



nulli secundus

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

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

RINGO

Courage. Sacrifice. Mateship.

NEWSLETTER

PATRON: COLONEL JM CHURCH, DSO, (RETD)

APRIL 2014

THE BATTALION REPORT

This being my first opportunity to do so as the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, I can only begin by saying it is an immense honour to command such a fine Battalion at a time when it is exploring such a unique capability for the ADF and the Regiment.



(Left: The CO) The Battalion underwent significant changes last year in its preparation to become the Army's foremost amphibious unit with a restructure to generate an Amphibious Ready Element Landing Force. This Amphibious Landing Force is a combined arms battle group built around the headquarters, two rifle companies, Support Company (which sees the return of Pioneer Platoon in the new role of Small Boat Platoon) and Admin Company from 2RAR.

The achievements in 2013 have laid a firm foundation for what promises to be another productive and pioneering year.



(Left: The RSM) So far A Coy has completed its first major exercise of the year with a Combat Training Centre Warfighting exercise, putting its training and tactics to the test and learned some valuable lessons. B Coy has made the best of a support task to the Royal Military College by conducting a basic signals course and conducting some good section and platoon level training whilst still providing support in a thoroughly professional manner. Spt Coy

has been rigorously conducting platoon level field and live fire training and Small Boat Platoon has been developing its procedures and drills for open water insertion and extraction. (Continued over...)

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(Continued) All these activities have set us up well for the major amphibious exercise this year, Exercise Sea Dawn, in late March/early April and providing the enemy force opposing our parent brigade on Exercise Hamel in the middle of the year. The Battalion is also excelling in the barracks environment with our Rugby Team coming runners up in the Kapooka 10s Rugby Cup, coming second to a team drawn from the entire 1st Brigade and beating a number of other brigade based teams! The year also holds a number of other internal competitions, with the continuance of the Champion Company and Military Skills Competitions and the reintroduction of the Champion Shot Trophy.

2RAR will be marching on ANZAC Day in Townsville this year and a number of personnel will also be visiting various schools in the Townsville area to assist in their ANZAC Day celebrations. The Pipes and Drums remain a strong presence and source of pride for the Battalion, with our example prompting other battalions to show an interest in rejuvenation of the Historical Collection with a vision to modernise the displays and increase access for members of the Battalion and visitors.

Although it is a busy year for the Battalion I look forward to remaining engaged with the Association and welcome you all to visit the Battalion and take part in our commemorations and celebrations throughout the year.

Second to None.

Lt Col Michael Bassingthwaighe
Commanding Officer

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2014

Congratulations to Col Ben James, AM, DSM on his award of the Distinguished Service Medal for leadership in his role within Combined Team Uruzgan Op Slipper. Ben was CO 2RAR 2007-08.

Last year we congratulated Lt Col Chris Smith CSC awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for leadership of 2RAR MTF-3 in Afghanistan. Chris was CO 2RAR 2011-13.

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WARRIORS WHO HAVE MARCHED OUT

- NX207550 Craftsman Allan Frederick WELLS, 66 Aust Inf Bn, New Guinea, Japan (Hiroshima area). Passed away 26 December at Shellharbour, NSW. Age: 86+ years. Funeral held 2 January in Kiama, NSW. RSL Kiama/Jamberoo Service conducted by Chap-Gen Ken Short AO (Retd). Thanks Karon Dawson (daughter)
- 12258 Private Rodney Archibald MCINTYRE, 2RAR Korea 1953-54. Malaya 1955-57. Veteran of 'The HOOK'. Association member. Age: 79+ years. Funeral held 6 December at Ipswich, Qld. Thanks Daryl McIntyre (Son), Margaret Gibbons, OAM
- 3411764 Warrant-Officer Class One Kenneth Norman JOHNSTON OAM MM WIA (AKA: JOHNSTONE) SAS Vietnam 1968-69, 2RAR 1970-71 6 PI B Coy. Funeral held 18 March, Hoppers Crossing Vic. Age: 66 years. Thanks Jock Cassidy, Malcolm Allen, 'Shrodes'
- 11584 Private Milton Herbert (Cronk) BERNIE, 3RAR Japan 1951, 3RAR Korea 1951-52, Reinforcements Special Force 1952-54, 2RAR Malaya 1955-56. Funeral held 12 December at Longreach, Qld. Age: 86+ years. Thanks Kevin Dean
- 212870 Warrant Officer Class One Warwick Martin (Blue) MCFADDEN, 2RAR Malaya 1960-61 B Coy, 1RAR Vietnam 1965, AATTW 1966-67. Passed away 6 September. Age: 75+ Years. Thanks David McFadden (Son), Henry Chisholm
- 52124 Corporal William George KILLICK, 3RAR Korea 1953-54 (Pte), 2RAR Malaya 1955-57 (Pte), 6RAR Vietnam 1966-67, 1969-70 (Cpl). Age: 83+ years. Fondly known as 'Willie' or 'Blowfly'. 19 years with 6RAR, longest serving 'original.' Thanks Rebecca Killick-Fasano ¹
- 3790757 Private John Raymond TAYLOR, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68 1PI A Coy. Funeral held 11 March at St Mary's Catholic Church, Maryborough, Qld. Surrounded by his children and grandchildren. Age: 67+ years. Thanks Jane Taylor, Phill Evenden
- 3/10712 Private Bernhard SCATCHARD, 2RAR Malaya 1955-57. Passed away 13 December following a short period in hospital. Bernie was our 2RAR Rep in Tasmania & a Life Member. Bernie was a regular attendee, along with Bill Norquay, at Twin Towns. Thanks (Uncle) Trevor Duniam (2RAR Mor PI 1969-70)
- 3796867 Private Evan Maxwell (Bill) NORQUAY, Vietnam 1ARU, 8RAR 1970, 2RAR 1970-71. A very proud member of the 2 Bn Association. Funeral held 8 March at Devonport, Tas. Age: 64+ years. Thanks Trevor Duniam (Mor PI 1969-70), Brian McFarlane
- 4/1739 Private 'Bill' JOHNSSON, 2RAR Malaya/Malaysia 1955-57, 3RAR. Funeral held 27 February at St James Anglican Church, Yeppoon, Qld. Thanks John MacQueen, Wayne Carter 'Pres. Yeppoon RSL', Alf Vockler, Brian McFarlane
- 2785471 Private John Patrick (Jack) MINNEY WIA, Vietnam 1ARU, 2RAR C Coy. 1967-68. Passed away 1 January. Age: 68+ years. Jack was buried at Swan Hill, Vic. A large turnout of Vietnam vets, including 3 mates who served with him. Thanks Rollo 'Reg' Leach
- 2784082 Private James Henry (Jimmy) WESTON, Vietnam 2RAR 1967-68. 1 PI, A Coy, passed away 18 February at home after a battle with cancer. Funeral held at Port Macquarie, NSW. Age: 68+ years. An unassuming soldier with a dry sense of humour. Thanks Phill Evenden

- 1734251 Corporal David Bryan (Curly) CUMNER, 2RAR Malaya 1961-63, Vietnam 1970-71 9 PI C Coy. Age: 67+ years. Accidentally killed 15 January in a farm accident near Rockhampton. Thanks Geoff Daly, Butch Mathew, Pat Magann
- 3/4017 William James (Jim) BALDWIN, 3RAR Korea 1952-53, 2RAR Malaya 1955-57 D Coy. Passed away 19 December at Traralgon, Vic. Age: 82+ years. Thanks Faye Baldwin (Wife), 'Yuki' Barnes
- 5716895 Private Wadyslaw SAMAKOWIDIC, 2RAR Vietnam 1970-71 2 PI & 3 PI A Coy. Age: 65+ years. Passed away following a battle with cancer. Funeral held 23 December at Dianella, WA. Published in RARA (WA) newsletter Feb 2014. Thanks Leon Pavich, Grahame (Wheels) Wheeler, 'Tiny' Riley
- 2412165 Lance-Corporal Karl Edward JARROLD, 2RAR Vietnam 1965 (1 Day), 1RAR 1965-66, 1968. Date of passing unknown. DOB: 8 July 1946. Published in VVPPA Journal Nov/Dec 2013.
- 2782361 Private Maurice James HARVEY, 2RAR Vietnam 1967. Passed away 14 April 2013. Age: 68+ years. Published in VVPPA Journal Nov/Dec 2013.
- 377360 Lieutenant-Colonel Noel Johnston Brian DANNE, 2RAR (CMF) attached 1968. Passed away 30 April 2013. Age: 86+ years. Published in VVPPA Journal Nov/Dec 2013.
- 3400464 Private John Peter GERDSEN, 1RAR Korea 1952-53, 2RAR 1953. Passed away June 2013. Age: 84+ years. Published KVAA newsletter Aug 2013.
- 4718087 Private Thomas Fairbairn (Tom) YOUNG, 2RAR Vietnam 1967, D Coy, Int Sect, Bn Photographer. Passed away following a stroke; funeral held 27 March in Adelaide, SA. Age: 68+ years. Tom was highly regarded within the 2RAR community of veterans and families. Thanks Mal Allen



*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

VALE: WO1 KEN JOHNSTON, OAM, MM

I attended the funeral yesterday of Ken Johnston, along with Jim Cooper, our 2RAR (Vic) rep; his farewell was first class. There was a large crowd in attendance including SAS and Regimental blokes to give him a fine farewell.

The RAR Regimental sash was draped over the foot of the casket and everyone was pleased that we did. I didn't know Ken, but I left feeling I had known him all my life.

Gordon Hurford, AM.
Secretary

ABOUT: PRIVATE (BILL) NORQUAY

I am sorry to hear of the death of Bill Norquay. He would have been briefly a member of 1 ARU in October 1970 during my time as OC.

It was not always easy for soldiers arriving as reinforcements in battalions, and Bill went through this experience twice.

I do not remember him personally, but can understand all he must have endured during his time in Vietnam. Please pass on my condolences to his loved ones.

Brian McFarlane
Bowral, NSW

¹ 'Stand To', Newsletter of 6RAR Association. Aug 13, pg. 9

LT COL M.B. BASSINGTHWAIGHTE, DSM

Lt Col Michael Bassingthwaighte was born in Toowoomba, Queensland and completed his secondary schooling at Toowoomba Grammar School. After a period of service in the Army Reserve, he entered the Australian Regular Army in July 1995, following his selection to attend the Royal Military College Duntroon. On graduation in June 1997 he was posted to 3 RAR as a Platoon Commander. In December 1999, Lt Col Bassingthwaighte was posted to the School of Infantry in Singleton as a Platoon Commander and, on promotion to Captain, the Operations Officer. From January 2002 to December 2004, Lt Col Bassingthwaighte was the Officer Commanding, Kokoda Company at the Royal Military College Duntroon. In 2005 he was appointed as the ADC to TC-A. He was subsequently posted to 2RAR in January 2006, where he held appointments as the Adjutant, Officer Commanding C Company and S8. In 2009 he attended the US Army Command and General Staff College and was consequently selected to attend the US Army's School of Advanced Military Studies. Lt Col Bassingthwaighte was then posted to Force Development Group as the Staff Officer Grade One, Future Needs Analysis (Combat/Amphib). In 2014 he took command of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

Lt Col Bassingthwaighte has seen operational service in East Timor as a Platoon Commander with the 3rd Battalion Group during OP WARDEN in 1999, in Iraq as the Adjutant/S33 of AMTG-3/OBG(W)-1 during OP CATALYST in 2006 and Afghanistan as a Combat Team Commander with RTF-3 during OP SLIPPER in 2007/2008.

Lt Col Bassingthwaighte is a graduate of the Royal Military College and the US Army Command and General Staff College and holds a Masters of Military Arts and Science (Theatre Operations), an Associate Diploma (Personnel Administration), a Certificate of Vocational Instruction and a Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment and Training. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in the 2009 Australia Day Honours List for his service as Officer Commanding, Combat Team SPEAR, RTF-3 on OP SLIPPER in Afghanistan.

Lt Col Bassingthwaighte is married to Catherine and they have three children.

ABOUT: PRIVATE BILL JOHNSON

Bill was a good mate in 2RAR Malaya 1955-57. He was over 80 when he died (prostate cancer). I spoke to him late last year and he said he was on top of everything and was looking forward to the 2RAR reunion in October this year.

Bill was always very wary of snakes, and would you believe, a King Cobra crawled across his chest on our first night in Malaya. I later dragged a dead King Cobra into our hut at Kuala Kangsa and Bill threatened to kill me; he had one up the spout! So, I removed the snake and gave it to the Sergeants Mess! Bill stayed out of the hut for 3 days.

We returned to Australia on 1 November 1957, and I next saw him at the 2RAR Reunion in 2011.
Rest in Peace Bill.

Alf Vockler
Mermaid Beach, Qld

ABOUT: JOHN 'CHEESY' PRACKERT

In the latest edition of the magazine, under 'Warriors Who Have Marched Out', John Prackert was listed as being in C Coy in Korea. This is incorrect, he was in B Coy. Bob Downey was our PI Comd, and we were together in Puckapunyal with Jim Poynter, Jack Pickett Bill McCutchen and Teddy George (The plastic man). Cheesy and I served again in A Coy in Malaya, then when we got tired of jungle bashing we went to the transport platoon. Rest in peace old mate till we are together again in the valley.

Tom Malone
Port Macquarie, NSW

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to advise all members that Lt Col M.B. Bassingthwaighte, DSM, has taken up his posting as CO 2RAR and the Association wishes him well on his appointment.

Following our annual reunion and AGM at Tweed Heads last October, I attended the RAR Corporation Conference at Singleton in December. The conference covered a host of relevant topics including:

Fair Go Campaign – Great news! The Bill for Fair Indexation has now been passed by both Houses of Parliament and will come into effect from 1st July 2014. This applies to DFRB/DFRDB superannuates aged 55 years and over. Unfortunately, at this stage, it does not apply to DFRB/DFRDB superannuates under aged 55 years, and MSBS members.

Project Trojan Trek – this is a SA initiative to assist veterans both retired and still serving who are suffering from military induced stress illness. The Association is looking on how we might assist potential candidates.

RAR National Memorial Walk – this memorial continues to flourish with the support of many volunteers. A number of projects within the precinct are planned for 2014.

Unauthorised Medals - there is a proposal to have the Defence Act amended regarding the wearing of unauthorised medals and decorations. I'm sure you are aware of the "wannabes" that surface regularly on ANZAC Day.

It remains important for Battalion Associations to retain a close relationship with their battalion. The 2RAR Association has developed a strong bond with 2RAR and I am confident that we can continue to build on this relationship.

The Secretary and I represented the Association at the North Queensland RAR dinner held at the Townsville RSL on 22 February. Our North Qld representative Jock Cassidy as well as Kiwi Gibbons also attended the function.

Whilst in Townsville we took the opportunity to meet with the new CO 2RAR, Lt Col Michael Bassingthwaighte, DSM and 2IC Maj Gareth Eldridge as well as the RSM WO1 Brian Buskell, CSM. A number of issues were discussed and these will be followed up in due course.

With the unexpected passing of Tom Young in Adelaide on 20 March, the Association has stepped up and will continue the arrangements made by Tom in the lead up to the Adelaide reunion. Gordon and I had our first meeting in this regard on 28 March with Mal Allen our SA representative. A small memorial service will be held for Tom during the reunion. For those who are still not committed to attend, I urge you to reconsider. Updated details of the Adelaide Reunion are on page 6 of this newsletter.

The committee has arranged the ANZAC Room at Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL for our AGM, and the River Room Level 3 at Twin Towns Services Club, for the annual reunion and buffet lunch on 25 October. We are looking forward to a good show up in the rejuvenated venue.

While our membership stands at well over 500, there are quite a number who have let their membership lapse. I'm sure that in most cases this is just an oversight and I do urge those members who are in arrears, to forward their subscription to ensure that they don't lose their membership so that they will continue to receive the quarterly 'RINGO' newsletter.

And finally, we acknowledge and mourn the passing of our comrades.

May they Rest in Peace.

Leo Van De Kamp
President

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

4th December 2013

The Management Committee approved 13 new members. Congratulations to all on the successful reunion at Tweed Heads in October

The President visited the Battalion in November and presented an Association prize to the Champion soldier.

We made application to DVA for a grant to fund the development of a new Association website. We have now been advised that the application was unsuccessful. This is very disappointing!! The Management Committee will now look at ways how we can provide the funds to develop a new website for the benefit of all members.

Work continues by Terry Dinneen in his endeavours to find the missing After Action Reports Vietnam 1967-68.

THE COMMITTEE



L-R: Kevin Dean (VP), Arthur MacDonald, Rod Newham, Gordon Hurford (Sec.), Leo Van De Kamp (Pres.), Norm Devereux (Treas.), Paul King, & Rick Hollingdrake. Absent: Matt Rennie (IPP), David Huntley.

5th February 2014

2 more new members were approved. Membership totalled 521. President attended the Royal Australian Regiment Corporation meeting at Singleton.

Committee approved a new letterhead for the Association.

The Association has ordered a new regimental (battalion) flag for use by the Association which should be available for the Adelaide reunion and for the ANZAC Day March.

The new tie has been ordered and is expected soon. We send a PDF copy of this newsletter for the battalion intranet noticeboard.

In 2014 committee meetings will be held as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| • Wed 5 Feb 14 ✓ | • Wed 2 Apr 14 ✓ |
| • Wed 4 Jun 14 | • Wed 6 Aug 14 |
| • Wed 1 Oct 14 | • Wed 3 Dec 14 |

The AGM will be held on Sat 25 Oct 14 in the ANZAC Room Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL, the Commemoration Service at Chris Cunningham Park (under shade), and the Reunion at the 'River' Room and Bar on Level 3 at Twin Towns Services Club.

HELP: ABOUT RAY CATERSON

I can't remember if Ray Caterson, served with 2RAR, or 6RAR. I met him at JTC Canungra in 1964.

Ray died some time ago, and his son would like to hear about his service.

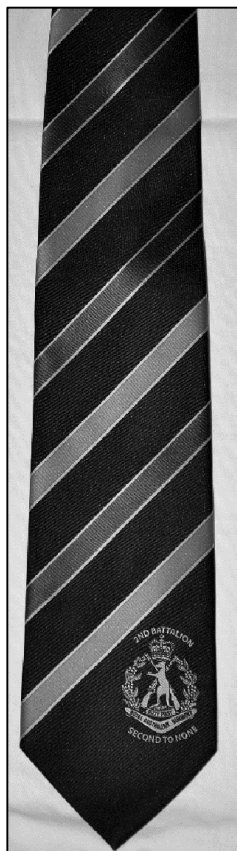
Can you can help? Email: butchjan@tpg.com.au

Butch Mathew
Gladstone, Qld

THE BATTALION TIE

The new battalion tie reflects our Regimental heritage. Different than the all-black tie, the new tie incorporates traditional colours in diagonal stripes of Battalion Black, Scarlet (Corps), & Rifle Green (Regiment).

We are awaiting delivery. Order NOW.



PARADE REHEARSAL 1955²

The highlight of our ever ending practices for Presentation of Queen's and Regimental Colours on 23 September 1955 came when the RSM made an announcement one day that we had to separate into different religious groups. Apparently the Presentation of Colours is a religious ceremony established when only Anglicans were in the Army. Other Christians had to watch from the side.

Whatever the case the RSM³ with his brilliant voice, shouted:

"C of E will assemble on my right, RC's on my left, atheists at the back of the parade ground, and the remaining odd Christians will join with the RC's. MOVE!"

Within minutes of complete chaos, the parade ground was empty except for one lone soldier standing to attention.

"Soldier are you deaf or stupid?" shouted the RSM rather red in the face. "Didn't you hear what I said?"

"Yes Sir!" the soldier shouted, as loud as he could, "I am a Buddhist!"

600-odd men burst out laughing.

It was a moment of glory for Cpl John (Bungee) ENCHONG, a Buddhist.⁴

DVA CLAIMS: MISSING EVIDENCE

It is still possible to put in a claim to DVA without the physical evidence of an After Action Report.

"Any case where a person who has served with the Battalion is denied entitlements because of a lack of evidence, whether that person is an Association member or otherwise, our Association will take all steps available to help that person obtain evidence, from any and all sources we can identify.

Section 14 of the Veterans entitlement Act Part II sub-para 3 and 4 refer. As the system has lost the 1967-68 After Action Reports, sub-para 4 allows for the claimant to produce whatever evidence that may be available including statements from others who may have witnessed or have immediate knowledge of the event or injury which caused the disability being claimed".

MEMBERS' DRAW

The latest winner of the financial Members' Draw held on 5 February, received a copy of 'Duty First' by David Horner & Jean Bou, 1990. The draw has been conducted since 4 December 2008.

Congratulations to Neil Kinnane, Wynnum West, Qld.

² Tropical Holidays, The Malayan Emergency 1955-57. Personal memories of Pte Cyril 'Frenchy' Ray. Pg. 18

³ WO1 W. Mills. RSM 1954-58. The CO was Lt Col James Ochiltree.

⁴ 213333 Pte John 'Bungee' Enchong. 2RAR Korea 1953. 'Bungee's' son John, served with 2/4RAR 1991-94.

THE RSM'S SWORD⁵

The only time an RSM draws his sword is during the Trooping the Colour ceremony. Between receiving the Colour from the Colour bearer and passing it to the ensign, the RSM has his sword drawn. He returns the sword at the completion of the trooping. The custom dates back to Waterloo; on occasions when the ensign fell, the RSM would draw his sword, retrieve the Colour and, along with the Colour sergeants, protect it until he could hand it over to a replacement ensign.

DVA: EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY

This information is designed to help you understand exercise physiology services funded through DVA arrangements.

Exercise physiology treatment can assist you with your rehabilitation from a major injury or illness, or to help you manage a chronic disease like arthritis or diabetes.

What is the aim of the exercise physiology program?

The aim of the program is to give you the skills to manage the exercise component of your health condition, on your own, through exercise.

Can I stay on the exercise physiology program for as long as I want?

No, the program is not meant to be an ongoing form of treatment. It is meant to teach you the skills you need to manage your exercise program.

A referral is required from your General Practitioner to see an exercise physiologist. The referral will last 12 months, but this doesn't mean treatment will be for 12 months.

So, how long will DVA pay for my exercise physiology program?

Generally, DVA will pay for you to see an exercise physiologist until you are able to do your exercise program on your own. This will be established over one or more sessions.

What is the goal of my treatment?

The goal of your treatment is to work with your exercise physiologist to do the recommended exercises on your own. The exercises will be personalised to your specific condition, and may be changed as your condition improves.

The exercise physiologist may check on you from time to time to make sure you are on track to meet your goals.

Do I need to join a gym to continue with my exercises?

No, you should be able to do the exercises on your own, in your home or outside, without the need for costly gym equipment.

If I take part in a general exercise program or join a gym will DVA pay for this?

No, DVA does not pay for general exercise programs or gym membership if you have a gold or white card.

If you feel you would like to join a generalised exercise class or gym program, this needs to be a private arrangement between your exercise physiologist and yourself.

Where can I get more information?

For more information or how to find out if you are eligible for the program, contact DVA on 133 254 or from regional Australia free call 1800 555 254. You can send an email to DVA at: generalenquiries@dva.gov.au

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Check the status of your membership on the newsletter mailing label. If '2013' or prior, you have lapsed; if '2014' or beyond, you are current. Financial Year: 1 October to 30 September.

CALENDAR 2014

31 Jan to 2 May 1971	Operation 'PHOI HOP' (Co-operation) (1PI A Coy 31 Mar)	Binh Gia, Phuoc Tuy South Vietnam
1 Feb 1995	2/4RAR delink to form 2RAR, and 4RAR	Townsville, Qld Horsworthy, NSW
24 Jan to 14 Feb 1968	Operation 'COBURG'. (D Coy to 16 Feb; V Coy to 24 Feb.)	Bien Hoa/Long Khanh South Vietnam
Wed-Fri 23-25 Apr	2RAR (SA) National Reunion, Commemoration Service, Dinner, Memorial Unveiling, ANZAC Day	Adelaide. Contact: Mal Allen: 0451 374 133 mal@aladdco.com.au
Fri 25 Apr	ANZAC Day	Adelaide, SA Local arrangements
Sun 27 Jul	Korea Veterans' Day (61 st Anniversary of the Armistice in Korea) 2RAR The HOOK 25/26 July 1953	Korean War Memorial, Broadbeach, Qld Local arrangements
15 Aug 1973	2RAR and 4 RAR link to form 2/4RAR	Townsville, Qld
Mon 18 Aug	Vietnam Veterans' Day	Local arrangements
Sun 31 Aug	National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day. Merdeka (Independence or Freedom) Day	Enoggera, Qld. Kings Park, Perth WA Local arrangements
Thu 16 Oct	2RAR Birthday 1945 (69 th Anniversary)	Labuan, North Borneo
Fri 24 Oct	2RAR National Reunion: Meet & Greet (4.00pm Harbour Lounge)	AGM: ANZAC Room Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL
Sat 25 Oct	2RAR National Reunion: AGM, Commemoration Service, Annual Reunion & Buffet Lunch	Reunion: 'River Room', Level 3, Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads, NSW
Tue 11 Nov	Remembrance Day	Enoggera, Qld. Local arrangements
Sun 23 Nov	RAR Birthday 1948 (66 th Anniversary)	Hiro, Japan

BATTALION REPRESENTATIVES

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Bill Martin (NZ)	(0011649) 267 7545 bwmartin@xtra.co.nz

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

⁵ "Looking Forward, Looking Back" Customs and Traditions of the Australian Army, by Christopher Jobson. © 2009. Pg. 65.

NATIONAL REUNION, ADELAIDE 2014

2RAR Association National Reunion (Adelaide): 22 to 25 April.



The focus of the Reunion will be on two special events, namely, a Commemorative Service and the Unveiling and Dedication of the 2nd Battalion Memorial (the first stand-alone 2RAR public memorial in Australia).

All members of 2RAR, since its formation, regardless of Active Service or not, are invited to attend.

Tue 22 April

Meet and Greet – 5pm to 7pm (registration from 4.00pm).

Dress – Neat Casual.

Location - Walkerville RSL, 98 Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville.

- Event update will be available.
- Finger food available.
- Beverages at RSL Club prices
- Association's merchandise sales
- Tickets for Wednesday McLaren Vale Winery tour will be available. 90 seats only available on a first in basis. Cost is \$20 per person, which includes wine tasting and nibbles. The winery tour buses will depart at 1pm from a location to be advised.
- There will be a guide to suggested restaurants and hotel bistros for dinner at nearby Walkerville Terrace, Melbourne Street and O'Connell Street establishments.

Wed 23 April

Commemorative Service – 11am.

Dress – Jacket, tie and medals.

A Commemorative Service will be held at the Vietnam War Memorial, Torrens Parade Ground, Cnr King William and Victoria Drive, Adelaide.

The Service will commemorate the remaining six South Australians who paid the supreme sacrifice whilst serving with the Battalion in South Vietnam on both tours of duty.

Those to be commemorated are:

Pte Dennis Nelson	DOW	28 September 1967
Pte Stan Radomi	KIA	28 September 1967
Pte Ray Binning	KIA	26 January 1968
Cpl Graham Norley	KIA	26 January 1968
Pte John Rogers	KIA	10 February 1968
Pte Rod Chapman	DOI	28 April 1971

Note that LCpl R.M. Woolford and Pte J.C. Rivett are included on the plaque, however each have had previous separate memorial services.

Limited car parking on the Torrens Parade Ground will be available courtesy of the RSL SA.

A light luncheon buffet and refreshments will follow in the Drill Hall of the Torrens Training Depot, Torrens Parade Ground. This will also include an opportunity for individual colour photographs to form a Reunion photograph montage.

The Montage (Cost \$25) will be available at Friday's ANZAC Day lunch.

McLaren Vale winery tour

The McLaren Vale winery bus tour will depart at 1pm from the Torrens Parade Ground.

Thu 24 April

2RAR Memorial Unveiling and Dedication Service – 12 midday.

Dress – Jacket, tie and medals.

Location - On the Kintore Avenue end of Pathway of Honour which is located at the rear of Government House on the upper northern perimeter of the Torrens Parade Ground.

This is a Memorial to all former members of 2RAR, since its formation, regardless of Active Service or not and will be used by South Australian members for the annual Samichon Day Service.

Limited car parking on the Torrens Parade Ground will be available courtesy of the RSL.

THOSE SOUTH AUSTRALIANS WHO PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE WHILST ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH THE BATTALION				
KOREA – 1953				
41172	Pte	L. J. L. DAVES	Killed in Action	26 JULY, 1953
VIETNAM – 1967/68				
4718082	LCpl	R. M. WOOLFORD	Killed in Action	1 AUGUST, 1967
4718427	Pte	D. E. NELSON	Died of Wounds	28 SEPTEMBER, 1967
43573	Pte	S. E. RADOMI	Killed in Action	28 SEPTEMBER, 1967
4410710	Pte	J. C. RIVETT	Killed in Action	27 NOVEMBER, 1967
4410704	Pte	R. P. BINNING	Killed in Action	26 JANUARY, 1968
43658	Cpl	G. L. NORLEY	Killed in Action	26 JANUARY, 1968
4718449	Pte	J. ROGERS	Killed in Action	10 FEBRUARY, 1968
VIETNAM – 1970/71				
4721369	Pte	R. S. CHAPMAN	Died of Illness	28 APRIL, 1971

Reunion Dinner – 6pm for 7pm sitting.

Dress – Neat Casual.

Location - Buckingham Arms Hotel, 1 Walkerville Terrace, Gilberton.

The dinner will be a smorgasbord arrangement, which should satisfy most attendees.

Cost will be \$25 per person.

ANZAC Day – Fri 25 April

Dress – Jacket, tie and medals.

ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

The Service commences at 6.15am at the Memorial Garden in Church Street Walkerville and is followed by breakfast at the Walkerville RSL, 98 Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville.

Other Memorial Services locations will be available from the RSL website: www.rslsa.org.au

ANZAC Day March

Group 10A

Form up behind the 2RAR Banner at 9.30am corner of North Terrace and Pulteney Street. We will step off at approximately 10.15am.

The route is along North Terrace, right into King William Street across the King William Street Bridge and halt in War Memorial Drive by the Cross of Sacrifice Memorial Gardens.

There will be an "eyes right" at the National War Memorial in North Terrace, The Boer War Memorial on the corner of North Terrace and King William Street by Government House and at the saluting dais by the Torrens Parade Ground. There is a very stirring and magnificent sight as we swing from North Terrace down into King William Street.

Following on from the March there will be a Service at the Cross of Sacrifice in the nearby Cross of Sacrifice Memorial (Pennington) Gardens at 11.am for those who may wish to attend.

ANZAC Day Lunch

Location – Lion Hotel, 161 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide.

After the March we will adjourn to the nearby Lion Hotel (cnr Jerningham and Melbourne Streets, North Adelaide), which is a short walk across the parklands from the end of the March.

Full lunch and bar facilities will be available.

The RAR (SA) Association Reunion will also be held in the Lion Hotel for those wishing to catch up with mates in the other Battalions later.

Other Attractions:

The Army Museum of South Australia at Keswick Barracks – Chris Roe (ex-8/9 RAR) is the Director and depending on interest at the Meet and Greet will arrange for a special mid-week visit. www.amosa.org.au refers.

RAR (SA) Association Clubrooms, Beatty Street, Linden Park. Depending on interest at the Meet and Greet a visit will be arranged. Adelaide Oval Tour. Depending on the interest at the Meet and Greet we will see if a tour can be arranged.

RSL SALUTE - FACT OR FICTION?

By Christopher Jobson ⁶

Author of "Looking Forward, Looking Back" Customs and Traditions of the Australian Army.

Saluting in Civilian Attire

The origin of the hand salute of today goes back to medieval times when the raising of the right hand, the fighting hand, was to show that it did not carry a weapon and that the person concerned was there in peace; however, the origin can actually be traced back further, to ancient Roman times.

The salute in the Roman armies was one of raising the right arm, with the hand's fist closed, up-over the heart, showing that the person was not carrying a weapon; indicating that he was there in peace and could be trusted not to fight.

Many today think that the modern version of this salute, the open hand up-over the heart, is to cover one's medals; there is also a misconception that this method of saluting is an American custom. Another thought is that this form of saluting originated at a Remembrance Day ceremony in London in 1920; all of these beliefs are incorrect.

There are a number of ways of saluting when wearing a hat in civilian attire; all of which are acceptable. One is the doffing of one's headdress, when returning a salute from someone in uniform. Another is the complete removal of the hat and holding it, in the right hand, standing at attention; for example during the playing of the Last Post or the National Anthem. However, it is also acceptable, on such occasions, to place the hand, with the hat, over one's heart; again, it is not to cover the medals.

There are several photographs of persons in civilian dress at a memorial service in London, just after the South African War (1899 - 1902), standing at attention with their hats over the left side of their chests (covering their hearts), well before the 1920 Remembrance Day Service.

When parties of persons in civilian attire are marching-past a reviewing officer, on occasions such as ANZAC Day ceremonies, the correct protocol is for the leader of the party to (completely) remove his hat (in lieu of a uniformed officer giving a hand or sword salute); he may either hold the hat down alongside his right side or, up-over his heart. However, those within the party, with the exception of the right marker, simply carry-out an 'eyes right'; they do not remove their headdress (the same as troops in a formation do not salute).

GEORGE MANSFORD "THE SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA" ⁷

George Mansford is a laconic, patriotic Australian. He has a great zest for life and his eyes sparkle when he regales his many friends with tales of yester-years. He has proudly served his Nation in Korea, Malaya and South Vietnam. He leads from the front, calls a spade a shovel and was a tough soldier and commander. He laughs often and loudly but he has known sorrow during his life.

George is an outstanding orator and I have seen him take an audience from raucous laughter to tears during a presentation about The Royal Australian Regiment. He is truly an inspiration and he is highly respected and treated with much affection by those who know him.

I am sure that this collection of George's short stories and poems, will give you a far greater understanding of George Mansford than any character description can. George truly epitomises everything Australian and I am honoured to have George Mansford as a friend.

Neil Weekes, AM, MC Brigadier (Retired)

OPERATION PHOI HOP – AAR'S EXTRACT

Op PHOI HOP continued during the month of Mar 71.

Companies continued to operate on reconnaissance and ambush tasks, mainly in the North and North East of the Battalion TAOR. Sp Coy continued to operate as a two-platoon rifle company.

Towards the end of the reporting period, 1ATF operations became focussed on D445 Local Force Battalion, which had moved south into 3RAR's AO. From 26 Mar, A Coy was placed under operational control of 3RAR.

On 31 Mar, 1 PI A Coy contacted probably two companies of D445 at YS 584722. The contact resulted in one Aust DOW, six Aust WIA and two aircraft forced down after receiving ground fire, enemy casualties were unknown.

As a result of this identification of the main body of D445, further deployments of 2RAR troops in support of 3RAR were made and were continuing at the end of this reporting period.⁷

SUPPORTING THE BATTALION



'Jock' Cassidy's high-powered helpers on the Popcorn stand. 'Jock' said it was bit quieter than usual, but we had a lot of fun at the family day.

TOGETHER, SIDE BY SIDE

I will always remember the day you came to us
As you arrived in the battalion straight off the bus
Eager young Regs and Nashos with smiles from ear to ear
It was the beginning of a brotherhood always to be held so dear
You were the bank clerks, farmers, teachers and all in between
Then from that day on, you were infantry dressed in jungle green
The training was tough and relentless; you became as one
All wearing the proud Skippy badge and the patch of the rising sun
In that Asian war you did your share and even more
The genes of the ANZACS stood out and that was for sure
As diggers there were times you questioned the task
Yet always went forward to complete whatever was asked
You never hesitated regardless of danger and fought side by side
War is brutal, unforgiving; many were wounded and some of you died
At times there was precious leave to rest and dream of another life
With loved ones in a far distant land void of bloody strife
Your battle honours on the Colours have been sewn
On Australia's sacred wall are treasured names you have long known
The legacy is there; it's yours to pass on and so very strong
It speaks of duty, love of country, sacrifice, courage and beyond
It's another chapter of our nation's history for all those who follow
To understand such qualities in their time beyond tomorrow
Mark it well; those young men from yesterday are still with you, side by side
On those special days when you, the living, march with justified pride

George Mansford ⁸
Gordonvale, Qld

⁶ Christopher Jobson spent 30 years in the Australian Regular Army (including active service in South Vietnam) and his postings included: RSM 4th Field Regiment, RSM 3rd Brigade, RSM Ceremonial & Protocol (Army Headquarters) and RSM Ceremonial (Australian Defence Headquarters).

⁷ "The Spirit of Australia" contact Jeannette Bartlett: Email: gmansfordspiritofaustralia@gmail.com Mob: 0417 515 773

⁸ George Mansford © August 2011

WAKKA AND COMPANY 1985



SNIPPETS

- Maj-Gen Stuart Smith is Commander 1st Division at Enoggera. His father, 42252 Sgt Bernard Lyle Smith 5RAR was killed in action on 9 Mar 69, after entering a minefield at Hoa Long near Nui Dat, age 29 years. Recently Maj-Gen Smith was appointed Patron RAR National Memorial Walk.
- Judy and Michael Gavin recently visited the RAR National Memorial Walk at Gallipoli Barracks to honour their son LCpl Luke Gavin 2RAR MTF-3 who was killed on operations in Afghanistan on 29 October 2011. The family viewed the Honour Roll & spent time beside Luke's Memorial Plaque. The boys of Dad's Army lead a commemoration service for the family in Luke's memory. Thanks Arthur Willemse, Sec. 6RAR Assoc.
- Committee Member Terry Dinneen, the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans Association, and the First Battalion Association were able to encourage the Blue Mountains Council to name a pedestrian bridge near Hazelbrook in honour of 214479 Private Ronald Eric Field, 1RAR. Ron was killed in action in Vietnam in 1965, age 22 years. He had served 2 years in Malaya before going to Vietnam. As was the practice in the early days, Ronald was buried at the Terendak War Cemetery, Malaysia. The battalion was later based at Terendak Bks during 1969-70.
- Jock Cassidy & Greg Davison met with the 2RAR Curator, John Toomey, to measure up and cost proposed renovations to the 2RAR Historical Collection which would see a doubling of the current wall space. Jock is looking for ex-2RAR & 2/4RAR members to assist. *Do you have any suitable items from your service to donate?* Contact 'Jock'. Details front page.
- One of our members has conveyed his concern about receiving Emails on the passing of 2RAR veterans. Contact the Secretary (details front page), if you have similar concerns.
- Cpl Ken Horton 8/9RAR (ex-2RAR P&Ds) is looking for Pipers who want a posting to Bris-vegas. Ken has been tasked to establish 8/9RAR P&Ds at Enoggera. *Tell him he's dreaming!* Ed.
- Our appreciation is extended to Dan Penman RARA (Qld) for printing this newsletter while committee member David Huntley is undergoing medical treatment. Dan is also the 9RAR Assoc. Secretary. Thanks mate!

REUNION: 5 PL B COY 2014

5 PL B Coy 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68 will be holding their bi-annual reunion at Twin Towns coinciding with the 2RAR Association Reunion on 24-25 October 2014.

Great opportunity for meeting up with old friends.

Contact: Steve Way (rachelway2@gmail.com)
Mob: 0884 259 881

THAT'S SO FUNNY!

*It was hard getting over my addiction to the Hokey Cokey.
But I've turned myself around, and that's what it's all about.*

THE SECRETARY

Last Thursday, President Leo and I, along with many other members of the Association attended Tom's funeral in Adelaide. There were a significant number of Association members at the funeral and Max Ingles gave the eulogy of Tom's military service. I said the Ode as part of the Poppy Service and all those past serving members laid a red poppy on the casket. When the casket was taken from the church, 2RAR Association members and other members of the Regiment formed a Guard of Honour and we said a final farewell to a brother-in-arms. I know Tom would have been pleased!

I also know that Tiffany and the family were very grateful for our compassion and involvement.

I have since met with Malcolm Allen our SA Rep in respect to the reunion that is to take place from 22 to 25 April in Adelaide. The program for the reunion has been available now for well over a year.

I would like to make it very clear that the reunion will proceed as Tom had planned it. Mal, from a local perspective, and assisted by myself and others, will now bear to major responsibility for its execution.

The only variation we will make to the program is that following the unveiling of the 2RAR plaque on Thursday 24 April, there will be a memorial service for Tom in the Training Depot Hall of Torrens Parade Ground.

We will keep you as best informed as possible as we get closer to the reunion. This will not only be a time to remember those from South Australia who were killed while on active service but also to commemorate the life of Tom Young who gave so much to his mates and to the Association.

If you had not planned to be at the reunion, now is the time to reflect that situation and turn up for Tom.

May he rest in peace!

MILITARY LAW TODAY⁹

By Capt Scott Ritchie, Director Military Discipline Law

QUESTIONS sometimes arise as to how different punishments may be imposed on convictions for similar offences. This particularly occurs where there is a perception that a punishment imposed was too lenient, or that someone else was once punished more severely for the same offence.

Essentially, these questions are about fairness to the victim of an offence, and fairness between convicted persons.

The Defence Force Discipline Act sets out the range of punishments that may be imposed on members convicted of an offence, along with how such punishments are to be determined.

The most severe punishment that can be imposed is imprisonment for life, or a specific period, in a civilian jail.

The least severe punishment that can be imposed is a reprimand, or the imposition of no punishment at all.

The types and limits of punishments are determined by the level of the service tribunal. So, for example, Courts Martial and Defence Force Magistrates can impose the most severe punishments, whereas Subordinate Summary Authorities can only impose small fines and what are sometimes referred to as "minor punishments", such as restriction of privileges and extra duties.

BOOK: 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) BN 1967-68

The Association has purchased a quantity of the 2RAR/NZ ANZAC Battalion 1967-68 book (Vol 1) (Reprint) from the publisher.

See page 12 for details.

⁹ Army Edition 1323, March 27, 2014. Pg. 20

OFFICERS, WO'S, SNCO'S, & BAGGY-ARSES

Question: What year was this taken at Twin Towns?



Donald 'Curly' Essenhigh
Warwick, Qld

MORTAR PL 1967-68 / 1970-71

In 'RINGO' last there were no names to John McDonald's Mortar Pl Reunion photograph: here they are (random order).

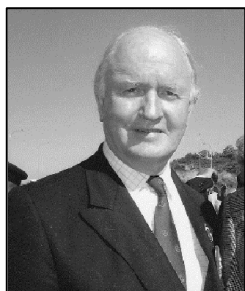


1967-68: Barry Richie, Tom Reynolds, Reg Seaborne, Frank Van Lewin, Graham Jones, Terry Camm, Lachie Cameron, Ron Harris, Col Fealy, John Welsh, Lindsay Borger, Dan Sullivan, Tont Boyle, Ray Mackril, & Terry Brown.

1970-71: Terry Brown, Dave Churchett, Don Gray, Bill Cornish, Geoff Coops, Jeff Whaites, Mick Coutts, Phil Lep, Gary Watts, Rob Franklin, Don Cooper, Jim Crowe, & Mick Cremin. Thanks Terry Brown.

TOM'S BAYONET

Tom and I first started working together a few years ago including on the project 'Not Just a Name on the Wall'. We discussed and planned the project and Tom was responsible for finding the majority of the NOK of D Coy's fallen.



It was during one of these discussions that he asked where he could obtain a bayonet. The bayonet was to be used to place on top of the casket. I did not have a spare 18" (.303 bayonet), but I did happen to have a brand new unopened SLR (7.62mm) bayonet which I gave to Tom. The condition was that each time it was used the obituary of the person and any other applicable

details be placed in a book and retained so that eventually we will have a Biography of a number of ex-soldiers and thus they would not be just a name on the wall.

It is ironic that Tom is one of the first who gets to use 'the bayonet'. It is to be hoped that this will become a tradition and become known as 'Tom's bayonet'.

Tom's bayonet was on Tom's casket along with the national flag, the regimental sash, and his slouch hat. R.I.P

Terry Dinneen
Winmalee, NSW

VICTORIA BARRACKS GUARD WITH BRIAN PANNELL

My first such duty was quite an experience. Not quite like "changing the guard at Buckingham Palace" but along those lines. Our dress for Guard was ceremonial Blues, white shirts with detachable collars, white Blanco webbing and white "pith" helmets straight out of the Indian Rajah. These were so old that there was nothing left to fasten the brass "chinstraps" to and therefore it was up to the soldiers imagination as to how the helmet and its chinstrap were to be connected. As for the white detachable collars, I at least had had plenty of practice with such things at OCS but the soldiers were something else. The collars were white to start with but soldiers grubby hands were another thing.

Training for Guard duty was a straight forward affair and off we went to Vic Barracks. We arrived on the grass parade ground in front of the Barracks (where the Wallaby Rugby team trains before a test match), resplendent in our ceremonial Blues and pith helmets etc to be inspected by a tall, rotund Colonel Stewart Peach (who, from his voice, could have been mistaken for a British Indian Army officer). We were definitely not up to his standard of dress, the collars were grubby, the drill was sloppy and we were generally unsatisfactory, all round. So he ordered me to march my guard off the parade ground and to re-appear at 1600hrs when he would inspect us again.

I saluted and gave the order to march off when a gust of wind blew the helmets off half of the Guard's heads because, un-known to me, the soldiers had tied their chinstraps with string to their heads and then, sat the helmet on top without any means of holding it there. Well that was the final straw as far as the Inspecting Officer was concerned; he was not amused at all.

That night, I slunk into the Victoria Barrack's Officer's Mess just before closing time for dinner thinking I might miss Colonel Peach who I knew "lived in", only to be greeted by another Colonel and his cronies and was immediately invited to join them for a very pleasant dinner. Apparently they had witnessed the whole business and had been highly amused at the misfortunes of a junior officer.

Later in that week, about 10.00pm one night, a soldier who was part of the staff at the Barracks, appeared at the Guard Room all bloodied from an altercation with some undesirables in Oxford St., Darlinghurst. As there was no Regimental Aid Post (RAP) at the Barracks after 4.00pm, I put him in my car and took him to the emergency room at St Vincent's Hospital which was close by, where they sewed him up and I then brought him back to the Barracks.

That won me a couple of "Brownie points" with Colonel Peach. (More anecdotes from Brian in July. Ed.)

THAT'S SO FUNNY!

Paddy decides to take up boxing and goes for the required medical. A few days later the doctor 'phones and says "Paddy, you realise you've got sugar diabetes."

Paddy says, "Nice one, when do I fight him?"

2RAR WEBSITES

2RAR ASSOCIATION (NATIONAL)

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

2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion 1967-68

<http://bit.ly/QTc4SG>

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

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

2/4RAR ASSOCIATION

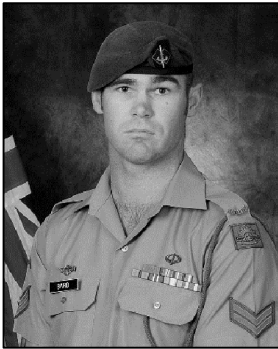
Website: <http://www.24rarassociation.com/index.html>

DROPSHORT 1

VICTORIA CROSS FOR AUSTRALIA (POSTHUMOUS)

Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird,¹⁰ VC MG

For the most conspicuous acts of valour, extreme devotion to duty and ultimate self-sacrifice at Ghawchak village, Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan as a Commando Team Commander in Special Operations Task Group on Operation SLIPPER.



On 22 June 2013, a Commando Platoon of the Special Operations Task Group, with partners from the Afghan National Security Forces, conducted a helicopter assault into Ghawchak village, Uruzgan Province, in order to attack an insurgent network deep within enemy-held territory. Shortly after insertion, Corporal Baird's team was engaged by small arms fire from several enemy

positions. Corporal Baird quickly seized the initiative, leading his team to neutralise the positions, killing six enemy combatants and enabling the assault to continue.

Soon afterwards, an adjacent Special Operations Task Group team came under heavy enemy fire, resulting in its commander being seriously wounded. Without hesitation, Corporal Baird led his team to provide support. En route, he and his team were engaged by rifle and machine gun fire from prepared enemy positions. With complete disregard for his own safety, Corporal Baird charged towards the enemy positions, supported by his team. On nearing the positions, he and his team were engaged by additional enemy on their flank. Instinctively, Corporal Baird neutralised the new threat with grenades and rifle fire, enabling his team to close with the prepared position. With the prepared position now isolated, Corporal Baird manoeuvred and was engaged by enemy machine gun fire, the bullets striking the ground around him. Displaying great valour, he drew the fire, moved to cover, and suppressed the enemy machine gun position. This action enabled his team to close on the entrance to the prepared position, thus regaining the initiative.

On three separate occasions Corporal Baird charged an enemy-held building within the prepared compound. On the first occasion he charged the door to the building, followed by another team member. Despite being totally exposed and immediately engaged by enemy fire, Corporal Baird pushed forward while firing into the building. Now in the closest proximity to the enemy, he was forced to withdraw when his rifle ceased to function. On rectifying his rifle stoppage, and reallocating remaining ammunition within his team, Corporal Baird again advanced towards the door of the building, once more under heavy fire. He engaged the enemy through the door but was unable to suppress the position and took cover to reload. For a third time, Corporal Baird selflessly drew enemy fire away from his team and assaulted the doorway. Enemy fire was seen to strike the ground and compound walls around Corporal Baird, before visibility was obscured by dust and smoke. In this third attempt, the enemy was neutralised and the advantage was regained, but Corporal Baird was killed in the effort.

Corporal Baird's acts of valour and self-sacrifice regained the initiative and preserved the lives of his team members. His actions were of the highest order and in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

DROPSHORT 2

MILITARY CROSS

217481 Lieutenant Patrick Daniel SAVAGE MC ¹¹

2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment
31 March 1971
South Vietnam

On 31 March 1971, Lieutenant Savage's Platoon made contact with the enemy in a well-defended bunker position. The contact was initiated by the forward section and five enemy were seen to fall as a result of the initial burst of fire. Lieutenant Savage deployed the remainder of his platoon in preparation for an assault onto the position. At the same time the enemy reacted by deploying strong flanking groups and reinforcing those engaged in the initial firefight.

Lieutenant Savage attempted to outflank the enemy with his reserve section, but it was effectively pinned by enemy fire and suffered a number of casualties. With the whole platoon committed and the numerically superior enemy able to employ a variety of weapons, Lieutenant Savage calmly and resolutely set about directing the battle. He enforced strict fire control, directed the fire of armed helicopters and held his ground in the face of the determined and well-armed enemy.

After a firefight which continued for three hours, Lieutenant Savage ordered the withdrawal of the platoon and the evacuation of casualties. The withdrawal was orderly and well controlled, with the wounded being collected under cover of the armed helicopter strike. An element of the platoon commanded by Lieutenant Savage remained in the contact area to cover the withdrawal of the wounded, before withdrawing to a more secure area where the wounded could be extracted by air.

Throughout the firefight withdrawal and evacuation of the casualties, Lieutenant Savage displayed leadership qualities of the highest order. He was in control of the situation throughout and in spite of the overwhelming numerical superiority of the enemy he resolutely held his ground until all his men could be extracted without further loss. His actions on that day were exemplary and in the finest traditions of the Australian Army.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The acronym of the phrase Australian and New Zealand Army Corps is ANZAC

ANZAC is an acronym and not a noun and is therefore spelt as ANZAC. The 1st. AIF, 2nd. AIF, ANZUS, ANZUK, ADF, even the politicians MHR acronyms are not spelt in the diminutive.

Why then this deliberate current social trend to use ANZAC in the diminutive form as a noun by the Government, bureaucracy and media? Especially when NZ in its own right is an acronym for New Zealand, a country with which we have very close and enduring ties.

The 2015 ANZAC Centenary should be used to ensure that ANZAC is spelt as ANZAC.

Malcolm Allen
Broadview, SA

THAT'S SO FUNNY!

A dwarf goes to a very good but very busy doctor and asks "I know you are busy but do you treat dwarves?"

The doctor replies "Yes, but you will have to be a little patient".

ARMY NEWSPAPER – KEEP CURRENT!

'Army The Soldiers' Newspaper' on-line: <http://bit.ly/2rGhVhA>

¹⁰ Corporal Baird was born in Burnie, Tasmania in 1981. He joined the Army in January 2000 and upon completion of his initial employment training was posted to the then 4th Battalion (Commando), The Royal Australian Regiment, now the 2nd Commando Regiment, in February 2000. Corporal Baird was awarded the Medal for Gallantry for his service in Afghanistan in 2007-08.

¹¹ Honours and Awards presented to members serving with 2nd Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment 1945- 1995. Compiled by John Baker and Bob Downey 1997. © 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Association Inc.

IAN ROBERTSON, SOLDIER OF THE REGIMENT

*With Rifle or Camera, Robbie was a crack shot*¹²
By Andrew Rule Herald Sun March 06, 2014

IAN "Robbie" Robertson's trouble was that he could shoot better than his mates. He was his battalion's teenage photographer when it went to Japan with the occupying forces in 1946, and was still there in 1950. He might never have fired a shot in anger if North Korea hadn't invaded the South that year.



Suddenly, Corporal Robertson was a sniper. His superiors knew the lanky kid from Preston was one of the best marksmen of the 600 troops in the battalion. His father had been a sniper at Gallipoli and had taught the boy to shoot rabbits in the paddocks around Preston to get the family through the Depression. It was one shot, one rabbit. Bullets cost money.

They gave him a modified version of the venerable .303 rifle that Diggers had lugged around since the Boer War. It had a small telescopic sight and a heavy barrel, and that was it. The rest was up to him. It was autumn. Nights were freezing; soon days would be, too. It was dirty, dangerous and deathly cold. Men's lips stuck to metal mugs and some slept with their rifles to stop them freezing tight.

If the enemy didn't kill you, the Australian uniform might: it was useless in the northern winter. Diggers begged, swapped or stole warm gear from the Americans. The only way Robertson could match "the Yanks" was with a rifle: he could group 15 rounds in a space the size of his hand at 300m, hit something the size of a football at double that range, and was pretty sure he could hit an enemy at a kilometre if conditions were right.

Not that long-range marksmanship helped much in his first brush with death.

Robbie and his mate, Lance Gully, were scouting ahead to draw fire away from officers they were escorting when Gully stumbled on 30 enemy troops hiding in a ditch. They pelted him with hand grenades but he kept shooting as he backed out.

Robbie ran in to help him. He recalled something an old Digger had told him about being ambushed by superior numbers: "Keep firing — if you give them time to think, they'll kill you."

He ran to the ditch and fired off six quick shots before running back to jam another clip into his rifle and doing it again — six times.

By some miracle, both Australians survived and none of the Koreans did. Historians call it a "skirmish" at the start of the Battle of the Apple Orchard.

Lance Gully was sidelined by grenade shrapnel and the boy from Preston got a new sniping partner, a reputation and the first of a lifetime of bad dreams.

By the time I met him more than 50 years later, he was still trying to forget the "Forgotten War" of the Korean Peninsula. "When people are trying to kill you, it concentrates your mind; you don't leave it behind," he said.

What he did leave behind were scores of dead enemy soldiers.

"I never did the arithmetic — I still don't."

He also took a lot of photographs — now held by the Australian War Memorial — but few action shots.

He saw things he refused to photograph. Once, they found a little church full of bodies. Men, women and children had been beaten to death. The enemy had first tortured the children in front of their parents to make the parents "confess" to something.

They found villagers bound hand and foot and dropped in latrine pits to die. In other places, victims were trussed with wire looping their necks to their legs so they strangled.

But there were also acts of courage and kindness, such as when Robbie's battalion rescued a regiment of American paratroopers, out of ammunition and preparing to die when the Australians arrived.

"When the Yanks saw our big hats they let out a cheer because they thought we were Texans!" he recalled.

"We sailed into the enemy so hard they withdrew."

When the US commander went home, he fenced off part of his ranch and put up a sign and an Australian flag in tribute.

There was Carl Whittaker, last man standing of 20 Australians mowed down in a bayonet charge. Whittaker shouldered two rifles, picked up his wounded mate and carried him to safety, then continued the charge alone.

While the enemy was distracted by the crazy-brave Australian, a reserve section was able to run across and take the position.

"He was worth two Victoria Crosses," mused Robbie. "But he got nothing but a bawling out for stopping to pick up the wounded fella. It was against orders."

The more successful a sniper was, the more the enemy tried to kill him. Eventually the Koreans pinned Robbie down with artillery on a hillside and wounded him, and his war was over.

When he got out of hospital he went with some older ex-soldiers to the Preston RSL club and was refused entry. Korea "wasn't a war — it was a police action" was the excuse.

Years later, after he'd served in Vietnam, the club invited the now retired Warrant Officer to join and he told them to go to hell.

He had married his Japanese sweetheart, Miki, and lived a quiet life and raised a family of daughters in a spotless brick veneer house in the northern suburbs.

He wrestled with his demons after Vietnam by taking up ballroom dancing. He also learned to ride and for years borrowed a police horse to ride in the ANZAC Day march.

Over the years, the Army got him to go to training camps and teach young soldiers the deadly secrets of his trade. First he would teach them some dance steps to help their balance and rhythm.

For some reason they all liked the lean old bloke with the grey crew cut. That's why there were so many of them in uniform at his funeral at Greensborough, Vic this week.¹³

One of them read his favourite poem. It was called *A Soldier Died Today*.

*"If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today."*

¹² Sgt Ian Robertson, Korea 3RAR 1950-51, 1RAR 1953. WO1 Ian Robertson AATTV 1970-71

¹³ Ian Robertson 1927-2014

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



☐ **NEW
MEMBERSHIP**

☐ **RENEW
MEMBERSHIP**

☐ **NEW
ADDRESS**

II

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

Regimental No: _____ **DOB:** _____

RAR Service

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

Theatres Served/Years:

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

Wife/Partner's Name: _____

SUBSCRIPTIONS

(Financial Year: 1 October to 30 September)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

☐ **\$20**

MULTIPLE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

☐ **\$40 - \$60 - \$80 - \$100**

Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____ 2014

Receipt Required? YES/NO

MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	ITEM	PRICE	QTY
Cap: Black - "2nd Battalion"	\$25.00		Pewter Drink Coaster - RAR Badge	\$22.00	
Cap: Black/Gold - "Second To None"	\$25.00		Pewter Drink Coaster - ICB Badge	\$22.00	
Cap: Black/Silver - "ICB Badge"	\$25.00		Pewter Belt Buckle - ICB Badge	\$25.00	
Polo Shirt: Black/Gold - "2nd Battalion" M(97)L(102)XL(107)2XL(112)3XL(117)	\$38.00		Iron On Badge - 2RAR	\$10.00 *	
Sport Shirt: Black/White - "Second To None" L(102) XL(107) 2XL(112) 3XL(117)	\$38.00		Car Sticker - 2RAR Association	\$2.00 *	
Tee Shirt: Black/White - "Second To None" L(102) XL(107) 2XL(112) 3XL(117)	\$22.00		Bumper Sticker - Vietnam Veteran	\$8.00 *	
Tie : Black - "2RAR" Out of Stock Tie: 2RAR Tie (New style) <u>ORDER NOW</u>	\$25.00		Bumper Sticker - 2nd Battalion	\$8.00 *	
Stubby Cooler - "2RAR"	\$7.00		Car Registration Plate Frames - 2nd Battalion	\$10.00	
Stubby Cooler - "Second To No Bastard"	\$9.00		Note Pad - Leather - ICB Badge	\$20.00	
Lapel Badge - "2RAR"	\$10.00 *		Name Tag - Black Preferred name: _____	\$20.00	
Key Ring - Black/Gold	\$10.00		ICB Badge Metal/Bronze	\$10.00 *	
Wall Plaque : 2RAR - Pewter	\$38.00		Peel-Off Labels - RAR Badge (Roll of 30)	\$5.00 *	
Book: 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion 1967-68 Vol 1. Reprint 1985	\$80.00		Packing & Postage - Except items marked * (Within Australia Only)	\$8.00	
			TOTAL \$ + P&P		
ONLINE PAYMENTS: You can pay your membership fees and your merchandise purchases online. Account details: 2RAR Association, Inc. Suncorp Bank. BSB: 484-799. Account no: 063 350 355.			When ordering merchandise email/post the merchandise form to: PO Box 1097 Toombul Qld 4012. Include your initials, name and description: ('1 - 5 year membership', &/or 'Merchandise') to allow your payment to be identified.		