

## AUSTRALIAN GUNNER OBITUARY RESOURCE

### William (Bill) Liddell, OAM

January 1932 – 15 August 2015



William (Bill) Liddell was born in Adelaide in January 1932. He was indentured as an apprentice motor mechanic in 1948. During 1949, he enlisted in the Citizens Military Forces (CMF), 'Q' Battery, 13 Field Regiment, South Australia. On completion of his apprenticeship in 1953 he discharged from the CMF and enlisted in the Australian Regular Army as a recruit, entering the 1st Recruit Training Battalion (Kapooka) in February 1953. He continued to serve until retiring in 1987 aged 55.

His total continuous service, 37 years and 4 months. He was promoted Bombardier in 1954, Sergeant in 1955, Warrant Officer Class Two in 1964 and Warrant Officer Class One in 1969 then received a Prescribed Service Officer commission in 1981.

Bill was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 1977 for Services to the Australian Army.

During his CMF service Bill was a Gun Sergeant at the age of 19 years, in 1951.

After completing his recruit training, Bill was posted to the School of Artillery at North Head where he completed basic gunnery courses and promotion courses for Bombardier.

In 1953 Bill was posted as an Instructor, National Service to 12 National Service Battalion, Holsworthy followed by a posting to 16 National Service Battalion in South Australia in 1954. From 1955 until 1966, Bill spent time as a Gun Sergeant in A Field Battery and as a Tara Sergeant (Command Post Sergeant) in 102 Light Battery. During this time, he deployed to Malaya with A Field Battery in 1957 and 102 Battery in 1963.

Bill was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 1977 for Services to the Australian Army.

On 1966 Bill was selected to attend the Long Gunnery Staff Course (Locating) at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill in the UK. On return to Australia he was posted as a WO2 Assistant Instructor Gunnery (Locating) where he remained until 1969.

Promoted to Warrant Officer Class One in 1969 Bill was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of 16th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment in South Australia.

Returning to North Head in 1973, Bill was appointed Master Gunner of the School of Artillery. In late 1974 he was appointed Command Sergeant Major of Field Force Command at Victoria Barracks in Sydney where he remained until 1978. He then returned to the School of Artillery as RSM until December 1980.

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In 1981 Bill accepted a commission under the Prescribed Service Officer (PSO) scheme and was promoted to Captain. Bill transferred to the Army Reserve in 1983 and was posted to the Officer Training School at Ingleburn. Bill did two short stints in South Vietnam assisting with calibration of the guns.

On his retirement, he was employed with the NSW Branch of the Retired Services League (RSL), Security Manager, Darling Harbour NSW prior to full retirement in 1995.

Bill sadly passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015.