



nulli secundus

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

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

RINGO

Courage. Sacrifice. Mateship.

NEWSLETTER

PATRON: MAJOR GENERAL M.D. SLATER AO, DSC, CSC (RETD)

APRIL 2019

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the first edition of "Ringo" for 2019. I hope you all had a most enjoyable and safe festive season. While last year was one of consolidation, this year is likely to be one of renewal. While it was indicated in the last newsletter that we are seeking to transition the management team from SE Qld to Townsville, this project is currently on hold. Until we identify a number of suitable volunteers from the Townsville area, the committee will remain here in the Brisbane region.

2RAR has a new commanding officer, Lt Col Judd Finger who replaced Lt Col Doug Pashley in December last year. The Association welcomes Lt Col Finger and we seek to continue our excellent relationship with the Battalion under his command. A letter of congratulations on behalf of the Association has been sent to Lt Col Judd Finger congratulating him on his appointment as CO 2RAR(Amphib).

Our thoughts go out to the people of Nth Qld and especially the Townsville region who have been through very devastating floods. 2RAR was again called on to provide assistance to the community and their support was second to none.

Congratulations to all those service men and women who supported the community during this very difficult period. A job well done.

It is with considerable pride that the 2RAR Association acknowledges the awards to three ex-2RAR members in this years' Australia Day Awards:

Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) - Lieutenant General John James FREWEN AM. Lt Gen Frewen was CO 2RAR 2003-2004.

Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) - Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Ian PASHLEY. Lt Col Pashley was CO 2RAR 2017-2018

Medal (OAM) of The Order of Australia In the Military Division - Warrant Officer Class One Trent Rowan MORRIS. WO1 Morris was RSM 2RAR 2015-2017.

I have sent each recipient a message of congratulations on behalf of the Association. We are indeed very proud of their well-deserved recognition.

Ted Chitham MC OAM (Lt Col Ret'd) has retired as a Director and Secretary of The Royal Australian Regiment Corporation. Ted has fulfilled the roles of Director and Secretary since the formation of the National body in 2009. I have thanked Ted on behalf of the Association for his outstanding commitment and his invaluable advice and support over the many years of his service.

I plan to be in Townsville for this year's ANZAC Day activities.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Warriors Who Have Marched Out	2
Something To 'Crowe' About by Terry Dinneen	6
Poem: "Digger's Day"	7
Mostly Unsung: 'The Aftermath' by Neil Smith, AM	8
Farewell Malaya: by Private Cyril (Frenchy) Ray	10
My Life Story: LCpl Rex William Murfet	11

For those in the SE Qld area, I encourage members to attend the Brisbane march under the 2RAR Association banner.

Jock Cassidy continues to liaise with the Battalion regarding the undertaking of a number of social activities. The North Queensland Regimental dinner which was planned for February has been deferred to later this year. Jock Cassidy has agreed to coordinate the dinner.

Aside from the quarterly newsletter, our Facebook Page now is our main medium for regularly disseminating relevant and current information. Rick Hollingdrake does a sterling job in maintaining the Association Facebook Page. Also, the 2RAR Association website is regularly updated to provide ongoing Association details. I encourage all our members to visit these two venues regularly to keep abreast of current happenings.

While our membership remains fairly static, we continue to seek membership from our younger generation of ex 2RAR members. If you know someone in your area who fits that bill, I would like you to encourage them to come and join us. And for those members who may have forgotten to renew their membership, please do so as we don't want to lose you.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Rick Hollingdrake in producing another outstanding edition of "Ringo".

"Second to None"

Leo Van De Kamp
President

REUNION 2019: B COY 2RAR/NZ BN 1970/71

B Coy 2RAR/NZ Bn Vietnam 1970-71 will be holding a reunion in Townsville from 14-18 October 2019. A reunion dinner and other activities will be held.

Contact Jock Cassidy: Johncassidy65@hotmail.com

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; 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC); 2RAR MTF-3; 2/4RAR; and all ranks serving in 2RAR (AMPHIB).

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

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT / EDITOR
SECRETARY
TREASURER
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MEMBERS

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NJ (NORM) DEVEREUX
AJ (ARTHUR) MACDONALD
RW (ROSS) BIMROSE
DA (DAVID) HATTON, OAM
K (KEVIN/AUB) TERRY
REVEREND GD (GRAEME) DAVIS, OAM CSM BTHOL
Website: <http://www.2rar-association.net.au>

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WARRIORS WHO HAVE MARCHED OUT

- 235080 Major Robert John FLETCHER, 2RAR Malaya 1955-57, HQ AFV 1969-1970. Robert passed away 10 December 2018. Age 86+ years. Funeral Service was held at the RMC Chapel, ACT. Thanks Nick Fletcher
- 213306 Corporal David John HARTCHER, 2RAR Malaysia 1961-63. John passed away 8 February 2019. Age: 77 years. John's funeral was held at Elizabeth East, SA. John was a regular on ANZAC Day, albeit in a wheelchair. Thanks, Mal Allen
- 16091 Corporal Norman Lindsay SOERSEN, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC Bn) Vietnam (WIA) 1967-68, 1RAR: DOB: 1 Oct 1940. POB: Gympie QLD. Rest in Peace
- 13013 Sergeant Mervin KELLY, 1RAR Korea, 2RAR Malaya 1955-57. Ken passed away at Bribie Island Qld, on 29 January 2019. Age: 95+ years. Rest in Peace.
- 1200131 Corporal Norman Lindsay SANDERSON, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC Bn) 4 PI B Coy. Age: 78+ years. 'Sandy' passed away 26 January 2019 at West Wodonga, Vic. Thanks Rev Graeme Davis, Gary King (RNZIR).
- 4718442 Private John Kevin POLKINGHORNE, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC Bn) Vietnam A Coy 1967-68. John passed away 8 December 2018. Age: 73 years. Funeral held Mawson Chapel Adelaide, SA. John fought a long battle. Thanks Jack Wade, Kevin Morrison.
- 36075 Major Vincent Noel MURPHY, SAS, AATTV 1966, 8RAR 1969-70, HQ AFV 1970. A Coy 2RAR Holsworthy 1950's. Rest in Peace. Thanks Charles Stewart, Alec Morris.
- 16657 Captain Francis Arthur LEE, former RAAOC, 3RAR, 2RAR Malaya 1963. Frank (Blue) passed away 12 February 2019. The funeral was held at Kelvin Grove, Qld. Rest in Peace.
- 52765 Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth John BLADEN, AM, 1RAR, 2RAR Malaya 1961-63. OC Spt Coy, 7RAR Vietnam 1967. Passed away 22 February 2019. Age: 84+ years. Funeral held at Karrakatta, WA. Thanks Geoff Murray, Terry Dinneen
- 13668 Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Barry PETERSON MC MID AATTV 1963-65. 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn Vietnam OC C Coy 1970-71. Barry passed away on 28 February 2019 after a nine-year battle with prostate. He requested no religious service, and a simple cremation. Rest in Peace.
- 33802 Brigadier Anthony Rodgers ROBERTS, OPSO 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn Vietnam: 1970-1971. Tan passed away peacefully on 26 November 2018. Funeral held on 4 December 2018. Age: 87+ years. Editor of the 1970-71 battalion book. Thanks, Mal Allen
- 2782405 Private Charles Frederick COLEMAN, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC Bn) Vietnam 1967 12 PI D Coy. 1ARU 1967, 6RAR 1967. POB: Tamworth, NSW. Charles passed away 28 February 2019 at Moonbi, NSW. Members of the RSL Sub-Branch attended. Rest in Peace.

- 4718968 Private Francis Bruce MACDONALD, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1967, HQ 1ATF 1967-68. DOB: 10 January 1947. POB: Melbourne VIC. Rest in Peace.

†

*Yes, you'll always march beside us,
And when our time is through
We'll muster on that "Last Parade"
To march again with you.*

LEST WE FORGET

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2019

Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)

Lieutenant General John James FREWEN AM, ACT
CO 2RAR: 2003-04

For distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations as the Commander Joint Task Force 633 on Operations OKRA and HIGHROAD from January 2017 to January 2018.

Lieutenant General Frewen demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication by leading Australia's contribution to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and more broadly throughout the Middle East Region. His exceptional operational oversight, critical leadership engagement and tireless efforts ensured the effectiveness of Australia's military contribution and greatly enhanced the international reputation of the Australian Defence Force in the Middle East Region.

Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)

Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Ian PASHLEY, QLD
CO 2RAR: 2016-18

For outstanding achievement in leadership, skills and application as the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Pashley's exceptional command and leadership contributed significantly to the transition of the Battalion from a light infantry role to a standing Pre-Landing Force. The transition required significant corporate governance changes and stakeholder engagement, Lieutenant Colonel Pashley was meticulous in this process and ensured that the equities across Services and Functional Commands were positively maintained. His actions contributed significantly to the success of this Defence capability milestone.

Medal of the Order of Australia in the Military Division (OAM)

Warrant Officer Class One Trent Rowan MORRIS, ACT For meritorious service as Regimental Sergeant Major of the 2nd/17th Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

Warrant Officer Morris demonstrated meritorious leadership and compassion as he led the Battalion through significant changes to its role and structure. He was instrumental to developing the relationship between the 2nd Battalion and HMA Ships Canberra, Adelaide, and Choules. His devotion to the unit, its soldiers, and its capability had marked and lasting effect on the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and development of the Australian Defence Force's amphibious capability.

2RAR ASSOC. EMAIL LIST

Not receiving emails? Do you want to receive emails from us?

Email: 2rarsecretary@gmail.com

DVA WEBSITE: NOMINAL ROLLS

This website combines Nominal Rolls: WW2, Korea, Vietnam, and First Gulf War. NB: Malaya/Malaysia: due June 2019.

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

ANZAC DAY: 2019

The first Brisbane ANZAC Day Parade took place on the 25 April 1916. While we remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom during the Dawn Services and other services of Remembrance, the ANZAC Day Parade is an opportunity to celebrate and recognise all those that have served and still continue to serve our country.

The parade will be held between 10:00am and 1:00pm. The parade will feature former and current veterans, their families and many other groups that contribute to the parade that make it the commemoration worthy of its heritage.

Brisbane City March

Form up on George Street, at the corner of Charlotte into Adelaide Street, into Creek Street.

March step off at 10.30 am.

49. The RAR Association, Qld
50. 4RAR Association
51. 5RAR Association
52. 6RAR Association
53. 7RAR Association
54. 8RAR Association
55. 9RAR Association
56. 2/4RAR Association
57. 8/9RAR Association
58. 5/7RAR Association
59. 1RAR Association
60. 2RAR Association
61. 3RAR Association

STATISTICS: VIETNAM (AUSTRALIA)

The Vietnam Years by Michael Caulfield © 2007

Over 61 000 Australians served in the Vietnam operational area.

- 42 700 Army
- 12 858 RAN
- 4706 RAAF
- 1118 Civilians
- 51 staff from philanthropic organisations
- 520 servicemen died.
- 2398 were wounded.
- 804 000 Australian men registered for National Service.
- 63 375 were called up.
- 19 450 served in Vietnam.
- 200 died.
- 1479 were wounded.

A WAR OR AN EMERGENCY?

In his speech from the Throne on 19th April, 1960, when he told the assembled Houses of Parliament in Kuala Lumpur that the State of Emergency would be declared at an end on 31st July, 1960, the Paramount Ruler of Malaya, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, said:

"The debt which the people of this country owe to the Security Forces, both Malayan and Commonwealth, for their sustained and courageous effort over the twelve years of the Emergency cannot be over-emphasized."

On 1st August, 1,000 officers and men of the armed services of the Commonwealth in the Far East, at the request of the Federation Government, took part in a Victory Parade as part of celebrations to mark the occasion of the end of the Emergency.

The Commonwealth contingent on this parade represented not only the various British, Gurkha, Australian, New Zealand and Sarawak Units...but all Commonwealth troops...and a great victory over Communist terrorism in Malaya.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In 2019 committee meetings will be held as follows:

Wed 3 Apr 19 ✓	Wed 5 Jun 19
Wed 7 Aug 19	Wed 2 Oct 19
Wed 2 Oct 19	Wed 4 Dec 19

Saturday 26 October 2019: AGM & Annual Reunion

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Grahame EDWARDS (NSW)	(02) 9520 7262 gk_edwards8@bigpond.com
Simon WHITEHEAD (ACT)	(02) 6288 8403 keenedgesharp@hotmail.com
Jim COOPER (VIC)	(03) 9548 0016 jimwend1@gmail.com
Russ LOWES (TAS)	0488 111 025 russ.lowes60@gmail.com
Malcolm ALLEN (SA)	0451 374 133 mal@aladdco.com.au
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Vacant (NT)	VACANT
Vacant (NQ)	VACANT
Bill MARTIN (NZ)	(0011649) 267 7545 rwmartin@bigpond.com

DONATIONS

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

Leo Walsh	John Brownbill	Lawrence Hayward
Peter Harding	Sydney Armistead	Peter Langford

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

We welcome our new members:

Graeme Arblaster	Nambour, Qld	Vietnam, 1970-71
Mark Carter	West Gladstone, Qld	Son of Bill Carter Dec. OC B Coy Vietnam 1967/68

MEMBER'S DRAW

Congratulations to Brian MILLET, Geraldton, WA winner of the financial Members' Draw held on 5 February 2019 who received the book: Trackers: The untold story of Australian dogs of war, by Peter Haran 2013

This is the 14th year! of the draw.

RINGO NEWSLETTER

Our preference for the distribution of RINGO is by email, however we will continue to send it to you by Australia Post if you request it. At last count we have 114 names of those who have chosen to receive it by email.

HELP CONTACT MATES

Would it be possible to include in the April edition a request for surviving members of the 2 Bn Aslt Pnr PI to get in touch with me for old times' sake? I have a photo of the lads with Lt Don Anstey 1955/57 taken at Kuala Kangsar, Perak, I think.

Phone (03) 5562 5825

Hugh Jones
Warrnambool, Vic

HEADS-UP

Rifleman's Lunch - Sunshine Coast, Qld

Monthly Rifleman's Lunch first Friday of the month 2019 from 11.30am, Mooloolaba Surf Club (Sunshine Coast).

Lunch is open to all serving or ex-infantry soldiers of all eras.

Allan Whelan would like to catch up with anyone from the 1RAR 1973-1976 period.

No bookings necessary, just turn up on the day.

BACK TO THE BATTALION

ANZAC Day 2019

The CO, LTCOL Judd Finger, and RSM WO1 Jason Sten, invite current and ex-serving members to the Battalion Dawn Service and to commemorate ANZAC Day.



Sequence of Events

0425 - The Battalion's Pipers will sound Reveille
0450 - All Ranks/visitors assemble at Coy HQ's.
0520 - Battalion Parade ground for the Service
0610 - Gun Fire Breakfast at the Edgar Towner VC
POC for all ex-serving members: Mr Jason Harrison
jason.a.harrison@gmail.com

MOSTLY UNSUNG

Australia & the Commonwealth: Malayan War 1948-60

The 2nd Battalion Main body of 800 men, including 10 Alsatian war dogs, embarked at Brisbane on the MV Georgic on 8th October, 1955, and arrived in Penang Harbour on the 19th.

In January, 1956, after three months of acclimatization and local training on Penang Island, the Battalion was committed to anti-terrorist patrol operations on the mainland. It moved to South Kedah for the purpose, and the initial operations were in the Bongsu Forest Reserve where, on 11th January, the first terrorist was captured. Regrettably the first casualties occurred on 24th February when three battalion members were accidentally shot. Further casualties followed with, notably, an ambush on 4th March, 1956 when Sergeant C.C. Anderson, one of the few aboriginal NCOs in the Australian Army was killed in an action which won him the posthumous award of an MID. It is interesting to note that Corporal Charles Mene, yet another aboriginal NCO, was serving with the 2nd Battalion at the same time and had won the Military Medal for bravery in Korea.

Later the 2nd Battalion moved to the Sungei Siput area in Perak, where the Emergency had first begun in 1948. On 23rd June 1956, an action took place which later became known as the "Pipeline Ambush". Three members of the unit were killed and one wounded.

Subsequently awards of a Military Cross to Lieutenant Campbell and Military Medals to Private Pennant and Private Falk were given for this action. A further clash with terrorists during a reconnaissance patrol on 24th June, 1957 resulted in the award of a Military Medal to Corporal Kennedy for personal courage and leadership.

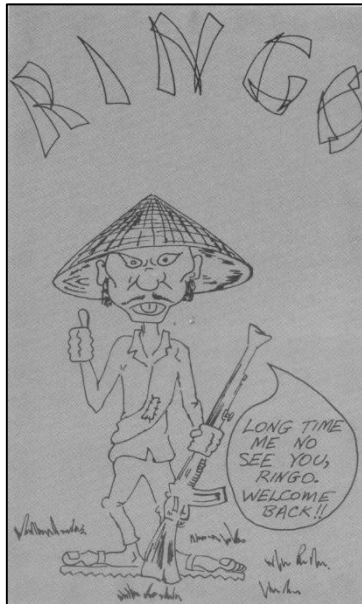
Throughout 1956 and until October, 1957 the 2nd Battalion carried out its duties in Malaya and was particularly successful in an operation on 7th March, 1957 when a Battalion patrol captured a CT 'arms factory' in the Kuala Kangsar area of Perak. Its tasks included, besides jungle operations, many ceremonial duties and guards of honour for important personages, including HRH the Duke of Gloucester and Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templar.

During service in Malaya, 14 members had died, 7 were killed in action. *Continued over...*

SKILL AT ARMS: AASAM COMBINED ARMS TRAINING

Congratulations: LCpl Scott Clark, 1RAR

The Combined Arms Training Centre at Puckapunyal has hosted some of the best combat marksmen from the Army, Navy and Air Force for the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meet (AASAM).



The ADF's premier service weapons shooting competition has occurred annually since 1984.

Director AASAM Lieutenant Colonel Craig Burn said the competition had evolved from a traditional sports shooting activity into a more operationally based approach.

"We've turned more into a capability-based shooting competition," he said. "If you as a soldier want to be recognised, this is where you will be recognised."

"Our primary reason for pulling it together is focused on Army, so we can determine a champion shot, test our skill at arms and validate elements of doctrine.

"We can look at it, if you will, as a litmus test of shooting skills across the Army. "If you as a soldier want to be recognised, this is where you will be recognised."

Lance Corporal Scott Clark, of 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, was awarded the Champion Shot of the Army. "It was a very competitive year. It came down to myself and another competitor and who's in the same boat – he comes here every year," he said.

"Thankfully I'm part of a unit that takes training for these types of competitions very seriously, so I started training about a month out from competition.

"We'll do maybe two weeks at the marksmanship training range, we'll do a week at the 25-metre range perfecting our close quarters shoots, so we are well prepared when we get here and that's why as a team we are so competitive."

The best competitors drawn from the Army top 20 shots will now form the Australian Army Combat Shooting Team for the international component of AASAM.

When the 2nd Battalion arrived home in Sydney on 31st October, 1957, it was given a ticker-tape welcome as 100,000 people lined the streets when it marched through the city.

It was fitting that, in July/August 1959, the 2nd Battalion was the first unit in Australia to be equipped with the new FN 7.62 mm Self Loading Rifle. It had used this weapon in Malaya, whilst on operations, the first Australian unit to do so.

On 10th October, 1957, the "New Australia" had arrived in Singapore with 850 troops of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

CAMOUFLAGE TRAINING

The Sergeant Major growled at the young soldier: "Why weren't you at camouflage training this morning?"

"I was there, sir," answered the soldier.

"I didn't see you," returned the Sergeant Major.

"Thank you very much, sir," replied the soldier.

REST IN PEACE: KENNETH BLADEN, AM

Kenneth John Bladen was born in Western Australia and educated at Guildford Grammar School. He later graduated as a Second Lieutenant from the Australian Army Officer Cadet School as a career Infantry Officer and for the next 21 years served in various regimental, instructional and staff appointments in Australia and overseas.

His service as a junior officer included anti-terrorist operations in Malaya as a platoon commander, and as a foundation officer of the Special Air Service (SAS) Company in Perth. He served overseas with 1RAR, 2RAR, and 7RAR. In 1967 he saw active service in Vietnam as an Infantry Company Commander with 7RAR.

Ken was a graduate of the Australian Staff College 1968 course and won the Queen's Medal for Champion Shot in 1969, as the Army Champion Shot for that year. As a Lieutenant Colonel he commanded the Third Cadet Brigade in 1973-74, and later served in the Australian Army Reserve retiring in 1984 after 30 years' service.

An RSL member since 1968, he was elected State President of the Western Australian Branch of the Returned and Services League in 1998, serving in that capacity until 2001. He was appointed Honorary National RSL Vice President for Life and awarded RSL Life Membership in November 2001.

In January 2003 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for voluntary services to veterans and their families. Later that year Ken was awarded the Centenary Medal for similar services to veterans and their families.

Ken passed away on 22 February 2019.

THE HOOK - KOREA

Duty First Vol. 3, No. 4 (new series) 2001. RARA. NSW

2RAR took over the Hook from the Kings Regiment, who had replaced the Duke of Wellington's after their gallant defence against the odds. The Kings were only there for a week, so a lot remained for 2RAR to complete. For starters the Chinese were on the wire.

Quite literally they were camped there. Shortly after the hour appointed for the Truce a reinforced Chinese platoon suddenly appeared. They were dug in on the northern (reverse) slope of the Green Finger, 30 to 40 yards from the forward pits of the Hook Company. Their orders had been to fight to the last man. It was no wonder the patrol battle for 2RAR had been so fierce.

Every night for ten days or so there had been intensive, savage patrol battles to force the Chinese off the wire. At those close ranges it was difficult to even get out of the trench without contest with the enemy. It was a deadly race at dusk every day for those brave men. The cost had been heavy, but the battalion endured and was successful. The Chinese were slowly forced back.

That Chinese platoon on first contact with our soldiers after the Truce, before the hierarchy arrived, made it quite clear they had not expected to withstand the aggressive Australian patrols for much longer. They were at the end of their tether.

How vital it proved that the 2RAR standing patrols were forward of the main line of trenches when the main battle commenced and were able to direct heavy fire on to the first sign of enemy approach.

What is generally appreciated from the accounts of the battle is that that standing patrol on the Green Finger was manned and remained in position throughout each night of the battle despite the presence of enemy in overwhelming strength.

Furthermore, a Vickers machine gun section, located with the US Marine right forward company, about 500 yards west of the 2RAR position, sited so as to fire in enfilade across the battle front, held its position when the US company was over run and continued to support the battalion. *Continued over...*

REST IN PEACE: BARRY PETERSON, MC MID

Arthur Barry Peterson was born in 1935, joining the Australian Army as a young adult in 1953. Peterson served for three years in operations against the Communist Terrorists in Malaya. At the rank of Captain and two years before the Vietnam War, Peterson was deployed to South Vietnam under the command of the C.I.A.

As a young Australian officer, Peterson built up a formidable Montagnard force of approximately 1,200 capable troops, demonstrating a sound command, administrative and discipline structure. This force, known as the 'Tiger Men' was highly successful denying the Viet Cong control much of the high plateau which dominates central Vietnam. Peterson did all of this within two years.

Unfortunately, Peterson's success created enemies. He became resented by his American commanders, blamed of establishing a 'personality cult'. His much loved and highly skilled force was then removed of his command after two years.

Peterson later returned to Vietnam during the periods of war in 1970 with 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) in command of Charlie Company. In which he commanded 140 men engaging in operations with the Viet Cong.

Peterson returned to Australia, eventually being promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel, earning many decorations, one of which being the distinguished Military Cross.

Peterson's life is remarkable, displaying an amazing leadership ability and devotion to duty. He is a role model to all, demonstrating the capability that all junior officers in the Australian Defence Force should aspire to.

Barry was highly regarded by the soldiers of Charlie Company 2RAR Vietnam 1970-71. CSM Kiwi Gibbons, OAM

The section commander took as many men as could be spared from the guns and formed a defensive position, which gallantly and effectively halted successive Chinese attacks.

Immediately east of those intrepid machine gunners was the Contact Bunker. It was so named because it was the link on the divisional boundary, siting to cover the re-entrant leading up to the 121 feature. The position, manned by a rifle section, was right on the axis of the Chinese thrust.

Those two cool young corporals at the Green Finger standing patrol and the Contact Bunker, together with the machine gun sergeant, each with their gallant sections, played such an important part in the successful defence and the final victory and provide a classic example of what should be done. Incidentally, the three gallant NCO's were each awarded the Military Medal for their outstanding feats of arms.

Maj Gen David Butler, AO, DSO

THOUGHTS IN AMBUSH: BY "JOHN"

Here we are – lousy place,
Bet there's rocks in my bed space,
Looks as though it's gonna pour,
Bloke'll be wet to-night for sure.

Eight hours here without a leak,
Not allowed to move or speak,
Flamin' mossies screamin' round,
Cheez I hate that hummin' sound.

Water seeping through me strides,
Bull ants feeding on both me sides,
Cripes, I wouldn't mind a smoke,
The things that they deny a bloke.

Now I want a drink of water,
Wish me mum had had a daughter,
Then I'd be safe at home in bed,
Not out here like a galah instead.

A TASMANIAN VETERAN'S MEDALS

6709256 Private Kevan James BLOM, 2RAR

Almost 50 years since he served Australia in the Vietnam War, a Tasmanian veteran has finally received his war medals.

Kevan Blom, 70, spent a year in South Vietnam with 2RAR, returning home to Seven Mile Beach in 1970.



Cartoon: 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion 1970-71

He spent much of the intervening years on the move, including time overseas, and believes not having a permanent address may have contributed to the medals going amiss. "I thought you had to apply for the medals and I just never did," he said. It is unclear where the medals had been until they were spotted a couple of months ago by an eagle-eyed worker at the Margate (Tasmania) tip, who happened to be close friends with Army Museum of Tasmania manager Major Chris Talbot.

"The medals were actually the Vietnam Medal and the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75, in their black cases and postage sleeves that should have gone to Private K.J. Blom, who served with 2RAR in 1970," Major Talbot said. This week, museum staff rang all four Bloms listed in the phonebook and received a phone call from Mr Blom. "Maj Talbot said 'we have found your medals at the tip'," Mr Blom said. "I was flabbergasted. I thought it was hoax."

When Mr Blom returned home in 1970, like many Vietnam vets, he did not receive a warm reception from the public in recognition of his service. "I remember coming back to Sydney and not being able to find accommodation and sleeping at the airport," he said. "I flew into Hobart but there was no fanfare."

At a ceremony in front of family and friends at the war museum on Thursday, Mr Blom finally received his medals. "They were in pretty good nick," Mr Blom said. He plans to have them mounted along with two other medals and pass them on to his daughter.

Chris Talbot

THE LAZIEST MAN

The Sergeant was addressing a squad of 25 recruits: "I have a nice easy job for the laziest man here. Which one of you wants it?"

24 men raised their hands. One didn't.

The Sergeant approached him. "Why didn't you raise your hand?"

"Too much trouble, Sarge," was the reply.

He got the job.

SOMETHING TO 'CROWE' ABOUT

A lesson from The Hook as applied to Long Tan

Most of us know about Ian McNeill's Official History 'To Long Tan' but have not read it yet, will also have some understanding and knowledge of the Battles at The Hook and at Long Tan. The connection between the two battles is less well known.

In 1966 Francis Xavier Crowe was posted as Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quarter Master General to HQ 1ATF at Nui Dat, and they had not been there long. In his earlier life Frank was a platoon commander of 10 Pl, D Coy, 2RAR at and during the Battle of the Hook in Korea July 1953.

The 2RAR Commander's Diary for the night 24/25 July 1953 states, Artillery retaliation figures 37 MIKE targets and 3 UNCLE targets representing approximately 13,500 mixed rounds.

For those not familiar with gunner speak a MIKE target is one fired by a Regiment of guns belonging to a Brigade e.g. 3 x battery's each of 8 guns. An UNCLE target is three times the size of a MIKE target which is fired by a whole Division's artillery.

A good example of a MIKE target has been provided by (UK/2RAR) Captain Peter Childs, MC (dec) in his article 'A Bombshell During Half Time' published in Ringo July 2013 and July 2017 and by the Gunners in Cannonball No 93 Spring 2017. It describes one MIKE target fired prior to the last enemy assault on The Hook. Considering the above figures, the claim in the 2RAR's History that some 3000 dead Chinese lay before their FDL's at The Hook on the morning of the Cease Fire, is believable, if somewhat hard to comprehend.

Now what about the Lessons?

Frank in his position as DAA, QMG noted that 1 Field Regiment was deployed at Nui Dat with only 100 rounds per gun for their ammunition holdings at the gun line. So, he pressed for these holdings to be raised which was acceded to and 1ALSG gave the raising of stocks of artillery ammunition top priority for supply, after rations.

Stocking continued for 14 days until the RSM 1 Field Regiment called a halt as they were unable to maintain larger stocks. Approximately 6000 rounds had been accumulated at the gun line which was more than 300 rounds per gun for the 18-gun 1 Field Regiment, i.e. 3 x 6-gun Batteries.

That evening the Task Force received incoming mortar rounds which signalled the opening of the main battle which occurred in the vicinity of the deserted village of Long Tan.

During the battle, 1 Field Regiment expended 199 rounds per gun so they still had a formable reserve in hand, but they did submit an urgent demand for a further 1000 rounds about last light on 18 August only to discover there were no arrangements for an emergency air re-supply, but they got it despite the rain and the darkness.

It is probable that these figures were passed to 2RAR from the Gunners' in support at The Hook. Similar figures for The Battle of Long Tan are unknown from the Commander's Diary of 1 Field Regiment from July to December 1966.

Current information has Frank Crowe passing away about 2008 while living at Blackalls Park south-west of Newcastle, NSW.

The 2RAR Association has no record of his passing, in their quarterly report of who has Marched Out, as they were not notified.

Rest in Peace

Terry Dinneen
Winmalee, NSW

POETRY

"Digger's Day"

My rifle's dirty, my bayonet's worse -
You ought to hear the Sergeant curse.
He'll still be swearing when he rides the hearse -
But it's part of a Digger's Day.

The General was coming, so we tidied the place.
They even made us wash 'Hands and Face'.
Then he didn't turn up - It's a bloody disgrace,
But it's part of a Digger's Day.

When you're ducking "shrap", not trying to get hit.
Some bright bastard, full of wit.
Will tell you to look over the pit -
But it's part of a Digger's Day.

On a Mess Parade you don't get a fair go.
You hop on the end and the front goes slow.
When it comes to YOUR turn, they 'Hav'a go' -
But it's a part of a Digger's Day.

We do Patrols, and stuff, up here.
When Errol Flynn does them the sheilas cheer.
But, when we go out, we miss our beer -
But it's part of a Digger's Day.

We've no Citations or Honour Rolls,
No Victoria Crosses or Royal Scrolls,
For you don't win medals on OUR Patrols -
They're just part of a Digger's Day. ⁴

Every Korean War veteran tasted the adventure that millions of soldiers have experienced over the centuries. The adventure of preparation for and then participation in conflict in a distant and strange land. All too often this taste soured, and the most terrible physical and psychological experiences prevailed, some of which would never be forgotten by those who served. That is the primary raison d'être of this work, to permanently and publicly acknowledge the sacrifices, both large and small, which those who never went to Korea might otherwise forget. The bulk of this work therefore is devoted to listing the 10,860 Australian Army men and women who served in, or in support of, the Korean War. ⁵

FUNNY STUFF

One day an Infantry General dies and goes to heaven.
When he reaches the Pearly Gates, he is greeted by St Peter.
St Peter says "hello" to the General and invites him to enter heaven.
But the General says, "first of all I have to make sure of one thing".

St Peter asks him what is it? He asks St Peter if there are any RSMs in heaven, as he refuses to enter if there are because he said that they made his life hell when he was a junior officer.

St Peter assures him that no RSM has ever made it into heaven.

The General then agrees to enter. However, when he is walking around heaven checking out the sites he sees someone walking around in an immaculate army uniform with a highly polished Sam Browne and carrying a pacestick. The General rushes over to St Peter and demands to know why he had told him a lie about there being any RSMs in heaven.

St Peter asks him what does he mean?

The General tells him about the man in the immaculate uniform with the Sam Browne and pacesstick under his left arm.

St Peter laughs and says "that's not an RSM, ...that's God...he only thinks he is a RSM!

SEARCH AND RESCUE IN A MINEFIELD

We went down the valley, Maury with an Owen and a field radio on his back, me with my rifle and two hand grenades.

After walking a few minutes - now in broad daylight - I suddenly stopped at the sight of a wooden box lid, marked with skull and cross bones and the words "DANGER MINES" printed on it. I said to Maury, "We better watch out now, we are near a mine field." Little did I know that we were already in the minefield and looking at the outside fence!

Providence must have stepped in to protect us and for the next 100 feet or so, we wandered through the minefield.

Sappers later found about eight mines, as they made a safe path to Maury and me. Maury was on my right about twenty-feet away when one of us tripped on an American 'Jumping Jack' mine. It was halfway between us and we were both thrown to the ground by the explosion and were badly wounded by the shrapnel. We were conscious and could still talk.

Maury yelling, "Quick kid, grab your rifle, the Chinese have attacked us". I said, "I can't, I'm lying on it and I can't get up". Maury thought I was dying and that he was going to die too. We were both white and in shock and losing a lot of blood. It was then about 6 am and we evaluated our situation - there we were in the minefield, in broad daylight, badly wounded and unable to walk.

Maury had a rolled-up bandage in his left pocket and got it out to use on his bleeding leg. He couldn't unroll it as a large piece of shrapnel had embedded itself right through the bandage. This was very lucky, as the bandage had probably saved his life, cushioning the force of the high-speed metal.

I remember as I was thrown to the ground there had been another small bang, which puzzled me. Then I discovered that I was covered with yellow amatol powder, the explosive element in hand grenades.

'Providence' ruling again, as a piece of shrapnel from the mine had hit the hand grenade in the right pocket of my jacket with such force that it had broken open the steel casing. Three seconds later, when the detonator went off, there was no explosion. I wouldn't have survived had the hand grenade exploded in my pouch.

After a while, Maury managed to get through on the undamaged radio to Battalion Headquarters using the right call sign. He told them that the two of us were injured and the signaller at the other end told us to walk out the same way we had come in.

Maury was upset at the instruction and swore at the man over the radio - not something he made a habit of. Headquarters may have thought it was the Chinese sending calls to put our headquarters off guard.

A while later two Sappers turned up and gradually marked their way to us, telling us not to move as we could trigger off any other mines near us.

The Chinese must have been in a happy mood that morning and took pity on us, because as the Sappers came closer to us, I heard about three bullets whine through the trees overhead. I thought to myself, "This is it, the Chinese know where we are and could mortar us all, including the ten or so Australians standing on the hill watching the Sappers work".

I watched as two men, waved stretchers over their heads to let the Chinese know that they were attempting to get injured men out of the minefield. No more shots were fired, even after they got us out and were taking us over the exposed hills back to our lines.

The Chinese mustn't have hated Australians too much!

⁴ "Digger's Day" by Private P.J. Paterson 1RAR

⁵ Home by Christmas: With the Australian Army in Korea 1950-56: Lt Col Neil C. Smith AM

WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES

While pursuing a Chronicle, the forerunner to Ringo, I chanced upon a photograph of three NCO's who had just received their award of an MM that they had earned in Korea with 2RAR. Two of the three names I recognised but not the third.

Thinking that perhaps the third NCO had been overlooked in the reporting of such events I searched several books where this award is recorded but found no Tom McCann had been awarded an MM, although Tom had served in 2RAR for many years.

Next, I went looking for photographs firstly of Tom and then of those others from the Battalion who were awarded MM's in Korea. I found a photo in Ernie Holden's book, *Mates, Mortars and Minefields, Korea* which had a photo with both Tom McCann and Tom Maguire side by side.

My query to Brett Mitchell of Honours and Awards was rewarded when he produced an AWM Card for each recipient of the MM which showed that 'Jock' Richardson, Ken Crockford and Tom Maguire each received their award of a Military Medal at an Investiture at Enoggera and was presented to them by HE Sir John Lavarack the Governor of Queensland on 20 April 1955.

Neil Smith was the first to indicate to me that McCann's name might be there by mistake, but Brett Mitchell clinched it when he forwarded copies of the certificates from the AWM's website stating who, when and where each was invested with their award. So, the caption on the photograph can now be amended to read Maguire (delete McCann) and delete 1954 insert 20 April 1955.

The confusion for me arose because Bob Downey who was at the time the editor of the Chronicle and at that same time was working with 'Shorty' Baker producing the Honours and Awards book 1945-1995 for the Battalion. I had in mind that Bob would not make such an error. The following two Chronicles (Bob's last) were checked for a correction but none was found. I am not blaming Bob, he contributed significantly to the History of 2RAR not just as the editor of the Chronicle but with other articles about the Battalion for Duty First as well. But it just shows, we can all make mistakes.

It should be noted that Tom McCann rejected the responsibility that goes with promotion on more than one occasion but was not reluctant doing his duty for God, Queen and Country in three significant campaigns of the RAR, namely Korea, Malaya and Vietnam. It is men such as these that are the backbone of a Battalion and the glue that binds us and are an example to us all.

Terry Dinneen
Winmalee, NSW

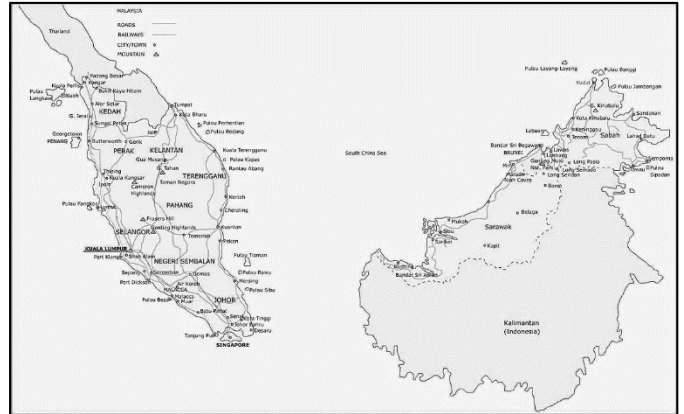
IN THE TRENCHES: 23 JULY KOREA

During the day, we are receiving a fairly large number of Chinese shells and mortar-bombs. This must be preliminary to an attack. As soon as it got dark, it was "on". We did not see much as we were back in our "sleeping" bunker. We did not sleep much that night. Bombs were falling all-around our bunker which did not appear very solid to start with. We thought that Chinese soldiers may open our door (an old blanket) at any time. We felt rather outnumbered and undefended. We could not move out. In the dark one does not travel in the communication trenches linking the fighting pits and bunkers. All movement is considered hostile until proved otherwise. The daily password which is supposed to help in such cases cannot be trusted. In fear, one may even forget one's own name. During an attack it is safer to stay where you are, as long as you can. In darkness soldiers can be trigger happy. Password or no password.

THE AFTERMATH: MOSTLY UNSUNG

Australia and the Commonwealth in Malaya 1948-1960 ⁷

The main lesson that we learned in Malaya, but which the Americans seemed unable to comprehend in Vietnam, was that you cannot bomb Communism out of existence, it cannot be destroyed on the battlefield, only stalled; for if a mis-aimed shot, or a mis-directed bomb should kill or maim an innocent child or civilian, it will turn a thousand against you.



Therefore, we must strive for the support of the people, where support is not given, the attending population pockets must be isolated from the guerillas. Success will be further assured if flexible and aggressive tactics are employed against guerillas and this may necessitate taking the war to either the jungle or the villages, so that preferred areas are never safe for the guerrilla. It is also necessary to continually monitor external events, such as the Korean conflict in this instance, and reassessing strategies as appropriate.

Although history may attribute the failure of the MCP revolution to unsound military tactics, effective government response and limited support outside the Chinese population, success in Malaya was conceived with the implementation of Brigg's plan in June 1950. The plan took cognizance of the extent of the problem measured against available and likely resources. By limited implementation in, initially, the State of Johore, the plan allowed for preparation and the building up of the civil and police infrastructure and the gradual institution of a resettlement scheme. These are slow but necessary processes which must be accepted as a prerequisite to the application of conventional military forces. Success was also a function of the early decisions to co-ordinate all intelligence functions under the police and, therefore, those who knew the local populace best of all.

The Emergency lasted for 12 years. This period may have been reduced had the Brigg's plan placed greater emphasis on laying down a timetable for the resettlement scheme instead of stating that the scheme was to be completed 'as soon as possible', which is a term capable of different interpretation by the individuals concerned. In such situations resettlement schemes must be orchestrated so that the population is afforded proper administration and police protection; the security thus provided should cause the people to assist the Government to maintain law and order. Failure to do so may necessitate the adoption of more stern measures. With the Malaya Emergency all these things happened, it could be however that progress would have been more smooth had the Brigg's plan been adopted earlier, especially before the buildup of the local security forces, and with a firmer timetable.

Nothing has changed, except paradoxically everything, for freedom is everything, although Malaya was never the slave state that the Communists would have had the world believe, it is now a prosperous and independent nation. But the price of winning the world's first struggle against guerilla

⁷ By Lieutenant Colonel Neil Smith, AM. Melb. 1989

communism, of evolving a classic non-escalating formula for beating the tactics of Mao Tse-Tung by winning the "hearts and minds" of the people was high, and paid in blood; so it is worth remembering that in this twelve year "emergency" where liberty and independence were forged and tempered, with safety from aggression, more than 150,000 young soldiers and airmen, together with rubber planters, tin miners, civil aid volunteers, policemen and civil servants played their part.

Many of these men and women still lie in this fair and distant country, for which they shed their blood. Following the Emergency, under the terms of the Defence Agreement with the Federation Government signed in 1957, there remained stationed in Malaya, the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve, comprising British, Gurkha, Australian, New Zealand and Sarawak troops.

In north Malaya units of the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group including an Australian battalion (2RAR) continued to assist the Police and the Federation Army in security patrols on the Thai-Malayan borders, despite later implementation of a long-term plan to move the Brigade Group to its new home at Bukit Terendak, near Malacca.

The end of the Emergency in Malaya did not end the fighting in that part of the world. In 1961 a proposal by Tunku Abdul Rahman for the formation of Malaysia included British North Borneo; this proposal was agreed by Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore and Dr Subandrio of Indonesia although the Philippines laid claim to part of North Borneo. In 1962, an internal revolt took place within Brunei, against the inclusion of Brunei in the newly formed Malaysia. As a result, British troops were sent to Brunei, and a small force of Australians, accompanied this force.

Following the failure of the revolt in Brunei, Indonesia declared a "confrontation" policy, and in April, 1963, Indonesian guerillas started raiding the North Borneo territories of Sabah and Sarawak and continued this pattern despite the arrival of a UN mission in August, 1963. Ostensibly this revolt was aimed at evicting the British presence from the North Borneo states, although Malaya was accused of being 'neo-colonialist' and Malaysia an extension of 'neo-colonialism'. Believing its security to be threatened, Australia offered assistance, and Australian infantry, including the Special Air Service Squadron were deployed. Further assistance was given by Royal Australian Engineers for the construction of roads, light aircraft strips and helipads. Nevertheless, there was no break in formal relations between Australia and Indonesia. In September, 1963 the UN Secretary General announced that the popular majority supported the formation of Malaysia. Thus Malaysia was inaugurated, with Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak becoming independent from Britain and joining the enlarged Federation. President Sukarno however withdrew diplomatic status from the Federation's ambassador in Indonesia. Later, in April, 1964 Indonesian guerillas started landing on mainland Malaya but received no popular support and were dealt with by security forces with little difficulty.

Australian participation in this conflict started on 29th October, 1964, when 3RAR captured fifty Indonesian guerillas in Malaysia. The Battalion then went to Borneo followed by 4RAR. The 3rd and 8th Battalions also served in the Sarawak/Brunei/Sabah area. The period for Active Service in this area was 8 December, 1962, to 11 August, 1966, and the General Service Medal 1962 with bars "Borneo" and "Malaya Peninsular" and RAS Badge were issued for the conflict, between 24th December, 1962, and 11th August, 1966. During this conflict, seven Australian troops were killed in action and ten wounded.

The Government of Philippines agreed in January, 1965 to recognize Malaysia if that State would submit its dispute over Sabah to the International Court. Indonesia elected to withdraw from the UN on the election of Malaysia to the

Security Council and concentrated troops as if for an invasion of Malaysia. The next major development occurred in August when Singapore left the Federation and became an independent state but commenced close economic and defence cooperation with Malaysia. It was agreed by both the Federation and Singapore that the British base on the island would remain.

In Indonesia an attempted pro-Communist coup failed in October, 1966 and five months later the Army regime took control.

Confrontation was formally ended in August, 1966. Throughout Malaysia there was no recognised hostility, although Chin Peng and his hard core followers remained in the area of the Thai border. It was not until early 1987 however, that the Thai government offered a peace package to the remnants of the communist terrorists and their supporters. The proposal included resettlement within Thailand with no forceful return to Malaysia and seems to have been accepted by the Communists. Perhaps now, the "Malayan Emergency" is really over.

PRIVATE FRENCHY RAY: SNIPER SECTION

On May 4th the whole sniper section has been called to Battalion Headquarters. We are greeted by the C.O. himself who started a friendly speech stipulating that we are the ears and eyes of the Battalion, that we shall be very important men and all kind of flannel. Eventually, he came to the punch line "We have purchased for \$3000, the latest weapon. An Infra-red operated rifle called a "Sniper-scope". I believe you use it to see in the dark and identify people on a special sight. This weapon is still on the secret list and must not fall into enemy hands. If the Chinese knew how it works, they could foul the system. When you operate this weapon, you will have to be guarded by your partner and in the event of capture you have to break the infra-red unit and throw the broken glass in the bushes. Under interrogation, you must not tell how it works. This is vital. "Good luck".

We were all very impressed by the speech and the gun. We looked at in details. The infra-red projector and the sight was connected to a small automatic carbine. The whole thing was connected to a car-battery which was carried in a canvas back-pack. A heavy black cable joined the two parts and we were warned that the cable can be dangerous if it catches on barbed-wire.

Any questions? Asked the I.O.

"Well, Sir, we will need some ammunition."

"Good question" said the C.O. "where is it?"

"Hum," answered the I.O. "We forgot to buy some." After a pregnant silence, he carried on "Pte Ray and Pte Tupper will be the first snipers to use it. This will be a good test of their initiative in borrowing some bullets from the Yanks.

As it turned out, Kevin Tupper became my "partner" and we were posted to the front line Company. Charlie Company was to relieve the Royal Fuseliers on Hill 159 on the 5th May.

The following day, I was given a Jeep and a new slouch-hat to go to the American line to swap the hat for carbine ammunition. We had no problem obtaining a huge quantity of bullets which lasted us till the end of the war.

Kevin and I fired a few rounds on a makeshift target and switched on the infra-red for a few minutes when night came.

Although the equipment is too delicate to fit on a Light Machine Gun it has been used to great effect by placing an LMG laid on a fixed line alongside a sniper scope. The sniper scope man tells the LMG number when to fire at enemy in his fix line.

The combined operation between a sniper scope and an LMG was never tried in 2RAR.

FAREWELL MALAYA

By Private Cyril (Frenchy) Ray⁸

2RAR was preparing itself for the necessary parades to celebrate the end of the British Empire, which Malaya and Singapore had been for hundreds of years. MERDEKA (the Malay word for freedom) was to take place on the 30th of August. The British flag was to be raised that morning for the last time.



It was going to be a "jolly" day according to the world news, except for many of the locals;

The Chinese feared the Malays and disliked the Hindus
The Malays hated the Chinese and disliked the Hindus
The Hindus hated the Tamils
The Sikhs hated everybody

With the sudden realisation that the British rule was at an end, the locals felt they had to demonstrate their political strength, by organizing a racial riot.

Driving home, one afternoon, I was stopped by a number of local policemen. A British Officer came to tell me to stay where I was, as an armed group of Chinese were about to get stuck into a group of Malays, both sides armed with long handled machetes.

The British had a Landrover in the middle of the road fitted with a wooden tower about 15 feet high. A Chinese Policeman spoke into a loud-hailer warning the Chinese rioters of what was going to happen. The same was done by a Malay Policeman.

Two policemen went to the top of the wooden tower and installed a machine gun. A few minutes later the two rioting groups were only a few feet away from each other, yelling insults (or what sounded like insults to me).

A large wooden panel with the number "1" painted in large black marking was hoisted to the top of the wooden structure. The yelling of the two groups kept on, but I noticed that they had stopped walking toward each other. A few minutes later the number "1" panel was replaced by another painted with the number "2". This time everybody stopped yelling, the whole street was in silence. It was frightening to imagine what was going to happen. The machine-gunners loaded the gun with a lot of noise and took firing position behind it.

When a third panel went up the wooden structure with a very large letter "X" painted on it both rioting groups, turned around and scattered down the road at full speed. The British Policeman came to tell me that I could carry on driving but told me to keep away from groups of locals.

Back at camp, next day, we were told of all the riots on the island. We were not to leave the camp unless authorised. Married men were to stay in camp although it was unlikely that the riots would spread to Europeans. Married women and children were told to stay home also.

The same night, I was called to the Guard building which had a telephone. My wife was calling from a neighbour's phone. Our 15 months old baby was yelling all the time, had a very high fever and was turning blue.

As she had no transport and had been instructed not to go into the city due to the riots, she did not know what to do. She had tried calling the Battalion Doctor, but she was told he was not available. She was extremely worried. I told her that I would take the matter up with the Duty Officer to get permission to go home. I reported to the Duty Officer and told him my story. He said that he did not have the authority to send me home, but as it was an emergency, he would call on the Commanding Officer, Col. Ochiltree. I waited outside the Officers' Mess for a while and the Duty Officer came back to tell me that nothing could be done, and I was not to leave the camp.

I immediately went to collect my car from the car-park. As it was B Company on guard at the main gate, I told one of my mates standing in front that he had not seen me going out, and in any case, I would be back soon.

All the streets were deserted, and I was able to drive fairly fast. I arrived home within 15 minutes. We immediately organised the child to take her to the Georgetown General Hospital. Whilst getting our child organised to take her to the hospital, the Battalion Doctor arrived. He told me that the Duty Officer told him about the child in distress.

He immediately looked at our baby daughter, gave her a pain-killing injection and told us that she had a severe case of measles with a dangerously high temperature and that he would be back first thing next morning. When the child fell asleep, I drove back to Minden Barracks, parked the car and went to bed.

The Doctor returning back to camp, decided on a night-cap before retiring. At the bar, he talked with the CO and in the course of the conversation mentioned that he had seen me very concerned about the baby's health. Col. Ochiltree jumped at the news and next morning I was on a charge for disobeying an order. Next day, by mid-morning I was marched by the RSM to face Col. Ochiltree.

After the charge was read, he asked me what is the Regiment's motto?

"Duty First, Sir" I smartly answered.

"Very well, he said, now what have you got to say in your defence."

I told him my story.

"What about "duty first" he said.

I was not "on duty" that night, I answered stupidly.

Then, I lost my cool. I added, "In any case, my duty is to my child first."

This did not go well at all. I was stripped of my Lance Corporal rank and a week's pay. Easy come, easy go.

2RAR was due to go back home on the 17th September 1957. All married personnel had to vacate their houses a week before, all luggage packed ready to go. Whilst waiting for the ship "New Australia", we had to stay in a hotel by the beach at Tanjong Bungah (all expenses paid by the Army).

Under Murphy's law, something had to go wrong.

The day we had to move out of our home, the Army delivered our curtains. A complete stocktake had to be redone for reasons still unknown.

During our last few days, we paid our bills with our regular stores, said farewell to our friends and parted company with our Amah. A few farewell parties were attended, and we enjoyed every minute of our last days in Penang.

⁸ Tropical Holidays: The Malayan Emergency 1955-57

MY LIFE STORY: REX WILLIAM (MOEY) MURFET

In 1950, when the Korean War started, I wanted to join the Army as my school mate Froggy Bramich was killed and my workmates were all joining up, but Dad would not sign the papers.



I came home in 1951 and again worked briefly for the Local Council. I bought a brand-new B.S.A 500cc Motorbike (gave it hell), then I moved to Launceston and worked as a Tram Conductor where I met and married Joan Peart.

I went into the Army on the 2 September 1952, being 21 I did not need Dad's signature. I obtained leave of absence from the Tramways for the express purpose of serving in Korea. I completed Recruit Training at Kapooka (Wagga Wagga, NSW) then to 4RAR Ingleburn, NSW. After doing another 14 weeks, Pre-embarkation leave ready for Overseas Service to Battle School Haramura Japan, (via Darwin, Port Moresby, Guam in the Mariana Island Group). My Nickname here in the Army was "Boong", due to my dark skin.

I did the Battle School it was very realistic our losses were 3 killed and several wounded. Then on to Korea on the Wo Sang (ship) and landed at Pusan and then by Train to Tukchon. It was a shock, seeing the Horrors of War, Limbless and Maimed Men, Women and Children, Devastated Towns and Villages.

We were trucked to 2RAR arriving in the evening and then posted to 2 SEC 10PL D COY. On a position named The Hook.

I arrived early July 1953 and I Thank God the Armistice (cease fire) was Declared 27th July 1953. Our position was 75 metres from the Enemy Lines, so every time Supplies were brought up to us, we were Blasted as the Chinese had zeroed in our position.

The company (130 men) 6 were killed and 42 were wounded in the last 2 weeks. Patrols were carried out and you can imagine it was Fairly Hairy.

I was made a Lance-Corporal in charge of the Light Machine Gun Group (known as Bren Group). After the ceasefire was declared, we set about digging up and carting away all Fortifications and Filling trenches (some were up to 14 ft deep and over 4 metres wide) and many men had slaved to dig these and build the Bunkers.

I was returned to Australia unbeknown to the family during the Petrov Investigation, I had briefly met the man twice in Sydney in the company of one J.P. Paul Callaghan, after a few weeks

I was reposted to Korea to complete my stint.

When 2RAR was relieved by 1RAR I was posted as a Corporal to Defence and Employment Platoon BDE H.Q. The Platoon consisted of mainly misfits and castoffs from 1, 2, and 3RAR and the British Warwick's and Essex Battalions. Our job was to provide Protection and General jobs around Headquarters. Infiltration had been going on all the time before and after the Ceasefire.

The Troops of the Platoon were nearly all a bunch of No Hoppers and our Duties as NCO's was not easy. I had to carry out Duties such as Inspection of a person's Teeth (cleaned) Shaving and Body Cleanliness.

I had a Tub Book and had to personally ensure everyone showered, (rough as they were; shower's that is). Subjected to threats and one attempt to kill me with a Bayonet (unsuccessful), other attempts were dealt with normally by Section Members.

After the Ceasefire in Korea, it was an uneasy period, constantly on the alert, we did patrols 1000 metres on our side of the Imjin River, to prevent infiltration of the North Koreans to the South. There was a Demarcation (D.M.Z.) line formed around the 38th parallel, no Troops from either side were allowed to cross.

We prepared positions South of the D.M.Z. We carried out digging and building fortifications named "Kansas Line". Damned hard work. During winter the ground was frozen to a depth of 3 feet or 1 metre, we had to blast our way down.

The climate in Korea was unusual, burning hot in the summer and a Malaria Area (I contacted Malaria and spent 5 days in a Canadian Field Hospital) and during Winter the temperature dropped to minus 18 degrees, whilst I was there. In 1950-1951 it was a record at -38 degrees Celsius.

I only found out later what the true casualty situation was, we knew of our Division, and the Yanks who copped a pasting, approximately 50,000 Dead and around 200,000 Wounded plus POW's. The U.S. Bombed the Hell out North Korea, every Village, Town and City were Destroyed.

About 2 million Civilians Perished, 5 Million fled into South Korea, one and a half million North Korean and Chinese Soldiers were killed.

South Korea and the United Nations a total of 1 million killed, so this limited war of approximately 3 years of fighting produced 4.5 million dead and God knows how many wounded. Soldiers from both sides were being killed or wounded during skirmishes when the last Australians left in 1956. And as I write these notes in 1999, peace has still not been achieved.

Both North and South Korea are still in readiness for war.

Rex William (Moey) was born on April 30, 1931. Rex passed away on 28 April 2015, in his 84th year. Ed.

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You can pay for your merchandise/membership by:

Cheques to be made payable to: 2RAR Association, Inc
Direct deposit to the Association's bank account:

Bank: Suncorp Bank.

BSB: 484-799

Account Number: 063 350 355

When ordering merchandise using this form, Email or Post the Merchandise Order Form to: PO Box; Toombul Qld 4012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

This is the Thirteenth edition of RINGO printed for free.



II

☐ NEW
MEMBERSHIP

☐ RENEW
MEMBERSHIP

☐ NEW
ADDRESS

FULL NAME: _____ Tele: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Mob: _____

Post Code _____ Email: _____ @ _____

Regimental No: _____ DOB: _____

RAR Service

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

Theatres Served/Years:

Japan	Korea	Malaya	Malaysia	Borneo	Vietnam	Cambodia	Rwanda	East Timor	Solomon Is	Iraq	Timor Lesté	Afghanistan
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Post-Nominal Awards: _____

Wife/Partner's Name: _____

SUBSCRIPTIONS

(Financial Year: 1 November to 31 October)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

☐ \$20

MULTI-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

☐ \$40 - \$60 - \$80 - \$100

Applicant: _____ Date: _____ 2018

Receipt Required? YES/NO

MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

(All prices are inclusive of transaction fees, packaging and postage)

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	ITEM	PRICE	QTY
Cap: Black - "2nd Battalion"	\$35.00		Book: Trackers Vietnam 1967/68. Peter Haran	\$29.00	
			Book: 'A Duty Done'. Lt Col Fred Fairhead (Rtd)	\$40.00	
Hat - Olive Green (Bush Hat) M (58), L (60), XL (61)	\$25.00		Enamel Mug - "2RAR"	\$29.00	
Cap: Black/Silver - "ICB Badge"	\$35.00		Pewter Drink Coaster - RAR Badge	\$25.00	
Lapel Badge - "2RAR"	\$13.00		Pewter Drink Coaster - ICB Badge	\$25.00	
Lapel Badge - "Vietnam"	\$6.00		Ladies Silk Scarf	\$57.00	
Polo Shirt: Black/Gold - "2nd Battalion" M (97) L(102) XL(107) 2XL(112) 3XL(117)	\$47.00		Pewter Belt Buckle - ICB Badge	\$28.00	
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)	\$29.00		Bumper Sticker - 2nd Battalion	\$8.00	
Tie: 2RAR Heritage Tie (The original black)	\$29.00		Car Registration Plate Frames - 2nd Battalion	\$20.00	
Stubby Cooler - "2RAR"	\$11.00		Note Pad - Leather - ICB Badge	\$21.00	
Stubby Cooler - "Second to No Bastard"	\$11.00		Badge: ICB Metal/Bronze - Large	\$15.00	
Stubby Cooler - "The first round is on us"	\$11.00		Badge: ICB Metal/Bronze - Small	\$13.00	
Sticker (Oval) - "ICB"	\$88.00		Badge: Returned from Active Service (RAS) Metal/Bronze	\$15.00	
Sticker (Round) - "2RAR"	\$5.00		Badge: Rising Sun - Gold/Metal	\$15.00	
Key Ring - Black/Gold	\$15.00		Money Fold Leather with credit card pockets - RAS badge	\$30.00	
Key Ring - Penny Slouch Hat	\$6.00		Flag: 2RAR Black (48 cm x 31 cm)	\$18.00	
Wall Plaque: 2RAR	\$55.00		Name Tag: Preferred name: _____	\$28.00	
Book: 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1967-68 Vol 1. Reprint 1985	\$90.00				

Package Deal 1
Polo shirt & Cap
\$75.00 (save \$8.00)

Package Deal 2
Sports shirt & Cap
\$75.00 (save \$8.00)

Package Deal 3
Polo shirt, Cap & Tie
\$100.00 (save \$12.00)

Package Deal 4
Sports shirt, Cap & Tie
\$100.00 (save \$12.00)

2RAR Association, Inc.
Suncorp Bank. BSB: 484-799
Account no: 063 350 355
Full details on page 11