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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN #8 1 February 2013

To all members from President Graham "Flood" Floyd:

1. Congratulations to Geoff "Grimo" Grimish:

All members are delighted that fellow member Grimo was recognized on Australia Day by the awarding of an OAM, for his services to the community. All who know Geoff will agree that the award is thoroughly deserved and we offer him our heartiest congratulations!

2. Salvos in Vietnam:

Our member John Paskulich was writing down his memories of his time in Vietnam and sought information on a particular Salvation Army Officer who was quite a character. John received this anecdote from Lt Neil Smith, who was a platoon commander with 8RAR and John has asked that it be passed on to all members for our interest:

Recollections of Vietnam whilst a Platoon Commander of 8 RAR

I recall a story, related to our Salvation Army representative [Jim Macintyre] which goes along the lines of - he had a soldier escort allocated to him, a boy who had been in one of the rifle companies, in one of the forward elements of the battalion, and had been in a few nasty spots and was a bit shell-shocked. We send him back and he can do jobs such as, in this case being the escort driver/assistant for the Sally-man. And a lot of blokes would have thoroughly enjoyed that, and it would have been a good break for some of them too, you would think. But, what apparently happened was that, as was his want, the Salvation Army man used to go all over the action, God bless him, and he'd be going along in his Land Rover or come in on the helicopter and have his little soldier-assistant running along helping him carry the tea urn, and he'd have his rifle slung over his back, and all that sort of stuff.

And driving about, and on one occasion, when the Salvation Army representative had to go from the base out to one of the very forward areas, he chose to drive; perhaps he couldn't get a helicopter, and so he packed his tea urn, and his biscuits, and whatever on, into the back of his land rover, and got his driver to hop in, and drive.

And so off they went, reading the map, and all the rest of it, which is perhaps not a wise thing to do, some would say, just heading off by yourself into the scrub, so to speak. And they drove and drove and drove, and I gather that they got lost, or in part lost, or went up the wrong track, or something like that, and the driver got the Land Rover stuck on a log.

And they went around to the front of the Land Rover, which was stuck and jammed over the log. Just as they were going to try and rock it off, they saw a large artillery shell rigged up as a booby trap to go up underneath the log. And had they pushed it across, then they both would have went up.

And of course the story was going around there after that this boy just wanted to get back to his rifle platoon; to where it was safer, ...and go back on his ambushes, and so forth, with his old platoon.

So that's a recollection I have of an incident over there with our Salvation Army man.

3. Duncan Anderson – latest:

Last issue I told you that Duncan Anderson, the BC of the reformed 102 Coral Battery, had received a transfer and was no longer in command of the Battery. We now learn that Duncan has in fact quit the Army after 15 years and has taken a civie appointment as Managing Director of the South West Institute of Technology based in Bunbury, WA. Western Australia is Duncan's home state, so he's obviously very pleased. We all wish him well and know he'll make a great job of it.

4. Welfare Officer's Report No. 6:

For those members who do not have access to emails, a copy of the latest Welfare Report and follow-up notice regarding the sad passing of Pauline Twomey, wife of Barry, is attached.

5. 1RAR Battle Group Coral Reunion, Rockhampton May 2013:

Members are reminded of this event which was first notified to you in our Information Bulletin #4 in October 2012. At this stage there may be some doubt as to whether the event will continue or be modified due to the flooding in the area. At the time of issuing this Bulletin, we are not aware of any change but we'll keep monitoring it and let members know if anything happens.

6. Missing mates:

Our member Bryan Stevens (GPO 104 Bty 1971; retired as Brigadier) is keen to locate Steve Bowerman (or maybe Bowman?) who was a Sig in the CP of 104 Battery during their 1971 tour. If anyone knows how to contact Steve, please get back to Acting Secretary Trev Bryant who will forward the info to Bryan.

7. AGM and SGM:

Members, it is still very "iffy" as to whether we will achieve a quorum for our meetings on 13th February at the Georges River Golf Club, Sydney. Please.....make the effort to come along if you can possibly do it. We may need you!

8. FSB "Lynx":

One of our members is trying to find out the date that units of the Regiment were deployed to FSB Lynx in 1968. Can anyone help? Get back to Trev Bryant if you can.

9. Merchandise:

Laurie Bird reminds us that he has "quality Chambray Shirts specifically designed for our Association members & ladies at reduced prices. These shirts are ideal to wear at our functions/meetings, and look good anywhere.

Mens L/Sleeve Shirt: sizes S – 3XL = \$26, sizes 4XL – 5 = \$28.

Ladies ¾ Sleeve Shirt: sizes 8 – 18 = \$25, sizes 20 – 24 = \$26

Mens S/Sleeve Shirt: sizes S – 3XL = \$25, sizes 4XL – 5 = \$26

Ladies S/Sleeve Shirt: Sizes 8 – 18 = \$25, sizes 20 – 24 = \$26.

Please give him a ring on (02) 4954 8248, or email him at birds_12@optusnet.com.au if you're interested.

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