

The Late “Jack” Holtman

The funeral Service for the late John Fredrick Holtman (*Jack*) was held at The Morwell Funeral Chapel on Thursday the 13th September 2012, at 1330 hours. Prior to the beginning of the service we were informed that if “*Jack’s*” son from South Australia arrived at the service he would be refused admittance. The service was conducted by Les Maher, Senior Vice President of The Morwell RSL and a former Bombardier in 100 A Battery (Malaya).

“*Jack*” Holtman was born in 1939. He enlisted into the Regular Army on 2nd March 1956, did his basic training at Kapooka, NSW and corps training at the School Of Artillery, North Head, NSW. From there he went to HAA Battery, 111 Battery and 1 Field Regiment in 1957. He was then posted to 100 A Field Battery in Malaya as a Gunner from 24th December 1958 to 3rd October 1959 and “D” troop, 101 Field Battery on the 4th October 1959, 26th Field Regiment RAA from the 17th. October 1960 to 18th December 1960. He returned to The School Of Artillery in 1960 and his last artillery posting was at “P and EE” Fort Gellibrand. In 1962 he transferred to The Royal Australian Infantry, where he attained the rank of corporal in 1963 SVN, Cpl and Sgt 5 Bn RAR from the 12th. May 1966 to 12th May 1967. Sgt. Infantry Centre 31RQR and promoted to WO2 in 1969. JTC CSM 8/9 RAR WO2, discharged on 11th June 1976. Les Maher said that “other members in A Battery would play any sport to keep fit during their time in Malaya, but “*Jack*” would spend his time trying to make his body stronger than anybody else, so they called him “*The Million Dollar Body*“. When he joined 5 Battalion RAR, the name they gave him was “*Crazy Horse*“. To those who served with “*Jack*” in the artillery he was known as someone that you could trust, because he was always there to help out. He will never be forgotten by those who served with him.

“*Jack*” was an original member of The National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association and a member of the Gippsland Sub-branch.

The way that he died was a tragedy. At this stage the actual date and details of his death have not been released by the Coroner’s Office.

