



nulli secundus

2ND BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

South West Pacific, Japan, Korea, Malaya, Thai-Malay Border, South Vietnam,
Cambodia, Rwanda, East Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq, Timor Lesté, Afghanistan

RINGO

Courage. Sacrifice. Mateship.

NEWSLETTER

PATRON: MAJOR GENERAL M.D. SLATER AO, DSC, CSC (RETD)

APRIL 2017

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the first issue of "RINGO" for 2017 and I hope that the Festive Season was kind to you. 2016 was a very busy year and it seems that this year will be no exception.



Troops of 2RAR line the deck to receive a last wave as HMAS Sydney leaves Brisbane bound for Vietnam during the unit's first tour in May 1967; 50 years hence.

On behalf of the Association, I would like to congratulate Lt Col Doug Pashley on his appointment as CO 2RAR. I am sure he will enjoy this position and the Association looks forward to continuing our close relationship as well as continue to provide support to the Battalion through our Townsville Representative, John "Jock" Cassidy.

On Friday 24 March 2017, both myself, Vice President Rick Hollingdrake OAM and Secretary Gordon Hurford AM attended a blessing and dedication ceremony of The Royal Australian Regiment Memorial held at The Royal Australian Regiment Place, Ferguson Park, Enoggera, Qld. The unveiling of the plaque was conducted by His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd).

I laid a wreath on behalf of 2RAR Association.

The Memorial was designed by RARA (Qld) President Brig Neil Weekes AM MC (Retd) who passed away on 6th March just prior to the dedication and official opening. He was to host the event with this duty falling to now President RARA (Qld) Lt Col EA (Ted) Chitham MC OAM (Retd).

Neil's funeral was held in Brisbane on 15 March and 2RAR Association was represented by myself and Gordon Hurford.

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Since 1998, the RAR National Memorial Walk at Enoggera Barracks has become the spiritual home of the Regiment. On Sunday 22 November 1998, The Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency Sir William Deane, AC, KBE dedicated 'The Walk' to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Regiment's formation.

The RAR Memorial located at The Royal Australian Regiment Place is ideally located outside Enoggera Barracks in Ferguson Park, and provides free access to visit and pay tribute to fallen comrades.

Map: <http://bit.ly/2nyLsN>

Each year, on ANZAC Day, a Battalion Association has the honour to lead the RAR Battalion Associations on the Anzac Day parade in Brisbane; this year 2RAR has the honour! I look forward to marching with you. *Details on page 3.*

The 2RAR National Reunion Committee (Brisbane) 2017 has been very busy organising the 17-21 May program. The committee, consisting of chairman Gordon Hurford AM, Arthur Macdonald, Leo Van De Kamp and our event manager, Jan Berryman. *Details on page 3.*

The Association is continuing to actively seek ways to increase its membership, especially those members who served with 2RAR and 2/4RAR post-Vietnam. I would like to thank our Patron for encouraging younger members to join us and as a result, we have gained a number of new members. We now need to build on this to ensure the future of the Association.

I would also encourage those who have let their membership to the Association lapse to come back on board. The minimal annual fee of \$20 ensures you continue to get your copy of Ringo (4 editions) which will keep you up to date on what is happening within both 2RAR and the Association.

"Second to None"
Leo Van De Kamp

PRINTED FOR FREE

This edition of RINGO has been printed courtesy of the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Federal Member for Dickson.

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TREASURER
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WARRIORS WHO HAVE MARCHED OUT

- 25644, 213511 Warrant Officer Class Two David Llewellyn OWEN, 2RAR Korea/Japan (Pte) 1953-54. David passed away peacefully on 28 November 2016. Age: 87+ years. David served between 1952 & 1958; and 1960 & 1975. David was a very proud veteran, and he enjoyed reading RINGO. Thanks Karen Owens (Daughter). David enlisted as OWEN
- 33724 Private Stuart Raymond JOHNSTON, 2RAR Korea 1953-54 (RAASC). Veteran of The HOOK (MMG PI). Sad news that Stu had passed away on 13 December 2016. Age: 83+ years. No further information. Thanks Ron Walker
- 33614 Sergeant Kerry Albert SMITH, 2RAR Korea 1953-54. Veteran of the HOOK. Passed away peacefully on 17 February 2017. Funeral held at Branyan (Bundaberg), Qld. Age: 83+ years. Suffered lung cancer for many years. A wonderful veteran of the Korean War. Thanks Kevin Dean, OAM
- Colonel PDR (Peter) CHILDS, MC 1st COMWEL Div 2RAR Korea 1953. Veteran of the HOOK. Peter passed away 15 December 2016. Age: 89+ years. He was the 'CRA authorized' FOO during 24-26 July with C Coy on Hill 121, and authorised to call on Divisional and Corps artillery resources. Thanks Mrs Mairie Childs (Teignmouth, Devon, England)
- 16575 Staff-Sergeant George Themicles CATSACOS BEM, 2RAR Vietnam (Sgt) 1967-68; 1970-71. 2/4RAR 1973-74, 1976-82. British Empire Medal (1982) Age: 87+ years. Passed away peacefully. Funeral held 17 March at Annandale, Qld. George was very active with Dutchy Hemerik in the RAR Association for many years in Townsville. Thanks Merv Diction
- 37050 Corporal Neville John WALTERS, 2RAR Malaya 1961-63. Passed away following a heart attack on 25 March. Age: 77+ years. Funeral to be held 1 April at Maryborough Cemetery, Victoria. Thanks Mrs Michele Walters
- 35583, A317162 Private Ronald Phillip HENNINGS, 2RAR Malaya 1955-57, RAAF Vietnam 1970-71 Leading Aircraftman, 35 Squadron. Passed away from cancer. Age: 81+ years. Funeral held 12 January 2017 at Tewantin, Qld. Thanks Hugh Jones
- 6708425 Private Graham Allan CLARE, 2RAR Vietnam 1967 8 PI C Coy. Passed away Launceston, Tas. on 8 August after a long illness. Age: 71+ years. Our Soldier fought a brave battle, remembered always for that cheeky smile and big heart. Thanks Don Frew



*Yes, you'll always march beside us,
And when our time is through
We'll muster on that "Last Parade"
To march again with you.*

LEST WE FORGET

PRIVATE JOHN ANTHONY MITTON

The passing of John Mitton was recorded in the December 2015 edition of RINGO. What we did not record was that John's name does not appear in 'The 2RAR ANZAC Battalion 1970-71' book. His name does appear on the Vietnam Roll, see footnote¹, having served in the battalion in 1970. John died of a stroke on 6 November 2015. Age: 67+ years. He lived in the Philippines and left a de facto wife behind. John is survived by his son Dylan. Ed.

Paul Anforth

ABOUT: 8242834 LTCOL DOUGLAS IAN PASHLEY

LTCOL Doug Pashley graduated from RMC in December 1998 and was posted to 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) as a Platoon Commander. In 2001, LTCOL Pashley was selected for service in the Special Air Services Regiment (SASR) where he served for six years, fulfilling the roles of Troop Commander, Operations Officer, and Executive Officer in a Sabre Squadron.



In 2007, LTCOL Pashley was posted to Special Operations Headquarters where he was responsible for coordinating Special Operations Command's International Engagement activities. In 2009, LTCOL Pashley was posted as the Officer Commanding Alpha Company, 3RAR (Para). In 2011, LTCOL Pashley attended the Australian

Command and Staff College (ACSC) where he graduated with a Masters in Strategy and Policy from the University of New South Wales.

Following ACSC, LTCOL Pashley was posted to Army Headquarters as the SO2 Combat Development, where he was responsible for the modernization of dismantled close combat equipment. In this role, LTCOL Pashley was awarded a Chief of Army's Commendation for his efforts in providing operationally relevant combat equipment to soldiers in Afghanistan. In July 2012, LTCOL Pashley was promoted and selected to serve in COMISAF's Commander's Action Group in Headquarters ISAF in Kabul. Upon his return from Afghanistan, LTCOL Pashley was posted to the USA as the LNO to MARFORPAC, serving in this role for three years. LTCOL Pashley will take command of 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) in December 2016.

Operationally, LTCOL Pashley has deployed to East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq on multiple occasions and in various roles. In terms of regional engagement activities, LTCOL Pashley has participated in joint exercises or conducted training activities in Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea.

LTCOL Pashley is married to Heike and they have four children.

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS : PAUL CROFTS

For more than forty years Paul Crofts has been very active in RSL and Veteran support organisations in the Sydney area. Paul was awarded a well-deserved OAM on Australia Day. Paul Vincent Crofts was a digger in A Company 2RAR (1970-71). Thanks Ross Kenny, MM

SERGEANT KERRY ALBERT SMITH, KOREA

Kerry Smith was a wonderful veteran of the Korean War. He was the Bandmaster in 2RAR in Puckapunyal and Korea. He did a lot of Welfare work around the Bundaberg area. I wanted Kerry to be President of the 2RAR Association very early but he declined because he lived too far away.

Kerry suffered lung cancer for many years. In February 2009, he told me he was going to hold on as long as he could. "I DO have a 2RAR Reunion to attend in October!!!

Kerry passed away 8 years on, on 17 February 2017.

Dasher Dean, OAM
Durack, Qld

¹ <http://bit.ly/2n2mrr1>

ANZAC DAY: BRISBANE

Dawn Service

The ANZAC Day Dawn Service will take place at the RAR National Walk at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera. President RAR Assoc. (Qld) Ted Chitham MC OAM will conduct the Service. President 2RAR Assoc. Leo Van De Kamp will give the ANZAC Day Address.

The Service will commence at 4.50am sharp.

Brisbane City March

March FUP is Mary Street facing George Street.

March step off 1000Hrs.

Leo Van De Kamp President 2RAR Assoc. will lead the RAR Association (Qld) Banner, followed by: 2RAR, 3RAR, 4RAR, 5RAR, 6RAR, 7RAR, 8RAR, 9RAR, 8/9RAR, 2/4RAR, 5/7RAR, 1RAR.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In 2017 committee meetings, will be held as follows:

- Wed 1 Feb 17 ✓
- Wed 7 Jun 17
- Wed 4 Oct 17
- Wed 5 Apr 17 ✓
- Wed 2 Aug 17
- Wed 6 Dec 17

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Association is open to any person who has served in 2RAR after 16th October 1945: past members of 66 Bn AMF; 2RAR; 2/4RAR; 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC); 2RAR MTF-3; and all ranks currently serving in 2RAR.

Classes of Members: Ordinary, Associate, Honorary, & Life.

MEMBERS' DRAW

Congratulations to Alan Osborne, of Cudgen, NSW winner of the Members' Draw held on 12 October 2016 who received the book: Trackers 'The untold story of Australian dogs of war', by Peter Haran. © 2000, 2013. Drawn by Gordon Hurford.

Ernie Holden, of St Mary's, NSW was the winner of the Draw on 1 February who received the book: Afghanistan: Australia's War, by Gary Ramage & Ian McPhedran. © 2014. Drawn by Arthur Macdonald.

This is the 9th year of the draw.

"WHERE OLD MATES REUNITE"

This is a National 5-Year Reunion for everyone who served in 2RAR or 2/4RAR. The last National Reunion was held in Townsville in July 2012. You do not need to be an Association member. Rally your mates and make this a memorable reuniting of past comrades-in-arms.

Spouses/partners/families are most welcome however it is essential that all attendees are registered.

Our New Zealand mates will be warmly welcomed. Come over to Brisbane and let's stand shoulder to shoulder again in the spirit of comradeship.

Encourage your mates to come along even though they may not have been to a reunion before. It will be a chance to let go and enjoy the company of the 2RAR Family.

Be there!

WEBSITE/FACEBOOK: 2RAR ASSOCIATION

Why the Association Exists

The Association exists for ALL members who have served in the 2nd Battalion or the 2nd/4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, regardless of where that service occurred. Some have served on active service while many have had service only in Australia during those long periods of non-operational activity.

View the Association website here: ²

View the Association Facebook page here: ³

NATIONAL REUNION: BRISBANE 17 TO 21 MAY 17

It is important to understand that this is a nation-wide reunion for all who have served in 2RAR and 2/4RAR at any time. The reunion theme is, "Where old mates reunite".

The following program is confirmed:

Wednesday 17th May 2017

Organise your own sub unit or platoon reunion as a warm-up for the next few days.

Thursday 18th May 2017

Welcome Function at South Bank Piazza from 4.30pm until 7.00pm.

Friday 19th May 2017

Commemorative Service at the National Memorial Walk (NMW) Enoggera commencing at 10.00am, followed by a stroll through the Walk; lunch at 12.30pm. Includes a static display of weapons and vehicles. Buses will pick up from 3.00pm.

Saturday 20th May 2017

Reunion Dinner at the Brisbane Convention and Entertainment Centre (BCEC) commencing at 6.00 pm with pre-dinner drinks and canapés. Dinner will conclude at 12.00midnight.

Sunday 21st May 2017

"Dismissal Parade" for the blokes at the iconic Breakfast Creek Hotel in the Rum Bar. The ladies will have a separate lunch at Pony Dining (beautiful restaurant on the Brisbane River).

Registration by attendees is essential

*Register online at: <http://www.2rar-association.net.au>;

*Download a registration form from the website, complete it & mail it to the postal address shown on the form;

*Use the registration form we have inserted in RINGO and mail it to the address shown on the form.

The cost of the reunion per person is:

• \$180.00 per person up to 31st March 2017

• \$225.00 per person if you pay on 1 April or later

NB: Registration is NOT completed until fees are received.

Accommodation

There is still plenty of accommodation in South Bank Brisbane area. Any of the Internet booking search engines (www.booking.com) will give you a wide selection of accommodation options. If you don't want to stay on South Bank, there is plenty of accommodation across the river in the Brisbane CBD. There are a number of caravan/holiday parks around Brisbane.

The closest ones to the CBD are Newmarket and Aspley; check the Internet for further details.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE: DAYLE MORRISON

Dayle Morrison was born at Maleny, Qld and touched the lives of many in his 22 years. He served in Vietnam with 1ARU, 6RAR & B Coy 2RAR, and was killed in action (GSW) during TET 1968 on 26 January. Dayle is buried at the Mount Gravatt Cemetery; Plot: ANZAC Portion 1 Section D Grave 186; he is also commemorated in the Garden of Remembrance, Commemoration Position Wall 3 - Row E.

Pastor Don Roberts, who is a Nasho and Vietnam Vet, will conduct the ceremony. There will be plenty of time to attend the 'Meet and Greet' at Southbank, Brisbane city at 5pm.

Date: Thursday 18th May 2017: Time: 12 noon

Loc: Mt Gravatt Cemetery and Crematorium

582 Mains Road MacGregor, Qld.

Ted Barber: 0418 723 569;

Kevin Treschman: 0438 140 908

² <http://2rar-association.net.au/>

³ <https://www.facebook.com/2RAR-Association-Inc-1183231068415223/>

REMARKS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR WOO KYOUNG-HA

**Korean War Veterans: "Ambassador for Peace" Medal
1 March 2017, Brisbane, Qld**

I am pleased to be here with you today. I would like to begin by congratulating once again those Korean War heroes and family members who have received the Peace Medal from the Korean Government.



It is truly my honour to present the Peace Medals to you in person. On behalf of the people and the government of the Republic of Korea, I would like to express our profound gratitude to you. I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to those 43 Australians still listed as missing in action.

Today, I would like to share two stories with you as I did with the veterans in other occasions. One is about a young Australian

soldier, Mr. James Patrick Daunt, and the other is about my father.

In the Korean city of Busan, we have the UN Memorial Cemetery where 280 Australian soldiers rest. Prior to coming to Canberra, I visited this Memorial Cemetery and found out that there was an artificial stream called the "Daunt Waterway". It is named after the youngest soldier interred at that cemetery, Mr. James Patrick Daunt, a brave Australian soldier who fell at the age of 17. Mr. Daunt was just 17 - I was speechless.

My father is a Korean War Veteran who is now 87. He served in the Korean Army Infantry from 1950 until 1981. When I was a young boy, he used to tell me his own war stories. Once, I was told that his platoon almost reached Yalu River in early 1951. I am sure all of you are well aware where the Yalu is. It was an important advance for the South, but they soon had to retreat back to the South. I know that he has a deep scar of a rifle shot in his thigh that he never fully explained. I know that he did not want to go into the horrors of the battlefield to his young son, and to this day I can only imagine how he got shot. Some of you here today may still remember the hills of Kapyong, the ridges of Maryang-san, and elsewhere across the Korean Peninsula. Your sacrifice was by no means in vain.

The Korean government is holding an annual commemorative service entitled "Turn Toward Busan" which is to remember those who served in the Korean War. Every year on November 11, at 11 o'clock, people pause in silence for one minute facing Busan, Korea.

I am sincerely honoured to be a part of today's event. As a private citizen of Korea, as a son of a Korean War veteran, and as Korean Ambassador to Australia, I pay my deepest tribute to the dedication and courage of the Korean War veterans. I wish you all the best, continued good health, and offer Korea's eternal gratitude. Thank you.

Margaret Gibbons
The Gap, Qld

Some names we are aware of: Ron Woodrow (Ron is pictured above), Jack Catton, Kiwi Gibbons, Bill Keneally, 'Shorty' Baker, Kevin Mitchell, Charles Yacopetti MC, 'Darcy' Dugan (for his father), Ronald Dunque MM (received by his daughter) & Peter Healy (for his brother Vincent).

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

A warm welcome to new members (10)

John Nicholson	Millthorpe, NSW	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) 1967-68
David Hatton	Paradise Point, Qld	Timor Leste 2007; Iraq 2005-06; Irian Jaya 1999; Sinai 1993; (RSM 2RAR)
Stephen Marr	Lockleys, SA	2RAR East Timor 2006-07; 7RAR Afghanistan 2008-09
Lancelot Gillespie	Reservoir, Vic	Associate Membership. Brother of George 5PI B Coy 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) 1967-68
Richard Parker	Kensington, UK	2RAR East Timor, Afghanistan
Christopher Abbott	Henley Brook, WA	2RAR East Timor 1999-00; 2001-02
Mathew Bold	RAAF Edinburgh, SA	East Timor, Solomon Is, Iraq, Afghanistan (RSM 7RAR)
James Hunter	Enoggera, Qld	East Timor, Timor Leste, Afghanistan (CO 6 RAR)
Brendan Martin	Hyde Park, Qld	East Timor, Solomon Is, Afghanistan
Stuart Smalley	Hawthorne, Qld	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) 1970-71

DONATIONS

We appreciate financial donations 'big and small', and we thank these members for their recent support.

Allan Roberts	Graeme Bartlett	William Barty
Ronald Walker	Rodney Minihan	

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

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AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE MEDAL

More than 17,000 Australians served during the Korean War, 340 were killed and more than 1200 wounded and 29 were prisoners of war. The Ambassador for Peace Medal is presented by the Korean Government for all UN Korean War Veterans to acknowledge and commemorate their service.

HELP: HMAS ANZAC

I had a call today from fellow who was in RAN and was a crewman on HMAS ANZAC when it escorted HMAS SYDNEY from Vung Tau to Australia in June 1968 with the Battalion embarked.

He has asked if anyone has any photos of HMAS ANZAC during that trip. If there were some photos, he would like copies of them. Can you help? Contact details on front page.

Gordon Hurford
Secretary

QUOTATION

Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one, be without strategy. -Norman Schwarzkopf

ABOUT: MERVYN KENNETH DICTON

I enlisted in the Army in March 1966 after a teenage life where everything Army was not enough. Couple of years in Cadets, almost three years in CMF and then into the ARA. Served in Vietnam with 2RAR /NZ ANZAC Bn (1970-71) and soldiered on with several careers within my overall Army career. Brief stint in Rifleman duties, changed to Clerical and went through the ranks to WO1, changed to Quartermaster and then commissioned.



L-R: Mervyn, Anne, & Brig Chris Field

Left the ARA in February 1995 and Anne thought I was discharged so just a couple of months on the Inactive List and got asked to do a project so back into Active Reserve. Have spent the last 21 years in Reserve with highlights as the Senior Instructor Trade Training Wing 11th Training Group, four years in managing officer careers, four years as Second in Command of 31st Battalion and 31st/42nd Battalion, and the last five years looking after ADF staff in the NQ Cadet Brigade.

Spent almost 12 years in 2nd/4th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment and enjoyed the hell out of life with my one regret that during the years after Vietnam there was no opportunity to undertake operational service.

A couple of years and I will be 70, retiring age for the Army Reserve is 65 and fortunately I had three age extensions with the last expiring 31 January 2016 so today 1 January 2017 is my discharge day, just a couple of months short of 51 years of continuous Army service, albeit only 26 years' full time and the remainder part time.

Thanks to my dear wife Anne Dicton for being there for 41 years and putting up with the good times and bad times and all those times when I was absent and she had to be both Mum and Dad to our four kids. Methinks this time discharge is final so no coming back from here.

Putting up this photo (above) from 28 November when I was presented with my Defence Long Service Medal and the associated clasps and two Federation Stars for 45 years' service - great morning in company with several other 2/4RAR men who also received theirs and presented by Brigadier Field who we served with during the late 80s making this much more heartfelt than being presented by the Chief who I do not personally know.

To all those I served with and those who have passed away in action, during their service, or since, I salute you all and thank you all for the fantastic memories and times and your friendship, camaraderie and support.

Back to my civilian job working for Defence in a few days and thinking it's getting close to stumps on that career too.

Note: Brigadier Chris Field AM, CSC, is the current Commander 3rd Brigade. This is Brigadier Field's fourth posting to Lavarack Barracks, having previously served as commanding officer of 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), and having served with both 2/4RAR and 2RAR. Ed.

CALENDAR 2017

1 Feb	2/4RAR delinked to form 2RAR & 4RAR (1995)	Townsville, Qld Holsworthy, NSW
25 Apr	ANZAC Day: Brisbane. RAR Assoc. (Qld): 2RAR, 3RAR, 4RAR, 5RAR, 6RAR, 7RAR, 8RAR, 9RAR, 8/9RAR, 5/7RAR, 2/4RAR, 1RAR	FUP is Mary Street facing George Street. March commences 10am.
25 Apr	Rededication of The RAR Memorial, at Regimental Square	Wynyard Street, Sydney, NSW
Wed 17 – Sun 21 May	2RAR National Reunion <i>Where old mates reunite</i>	South Bank, Brisbane, Qld
July: date to be advised	Samichon Day Commemorating the Battle of the HOOK 24/25 July 1953. At 11am.	The RAR Memorial, Regimental Square, Wynyard Street, Sydney, NSW
27 Jul	Korea Veterans' Day 64th Anniversary of the Armistice in Korea 27 July 1953	Local arrangements
15 Aug	2RAR & 4 RAR link to form 2/4RAR (1973)	Townsville, Qld
18 Aug	Vietnam Veterans' Day	Local arrangements
16 Oct	2RAR Birthday 1945 (72 nd Anniversary)	Labuan, North Borneo
Fri 27 Oct	2RAR Annual National Reunion "Meet, Greet & Dine" (4.00pm Harbour Lounge)	Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads, NSW
Sat 28 Oct	8.30am: AGM: ANZAC Room	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL
	9.45am: Commemoration Service	Chris Cunningham Park
	10.30am: Reunion: 'River Room', Level 3 "Mates, Memories, Camaraderie"	Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads, NSW
11 Nov	Remembrance Day	Local arrangements
23 Nov	RAR Birthday 1948 (69th Anniversary)	Hiro, Japan

TWO BATTALIONS PRESENT UNITED FRONT

SOLDIERS past and present (2RAR, 2/4RAR) gathered for an inaugural reunion as one battalion prepares to farewell their Commanding Officer. More than 60 people attended the Centenary Hotel in Pimlico on 18 November 2016 for the first 2RAR & 2/4RAR Associations combined dinner.

Organiser, Jock Cassidy, said the event was so successful they hoped to make it an annual event.

In the afternoon before the reunion, the vice-president of 2RAR Association, Rick Hollingdrake OAM, presented a cheque for \$1000 to Major Matthew Huggins, Officer Commanding Support Company 2RAR, who accepted on behalf of the 2RAR champion soldier Lance Corporal Matthew Nixon. The award is given each year to the soldier who best personifies the regiment's values.

Congratulations Matthew. Ed.

Also in attendance was Lieutenant Colonel Michael Bassingthwaite DSM, the Commanding Officer 2RAR, who is departing Townsville and Lavarack Barracks at the end of the year.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE AT RAVENSHOE

Dat Do Ambush, 30 September 1967

1731955 Pte Leslie James WESTON. Age: 22 years.

On April 25, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Ravenshoe RSL (Qld) has arranged a Commemoration Service on ANZAC Day for Leslie Weston. Les was a member of 2RAR Transport Platoon who was killed when the vehicle he was driving was ambushed at Dat Do, Phuc Tuy Province on 30th September 1967.

The RSL will also conduct a Dawn Service at the Evelyn Scrub War Memorial which we are advised is not to be missed. Several of Les's former mates will be attending and everyone wishing to attend are very welcome.

Also, killed in the ambush were:

- 2785150 Private William John BRETT. Age: 20 years Armidale, NSW. Official Commemoration: Armidale Cemetery, NSW. Commemoration Position: Church of England 1531.
- 16141 Private Noel Stuart HAROLD. Age: 30 years Yeppoon, Qld. Official Commemoration: Yeppoon Cemetery, Qld. Commemoration Position: Plot 621.
- Sergeant Nguyen Van Ha, Interpreter.

POC: Allan Roberts

Email: annandallan@bigpond.com

Mob: 0439 774 665/Tel: (03) 5250 1112

HELP ABOUT: THE BATTALION LEOPARD SKIN

I had a call from Jessie Bell who works in the 2RAR Museum. He tells me that they have recently opened a box of items and in it was a large "bear" or "leopard" skin which looks like it may have been worn by the Band's base drummer. Clearly no one who is there now knows anything about it. Most likely it was an item worn at the time when 2RAR had a band - not pipes and drums! Is there a story behind it? Was it a Regimental issue with band instruments? I personally have no idea but somehow remember that in my early days in the Battalion, the base drummer did wear a "skin" as a breast plate.

Can anyone throw some light on this item, maybe a bit of history, or even point me or the museum in the right direction to find out all about the 'skin'?

Gordon Hurford
Secretary

My memory does not extend to detail but, I am confident that the 2RAR Band, certainly during the years '60 – '66 that some kind of animal skin was worn by the Base Drummer.

May I suggest that perusal of the Unit's historic records, might be of assistance. To the best of my memory, many photo albums existed in the Museum. Those that refer to the period covering the presentation of "Colours" and the first and second tours in Malaya plus the periods at Holsworthy and Enoggera in the late '50's early '60's, could well provide some clues? *Thanks Bryan. Ed.*

Bryan Pannell
Forde, ACT

QUOTATION: JOHN STUART MILL

War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.

SNIPPETS

- Renovations of the Royal Australian Regiment Memorial, at Regimental Square, Wynyard Street, Sydney, have been completed. The Rededication of the RAR Memorial will take place as part of NSW ANZAC Day ceremonies.
- Korea veterans' commemorations will take place on or about Korea Veterans' Day on the 64th Anniversary of the Armistice in Korea 27 July 1953. The Sydney NSW Korea veterans' commemorations will be conducted at Regimental Square (on a date to be advised).
- The Dedication of the Royal Australian Regiment (Qld) Memorial at Ferguson Park, Enoggera took place on 24 March 2017: Known as 'The Royal Australia Regiment Place.'
- Kevin 'Dasher' Dean OAM a 2RAR veteran of Korea/Japan & Malaya has been selected to travel to South Korea during 23-28 April. Kevin was a Private soldier (Medic) at the HOOK battle. Accompanying Kevin will be his son, Daryl. Kevin has been provided with an Association Tie for presentation. Well done!
- B and C Coy 1967-68 will RV at the Treasury Casino and Hotel at William St at 1900 hrs Wednesday 17 May 2017 to renew differences and drink to your health. Brian Humphrey.

EXTRACTS FROM AN INTERVIEW: KERRY SMITH

Well briefly, two of my mates and I put our ages up and joined the CMF into the RAAC, I think for about two and a half years. One night the CSM came out on parade and says to the whole parade, "We've got to get our records up to date. Next parade bring in your birth certificate and we'll get the records up to date." So, we all panicked because we were being paid to be in the CMF to go to parades, we thought hell we're going to have to give all this damn money back we've been paid for bivouacs and army camps.

My best mate received word that he was to go into the air force in the nashos. I thought blow this, I'm not going into the nashos, I'm going to be fair dinkum, full time. So, I joined up!

In brief, rookie training at Kapooka was hard going. Hated some of the instructors I thought they were Gestapo, but that's a natural thing because they're doing their job to toughen you up and create discipline to follow orders.

It was obvious that 2RAR were going to Korea. And so, I thought well this is where I want to go, this is where I tried to get to earlier during the rookie training thingo.

In between joining the battalion and leaving for Korea, another part of my life changed to not being a musician, but a drummer. And that pleased me pretty well because I love my music and I thought I can't see any sense slogging my guts out on repeating DP1 and DP2 and all the rest of it, and when the time comes I'll be able to get back to my mate Bert Wells in Don Company. Because they won't need a band over there. *So, he thought. Ed.*

And that was the case, and finally off we went on the train to Sydney from Puckapunyal or Dysart siding as it was. To get on board the New Australia. A beautiful trip over, paid holiday, good food and that.

Landed in Korea, and we got kitted out and headed towards the front line where we saw more training and all the rest of it. And then finally into the first position the battalion went to known as Hill 159 (5 May to 16 June) Here the battalion saw its first lot of action.

You could see a long way into North Korea... ⁴

⁴ <http://australiansatwarfilmarchive.unsw.edu.au/archive/1180-kerry-smith>

YOUNG OFFICER'S LESSON

This is a true story, as told by a retired Infantry Warrant Officer, who was at the time serving in an Infantry Training Battalion as a Company Quartermaster.

A Company Quartermaster is responsible for the provision of stores and equipment for the company and its' platoons. Having served one year in this position, I had a thorough understanding of the requirements of stores requests, and given that this was a training battalion, I had a good understanding of the routine stores required for most of the general training activities the platoons conducted.

After preparing a stores request for a platoon that was due to conduct training at the Classification Range that day, I noticed the request asked for three radios. From my experience, I knew that to satisfy the safety requirements for that range, a total of four radios were needed.

The Platoon Commander for that platoon arrived at the store to pick up his request. With due respect, I advised him that the Classification Range requires four radios, and since the stores request had only asked for three, I suggested he take an extra radio. His response was polite, but direct "Thanks Staff, but I know what I need to take to the range". Although I felt he may be mistaken, I decided not to push my point of view. The Platoon Commander signed for the stores he requested, which were then loaded into the CQ vehicle and subsequently driven to the range.

Later that morning, my stores driver began delivering the morning-tea rations to the eight platoons. After he delivered morning-tea to the platoon at the Classification Range, he returned to the store with the Platoon Commander. The Platoon Commander requested to sign out another radio. He signed for it, and then asked that driver drive him back to the Classification Range about 10km away.

I explained that this was not possible, as we only had one vehicle, and it was currently being used to deliver morning-tea to all the platoons. At that point the Platoon Commander became more firm in his request and ordered me to have him driven to the range "Staff, your driver will drive me out to the range". I once again explained "I'm sorry Sir, but I cannot halt the delivery of morning-tea. If you have a problem with this, you should speak to the OC". The Platoon Commander then left the store.

Minutes later, the OC rang the store and asked me to see him in his office. When I arrived, the Platoon Commander was already there. The OC asked me what the issue was with the Platoon Commander's request. I explained the situation to the OC, including my previous advice to him that morning. The OC asked the Platoon Commander if what I had said was correct, he answered "yes Sir". The OC then ordered the Platoon Commander to walk to the Classification Range with the radio and added firmly "make sure your platoon completes the classification shoot by the end of the day".

Since the incident with that Platoon Commander, in every subsequent dealing I had with him, he was not only polite and courteous with me, but he also would regularly ask for my advice with his platoon's stores requests. His change in approach indicated to me that although that Platoon Commander had made a mistake in the way he responded to my advice, he acknowledged it and quickly learned from that incident, and it's my hope that other young officers can read this story and perhaps learn from another's mistake rather than from their own.

Norm Devereux
Rothwell, Qld

DROP SHORTS

Relates to Operations Kent & Hawkins, page 9

MILITARY MEDAL

1/400713 Private George Edward KENT MM

Date: 1 July - 27 July 1953

Place: Korea

During the period, Pte KENT displayed on all occasions exceptional courage and devotion to duty whilst on patrols of all types. On the night of 22/23 July Pte KENT was an LMG BREN gunner in the reconnaissance element of a standing patrol on GREEN FINGER. Whilst moving to their position on the highest point of GREEN FINGER ridge the patrol was engaged by an unknown number of enemy with grenades and small arms fire which killed one member of the patrol and seriously wounded the patrol commander.

With complete disregard for his own personal safety, and displaying a devotion to duty and enthusiasm beyond that normally required of him, Pte KENT charged the enemy group firing his BREN and inflicting certain casualties of at least 2 killed and 2 wounded. Pte KENT continued to engage the enemy until he was forced to withdraw through lack of ammunition. It was while reloading his weapon that he received multiple wounds from grenade and small arms fire. This act of Pte KENT'S disorganised and demoralised the enemy party forcing them to withdraw so that they could be subsequently dealt with by artillery directed by the patrol, and was typical of Pte KENT'S qualities as a soldier.

The calm courage, initiative, determination and devotion to duty and the placing of his own safety second to that of other members were an inspiration to all.

MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES

1735350 Private Richard Kenneth HAWKINS

Date: 15 December 1970

Place: South Vietnam

On 15 December 1970, Private Hawkins was with the machine gun group of an ambush patrol near the Courtenay Rubber Estate in Phuoc Tuy Province. At 2100 hours, the group heard the movement of a group of approximately 20 enemy approach the ambush position. The ambush was initiated when the machine gun group fired claymore mines and Private Hawkins fired a long burst of accurate fire. During the ensuing fire-fight, which lasted 45 minutes, Private Hawkins continued to engage, with short bursts, enemy movement in the contact area. His accuracy of fire caused heavy casualties to the enemy: it was later established that 10 enemy dead lay in an area from 15 metres to 120 metres from Private Hawkin's position and most of these were attributed to his effective fire.

His calm response and his reactions under the heavy enemy return fire, which wounded two Australians, were a steady influence on the remainder of his patrol and reflect great credit on himself, his Regiment and the Australian Army.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas. Regrettably I have some sad news in this message as our dear Peter who has been very unwell recently sadly passed away on 15th December in Torbay Hospital, Devon. In many ways, this was a blessed relief as he was suffering great pain. The hospital staff have been wonderful and did all they could for him.

The family are down here with me and have been great help and support. With my very best wishes.

Mrs Mairie Childs
Teignmouth, UK

"THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT PLACE"

The Blessing and Dedication of The Royal Australian Regiment Memorial took place on Friday 24th March 2017 at "The Royal Australian Regiment Place", Ferguson Park Enoggera in Brisbane. It is a public memorial for the people of Brisbane. It was officially opened by His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)



President Leo Van De Kamp lays a Wreath at the RAR Memorial on behalf of 2RAR Association.

The Memorial was designed by RAR Association (Qld) President Brigadier Neil Weekes AM MC (Retd) who passed away on 6th March just prior to the dedication and official opening.

The memorial was erected by Peter Wrafter stone mason to the RAR National Memorial Walk. A feature of the Memorial is the gold inlay of the images against the black granite. At night, ground lights illuminate the images that provokes thought and awareness of service and sacrifice of those who have served in The Royal Australian Regiment and put their "Duty First".

The Memorial is inscribed:

All gave some, some gave all, "Lest we Forget"

On the reverse side of the Memorial are the names and dates of the Regiment's operational deployments:

JAPAN 1948-1950; KOREA 1950-1953; MALAYA and BORNEO 1955-1966; SOUTH VIETNAM 1962-1972; SOMALIA 1993; RWANDA 1994-1995; EAST TIMOR 1999-2012; THE SOLOMON ISLANDS 2003-2006; IRAQ 2003-2008; AFGHANISTAN 2006-2014.

RWANDA UNAMIR 1994 - 1995

This book by Kevin O'Halloran, a Platoon Sergeant at the time, is a detailed account of what happened during this peacekeeping mission.

In 1994 (A Coy 2/4RAR), an orgy of killing swept across the tiny land-locked nation and genocide - the size and magnitude unseen since the Hitler horrors of WWII, erupted. Around one million men, women and children were mercilessly shot, hacked to death or burnt alive.

On 22 April 1995 (B Coy 2RAR), the daily horror and tragedy they had witnessed escalated out of control. At a displaced persons' camp in Kibeho, in full view of the Australian soldiers, over 4,000 unarmed men, women and children died in a hail of bullets, grenades and machete blades at the hands of the Rwandan Patriotic Army. Constrained by UN peacekeeping Rules of Engagement, these Australians could only watch helplessly and try to assist the wounded under the gaze of the trigger-happy killers. No Australians died during this operation though as this book testifies, the suffering and tragedy is embedded in their memories.

LOVE NOT WAR

How swiftly our way of life is mended
With the welcome arrival of white doves
The maiming and killing has ended
Misery of war replaced by sweet love
No longer living behind a locked door
The dread of armed invaders is no more
Gone the thunder of guns and piercing screams
Mars is mute – peaceful silence reigns supreme
Missing are the constant doubts and frowns
No longer painful farewells to be found
No more restless sleep in a lonely cold bed
Nor nightmares that loved ones may be dead
Absent the grim reaper with his terrible news
Tidings of misery and death for more than a few
Arriving at dark houses where he would sing
Of the despair and grief that war does bring
The winds of war belong to yesterday
We must seek a new world – a better way
Break the bows, arrows and the spears
Prepare the rich fertile soil for future years
Life, joy, love, sanity and reason
A calming silence in a new season
Peace and love is what life is all about
Warm rays of a new dawn reaching out

George Mansford, AM
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FROM THE REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

Teamwork is at the heart of great achievement and Battle Group Samichon is an example of what teamwork can achieve. The Battle Group consists of 730 men and women from nearly 40 different units within the Australian Defence Force. We came together as a team in Townsville in July 2007 to work together for the common purpose of training and preparation to do our best on deployment with Operation ASTUTE.

When we arrived, the Rifle Companies deployed throughout Timor-Leste and Combat Services Support Company elements have supported them tirelessly throughout the tour. In the meantime we have seen Battle Group members return to Australia and be reinforced by new members which has provided a constant diverse mix of personnel. I commend each and every one of you on your achievements with the Battle Group. Your work is something to be proud of, and I hope you remember that as you reflect and glance through this book over years to come.

I extend my appreciation to the younger soldiers and airmen on their first deployment, to the non-commissioned officers and the officers, many of whom have returned to Timor-Leste for second, or more. I also want to take this opportunity to pass my sincere gratitude to the families and loved ones who have provided dedicated support during the preparation and deployment phases of this Battle Group. I know you make great sacrifices to support the ADF and I want to recognise that.

It is important to remember why we are here: our mission is to assist the Government of Timor-Leste and UN to bring stability, security and confidence to the Timorese to allow them to resolve their differences democratically and peacefully. You have completed your mission, well done! You can be proud of your achievements.⁵

You are 'second to none'

WO1 (RSM) D. A. Hatton

⁵ Battle Group Samichon, The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. Timor Leste (October 2007 to April 2008): Page: 42-43

BATTLEGROUP SAMICHON: OCT 07-APR 08

The 2006 Crisis in Dili ⁶

In April 2006, violence broke out in Dili with violent rioting and major protest over the dismissal of 600 soldiers (half of the nation's force). The soldiers had been protesting on issues of discrimination between soldiers based in western and eastern districts. The unrest resulted in 23 deaths and the internal displacement of 20,000 people. On 24 May 2006, the then Prime Minister, Mari Alkitiri, labelled the crisis as an attempted coup and requested foreign military assistance. The following day the first wave of an Australian led force arrived to restore order. Their mission was to restore stability and confine conflict to secured areas; assess and locate the weapons possessed by conflicting groups; and to establish a safe environment for dialogue to resolve the crisis.

By June 2006, the pressure was mounting on Dr. Alkitiri to resign. There were emotional protests followed by the resignation of three more ministers including (the then) Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta. The then President, Xanana Gusmao, formally requested Dr. Alkitiri to stand down, which he did on 26 June 2006. On 8 July 2006, Jose Ramos-Horta was sworn in as the Prime Minister.

Operation ASTUTE and Battle Group Samichon

Operation ASTUTE became the Australian Government's commitment to the Government of Timor-Leste to assist in restoring peace and stability to the country of Timor-Leste. An in-country force of approximately 780 Australian and 170 New Zealand service personnel undertakes the Operation ASTUTE commitment. Although designated as "Joint Task Force 631", the Task Force is known locally as the "International Stabilisation Force" (ISF). Battle Group Samichon (based on 2RAR) officially took over command from Battle Group ANZAC (from 1RAR) on 9 October 2007.

Battle Group Samichon was named after a 2RAR battle honour earned during the Korean War. The name now represents over 700 members who served with the Battle Group over the six-month deployment. These sailors, soldiers and airman are from all three services and within the Army alone, from 40 different units, representing 15 separate Corps and 74 trade groups.

Attack on Government of Timor-Leste

On the morning of 11 February 2008, a band of rebels led by Major Alfredo Reinado launched coordinated attacks against President Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Gus-mao in and around Dili. An exchange of gunfire resulted in the death of Reinado and one of his associates in the President's residential compound. President Ramos-Horta was wounded in the attack and was subsequently evacuated to the ISF base at the Heliport in Dili where he received emergency surgery. He was later transported to Australia for further treatment. Prime Minister Gusmao escaped an ambush on his vehicle convoy without injury. The attacks were later labelled as attempted assassinations and a failed coup and changed the shape of the security environment for the remainder of the Battle Group's deployment.

In consultation with the Government of Timor Lesté, the Australian Government immediately deployed 120 additional soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, 70 Australian Federal Police Officers from the Operational Response Group and HMAS Perth in response to the rapid deterioration in the security environment. The reinforced Battle Group Samichon was immediately involved in a series of security operations called Operation KENT (*Citation pg. 7: named after Pte GE Kent MM who was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in action in Korea;*

July 1953) which took place across the country and included reconnaissance and surveillance, cordon and search, patrolling and establishing vehicle check points. Careful deconfliction was undertaken with the United Nations Police and Battle Group operations were carefully coordinated with the Timor Leste Joint Operations Command which had been established to coordinate the efforts of FFDTL and PNTL security forces.

End of tour

After 214 days in theatre, Battle Group Samichon ceased operations on 9 April 2008. Operation HAWKINS (*Citation pg. 7: named after Pte RK Hawkins who was awarded a Mentioned in Despatches (MID) for bravery in South Vietnam; 15 Dec 70*), the relief in place and handover of the Area of Operations to Timor-Leste Battle Group 4 (based on 3RAR and otherwise known as Battle Group Balmoral), was planned to provide ongoing security support to the Timor Leste conducting a comprehensive handover of responsibilities to the new Battle Group. Soldiers undertook essential return to Australia administration at the Force Extraction Centre (FEC), the Timor Lodge Hotel on the outskirts of Dili. Here, quarantine and immigration checks were complete along with return to Australia medical checks. Soldiers were formally presented with campaign medals by various dignitaries including the acting President (Losama), Chief of the Defence Force (Brigadier Tar Matan Ruak) and Commander International Stabilisation Force, Brigadier James Baker. Soldiers were also permitted to enjoy a few beers each evening as they prepared to be reunited with loved ones in Australia in just a few days' time. The FEC also provided an opportunity to present 19 members of Battle Group Samichon with commendations for exceptional service and performance of duty from the deployment.

As Operation HAWKINS progressed, Battle Group Samichon was directed to leave a rifle company in support of TLBG 4 until the security situation could be further reviewed. As devastating as this news was so close to returning to Australia, the men of B Company accepted the extension to their deployment with the professionalism and commitment which had come to characterise their performance over the past 12 months.

The families of B Company soldiers were particularly supportive and understanding of this unexpected turn of events. Like Sparrow Force many years before, they remained to soldier on until relieved in early May.

Postscript

After returning from post-operation leave, Battle Group Samichon was reunited in Townsville to participate in a "Welcome Home" Parade and concert on 24 May 08. A BBQ dinner was held to thank the families of all deployed soldiers on the evening of 23 May with celebrations extending well into the night!

On Saturday 24 May, Battle Group Samichon marched along Townsville's Strand accompanied by the Reconstruction Task Force 3 (RTF 3) which had also returned to Australia from Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan. C Company 2RAR had formed part of RTF 3 and this was the first time that the whole of 2RAR had been together since July 2007. The parade was reviewed by the Minister for Defence, The Honourable Joel Fitzgibbon and was fitting recognition for 730 soldiers of the Battle Group, their families and friends and the extraordinary support provided by the Townsville community.

C Company TLBG 3, based on A Coy, 2/1 RNZIR, also completed its tour in Timor-Leste and returned to New Zealand in late May 2008.

⁶ 2RAR: Battle Group Samichon Op ASTUTE, © 2008: By Sergeant V.L. Machin (RAAOC)

BATTALION HISTORY 1995 TO 2016

Updated by Capt. Daniel Barkley

Re-Raising of 2RAR

On 1 February 1995, after more than twenty-one years linked together, the 2nd and 4th Battalions of The Royal Australian Regiment were delinked. In a reversal of the Post-Vietnam policy that resulted in the original linking of the two battalions, the Australian Government determined that the Army required an additional infantry battalion in order to meet the nation's defence commitments. As a result, the Chief of General Staff directed that 2/4 RAR unlink, with the "new" 2RAR remaining in Samichon Lines and 4 RAR re-raised at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney. With A Coy deployed in Rwanda, D Coy on a Butterworth rotation in Malaysia and Spt Coy in Shoalwater Bay, ceremonies were held in Africa, Asia and Australia to commemorate the event.



Pte Nathan Lissing, 2RAR of the Australian Security Detachment (SECDet) protecting Australian Diplomats in Iraq. 2003

United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR)

In 1993, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) was raised and tasked to supervise the transition from sectarian civil war to peace. The peace process rapidly deteriorated in the early months of 1994 after the Rwandan President was killed when his plane was shot down. Within hours, Hutu extremists seized control of the Rwandan government and began instigating genocide. A Coy 2/4 RAR deployed as part of the Australian Medical Support Force (AUSMED) under the command of LTCOL Patrick McIntosh. This force element was charged with protecting the Australian medical personnel operating out of the badly damaged, Kigali Central Hospital.

In February 1995, B Coy 2RAR deployed as part of the second contingent commanded by COL Peter Warfe. It was during this deployment that B Coy members witnessed the full horror of the genocide at Kibeho refugee camp. As the situation in the camp deteriorated, the AUSMED was tasked to provide medical support to the Zambian troops stationed there. From 20 to 23 April, the RPF began to close down and empty the camp.

The situation soon descended into a violent massacre as the RPF mercilessly killed around 4,000 people and injured a further 600. LT Steve Tilbrook, who commanded 2RAR's contingent present during the massacre, ordered his men not to open fire in defence of the refugees. His reasoning was twofold; the RPF heavily outnumbered Australian forces, and he suspected that Australian bullets may cause further civilian death amidst the mayhem. CPL J.C. Blake of 5 PI was quoted in the 1995 Battalion magazine as saying:

"Walking through the masses of dead and wounded, overwhelmed with horror and disbelief. My section on return to the compound, each man wide eyed and pale. We all sat in silence."

East Timor

On 15 September 1999, the United Nations Security Council responded to the rapidly deteriorating situation in East Timor by authorising the deployment of a peace enforcement force, acting under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. On 20 September 1999, the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) deployed under the command of Australian Major General Peter Cosgrove. 2RAR was the first Infantry battalion to land at Comoro Airport and quickly acted to secure the APOD and SPOD in order to facilitate the arrival of 3RAR on 21 September. The two battalions commenced the process of restoring law and order in Dili through patrolling, VCPs, and the disarming and apprehension of militia members. The precariousness of the situation became blatantly apparent as members of 2RAR routinely discovered evidence of murdered and mutilated civilians in the streets of Dili.



(L) Lt Col Chris Smith, CO Mentoring Task Force 3 (MTF-3)

After a Brigade sweep of Dili achieved its intent of securing the city, the Battalion shifted its efforts to the western border region. On 1 October 1999, Operations Lavarack and Chermiside saw the Battalion secure the towns of Balibo and Maliana, respectively. On 10 October, C Coy, with elements of Spt Coy, conducted a patrol to follow up reports of TNI and militia ill-treating the locals in the village of Motaain. During their approach into the village, 8 PI C Coy was engaged by automatic fire from militia elements. The platoon returned fire, killing a POLRI sergeant and seriously wounding 2 others. The militia fled through the TNI and CPL Paul Teong, 2RAR's lead section commander, was awarded the DSM for exemplary leadership under fire.

After being replaced in the northern border region by 5/7 RAR on 2 January 2000, 2RAR finished its tour and returned to Townsville. However, the Battalion would return to East Timor for six months, from October 2001 to April 2002. The Second Battalion Group served in the Bobonaro District of East Timor as part of the United Nations Transitional Administration in the newly independent nation. A vast majority of the group was part of the initial Australian force that landed on the first day of the INTERFET campaign just two years earlier.

The Battalion would redeploy three times. During this period, Timor was renamed Timor Leste. Two of these commitments occurred under a new UN mission, the United Nations Integrated Mission in East Timor (UNMIT). This mission was established after the Timorese government requested assistance in the midst of increased violence as a result of serious social, political and ethnic tensions. The Battalion deployed for a period of six months in 2006 and again in October 2007. On 5 November 2007, 2RAR suffered its only loss in Timor Leste, PTE Ashley Baker. The Battalion's final deployment to Timor Leste was for a period of nine months, commencing in May 2009. This deployment was characterised by cooperation with NZ and US forces, low-level presence patrols and indigenous capacity building.

Solomon Islands

By early 2003, a cocktail of ethnic tensions, a breakdown in law and order, and the near collapse of the economy had rendered the Solomon Islands a failing state. On 22 April 2003, the prime minister of the Solomon Islands requested Australian assistance to restore peace and stability. A reinforced company group from 2RAR was deployed in July 2003 as part of The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) to support the civilian police in re-establishing law and order. The Battalion subsequently deployed on Operation Anode on two further occasions, the first in November 2003 and the second in May 2004.

Iraq

In March 2003, the United States assembled a 'coalition of the willing' to invade Iraq, depose the supposedly Al 'Qaida-linked Saddam Hussein, and expel the Ba'athist regime. While the invasion was originally premised upon the existence of weapons of mass destruction, operations in Iraq would soon evolve in response to the anti-American insurgency, sectarian divides and gruesome civil war. Due to the persistent and dynamic nature of the Iraq War, the ADF's contribution lasted ten years, from 2003 to 2013. During this period of unparalleled operational tempo, elements of the 2nd Battalion supported operations on four separate occasions.

The battalion's first two deployments came as part of Security Detachment Iraq (SECDET Iraq). SECDET was typically based upon an Australian Army combined arms combat team consisting of an Infantry company group and a cavalry troop. The force's duties included static security guarding at the Australian Embassy in Baghdad and the protection of Australian diplomats and vehicle convoys. In May 2003, the Battalion contributed 5 PI B Coy to SECDET I, while the entire A Coy deployed on SECDET II later that year. The Battalion's fifth and final contribution to the War in Iraq was to SECDET XV in 2009. B Coy HQ and two platoons were joined by a LAV troop from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, elements of the 1st Military Police Battalion and a CSS element.

In addition to the aforementioned SECDET rotations, 2RAR contributed elements to the Al Muthanna Task Group (AMTG) in May 2006. The AMTG was a battlegroup that formed Australia's main ground force contribution to the multinational force in Iraq. The AMTG had two key tasks: provide security for the Japanese Iraq Reconstruction and Support Group (JIRSG), and assist in the training of local Iraqi forces. The then CO, 2RAR, LTCOL Michael Mahy, commanded A and Spt Coys, A Sqn 2/14 Light Horse Regiment, and an IMV detachment from 6RAR.

Afghanistan

Elements of the Battalion have deployed to Afghanistan on two occasions. The first came in October 2007 when the bulk of the Battalion was in Timor Leste, while the second came in June 2011 when the whole Battalion was committed as a Mentoring Task Force.

The Battalion first deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Slipper as part of RTF-3. The Security Task Group (STG) was made up of infantrymen from C Coy, mortar-men and snipers from Support Coy, and supporting elements from 6RAR, 3/4 Cavalry Regiment, 2/14 Light Horse Regiment, and 4 Field Regiment. Elements from these units combined with elements of 3 CER to form Combat Team Spear. The role of the STG was to provide the firepower and mobility necessary to facilitate the engineers' protected reconstruction.

The Battalion conducted five major operations during its deployment, effectively expanding the ISAF and ANSF's permanent influence in the Chora Valley and into the Baluchi Pass. Combat Team Spear sustained casualties early in the

deployment with TPR David 'Poppy' Pearce being killed by an IED and SGT Michael Lyddiard being seriously wounded whilst defusing an IED in the Chora Valley. Nevertheless, the Combat Team was able to take the fight to the enemy during several engagements, most notably in the Sorkh Morghab region. During this engagement, elements of 2RAR distinguished themselves whilst fighting the enemy over several days in order to support the construction of a patrol base in an area previously considered a Taliban stronghold.

In June 2011, the Battalion deployed to Urozgan Province to lead Mentoring Task Force 3 (MTF3). This deployment succeeded in its aim of improving the Afghan National Army's (ANA) capability and confidence. The result of MTF-3 was increased security across a larger footprint in Urozgan Province. Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Smith, said when MTF-3 arrived in June 2011, that the ANA was conducting around 25 activities on its own across the Brigade each week. By the end of the Battalion's tour, that number had grown to around 100 independent activities a week. Sadly, these gains did not come without sacrifice. Three MTF-3 soldiers were killed in action. Private Matthew Lambert (2RAR) died from wounds sustained in an IED strike on 22 August 2011, while Lance Corporal Luke Gavin (2RAR) and Captain Bryce Duffy (4 Regt) were killed in action when an ANA soldier opened fire at Forward Operating Base Sorkh Bed on 29 October 2011.

Amphibious Trial Battalion

As part of Plan Beersheba, which was announced in late 2011, the 2nd Battalion was entrusted as Army's dedicated amphibious trial battalion —forming the core of the ground combat element (GCE) of the ADF's amphibious landing force. The Battalion has played a pivotal role in raising the ADF's amphibious capability following the purchase of Landing Helicopter Docks, HMAS Canberra and HMAS Adelaide. The Battalion has negotiated the complexities involved with raising a new capability over numerous amphibious exercises, including Exercise RIMPAC 16, and successfully conducted Humanitarian and Disaster Relief activities during Operation Fiji Assist in early 2016.

Regimental Badge

The design of the regimental badge was selected from a number of suggestions considered by the Director of Infantry, Brigadier I.R. Campbell in early 1949. The design was drawn up by Sergeant E.J. O'Sullivan of 1RAR Intelligence Section and had originally been intended for 1RAR only.

The design featured the kangaroo and wattle wreath as distinctly Australian symbols; the boomerang, which had been used in the tactical signs of the 2nd AIF from which the original units of 34 Brigade were raised; the crossed rifles signifying the personal weapon of the infantryman; and the crown because of the royal title of the Regiment. Major K.B. Thomas MC of 1RAR suggested the simple but highly appropriate motto 'Duty First'. This motto was adopted and included on the badge.

Although the badge was reproduced on Christmas cards in 1949, it was not until early 1954 that the hat badge was issued to replace the rising sun badge.

DVA WEBSITE: NOMINAL ROLLS

The new DVA website combines the Nominal Rolls of veterans who served during WW2, Korean War, Vietnam War and First Gulf War. Again: Why no Malaya/Malaysia? View new site here: <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/home>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Printed courtesy of: Hon Peter Dutton MP, Federal Member for Dickson, 3/199 Gympie Rd Strathpine Qld 4500.

This is the sixth edition of RINGO printed for free.

2ND BATTALION
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION, INC.



II

 NEW
MEMBERSHIP

 RENEW
MEMBERSHIP

 NEW
ADDRESS

FULL NAME: _____ Tele: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Mob: _____

_____ Post Code _____ Email: _____ @ _____

Regimental No: _____ DOB: _____

RAR Service

RAR Battalions	1RAR	2RAR	3RAR	4 RAR	5 RAR	6 RAR	7 RAR	8 RAR	9 RAR	2/4 RAR	5/7 RAR	8/9 RAR
Years e.g. 1970-71												

Theatres Served/Years:

Japan	Korea	Malaya	Malaysia	Borneo	Vietnam	Cambodia	Rwanda	East Timor	Solomon Is	Iraq	Timor Lesté	Afghanistan
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Post-Nominals: _____

Wife/Partner's Name: _____

SUBSCRIPTIONS

(Financial Year: 1 October to 30 September)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

 \$20

MULTI-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

 \$40 - \$60 - \$80 - \$100

Applicant: _____ Date: _____ 2014

Receipt Required? YES/NO

MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

(All prices are inclusive of transaction fees, postage & packaging)

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	ITEM	PRICE	QTY
Cap: Black - "2nd Battalion"	\$35.00		Book: Trackers Vietnam 1967/68. Peter Haran	\$29.00	
Hat - Olive Green (Bush Hat)	\$25.00		Enamel Mug - "2RAR"	\$29.00	
Cap: Black/Silver - "ICB Badge"	\$35.00		Pewter Drink Coaster - RAR Badge	\$25.00	
Lapel Badge - "2RAR"	\$12.00		Pewter Drink Coaster - ICB Badge	\$25.00	
Polo Shirt: Black/Gold - "2nd Battalion" M (97) L(102) XL(107)2XL(112)3XL(117)	\$48.00		Pewter Belt Buckle - ICB Badge	\$28.00	
Sport Shirt: Black/White - "Second to None" L(102) XL(107) 2XL (112) 3XL (117)	\$48.00		Bumper Sticker - 2RAR Association	\$5.00	
Tee Shirt: Black/White - "Second to None" L (102) XL (107) 2XL (112) 3XL (117)	\$32.00		Bumper Sticker - Vietnam Veteran	\$8.00	
Tie: 2RAR Tie (New style)	\$29.00		Bumper Sticker - 2nd Battalion	\$8.00	
Tie: 2RAR Heritage Tie (The original black)	\$29.00		Car Registration Plate Frames - 2nd Battalion	\$20.00	
Stubby Cooler - "2RAR"	\$11.00		Note Pad - Leather - ICB Badge	\$21.00	
Stubby Cooler - "Second to No Bastard"	\$11.00		Badge: ICB Metal/Bronze - Large	\$15.00	
Stubby Cooler - "The first round is on us"	\$11.00		Badge: ICB Metal/Bronze - Small	\$13.00	
Sticker (Oval) - "ICB"	\$5.00		Badge: Returned from Active Service (RAS) Metal/Bronze	\$15.00	
Sticker (Round) - "2RAR"	\$5.00		Badge: Rising Sun - Gold/Metal	\$15.00	
Key Ring - Black/Gold	\$15.00		Money Fold Leather with credit card pockets - RAS badge	\$30.00	
Wall Plaque: 2RAR	\$55.00		Flag: 2RAR Black (48 cm x 31 cm)	\$18.00	
Book: 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1967-68 Vol 1. Reprint 1985	\$90.00		Name Tag: Preferred name: _____	\$28.00	

Package Deal 1 Polo shirt & Cap \$75.00 (save \$8.00)	Package Deal 2 Sports shirt & Cap \$75.00 (save \$8.00)	Package Deal 3 Polo shirt, Cap & Tie \$100.00 (save \$10.00)	Package Deal 4 Sports shirt, Cap & Tie \$100.00 (save \$10.00)
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ONLINE PAYMENTS:
2RAR Association, Inc.
Suncorp Bank. BSB: 484-799
Account no: 063 350 355

Payments for Membership/Merchandise can be made by: -

1. Cheque to accompany this Order Form
2. Direct Credit to Association Bank: - Provide name and initials,
then email details of deposit to the Treasurer
(normdev12@bigpond.com) to enable identification of your
payment for membership &/or merchandise.

3. By going to the 2RAR Association website and submitting an
order: <http://2rar-association.net.au/>