



G'day Frank,

Firstly, thank you for shouldering the unenviable role of Editor-in-Chief of the now world famous "Germ Journal". I, like many others, am one of the silent majority who, although we may not say too much, read each edition with interest and the occasional smile.

I thought your readers might be interested to know that the current-day 104 Battery as it is now known is, despite continual change throughout the Australian Army, alive and in the very capable hands of all concerned from the Gunners through the ranks to their Battery Commander.

I had the good fortune last October to spend a day with them in the Wide Bay Training Area, near Tin Can Bay in southern Queensland. With the threat of bush fires at the time they were prevented from firing live ammunition – but, as we all know, there's nothing new in watching a round explode.

It was good to watch the battery deploy using their relatively new M777 155mm towed howitzers. This equipment brings to fruition most of the capabilities we could only dream of back in our day. Dispersed gun positions with sometimes 900 metres between guns are now practised (note the radio antenna that each gun has).



These things can throw a big brick some 40km using the "Excalibur" GPS-guided munition.



The Command Post vehicles are a variant of the tried and tested Bushmaster and the operators enjoy a little more comfort that we might care to remember from our time.



Despite the amazing technology in the battery today, I continue as always to be blown away by the knowledge, the enthusiasm and the professionalism of the Gunners. If ever one's faith in the youth of Australia comes into question, one only needs to spend a day with the young Gunners for it to be restored.

In closing I should advise your readers that I also recently spoke to the Gunners of 104 Battery and the topic was "What being a Germ means to me". I stood in for Russ Pullen who got cold feet at the eleventh hour – he will have you believe he was experiencing severe dental pain at the time and wasn't "looking his best". I'll let your readers decide for themselves which version they will take on.

Anyway, whilst I was in the barracks, I found their latest version of the Germ and thought I should share it with you – see below.

My warm regards to the Germs,

Hugh Polson
Section Commander, 2nd Tour SVN
BC 104 Fd Bty, 1995-96

