

**2781518 GARRY LAURENCE TOWNER**  
**2 JUNE 1945- 14 OCTOBER 2012**

I lost a mate on Sunday 14 October 2012. We shared a tent together for six months; He was the number 2 on our section's gun; His nick name was 'Gaza,' he was a 'nasho' one of those same from the first intake whose sudden presence in '65 lifted the Army I knew as a 'Reg' onto an altogether higher plateau. He had all the attributes they possessed as required then as now by the Army — courage, integrity and a sense of honour.

He did his country proud as an Assault Pioneer of the 5th Battalion, marching out and back on the first tour. A quiet man he was often heard to say "Don't make a fuss." Garry was unaware of any enemy among the 800 men of the Battalion.

A NSW fireman when called up, he would often regale his mates when spirits were down with stories of high speed runs down Sydney City streets, sirens screaming while waving to the office girls leaning out of their Broadway office windows so as to ... pick up the station's hamburgers for lunch!

Lung Cancer took him quickly. His last weeks spent looking to provide for his beloved family, Shabnum, their two children, and five grand children's future.

Fireman, Soldier, Teacher, Garry Towner has marched on, and my world, his Gunner Snowy Walden's, and the brothers of the 5th Battalion's world ... is the poorer for it.



Bob Cavill  
8 Platoon and Assault Pioneers 66-67