



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)

OCTOBER 2017

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the October 2017 edition of RINGO. The year is moving quickly and our next major activity is the 2RAR Association reunion and AGM to be held at Tweed Heads 27-28 October 2017. More about that a bit later.



Well done lads!

I would like to congratulate 2RAR for taking out the Duke of Gloucester Cup this year ahead of 1 and 3RAR. As well, 2RAR took out the Sir Arthur MacDonal Trophy and the Ghurkha Trophy. Soldiers from 2RAR took both first place, Cpl Liam Kiernan and second place, Pte Tom Florence in the DSM Roche CSC Memorial Cup. An outstanding outcome!

2RAR was involved in the Talisman Sabre series of exercises held in June/July. The majority of field training activities took place in Shoalwater Bay Training Area. The exercise involved over 30,000 Australian and US Defence personnel.

With effect 15 October 2017, 2RAR will be restructured as an amphibious unit and the Battalion as we know it will be radically changed. The restructure will be marked by a parade on November 23 – the 69th anniversary of the Royal Australian Regiment. The Association will be represented at that activity.

The upgrade of the 2RAR element of the Phillip Island VVAA Museum is progressing slower than planned. The project team is continuing to liaise with the curator to ensure that the upgrade is ongoing. We have set aside \$3000 for this project.

The 2RAR Association Facebook Page has gained considerable momentum and is getting considerable exposure and I encourage all members to check it regularly as we continue to post items of interest on a regular basis.

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I courage members to keep an eye on the 2RAR website www.2rar-association.com.au for current as well as interesting information regarding the Association and Defence issues.

The 2RAR Association Annual Reunion will be held on 27-28 October 2017 at the Tweed Heads Services Club. Friday afternoon/evening: Meet & Greet; AGM at the Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL; Annual Commemoration at Chris Cunningham Park; & Annual Gettogether at 'Visions', Mantra resort. See details on page 7 (Calendar).

Finally, RSM Morris's tenure of 2+ years is coming to a close, Trent has always been supportive of the Association and he engendered a spirit of cooperation and camaraderie between the Battalion and the Association.

"Second to None"

Leo Van De Kamp
President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 2017

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of 2RAR Association, Inc is to be held at 0830 hours Saturday 28th October 2017 in the 'ANZAC Room', Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL Sub Branch, Level 1 Mantra Resort.

Apologies for those unable to attend the meeting should be addressed to: The Secretary at: 2rarsecretary@gmail.com; or PO Box 1097 Toombul Qld 4012.

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) Bn; 2RAR MTF-3; and all ranks currently serving in 2RAR/2RAR (AMPHIB).

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

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

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WARRIORS WHO HAVE MARCHED OUT

- 2389 Colonel Eric Harold Francis SMITH, DSO WW2 (Lt) 2nd/3rd AIB 2nd AIF Wewak, 4th AIB 2nd AIF, 67th AIB, 1RAR Korea 1952-53 (Maj) (MID), 2RAR Malaya 1960-1961 (Maj), 7RAR Vietnam (Lt Col) CO 1967-1968. Eric passed away in February 2017. Age: 92 years. Thanks, Greg Shannon
- 11936, 28860 Lance Corporal Walter Farquhar FORTUNE, AKA: Fortune, William Frederick. 1RAR Korea 1952-55, 2RAR Malaya 1955-57. Wally passed away on 2 July 2017 at Alstonville NSW. Age: 86+ years. Wally's funeral was held at West Ballina, NSW. We both served in C Coy 2RAR at one time; including Ex Sky High in 1963. Thanks Rev Graeme R Davis OAM CSM.
- 52833 Lieutenant Colonel Christopher John MAYHEW, 2RAR Vietnam (Spt Coy) 1970-71. Christopher has passed away and was buried in Perth on 25 July 2017. Age: 84+ years. The RAR Association (WA) mourn the passing of Lt Col Chris Mayhew. A good man gone to rest. Stand down in peace. Thanks, Don Cruden
- 6708445 Private Paul Blair YOUNG, WIA 2RAR Vietnam 1967. 11 PI (PI Sig) D Coy. Paul passed away on 2 July 2017 at Launceston Hospital, Tas. Age: 71+ years. Paul was an outstanding soldier, a good mate, a great bloke, and a decent human being. Paul was WIA on 28th August 1967 and was MEDEVAC home. Thanks, Gordon Hurford, Aub Terry
- 1400269 /14546 Warrant Officer Class 2 Neil Joseph KINNANE, 3RAR Korea 1952-53, 2RAR Malaya 1955-57, 4RAR Malaysia/Borneo (Sarawak) 1965-66, 4RAR Vietnam 1968-69, 1971, 2/4RAR 1973. Passed away peacefully 20 June 2017. Age: 86+ years. Rest in Peace.
- 2785126 Private Gregory Joseph (Doc) SATTLER, WIA 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68 (5PI B Coy; WIA: 7 Feb 68/TET). Sad news, our mate Greg Sattler passed away 12 July 2017. Age: 72+ years. Greg was very ill at the end. Funeral was held at Morpeth NSW. Thanks Pam Francis, Bob Devers, Neil Cromarty, Maitland National Service & Combined Forces Association.
- 4410748 Lance-Corporal Brian Kingsley HEATH, 4RAR Malaysia/Borneo (Sarawak) 1965-66, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68 (2 PI, A Coy). Sad news on the passing of Brian Heath on 18 July at Bribie Island, Qld. Age: 72+ years. Brian had a long fight with cancer. Funeral Service was held at Burpengary, Qld. Brian resided in Thailand, but returned to Australia this year.
- 2782951 Private Victor George SAYERS, 2RAR Vietnam 1967 D Coy, HQ 1ALSG 1968. Sad news of the recent passing of my good friend Victor at the Prince of Wales Hospital Sydney. Age: 71+ years. Vic was posted to D Coy 2RAR in April 1966, and later served with 1 ALSG Vung Tau (Jun-Dec). Vic was a prop forward representing 1 RTB 1st Grade, and likewise with 2RAR. Thanks, Aub Terry, Terry Dinneen
- 2784753 Private Denis ENRIGHT, 2RAR (WIA), 1ARU 1967, 2RAR 1967 11 PI, D Coy. Rocket incident. Denis Enright passed away on 9 August 2017. Age: 71+ years. Late of Mount Gravatt, Qld. The funeral was held at George Hartnett Chapel, Holland Park, QLD on Friday, 18th August 2017. Thanks Gordon Hurford, AM
- 4411104 Private Paul VANDERVINNE, HQ 1ALSG, 1ARU, 2RAR Vietnam 1967. The memorial service for Paul was held on 13 July 2017 in the Repatriation Hospital Chapel, 216 Daws Road, Daw Park, SA. Rest in Peace.

- 26278/214344 Corporal William John CLARK, AKA: Clark, Charles Frederick. DOB: (30 Mar 32) 2RAR Korea 1953-54, 2RAR Malaysia 1961-63 (Not confirmed), DOB: (28 Feb 37) 6RAR Vietnam 1966-67, AATTV 1970-71. Rest in Peace.
- 2/8628 Lance Corporal Ronald Wayne KING, 2RAR Malaya 1955-57, SASR. Sergeant RW King 2nd Class (Ret'd) NSW Police Service. Ron passed away peacefully on 30 July 2017. Age: 81+ Years. The funeral service was held at Minchinbury NSW on 7 August 2017. 'Who Dares Wins' Thanks Terry Dinneen
- 17783 Corporal John Matthew WOODWARD, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68, 1970-71. Sad news that Woody Woodward has passed away in Bundaberg, Qld. Age: 76+ years. Woody served the two tours with 2RAR; the latter as a transport corporal.



*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

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

MEMBERS' DRAW

Congratulations to Fred CLARK of Burpengary, Qld, winner of the Members' Draw held on 2 August 2017 who will receive the book: Afghanistan, Australia's War by Gary Ramage & Ian McPhedran, 2014. Drawn by Gordon Hurford. Fred served in: Korea 2RAR 1953-54, Vietnam 6RAR 1966-67, Vietnam AATTV 1970-71.

Congratulations also to Barry DOOLEY, of Frenchville, Qld who was the winner of the Members' Draw on 4 October 2017 who will receive the book: In Action with the SAS by David Horner/Neil Thomas, 2009. Drawn by Norm Devereux. Barry served in: 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) 1970-71.

This is the 9th year of the draw

DVA WEBSITE: NOMINAL ROLLS

This website combines Nominal Rolls: WW2, Korea, Vietnam, and First Gulf War.

Great news to come Nominal Rolls for the Malayan

Emergency & Indonesian Confrontation. See item on page 8.

View DVA website here: <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/home>

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

QUALITY OF GRAPHICS

We have been aware for some time of the poor quality of graphics & photographs in RINGO and we need to do something about it. We will discuss the related issues at the Wednesday 4th October meeting.

DISCLAIMER

We have in preparing this newsletter used our best endeavours to ensure that the information contained in this newsletter is true and accurate, but accept no responsibility and disclaim all liability in respect of any errors, omissions, inaccuracies, or misstatements contained in this newsletter.

THE BATTALION REPORT

There is no rest for the ladies and gents in black. After a brief reset, post Exercise Sea Raider, 2RAR switched its focus back to Joint Land Combat. The Battalion participating in Exercise BROLGA STRIKE at High Range Training Area with the rest of the Brigade. This was a great activity, with Battle Group (BG) SAMICHON having the opportunity to conduct realistic, high tempo, combined arms training in a formation setting and with an emphasis on night operations.



Cpl Liam Kiernan, 2RAR live-fire section attack at the Duke of Gloucester Cup, Singleton.

It included opposed BG sized urban assaults by day and night, enabling a very high level of infantry-tank integration and the development of some innovative urban TTPs/SOPs. BROLGA STRIKE 17 also included both mounted and dismounted tasks for 2RAR. Having been so heavily invested in the development of the amphibious capability in the preceding years, it was a great for the 2RAR to show that it had lost none of its traditional strengths and could function very effectively on land in a high threat environment. Importantly, 2RAR could establish strong relationships with other units in the 3rd Bde that would prove to be a combat multiplier in future activities.

The next big event for 2RAR was the long awaited and strategically significant Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 17. Forming the majority of Ground Combat Element and Pre-Landing Force components of the three ship ANZAC Amphibious Ready Group and falling under command of the Amphibious Task Group, 2RAR force concentrated at Samichon lines with a number of other enabling capabilities, including a Combat Team (CT) from 1RAR. The Joint Amphibious Task Force then sailed south, pausing to conduct a series of mission specific wet and dry rehearsals before entering the exercise area near Stanage Bay, north of Shoalwater Bay Training Area. The Amphibious Ready Unit sized amphibious landings conducted on D Day were the culmination of the five-year amphibious trial. The landings involved the insertion of recon, snipers, and other elements of the Pre-Landing Force from amphibious shipping; over 120 nautical miles ahead of the remainder of the Task Force. Functioning as the eyes and ears of the amphibious force, the reporting the Pre-Landing Force informed planning for the amphibious assault and it enabled a detailed understanding of the battle space prior to the assault. The information they provided supported the construction of detailed target packs for pre-H Hour shaping operations. During the period of darkness immediately prior to D Day, Security platoons and reconnaissance elements from the amphibious beach team, inserted by small boat to prepare and then open the beach landing sites just prior to H Hour. Also, immediately prior to H Hour, Mortar and Direct Fire Support Weapons Platoon were inserted to further isolate the objective. On H Hour and inserting via landing craft from the CANBERRA, Alpha Company conducted a surface assault to secure the key objective close to the beach landing site. Simultaneously, Bravo Company conducted an air mobile operation off the

CANBERRA to secure a secondary objective and 108 Battery, with support from Bravo Company conducted an Artillery Raid to establish a gun line in support of the assault. Over the next 24 hours the objectives of the assault were met and the remainder of 2RAR's combat power was brought ashore.

The amphibious assault successfully demonstrated to all Australians, our allies, partner nations and any potential adversaries that the ADF now has a credible amphibious capability. It was a credit to the Bn and the other components of the Amphibious Task Force that they could work together to achieve something not seen since WW2.



2RAR soldiers deploy from HMAS Adelaide on an LCM-8 landing craft during Ex Sea Explorer

Following on from the successful amphibious assault, 2RAR moved into Shoalwater Bay Training Area for the remainder of Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 17 as BG SAMICHON, one of the 3rd Brigade's key manoeuvre units. In a high tempo activity, without much respite and with a heavy emphasis for night operations, the Bn conducted a range of combined arms activities against a free-thinking enemy. Regardless of lead time and whether the task was a CT AMO, an all-night dismounted infiltration, a tactical move via PMV, and infantry-tank integrated urban assault, coalition operations alongside the USMC, 2RAR got the job done. It was great for the BN to get persistent exposure to capabilities normally reserved for operations such as attack aviation, UAVs, intelligence effects and the opportunity to work alongside key coalition partners. A high point was the Bde deliberate attack on the enemy main defensive position where 2RAR was the main effort. Screened by recon and snipers, BG SAMICHON infiltrated on foot through some tough terrain during a complete period of darkness. Alpha Company then destroyed an enemy security platoon in a dug-in defensive position. This allowing Direct Fire Support Weapons Platoon to establish a support by fire location for Bravo Company and Lucky Company from the Marine Rotational Force – Darwin to conduct a flanking attack onto the enemy's depth position, catching them by surprise. Particularly noteworthy were the efforts of the Direct Fire Support Weapons platoon who carried their .50 cal machine guns and ammunition (with support from Alpha Company) for over 12kms, at night, through some demanding vegetation and terrain. External feedback on the performance of 2RAR during Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 2017 was positive and the exercise was a great way for the unit to cap off a very busy six months.

The second half of the year was supposed to be a little less hectic but the Duke of Gloucester Cup competition, commitments to key international engagement activities, the planning and conduct of specialist courses, preparations for the transition into 2RAR (Amphib) and supporting 3rd Brigade's sporting competition have kept the Battalion busy. Led by CPL Liam Kiernan, 2RAR's victorious DoG Cup team represented the Battalion incredibly well, achieving great outcomes in the face of some very strong competition from the rest of the RAR.

At the end of a demanding course, the 2RAR team was awarded the DoG Cup itself, the Macdonald Trophy as the best Section in foundation warfighting and the Ghurkha Trophy as the best Section for overall shooting. The team was placed second in the OSCMAR Trophy for best endurance. CPL Kiernan received the RSM's award as the champion section commander and he and Pte Tom Florence finished first and second respectively in the DSM Roche CSC Memorial Cup for the best individual soldier.



2RAR soldiers deploy from an LCM-8 landing craft at Cowley Beach during Ex Sea Explorer

Especially pleasing was the fact that the team included representatives from Alpha, Bravo, and Support Company and that they carried themselves as quiet professionals throughout. An impressive effort that has enhanced the reputation of 2RAR, the efforts of our 2017 DoG Cup team reflects very well on all members of the Bn.

The professionalism, dedication, and mission focus of the Bn's junior leaders have been the hallmarks of 2RAR's success this year. This has been repeatedly reinforced, with 2RAR also winning the Bde Obstacle Course competition and 2RAR achieving a gold medal in the 3rd Brigade's International Military Skills Competition. Led by CPL Thompson-Seagraves and CPL Marc Ford respectively, both these teams came together at short notice and had limited preparation time, yet had no problems getting the job done to a high standard.

As we move into October the Battalion's focus will be the continued support to B Coy who are currently completing a Rifle Company Butterworth rotation and will be due home at the start of December. They are doing extremely well with positive feedback provided from a number of external sources. A Company will complete Exercise Wantok Warrior with the Papua New Guinea Defence force from 2-30 Oct 17. The Company have worked hard to ensure they provide safe and realistic training. Support Company is focused on the conduct of the full suite of Support Company Courses to ensure the Battalion maintains a solid depth of experience going forward into the transition.

Speaking of the transition, 2RAR will transition from 3 Brigade to the 1st Division WEF 15 Oct 17. They will see 2RAR conduct the Pre-Landing Force role of the Australian Amphibious Force. We will still be an Infantry Battalion. The soldiers and NCO's have come up with some excellent ideas to ensure that the traditions and lineage are maintained with the founding four rifle companies and I will explain the detail in a subsequent article. As the Battalion is currently spread to the "four winds" we will celebrate the transition with a ceremonial activity 1730 h 23 Nov 17 at Samichon Lines 'invitations in the mail'.

Overall it has been an extremely busy year with more to come. I am continually impressed with the quiet confidence and

humility displayed by our people, who are extremely deserving of the Battalion's motto 'Second to None'.

CO: LTCOL Douglas Pashley
RSM: WO1 Trent Morris

AMPHIBIOUS TRANSITION

2RAR soldiers are transitioning to a leaner, more agile structure providing specialist effects for the Australian Amphibious Force.



2RAR soldiers off the coast of North Queensland to determine its readiness to conduct amphibious operations.

As part of Plan Keogh, 2RAR will shift from Forces Command to come under command of HQ 1 Div/DJFHQ as a specialist amphibious infantry battalion from October 15. CO 2RAR Lt-Col Doug Pashley said the unit would restructure as a BHQ and three sub-units to generate a "pre-landing force" for the Amphibious Task Group on a "readying" and "ready" basis.

"It's an exciting time for 2RAR, building on the amphibious trial and being given the opportunity to establish a world-class amphibious unit optimised for pre-landing force operations," he said. "Working as part of a joint team, 2RAR (Amphib) will be the eyes and ears of Australia's amphibious force, specialising in the use of small boats and the conduct of reconnaissance, surveillance and sniping in a littoral¹ environment.

"They will be aiming to provide the landing force with a detailed understanding of the environment they are about to step into. "2RAR (Amphib) will be responsible for securing beach and helicopter landing sites in support of an amphibious landing, and will be key to enabling the landing force to come ashore and complete its mission." Additionally, 2RAR will provide training support to the combat brigades as the role of the amphibious ground combat element rotates through Army. Furthermore, there will be new opportunities for the ARES to contribute.

"As a key player in the amphibious trial, 2RAR made an important contribution to the evolution of the joint amphibious capability," Lt-Col Pashley said. The restructure will see 2RAR focus on specialist amphibious skills while still retaining the ability to act as a conventional infantry battalion when required, and the reduced unit establishment allows soldiers with amphibious experience to be shared across Army. "The transition is a great opportunity to harness the total force to integrate reservists and ex-serving ARA personnel into our establishment so that we can generate both infantry and amphibious capability," Lt-Col Pashley said.

The restructure will be marked by a parade on November 23 – the 69th anniversary of the Royal Australian Regiment. "We want to use the parade to recognise the change to 2RAR but also to acknowledge the hard work and dedication that all ranks and all corps have made to develop Army's amphibious capability," Lt-Col Pashley said.²

¹ Littoral: relating to or situated on the shore of the sea or a lake.

² Army News September 7, 2017: Edition 1404; page 8.

VALE: COLONEL ERIC HF SMITH, DSO

Colonel Eric H. Smith graduated from a two-year course at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in December 1944, aged nineteen. He joined the 2/3rd Australian Infantry Battalion (2nd AIF) in July 1945 and was a platoon commander at Wewak. Later that year he was posted to the 4th Australian Infantry Battalion (AIF) for a short time before being posted to the 67th Australian Infantry Battalion, the predecessor of 3RAR, as one of its original members.



He served in Korea with 1RAR, become the senior instructor at the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, in 1953 and was selected to attend the Army Staff College at Camberley, UK, in 1956.

He served as a major in 1RAR and 2RAR in Malaya and in Australia in the Citizens Military Forces and in training staff positions before being tasked to raise and command 7RAR.

He was the only commanding Officer of an Australian infantry battalion in Vietnam who had had commissioned active service in World War II.

Colonel Smith was awarded Mentioned in Dispatches (MID) for his service with 1RAR in Korea and was awarded a Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his service in Vietnam as Commanding Officer of 7RAR.

Rest in Peace Eric.

ANZAC DAY 25 APRIL 2017: AYRES ROCK

From the program: The Unknown Soldier

Gay Carter gave me this program. She was on a trip to Central Australia and went to Ayers Rock on Anzac Day 2017 - to the Dawn Service, about 200 people attended it, with a lot from New Zealand. Gay is the widow of Maj Bill Carter, OC B Coy Vietnam 1967-68; Kiwi Gibbons was CSM.

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

By Helen E Simpson, ©2002 (First stanza)

*Sound the bugle, herald the dawn
As we stand united remembering one mourn
When so long ago our nations young men
Fought on foreign shores – never returning again
On a whistle blast that strove for the beach
Many lives perished before safety was reached
There – bullets whizzed and cannons boomed
And shrapnel carved her fatal wounds
Weapons fell from suntanned hands
Crimson lifeblood seeped into coastal sands
And for those whom by their maker were met
We remember them now – Lest we forget*

*Margaret Gibbons, OAM
The Gap, Qld*

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

A warm welcome to new members:

Darryl Kellett	Jimboomba, Qld	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) 1967-68
Mick Cox	Legana, Tas	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) 1967-68
Robert Brown	Hoopers Crossing, Vic	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) 1967-68

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2ND/4TH BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

Correction: 2RAR RINGO July 2017 edition; page 8. In the extract below WO1 K.A. Hall, was recorded as RSM 2RAR instead of RSM 2/4RAR. *The source has been amended. Ed.*

During the lead up to the formation of 2/4RAR, 2RAR was commanded by LTCOL J.A. Sheldrick with RSM 2RAR being WO1 C.H. Swinbourn (1971-73).

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 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.

HUMOR: THAT'S FUNNY!

A Telephone Repairman Joins the Army

A telephone repair man joined the Army. As part of his basic training, he went out on the rifle range. He fired 99 shots at the target, and missed the target with every shot! His Drill Instructor tried to find out why.

"What's the matter with you?" shouted the DI. "Why can't you hit the target? What were you in civilian life?"

"I was a telephone repair man," replied the new recruit, "and I don't know why I can't hit the target. Let me see ..."

The man checked his rifle, checked his rifle again, and checked his rifle a third time. He then put his finger in front of the muzzle, pulled the trigger, and blew the end of his finger off!

"Well," the phone man said, writhing in pain, "the bullets are leaving here fine. The trouble must be on the other end!"

DUKE OF GLOUCESTER CUP RESULTS

Duke of Gloucester Cup³

1st – 2RAR, 2nd – 1RAR, 3rd – 7RAR, 4th – 3RAR, 5th – 8/9RAR, 6th – 6RAR, 7th – 5RAR.

Sir Arthur MacDonald Trophy

(best section in foundation warfighting)

1st – 2RAR, 2nd – 1RAR, 3rd – 3RAR.

Ghurkha Trophy

(best section for overall shooting)

1st – 2RAR, 2nd – 5RAR, 3rd – 1RAR.

Royal Ulster Rifles Trophy

(best falling plate shooting result)

1st – 6RAR, 2nd – 8/9RAR, 3rd – 3RAR.

OSCMAR Trophy

(best endurance)

1st – 1RAR, 2nd – 2RAR, 3rd – 8/9RAR.

DSM Roche CSC Memorial Cup

(best individual soldier)

1st – Cpl Liam Kiernan (2RAR)

2nd – Pte Tom Florence (2RAR)

SAMICHON DAY 2017: SYDNEY

Commemorating the Battle of the HOOK 24/25 July 1953 at ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney NSW.

Thought you may like to hear how the Service went. I was very pleased to meet Mike Lee from Castle Hill Sub Branch and I understand he has sent you a couple of pictures.

We were blessed with a cold clear sunny day for the Service which was attended by about twelve brave souls, a few more not being able to attend due to medical appointments, illness and advancing years taking their toll. I managed to conduct the Service not as well as Gus Breen for sure but to the best of my ability.

If there is any 2nd Batt member capable of doing this next year and willing to do so I would be most happy to assist. We are all in our mid-80s, myself included.

We do get a lot of help from Mrs Belinda Mitrovitch the Senior Events Co-ordinator at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park.

I attach a copy of the Programme.

Mick Kohlhoff

HELP: 2RAR VIETNAM BOOK 1970-71

I am ex-6RAR 1975 and currently live in Vung Tau, Vietnam.

Recently Geoff Fallis (2RAR) brought with him his copy of The ANZAC Battalion 1970-71 edition; edited by Maj. AR Roberts. We had a great reproduction done. Unfortunately, I gave Geoff's book to the wrong person, who is also ex-2RAR.

Can you put this post out so that Geoff can have his book returned. His name is on the jacket on the inside front page: Cpl Geoffrey Robert FALLIS, AACC 2RAR (ANZAC) Bn 1970. If you can help, contact Glenn Nolan below:

Email: nolanglenn@yahoo.com.au

HUMOR: THAT'S FUNNY!

And the same to you ...

A general and a captain walking down the street passed a number of soldiers, and each time one of them saluted the officers, the captain saluted back and said, "The same to you."

"Why do you always say that?" the general asked the captain.

"I used to be a private, too," said the captain, "and I know just what they are thinking."

ROYAL ULSTER RIFLES TROPHY

History of Design

The sterling silver dish forming the main part of the RUR Trophy is called an Armada dish, and is a replica of a piece of an original service of silver made over 350 years ago. Silver taken from the Spanish Armada was used to make a Banqueting service for Sir Christopher Harris in the reign of Elizabeth I.

The original service was of 22 dishes of varying sizes, bearing the arms of Sir Christopher Harris and the London Hall-marks for the years 1581, 1599, 1600 and 1601. During the civil war, about the year 1645, the service was buried on Dartmoor in order to avoid seizure by the Parliamentary troops as the owner at that period (a great-nephew of the original owner) held a command in the Royal Forces at Plymouth. The service was discovered early in the present century when a workman put his pick through one of the dishes.

This interesting and attractive piece of silver has been faithfully reproduced from the original, even to the characteristically staggered hall-marks. It has many uses and its story is a link with the common history of all the English-speaking peoples.

Inaugural Presentation: 5RAR

5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment
Inauguration Parade and Church Service
on the occasion of

The Raising of the Battalion
at GALLIPOLI BARRACKS
at 1000 hrs. 5th November 1965.

Presentation of Royal Ulster Rifles Trophy

1st Battalion, The Royal Ulster Rifles (83rd and 86th) have presented a trophy to the Australian Army for Annual Small Arms competition between the battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment 1965 being the first year of the competition. 5th Battalion the Royal Australian have won the trophy for 1965. Following the presentation of medals, the Minister for the Army will present the trophy to the Commanding Officer, Lt Col JA Warr, who will receive it on behalf of the battalion.

BRIGADIER CHRISTOPHER FIELD AM, CSC

Brigadier Chris Field (CO 1RAR 2003-5, PI Comd/MLO 2/4RAR, Coy Comd/OPSO 2RAR): NORTH Queensland's most senior Australian Defence Force officer will farewell Townsville shortly to take up a position in the US that oversees operations in the Middle East.

Commander 3rd Brigade Chris Field, who took on Townsville's top army job in late 2015, is expected to move to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, in November where he will begin as the next United States Central Command's deputy director of operations in December.

Brig Field will be promoted to the rank of major-general and will follow in the footsteps of Major-General Shane Caughey. General Caughey served with 2/4RAR: 1983-87, 1993-95.

HUMOR: THAT'S FUNNY!

Two Veterans

Two veterans were boasting to each other about their old army days. "Why, my outfit was so well drilled," declared one, "that when they presented arms all you could hear was slap, slap, click."

"Very good," conceded the other, "but when my company presented arms you'd just hear slap, slap, jingle."

"What was the jingle?" asked the first.

"Oh," replied the other off-hand, "just our medals."

³ The Duke of Gloucester Cup was created by Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, in 1946, while serving as the Governor-General of Australia.

'VIETNAM' – BLACK DAY

That war was hell over there you know,
I volunteered, I wanted to go,
We searched the jungles fearfully slow,
but for all that some of us would go,
I had the fear it might be me,
I hoped I'd never know you see.

Tread carefully now there's mines about,
The V.C. came and dug ours out,
Then buried them in the ground again,
Lives were lost, a waste of good men.

There were two who were taken away,
In the early hours of that August day,
And other mates on February tenth,
Died instantly in the offensive called TET.

In '67 on 28 September,
A day Delta Company will always remember,
Laughing and joking we trooped out of the camp,
To watch the yank choppers make their stamp,
To fire rockets over our heads,
To feel more of the war without being dead.

At the choppers third pass it happened this way,
Three rockets came out, but one went astray,
I watched and could see by its line,
It would never get over our mates in time,
In slow motion it sailed through the air,
A prayer, a prayer we could only stare,
It came in far too low,
Our mates would get hit, some would never know,
As it struck our men I immediately knew,
It would be a black day for the D Company platoons.

Three good men died on that terrible day,
another lost his legs when shrapnel splayed,
Many were wounded by hot metal flying,
And never forgotten, the sound of men crying.

Pte MJ (Mick) Hollow (10 PI D Coy)
Balhannah, SA

DAYLE WILLIAM MORRISON

Rob EADE recently travelled from Cessnock NSW to present a small hand-held Flag in memory of Dayle Morrison (1732186) at the Maleny Qld RSL Sub Branch Memorial Hall on Friday 28 July. Dayle was killed in action, age 22, during Operation Coburg, in Bien Hoa province, on 26 January 1968.

Dayle Morrison was born in Maleny on 12 August 1945. He is buried in Brisbane. We have been trying to locate family members but with no success to date. We now know that Dayle has links with Maleny. He is buried at the Queensland Garden of Remembrance within the Pinnaroo Lawn Cemetery at Bridgeman Downs, Qld.

Official Commemoration: Garden of Remembrance, QLD
Commemoration Position: Wall 3 - Row E

HUMOR: THAT'S FUNNY!

Battle Cry!

A British General is addressing a company of Australian troops just before a battle during WWI, trying to rouse their fighting spirit. "Did you come here to die?" he yells. From the back a laconic Aussie voice calls back: "No mate, we came here yester-die." Much laughter.

But the general persists, finishing with a rousing cry, "Onward to victory!" The battle commences. Half an hour later, an urgent message reaches him. It reads:

"We've advanced as far as we can, but can't find Victory. It isn't on any of our maps. Need further instructions."

CALENDAR 2017

Date	Event	Location
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: Where old mates reunite	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
15 Oct	2RAR (Amphib) 2017	Townsville, Qld
16 Oct	2RAR Birthday 1945 (72nd 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: 'Visions', ground floor "Mates, Memories, & Camaraderie"	Mantra Resort, Tweed Heads, NSW
11 Nov	Remembrance Day	Local arrangements
23 Nov	RAR Birthday 1948 (69th Anniversary)	Hiro, Japan

ABOUT: ROBIN EADE

As a Private soldier cook in Vietnam (1969-70), two of Robin Eade's close friends died, one on his last day of duty.

Inspired by American Mike Ehredt, who jogged over 4,000 miles across the US stopping every mile to place an American flag to honour the fallen, Mr Eade said the journey across the country was his way to pay his respects. "He inspired me." At 11:00am on a Monday a small band of returned servicemen gathered to welcome Mr Eade at the Cross of Sacrifice.

Mr Eade quietened them down and then said his piece, placed the flag, and finished with "See ya, cobber". With a tip of his hat and a farewell to the locals, Mr Eade hit the road again.

As the enormous trike roars off down the main street, Mr Eade moves on his way to another town, another serviceman, and another story. *Edited extract. Ed.*

THE KURE BELL

I recently visited the 2RAR Museum at Lavarack Barracks Townsville and the curator showed me this brass plaque (See photo below) that is pinned to a board in the museum. The museum staff have no knowledge of the Kure Bell.



Questions: Is there actually a bell that was "acquired" as the plaque states? Does anyone have any knowledge of the bell? Where is the bell? Are there any photos of the bell? What is the story behind the "acquiring" of the bell, and what is its significance?

Heaps of questions but so far, no answers.

Dr James Wood wrote about the Australian Military contribution to the occupation of Japan 1945-1952. In his synopsis he wrote,

"On 13 February 1946, Australian troops, the vanguard of a 37,000-strong British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF), disembarked at the war-devastated Japanese port city of Kure, almost four years to the day (15 February 1942) after Singapore, the bastion of the British Empire in the Far East, surrendered to the Japanese Army. At its peak, there were some 12,000 Australians serving in BCOF. "

Can anyone help further please?

Gordon Hurford, AM
Secretary

GREGORY JOSEPH 'DOC' SATTLER: 5 PLATOON

There was a big turnout by the local community and veterans for Doc Sattler's send off. Over 300 attended including: Eric & Jane Pearson, Bob & Maree Wickes, Rick & Faye Brittain, Pauline Cummins & daughter Michelle, Pam Francis, Cathy Kent (Frank Kehoe's partner), Norm Devereux, Barry Lancaster, Pauline & Bob Devers, and Bob Topping (5 Pl). In addition, Ian Atkinson (4 Pl) and Heather attended; and there may have been other ex-B Coy there also.

The service amplified the personality of Doc as we knew him, and the very close connection he had with his family. Narelle appreciated our presence and the flowers from 5 Pl.

Rest in Peace 'Doc'.

Bob Devers
Kilsyth, Vic

HUMOR: THAT'S FUNNY!

The Admiral

The sailor rushed up to his executive officer in great excitement. He stammered and stuttered. His exec lost patience with him and shouted, "Sing it out, sailor, sing it out!"

The sailor drew a deep breath and sang:

"Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And ne'er brought to mind?
The Admiral's fallen overboard -
He's half a mile behind."

SNIPPETS

- On 25th Aug 1967 Tim Cutcliffe stepped on an M16 mine which ended his short life. On 25th August 2017 at Orange NSW a small group of family, friends and comrades gathered at his gravesite to remember him; 50 years on. His parents are in the grave beside him. Father Murphy conducted the Service which concluded with those attending singing 'Wings of a Dove' and proved beyond doubt that we need more singing practice. Thanks Terry Dinneen
- Appointment as CEO RSL-SA: Corey Starkey. My time at 2RAR was a short stay. I served in 2 Pl, A Coy from 1999-2001. I will get my membership form back to you by the end of the week. Thanks, Mal Allen 2RAR (SA)
- This is to let you know that Pat Malone's widow Betty, was recently robbed in her house at Julie Creek, FNQ. The thieves took everything from her cabinets and a lot of other stuff. But, Betty was very lucky, she was asleep and was left undisturbed. She had taken Pat's medals to the eldest son (2RAR Korea 1953-54). This poor widow cannot read or write. Thanks Kevin 'Dasher' Dean, OAM

2RAR MUSEUM: OFFICE HOURS

Contact: 2RAR Museum

WO2 John Ferguson
john.ferguson@defence.gov.au

PTE Jake Krzinski
jake.krzinski@defence.gov.au

Office: (07) 4411 1370

Hours of operation: 0900hrs to 1200hrs

Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

NOMINAL ROLLS: MALAYAN EMERGENCY & INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION

I was looking at Ringo – the Association newsletter for July 2017. It was mentioned that DVA do not hold a nominal roll for the Malayan Emergency. This is just a quick email to let you know that the Australian War Memorial's Research Centre has commenced creating a nominal roll for Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation.

I am working with two volunteers: (Lt) Robert J Fletcher who served with 2RAR in Malaya between 1955 and 1957 and Roland Torrens who served in the Indonesian Confrontation with the British. The project has managed to source authoritative records from Defence for the project.

We have now catalogued the source records and are currently digitising and indexing them - they will form the basis of the data. The project is new and I don't have a completion data yet.

However, I will be releasing the data related to the nominal roll progressively to the website as we finish each file.

Robyn van Dyk
Head, Research Centre
robyn.van-dyk@awm.gov.au
02 6263 6678 | f 02 6243 4545

Australian War Memorial
GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601
www.awm.gov.au

This is very good news! Our sole reference being: 'Mostly Unsung' by Lt Col Neil Smith, AM 1989 Malayan War 1948-1960 (Signed by Lt Col Smith). We have been stymied for post-1960 service. This will take the guess work out of the equation. Ed.

PROUD HISTORY OF 2RAR

THE 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, was first formed as the Australian 66th Battalion in 1945. It has deployed to some of Australia's most significant engagements, including the Occupation of Japan, the Korean War, the Malayan Emergency, and the Vietnam War. As part of the post-Vietnam War reduction of the Australian Army, 2RAR was combined with 4RAR between August 15, 1973 and February 1, 1995 as the 2nd/4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

A Major, 2 Corporals and a Baggy-arse!



L-R: Cpl Bob Pink, Cpl Danny Morgan, Maj John Knell (OC D Coy), Pte Rick Hollingdrake (Worn ranks 1967)

In more recent times, the battalion has participated in operations in Rwanda, East Timor (Timor-Leste) and the Solomon Islands. It contributed rifle companies to the security force protecting the Australian Embassy in Baghdad, following the 2003 invasion of Iraq. In May 2006, 2RAR's headquarters, support company and a rifle company deployed to Iraq as part of the third rotation of the Al Muthanna Task Group.

From September 2007 to May 2008, elements of the battalion deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Slipper. The Combat Team conducted five major operations during its deployment, expanding the ISAF and ANSF's permanent influence in the Chora Valley and into the Baluchi Pass.

THE ANZAC BATTALION: 1967-68

Thoughts in Ambush (Written by John)

Here we are – lousy place
Bet there's rocks in my bed space
Looks as though it's gonna pour
Bloke'll be wet to-night for sure.
Eight hours here without a leak
Not allowed to move or speak
Flamin' mossies screamin' round
Cheeze I hate that hummin' sound
Water seeping through me strides
Bull ants feeding on both me sides
Cripes, I wouldn't mine a smoke
The things that they deny a bloke
Now I want a drink of water
Wish me mum had had a daughter
Then I'd be safe at home
Not out here like a galah instead

RE-PRINT: THE ANZAC BATTALION 1967-68

From: Major General A. Clunies-Ross, AO, MBE
Colonel Commandant
Regimental Headquarters
Lone Pine Barracks
Singleton, NSW
29 August 1995

To: Lieutenant Colonel R.G. Wilson
Commanding Officer
2nd Battalion
The Royal Australian Regiment

I am very pleased to be asked to write the Foreword to this re-printing of the 2RAR's tour in South Vietnam from May 1967 to June 1968. The fact that this valuable record of operational service is being re-printed demonstrates the continuous and growing interest in 2RAR's contribution to the Army and to the nation by members of the battalion both passed and present.

The recent un-linking of 2RAR from 4RAR has focussed attention on the battalion's service and it is fitting that this re-printing coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of the raising of 2RAR's parent unit the 66 Australian Infantry Battalion, at Labuan in October 1945.

As one of the three original battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment, 2RAR has a long and distinguished record of operational service in Korea, Malaya and South Vietnam. This book tells the story of the Battalion's first tour in South Vietnam, when with the addition of two companies of New Zealand infantrymen, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) took part in twenty three operations in Phuoc Tuy and Bien Hoa Provinces. During this time the battalion together with the remainder of the Australian Task Force had to withstand the full weight of the Tet offensive, which it did successfully. By June 1968 the battalion had an enviable operational record and had contributed significantly to stabilising the situation in Phoc Tuy Province.

This book tells the story of courage and professionalism by an Australian battalion at war, together with the lighter aspects of operational service which are always well remembered by those who took part in them.

I commend the battalion's initiative in arranging the re-printing, knowing that it will prove of interest to a wide readership, but particularly to the present and future members of 2RAR.

8RAR (CO): Vietnam: 17 Nov 1969 to 05 Nov 1970

THE ANZAC BATTALION: 1970-71

There is No War in Vietnam (Written by a NSM)

Take a man and put him alone
Put him 6,000 miles from home
Empty his heart of all but blood
Make him live in sweat and mud
You boys protest in freedom there
But you don't know what it's like up here
You burn your draft cards, march at dawn
Plant your signs on Parliament's lawn
You all want to ban the bomb
There is no war in Vietnam!

Use your head and have your fun
Why should you have to carry a gun?
If there's nothing else for me to do
Am I supposed to die for you?
Today I heard my tent-mate cry
I saw his arm – a bloody shred
I heard them say 'this one is dead'
It's a pretty heavy price to pay
Not to live another day
He bought my life by giving his
But who cares what a soldier gives
There is no war in Vietnam!

SILVER SOLDIER WENT TO WAR

In David Hatton's time as RSM 2RAR (2006-08), Jimmy Ringo was simply referred to as the Silver Soldier and was located in the Officers Mess. The Keeper of the Silver Soldier was the responsibility of the Senior Subbie (LT) - under close supervision of the ADJT.

Background to the Silver Soldiers Operational Deployment to Iraq.



In 2006 the 2nd Bn led the Al Muthanna Task Group 3 (AMTG No 3) .

This was a battlegroup (Bn size) that formed Australia's main ground force contribution to the Multinational force in Iraq. Located at Camp Smitty in Al Muthanna.

The Silver Solider deployed on Operations to Iraq as part of AMTG 3. The ADJT - (or referred to as the Battle Captain) at the time (Capt Mick Bassingthwaite) who later commanded the Bn. The ADJT was tasked by the then CO - LTCOL Mick Mahy to ensure the Silver Solider was ready to deploy and arrive safely in country, and was to be then located in the CO's Bunker / Office.

The AMTG was made up of around 450 personnel and consisted of:

Task Group Headquarters - 2RAR

a cavalry squadron - 2/14QMI

an infantry company - 2RAR

support company - 2RAR

a training team (on 6-month deployments)- predominately 2RAR combat service supporting (CSS) elements - 2RAR Admin company, 6RAR platoon, 3 Brigade and 1 Div specialists

The AMTG was established in April 2005 and ceased to exist in July 2006 when the 2RAR led Australian force was relocated to Dhi Qar Governorate and changed its name and role as Overwatch Battle Group (West).

The Overwatch Battle Group (West) was an Australian Army battlegroup that represented Australia's largest contribution to the Multinational force in Iraq. The Battle Group was established in July 2006 and was based at Tallil Airbase in Dhi Qar Governorate. Upon its formation Overwatch Battle Group (West) consisted of units which were previously assigned to the third, and final, rotation of the Al Muthanna Task Group, following the handover of Camp Smitty to Iraqi Forces in July 2006.

The Battle Group formed part of Multi-National Division (South-East). An additional 38 personnel and four Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles were deployed in late 2006 to increase the size of the force to over 500 soldiers supported by 40 ASLAVs and 19 Bushmasters.

The Camp the Overwatch Battle Group occupied was first established by the CSS Company elements, and occupied by the remainder of the Battle Group after a tactical withdrawal and relocation of the remainder of the Battle Group from Camp Smitty.

Again, the operational redeployment of the Silver Soldier was the sole responsibility of the ADJT. And the Silver Soldiers new home became the CO's "Donga" / Office - some 15 meters from the Battle Group Command Post with the RSM residing on top of the CO's donga / office in one of his own.

The CO - LTCOL Mick Mahy named the new Camp - Camp Terendak recognising 2RARs second tour of Malaya when it joined the 28th Brigade again, this time at Camp Terendak

near Malacca in October 1961.

Total Australian strength in southern Iraq rose to over 500 personnel.

Overwatch Battle Group (West)'s main role was to provide support to Iraqi Security Forces in a crisis if requested by the Iraqi Government and the Multi-National Force – Iraq. Whilst it was never called upon to act in this role, the Battle Group did conduct combat and security operations within the cities of An Nasiriyah and As Samawah, the provincial capitals of Dhi Qar and Al Muthana respectively, extensive patrolling within rural areas and on Main Supply Routes (MSRs) to counter the indirect fire and improvised explosive device threat, training and mentoring of the Iraqi Army and Police, support to strike operations undertaken by United States Special Forces, and construction and re-construction work. The Battle Group's training team was responsible for providing basic training to Iraqi Army personnel at the Basic Training Centre in Tallil.

During our rotation of the deployment, the battle group took part in a number of engagements, including the Battle of Al Rumaythah, which occurred on 26 September 2006.

Prelude

At 09:00 on 26 September 2006 a force consisting of a 60-man element from OBG(W) arrived at the Iraqi Army barracks in Al Rumaythah to conduct a meeting with local stakeholders and to co-ordinate the training of Iraqi police and the reconstruction of the barracks itself. The group comprised infantry from 2RAR mounted in Bushmaster PMVs and cavalry from 2/14 LHR (QMI) mounted in ASLAVs, and was under the command of Major Andrew Stevens. In 2006 Al Rumaythah was a city of 75,000 people and had a reputation for violence and given the threat the Australians deployed snipers in over-watch positions around the barracks, as well as an infantry platoon. Nearby two cavalry ready-reaction groups were on standby, in addition to the Battle Group 2RAR led HQ Tac.

The Battle

As the meeting commenced small groups of armed men were observed conducting surveillance of the Australian positions. During the next hour insurgents gathered throughout the town and soon after 1100 a rocket-propelled grenade was fired. The insurgents were moving in small groups through the town and appeared to be trying to encircle the barracks in order to conduct a deliberate assault and destroy the Australian force. For the next hour the barracks were attacked with grenades and small arms fire from ranges between 200 metres to 300 metres.

In response snipers engaged the insurgents whilst the platoon to the west of the barracks held its ground. Support from USAF F-16s was requested and they were used to fly low and fast over the insurgents in an attempt to distract them.



Pte Matthew Nixon (centre) 2RAR, weaves through concrete poles during the obstacle course activity in the DoG Cup.

Covered by the Combat Team (A Company) party subsequently left the barracks in Bushmasters, still under heavy fire. Although attempting to prevent the withdrawal the insurgents failed to flank the barracks to the north and south and by 12:15 the Force had successfully broken contact and left Al Rumaythah.

During the fighting the Battle Group used the standard suite of infantry weapons including the F-88 Austeyr and F-89 Minimi LSW, well as MAG-58 MGs and sniper rifles. The ASLAV and Bushmaster vehicles played a crucial role in protecting the soldiers and allowing them to break contact safely. Indirect fires and Close Air Support had been available during the contact, however the decision was made not to escalate the situation due to the proximity of civilians. The soldiers had withdrawn in a disciplined manner and had put themselves at considerable risk to ensure the safety of civilians, whilst applying their fire in a careful and controlled manner.

The Aftermath

The Australians suffered no casualties, while insurgent casualties were difficult to determine. A number of insurgents were observed to have been hit by Australian fire, and at least one source claims that five were killed. Up to 30 insurgents were believed to have been involved in the battle, however their identity—for example whether they were Sunnis or Shia religious groups, or al-Qaida—was unable to be determined. The balaclava-clad insurgents were dressed mainly in black and armed with AK-47s and grenade launchers. Regardless, they were said to have fought in a well-coordinated manner and had used considerable firepower against the Australians. After the battle, it was claimed that the insurgents had used civilians as a shield from Australian fire. Despite this there were no reports of civilian casualties after the incident. Two of the Australian infantry section commanders were later awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for coordinating a successful fighting withdrawal over 250 metres of open ground.

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.

WELL DONE RSM 2 BN & FAREWELL

Regimental Sergeant Major Trent Morris

Warrant Officer Class One Trent Morris was born in Orange NSW, educated in Bowral NSW and enlisted in the Army in 1991. His service has been spent in Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

On completion of his Initial Employment Training, he was posted to the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment. During the next nine years he served as a Rifleman, Section Second-in-Command, Section Commander and completed several special courses. In 1999, Warrant Officer Morris deployed to East Timor as part of the Battalion commitment to INTERFET as a Section Commander in C Company.

In 2001, Warrant Officer Morris was posted to the Parachute Training School where he served as an Instructor in Training Wing. During his posting to the Parachute Training School, he instructed students in both the free fall and static line parachute techniques. Warrant Officer Morris was promoted to Sergeant in January 2002. In 2004, Warrant Officer Morris was posted again to the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in the dual capacity as the Regimental Police and Air Operations Sergeant. Warrant Officer Morris was a Platoon Sergeant in A Company in 2005, and he deployed to Iraq with SECDET IX in 2006 as a Platoon Sergeant in C Company.

In January 2007, Warrant Officer Morris was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two and posted to the 51st Battalion, The Far North Queensland Regiment. He served for two years in the capacity of Company Sergeant Major A Company. He enjoyed the diversity and the autonomy that the posting provided, and it made for a rewarding two years.

In 2009, Warrant Officer Morris was posted back to the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment. He completed Company Sergeant Major appointments with Administration, B, and Support Companies. In 2011, Warrant Officer Morris deployed to Afghanistan on Operation SLIPPER with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment as part of Mentoring Task Force 3.

In 2012 Warrant Officer Morris was posted as a Small Group Instructor within First Class at the Royal Military College Duntroon.

In 2013, Warrant Officer Morris was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One, and took up his appointment as the Regimental Sergeant Major at the 2nd 17th Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment. Warrant Officer Morris was appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on 1 July 2015.

Warrant Officer Morris's honours and awards include the Return from Active Service Badge, the Infantry Combat Badge, the Australian Active Service Medal (East Timor, Iraq, ICAT Clasp), Australian Defence Long Service Medal and Clasp, and the Australian Defence Medal. Warrant Officer Morris was also awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal (ISAF Clasp) and a Commander Joint Task Force 633 Bronze Commendation for his service with Mentoring Task Force 3.

Warrant Officer Morris and his wife, Elizabeth, currently reside in Castle Hill. Warrant Officer Morris's interests include hunting, fishing, camping and more importantly spending time with his family in the great outdoors.

Well done RSM!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

This is the seventh edition of RINGO printed for free.

2ND BATTALION
THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION, INC.



II

NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NEW ADDRESS

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

Regimental No: _____ DOB: _____

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	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: _____ 2017 Receipt Required? YES/NO

MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

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		Bumper Sticker - 2RAR Association	\$5.00	
Sport Shirt: Black/White - "Second to None" L(102) XL(107) 2XL (112) 3XL (117)	\$48.00		Bumper Sticker - Vietnam Veteran	\$8.00	
Tee Shirt: Black/White - "Second to None" L (102) XL (107) 2XL (112) 3XL (117)	\$32.00		Bumper Sticker - 2nd Battalion	\$8.00	
Tie: 2RAR Tie (New style)	\$29.00		Car Registration Plate Frames - 2nd Battalion	\$20.00	
Tie: 2RAR Heritage Tie (The original black)	\$29.00		Note Pad - Leather - ICB Badge	\$21.00	
Stubby Cooler - "2RAR"	\$11.00		Badge: ICB Metal/Bronze - Large	\$15.00	
Stubby Cooler - "Second to No Bastard"	\$11.00		Badge: ICB Metal/Bronze - Small	\$13.00	
Stubby Cooler - "The first round is on us"	\$11.00		Badge: Returned from Active Service (RAS) Metal/Bronze	\$15.00	
Sticker (Oval) - "ICB"	\$5.00		Badge: Rising Sun - Gold/Metal	\$15.00	
Sticker (Round) - "2RAR"	\$5.00		Money Fold Leather with credit card pockets - RAS badge	\$30.00	
Key Ring - Black/Gold	\$15.00		Flag: 2RAR Black (48 cm x 31 cm)	\$18.00	
Wall Plaque: 2RAR	\$55.00		Name Tag: Preferred name: _____	\$28.00	
Book: 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1967-68 Vol 1. Reprint 1985	\$90.00		<i>All prices are inclusive of transaction fees, postage & packaging</i>		

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

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

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