

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)

OCTOBER 2014

AGM, COMMEMORATION & ANNUAL REUNION

The Annual General Meeting, Commemoration Service and Reunion will be held on Saturday 25th October 2014 at Twin Towns, Tweed Heads, NSW. Entry is free, and the cost of lunch will be substantially subsidised by the Association (due to a menu price increase). Drinks are at own expense.

Notice of AGM, proxy and nomination forms are at page 11.

PROGRAM

Friday 24 October:

4.00pm	Meet & Greet	Harbour Lounge (Indoor/Outdoor area), Level 1, Twin Towns Services <u>Club</u> , Wharf Street
Saturday	25 October:	
8.00 am	Membership check	'ANZAC Room' Level 2, Twin Towns Resort,

Wharf Street

Chris Cunningham

Park, Wharf Street

River Room & Bar, Level 3, Services Club

\$40.00 per person

New and Renewal

River Room

(As above)

8.30 am Annual General Meeting Commemoration Service & 09.30 am Wreath Laying. 10.00 **Annual Reunion** Lunch (Subsidised price)

Memberships Raffle Draw

12.00 -**Buffet Lunch** 1.00 pm

4.00 pm Reunion concludes

Note: Both the Club and Resort operate on Queensland time, not NSW daylight saving time.

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.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Check the <u>newsletter mailing label</u> for the status of your membership. If '2013' or prior, you have lapsed; if '2014' or beyond, you are current. Financial Year: 1 October to 30 September. 1 - 5 years (\$20 - \$100)

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WARRIORS WHO HAVE MARCHED OUT

- NX179437, N467734 Sergeant Leslie Thomas Wilfred HEATH, 66 Battalion. DOB: 5 Mar 1926. Place of Enlistment: COWRA, NSW (13 Mar 1944). Discharge: 8 Mar 1948. Date of passing not known. Published in Reveille July-August 2014. Thanks Terry Dinneen
- 310864 Corporal Douglas George (Kipper) FRANKLIN, 2RAR Korea 1953-54. Veteran of The HOOK. Douglas was an Association Member. Passed away 11 July 2014. Age: 87+ years. Poppy Service conducted by President Forest Lake RSL. Thanks Ron Walker
- 2/410029 Private John William THATCHER, 2RAR Korea 1953-54. The HOOK. DOB: 31 October 1930. Date of passing not known. Published in Reveille July-August 2014. Thanks Terry Dinneen
- 2401545 Private Raymond Kenneth HUTCHINS, 2RAR Korea 1953-54. Veteran of HOOK. DOB: 26 February 1924. Date of passing not known. Published in Reveille July-August 2014. Thanks Terry Dinneen
- 2/410346 Private James Farley PETRIE, 2RAR Korea 1953-54. The HOOK. Date of passing not known. DOB: 15 November 1931. Published in Reveille July-August 2014. Thanks Terry Dinneen
- 52404 Private Gordon William TIMMS, 2RAR Korea 1953-54. The HOOK. 1RAR Korea 1954. 2RAR Malava 1955-57. Passed away at Esperence WA. Age: 82+ years. Thanks Neville Young, Hugh Jones
- 12917 Lance-Corporal Gordon James BULL, 2RAR Korea 1953-54 (Pte). The HOOK. Malaya 1955-57 (LCpl). Passed away from a heart attack 9 September at Tamborine Mountain, Qld. Age: 82+ years. A quiet man and an absolute gentleman. Thanks John Brookes, Brian McFarlane, Kerry Smith

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	R (ROD) NEWHAM	07 3284 8604	rodric10@bigpond.com
Postal Address: PO Box 1097 Toombul Qld 4012	Website: http://www.2rar-association.com.au		

- 1410720 Sergeant Stephen Allan WEST, 3RAR Malaysia/Borneo 5 Pl B Coy/Mor Pl 1963-65, 1ARU 1967, 6RAR 1967, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68.
 6RAR1969-70. Passed away at Cairns, Qld 21 August. Age: 74+ years. A good soldier, a good mate and a real good bloke. Thanks Darcy Dugan, Bill Parry, Syd McLeod
- 213084 Sergeant Henry Campbell MARCHMENT, Royal Australian Infantry Corps, 1ARU, HQ 1ALSG Vietnam 1967-68. Date of passing not known. DOB: 12 September 1931. Published in Reveille July-August 2014. Thanks Terry Dinneen
- 411441 Lance-Corporal Phillip Edwin 'Knuckles' <u>MCDONELL</u>, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68. 12 Pl D Coy. Passed away 14th June 2014. Age: 72 years. Thanks Wally J Musgrave
- 217144 Private Clement Arthur <u>HUGHES</u>, 1ARU, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68. Date of passing not known. DOB: 26 March1946. Thanks Terry Dinneen
- 5411703 Private Christopher Owen SMITH, 1 ARU, 2RAR Vietnam 1967. 1 Pl A Coy. Passed away 26 July 2014. Age: 67+ years. Thanks Phillip Grose, Wally J Musgraye
- 1731854 Private Gowrie William <u>SPREADBOROUGH</u>, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68. A Coy. Passed away 4 August. Age: 69+ years. Buried on the family property. Those who served with him knew him as a tough fighter. Thanks Phill Evenden
- 137013, 12763 Private Raymond Victor <u>GLODE</u>, 1RAR Korea 1954-55, Japan 1955, 2RAR Malaya 1955-57. Passed away 3 August 2014 at Sandgate, Qld. Age 82+ years. Thanks Kevin Dean, OAM
- 15989 Sergeant Thomas Henry 'Buddy' <u>LEA</u>, 2RAR Malaya 1961-63 9 PI C Coy. 6RAR Vietnam 1966 10 PI D Coy Long Tan (WIA). 9RAR 1970-72. Buddy was a thorough gentleman, a great soldier, a great man, and a great mate. Thanks Miesha (Daughter), Reg Gillian
- 122124,1410707 Private Raymond David (David)
 <u>HUNTLEY</u>, 9 Aust Inf Bn, 1RQR, 2RAR Malaya 1961-63 (Reinforcement) Mortar Pl. David passed away 19
 September. Age: 72 years. David served 3 years, later regretting not serving in Vietnam. Thanks Sarcha & Charah (Daughters), Gary Stone, 'Dad's Army'
- 29506 Frederick Roland <u>COURTNEY</u>, 2RAR Malaya 1961-63. C Coy. Passed away peacefully at Point Vernon, Qld. Age: 75+ years. Funeral held Hervey Bay 25 September. Thanks Phill Toohey, Laurie Drinkwater
- Allan George (Nobby) <u>CLARKE</u>, 1RAR, 2RAR Malaya 1961-63, 4RAR (Woodside SA). Passed away 23 September. He had been ill for some time. A good mate. Thanks Alison Clarke (Nobby's daughter), Butch Mathew
- 44127 Private Malcolm <u>OWEN</u>, 1ARU 1967 Vietnam, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68 12 Pl D Coy, HQ AFV 1970. Passed away 20 September at Port Broughton Hospital (Yorke Peninsula, SA), following a struggle of several months. Age: 67+ years. Thanks Trevor Wilson, 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

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year is progressing quickly and the committee has continued its organization for the end of year annual reunion during 24-25 October 2014, at Twin Towns. The reunion will include a Meet and Greet on the Friday night with the AGM taking place on the Saturday morning. This will be followed by the Commemoration Service, the Reunion and buffet lunch. The cost of lunch has increased substantially to \$47.00 pp since completion of renovations to the reunion venue. The management of the Services Club continues to waiver venue hire fees for our Association.



L-R: Lt Ray LeRoy, Pl Comd 10 Pl, Sgt Bob Blair 12 Pl, WO2 CSM B Coy Kiwi Gibbons, Sgt Frank Moffitt 10 Pl, WO2 CSM D Coy John May, RSM WO1 R.L. Larry Moon (Front) (Nui Dat, 1967)

I am pleased to announce that Mr Ross Bimrose has joined the committee of management. Some may remember Ross from the first tour of Vietnam. Following an internal workshop in July this year by the management committee, a number of issues affecting our membership as well as our constitution were discussed. Ross has agreed to undertake a review of our constitution and he will assess whether the document needs to be revised to better reflect what the 2RAR Association is about. The Association further welcomes the appointment of Mr Cameron Simpkins as our new Tasmanian representative.

The Association also gives a warm welcome to the following who have been appointed as honorary members:

Mr Campbell Newman – his father was operations officer 2RAR first tour Vietnam 1967/68; Mrs Tiffany Young – the widow of Mr Tom Young who organised the SA reunion in April this year; and Mrs Audrey Scatchard – the widow Mr Bernie Scatchard who rendered long and loyal service as our Tasmanian representative. The Premier has offered his apologies for not being able to attend.

The Association website is now nearing completion following a number of glitches. The new website will contain a host of information and you will be advised when it goes on-line. Also, the Association is currently examining the possibility of adding some merchandise directed at the ladies. We have asked a number of the members' wives to form a committee to examine this issue.

Following discussions with CO 2RAR, the Association has agreed to assist the Battalion with the renovation of their museum at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville. The Association has donated \$5000 towards this project and we have been advised that the Battalion hopes to unveil the refurbished museum during the battalion birthday activities in October.

A review was undertaken of the Royal Australian Regiment's National Memorial Walk at Gallipoli Barracks, by the RAR Association (Qld). We have received advice that the Contemplation Building, within its precinct is now some 16 years old and is in urgent need of refurbishment, extension and weather-proofing to extend its usage life for at least another 25 years. However, as a priority, there is a need to replace the existing decrepit pews and chairs with 27 special

to purpose pews that will add to the reverence of our Regiment's spiritual home. The 2RAR Association has agreed to assist with this project and has allocated \$1000 towards to purchase of new seating.

We have started some initial planning for the next major 2RAR Association reunion at this stage planned for May 2017 to be held in Brisbane. We would like to encourage all members and potential members to put this in the diary as we plan to develop a four day event which will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the departure of 2RAR to Vietnam. This will however not be a specific Vietnam veterans' reunion as we would like all those who served with the Battalion to attend.

We have lost a number of our warriors since the last newsletter (19 that we are aware of). Of particular note, we have recorded on these pages 6 veterans of the Battle of the HOOK, Korea 24/25 July 1953. A sad loss.

We pass our thoughts and prayers to the family of all those who have marched out, including that of Committee member David Huntley (Malaya 1961-63). David was OIC Raffles at the annual reunions.

There are also quite a number of our members who are in poor health. I would like to pass on the Association's best wishes and our hope for a speedy recovery. If you know of an ex-2RAR member who is in poor health or who has passed away, please let the Secretary know so all members can be advised.

Our membership continues to hover around the 550 and we would like to see that increase.

There are a lot of ex-2RAR servicemen out there and we would like to invite more of them to come and join us. So if you know any ex-2RAR members in your area who have not joined, I would appreciate if you could encourage them to become part of the Battalion Association. We especially would like some of the post-Vietnam generation to come and join the 2RAR family.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Annual Reunion 24-25 October at Twin Towns. Full details are contained in this newsletter.

"Second to None"

Leo Van De Kamp President

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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 & Bar on Level 3 at Twin Towns Services Club.

MEMBERS' DRAW

The winner of the financial Members' Draw held on 3 August, received a copy of 'Uncommon Soldier' by Chris Masters, 2012. Congratulations to Winston LaGalle, Bonalbo, NSW. This is the sixth year of the draw. Initially books were purchased by the committee, however in recent years many, such as Uncommon Soldier, have been donated.

THE BATTALION TIE

The newly designed 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).

To get one, see merchandise form on back page.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to our newest members (21):

Paul Jacobson	William Stephen	Peter Auer
Kyle Secker	Christopher Smith	Robert Carrison
Tim McCombe	Mark Quinn	Timothy Jackson
John Frewen	John Patchett	William Munro
Timothy Nelson	Brian Parratt	Margie Quinn (Associate)
Trish McGarry	Jody Gardner	Barry Toohill
(Associate)	(Associate)	(Associate)
Audrey Scatchard (Honorary)	Tiffany Young (Honorary)	Campbell Newman, MP (Honorary)

MEMBERSHIPS & MERCHANDISE

Need to update your membership? Want merchandise? How do I pay? Here's how:

Pay by post: Fill out the membership/merchandise form on the back page, attach payment & mail to PO Box 1097 Toombul Qld 4012.

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

*2rarsecretary@gmail.com

Pay on-line:

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

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.

REUNION: 5 PLATOON B COY 2014

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

Contact: Steve Way (rachelway2@gmail.com)

Mob: 0884 259 881

MOOLOOLABA RIFLEMEN LUNCHES

Friday <u>3 October</u>, Friday <u>7 November</u>, Friday <u>5 December</u> @ 1200hrs, Mooloolaba Surf Club (Qld). \$15 for lunch, drinks at own expense. Kevin Lynch 0416 275 504 Map Reference: http://goo.gl/PgAUGc

REUNION: 10TH INTAKE NATIONAL SERVICE 2015

The 10th Intake National Service (Call-up early October 1967) plus wives/partners, will be held on 6-12 October 2015 at Sawtell Beach Tourist Park, NSW. Overseas service is not a prerequisite. This is the fifth biannual reunion. Interstate visitors welcome.

Contact: Richard Barry (richyvon47@hotmail.com) Tel: (02) 6792 3114

BATTALION BIRTHDAYS

RAR	23 November 1948	6RAR	6 June 1965
1RAR	12 October 1948	7RAR	1 September 1965
2RAR	16 October 1948	5/7RAR	3 December 1973
2/4RAR	15 August 1973	8RAR	8 August 1966
3RAR	20 October 1948	8/9RAR	31 October 1973
4RAR	1 February 1964	9RAR	13 November 1967
5RAR	1 March 1965		

THE SECRETARY

Report from Meeting 6th August 2014

Honorary/Associate Memberships

Honorary membership invitations have been accepted by Campbell Newman, MP, Audrey Scatchard, & Tiffany Young. Campbell is the current Queensland Premier.

Funeral Sashes

Order placed for 50 sashes; listed also as merchandise for \$20.00 each. The 2RAR sash is in Scarlet, Black & Green, Up to now we have been using the RAR sash.

Business Enterprise

George Booth of TravelTree (WA) has accepted our offer to become a Business Enterprise member (1 year membership). He will have a credit card sized ad (below) in four RINGO editions.



Sponsorship

Buderim Tavern, Vale Hotel, and Kirwan Tavern have agreed to participate in this sponsorship program. There will be a 10% rebate to the 2RAR Association on the total spend by 2RAR Association members and friends.

Cards have been posted out to the Queensland membership.

VISITORS TO BATTALION MUSEUM

I have recently been contacted by visitors to Townsville wishing to visit the unit museum. John Twomey has accommodated each person very cordially.

If you plan a visit, please let me know as far in advance as possible, the museum has no structured hours, and is closed on weekends. Visitors will need photo I.D. and will be signed in and escorted to the site.

The museum is being renovated. An official opening will coincide with the battalion birthday in October.

Jock Cassidy Townsville Rep.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Grahame Edwards (NSW)	(02) 9520 5681				
Granamo Zamarao (11011)	edfamily1 @iprimus.com.au				
Vacant (ACT)	VACANT				
Jim Cooper (VIC)	(03) 9548 0016				
Jilli Cooper (VIC)	jimwend@netspace.net.au				
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Vacant (NT)	VACANT				
	0431 355 579				
'Jock' Cassidy (Townsville)	johncassidy65@hotmail.com				
	(0011649) 267 7545				
Bill Martin (NZ	bwmartin@xtra.co.nz				
	DWITIATUIT@XUA.CO.TIZ				

CALENDAR 2014

CALENDA	IR 2014	
31 Jan to 2 May 1971	Operation 'PHOI HOP' (Cooperation) (1PI A Coy 31 Mar)	Binh Gia, Phuoc Tuy South Vietnam
1 Feb 1995	2/4RAR delink to form 2RAR and 4RAR	Townsville, Qld Holsworthy, NSW
24 Jan to 14 Feb 1968	Operation 'COBURG'. (D Coy to 16 Feb; V Coy to 24 Feb.)	Bien Hoa/Long Kanh 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
Fri 25 Jul	Samichon Day commemorating the Battle of the HOOK 24/25 July 1953. At 11am. Gus Breen Ph: (02) 9428 683 E-mail: gusbreen@yahoo.com.au	The RAR Memorial, Regimental Square, Wynyard Street, Sydney, NSW
Sun 27 Jul	Korea Veterans' Day 61st Anniversary of the Armistice in Korea 27 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 (69th Anniversary)	Labuan, North Borneo
Fri 24 Oct	2RAR National Reunion: Meet & Greet (4.00pm Harbour Lounge)	'AGM': ANZAC Room Tweed Heads &
Sat 25 Oct	2RAR National Reunion: AGM, Commemoration Service, Annual Reunion & Buffet Lunch	Coolangatta RSL. 'Reunion': 'River Room', Level 3, Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads, NSW
Tue 11 Nov	Remembrance Day	Enoggera, Qld. Local arrangements
Sat 22 Nov	The Royal Australian Regiment Birthday Dinner. On- line registration form: http://goo.gl/rvC827 POC: Greg Decker secretary.rarassociationqld@g mail.com	Gaythorne RSL, Samford Road, Gaythorne, Qld
Sun 23 Nov	RAR Birthday 1948 (66th Anniversary)	Hiro, Japan
6-12 Oct 2015	Reunion: 10th Intake National Service 1967 POC: Richard Barry (richyvon47@hotmail.com) Tel: (02) 6792 3114	Sawtell Beach Tourist Park, NSW.
THE MATE	ONAL MEMORIAL WALK	

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL WALK

Visit the Royal Australian Regiment National Memorial Walk, at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera.

Information here: http://www.rar.org.au

VALE: 'BUDDY' LEA

To Reg 'Gillie' Gillian. I thank you for unselfishly looking after Buddy for many years. His carer, his driver, his mate. To his family and friends, you have suffered a great loss. My Long Tan family, many here today, also suffers the loss of a brave and wonderful soldier who was respected by all. I have lost a loyal friend who accompanied me whenever I went to talk to Schools about Anzac and Long Tan Days. The children loved his big smile and gentle manner. Buddy inspired a song by local group Gary and the Bob Cats "Long Tan in the Mud', and he contributed to the profit, and loss, of the RSL Club poker machines.

Like me, he had been first conscripted into National Service and then joined the Regular Army. I first met Buddy at Enoggera in 1965 as a Corporal Section Commander in my newly formed Delta Company 6RAR. A year later at the now legendary Battle of Long Tan he was to be wounded just after he had gone forward into no man's land to rescue a mate. Under fire and aided by Neil Rankin and Bill Roche he dragged Sgt Paddy Todd in. Paddy had been shot in both ankles and had crawled back to our position. He was almost shot by 10 Platoon until Lt Geoff Kendall (here today) yelled out 'take your hat off'. Buddy then got hit by a burst of enemy AK47 fire and was badly wounded. His 2ic Jack Jewry knelt over him to dress his wounds and fell heavily onto Buddy shot dead. Buddy spent six hours in our CAP with twenty other wounded, patched up by Doc Phil Dobson, here today, until we could get them to hospital at midnight. I visited him in Vung Tau hospital during his five week stay until he was well enough to be flown back to hospital in Brisbane. He recovered and served on to 1995 - 35 years of distinguished service.

I met him again in 2003 when I moved here from Nambour. In 2009 I was advised by Sensis that I had been selected from twenty nominations to be on the 2010 Courageous Australians Telephone book cover. I told them Buddy was more courageous than me and he should be on the cover. They said no, but I insisted he shared the cover page. He used to call me Boss, then H, and then Brudder.

What else can I say. Buddy, we loved your loyalty and jovial nature. You would light up any room. I would be proud to have your family with me on Long Tan days in Freedom Park. We will meet again in the not too distant future. We salute you.

Lt Col Harry Smith SG MC (Retd) OC, D Coy 6RAR

DUKE OF GLOUCESTER CUP 2014

A team of 12 soldiers from 6RAR, led by Corporal Dean George, took out the ADF's most prestigious military skills competition, the Duke of Gloucester Cup, last month.

Soldiers from the seven RAR battalions were pitted against each other in gruelling tests of stamina and skill at Singleton's army base. The Enoggera-based battalion was the only one to place in all six categories.

The win has earned them a spot in the prestigious Exercise Cambrian Patrol in Wales next month, when they'll be pitted against the best soldiers in the world.

6RAR last won in 2008 while Townsville battalions — who saw themselves as "Australia's elite soldiers" — had won it since. "Townsville had a bit of a monopoly on it, but overall, 6RAR has won it nine times, which makes us equal first with 1RAR."

The British Army describe it as a continuous 48-hour, longrange reconnaissance patrolling competition, testing candidates' leadership, field craft, discipline and both mental and physical stamina.

EXTRACTS FROM AN ADDRESS

Take back 62 years¹ – Puckapunyal July 1952. 2RAR was what in the UK they would call a depot battalion training reinforcement for Korea. To say it was in a sad and sorry state would be an understatement. Accommodation was appalling, training was done out on the ranges and in the Tallarook hills and drafts were coming in and going out as they reached embarkation fitness. There was no sense of battalion pride as would be expected.

I and a group of other young officers had already been warned to go as reinforcements for the battalions in Korea. This was when we were told 2RAR was to become an operational battalion and we were to become part of the group preparing Bn for employment to Korea in 1953. This was really the beginning of 2RAR in an operational sense. This information was met by objections and sulks and 'The war will be over before we get there' etc. Luckily older and experienced and wiser heads took us aside and convinced us (and in particularly myself) that you can't fight the system, so get on with it.

As I in my turn became older and I hope wiser I realised how privileged I had been to be part of what became a very good, well led Battalion . It was a happy battalion and developed a strong battalion spirit. It had a fine band which contributed greatly and had everybody smiling as they played 'OOPSIE DOO' – especially as they met you coming in from an arduous weeks training and played you into camp; we were a better battalion because of the band.

The battalion developed a fine group of young junior leaders and very good soldiers .How good was proved at the Battle of the Hook right at the end of the Korean War. Particularly two young gallant NCOs whose incredible efforts were such a part of the successful defence and who were awarded immediate Military Medals. As David Butler (later Maj General Butler) said in his account of this battle 'I have often wondered whether at other times, in other units, in other armies, or, in other wars they may have been differently rewarded'. Their citations are well worth reading. One of them at least has a street named after him in the barracks in Townsville. They set a wonderful standard.

Since this time many thousands of soldiers have served with distinction in 2RAR in its many deployments setting the same very high standards. From the cold, night war of Korea – to two tours in the jungles of Malaya, two tours in the jungles of Vietnam and two tours to East Timor and later to Timor Leste (under its new name). Added to this are the deployment to the Solomons and part deployments to Rwanda, to Iraq and to Afghanistan. A proud record indeed. One could say "Second to none'

Frank Hassett (General Sir Francis Hassett), 3RAR CO in Korea and later Chief of the Defence Force was one of our finest infantry soldiers. He stressed the elements that come naturally to the well trained Australian soldier. They are courage, common sense, imitative and MATESHIP.

To quote his comments about mateship 'Mateship is a concern for a fellow soldier. The Australian soldier in all battles and wars has fought better because he was part of a team of mates – a team which would come to help him, whenever it was practicable, when he was in trouble. Many hard fought battles owed their success to the strong digger spirit of mateship which existed, particularly at the platoon and section level.' This strong sense of mateship has I am sure been part of the battalion through its many activities and deployments whether in Overseas or in Australia.

Patrick Forbes
PI Comd, Aslt Pnr Platoon
2RAR Korea

¹ An extract from an Address by Patrick Forbes, MC, ED on 24 April 2014 at the Unveiling & Dedication of the 2RAR Memorial in Adelaide.

VETERANS & VETERANS FAMILIES COUNSELLING SERVICE

Post 1975 Conflicts

Australia's operational tempo has gradually increased over the decades since the conclusion of the Vietnam War. Australian troops have been involved in a range of conflicts, often as part of an international coalition, for example those deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) as part of the International Security Assistance Force.

VVCS provides free and confidential, nation-wide counselling and support for war and service-related mental health conditions, such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, sleep disturbance and anger.

Eligibility

Free and confidential VVCS services are available to: Australian veterans of all conflicts, along with current and former ADF members who:

- have served in the Royal Australian Navy as a submariner;
- have been medically discharged;
- have been involved in a serious training accident; or
- have a DVA-accepted mental health disability

Common concerns

The mental health concerns that veterans deployed to recent conflicts and operations commonly experience include:

- Difficulty adjusting to normal tempo after deployment (or a series of deployments)
- Challenges transitioning to civilian life after separation from ADF
- Difficulties with relationships, including social exclusion
- Problems with anger control
- Depression and anxiety
- Substance and alcohol misuse
- Diagnosed PTSD.

These are all areas where engaging with VVCS counselling or group programs can make a positive difference.

Veterans & Veterans Families Counselling Service

The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) and Veterans Line can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling.

Phone 1800 011 046

VVCS Website: http://www.vvcs.gov.au/

ABOUT: THE BATTALION MASCOT

2RAR arrived in Penang on 20 October 1955. They had sailed on the Georgic from Brisbane, with the battalion mascot Private Wild Dog on 8 October.

First shots were fired when 2 RAR began patrolling, looking for the hard to find communist bandits on the mainland Malaya in January 1956. By the time 2RAR arrived the outcome of the Malayan Emergency was not in doubt, though there were still a number of terrorists operating in northern Malaya, often from bases across the border in Thailand.

Are there any further recollections of Pte Wild Dog? Ed.²
Hugh Jones
Warrnambool, Vic

WAKKA AND COMPANY 1985



SNIPPETS

- Welcome to Cameron Simpkins our recently appointed Tasmania representative. Cameron was a member of 2/4RAR 1992-94 (Pl Comd, Coy 2IC). He was my Adjutant at Kapooka for one year. Gordon Hurford
- We are aware of veterans who have made significant donations to 2RAR Association & to the battalion towards renovations of the Museum. Well done, & thank you.
- Family & friends were at the British Hotel in Adelaide recently to unveil a plaque in honour of Tom Young. Another was presented to the Walkerville RSL. (Tom's local club). Thanks 'Aub' Terry.
- Vic Winkler recently had a stroke, and previously had pneumonia and a heart attack, so hopefully he's on the way to recovery. Terry Dinneen
- Stevie West was in B Coy 3RAR when we were in Enoggera. We were in the same Coy in Malaya. I am sure he was also in 7RAR on RTA from Malaya. Anyway old mate RIP. Syd McLeod (Mac)
- I was in the same PL as Steve West in Malaya until he went to Mortars. A good soldier who often gave me advice as a young soldier. Will always be remembered as a great man and fine soldier from 5 PI B Coy 3 RAR. Bill Parry
- Barry (Bazza) Burling has been our WA Rep for over 10 years, and is retiring at the AGM due to his health. Barry has an interesting story to tell of his change of name to Barry David Anyang-Burling. For another time. Ed.
- Re the last edition Sparrow (Ross's) Dog by P.O.G. Forbes, MC. There are still a few of us who were there to remember. Ron Gildersleeve Aslt Pnr Pl 1953-54.
- We were notified of the passing of 'Jessie James' (an OCS graduate) but have been unable to identify which 'Jessie James'! If you can help, contact the Secretary.
- My late father 'William George Killick B.E.M' always said Buddy Lea was a thorough gentleman, a great soldier, a great man, and a great mate. God Bless you Buddy. Rebecca Killick-Fasano
- I am deeply saddened at the news of David Huntley's passing. I know he is now at rest and beyond any further suffering. David served his Battalion, Association and Committee with honour and distinction. He will be greatly missed. Gordon Hurford.
 - [Letters/cards to: Charah Huntley, 13 Parkville Street, Sippy Downs, Qld 4556. Ed.]
- Gordon Bull celebrated his arrival in Korea with a plunge into a "Cess Pool" of human manure when he was trying to outrun some RP's on his way back to camp! He was always good for a laugh and a good bloke. Kerry Smith
- Heard of the passing of Buddy Lea who I served with in Malaya when Buddy was in the Int Sect at BHQ. He will be sadly missed. Terry Byrne
- Buddy Lea was a much loved officers mess supervisor trying to bring a post-Vietnam group of Subbies to heel in the old Gallipoli Mess. A great individual. David Hudson
- Is this YOU? Jeff paid his membership on-line. Who is JEFF? Please contact the Treasurer!

² http://goo.gl/OalWPQ

BOOK: 'UNCOMMON SOLDIER'

The conflict in Afghanistan, sometimes described as the 'good war', gave way to the 'bad war' when in 2003 Australian soldiers joined another US-led Coalition to eliminate weapons of mass destruction from ... Iraq. While none were found, in pursuit of them the Australian SASR and 4RAR (Cdo) enhanced their reputation.

To their chagrin, many of the rest of the troops deployed were quarantined from the worst of the fighting by Prime Minister Howard. Corporal Ryan Ingold, who marched out of Kapooka in 2000, was by then trained to the hilt. His expertise as a 2RAR infantryman was unsurpassed, having led a section to victory in a `DOG', the Australian Army's Duke of Gloucester Cup, a five-day competition that tests the training and endurance skills of each Infantry battalion. Now he was stuck in a 'sand trap'. 'We had a lot of skills but did hardly anything. I take my hat off to the US National Guard. Their soldiers were getting blown up by the day. They were not as well trained, but they had to do what we could not do.' Australia upheld its ANZUS commitment by undertaking protective security work, largely in the quieter Al Muthanna and Dhi Qar provinces.

In contrast, Tony Gilchrist, a Kapooka graduate from 1987 working bomb disposal in Baghdad, was 'too bloody close'. The first sight to greet him when he arrived at the airport in 2005 was of ramp ceremonies to send home the flag-draped coffins of dead soldiers. While United States losses alone would climb above 4000 lives, there will never be an accurate figure for how many Iraqi lives were lost but it is thought to be over 100,000 at a bare minimum. Gilchrist saw too much of it. Working with American and British bomb disposal teams, he went out on 157 jobs in 160 days, learning like the rest of them to tuck his feet back while travelling in a vehicle in the hope they would less likely be torn from his body if an IED was tripped.

`I saw some horrific injuries. We pulled bodies out of cars, collecting bits, the biggest part fitting in one hand: one head, one leg, one shoe. You felt like shit but you could not show it to the others. One time five blokes in the lead vehicle were killed. By the second month enthusiasm waned and excuses for not going out began to emerge. Every day we expected not to come home. Every day I would leave photos and a letter to my wife on the desk.'

It remains a remarkable fact that in the six years of Operation Catalyst in Iraq, no Australian military personnel were killed in action. $^{\rm 3}$

ABOUT: ALLAN (NOBBY) CLARKE

Knobby Clarke joined up in June 1960. We first met at Ingleburn during Corps training, and posted to 2RAR at Holsworthy, then in February 1961 to 1RAR Malaya; Nobby to C Coy at Kuala Kangsa & me to B Coy at Sungia Siput. When 2RAR relieved 1RAR we both went to 6 PI B Coy at Terendak Camp Malacca.

"Nob" liked a bit of fun. On one occasion he crawled from the Crown Hotel, back to our Naffi (canteen), for a bet. He did it in record time too, but couldn't remember who the bet was with!

Once he was attacked by wasps and ended up in Kinrara military hospital (KL). On handing in his rifle to the Mukka (Pom) he was about to be charged over a dirty weapon, but changed his mind after a chat with an Aussie NCO!

Later he was posted to 4RAR at Woodside. I saw him again when he knocked on our front door in Brisbane, with our address written on his hand, he'd been given it by a barmaid at my local "watering hole". We both discharged in June 1966.

Butch & Jan Mathew Gladstone, Qld

'KOTA TINGI' BY BRIAN PANNELL

province, near Singapore and my turn came soon enough. I was the only Australian officer on the course as it had been designated for the new British Battalion joining our Brigade, the 1st Battalion, the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI). Also on this course were four US Marine Captains, one of whom I had some dealings with later in the course. We were instructed in anti-ambush drills, attacks and defence/harbour drills etc. in jungle terrain and finally jungle navigation. One Sunday morning as I approached the Officers Mess, I heard an unfamiliar cultured "pommy" voice coming from the bar area and was fascinated to discover the owner was a Nepalese Ghurkha Officer who had been to school in England and was a graduate of Sandhurst Military Academy. So, don't judge a book by its cover, me thinks? On the last week of the three week course we had to complete an overnight navigation exercise. We were divided into patrols of about eight persons and my patrol comprised US Marine Captain Chuck Shea, and the remainder were KOYLI NCOs. We were dropped off a truck on a road through jungle and instructed to make our way to a parallel road quite some distance away. The usual method of navigating through thick jungle is for the navigator to indicate the correct compass bearing to two scouts who set about marking a trail in the desired direction. I had the first go at setting direction and ushered a KOYLI Sgt out in front with his machete to cut a path through the jungle and get us on our way. We had gone about half a kilometer when the Sgt cut a palm frond, the remainder of which caught in his equipment and was bent forward until it would bend no more and slipped out of the Sgt's webbing and sprang back hitting me in the face with

Most Junior Officers in the unit had to attend a course at the

Jungle Warfare School at Kota Tingi in Johore Bahru

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

such force that I landed on my backside with a bleeding gash

surveyed the damage to my face and called for the medical

to my right cheek. Chuck Shea called everyone to a halt,

kit, as you would expect well trained Yanks to do.

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

(More anecdotes from Brian in Dec. Ed.)

³ Uncommon Soldier, by Chris Masters © 2012 Page 92-93

DROPSHORTS 4

MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES 27271 Sergeant Cecil Charles ANDERSON

2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment

4th March 1956 Kulim, Malaya

On 4th March 1956 Sgt Cecil Charles ANDERSON was commanding a patrol of A Company 2nd Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment in anti-Communist Terrorist operations in the jungle south of KULIM.

Whilst leading his patrol Sgt ANDERSON was fired on at close range by a sentry from a hidden terrorist camp and seriously wounded. Sgt ANDERSON immediately returned the fire and then managed to crawl to cover, from which position he controlled the section of his patrol until the terrorists withdrew.

Although mortally wounded, Sgt ANDERSON by his calm and courageous leadership inspired his patrol in its first contact with the terrorists and set the highest standard of personal courage.

POEM: "ONE CHAPTER"

Aged twenty one, farewell the boy, that rifle carried, no fancy toy Familiar words, fan out, deploy, expertly trained to seek and destroy

North of Australia, not far away, Vietnam ranked with decay Monsoon rain, stinking-muddy-grey, heat and sweat each endless day

Keen young eyes survey the scene, compare it to a nightmare dream

Lips curse that hostile jungle green, each never ending winding stream

On patrol signs to show there's Vietcong

Pulses race, hearts beating strong, thrill and fear begins her song

Swiftly struck the hand of fate, Cong booby trap, a dying mate, Fear has turned to blazing hate, just one aim, to wipe the slate Searching, seeking all day long to find and kill those Vietcong Dare to say, these thoughts are wrong, revenge is sweet, conviction strong

Remembering yet, the savage thrill, first contact made, a certain kill

Man's dying scream, then eerie still, he can't forget and he never will

In his hands, an armalite, blue eyes looked steady down the sight

One bullet stopped Cong's desperate flight, he'd killed the foe, each soldier's right

Back to base camp, Nui Dat, clean jungle greens and funny hat Contentedly with mates he sat, each one avenged for that 'jumping jack'

As night touched Vietnam sky, sleep did not come, useless to

Then quickly wipe each misting eye, do sons of 'Anzac' sit and crv?

Next day with gunships overhead, those friendly 'Yanks', destruction spread

Faulty rocket screaming red, Delta boys lay wounded, dead To one soft words of comfort said, helpless to stop life's tragic ebb

He shook his clenched fist overhead, while hopeless bitter tears, were shed

His tears fell where the dead boy lay, splashed down upon a young face, grey

On sightless eyes that saw this day, he bowed his head and walked away

Aged twenty two, this grown man matured by hell in Vietnam Just one chapter from young life's span, Australia's 'National Serviceman'.

June Powell, 1967

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Summary of Recollections

I'm enclosing a summary of recollections recorded by Doug Franklin (ex-MMG PI 2RAR) some years ago. At one stage we thought we might compile a record of events re Hill 111 24th July 1953; but this did not eventuate.

I thought you might place this copy in the Association's archives, if only to highlight the after care of WIAs in the Korean campaign.

Anyhow it's a thought in memory of a mate.

Ron Walker Atherton, Qld

Commemorating Samichon Day

Enclosed is the payment receipt for the Samichon Day Wreath forwarded to you for reimbursement. The ceremony went off very well though the weather – as usual – was a little unkind.

Sydney Legacy – great friends for our day provided a "Pop-Up" tent and chairs – both very welcome.

The numbers were down a little – 26 attended but I guess the Battle was 61 years ago. It still lingers clearly in the memory of those of us who were there.

Thank you for your generosity – it is greatly appreciated.

Gus Breen Lane Cove, NSW

Mrs Powell's Poem: "One Chapter"

Written probably about the time of the Battalion's birthday in 1967 Sidney Powell's mother penned a poem called One Chapter. Sid was our Coy Sig. Recently the original copy of the poem was re-discovered by Sid and forwarded for comment.

There is no doubt that Sid's mother, now in a nursing home and aged over 90 has captured a moment in our history that changed the lives of many of us, some for the better and some for the worse.

From and on behalf of over two hundred and twenty soldiers who served in Delta Company in South Vietnam in 1967/68 June Powell, we thank you.

Terry Dinneen former 2IC D Coy

BOOK: 'A DUTY DONE'

'A Duty Done', by Lt Col (Retd) Fred Fairhead.

A summary of operations by the Royal Australian Regiment in the Vietnam War 1965-1975. Published by the Royal Australian Regiment Association (SA) Inc.

A very informative and well-illustrated book about the Royal Australian Regiment's operations in South Vietnam.

The cost, including postage and handling, is \$30 and is required to be forwarded with your order to:

RARA (SA) Inc (Book Order)
13 Beatty St., Linden Park, SA 5065; or Email: rar02@internode.on.net

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

In May 1993, 2/4RAR was tasked to provide a Rifle PI for Op Gemini in Cambodia. 12 PI D Coy, deployed to Cambodia tasked with providing local security for Australian Army Aviation Assets.

ADF members who served with the Force Communications Unit in Cambodia over 20 years ago have been recognised with a Meritorious Unit Citation in the 2014 Australia Day Honours.

To be eligible for the Meritorious Unit Citation individuals must have been assigned to the Force Communications Unit – Cambodia for at least 30 days within the area of operation during the period 15 March 1992 to 7 October 1993.

⁴ Honours and Awards presented to members serving with 2RAR 1945- 1995. Compiled by John Baker and Bob Downey.

THE ANZAC ACRONYM

ANZAC⁵ is the acronym formed from the initial letters of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, the formation into which Australian and New Zealand soldiers were grouped in Egypt prior to the landing at Gallipoli in April 1915.

First written as A. & N. Z. Army Corps, it soon became A. N. Z. A. C. and the new word was so obvious that the full stops were omitted. The word was initially used to refer to the cove where the Australians and New Zealanders landed and soon after, to the men themselves. An Anzac was a man who was at the Landing and who fought at Gallipoli, but later it came to mean any Australian or New Zealand soldier of the First World War. An Anzac who served at Gallipoli was given an A badge which was attached to his colour patch.

Following the allied withdrawal from Gallipoli and the expansion of Australian and New Zealand forces in Egypt early in 1916, the ANZAC was split into two new formations called I ANZAC Corps and II ANZAC Corps - despite the repetition of the word Corps in their name. These formations, I ANZAC Corps comprising three Australian divisions and II ANZAC Corps made up of the 4th and 5th Australian divisions and the New Zealand Division, were transferred to France and fought on the Western Front until 1917, when the five Australian formations were grouped into a single Australian Corps. Also in March 1916, the ANZAC Mounted Division was formed from three Australian Light Horse Brigades and the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade for service in Sinai and Palestine. In 1916 – 1917 a joint signals unit, the 1st (ANZAC) Wireless Signal Squadron, operated with the British expeditionary force in Mesopotamia (now

In the Second World War, a new ANZAC was formed during the short Greek campaign of April 1941 when the 6th Australian Division and the New Zealand Division were joined under command of the headquarters of I Australian Corps (redesignated as ANZAC Corps).

Proposals for the formation of an "ANZAC" Brigade during the Korean War came to nothing, but in the Vietnam conflict New Zealand infantry companies were attached to Australian battalions (2, 4, 6RAR) which were then designated as ANZAC battalions e.g. 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion.

ABOUT: CECIL ANDERSON, MID

While Garrie Hutchinson was researching his book Men of Kapyong he came across Sgt Cecil Charles Anderson who served with 3RAR, was wounded at Chongju and missed Kapyong. He was, like Reg Saunders, an indigenous soldier.

Sergeant Anderson was a Second World War veteran, having served with the 2/2nd Independent Company in New Guinea. He was killed on patrol with 2RAR during the Malayan Emergency in 1956 – and was awarded a posthumous MID for his bravery and leadership.

Garries's uncle, Laurence Turner, was a journalist with the Melbourne Herald, and was 'embedded' with 2RAR in 1955-56. He was there when Sgt Anderson was killed– and attended his funeral at Taiping.⁶

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE WALK

The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk at SEYMORE, Vic commemorates the 60,000+ men and women who served in Vietnam.

The names of every person who served in Vietnam is listed on its walls. It is an amazing and emotional visit.

View Video here: http://goo.gl/1w0rwm

MACHINE GUNNERS B COY 2RAR/135AHC 'EMUS'

"The Machine Gunners of B Coy 2RAR & 135AHC 'EMUs" by Lt Ray Godfrey, RAN (MID). 1968.

PART 2 OF 2

Private Geoff Kingdon



8 January was my first flight and little did I realise that it would be the 'hairiest'. What was supposed to be a day spent in the Delta moving troops of the US 9th Div ended up being a day and a night as the inserted troops came under

extreme VC fire. As day turned into night with no letup in our mission one helo was hit by enemy fire on approach to the LZ and crashed inverted. The fight went on till about 5am the next day; 5 troopships & 3 gunships took hits. During the night insertions and extractions the slicks were not permitted to fire for fear of hitting our troops. I think the US Battalion was 3/39 Battalion and the enemy was 5th VC Regiment.

On 11 January I turned 21 and I spent the day flying combat assaults. When we arrived back at Blackhorse that evening, the Americans put on a bit of a birthday party for me which I will never forget. A cake, 2 cans of Bud beer, then back to work

The rest of my secondment to the 135th was a bit less exciting but still challenging.

Private Bill Wearne

I was a Forward Scout in 4 PI seconded as a door gunner with 135AHC out of Camp Blackhorse about 60 'clicks' north of Nui Dat. On arrival I was shown my tent and bunk and that was it.

8 January was my first flight. I was "shit scared". We followed the gun ships into the LZ and fighting our way through the dust and smoke to drop off the 9 Div troops.

Returning to base one night, we were diverted to pick up wounded and deceased soldiers. This was very traumatic for me. After loading them on to the helo and about to take off the pilot said to me "door gunner you are in control". That meant that I had to let the pilot know if lift-off was possible as it was pitch black and he could not see the paddy dykes.

After this things seemed to settle into place for me. Three weeks later I was back with 4 PI and I was glad to be there. On leaving I was presented with a certificate stating that I had flown 48.3 hrs on combat missions and told that I was entitled to the US Army 'Air Medal'.

Private Robert Carmichael

I arrived in Camp Blackhorse on 23 January. Upon arriving at Blackhorse imagine the shock that we got when we found fridges, with alcohol therein, in our tent! Never happen at Nui Dat! The other thing that shocked me was when the next morning the sergeant came in and asked nicely if this serviceman would get up, and he replied that the Sgt could get stuffed. Shit! I thought that it was on here but the Sgt just left the tent. So much for discipline in the US Army! That day went quick with our intro into what had to be done with one's chopper, the do's and don'ts of flying and the very important part of keeping the M60's operational. From there on we were flying!!!!

I recall our flight sitting on a road waiting, when this enormous noise erupted nearby, and over the bank came this very large amphibious hovercraft gunboat, mounted with 50cal machineguns, and set down right beside us. Christ I thought, trust the USA to come up with this one!

And, when discharging ARVN troops hoping like hell that there was no grenade left on board; live grenades were a surprise gift on occasions. Thus the unwritten rule if an ARVN soldier turned around pointing his weapon at the helo he was "fair game".

On 8 February putting 9th Div troops into a hot LZ, while watching bits of the paddy bund flying in all directions. On our third insertion we took off and I could see a slick a bit higher than us with smoke coming from the motor, the crew chief standing on the skids, as it disappeared overhead, next thing over the radio we heard that it had crashed. My slick, White 5, was directed to fly above the crash site to see if there were any

⁵ https://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/anzac/acronym/

⁶ Sgt Cecil Anderson – Indigenous Soldier In Three Wars. By Laurence Turner. http://goo.gl/pPhZVZ

survivors. There were none! We were getting closer to where the artillery were blasting the enemy! Anyhow we were running low on fuel so we headed back to refuel. On landing beside the pumps, I jump out, slide door forward and notice all these 'bloody' bullet holes in our tail. I ran around the front of the aircraft to grab the crew chief to have a look! Next thing the aircraft shut down. We took the guns off and got a lift back to Blackhorse. Upon stripping my M60 I found that a bullet had passed between barrel and gas chamber making the gun inoperable, so it became a single shot machine-gun!

Became a medivac for one day taking wounded civilians to hospital at Vung Tau. Most had been burnt by napalm. One girl was receiving plasma; half way there the girl stops breathing. I inform the pilot. Reply 'OK' you can put the bottle down gunner. Felt like a bloody idiot! The crew chief introduces me to the "weed". Have two puffs of pipe and can't stop laughing! No more thanks!

Back at Nui Dat, on leaving the Boozer that night with can in hand when a voice says, "What have you got there soldier?" Not at Blackhorse now am I! "Report to me in the morning soldier"! Result 7 days CB.

Private Stan Jaruga

My time with the 135 AHC was a blur of activity as it coincided with the start of the 'Tet Offensive'. We were flying continuous combat assaults mainly with the US 9th Div as well as the 18th and 25th ARVN Divisions. We also did a couple of lifts moving ATF troops to the Bien Hoa /Long Binh complex to interdict the NVA/VC rocket regiments who were attacking bases in the area.

Rob Carmichael and I flew over 80 hours of combat missions with our only respite being supposedly non combative 'hash and trash' missions throughout 3 Corps. Then we carried everything from senior US officers, POWs and resupplies to the inevitable KIA's. Even so both day and night we regularly came under enemy fire.

When I was on my first combat assault no one told me when not to fire the M60. We had two flights of 9th Div troops going into an LZ in the Delta and when the pilot said 'open fire' I let go with about 80 rounds and every chopper in the vicinity yelled 'CEASE FIRE' Nobody had told me not to fire from the middle of a flight!

On 8 February when taking 9Div troops into an LZ in the Delta, we flew into a 'shit storm' of incoming. The lead chopper was hit and crashed killing all four crew. I fired nearly all my rounds and 'shit' myself. It was a sad time for the 135th and it made me think of my mates back at Nui Dat hoping they were OK.

Another 9th Div mission involved an emergency night insertion. We loaded the troops and flew 'flat chat' bringing in reinforcements as the first insertion had been ambushed by at least a battalion of VC. We had to fly through the incoming artillery fire with my arse puckered up as tight as could be.

That night while we refuelled I was told to report to the Command and Control (C&C) chopper which carried the battalion commander. The C&C ship controlled the infantry, air, artillery and the spotter plane. We flew back to the AO and I reckon there was more green (enemy) than red (friendly) tracer flying around. We were circling the battle zone when I saw these big white balls (50 cal) heading for us. I yelled at the pilot to douse our lights as they had us bracketed. F#@* they missed!

On one mission Rob and I were on a multi-aircraft lift taking US KIAs from Fire Support Bases (FSB) to the morgue at Long Binh. This unnerved both of us and brought home how bad the Tet Offensive was in terms of non-stop action and losses.

My chopper was then tasked to deliver an urgent re-supply to a FSB under attack from VC. When we landed I jumped out and started unloading when the crew chief grabbed me and said 'let's go'. He said that the VC were bracketing our chopper. As we were lifting off a mortar round hit five meters from where we were. We received only minor damage.

On another sortie loaded with ARVN troops we were ambushed in the LZ. We took several hits while other choppers sustained serious damage. Sometime during Tet Blackhorse had a 'red alert' which meant we had VC in the wire. A US officer ran to me and told me that as I was a 'grunt' I should deploy our blokes as

I saw fit. I told everyone to get as much ammo as possible and when we got to the defensive perimeter we had 11 M60s with 2000 rounds each. That's a lot of fire power in any one's language. Thank Christ it was a false alarm!

While we were on exchange some of the 135th Yanks went to Nui Dat and participated in combat ops with B Coy 2RAR. They were rapt to be on patrol with the Aussies, as were we sitting down and firing a M60 machine gun.

Being with the 135 AHC was unbelievable and to all our mates who partook in being door gunners, all I can say is "CLEAR RIGHT".

Private Robert Devers

I was the last of the Company to be seconded to the 135th. The death of Pat Vickers probably was the reason that the secondment was terminated.

The assignment involved a day on troop delivery (combat assaults) into contact missions and later retrieval of the same troops. While on alternate days we flew outpost delivery duties flying to many different locations for pickup/delivery supplies, senior personal and other ancillary items. Many of the days on troop delivery produced some hairy situations with cover fire required by me as a gunner before landing, then over the heads of the US soldiers as we left them.

I distinctly remember the M60 I had kept jamming and frustrated the hell out of me and left us open as a target on my side of the chopper. Attempts to get a replacement M60 were futile and all I could do was service the gun the very best I could after the days flying.

The US troops were very friendly but had very different tactics in the field. What with mosquito bottles in their helmets and at times guns slung over their shoulders. We would have our heads ripped off for doing just that!

On one outpost mission I was required to fire at an enemy person fleeing from a village which I think resulted in either a wounding or was a fatal. Not sure of the end result, but the brass were happy with the outcome.

In all the assignment made me very much appreciate the disciplined approach of our (RAR) tactics in patrolling and also made me appreciate that we in fact had officers that did care about our survival through our campaign. Some of the rides on the choppers were unbelievable, I remember one day we had to fly low over a river to avoid enemy sniper fire and that ride at the speed we were at was the most fantastic ride ever, being only feet from the water and weaving along the river.

I remember it was the first time I saw anyone on marijuana in the lines as one of the US guys would laugh his head off at anything even if you stuck your finger in the air!

In all an experience I appreciated, but pleased to see the base camp at night, and even more pleased to see my Aussie diggers on return to Nui Dat.

Conclusion

The secondment, sanctioned or not, of these seven brave volunteers from B Coy 2RAR to the 135AHC was an historical event in the annals of the Australian Military. They left the relative security of their familiar tactics and operations for a vastly different style of the same operations. They freely gave their time and experience to help out their US Army comrades when it was needed while admitting that the experience left them with a better understanding of the war.

[Lt Comd Patrick Vickers and Maj 'Maps' Carter both put their careers on the line by setting up this exchange and from reading the soldiers own tales of the missions undertaken during the exchange they were probably lucky that all seven escaped with nothing more than shattered nerves and good stories.

All seven of these soldiers achieved the required minimum hours for the award of the US Army Air Medal and their dedication to the task certainly merits due consideration.]

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

2ND BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2014

Notice is hereby given that all Committee positions will be declared vacant at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association to be held at 0830 hours Saturday 25th October 2014 in the 'ANZAC Room' Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL Sub Branch, Level 2, Twin Towns Resort. NOTE: The Club operates on Queensland time, not NSW daylight saving time.

Members attending are asked to arrive at 0800 hours and check their financial status. Only financial members are permitted to vote or stand for election. If you wish to nominate yourself or another person for a position on the Committee, complete the Nomination Form, & submit your nomination in the prescribed manner.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Attendance / Apologies	Secretary
Confirmation of Previous Minutes	President
Business Arising	President
Reports	President
Financial / Auditors Report	Treasurer
Appointment of Auditor	Treasurer
Election of Office Bearers	Chairman
General Business / Agenda Items	President
Next Meeting	Secretary

Note: Any matters for discussion / notice of motion under *General Business* must be notified to the Secretary in writing no later than ten days (15th October 2014) before the date of the AGM.

Gordon Hurford, AM Secretary

Methods of Voting

The *First Past the Post* method of voting will be used. This means the nominee with the most number of votes for a position wins. Listed below are the current Executive and Committee positions and incumbents filling those positions.

President	L.J. (Leo) Van De Kamp
Vice President	K.R. (Dasher) Dean, OAM
Secretary	G.W. (Gordon) Hurford, AM
Treasurer	N.J. (Norm) Devereux
Committee	R.W. (Ross) Bimrose
	T.E. (Terry) Dinneen
	R.J. (Rick) Hollingdrake, OAM
	P.T. (Paul) King
	A.J. (Arthur) MacDonald
	R.J. (Rod) Newham
Immediate Past Preside	ent M.D. (Matt) Rennie, OAM
Auditor	Mr P.V. (Paul) Masters, CPA
	the Committee on 6 August 2014 ointed to the Committee.

2ND BATTALION

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC PROXY FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

To be forwarded to the Secretary 2 nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association, Inc PO Box 1097 Toombul, Qld 4012, prior to the commencement of the meeting.
l of
Being a Financial Member/Life Member of the above named association and entitled to vote under its rules, hereby appoint:
* of
or, failing him * of of
As my proxy to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held at the Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads, NSW, 2485 at 0830 hours 25 th October 2014, and at any resumption after the adjournment thereof.
Signed this Day of
*(Strike out whichever is not required)
Signature
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2 ND BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC NOMINATION FORM 2014
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC
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Signed Date

2ND BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

Augranda House	

	NEW MEMBER	SHIP		RENEW MEMBE			NEW ADDR	ESS			II		
				<u> </u>									
FULL NAM	IE:					Tele:							
ADDRESS	:					Mob	:						
				Р	ost Code	Ema	il:		@				
Regimenta	al No:		DOB: _										
RAR Servi													
RAR Battalions	1 RAR	2RAR	3RAR	4 RAR	5 RAR	6 RAR	7 RAR	8 RAR	9 RAR	2/4 RAR	5/7 RAR	8/9 RAR	
Years e.g. 1970-71													
Theatres	Served/	Years:	•	1	-				•	•	•		
Japan	Korea	Malaya	Malaysia	Vietnam	Cambodia	Rwanda	East Timor	Solom	on Is Ira	aq Timor Lesté	Afghar	istan Othe	r
Post-Nomi	inals:						Wife/P	artner's Na	ıme:				
					s	UBSCRIPTIO	ONS						
					(Financial Ye	ear: 1 Octobe	r to 30 Sept	ember)					
	ANNUAL	MEMBERS	HIP			MULT	I-YEAR ME	MBERSHIP					
		\$20 \$40 - \$60 - \$80 - \$100											
Applicant:			D	ate:	20	014	Recei	ot Required	? YES/NO				
MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST 7													
(All prices are inclusive of transaction fees, postage & packaging)										-			

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	ITEM	PRICE	QTY
Cap: Black - "2nd Battalion"	\$34.00		Pewter Drink Coaster - RAR Badge	\$24.00	
Cap: Black/Silver - "ICB Badge"	\$34.00		Pewter Drink Coaster - ICB Badge	\$24.00	
Lapel Badge - "2RAR"	\$12.00		Pewter Belt Buckle - ICB Badge	\$27.00	
Polo Shirt: Black/Gold - "2nd Battalion" M(97)L(l02)XL(l07)2XL(ll2)3XL(ll7)	\$47.00		Iron On Badge - 2RAR	\$12.00	
Sport Shirt: Black/White - "Second To None" L(102) XL(107) 2XL(112) 3XL(117)	\$47.00		Bumper Sticker - 2RAR Association	\$5.00	
Tee Shirt: Black/White - "Second To None" L(102) XL(107) 2XL(112) 3XL(117)	\$31.00		Bumper Sticker – Vietnam Veteran	\$8.00	
Tie: 2RAR Tie (New style)	\$27.00		Bumper Sticker - 2nd Battalion	\$8.00	
Stubby Cooler - "2RAR"	\$10.00		Car Registration Plate Frames - 2nd Battalion	\$18.00	
Stubby Cooler - "Second To No Bastard"	\$10.00		Note Pad - Leather - ICB Badge	\$20.00	
Sticker (Oval) – "ICB"	\$5.00		Badge: ICB Metal/Bronze - Large	\$14.00	
Sticker (Round) – "2RAR"	\$5.00		Badge: ICB Metal/Bronze - Small	\$12.00	
Key Ring - Black/Gold	\$14.00		Badge: Returned from Active Service (RAS) Metal/Bronze	\$14.00	
Wall Plaque : 2RAR	\$47.00		Badge: Rising Sun – Gold/Metal	\$14.00	
Book: 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1967-68 Vol 1. Reprint 1985	\$90.00		Money Fold Leather with credit card pockets – RAS badge	\$30.00	
Book: Trackers Vietnam 1967/68. Peter Haran	\$29.00		Flag: 2RAR Black (48 cm x 31 cm)	\$17.00	
2RAR Sash: 2RAR (Funeral)	\$20.00		Name Tag: Preferred name:	\$25.00	

Package Deal 1	Package Deal 2	Package Deal 3	Package Deal 4
Polo shirt & Cap	Sports shirt & Cap	Polo shirt, Cap & Tie	Sports shirt, Cap & Tie
\$73.00 (save \$8.00)	\$73.00 (save \$8.00)	\$88.00 (save \$10.00)	\$88.00 (save \$10.00)

⁷ ONLINE PAYMENTS: 2RAR Association, Inc. Suncorp Bank. BSB: 484-799 Account no: 063 350 355