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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 51 October 2016

1. Passing of Robert “Bob” Bushby:

The sad death of Bob Bushby was reported to members last month. Since then, we have received the following messages of remembrance:

From Chris Coape-Smith and Bob Lowry who attended the funeral.

Trev, Bob Lowry and I attended Bob's Funeral at War Vets Collaroy.

We introduced ourselves to his wife Molly and her Daughter who knows my children from North Head, and in fact are on Face Book. The RSL gave him a good send off.

Regards Chris and Bob

From Paul Haw.

Trev, Thanks for the information, I do appreciate your emails.

I remember Bob so well, he came to my aid when I was wounded (on the 12th April 1968). All of my clothes including boots were cut off me with a pair of scissors. Bob issued me with a complete uniform and many other items including a new artillery badge with a rotating wheel. I still have this badge.

Paul Haw

From Ross Bland.

Trev, thanks for your information re Bob's Funeral. We first met and locked horns when I was ASM 1Fd Regt and he was BQMS 102 Bty. When I departed the Regt to attend The Officer Qualifying Course, Bob was one of the first to congratulate me. Undoubtedly he was an outstanding BQMS and a Good Digger. His expertise came to the fore in SVN 68/69. I really respected him. Thanks again Trev, Regards Ross Bland.

From Graham Floyd.

Bob was the QM at the School when I was the MG; also at 8/12 when I was a BSM. A typical old school Q, "I have it, you try and get it". His bark was definitely worse than his bite! A good man respected for what he was; "an old soldier and dedicated gunner". Flood

Bob obviously touched a lot of lives in his illustrious career. RIP. “Lest we Forget”.

2. The AGM:

A reminder to you all that the next AGM of the Association will be held at Ingleburn RSL at 1300hrs on Wednesday 9th November. Remember that a finger-food lunch will be served around noon.

Please, if you live within commuting distance of Ingleburn, make the effort to attend. We need everyone we can get to ensure a quorum.

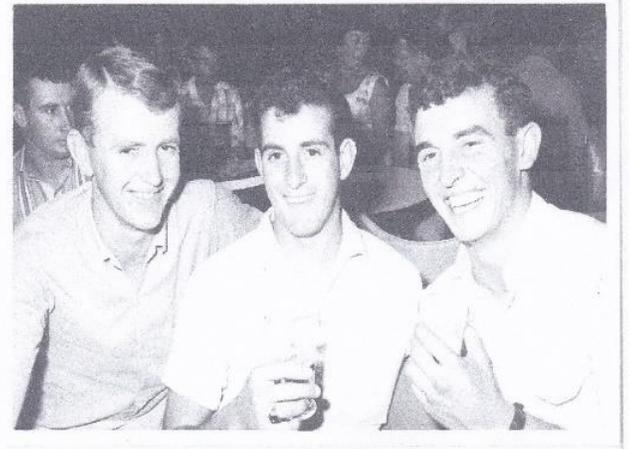
3. Can you Recognise Anyone Here?

Cossie has sent us these old photos for interest, along with the following message from Phil Cormack.:

Hi Cossie, Thought you might like to see these old photos. The group photo is of mostly 5th intake nashos on the gunnery course at North Head with yours truly standing at the far left. There were a couple of young regs as well. I cannot recall the name of the gunnery instructor sergeant.

The second photo was taken at the Stardust hotel at Cabramatta with me again on the left, Ray Darragh in the middle and Eric Carrigan on the right. I think it was my 21st birthday. There are a couple of nashos in the background as well, whose names escape me. I have a few more taken at North Head and also taken on an exercise down the south coast at Tianjara just before 12 Fld left for SVN. Christ we were young!!

Phil Phillip Cormack FNIA; SF Fin; ADFS (FP) Financial Adviser Stripey Pty Ltd



4. Sponsorship of the New 44 Platoon, 1 Recruit Training Battalion:

The Australian Artillery Association recently offered our Association the opportunity to participate in an Artillery Corps project to sponsor a new recruit platoon being established as part of 1RTB. The aim of the project was to present the artillery corps as an attractive destination for new army recruits passing out of basic training.

Part of the sponsorship involved various artillery units supplying a photo that typified their role in Australia's conflicts. These photographs were then enlarged and mounted on frames which now hang in the 44 Platoon quarters.

Our Association was given the task of representing artillery's role in Vietnam with one single photo! So, how do you select one single photo from all the others that best represents all that???

Our Association committee set up a sub-committee headed by Cossie and gave it the task of sorting through a heap of photographs and coming up with just one that "says it all" – Vietnam, mateship, artillery and the rest. – a photo that would convince a new recruit that artillery was the best corps for him or her.

Cossie's selection was a very interesting one and came out of left field. The AAA thinks it's different and a good choice to demonstrate what life at a FSB is all about. What do you think?

3.

The following information is from Graham Hampton at the Australian Artillery Association:

Hi Trevor, on the 21st September 2016 the Australian Artillery Association accompanied by 2 members of the 107 Battery Association presented a total of 12 framed photographs to the 44th Platoon at 1RTB Kapooka.

I have a attached photo of your specific donation to the email and you can view all the framed photographs along with pictures taken at the presentation and of the March Out parade in our Photo Gallery using this link: <https://ubique.smugmug.com/44-Platoon-1-RTB-Kapooka-Spons> .

Please note that a document that included a copy of your photograph, the description provided by you and your Association's name was provided to the Platoon Commander 44th Platoon so that a record of the photographs is maintained in their system for historical purposes.

I would like to thank you for your assistance and contribution in making this project possible and a success.



102nd Field Battery RAA
Alpha Gun
Nui Dat Vietnam 1968

4.

5. The Next Reunion – May 2017:

Another reminder about the reunion next year being held at Maroochydore from 24th to 28th May. Planning is almost complete, and when you see the final details, you'll agree that your committee has come up with an interesting and varied program, with ample opportunity to catch up with your mates and enjoy each other's company. And the cost to you will be negligible. You'll be surprised.....

Full details and the Registration Form will be circulated to members in the second half of November, so please look out for it.

Let's be realistic here – at our age, how many other opportunities are there likely to be. Let's all make the effort to attend, and make this reunion the best one yet.

6. 102 Battery Theme Song:

Thanks to the expertise of our webmaster Graham Hampton, those members who haven't yet heard the 102 Battery theme song Toucan Battery Blues, can now access the performance and words on the Association's website. Just access the Association's webpage, select History, click on the red and blue Toucan Logo of 102 (Coral) Fd Bty, and scroll down to the end.

7. Merchandise:

A reminder from our QM Cossie, that there are still many great bargains to be had amongst the Association merchandise he's selling. In particular, he's offering:

Tee Shirts (new item) for just \$20. Chambray shirts (limited sizes) for just \$15, plus a cap for \$3 with every shirt, Caps for \$6, and Ties just \$16. (All prices are plus postage.)

You can order any of these items by emailing Cossie at cossie0102@bigpond.com
Or by phoning him on 02 49303359.

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.