



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)

JULY 2017

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the July 2017 Edition of RINGO. It has been a very busy period so far, with the 2RAR reunion, which was held in Brisbane 18-21 May 2017, taking up a fair amount of effort. The reunion was a resounding success and I would like to thank the organising committee for a job well done as well as to everyone who attended this wonderful event.

I would also like to thank both the Commanding Officer 2RAR, LtCol Doug Pashley, and his RSM WO1 Trent Morris, for making time to attend the Commemorative Service at Enoggera and the reunion dinner. LtCol Pashley provided a presentation at the dinner outlining the future structure and tasks of 2RAR. We have received a considerable number of very positive comments and this has indicated that those who attended certainly enjoyed the reunion.

Congratulations go to the four recipients of achievement awards made at the reunion dinner. The presentations were made by the Association's Patron Major General Mick Slater AO, DSC, CSC (Retd).

Arthur Macdonald - Life Membership

Wally Musgrave - Silver Soldier

Margaret Gibbons OAM - Silver Soldier

Terry Dinneen - Silver Soldier

All four recipients have made a considerable contribution to the 2RAR Association over many years and the awards are well deserved. Congratulations to all.

Congratulations to Bob Pink on being awarded an OAM (Civil Division), having previously been awarded an OAM (Military Division). Well done to one of our outstanding members.

I would also like to welcome David Hatton to the 2RAR Association Committee in the position of Assistant Secretary. David is an ex 2RAR RSM and a veteran of Iraq and Timor Lesté. Welcome aboard.

Sadly, our Honorary Padre Monsignor Eugene Harley passed away on 25 April. His funeral was held in Sydney on 5 May and was well attended. The Association was represented by myself, Gordon Hurford, Terry Dinneen and Ben Morris. I had the opportunity to lay a 2RAR flag on Eugene's coffin.

The 2RAR Association was well represented at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the NMW as well as the Brisbane march. 2RAR was the nominated "Duty" Association for the Brisbane ANZAC Day activities. The President provided the address at the Dawn Service at the NMW Enoggera and laid the wreath.

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Brisbane ANZAC Day activities. The President provided the address at the Dawn Service at the NMW Enoggera and laid the wreath. 2RAR Association had the honour of leading the Royal Australian Regiment Association at the Brisbane march. Thanks to all members who took part in the ceremony.

The 2RAR Association Facebook Page is alive and well and I encourage all members to check it regularly as we continue to post items of interest on a regular basis. Thanks to Rick Hollingdrake for his continued assistance in maintaining this important information platform.

I also encourage members to keep an eye on the 2RAR website for the current information regarding the Association. www.2rar-association.com.au

The Association reunion and AGM at Tweed Heads will be held on 27-28 October 2017. I encourage all those who can make this activity to come along to enjoy the weekend on the Gold Coast.

Details will be published on the website in due course as well as the next issue of Ringo.

'Second to None'

Leo Van De Kamp
President

WEBSITE/FACEBOOK: 2RAR ASSOCIATION

Why the Association Exists

The Association exists for ALL members who have served in 2RAR or 2/4RAR 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: ¹

View the Association Facebook here: ²

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

¹ <http://2rar-association.net.au/>

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

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Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2hf6MyK>

WARRIORS WHO HAVE MARCHED OUT

- 2147965, 240213 Brigadier the Reverend Monsignor Eugene Joseph HARLEY, OAM, 2RAR Malaya 1961, 3RAR Borneo 1965, HQ AFV Vietnam 1967. Passed away ANZAC Day 2017. Age: 87+ years. Eugene served 27 years, including 7 years with 2RAR. Appointed Principal Catholic Chaplain of the Army. Retired in 2003. Thanks Ian R Taylor
- 376220 Colonel Peter Desmond Robin CHILDS, MC Royal Regiment of Artillery. Korea: UK FOO C Coy, 2RAR Hill 121, 24-26 July 1953. Veteran of the HOOK. Passed away at Teignmouth, UK on 15 December 2016. Age: 89+ years. Peter was an Association member. End of Mission. Thanks Mrs Marie Childs, Rick Hollingdrake, OAM
- 53714 Warrant Officer Class One Barry TOLLEY OAM, DCM, 2RAR Malaya 1961-62, 4RAR Malaysia 1965, 4RAR Sarawak 1965-66, 4RAR Malaysia 1966-67, AATTV Vietnam 1968-69. Passed away 3 December 2016. Age: 77+ years. Funeral held 8 December in Townsville. Thanks Peter Adamis
- 1202297 Corporal Richard Clive TOBY, WIA 2RAR Vietnam 1970, Aslt Pnr PI, later with 42RQR (Cpl/Q). Served 20 years. Passed away on 28 May 2017. Age: 66+ years. Funeral held at Woorabinda, Qld. Thanks Ray Johnson, Alan Northcott (8RAR Vietnam 1969-71), Joe Braumberger
- 17594/13393 Sergeant Mervyn HOLLAND, BEM 1RAR/3RAR Korea 1954, 2RAR Malaya 1955-57, 3RAR Malaysia/Borneo 1963-65, 6RAR Vietnam 1966-67, 8RAR 1969-70, 8/9RAR 1973. Dutchy passed away 13 June 2017 at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. Age: 82+ years. A great honour to have served alongside him. Thanks Reginald French, Darcy Dugan
- 12568 Private Cecil John MALONE, WIA 2RAR Korea 1953-54. Veteran of the HOOK. 'Pat' was wounded by shrapnel on Hill 159. 'Pat' passed away on 14 April 2017 at Julie Creek, Qld. War Graves will put the plaque on Pat's grave establishing it as a War Grave. Thanks William Barty, Kevin 'Dasher' Dean, OAM
- 36793 Warrant Officer Class 2 Raymond HEFFERNAN, 2RAR Malaya 1961-63, 6RAR Vietnam 1966-67, 6RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Vietnam 1969, 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Vietnam 1971, 2/4RAR 1973-74. Ray passed away in Townsville on 8 April 2017. Age: 80+ years. Funeral held 21 April. He is survived by his wife Jenny and family. Thanks Allan Brady,
- 2782925 Warrant Officer Class 2 Peter Joseph PHILLIPS, 2RAR Vietnam 1967, LCpl, 10 PI D Coy. Peter passed away on 5 May 2017 at Wollongong, NSW. Age: 72+ years. His wife Helen sadly predeceased him in 1999. Peter was a voluntary enlistment in the 3rd intake of the National Service Scheme on 2 February 1966. Thanks Bob Pink, OAM
- 3166092 Corporal Graham James ASHBY, Vietnam: 1ARU 1968, 1RAR 1968-69, HQ 1ATF/1ARU 1969, 5RAR 1969, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) 9 PI C Coy 1970-71, 1ARU/1ATF 1971-72. Passed away age: 70+ years. Funeral held 24 April at Nerang, Qld. Graham suffered a stroke while in Da Nang. He is survived by his wife Suzie and stepdaughter. Thanks Ian Rafferty
- 15422 Warrant Officer Class 2 Colin Bruce CATCHPOLE, 2RAR Malaysia 1961, RACMP 1962-3, Vietnam 1967-68. Colin passed away 28 April 2017. Age: 80+ years. Colin served in 1 Div MP Coy, N Comd MP Coy, 4 SIS (N Comd) and 2 MP Coy. He took his discharge in November 1979. Thanks John Watson (MP Assoc. Aust.)
- 215180 Sergeant Peter John MCDONALD, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Vietnam, Cpl 1967-68; Sgt 1970-71. Mor PI, Spt Coy. Peter passed away on 2 April 2017. Age: 74 years. Funeral held 11 April at Mount Gravatt, Qld. John organised Mor PI Reunions in recent years. Thanks Peter McDonald (Son), Robin Franklin (PI Comd)
- 3788274 Private Raymond Bernard MCMURRICH, 2RAR Vietnam 1967, B Coy. Ray passed away on 28 March 2017. Age: 71+ years. Ray helped in the establishment of the Geelong Vietnam Veterans' Association in the 1970s. Ray was a Geelong boy but moved to Cairns in later life. Thanks Max Ingles
- 28709 Lieutenant Colonel Edmund Hugh STEVENSEN, 2RAR Malaysia 1961-63, HQ FARELF Vietnam 1963, HQ 1ATF 1966, 6RAR Vietnam 1966-67 2IC B Coy/C Coy, 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Vietnam 1971. Passed away 24 April 2017 after a long illness. Age: 81+ years. Funeral held at Floreat, WA. A gentleman and soldier now at rest. Thanks Ian Mackay
- 2786134 Lance-Corporal Anthony John MITCHELL, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68, HQ 1ATF 1968. No further information. Recorded in the Vietnam Veterans Federation Journal. Rest in Peace.
- 2785982 Craftsman Bruce Keith RILEY, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68, (RAEME). No further information. Recorded in the Vietnam Veterans Federation Journal. Rest in Peace.



*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

AASAM 2017

The Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting was held 5-26 May at Puckapunyal, Vic. Weeks of training with EF88, F89 and 9mm Self-Loading Pistol (SLP) paid off for 1RAR in the unit level matches.

1RAR won an impressive six of the AASAM unit matches (including Champion Infantry Battalion, the Unit Teams Weapons Championship, and Pistol Teams Aggregate) and finished second in a further three unit matches.

Champion Shot of the Army
1st: Bdr Nick Latham, 1RTB
2nd: Pte Callum Pritchett, 2RAR
3rd: Pte Grant Coad, 1RAR

The 2RAR sniper pairs left many high-profile teams in their wake to win the 'Billy Sing' Trophy (aggregate of 17 matches) for ADF and international snipers and 1RAR came third behind Japan.

THE BILLY SING TROPHY

Australian soldier William Edward "Billy" Sing, DCM was a part Chinese Australian who served in the Australian Imperial Force during World War I, best known as a sniper during the Gallipoli Campaign.

He took at least 150 confirmed kills during that campaign, and may have had over 200 kills in total. One contemporary estimate put his tally at close to 300 kills. Towards the end of the war, Sing married a Scottish woman, but the relationship did not last long.

Following work in sheep farming and gold mining, he died in relative poverty and obscurity in Brisbane during World War II.

2RAR ASSOC. EMAIL LIST

Not receiving emails from us? Left out of the loop? In the dark? Subscribe to the Secretary's Email List.

Email the Secretary! 2rarsecretary@gmail.com

2017 NATIONAL REUNION REPORT

Registration.

319 attended the reunion. This was a little disappointing however the 319 who attended had a great time.

Activities.

All activities were conducted as planned. The only outdoor event, the Commemorative Service at the National Memorial Walk was rained out and the ceremony, lunch and display were held at the 8/9RAR Ram's Retreat, which proved an ideal venue for such an occasion if the weather is unsuitable. The highlight for many was the Reunion Dinner, which was supported by the Australian Army Band Brisbane, who was brilliant. They played for most of the night and the dance floor was rarely vacant.

We were pleased to have the CO 2RAR LTCOL Doug Pashley and the RSM 2RAR WO1 Trent Morris at the reunion for two days. Their time and presence was greatly appreciated by all, as was the CO's address at dinner on the future of 2RAR.

Finance. A final financial statement for the reunion has not yet been finalised, as there is still a couple of outstanding matters. It is clear at this stage that the reunion has paid for itself and 2RAR Association funds will not be used to subsidise the event.

Attendee Responses. These have been overwhelming positive, some saying it was the "best ever" and many saying it was "second to none". All in all, those who attended had a great time in Brisbane and despite one day of rain, we could not have wished for better weather.

Thank You. Much thanks and praise must go the team who put it all together; Leo, Arthur and Jan. Each had their responsibilities and each performed outstandingly. Thank you cards have been sent to all our sponsors.

The Committee would like any feedback from this reunion. On the broader topic of future reunions like the 2017 National Reunion, comments would be appreciated.

The reunion was a success and thank you all for your support.

Gordon Hurford
Chairman,
Reunion Committee

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In 2017 committee meetings, will be held as follows:

- Wed 1 Feb 17 ✓
- Wed 5 Apr 17 ✓
- Wed 7 Jun 17 ✓
- Wed 2 Aug 17
- Wed 4 Oct 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, and Life.

MEMBERS' DRAW

Congratulations to Brian Humphrey, of Terang, Vic winner of the Members' Draw held on 4 April 2017 who received the book: Afghanistan Australia's War by Gary Ramage & Ian McPhedran, 2014. Drawn by Leo Van De Kamp. Served: Vietnam 1967

Congratulations also to Alfred 'Bluey' Arnold of Torquay, Qld, winner of the Members' Draw held on 7 June 2017 who received the book: Australian Military Operations In Vietnam, by Albert Palazzo, 2009. Drawn by Rick Hollingdrake. Served: Malaya 1961-63

This is the 9th year of the draw.

YOU MADE YOUR MARK

As I listened to your laughter
And saw your aging face,
You told me little stories
That you never can erase.
Now, I'm sorry I'd forgotten you
I have known a thousand men –
I really don't remember,
But we all were younger then.

But, I do remember things we did -
Together as a team,
Like living at the Horseshoe –
Sometimes it seems a dream.
I can see you filling sandbags,
I can see you as you went –
Laden down with guns and shovels,
With your groundsheet for a tent.

Now your children serve in Timor,
Afghanistan – Iraq.
Wherever Aussies show the flag
They leave a special mark.
Today, I've seen your coloured ribbons
And the flowers that you laid,
And I've heard again the orders
On the Long Tan Day Parade.

Margaret Gibbons
August 2006

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

A very warm welcome to new members (18)

John Nicholson	Charles Brown	Stuart Smalley
David Hatton	Robert Wy	Brendan Martin
Stephen Marr	Peter Scott	Greg Hartman
Lancelot Gillespie	Peter Heeney	James Hunter
Richard Parker	Ra Jones	Squire Jefferies
Christopher Abbott	Gary Jier	Mathew Bold

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BILLY SING: GALLIPOLI

Sing's reputation resulted in a champion Turkish sniper, nicknamed 'Abdul the Terrible' by the Allied side, being assigned to deal with him. Tate alleges that the Turks were largely able to distinguish Sing's sniping from that of other ANZAC soldiers, and that only the reports of incidents believed to be Sing's work were passed on to Abdul. Through analysis of the victims' actions and wounds, Abdul concluded that Sing's position was at Chatham's Post. After several days, Sing's spotter alerted him to a potential target, and he took aim, only to find the target—Abdul—looking in his direction. Sing prepared to fire, trying not to reveal his position, but the Turkish sniper noticed him and began his own firing sequence. Sing fired first and killed Abdul. Very shortly thereafter, the Turkish artillery fired on Sing's position—he and his spotter barely managed to evacuate from Chatham's Post alive.

ANZAC DAY: MELBOURNE

The Melbourne Anzac March this year, although marred by intermittent rain, went off quite well. Because of his health, Gary Boscacci had the privilege of riding in a Vintage Automobile (the snob), which also ferried some of the troops to the MCG for the football.

We had a contingent of 30+ marching this year, thanks to some C Coy boys swelling our ranks this year.



This year our Banner was proudly carried by my sons, Michael, and Stewart (above), who wanted to march with dad, and thought the best way to get in the front of the group was to volunteer their services. Thanks boys.

After the march, the boys went in all directions. Next year and into the future I would like to organise something more as a group, and have lunch together somewhere close to the shrine. If anyone would be interested in this, feel free to get in touch with me or Richard Glenn who has offered to support me. We also felt it could be good to meet for lunch on August 18th, after the service at the shrine.

Jim Cooper
(Vic State Rep)

ANZAC DAY: BRISBANE

To begin the day, the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the RAR National Memorial Walk at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera was well organised and well attended. President Leo gave an excellent Anzac Day address to an impromptu backdrop of automatic gunfire in the distance. Later, we formed up in Mary Street, Brisbane for the March. President Leo lead the RAR Association (Qld) preceding the RAR Banner.

2RAR Association lead the other Battalion Associations in succession. Rick took the lead followed by the Flag Orderlies and the 2RAR Association Banner bearers. Estimation of veterans' attendance was 30 to 40 with a very good attendance by younger veterans. Another huge crowd cheering us on.

At the end of the march, our marchers scattered everywhere. Well done to all!

Rick Hollingdrake
Vice President

2RAR IN JAPAN/KOREA

In 1945 Australia sent three units to Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF). Originally known as the 65th, 66th and 67th Infantry Battalions, they were raised from Australian divisions stationed in New Guinea at the end of the Second World War. On 23 November 1948, the battalions were renamed the First, Second and Third Battalion, The Australian Regiment, respectively. The prefix "Royal" was granted by King George VI on 31 March 1949.

ANZAC DAY: SYDNEY

The march in Sydney this year was held in bright sunshine and good weather. 2RAR was represented by about 40 marchers from varied periods of representation from Vietnam to current service.

Because of major roadworks in Sydney the march no longer goes past the Cenotaph and up George Street. The new route seems to have less atmosphere as the supporters along the march route are a long way from the marchers. Hopefully we will get used to it in time.



*The Royal Australian Regiment Memorial
Regimental Square, Sydney*

Unfortunately, the numbers of Vietnam veterans are dwindling each year as age catches up with us. We hope that those who served post-Vietnam will replace our numbers in the years ahead.

As I anticipate not being mobile early next year I have handed the banner over to Grahame Edwards, the NSW delegate, to ensure we are represented in the march in 2018. I have had the privilege of being the Standard Bearer for the Battalion for the past 30 years and it is with regret that I hand it over.

Hopefully as a temporary measure.

Phill Evenden
1 PI, A Coy,
2RAR 1967-68

ANZAC DAY: SAMICHON LINES

As the 2RAR association rep in Townsville I and other former members of 2RAR attended the dawn service in Samichon lines, Lavarack Barracks. Members and guests were invited to share coffee and rum in company lines from 0500 hrs.

The service took place on the Battalion Parade ground in front of the roll of honour. The service began at 0525 hrs. Other units in Lavarack were also conducting their service at the same time, one particularly moving moment was when a machine-gun started firing in the distance, from the engineer's lines (I think). Advance Australia Fair on the bagpipes took a bit of getting used to as well.

After the service, at which we laid a wreath, it was off to the Edgar Towner VC club for bacon and eggs. As the unit had no formal duties that day the bar would open at 0700 hrs.

I took that as my cue to depart and leave the young ones to it.

Jock Cassidy
2RAR Rep NQ

2RAR returned to Australia in 1948 and was stationed at Puckapunyal, Victoria, when the Korean War began in 1950. Some 2RAR members volunteered for service with 3RAR and 1RAR, as these two battalions saw service earlier than 2RAR. 2RAR was bought up to strength with volunteers that enlisted under the K Force recruiting campaign.

PRINCIPLE CHAPLAIN: EUGENE HARLEY, OAM

Eugene Harley was Parish Priest of this Church for 18 Years. The current Parish Priest Father Phillip Linder and Eugene's nephew Dennis were with Eugene when he died in hospital at 7.00 pm and how appropriately on ANZAC Day.



He served 27 years in the Australian Defence Force, including 7 years with 2RAR. He served in Malaysia 1961 (2RAR), Borneo 1965 (3RAR), and South Vietnam 1967. In the latter period of his service he was appointed Principal Catholic Chaplain of the Army.

Eugene has been involved with the 2RAR Association since its early days and "has always been our Padre." At the 2014 AGM a Motion to Appoint Monsignor Eugene Joseph Harley as 2RAR Association Padre was passed.

He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day 2015 Honours List for his services to the Catholic Church and the Mosman NSW community.

In 2015, he was presented the 2RAR Association Silver Soldier Award in recognition of his dedication and sustained contribution to 2RAR and the Association over five decades.

There is no doubt that Fr Eugene has enriched the lives of countless individuals and families who would all be proud to call Fr Eugene a friend.

CECIL 'PAT' MALONE

Yes, 'Pat'. He was always called Pat and certainly not Cecil. Pat was an integral member of the Aslt Pnr PI in Korea. He was the platoon jeep driver and as such my driver for a long time. He was always there when I came in from minefield etc patrols and made sure I was where I should be on time. A marvellous happy man who was much liked by everybody in the platoon. Unfortunately, he got in the way of a bit of shrapnel from an incoming on Hill 159 and was absent for a while. Said it was the only way he could get a rest! He was a typical Queenslander with bandy legs – obviously from being put on a horse from a very early age. Since leaving the army he has run the family property outside Julia Creek, now run by his children, and retired some time ago to live in Julia Creek and Townsville. His wife had a very rough time for a while and needed to be in Townsville for a long time. I spoke to Pat about three weeks ago when I heard he was ill again and his hearing was very bad and Betty acted as part translator. In typical fashion, he gave no indication how ill he must have been. Pat will be much missed and I was privileged to have known him and to have served with him. On occasions, he would say to me "Come on young Boss, we're late." He was four weeks older than me!! May he rest in peace.

Patrick Forbes, MC, ED
St Peters, SA

CALENDAR 2017

1 Feb	2/4RAR delinked to form 2RAR & 4RAR (1995)	Townsville, Qld Holsworthy, NSW
25 Apr	ANZAC Day: Brisbane	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
Fri 21 Jul	Samichon Day Commemorating the Battle of the HOOK 24/25 July 1953. At 11am.	ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park 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

MERVYN "DUTCHY" HOLLAND

In his early days of soldiering, Dutchy was on many occasions a Regimental Sergeant Major's nightmare. However, by the time he finally grounded arms he was the RSM's right hand man and highly regarded by all ranks. He was a soldier of many years' experience in both peace and war and always on hand to guide young reinforcements. Dutchy was the typical Aussie soldier who clearly demonstrated such characteristics and qualities they sought to portray. He was never reluctant to question authority when rules or procedures seemed unfair. Yet he was often first to lead and set the example in dire circumstances. A soldier with quick wit, he always created humour when there was a need to break the tension, be it caused by exhaustion, fear or so many other demanding challenges which faced him and his companions. Our beloved Dutchy would never admit it but above all was his love of country and mateship which he had clearly demonstrated, time and time again throughout his soldiering years. It was a great honour to have served alongside him in the ranks as a digger. Sadly, he has now been posted and soon will join that familiar military column wherever it may be, for ever and ever. Safe journey, Cobber

George Mansford
Gordonvale, Qld

PETER JOHN MCDONALD

"On the 11th of April, I attended the funeral of John McDonald and I delivered a eulogy about my experiences with him in 2RAR. I first met John in July 1968 just after I graduated from the Officer Cadet School Portsea and had been posted to 2RAR. He had just returned from 2RAR's first tour to Vietnam. He was a sergeant in Mortar Platoon and I was a brand-new second lieutenant.

I attended the Mortar Course at Infantry Centre and was transferred to Mortar Platoon around September 1968 as Mortar Platoon 2IC. It was from then on that I really got to know John. He was a classic infantry NCO. You always knew where you stood with John. He was direct, honest and what you saw was what you got. He taught me a great deal about mortars and the issues of being responsible for mortar operations.

By the time 2RAR returned to Vietnam in May 1970 I had really benefited from his experience and support. John was also very good in the way he provided instruction and leadership to all members of Mortar Platoon. We had some very funny times together, especially at functions when his wife Eileen was present. They called me the "college boy" a description which stuck from 1968 until now. They were both very good to me and I will never forget it. I last saw John and Eileen at Greenslopes Hospital about three weeks before he passed away and it was a great and humorous conversation. John was a great soldier and it was a privilege to have served with him.

Robin Franklin
Coorparoo, Qld

PETER JOSEPH PHILLIPS

Late of Woonona NSW, Peter Phillips was born at Marrickville NSW on 16 January 1945. Peter initially served in the CMF from 1962 to 1965 with 2 RNSWR and 17 RNSWR and was a voluntary enlistment in the 3rd intake of the National Service Scheme.

Following Recruit training he was posted to 10 PI D Coy, 2RAR at Enoggera QLD serving on the Battalion's first tour of active service in South Vietnam in 1967 as a Section 2IC and was discharged on 1 February 1968.

He re-enlisted in 17 RNSWR in 1968 and served in a variety of regimental and instructional postings with 17 RNSWR and 2/17 RNSWR, 1/19 RNSWR, 2nd Division Battle School and Headquarters 5th Brigade until discharging in 1989 in the rank of Warrant Officer Class Two.

Peter enjoyed a long and fulfilling civil life initially gaining employment on leaving school with Drug Houses of Australia, followed by a rewarding career with Prudential Insurance, Fosseys and Coles and The Australian Protective Service until retirement and joined the Ashfield RSL Sub Branch in 2009.

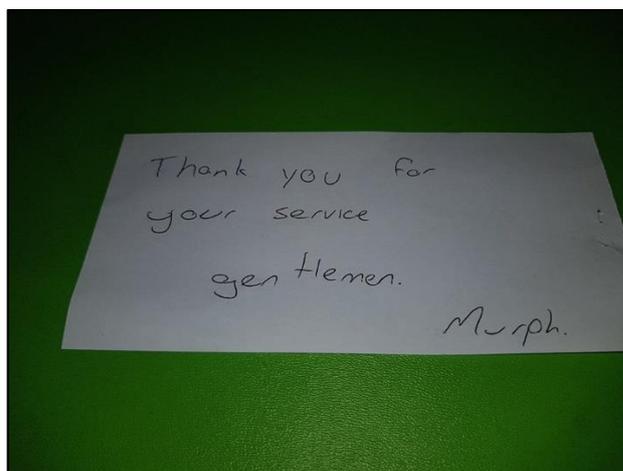
Bob Pink, OAM, OAM (Mil)³
Honorary Secretary
1/19 RNSWR Association

2RAR IN KOREA

2RAR was primarily deployed in patrolling the no man's land to the north of the UN lines. This involved making small advances, defending its position, capturing prisoners, collecting intelligence, and maintaining minefields and trenches. The work was monotonous and dangerous, with many casualties caused by mines. The conditions of this phase of the war, often referred to as the "static phase", created an additional burden. In winter, it was not uncommon for top temperatures to be below zero, and troops had to take precautions against frost-bite and trench foot. At the other extreme, summer was humid, with heavy rain that often flooded the trenches.

SNIPPETS

- A request from the 2RAR Curator: We have 3 rusty weapons in the 2RAR Historical collection: 1x Winchester Barrel, and 2x pistols. John Twomey indicated they were dug up by a 2RAR digger in the late 1970s or 1980s in Katherine or Weipa. The items were discovered when the digger was digging in. If the weapons are not of historical significance, the items will be destroyed. Can anyone shed any light on these weapons? Thanks John Ferguson, Curator 2RAR Historical Collection.
- At the end of a dinner. Leo and Desiree, Brian and Fay, and Rick and Rhonda enjoyed dinner at the Vietnamese restaurant 'Viet De Lites' on Little Stanley St, South Bank. A couple sat opposite us. When it was time to pay the bill, we were presented a note to our table by the staff; the account had been paid! The note read: Thank you for your service gentlemen. Murph



CANINE OPERATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL



The Canine Operational Service Medal was introduced on 8 June 2017 to recognize the contribution Military Working Dogs make whilst serving on operations. The Medal forms part of Defense's internal recognition scheme and is not part of the Australian Honours and Awards System.

The Australian Defence Force is the first Defence Force to implement recognition of this nature. The Medal will be awarded to Military Working Dogs who have 30 days service continuous or aggregated on a declared operation.

The following clasps have been issued: East Timor; ICAT; Iraq 03; Solomon Is II; Timor-Leste; G.M.E. OPS.

2RAR patrolled sections of the Jamestown line, in the area of the Imjin and Samichon Rivers. On 9-10 July 1953, 2RAR with 3RAR were given the task of holding the line to the west of the Samichon River. 2RAR was stationed on the left forward position of a hill that was commonly referred to as the "Hook". On the night of 24 July 1953, the Chinese forces attacked 2RAR and a US Marine Regiment. The attack was launched in consecutive waves over the nights of both 24 and 25 July, with heavy artillery and mortar attacks during the day.

³ A holder of the Medal of the Order in one Division who is subsequently appointed to the Order at any level in the other Division is entitled to retain and wear the Insignia of both Divisions. Ref: <http://bit.ly/2t02jda>; Page: 12-13

POETRY

A Proud and Sacred Place

When you visit this memorial of granite stone
Its silent sentries forever standing on guard alone
No matter your walk of life, young or old, you are part of it all
They are you and you are them, so be proud, stand straight and tall



Listen to the faint bark of orders from a faraway parade ground
Catch on the breeze the songs they sang with such happy sound
Hear distant bugles sob and the drums in rhythmic pounding beat
The stirring thump of marching feet

Recall when ugly storm clouds hovered and our nation did call
So many generations stepped forward to give their all
Watch as blurred columns of yesterday's youth march by
Battle honours sewn on regimental colours flying high

How many dreams of warriors which were never to be
Lost in the din of war and where the blood of our youth ran free
See again the faces of those who did dare
Now resting in a peaceful place which the living know not where

Today a new generation wears the regimental badge with great pride
The regimental torch held high as they seek tomorrow, side by side
The ANZAC genes are strong as anyone can see
Mateship, love of country, wit and battle discipline as it used to be

This sacred place is now another milestone of our nation's history
A reminder of past sacrifice to ensure a way of life for you and me
Etched are the words "All gave some. Some gave all"
While echoing from the past, "Duty First" is the never-ending call

Lest we forget

George Mansford©June2017

The RAR Memorial is in Ferguson Park on Samford Road, Enoggera, immediately opposite the northern entrance to Gallipoli Barracks.

2RAR IN KOREA 'THE HOOK'

We owe Bob Downey a debt of gratitude for reminding us of one of the Regiment's great battles. For once the outcome did not depend almost solely on the bravery and tenacity of a handful of ragged riflemen. This time the full armoury of a powerful and accomplished formation was deployed. On the tenacious defence of 2RAR the total power of the division was employed against an exposed, massed enemy. The combined power and precision of the divisional artillery absolutely and completely destroyed the enemy. Despite the enormity and horror of the enemy dead left on the field, we cannot claim it as a total victory because the Truce dramatically stopped everything in mid battle. It is hard to imagine what the Chinese would have done next. They would not have been able to go forward without adding to the slaughter; however, could they have just left the bodies there without attracting the opprobrium of the world? In any case they must have been totally exhausted. We will never know how they would have reacted. We still don't even know what they had hoped to achieve in their flurry on the eve of the Truce.

NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY

Terry Dinneen was educated in Brisbane with the Christian Brothers and received his first taste of military with the school cadets. It confirmed an earlier decision made while at primary school to go Army.

He had to mark time for a year after finishing school until he was old enough to be accepted into the Army. Five days after he turned seventeen he was enlisted. Recruit training at Kapooka was a dream come true. He selected Infantry as his first choice but was told 'too young' and was sent to Artillery.

A field gunnery course at the School of Artillery followed then a posting to a Light Battery at Holsworthy with 1st Field Regiment. The period with 102 Lt Bty consolidated his gunnery and basic soldier skills. During this time a six week All Arms course at Battle Wing, Jungle Training Centre at Canungra was memorable.

In September 1959, he sailed to Malaya with a 25-pounder battery, but was home by Christmas for compassionate reasons. Re-posted to 4 Field Regiment which was being raised at Wacol, Brisbane he left the gun line and became a TARA (Technical Assistant Royal Artillery) and was promoted. He returned to Malaya with 103 Bty for a further service with 28th Commonwealth Brigade. However, before a year elapsed he was selected for Officer Cadet School and returned from the tropics to mid-winter in Portsea, Vic.

Here, he was fortunate enough to command a platoon during the senior term and this time no mistake was made as he marched out to Infantry at 2RAR Enoggera, Qld. Pentropic then Tropical organizations or re-organizations as platoon commander, transport officer, company second in command and company commander while still a second-lieutenant preceded the Battalion's move to South Vietnam.

In South Vietnam, he participated in several operations before being slightly wounded (WIA) in a mine incident. D Coy 2RAR first tour had more than their share of these and other mishaps. The second half of the tour was with HQ IATF at Battle Intelligence and included the unforgettable TET Offensive.

Three years as Range Control Officer Singleton followed on RTA. This was a good grounding for the conduct of live firing exercises which followed in later postings.

In the early 1970's it was back to Brisbane as a company commander with 8RAR. They had just returned from South Vietnam and were preparing to go again when a change of government put paid to that. A short period with 6RAR helping them home from Singapore then a return to Singleton.

By now the Infantry Centre had relocated there from Ingleburn, NSW. Terry took over as Senior Instructor Corps Training Company. Although CTC was established for three platoons there was usually twice that number in training at that time. There were more riflemen in CTC than there were in the under strength RAR battalions.

He was selected for Staff College the following year and after that followed a posting to RAAF HQ Glenbrook on the staff of Exercise Control of Kangaroo II. At the completion of the exercise a staff officer's posting at HQ Training Command in Sydney awaited.

With only Canberra (Army Office) to look forward to an offer of civilian employment with a target manufacturing firm in Albury NSW seemed the best option. So, with a short introduction into the Army Reserve at 4RNSWR after 23 years to the day service with the ARA ceased.

Contact with the ARA did not cease however as the target systems were for small arms and the technology was cutting edge at that time, i.e. computer controlled and automatic marking. All three services were involved as were the Commonwealth and State Police services. Previous grounding with live firing exercises proved useful.

Off shore visits to South America, South East Asia, Taiwan, and our near neighbours was a bonus seeing up close how other Infantry trained.



Corporal Mark Dowling 2RAR INTERFET soldiers patrolling at Betagade East Timor, 1999

Postings in the ARES included 3 Training Group, Monash University Regiment, and HQ 3rd Division and were spread out over nearly 12 years and were primarily training positions. The final position was with Doctrine Branch at Infantry Centre.



Pte Braden Howard 2RAR takes part in a live-fire training on the flight deck of HMAS Canberra enroute to Ex RIMPAC on 20 June 2016.

About the time his 'use by date' for military service was reached a change in employment meant a move to Sydney and learning new skills in the pyrotechnic and explosives arena. Sometime about 2005 Terry received an email from the RAR Association/Corporation seconding him to a committee to establish a bibliography on publications - RAR. The initial effort is now on the net and the task continues as the first amendment is partially complete and some further expansion of the Bibliography is envisaged. Terry is still part of the team.

As well, Terry is involved in a task of writing a profile on each of the eight members of D Coy 2RAR who are on the Honour Roll of the Battalion's first tour. This was commenced several years ago and continues. The Battalion recently expanded this project to include all members of 2RAR both tours, who are on the Honour Roll, including the New Zealanders who were part of the Anzac Battalion.

His yard is slowly reverting to a wilderness despite a tree house and multiple swings for the troops and 'the shed' has fallen into disuse, temporally perhaps and is being over-run by cob-webs and possums and the R and M on the abode is way behind schedule. But there is a plus. Renewed acquaintances with old comrades and forming new friendships with the families of the fallen makes it worthwhile.

Terrence Edward Dinneen
Winmalee, NSW

DROP SHORTS

MILITARY CROSS

376220 Captain Peter Desmond Robin Childs, MC

Date: 1 July to 27 July 1953

28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade (C Coy 2RAR)

1st Commonwealth Division

Place: Korea

Captain CHILDS has served in Korea from 26 November 1952, and has commanded a sound locating troop and a mortar troop. Both jobs entail constant work in the forward defended localities. Frequently under fire he has shown a high and consistent standard of courage and endurance in many actions culminating in the attack on 25th and 26th July 1953, by an enemy division on the Marines on our left and on ourselves.

Manning an Observation Post on our left boundary, he was very largely responsible for breaking up the enemy penetration on Point 111 in the Marine Sector and on Point 121 on which he was positioned. His professional skill and cool, quick and intelligent handling of the artillery battle was amply demonstrated by the mass of dead Chinese still on the ground after the cease fire.

Note: Colonel Peter Childs, MC was an Association member & recently passed away in Devon, UK

2ND/4TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

4RAR returned home from Vietnam to take over the rear lines in Lavarack Barracks and went on a much earned rest. (These days those lines have since been rebuilt and are currently occupied by 3rd Combat Signals Regiment). After returning to work, the Battalion (4RAR) continued training on exercises around Mount Spec, Tropical Trials Establishment at Cowley Beach and High Range Training Area.

It was during this period that the 4th Battalion was looked after by Maj E.H. Stevenson, (Administering Command) from 6 Apr 72 until 7 Jul 72, who in turn handed over to the new Commanding Officer Lt Col L.D. Johnson on 8 Jul 72, holding that position until the linking with 2RAR.

During the same lead up period 2RAR was commanded by LTCOL J.A. Sheldrick with RSM 2RAR being WO1 C.H. Swinbourn (1971-73).

Due to the cessation of National Service the Army underwent a major reorganisation. 2RAR and 4RAR were linked on the 15 August 1973 to form 2nd / 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (2/4RAR).

The Battalion was formed up on the 4RAR parade ground by the RSM WO1 W.T.C. (Wally) Thompson. Members leaving the Battalion for other postings fell out and marched off the parade. WO1 Thompson marched the remaining soldiers to 2RAR's parade ground and handed them over to WO1 K.A. Hall, RSM 2/4RAR (1973-75).

Whilst they were away from the old 4RAR lines the unit signs were changed to 2/4RAR. The combined soldiers from 2 Battalion and 4 Battalion were marched back to their new lines where 4RAR had previously resided under the direction of WO1 Ken Hall the new 2/4RAR RSM.

The new 2nd / 4th Battalion was lead off the parade ground by the Pipe Major WO2 Doug Thorenson to the quick march tunes of "Inverbrackie" (4RAR) and "Ringo" (2RAR).

The 2/4 RAR battalion march later became a combination of both 2RAR and 4RAR unit tunes titled "Ringobrackie". One of the favourite tunes of the RAR (Regiment) was also "Black Bear". Note: The tunes were Inverbrackie, Ringo, Ringobrackie, Black Bear and Back In Black.

The new Battalion was charged with the task of preserving the traditions, associations and museums of the two Battalions from which it was formed.

BRIAN CHARLES COOPER, MM

Sgt Brian Cooper, commander of a medium machine gun section, came under fierce attack by an enemy force of estimated Company strength following a heavy artillery barrage (24 July 1953). Leaving sufficient of his gun crews to man the guns covering his primary task of guarding the western approaches to The Hook, he organised the remainder into a separate defensive position.



Sgt Cooper holds a Russian PPSH M1941 or ChiCom Type 50 (burp gun) and ammunition pouches he captured during the action

From this position he engaged the enemy with such a volume of grenades and small arms fire that they were unable to penetrate the position despite the overwhelming superiority of numbers.

He called down friendly fire so close to his own and neighbouring US positions that he prevented the enemy from pressing home any further organised attacks. Sgt Cooper also continued to pass back information to the Battalion and personally supervised the evacuation of wounded to safety through an area in which the enemy moved and under heavy shellfire. He displayed throughout cool courageous leadership.

THE HOOK BATTLE

On 9 Jul 53 2RAR relieved the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment around 'The Hook' feature, the left flank of 1 COMWEL Div. The Battalion was subjected to intermittent artillery, mortar and infantry attacks leading up to the battle of 'The Hook' on 24, 25 and 26 Jul 53.

Coinciding with attacks on 7 US Marine Regt, on the Battalions left, 2RAR was heavily attacked with artillery concentrations and infantry during the night of the 24th and the early hours of the 25th Jul. The reserve company from 1 Durham Light Infantry (DLI) came under command 2RAR at midnight.

The enemy objectives were the feature 'Boulder City' in the US Marine Sector and 'POINT 121' in the 2RAR Sector. All attacks were repulsed with heavy enemy casualties by the morning of the 25th and the reserve company from 1 DLI was withdrawn.

The enemy resumed heavy attacks on the Marines and the 2RAR sector during the night of the 25th. D Company, 3RAR came under command at 0100 hours and again a company from 1 DLI was warned but did not move up.

These attacks were again beaten back with severe enemy casualties and major attacks ceased by the morning of the 26th. For its performance under these attacks 2RAR won the battle honour 'SAMICHON'.

BADGES OF THE CORPS & REGIMENT



By WO2 R.W, "Spike" Jones, MM ⁴

In early 1949 the Director of Infantry, Brigadier I.R. Campbell, CBE, DSO, wrote to the Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment asking for suggested designs for a Regimental Badge. Several designs were submitted and the one eventually accepted was by 1RAR, then based at Ingleburn in NSW.

Above: The original Royal Australian Infantry badge designed when the Corps was formed in 1948 with the motto "Duty and Honour", the original circa 1954 Royal Australian Regiment badge with the Edwardian "Kings" Crown, a Vietnam era brass Skippy Badge, which is adorned by the "Queen's" Crown and the current Royal Australian Infantry Corps badge, which has obvious lineage from the RAR badge.

The design of what would become the "Skippy Badge" was intended as a badge for the First Battalion only, but subsequently it was decided that all the Battalions of the Regiment would wear it.

On 10 March 1949, it was announced: "His Majesty King George the Sixth had been graciously pleased to give his approval to the prefix 'Royal' being appended to the title of The Australian Regiment'.

In final form, the badge was the combination of many suggestions put forward by several officers and soldiers. Those involved in 1RAR's design were the Commanding Officer Lt Col J.L.A. Kelly DSO, Maj T.E. Archer, Maj K.B. Thomas MC, and the Intelligence Sergeant E.J. "Ted" O'Sullivan. 1RAR's Intelligence Section prepared sketches and assisted in the design.

At this stage, it became clear the design was for a Regimental rather than a Battalion badge, so it was decided to adopt an animal that was typically Australian - the kangaroo was the natural choice and the heraldic posture of the beast was to be standing. The original sketch showed the animal with its forepaws relaxed but in the badge, they are outstretched because the die casters could not achieve the proper definition with them hanging.

The boomerang is a weapon immediately associated with Australian Aborigines and it also related to the distinctive tactical signs of the 2nd AIF from which the 34th Australian Infantry Brigade was formed. The crossed rifles are the type in use at the time the Regiment was formed - the "Rifle, .303 inch, Short, Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE). No1 MkIII."

The original design and the first badges struck sometime in 1954 featured a "King's" Crown because George the Sixth was the monarch in 1949; but the design was altered to a "Queen's" Crown after the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 1953. The Wattle Wreath was symbolic of Australian flora and a variation of the laurel wreath which is part of many Commonwealth badges.

The motto of the Regiment needed to be original, short and in English - "Duty First" was selected because "The unhesitating and unquestioning performance of his duty is the fundamental requirement of a soldier".

The Regimental Badge was reproduced on Christmas cards in 1949 but was not issued as a hat badge until 1954, when 2RAR in Korea replaced their Rising Sun badges with them.

⁴ Article by WO2 R.W, "Spike" Jones, MM, originally published in Australian Infantry Magazine in 1981 sourced from Ian Kuring.

The original badges until the end of the Vietnam era were cast in brass by various makers and plated in gold.

Original King's Crown badges with intact gold plating are eagerly sought by collectors and are exceedingly rare in any condition.

In June 1950, 3RAR - then in Japan - had four large badges cast out of spent brass shell cases by members of the Assault Pioneer Platoon. Each of the three Battalions were given a badge and the other went to 1 Infantry Brigade Headquarters.



Australian Army soldiers are currently being kitted out with the new Australian Multicam Camouflage Uniform, new EF88 Austeyr rifle and new helmet, body armour and other personal gear of the soldier combat ensemble (2016)

When the Brigade at Holsworthy was disbanded to form Headquarters 1st Division at Moore Park the badge was handed to 2RAR - then based at Holsworthy - for safekeeping and it was presented to 4RAR when it was formed at Woodside SA in 1964.

All Battalions of the Regiment now have large badges - 5RAR was presented with theirs by the 2/5th Infantry Battalion Association in November 1967 and 7RAR's was donated by the 2/7th Infantry Battalion Association in September 1966.

The crest displayed by 6RAR was partially cast using artillery and small arms shells fired at the Battle of Long Tan at the Stuart Copper Refinery in Townsville in 1968.

One badge was presented to 8RAR on the Battalion's first birthday by 4RAR on 8 August 1967. This badge was cast from shells fired by "V" Battery and Dragon Battery, Royal Artillery, in support of 4RAR operations in Sarawak, Borneo during April-September 1966.

The 9RAR badge was cast by the Naval Dockyard Foundry in Singapore in 1970 using 1RAR's badge as a diecast, although the crown was changed.

The badge probably started to be referred to as the "Skippy" during the Vietnam era, which was when the television show Skippy the Bush Kangaroo was popular.

SNIPERS IN THE NEWS

New York: A Canadian soldier in Iraq has killed an Islamic State militant from more than three kilometres away, shattering the world record for a confirmed sniper kill in military history.

According to Toronto's Globe and Mail newspaper, the gun specialist from the elite Joint Task Force 2 achieved the feat with a shot from a high-rise during an operation within the past 30 days.

"The shot in question actually disrupted a Daesh [Islamic State] attack on Iraqi security forces," a military source - who requested anonymity because the unit's operations are classified - told the paper.

"Instead of dropping a bomb that could potentially kill civilians in the area, it is a very precise application of force and because it was so far way, the bad guys didn't have a clue what was happening."

The 3450-metre shot, which took about 10 seconds to reach its target, was independently verified by a video camera and other data, the source said.

The prior long-distance record was held by a British sniper, Craig Harrison, who in 2009 shot a Taliban gunman from 2475 metres away during an operation in Afghanistan.

Canada has been involved in the war against Islamic State since 2014, with the new government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau government expanding the number of Canadian special forces involved in training missions with Kurdish Peshmerga forces from 69 to 207.

US Sergeant Bryan Kremer has the furthest confirmed sniper kill shot by an American soldier, the Globe and Mail reported. He killed an Iraqi insurgent from 2300 meters in 2004.

Joint Task Force troops are primarily tasked with counter-terrorism, sniper operations and hostage rescue, the paper said. The unit's snipers are members of Canadian Special Operations Regiment.

According to the quoted source, snipers usually work with an observer.

"Canada has a world-class sniper system," the source said. "It is not just a sniper. They work in pairs. ... This is a skill set that only a very few people have."

They also have to account for wind speed and the increasing downward motion of the bullet as it loses speed over such a long distance. "You have to adjust for him firing from a higher location downward and as the round drops you have to account for that," the source said. "And from that distance you actually have to account for the curvature of the Earth."

According to Newsweek, the record shot means that three of the top five longest distance confirmed kills were carried out by Canadian snipers.

The top five are:

- 1: Canadian sniper in Iraq (2017): 3450 metres.
- 2: British sniper Craig Harrison in Afghanistan (2009): 2475 metres
- 3: Canadian sniper Rob Furlong in Afghanistan (2002): 2430 metres
- 4: Canadian sniper Arron Perry in Afghanistan (2002): 2310 metres
- 5: US sniper Bryan Kremer in Iraq (2004): 2300 metres.

Sniper records have been kept since 1967 and are used for the development of long distance weapons.⁵

⁵ <http://bit.ly/2sHAK5w>

A 'BOMBSHELL' DURING HALF-TIME

By Colonel Peter Childs, MC (dec.)

Sitting on the side of a trench on Hill 121, in Korea, on the 25th of July 1953 it was a pleasant enough summer morning. I was enjoying the warm sunshine and a gentle breeze from the south, clearing my lungs of the acrid fumes of picric acid (from the explosive filling of the Chinese ammunition) that was still lingering in the tunnel behind and leading to my OP (observation post). I was musing over the events of the previous night. The action had been long and hectic and it continued non-stop from last light until about 4.30am. The enemy had kept up a heavy bombardment on Hills 121 and 111, and the hills held by our left flank neighbours (the US Marines), throughout the night, accompanied by a series of determined ground attacks on our forward positions.

As the British gunner FOO (Forward Observation Officer) resident on Hill 121, I had been kept very busy during last night's action, at the side of Major John Woodhouse (commander, C Company 2RAR) in the company TacHQ (tactical headquarters), in my job coordinating the necessary gunner direct fire and counter battery support and, to us, the very important airborne battlefield-light support. Since dawn, I had been back in my OP. The repair of blast damage to the camouflage netting and the OP portal; and the recharging of our radio batteries, had kept all busy. We also kept a close eye on the many white-coated enemy still roaming the battlefield, ensuring they kept their distance as they searched for their casualties.

I was about to return to the tunnel to get an hour or two of sleep when my duty signaller passed on to me the message "My CO and our gunner brigadier, the CRA (Commander Royal Artillery at Division HQ) were on their way to see me". I was to meet them, right now, at the entrance to the rear communication trench. So much for the chance of a nap!

As I was nipping down the trench, still wondering why they should want to see me, a voice hailed me from above. It was my CO who, with the CRA in the lead, were both well on their way up to the summit of Hill 121 above me. I scrambled out of the trench and found my way up to join them. We were already well in the view of the enemy and I was wondering if I should share this thought with them when the CRA stopped and turned to face me. Then came the bombshell!! "Peter" he said, "We have had intercept intelligence that the Chinese are bringing in today a new fresh Division for another attack here tonight"! Any lingering thoughts of a 'quick nap' vanished as the import of that news sank in! The CRA went on, "But we want you to do something about that". He went on to explain that the intercepts indicated that the route for a large part of the new enemy reinforcement was to be through a very deep enemy communications trench, part of which could be seen from my OP. My task now was to put a 'spanner in the works' by destroying as much as possible of the visible section of that trench. For this job I was allotted, from Corps artillery, one gun from each of an 8in heavy battery and a 240mm super heavy battery, together with a handsome total of 85 rounds of ammunition to complete it. I could not have asked for better tools for the job! The 8in gun for its accuracy and the heavier 240mm gun for its sheer destructiveness.

Having passed over to me the appropriate details of frequencies and codes to allow me to make radio contact with the gun batteries, my visitors bade me "Keep up the good work" before departing. All this had taken not more than 15 minutes; much to my own personal relief, since a good working 'rule of thumb', in vogue, was it took about 20 minutes for any possible target to spark a response from enemy gunfire.

The engagement of the target went like a dream. Starting my task with the 8in gun, the two ends of the visible section of the target were first blocked and then the intervening remainder of the trench was cratered at about 25-30 yard intervals along its length. Then it was the turn of the 240mm gun. Each shell

burst gave a crater that was about 30 feet across, with outer walls of spoil about 5 feet above surface level, so that even those bursts a little off-line still caused considerable damage. Some 500-plus yards of the trench had been totally destroyed, thanks largely to the accuracy of the gunfire and the care taken by the US artillerymen in the gun laying. I was well pleased! With such a major section of trench completely blocked, any new enemy reinforcements entering that zone would have move over broken ground in full view of my OP.

Apart from the desultory enemy artillery shelling of Hills 121 and 111 during the afternoon (that seemed to me like the registration of selected targets) the remainder the early evening passed without further incidents. My team had started their nightly preparations leaving me on watch.

Suddenly at about 7.30pm my attention was caught by the sight of a few enemy soldiers well spread out and coming into view at the far end of the mouth of a wide re-entrant (valley) slightly below and in front of the destroyed trench. They were out of range of my heavy mortars but well in range of the Commonwealth Division's 25pdr guns. Within seconds, I had radioed 'Fire Orders' for an engagement by 16 Regiment RNZA for a 'battery target' (8 guns); the first shells arrived on the ground about 3 minutes later. Meanwhile, more and more enemy had come into my view and it became clear the target was now much bigger than a platoon sized patrol. As yet more appeared, it now seemed that a battalion-sized group or perhaps more had been caught in the open; all moving on foot, in open order, in a series of wide ranks (with 25-30 men, well spread out, in each rank). I now quickly cancelled the original battery target, replacing it by a series of 'Mike' (regimental) targets (24 guns), with at the same time a change in ammunition to the more appropriate HE airburst shell.

In the centre of the enemy's leading rank was the obvious leader, distinguishable by his size, and the large sturdy staff in his right hand. This he continuously brandished at his men, in his own personal battle with them, to ensure the advance continued with each man keeping his place and well up with the others. Following their leader's example, albeit fitfully, as more and more casualties thinned their ranks, the enemy advance continued for about another 10 or so minutes as their leader urged them on. Then, finally, the Chinese artillery responded to their plight and laid down a white smoke screen between me and the target that, as it built-up, denied me any further direct observation of the target. The final view I had, through the last rapidly closing gap in the screen, was of the leader, still urging his men onward. He was a brave, and lucky, man!

To continue the artillery harassment of the advancing enemy group, now hidden behind the screen, I was in the middle of sending new fire orders for a 'Sweep and Search fire-plan' when the end of the 'half time' break between the last night's battle, and that to come, was spectacularly signified. With a superbly executed 'time on target' engagement, the enemy artillery, using a large number of guns and mortars, put down a terrific neutralising barrage on Hills 121 and 111. In my previous 14 months in Korea, I had never before experienced anything like it. The concussion from the noise was numbing, the sunlight had gone, quenched by the thick pall of black dust from the myriad of exploding shells, above and around us.

We were in for a bad night! - But all that is now history!

DVA WEBSITE: NOMINAL ROLLS

This website combines Nominal Rolls: WW2, Korea, Vietnam, and First Gulf War. Again: Why no Malaya/Malaysia? View the website here: <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/home>

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This is the seventh edition of RINGO printed for free.

2ND BATTALION
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION, INC.



II

 NEW
MEMBERSHIP

 RENEW
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 NEW
ADDRESS

FULL NAME: _____ Tele: _____

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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: _____

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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 and 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	Package Deal 2	Package Deal 3	Package Deal 4
Polo shirt and Cap \$75.00 (save \$8.00)	Sports shirt and Cap \$75.00 (save \$8.00)	Polo shirt, Cap and Tie \$100.00 (save \$10.00)	Sports shirt, Cap and Tie \$100.00 (save \$10.00)

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 and/or merchandise.

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