



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2020

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***VALE – COLONEL, HIS HONOUR, MR JUSTICE LESLIE TREVOR OLSSON,
AO, MBE, RFD, ED, GCSJ, CMSJ***

Colonel Trevor Olsson passed away on Wednesday 8th January 2020, after his health had been declining over the past couple of years; he was aged 88 years.

A large number of people attended his funeral service, held at St Peters Anglican Cathedral on Saturday 18th January; a good number of Association members attended, and were only outnumbered by a large number of members of the Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, of which Colonel Olsson was also a member.

Colonel Olsson joined the (then) Citizen Military Forces in 1948 as a Recruit Gunner in R Bty, 13 Fd Regt; he was commissioned in 1951, then promoted to Captain in 1955. In early 1959 he undertook an Exchange Visit to the US Army based in Hawaii, and later that year he was promoted to Major and commanded 48 Fd Bty. From 1966 to 1969 he was appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of South Australia, and in 1967 he was appointed as CO 13 Fd Regt.

In 1976 he was promoted to Colonel and took command of 4th Training Group, based at Hampstead Barracks, followed in 1979 by an appointment as Assistant Commander, 4th Military District. In the period 1983 – 1989 he was appointed as Colonel Commandant, RAA (SA & NT), and later, in 1999 – 2003, as Honorary Colonel, Adelaide Universities Regiment

His career in law was long and varied, the highlights being his appointment in 1975 as President of the SA Industrial Court and Commission, followed in 1984 by his appointment as a Justice in the Supreme Court of South Australia. He officially retired from the judiciary in 2001, after which he actively assisted in the conversion of court information systems and undertook the duties as an Auxiliary Judge in the jurisdictions of WA, NT and SA, fully retiring in 2011.

Colonel Olsson was an inaugural member of the RAA Association of SA, and made a sound contribution, including by framing the Association's Rules & By-Laws, which continue to serve us well today. He was a regular attendee at Association functions, and had planned to attend last year's Gunner Dinner, but ill health caused him to cancel at the last moment. It is fair to say that he lived a full life, making an exemplary contribution in all aspects of his endeavours, and doing so with a friendly and enquiring disposition; he will be sadly missed. *Lest we forget.*

VALE – MAJOR PHIL BURNS

Many thanks to LTCOL David Brook, OAM for providing the following details relating to **Major Phil Burns'** career in the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

- ✚ Born 1/9/1931
- ✚ Graduated from RMC on 15/12/54 and allotted to RAA
- ✚ Appointed Lt – 15/12/54
- ✚ Promoted to Capt 15/12/58
- ✚ Promoted to Maj 15/12/64

The following is a summary of his postings over a career of 20+ years:

1 Fd Regt 15/12/54 to 16/4/56
Adjnt 38 LAA/SL Regt 17/4/56 to 6/9/56
Adjnt 38 LAA Regt 7/9/56 to 25/6/57
111 LAA Bty 26/6/57 to 17/11/58
Adjnt 16 HAA Regt 18/11/58 to 3/7/60
4 Fd Regt 4/7/60 to 13/8/61
IO HQ W Comd 14/8/61 to 2/2/64
4 Fd Regt 3/2/64 to 26/6/66
Attached to HQ AAFV 27/6/66 to 21/8/67
Aust Staff College 29/1/68 to 29/1/69
GSO2 DMT AHQ 10/1/69 to 7/9/69
Attached to AAS (UK) for training – RMCS 8/9/69 to ?/12/1971
Attached to P&EE Eskmeals UK for Proof Training (– normally for about 6 months)
OC P&EE Port Wakefield ?/?/1971 to 4/12/74
GSO2 HQ 4 MD 5/12/74 to date of resignation

Phil was also a qualified parachutist and served in South Vietnam with the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam (AATTV).

Phil was a long-term member of our Association, and in early days was a regular attendee at meetings and functions; although not seen at functions for some years (mainly due to him living in Victor Harbor), he always replied promptly to invitations. *Lest We Forget.*

VALE – MAJOR JIM MILIOS

Major Jim Milios passed away in December 2019, but his funeral service was delayed until part-way through January, we think due to a relative being overseas.

Reluctantly I must admit to being unable to readily find any former Gunners who are able to provide much detail about Jim's earlier military career or civilian life, other than the following, indeed, I always thought of him as likened to a modern-day 'Scarlet Pimpernel', I never quite knew where he worked, or when he was going to appear!

At the time of joining 48 Fd Bty he was employed in civilian life by the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science in a technical (rather than scientific) role. Part-way through his time in 48 Fd Bty he

was offered employment by a private company in a role thought by several of us to involve the marketing and/or sale of medical equipment. This role necessitated him resigning from the ARes and working for most of each year based overseas, and travelling frequently between the USA, UK and several other countries (again, no-one was ever quite sure!). He returned to Adelaide in time for Christmas each year and ALWAYS contacted many of us with a phone call and/or a card, and it was good to catch up with him for a meal or a drink on occasions when time permitted.

Having been posted to 48 Fd Bty he served in all officer postings before eventually being promoted to Major and appointed as Battery Commander, a role he enjoyed very much, and in which he was well-respected by Battery members. Regrettably, it was during this period that his new civilian occupation required him to move overseas, and he had to relinquish the BC's role much earlier than he would have liked.

Jim was a competent officer, much liked by his colleagues, and sadly he passed away at 63 years...far too young – he will be sadly missed. *Lest We Forget.*

GUNNER TIES

I currently have 5 x RAA ties available for purchase, the cost being \$40 each; anyone interested in purchasing a tie can contact me on 0418.852.661 to make arrangements.

18th BATTERY, AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

The 18th Battery was South Australia's only artillery unit to serve in World War 1, and the Committee has recently come into possession of a record of the 18th Battery's history during that War. I will provide a copy to members in the near future.

GOOD WISHES

On behalf of the Committee, I wish all Members good health and well being during this current 'challenge', and I look forward to catching up with you when the challenge has been defeated.

Geoff Laurie
President

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

2019-2020

Committee:

President	Major Geoff Laurie RFD (Retd)	8332.4485 (H)	0418.852.661
Treasurer	Major Rex Jones RFD (Retd)	8388.4201 (H)	0407.970.272
Secretary	Sgt Jan Burgess	0411.446.656	
Members	LTCOL Stefan Landherr RFD (Retd)	0419.030.536	
	WO2 Don Millard	8263.5334 (H)	
	WO2 Tony Matz	0412.824.600	
	SSgt Ernie Reichstein	0401.046.681	
	Sgt Eddie Tanzer	0447.080.021	
	Sgt John Nield	0468.396.457	
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Assoc Reps at Army} Museum of SA }	Maj Geoff Laurie, LTCOL Stefan Landherr, Sgt Eddie Tanzer, Sgt John Nield, SSgt Ernie Reichstein		
16 Regt	LTCOL Mark Mankowski	CO 16 Regt	
6/13 Light Bty	Maj Mark Lee	BC 6/13 Lt Bty	
Proof & Experimental Establishment, Port Wakefield	Maj Tony Mumford	OC P&EE	

Committee Meetings:

The Committee endeavours to meet on the second Monday in February, May, August, and November.

Agenda items, and Newsletter Articles to: Geoff Laurie or Jan Burgess

Memorabilia (when available)

RAA Tie \$40 - (currently in stock) Book, 'Roundshot to Rapier' – A History of RAA in SA) \$5

Membership Fee:

Full Member: Annual Subscription: \$30 Joining Fee \$20 (at Committee's discretion)

Affiliate or Serving Member: 50% of above annual subscription