

Dear Fellow Gunners

Sadly, former Warrant Officer Class One Arthur 'the Angry Ant' Cox went to the Great Gun Park up above on 1 February 2011.

The Angry Ant was one of the older Gunners whose service transitioned the past of the post Second World War Army to the (then) modern era of the 1960s and 70s. This is well illustrated by his active service tours of Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam.

Arthur Cox was born at Mortdale, NSW on 11.7.1928 and enlisted in the new Australian Regular Army on 5.4.1948. He was part of the School of Artillery's depot 53rd Field Battery before moving to 1st Field Regiment when it was raised in 1949. He joined 105th Field Battery in Malaya as a reinforcement sergeant on 13.7.1956, serving until the unit returned to Australia on 31.10.1957.

Promoted Warrant Officer Class Two in 1962, he became Captain Don Quinn's Troop Sergeant Major in 102nd Field Battery, deploying to Singapore/Malaysia with that unit on 13.10.1965. This posting included service in Sarawak, Borneo when the 102nd deployed from 3.5.1965 to 20 .7.1965. Don recalls him affectionately as an outstanding TSM who kept three over six feet tall gun sergeants on a very firm leash. He was hard but fair and highly respected by his peers, superiors and the Diggers. When not on duty, he was a good family man who enjoyed a beer - but never let anyone take advantage of him.

On return to Australia, WO2 Cox enjoyed a posting at the School of Artillery before returning to his beloved 102nd Battery (now in 12th Field Regiment) as the Battery Sergeant Major. The unit deployed to Vietnam on 3.3.1968 and was in the front line for the Battle of Coral in May that year. He returned to Australia on 4.2.1969. Battery Captain Don Tait describes Arthur as 'an old mate' who will be irreplaceable. On behalf of the members of that 102nd Battery tour of Vietnam, Don says that he is deeply saddened that 'one of us' will no longer be able to parade.

After a posting to the CMF on the ARA cadre with 7th Field Regiment in Sydney, he became the BSM Headquarters Battery of 19th Composite (later 8th Medium) Regiment. Following a desire to remain in the Sydney area, Arthur in succession served with 23rd Cadet Battalion, 9th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment as the Regimental Sergeant Major, 2nd Training Group and Headquarters 2nd Military District before retiring at 55 years of age on 9.7.1983.

During his 35 years in the Army, Arthur Cox was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Arthur and Margaret moved to Logan City just south of Brisbane in the last decade. On behalf of the 105th Battery RAA Association, deepest condolences are sent to Margaret and the family on their bereavement. Letters of condolence should be sent to the widow at 66 Edenlea Drive, Meadowbrook, Qld, 4131.

WO1 Arthur Cox's last parade will be:

Monday 7 Feb 11 at 1100hrs.

Great Southern Garden of Remembrance, 1774 Mt Cotton Road, Carbrook, Logan City (just south of Brisbane).

Ray Chapman will conduct the service.

Trevor Luchterhand will conduct the RSL poppy service.

Medals to be worn.

Vale Arthur Richard 'the Angry Ant' Cox - old soldier, highly respected Gunner and loving family man.
Gone to that Great Gun Park up above after 83 years meritorious service on earth.

Ubique

Arthur

ARTHUR BURKE OAM - arthurburke@bigpond.com

Colonel (Retired)

Queensland Member

Royal Australian Artillery History Sub Committee

7 Aspley Court, Aspley, Qld, 4034, Australia

Phone/Fax: 07 3263 6025
