you who may have been in Singapore in 1964, or at Holsworthy in about December 1964 can remember Neil in his plaster?

*I have 2 problems (1. Detachment to Singapore and 2: Broken Leg)*

1. *I was detached for 6 months from 102 FD Bty Malacca in June 1964-December 1964 as a staff car driver at HQ FARELF.*

*Problem; there is no detachment record on my documents and I cannot recall the name of the person who was our orderly room clerk there.*

*Myself and other Staff car drivers HQ FARELF Singapore and they were present during the civil riots 23 July – 3 August 1964*

2. *I nominated to trial for 28<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Brigade Rugby team. My trial game was held at Tengah Air Base Singapore on the 27 Oct 1964. My left Tibia and Fibia was broken during this trial.*

*I was Medivaced on a BOAC flight (records show emplaned Singapore 9 Dec deplane Sydney 10 Dec 1964) No ambulance or anyone else was there to meet me (The hospital in Singapore forgot to give my medical documents either to the aircrew or myself) – thank God my Brother turned up – I had my brother take me to HQ FF Comd Vic Barracks (I was in a full travelling plaster from my foot to my thigh, (which was supposed to be removed and replastered on arrival.)*

*When I arrived at the Barracks, I was met with the statement “IF YOUR FROM OVERSEAS YOU WILL HAVE A MOB 3, no MOB 3 P...s Off”*

*After 15 days of this I went to Holsworthy and to the Gun Bty where I thought there would be a chance that someone there would know me. The Bty Commander whose name escapes me, had me admitted to 2 Camp Hospital (records show on 25th Dec) A top private specialist was called in and after examination said because I had not received immediate attention on arrival home “I HAVE TO RE-BREAK YOUR LEG IN BOTH PLACES” My recovery was slow and instead of just a couple of months off, recovery took more than a year.*

*I need a short letter (from anyone who was there or who remembers me) confirming that;*

- a. *I was a driver in Singapore Jun – Dec 1964, and*
- b. *Anyone who saw me at Holsworthy with a broken leg.*

*Every 6 weeks (from 25 Dec 64 to 18 Apr 66 I would be flown from Coffs Harbour (my parents had a property out at Bellingen) to Sydney. A driver would take me out to the unit (it was not A Fd Bty) at Holsworthy where I would be paid and then to the hospital and then back to the airport and flown home to Coffs Harbour.*

*Thanks for your help*

*Neil (Lunnsie) (07)54 996 995*

### 4. News From the Vungtau Orphanage:

Ian Dimond has sent this report regarding progress.

*Greetings from a rain sodden Vung Tau! Firstly to let you know that the first group of kids are all swimming breaststroke, and floating/treading water. Some of them are doing Freestyle as well. With one week to go before the next group starts, this is a bonza result. Regarding the Adventure Playcage, this is for the mentally handicapped kids at the Long Hai school. I will forward some photos of the area concerned. The total cost is \$3000, of which I'll put \$1000 towards. Trev, wondering if you could put this in the Info Bulletin. If anyone would care to contribute, just send me an email and I will give bank details etc. Best regards Dimo*

## 5. Secretary's Leave:

Just for information, the Association Secretary (that's me) will be on leave from 9<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July. Any urgent business will be expertly handled by our Treasurer John Beer whose contact details appear in this letter-head.

## 6. Welfare Report 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016 from Welfare Officer Rick Cranna:

Since my last report, I have received some bad news and other news about some of our members as well as other news about some members that I would like to pass on to you.

Today, we received the terribly sad news from our Infantry friends, that ( **38808**) **Lt. Garry (Pepe) William Prendergast** passed away in the early hours of this morning in John Flynn Hospital on the Gold Coast.

Pepe has been in hospital, but this was not an expected outcome.

For many years Pepe, who is well known and loved by many of us, has been a driving force behind the annual Coral Reunions and maintained an email network for 1RAR 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour members as well as many of our fellow Regiment members and other Vietnam veterans.

At the time of writing this report, no funeral service or other details are available

As Bob (Bomber) Gibson when he reported the sad news said "A SOLDIER DIED TODAY "Lt Garry ""PEPE"" Prendergast marched out his last parade."

R.I.P Pep

**Andy Forsdike (HQ.Bty 1968-69)** sent a signal through that **Mal Hundt (HQ Bty 1968)** and **Mike Ekman (Cptn.(later Lt.Colonel) HQ Bty and 104 Bty 1968-69)** have been having a battle health-wise.

I could not contact **Mike Ekman**, but I did speak to **Mal Hundt** last night. Mal told me that he has one week of radiation treatment remaining to treat the cancer he has in his elbow, groin and hip. A wonderful guy, Mal told me that he feels fine and is looking forward to a bit of a rest from the intensive treatment he has been having. All the very best from all of us in 12 Field, Mal.

Another soldier, who is not at all well, is **Dale Quigley (102 Bty 1968-69)**. Dale, who is a diabetic, has spent the past three days in intensive care in a local hospital near his home in Jimboomba (Qld) is suffering from a severe lack of insulin.

I spoke with Dale's wife Lynn last night and she is hopeful that Dale might be able to be moved to Greenslopes Private Hospital, Greenslopes, Brisbane in the next day or two.

I know your many friends in our Regiment will be wishing you well Dale for a speedy recovery.

Trevor received a lovely email from **Jim "Dutchie" Holland (2Lt.102 Bty)** and I would like to relay to you.

*" G'day Trev,*

*I'm happy if Rick wishes to add what for me is an on-going positive. After being diagnosed and becoming a TPI in 1997, (thanks to Peter Geelen's persistence to get me to a doctor), I've been on an ever-changing meds regime since then. By my guess I've spent about 12 months of my life in Repat/bed despite being physically healthy. Some 3 months ago, faced with another 'tour' in Repat I decided instead to radically reduce my main meds by 60% over a fortnight. The constant head pain of the last many years went, my partially blurred vision went.....and I suddenly felt 'renewed', began an exercise regime and started planning 2 trips, one to FNQ and one to Europe.*

#### P4.

*Well, I've completed the first trip, about 7300km on my own, which included a caravan roll-over, and all is still fine. My doctors are equally happy with my decision on meds BUT I warn others that such a radical step needs to be monitored in most cases! For myself, so far so good on a 15% dosage, which may only be a placebo, who knows, but I am feeling great. Minor threatened incursions of the Black Dog have been successfully repelled by having a mind clear enough to deal with it, Of course there is always that tiny fear that I'll crash and burn as has happened so many times in the past.....and they were whilst I was on meds ..... but I now have confidence to face such an event and so I'm off to Europe for 2.5months to visit friends. I offer this news to our brothers in arms, not to belittle the medical system but to suggest that for some situations there are alternative solutions, which may be considered. I wish with all my heart that some other blokes can find a similar success to mine.....and that it is a lasting result.  
Thx Trev, best wishes,  
Jim aka Dutchie “*

What a great email from a great guy who was great support to many of us during our time in Vietnam.

And speaking of **Peter Geelen (102 Bty 1968)**, from what I can understand, I reckon that Adelaide Hospital will be setting up a branch out at Peter's place in Adelaide with the amount of medical work these Geelen's have been having lately.

Firstly Peter had a session in hospital undergoing Hernia surgery.

Peter tells me that a new type of surgery by using a Beurepair polypropylene patch was inserted to repair the hernia. Sounds to me that he could have gone down to the local tyre garage and had the job done a fair bit cheaper!

Anyway, Peter is “repaired” and full of beans again.

Peter's wife **Patricia** has also had a heart operation to repair a heart valve which was successfully completed and when I spoke with her recently, she sounded in good spirits.

Peter and Pat are great 12 Field Rgt. supporters and keep in touch with a number of our members around Australia. It is good that they are both well again.

That is my report for the moment, much sad news and it emphasizes the importance that we all keep in touch and keep Trevor or myself informed of any member or their family that needs support.

Regards,

**Rick Cranna Welfare Officer ( Phone: 0407572048). Email [rgcranna@bigpond.com](mailto:rgcranna@bigpond.com)**

**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.**

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