



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: COLONEL JM CHURCH, DSO, (RETD)

DECEMBER 2015

THE BATTALION REPORT

The Battalion commenced 2015 continuing its consolidation of foundation warfighting skills and the progression of the Amphibious Ready Element Landing Force (ARE LF) capability. The main effort for 2015 was to meet the required standards for certification as the ARE LF.

Both A, B and Support Coys started the year with a MILSKILLS diagnostic exercise.



Parading of the Colours (L-R): 1st Battalion, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Battalion
Monday, 23rd November 2015
Townsville

This served to govern the focus areas for individual Coys in the following ten week live fire and field training programme designed to progressing from individual skills up to company level missions.

Support Coy platoons have been extremely busy solidifying their specific subject matter expertise, culminating in this initial training period with the successful conduct of Ex BUSU LANDING at Townsend Island, SWBTA. The training opportunity provided by this exercise was excellent and the full mission amphibious profiles to complete the activity were extremely valuable.

Deploying as an entire sub unit was somewhat novel however proved effective in achieving the required live fire and METL certifications prior to the upcoming SEA Series of exercises.

Admin Coy notably provided support to all these activities in the usual fashion whilst still managing to undertake their own training including

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(Continued) a short field deployment of the remaining maintenance assets. From April onwards the Battalion stepped into a series of SEA exercises in order to prepare for certification as the Army's Amphibious Ready Group. This commenced with Ex SEA SABRE on board HMAS CHOULES and saw the 0B HQ element afloat, whilst 0A conducted its function from Lavarack Barracks.

In May the Battalion assisted HMAS CANBERRA in the conduct of the ships work up period in order for her to be certified and then rolled rapidly into EX TALISMAN SABRE. This saw the Battalion as a whole conduct Amphibious operations. This was a great opportunity with the Battalion integrating with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. In addition, it was first the time we had operated from separate platforms (USS *Bonhomme Richard* and HMAS CHOULES).

The culminating exercise for the year was in September/October on EX SEA RAIDER. This was the certification exercise for the ARE and resulted in a Coy sized element being deemed ready for any operations.

The final major Battalion activity for the year was the RAR birthday parade held on Monday 23 November. This was on the 70th birthday of the RAR and for only the second time in history three Battalions of the RAR (1, 2 and 3) were on parade together.

It also saw the presentation and dedication/consecration of new colours to both 2 and 3RAR.

Second to None

CO: LTCOL Michael Bassingthwaighe, DSM
RSM: WO1 Trent Morris

Exceptionally well done, the Battalion!

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT / EDITOR
SECRETARY
TREASURER
ANNUAL REUNION CO-ORDINATOR
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PROJECTS
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NJ (NORM) DEVEREUX
PT (PAUL) KING
AJ (ARTHUR) MACDONALD
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RW (ROSS) BIMROSE
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WARRIORS WHO HAVE MARCHED OUT

- 22899 Warrant Officer Class 1 Robert St John HITCHINS, 2RAR Korea 1953-54. (7 PI C Coy.) Veteran of The HOOK. AAIC: 1956-76. Passed away 15 July, age: 85 years. Funeral held on 24 July in Canberra. We shared a friendship of some 63 years. Thanks David Candow
- 25686 Private Ronald Lewis KIRLEY, 2RAR Korea 1953-54. Veteran of The HOOK. Passed away age: 81+ years. Funeral on 7 October was a sad duty. RSL Service by Toowoomba RSL was done well. Thanks Matt Rennie
- 340105 (QX35759, VX700220) Gilmer John LUCAS MC, WW2 (Sgt), 1RAR Korea (Lt, MC), 3RAR Malaya 1957-59, 2RAR Enoggera 1966 (Bn 2IC). Passed away 17 November; age: 94+ years. An original member of the Regiment and present at its formation. An Officer & a gentleman. Thanks Ted Chitham, Gordon Hurford
- 1731954 Lance Corporal Barry Edmund (Gus) WESENER, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68. 3 PI, A Coy. Passed away age: 69+ years. Funeral held at Deception Bay 17 August. Missed by his sons Malcolm, Anthony, Andrew and families. Thanks Lorrayne & Buck (Noel) Morris
- 37168 Corporal Ronald Walter RICHINGS, AKA: Ronald Walter (Lofty) CALNAN, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68. 3 PI, A Coy. Passed away age: 73+ years. Funeral held Adelaide 11 September. Thanks Phil Calnan
- 2791253 Private John Anthony MITTON, 2RAR Vietnam 1970. Passed away age: 67+ years. Funeral held 16 November Minchinbury, NSW. John lived in the Philippines in recent years and has a defacto wife. John is survived by his son Dylan. Thanks Paul Anforth



*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

CORRECTION

In the October RINGO edition on page 2 we wrongly had 216071 Lance Corporal Raymond John JONES 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion Vietnam 1967-68, as having passed on. Not only that, but on page 3 we also had Ray as a new member.

"Just a quickie, received my copy of the RINGO newsletter today and shock, horror I find that I am listed in the warriors that have marched out section. Rest assured I am alive and well." *My apologies. Ed.*

Ray Jones
Rokeby, Tas

DVA: WIDOW ENTITLEMENTS

In the RINGO October edition, it does not state a widow's entitlements when her husband has passed away. The widow will receive 7 fortnightly payments of the Service Pension, 6 fortnightly payments of the disability pension, plus a two thousand dollars Funeral Benefit. The two thousand dollars that the veteran receives is if he dies of cancer or PTSD.

If the veteran is on TPI/TTI/EDA/Intermediate Rate a pension will be granted to a dependant automatically, without regard to whether the death was caused by war or eligible defence service.

If you become a Widower you go on the single rate only.

Kevin 'Dasher' Dean OAM (LM)

THE BUGLE : CHINESE COMMUNIST 46TH ARMY

This bugle was collected by 3/37707 Lt 'Bob' Downey, who served in Korea as a PI Comd in B Coy 2RAR. On the morning of 28 July 1953, the day after the Armistice ending the Korean War, Lt Downey emerged from his firing position



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

at the Hook and was able to survey the scene of the battle in which he had just taken part.

2RAR had been fighting human wave night attacks by the Chinese Communist Force's

46th Army since 24 July. It had been noted that the Chinese had blown bugles as they attacked.

Downey, and another PI Comd, Lt Malcolm Lander, recovered this bugle from the body of a Chinese soldier, one of thousands who lay dead in front of the Australian position.

Lt Bob Downey was the long-term Association Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and Annual Reunion organiser for many years. It was upon Bob's passing on 5 June 2006 that the baton was passed to a new, although not necessarily younger generation. Interestingly, Pte Kevin Dean, the long-term President, was a 2RAR PI medic 'baggy-arse'; and Bob, the Secretary, was an Officer. Well done gentlemen!

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS

Presentation of Queen's and Regimental Colours to 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment: 1955 - 2015

| | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 28 September 1955 | Governor-General Field Marshal Sir William Slim, GCB, GMG, GCVO, GBE, DSO, MC, KStJ | Victoria Park, Brisbane, Qld |
| Friday 17 September 1976 | Governor General of Australia, The Honourable Sir John Kerr, AK, GCMG, QC | Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, Qld |
| Wednesday 16 October 1996 (51 st Birthday) | Governor General of Australia, His Excellency, The Honourable Sir, William Deane AC, KBE | Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, Qld |
| Monday 23 November 2015 (70 th Birthday) | Governor General of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC (Retd) | Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, Qld |

A REGIMENTAL OCCASION

21 March 1953 was the first occasion in which all the Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment had paraded together and all were on war service. The occasion took place on the 1RAR parade ground at Camp Casey, Korea.

In April 1953 the 2nd Battalion moved into the line, as part of 28 BRITCOM Bde/1 COMWEL Div, relieving a French Battalion.

Reference: *RAR Regimental Standing orders, 2005, Ch. 6*

PRINTED FOR FREE

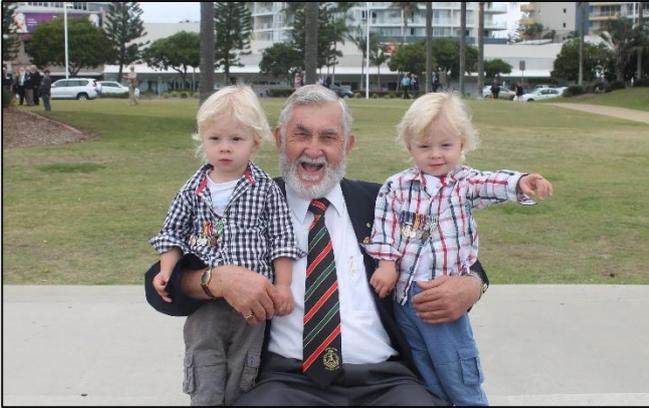
This colour edition of RINGO has been printed free of charge thanks to Federal Member, Peter Dutton. In 2016 RINGO editions will be printed free in greyscale; the December edition in colour. The cost savings!!!

Since 2006 (almost a decade) our Newsletter has been printed by RAR Assoc. (Qld) at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera. The printer operators have been Rick Hollingdrake, Dan Penman, David Huntley (Dec.), & Greg Decker.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is a précised version of my report to Members at the 31st October AGM held in the ANZAC Room Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL. We thank sub-branch President Mr Joe Russell and Members for its continued support.

Our Patron, Colonel John Church, DSO, (Retd) has offered his apologies but due to medical reasons, he is unable to attend our Annual Reunion.



John Hawes (2RAR 1967-68) and grandsons at the Commemoration Service, Tweed Heads Qld

Past President and recent Vice President, Mr Kevin "Dasher" Dean, OAM, a Korea veteran, recently underwent a major operation, and fortunately, has since has been given the all-clear. Kevin is looking after his health, and has resigned from the management committee.

The Association congratulates the Reverend Monsignor Eugene Harley, our Honorary Padre, on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division earlier this year. Regrettably, Eugene had prior pastoral commitments in Sydney today and was unable to attend our Reunion. He asked me to pass on his apologies.

We were fortunate to be able to call upon Association member the Reverend Grahame Davis, CSM to officiate at our Commemoration Service at Chris Cunningham Park. Grahame was well received by those in attendance.

We have lost quite a number of our 2RAR warriors since our last AGM and I would like to extend the Association's condolences to the families and friends of those who have marched out. Our thoughts are also with those who continue to struggle as a result of their service and wish them well. We endeavour to have a 2RAR representative at the funeral of all ex 2RAR members, this is not always possible.

It was good to see that during 2015, there were a number of 2RAR company and platoon reunions around the country. If you are planning such an event, please let the Association know as we might be able to assist. Also during the year, a number of our members represented the 2RAR Association at various memorial services throughout Australia. ANZAC Day 2015 was extremely well supported.

The Secretary represented the 2RAR Association at the RARA (NQ) annual dinner held at the Townsville RSL on 21 February 2015. During our trip he took the opportunity to visit the battalion and held informal discussions with the CO. We were given a tour of the unit museum, which has been refurbished. We also visited the combined officer/SNCO club "The Church".

Our Association representative, Jock Cassidy, continues to work closely with 2RAR to seek ways to support battalion activities. We have agreed to provide prizes to the value of \$400 for the unit fishing competition held during the year.

The Secretary received a letter from CSM Spt Coy thanking the Association for its support. See *Letters page 10. Ed.* The Association also provides an annual award to the Battalion Champion Soldier.

The Association welcomed 2RAR RSM, WO1 Trent Morris, who marched in mid-year. We also farewelled RSM, WO1 Brian Buskell, CSM, who provided outstanding support to the Association during his tenure with the Battalion.

In Townsville, the three Battalions held a Ceremonial Parade at Lavarack Barracks, on 23rd November celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the 65th, 66th and 67th Battalions, later to be the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Royal Australian Regiment.



Saturday 21 March 1953 detachments from 1RAR, 2RAR & 3RAR paraded together on the 1RAR parade ground at Camp Casey, Korea

2RAR and 3RAR were presented replacement colours by the Governor General His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, MC, whilst the 1st Battalion was awarded the Unit Citation Streamer for the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm. This was a magnificent event. We were represented by Association Secretary Gordon Hurford.

The Management Committee has decided there should be a National Reunion in 2017 of all who have served in 2RAR and 2/4RAR. The previous national reunion was held in Townsville in July 2012. A reunion committee has been established: Gordon Hurford, Leo Van De Kamp, Arthur McDonald, and Ross Bimrose.

The reunion will be held in Brisbane in May/June 2017. Specific dates are yet to be determined; over 3 or 4 days depending on the reunion program.

We will endeavour to keep the costs as low as possible. We will promote this to all ex-servicemen of the battalion and their families. We will also be inviting the NZ ex-members as well.

As you may be aware, Terry Dinneen has been working for some years to locate a number of missing 2RAR first tour Vietnam AARs. I would like to commend Terry on the considerable work that he has undertaken in this regard.

Our state and territory reps continue to do good work in our regions. I pass on the Association's gratitude to those members for their continued good work on behalf of the Association.

The 2RAR Association Committee has done a wonderful job in putting together all aspects of this weekend's reunion. Rick Hollingdrake and his team have worked hard to ensure a successful event. I would also like to acknowledge the considerable work undertaken by the committee during the year.

Finally, I wish to extend Season's Greetings to all.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

"Second to None"

Leo Van De Kamp
President

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In 2015 committee meetings will be held as follows:

- Wed 4 Feb 15 ✓
- Wed 3 Jun 15 ✓
- Wed 7 Oct 15 ✓
- Wed 1 Apr 15 ✓
- Wed 5 Aug 15 ✓
- Wed 9 Dec 15

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

A warm welcome to new members: (15)

NSW: 1, WA: 2, TAS: 1, QLD: 8, NT: 0, ACT: 1, VIC: 1, SA: 1, NZ: 0

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| Gerard Poulson | Blackmans Bay, Tas | 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1970, 7RAR |
| Mervyn Dicton | Annandale, Qld | 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1970-71, 2/4RAR |
| Kerry Smith | Bundaberg, Qld | 2RAR Korea 1953-54 'The HOOK' |
| Earl Carroll | Kallangar, Qld | 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1967-68 |
| Robert Horne | Thornlands, Qld | 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1970-71, 4RAR, 5RAR |
| Peter Jose | Wilga, WA | 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1970-71 |
| John Sullivan | Crows Nest, Qld | 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1967-68, 1970-71, 4RAR, 8RAR |
| John Hush | Flyn, ACT | 2RAR Malaya 1955-57 |
| John Alcock | Paradise Point, Qld | 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1970, 1RAR, 4RAR |
| Anthony Murphy | Coorparoo, Qld | 161 Recce Flight (Vietnam) 1971 |
| Chris Kondratowicz | Banksia Beach, Qld | 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1970-71, 3RAR |
| Brian Haseldine | Greenwood, WA | 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1970-71 |
| Robert Manuel | Loxton, SA | 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1970-71 |
| Christopher Cannan | Wendouree, Vic | 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1967-68, 1970, 3RAR |
| Arthur Francis | Singleton, NSW | 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1967-68, 1970-71.1RAR, 2RAR, 3RAR, 4RAR, 8RAR, 2/4RAR |

UPDATED: LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

For the record: we have 11 current life members:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| John 'Shorty' Baker | Charles 'Fred' Clark | Ken Cupples |
| Kevin 'Dasher' Dean, OAM | Marco 'Kiwi' Gibbons, OAM | Ron Gildersleeve, BEM |
| Jan 'Dutchy' Hemerik | Rick Hollingdrake, OAM | Paul King |
| Alec Morris, OAM, DCM | Matt Rennie, OAM | |

DONATIONS

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

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| Ian Rose | Peter Harding | Alf Vockler |
| Paul King | Boris Zoubakin | Geoff Shultz |

MEMBERS' DRAW

Congratulations to Barry Tinkler, Glenning Valley, NSW, winner of the financial Members' Draw held on 14 October who received the book: 'Duty First' A history of the Royal Australian Regiment, edited by David Horner & Jean Bou. © 2008. This is the seventh year of the draw.

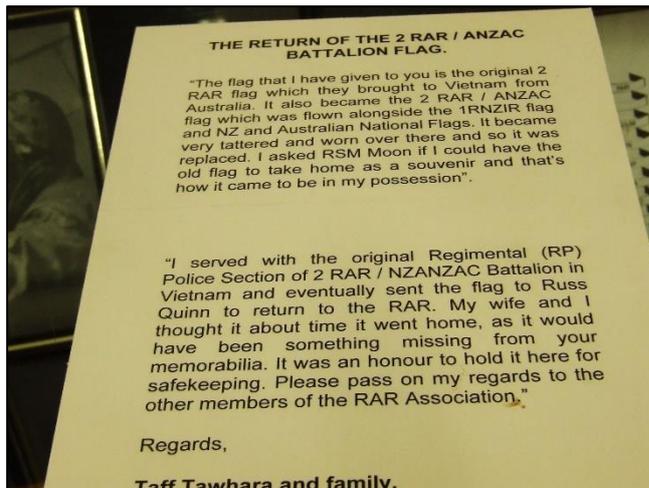
SNIPPETS

If you wish to draw our reader's attention to events & people, or draw my attention to my boo-boos, please continue to do so. We don't generally report on sicknesses & hospitalisations, but your mates do.

Snippets will return in April 2016.

THE BATTALION FLAG

The Association recently purchased a 2nd Battalion flag at a cost of over \$600.00, and is held with pride. The flag will be displayed at future events, such as the Annual Reunion, ANZAC Day and other suitable occasions.



From histories page: The battalion flag which flew at Nui Dat in 1967-68, and which spent some time in New Zealand, is securely housed in the 2RAR Historical Collection. *Thanks Taff. Ed.*

NAME THE FACES: ANZAC BN BOOKS

Could you run an add in RINGO asking the troops to identify people in the photos in the ANZAC Battalions 'black books'? It would be good if that was achieved in time for the 2017 Reunion, but the main thing is to get the photos named.

A good example is the Intelligence Sect photo on page 83 of the 1967-68 tour. Who are they? In the 1970-71 tour book, who is the digger 'scrub bashing' on page 57? Who is the digger 'Plotting' on page 131?

Responses to Terry Dinneen: contact details on front page.

Terry Dinneen
Winmalee, NSW

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

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| Vacant (NT) | VACANT |
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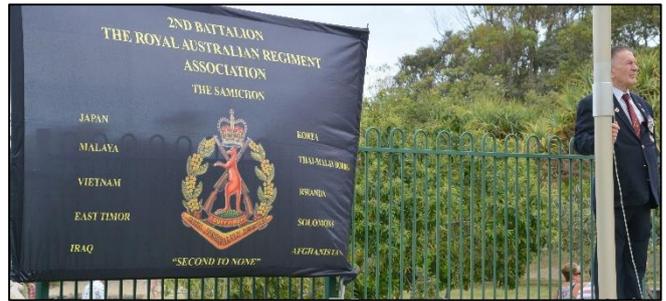
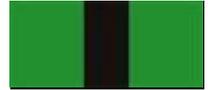
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

We invited Lt Cmdr Raymond J Godfrey, RAN (Retd) to be an Honorary Member. Ray is a former RAN aviator and was as a section leader 1st Lift Platoon, 135 Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) (Emus), US Army 1967-68. His platoon airlifted 2RAR into and out of operations in that period.

He was also closely associated with the detachment of 7 machine gunners from B Coy, to 135 AHC (Emus) in early 1968 and has worked tirelessly to secure US Air Medals for these soldiers. LTCDR has accepted the invitation.

See photograph on page 8.

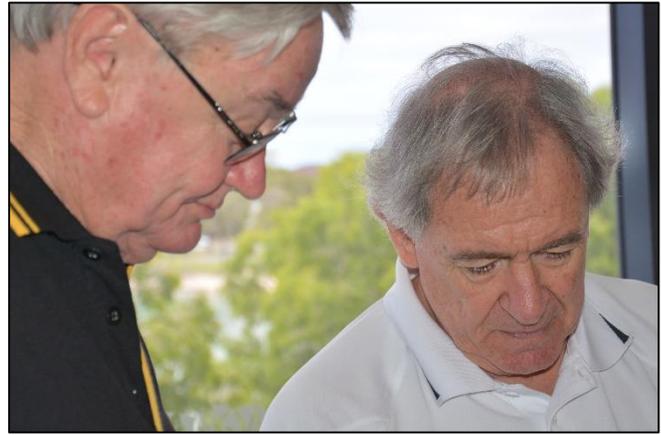
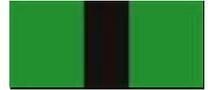
COMMEMORATION & COMARADERIE 2015



COMMEMORATION & COMARADERIE 2015



COMMEMORATION & COMARADERIE 2015





SECOND TO NONE

VALE: WO1 ROB HITCHINS

22899 Warrant Officer Class 1 Robert St John HITCHINS

Passed away CANBERRA 15 July 2015, aged 85.

I was most saddened to learn of Rob's passing. He was a good man and a fine soldier. We shared a friendship of some 63 years.

Rob enlisted in the CMF in 1950 and joined the 30th Bn (NSW Scottish Regt). On the outbreak of the Korean War he transferred to K Force, trained at Kapooka and joined 2RAR at Puckapunyal in October 1952.

That is when I first met Rob as I happened to be his PI Sgt in 7 PI C Coy. He was a rifleman but soon was selected to be platoon orderly then later in Korea he was section 21C and finally commanded a section.

In Korea he showed his real metal. He was as solid as a rock, very loyal and a most competent section commander. He undertook many standing, fighting and ambush patrols against the Chinese at night in no man's land and did particularly well during the major battle on the HOOK 24 - 26 July 1953. (coincidentally Rob's funeral service was held in Canberra on 24 July 2015, some 62 years to the day the battle started).

Rob was later posted as an instructor to 1 Commonwealth Division Battle School at Harramurra in Japan where tragically he lost his right hand when a grenade prematurely exploded.

On return to Australia Rob was promoted to Sgt and posted to 13NS Bn at Ingleburn. From there he was transferred to the Intelligence Corps where over a decade he had a distinguished career including two years' operational service in Hong Kong and retired as a WO1 in June 1980.

David Candow
Norwood, Tas

COMMEMORATING PETER MCDUFF

An open invitation is extended to all members of 2RAR, especially members of D Coy, to attend Peter McDuff's Commemoration Service.

Peter served with 11PI D Coy 2RAR 1967 and was Killed in Action on 28 September 1967, age 22 years.

Meet & Greet

A Meet and Greet will be held on Thursday 21 April 2016 at 6.00pm at the Sports Club, Darlington Point NSW:

6 De Mamiel St Darlington Point 2706

Club: (02) 6968 4146; Restaurant: (02) 6968 4566

Email: dpclub@bigpond.net.au

Commemorative Service

The Commemorative Service will be held for Peter MCDUFF, at Darlington Point Cemetery, Darlington Point NSW.

The Service will be held on Friday 22 April 2016, commencing at 10.00am.

Lunch will be provided for guests at no cost.

Bus transport will be provided to and from Griffith, nominal cost for the Meet & Greet and the Service. Both days pickup point Kidman Way Motel. Suggest you book.

Darlington Point is 20 minutes from the city of Griffith NSW.

On Saturday 23 April 2016 some members are travelling to Adelaide for ANZAC Day and if you wish to accompany them, you are most welcome to do so.

Let Aub know you are attending for numbers:

Mob: 0412 396 103

RINGO VOL 2 NO 12. SEPTEMBER 1967

POETS CORNER

The Reason

A man in a crowd is always alone
When heart and mind are with those at home
Alive are his days in this land of strife
Alone are his nights without his children or wife.

The pride in his heart of a job well done
Turns to loneliness with the set of the sun
To help free this country, to stand and to fight
To guard against aggression - we know this is right.

To leave a wife and children so very small
Who soon forget the father - this hurts most of all
In one hand he holds, security and peace
In the other, a loneliness that seems never to cease.

They weigh against each other, but balance true
For every man knows it is something he must do
Call it his mark in this world, or vanity, or pride
He may say it's for freedom or a mate who's died.

Look deep into his heart and you will find
More selfish reasons than those on his mind
For he is just one, of the chosen, the few
Who make a better life for those he loves true.

Corporal Brian Ellem¹
2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn

ODE TO THE INFANTRY SOLDIER

Padre Graeme Davis, CSM incorporated these words into his Commemoration Service on Saturday 31 October at Chris Cunningham Park, Tweed Heads.

Those in attendance responded well.

Infantrymen come in all shapes, shades, sizes, states of temperance, misery, and confusion.

They are as sly as a fox, have the nerve of a dope addict, the sincerity of a politician, and the tact of a rodent.

They are extremely irresistible, totally irrational, and completely indestructible.

An infantryman is a Soldier all his life, if only for a few years of that life he is a magical creature.

You can kick him out of your house but not out of your heart. You can take him off your mailing list but not off your mind.

Soldiers are found everywhere...in love...in battle...in lust...in trouble...in debt...in bars and...behind them.

No one can correspond with you so seldom yet think of you so much.

No one else can get so much enjoyment out of an email or clean clothes or a six pack.

An Infantryman is a genius with a deck of cards, a millionaire without a cent, and brave without a grain of sense.

He is the protector of Australia!

When he wants something it's usually 30 days leave, music that hurts the ears, a five-dollar bill...or a woman he can count on.

Girls love them, mothers tolerate them, fathers brag about them.

The government pays them, the police watch out for them and somehow they all work together.

You can beat their bodies, but not their minds.

Author Unknown but obviously a proud Infantryman. Ed.

¹ 213357 Cpl Brian Hedley Ellem, Admin Coy 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1967-68 has been recorded as deceased. Thanks Wally Musgrave. No further info. Ed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Passing of Rob Hitchins & Korea Photos

I am sure you are aware by now of Rob Hitchins passing. I have also included some photos taken in Korea which may be of interest historically for the 2RAR Museum or indeed for the Association; perhaps even the AWM. You may keep all the photos except the larger one which is of Hill 121. That is my only copy which I need for my own records.

We, that is the Korean vets, are getting rather thin on the ground these days but we all still cherish our Battalion and it is with pride that we read the exploits of The Battalion in Ringo.

nulli secundus

David Candow²
Norwood, Tas

Letters: 2RAR Fishing Competition

Dear Gordon and members of the 2 RAR association, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2RAR Assoc. for their ongoing support to the 2RAR Fishing Competition. For those of you who are not aware the Association has sponsored four weekend competitions and donated prizes for the Mystery Fish Category. There are currently 97 registered members in the competition ranging from our youngest competitor at three years of age to our current and ex serving members of the Bn (including 2/4RAR).

The concept for the competition is focussed on two specific areas, one to close the gaps between current and ex serving members of the Bn and secondly to allow families and indeed the single live in guys and girls the opportunity to get out and about on weekends, explore the outdoors in the stunning setting of Far North Queensland.

The competition is heating up and the competition closes on the 12 Dec. The final presentation and family BBQ day will be held on Sunday the 13 Dec 15 at the Edgar Towner V.C. Club. I would like to invite members and families to the presentation, there will be jumping castles for the kids and the 2RAR museum will be open.

I am hoping the competition will continue next year. For any member that wishes to join our Facebook site (2RAR Fishing Competition 2015) you are more than welcome and it is still not too late to join the competition and compete.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and hopefully we can secure the same arrangement next year.

"Second to None"

WO2 Adam West, DSM
CSM Spt Coy, 2RAR

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Check the newsletter envelope address label. If '2015' or prior, you have lapsed; if '2016' or beyond, you are current. Renew online here.³ (Or, complete the form on page 12.

2RAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Join the Association! Help us help you. Your membership is important to US. What do YOU get?

RINGO! 4 editions per year

EMAIL List: be informed; keep us informed!

2RAR ASSOC. EMAIL LIST

Not receiving emails from us?

Left out of the loop? In the dark?

Email the Secretary!

2rarsecretary@gmail.com

A SHORT STORY OF RESILIENCE

As a conscript I lived with and suffered the consequences of PTS for forty years without realising what was happening or knowing the cause. Not long after finding out I decided that I could do something to create more awareness, bring people together and lobby authorities to do more about this misunderstood and underfunded illness.

I don't for one minute pretend to fully understand the clinical aspects of the causes or the various treatments. But I do know that the recent forum made remarkable inroads in where we are headed with this illness. I'd like to think that everyone involved in any capacity of the forum is happy or at least satisfied with most of the outcomes.

There is however, one group who is sniping at me with unfounded conspiracy theories and while I should ignore them that's not in my nature. They have their ideas which they should pursue along accepted lines and they should not concoct theories which denigrate others to try to justify their existence.

I say this now because today, at a 2RAR reunion, I was privy to a story which just pales their petty gripe and my own previous situation into complete insignificance. I listened, transfixed as three blokes discussed a land mine incident which happened 45 years ago and they are still trying to work out who was standing where, what it was and who actually tripped it. They still can't quite work it out with one bloke telling his platoon commander, "well I was standing behind you and I copped some of the shrapnel that whizzed over your shoulder into my face." The wounded commander still had the presence of mind to regroup and organise the medivac with a radio operator who kept going with one hand just hanging by a thread of skin to the rest of his arm. Someone had the nous to use a bootlace as a tourniquet on his upper arm and then later they cut the hand off with a bayonet.

This fellow, now with a hook and covered in tats with a bald head and pigs tail has been a serious drug addict and has spent time in jail. But now he is recovered and spends all of his time lecturing kids on the evils of drugs. He says he is successful because his appearance gives him street cred. What an amazing story of eventual resilience.

Tony Dell⁴
'Stand Tall For PTS'
Toowoong, Qld

F90 ASSAULT RIFLE (STEYR F88)

The rifle has five variants namely F90, F90(G) (grenade launcher variant), F90M (Marksman variant with a longer barrel), F90M(G) and F90CQB (close quarters battle-a carbine). F90's bullpup design and open architecture allow it to be configured for a wide range of mission profiles. The rifle has an overall length of 700mm and a weight of 3.25kg. It is equipped with a 407mm long fixed and lighter barrel. The barrel lengths of 3.39kg F90M and 3.15kg F90CQB variants are 508mm and 360mm respectively.

The 4.1kg F90(G) and the 4.34kg F90M(G) variants can be attached with an integrated, double-action, side opening 40mm x 46mm-calibre grenade launcher. An enhanced grenade launcher quadrant sight delivers rapid target acquisition and fast reaction times. It is compatible with night vision goggles and can support operations during low-light / night conditions.

The enhanced rifle can load up to 5.56m calibre of ammunition. It is compatible with all NATO standard ammunition types and successfully underwent testing with F1, F1A1, M855, SS109, M856, and F3A1 cartridges.⁵

² David Candow was PI Sgt 7 PI C Coy 2RAR, Korea. The Hook Veteran. 2IC/OC A Coy 2RAR, Malaya 1961-63, OPSO. 3RAR Vietnam 1967-68.

³ <http://2rar-association.net.au/membership/>

⁴ Stand Tall for PTS. <http://standtall4pts.org/a-short-story-of-resilience/>

⁵ <http://www.lithgowarms.com/portfolio-item/f90/>

DROP SHORTS

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

215712 Corporal Malcolm Gibson



Corporal Malcolm Gibson enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 13 April, 1964. He was posted to the 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on 11 December, 1968. Prior to this he had served in Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment from June 1967 to June 1968 [Wounded in Action].

Corporal Gibson continuously displayed outstanding bravery and determination to close with the enemy. During his service with the 4th Battalion in Vietnam he was wounded three times. On two other occasions he narrowly escaped serious injury from enemy mines.

A typical example of his courage, devotion to duty and leadership was shown in a contact with an enemy force during Operation Goodwood in February, 1969. Corporal Gibson's section came under heavy enemy fire. He was hit in the stomach with an RPG2 rocket which failed to explode. He was knocked unconscious. When he regained consciousness some ten minutes later, he found his machine gun group dead and his section pinned down by enemy fire and rendered ineffective. Despite the heavy enemy fire and lack of cover he immediately commenced to crawl forward to man the machine gun. His movements attracted enemy fire and the pack on his back was shot to pieces. He reached the machine gun, provided covering fire for his men and directed them to fire positions. He then rallied them and organised such effective fire that a number of casualties were inflicted on the enemy who were forced to break contact.

Through actions such as this Corporal Gibson was an inspiration to all who served with him. In an action in March 1969 he was wounded and subsequently evacuated to Australia. His continuous examples of bravery, coolness under fire and complete disregard for his own safety brought great credit to himself and the Australian Army.

Cpl M. Gibson served in 4RAR 1964-67 incl Malaysia & Borneo (Indonesian Confrontation) where he had participated in top secret, covert cross border operations into Indonesia during his prior service with the Battalion.

HELP FIND ROBERT CHAPMAN

UK relatives of Robert Chapman will visit Australia next year and want to locate his place of burial. Robert passed away in Australia a few years ago. Can you help?

311077 Private Robert Chapman, 2RAR

Korea: 17 March 1953 to 6 April 1954

Born: Ayr, Ayrshire, Scotland

Contact: Sally Imrie: sidreghorn@yahoo.co.uk

2RAR WEBSITES

2RAR ASSOCIATION (NATIONAL)

<http://www.2rar-association.com.au>

2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion 1967-68

<http://bit.ly/QTc4SG>

B Coy 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion 1970-71

<http://www.bcoy2raranz.com/>

2/4RAR ASSOCIATION

Website: <http://www.24rarassociation.com/index.html>

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.

OUR PRESENCE IN MALAYSIA

By Bryan Pannell

Kota Tingi

Most Junior Officers in the unit had to attend a course at the Jungle Warfare School at Kota Tingi in Johore Bahru province, near Singapore and my turn came soon enough. I was the only Australian officer on the course as it had been designated for the new British Battalion joining our Brigade, the 1st Battalion, the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI). Also on this course were four US Marine Captains, one of whom I had some dealings with later in the course.

We were instructed in anti-ambush drills, attacks and defence/harbour drills etc in jungle terrain and finally jungle navigation. One Sunday morning as I approached the Officers Mess, I heard an unfamiliar cultured "pommy" voice coming from the bar area and was fascinated to discover the owner was a Nepalese Gurkha Officer who had been to school in England and was a graduate of Sandhurst Military Academy. So, don't judge a book by its cover, me thinks?

On the last week of the three week course we had to complete an overnight navigation exercise. We were divided into patrols of about eight persons and my patrol comprised US Marine Captain Chuck Shea, and the remainder were KOYLI NCOs. We were dropped off a truck on a road through jungle and instructed to make our way to a parallel road quite some distance away. The usual method of navigating through thick jungle is for the navigator to indicate the correct compass bearing to two scouts who set about marking a trail in the desired direction. I had the first go at setting direction and ushered a KOYLI Sgt out in front with his machete to cut a path through the jungle and get us on our way. We had gone about half a kilometre when the Sgt cut a palm frond, the remainder of which caught in his equipment and was bent forward until it would bend no more and slipped out of the Sgt's webbing and sprang back hitting me in the face with such force that I landed on my backside with a bleeding gash to my right cheek.

Chuck Shea called everyone to a halt, surveyed the damage to my face and called for the medical kit, as you would expect well trained Yanks to do.

In the British and Australian armies, only Medical Orderlies carry Medical kits and they are usually located at Company HQ so there was no way one would be available here. Of course, we were all issued with "a shell dressing" which we usually carried in a side pocket of our trousers. I reached for mine and unwrapped it to apply to my face when Chuck said he didn't have any anti-septic but I would have to make do with some of his Rum and immediately saturated the dressing with it and slapped it on my face and tied it round my head. A few minutes later we were on our way again. Of course it was the Monsoon season and therefore it rained off and on all day so as the rain trickled down my face, the Rum and blood got washed into my mouth, not all that pleasant but the dressing and its antiseptic seemed to do the job as I had no after effects.

We continued on through the rain and jungle, fording streams that had turned into torrents and fighting off leeches at every step. Night came and we camped to be woken by the sound of elephants crashing through the undergrowth around our camp and were relieved in the morning that they had passed us by. We pressed on, with me still pointing the way and by early afternoon we stumbled on to the road we had been heading for to be greeted by the Instructional Staff and informed we were the first patrol to finish. The result of this effort was a Grade of B+ on my course report and a notation that I was probably the best navigator on the course. I'm sure that Chuck Shea had a hand in this notation because he was insistent that no one else in the patrol be let loose with the compass.

A few weeks later I was going to rue the fact that I had gained such a reputation on the course.

(More anecdotes (More CT Contact) from Bryan Pannell in April.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

**2ND BATTALION
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION, INC.**



NEW MEMBERSHIP
 RENEW MEMBERSHIP
 NEW ADDRESS

FULL NAME: _____ **Tele:** _____
ADDRESS: _____ **Mob:** _____
 _____ **Post Code** _____ **Email:** _____ @ _____

Regimental No: _____ **DOB:** _____

RAR Service

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| RAR Battalions | 1 RAR | 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 | Vietnam | Cambodia | Rwanda | East Timor | Solomon Is | Iraq | Timor Lesté | Afghanistan | Other |
|-------|-------|--------|----------|---------|----------|--------|------------|------------|------|-------------|-------------|-------|

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" | \$34.00 | | Pewter Drink Coaster - RAR Badge | \$24.00 | |
| Cap: Black/Silver - "ICB Badge" | \$34.00 | | Pewter Drink Coaster - ICB Badge | \$24.00 | |
| Lapel Badge - "2RAR" | \$12.00 | | Pewter Belt Buckle - ICB Badge | \$27.00 | |
| Polo Shirt: Black/Gold - "2nd Battalion" M(97)L(102)XL(107)2XL(112)3XL(117) | \$47.00 | | Iron On Badge - 2RAR | \$12.00 | |
| Sport Shirt: Black/White - "Second To None" L(102) XL(107) 2XL(112) 3XL(117) | \$47.00 | | Bumper Sticker - 2RAR Association | \$5.00 | |
| Tee Shirt: Black/White - "Second To None" L(102) XL(107) 2XL(112) 3XL(117) | \$31.00 | | Bumper Sticker - Vietnam Veteran | \$8.00 | |
| Tie: 2RAR Tie (New style) | \$27.00 | | Bumper Sticker - 2nd Battalion | \$8.00 | |
| Stubby Cooler - "2RAR" | \$10.00 | | Car Registration Plate Frames - 2nd Battalion | \$18.00 | |
| Stubby Cooler - "Second To No Bastard" | \$10.00 | | Note Pad - Leather - ICB Badge | \$20.00 | |
| Sticker (Oval) - "ICB" | \$5.00 | | Badge: ICB Metal/Bronze - Large | \$14.00 | |
| Sticker (Round) - "2RAR" | \$5.00 | | Badge: ICB Metal/Bronze - Small | \$12.00 | |
| Key Ring - Black/Gold | \$14.00 | | Badge: Returned from Active Service (RAS) Metal/Bronze | \$14.00 | |
| Wall Plaque : 2RAR | \$52.00 | | Badge: Rising Sun - Gold/Metal | \$14.00 | |
| Book: 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1967-68 Vol 1. Reprint 1985 | \$90.00 | | Money Fold Leather with credit card pockets - RAS badge | \$30.00 | |
| Book: Trackers Vietnam 1967/68. Peter Haran | \$29.00 | | Flag: 2RAR Black (48 cm x 31 cm) | \$17.00 | |
| | | | Name Tag: Preferred name: _____ | \$25.00 | |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Package Deal 1 Polo shirt & Cap \$73.00 (save \$8.00) | Package Deal 2 Sports shirt & Cap \$73.00 (save \$8.00) | Package Deal 3 Polo shirt, Cap & Tie \$98.00 (save \$10.00) | Package Deal 4 Sports shirt, Cap & Tie \$98.00 (save \$10.00) |
|--|--|--|--|

ONLINE PAYMENTS:
2RAR Association, Inc.
Suncorp Bank. BSB: 484-799
Account no: 063 350 355

For membership, and/or merchandise email/post the above form to: PO Box 1097 Toombul Qld 4012.
For online payments, include your initials, name and description: ('1 - 5 year membership', &/or 'Merchandise') to allow your payment to be identified. *2rarsecretary@gmail.com