



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)

DECEMBER 2018

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2018 has been a year of consolidation as we look to move the Association management committee from SE Qld to Townsville by the end of 2019. The Association conducted its annual reunion which included the AGM and commemorative service at Tweed Heads on 26-28 October. Attendance at the reunion was outstanding. I would like to thank our patron, Maj Gen Mick Slater and wife Danielle for attending the reunion.



L-R: CO 2RAR: Lt Col Doug Pashley, Secretary: Gordon Hurford, President: Leo Van De Kamp, Patron: Maj Gen Mick Slater, RSM 2RAR: WO1 Jason Sten.
NB: Lt Col Judd Finger will assume command as CO 2RAR in December.

Also, both the current CO, LtCol Doug Pashley and his replacement LtCol Judd Finger and the RSM attended the reunion. The CO provided an outline of the Battalion's achievements this year and the RSM gave an overview of the unit museum which continues to improve. Attendance of these members certainly added to the success of the weekend.

All committee members were re-elected at the AGM and I congratulate each member on their re-election and I would like to offer my sincere thanks for their willingness to continue to serve. Rick has included a host of photographs of the reunion in this issue.

The final day of the reunion included a bus tour to Canungra for a guided tour of Kokoda Barracks followed by a wonderful bar-b-que at O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards. A stunning day.

Two of our members were recognised for their contribution to the Association. Firstly, Jim Cooper was awarded Life Membership for his outstanding role as the Association's Victorian representative over a period of more than two decades.

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Max Ingles was presented with the Silver Soldier for his excellent work in the development of the 2RAR display at the Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island. Congratulations to both members for their excellent work and their awards are well deserved.

Following a meeting with the CO 2RAR (Amphib) on 26 October, the Battalion's Roll of Honour has now been agreed. The Association has developed an SOP outlining a set of principles which define a member's entitlement to be placed on the Battalion's Roll of Honour.

The committee is now in discussion with the Battalion to look at how we can assist in the upgrading of the current Roll of Honour which is located at the Battalion's Headquarters.

The committee has commissioned two renowned war artists from Victoria, Charles Green and Lyndell Brown, to provide a major painting which will represent 2RAR's two tours of Vietnam. It is anticipated that this painting will be completed by mid-2019 and when completed, will be presented to the Battalion at a suitable date to be advised.

The Association's Facebook page has continued to develop well and continues to attract considerable interest. The 2RAR website continues to be our major medium for communicating with our members. A newsletter "RINGO" is issued to our members on a quarterly basis with copies distributed electronically within 2RAR. We are also seeking the increase of electronic distribution of the newsletter for our membership. Sadly, we have again this year had to farewell a considerable number of our 2RAR family. On behalf of the Association, I would like to pass on my condolences to the family and friends of those who have passed away. There are also many of our veterans who continue to be in poor health. If you are in a position to arrange a visit to any of those in ill health, please do so as I'm sure it will be very much appreciated.

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PROUDLY PRINTED BY PETER DUTTON MP

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

This is the Twelfth edition of RINGO printed for free.

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT / EDITOR
SECRETARY
TREASURER
MERCHANDISE
MEMBERS

HONORARY PADRE
Postal Address: PO Box 1097 Toombul Qld 4012

L (LEO) VAN DE KAMP
RJ (RICK) HOLLINGDRAKE, OAM
GW (GORDON) HURFORD, AM
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>

07 5444 0889
07 3285 4197
0407 926 270
07 3203 0254
0410 058 257
0419 798 991
0430 940 737
0412 396 103
0417 241 564
vandekampleo@gmail.com
rjhollingdrake@gmail.com
2rarsecretary@gmail.com
normdev12@bigpond.com
maba2783@optusnet.com.au
daphne.bimrose@bigpond.com
dave.hatton@cpagroup.com.au
kbterry45@gmail.com
graemedavis@bigpond.com
<https://www.facebook.com/2RAR-Association-Inc-1183231068415223/>

The Association is heading in the right direction as we seek to implement our succession plan with the transition of the management committee to North Qld and increase the younger veteran membership base. I would like to acknowledge the ongoing dedication and hard work of the 2RAR Association committee and state members who through their efforts ensure that the Association continues to thrive.

On a final note I wish all members and their families a wonderful and safe Festive Season. Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

"Second to None"

Leo Van De Kamp
President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 2018

The Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at Coolangatta & Tweed Heads RSL (QLD) Sub Branch on Saturday 27th October 2018. The following Committee was elected for the 2018/2019 year:

President: Leo Van De Kamp

Vice President: Rick Hollingdrake, OAM

Secretary: Gordon Hurford, AM

Treasurer: Norm Devereux

Committee:

Arthur Macdonald (Merchandise)

Kevin "Aub" Terry (Membership)

Ross Bimrose (Governance)

Dave Hatton, OAM (Assistant Secretary/Ceremonial)

There were 44 members in attendance. Thank you to those who attended.

"Second to None"
Gordon W. Hurford, AM

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.

DONATIONS

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

William Carpenter	Ronald Hicks	Brisbane Airport Corporation
Paul King	Miscellaneous	Norm Devereux,

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

We welcome these new members:

Alan Price	Calamvale, Qld	Malaya, Vietnam
Rod Mullings	Tweed Heads South, NSW	Malaya, Vietnam
John Wade	Turramurra, NSW,	Vietnam
Roy Marek	Calliope, Qld	Malaya, Vietnam
Barry Lyne	Garbutt, Qld	Vietnam

RINGO NEWSLETTER

RINGO will continue to be sent to you via Australia Post. Alternatively, you may wish to receive RINGO by Email. At last count we have 101 names of those who have chosen the latter.

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>

WARRIORS WHO HAVE MARCHED OUT

- 12466 Lieutenant Colonel David Norman CANDOW, 2RAR Korea 1953-54 (Sgt), 3RAR Malaysia 1962 (Confrontation) (Sgt), 3RAR Vietnam 1967-68 (Ops Offr). David passed away on 22 October 2018. Age: 85+ years. Thanks Ossie Kleinig, Patrick Forbes
- 2412206 Warrant Officer Class 1 Gerald Stuart ASTIN, A Coy 4RAR Borneo, 2RAR (ANZAC Bn) Vietnam 1970-71 (Sgt). POB: Blackpool Lancashire, UK. Gerry passed away on 22 October 2018. Age: 74+ years. Funeral held 31 October 2018 at Mandurah, WA. Thanks John Burns, Bob Fahey, Mick Bell, Peter Nolan
- 2782896 Private Wallis John MUSGRAVE, 2RAR (ANZAC Bn) Vietnam 1967. 11 PI D Coy. Wally passed away on 21 October 2018 in Canberra, ACT. Age: 73+ years. Thanks Gordon Hurford
- 5716932 Private Eric Leslie WALLIS, 1ARU 1970, 8RAR 1970, 1ARU 1970, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1970-71 (Mor Pl). Eric requested a private funeral held on 10 October 2018.
- 218376 Private John Edward FORESTAL, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn Vietnam 1970. Funeral was held at Albany Creek Memorial Park on 29 October 2018. Thanks Peter Nolan
- 2785573 Private Michael Maitland TYNAN, 1ARU 1967, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn Vietnam 1967-68. Funeral was held on 19 October at the Canungra School of Arts Hall. Thanks Graham Hamburger, John Cassidy
- Kevin James HARVEY, 2/4RAR, 5/7RAR (recon) served in the 1980's. Kevin passed away from kidney failure having been diagnosed with cancer. Age: 60+ years. Wife Sedoi was by his side. A good service, and a few drinks after. Thanks Bob Varcoe

†

*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

MY LIFE STORY: LCPL REX WILLIAM 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 went into the Army on the 2nd September 1952, being 21 I did not need Dad's signature.

I completed Recruit Training at Kapooka, then onto 4RAR Ingleburn, NSW after doing another 14 weeks. (Then) pre-embarkation leave for overseas service to Battle School Haramura Japan, via Darwin, Port Moresby, Guam in the Mariana Island group. My nickname 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 onto 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 posted to 2 Sect 10 PI D Coy on a position named the HOOK. Our position was 75 metres from the enemy lines. The Chinese had zeroed in on our position. I was made Lance-Corporal in charge of the LMG.

More about Rex Murfet's Life Story in April 2019 edition. Ed.

VALE: WALLIS "WALLY" MUSGRAVE

When an ex-serviceman passes away their comrades gather to pay their last respects to a person who has served their country with honour.

Wally was wounded on 28th September 1967 and was evacuated to Australia as a result of those wounds on 10th October 1967.

Wallis "Wally" John Musgrave served in 2RAR as a rifleman for less than 2 years and yet he has been involved with the men who served in the Battalion for more than 50 years.

Wally, using his own initiative, located and recorded the contact details of all who served in 2RAR during the first and second tour of duty in Vietnam 1967-68 and 1970-71.

His contact list is now a very useful resources tool. With it, we can locate and identify people instantly. The time and effort in assembling the data is measured in decades plus the ingenuity used in finding our people makes Sherlock Holmes look like an amateur.

What he has produced is the contents of the unofficial history of all ranks that served in 2RAR during the Vietnam conflict. It is likely no other unit that has served in an operational area will have a similar record of those who served. 2RAR Association has such a record because Wally cared.

Wally used electoral rolls, telephone books, remote RSL's and real estate agents to name but a few sources in his research. In gathering the data, Wally spoke to just about everyone on the list at some stage.

This resource enables birthdays to be recognised, and contacts to be maintained where they may have otherwise been lost. Every day Wally checks his list and sends out birthday greetings by email. He makes all of us feel wanted.

Throughout this project, Wally persevered beyond all normal expectations. He was a tenacious and dogged in his endeavours to record everyone who served in 2RAR in a specific period and he was meticulous in the accuracy of the data. He fought on when there was no obvious answer to the problem. In the end, Wally succeeded. We are richer because of his body of work created by Wally Musgrave.

Gordon Hurford
Secretary

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
Alexander NIE (WA)	(08) 9256 4423/0417 993 751 alexander.nie@bigpond.com
Vacant (NT)	VACANT
Vacant (NQ)	VACANT
Bill MARTIN (NZ)	(0011649) 267 7545 rwmartin@bigpond.com

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. Details to be advised.

For further information contact Jock Cassidy.
Johncassidy65@hotmail.com

COLONEL COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE: 70TH ANNIVERSARY 23RD NOVEMBER 2018

As we draw to a conclusion this significant period of commemoration in Australia to mark the Centenary of the First World War with services to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice held earlier this month on 11th November, we take time today to celebrate a significant milestone in the history of the Royal Australian Regiment.

2018 has been a significant year for our Regiment. In July we commemorated the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Samichon and the Korean War Armistice, a war where the foundation Battalions of our fledgling Regiment set the standard for future generations to follow. In May we commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Battles of Fire Support Base Coral and Balmoral from the Vietnam War, including the award of the Unit Citation for Gallantry to the 1st Battalion and the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment and the other Australian units involved in these battles. Our Regiment expanded to nine Battalions during the Vietnam War to meet the demand and our Battalions were commanded by veterans of Korea as were the RSMs and many of the Senior NCOs, and our soldiers excelled in the difficult terrain and conditions and conducted much of the heavy lifting during Australia's involvement in that war. We also commemorated in May this year the 25th Anniversary of the 1RAR Battalion Group's deployment to Somalia, one of the first of our more contemporary operational deployments.

However, the 23rd November 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Regiment. Our 70th Birthday provides a suitable occasion to reflect on our Regiment's rich history and achievements over the past 70 years where the Battalions of the Regiment have provided all the full-time Infantry combat capability for the Australian Defence Force. In Canberra the anniversary will be marked with a ceremonial parade with all the Colours of the Regiment on parade emblazoned with our Battle Honours and then following the parade, we will pause and reflect on the sacrifice of Corporal Kevin Cooper from the 2nd Battalion, who was killed in action during the Battle of Samichon in 1953, at the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.

However, we should also pause and remember that soldiers from the Battalions of our Regiment are deployed on operations today in Iraq and Afghanistan and continue to uphold the high standards set by the previous generations of Australian Infantry soldiers who have served under the Royal Australian Regiment's motto of "Duty First."

May I take this opportunity to wish all those who have served or are serving in the Royal Australian Regiment and their families a happy 70th Birthday!

Duty First

M.A. Kelly, AO, DSC

Major General

Colonel Commandant

The Royal Australian Regiment

OPERATION COBURG: 1ST FEBRUARY 1968

On the 1st February, D Company and APC from A Sqn 3 Cav Regt fought through the village of Trang Bom which was to the south of the maintenance area. VC estimated at about company strength had occupied the village and attacked the local Vietnamese post. The action began with the deployment of one platoon and cavalry but the platoon, after meeting heavy automatic fire, was later reinforced by the complete company. The fight lasted all day with artillery and helicopter gun ships being used to neutralized enemy pockets of resistance. Between the company and the cavalry at least 11 VC were killed without any friendly casualties being incurred. Overall Op Coburg: Friendly (2RAR) 7 killed, 35 wounded
Enemy: 91 killed, 36 wounded, 1 captured

D Coy & W Coy remained in situ under command 3RAR.

2ND BATTALION (AMPHIBIOUS), THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

15 October 2017 was a landmark day in the history of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. It marked the formal transition of the 2RAR from a standard infantry battalion to a specialist amphibious support unit, and adoption of the designation 'Amphibious'.



L-R: Lt Robert Loftus & Pte Stefan Lee (RIMPAC 18)

Besides the new name, the transition to 2RAR (Amphib) saw the Battalion's command shift from the 3rd Brigade to direct command of Headquarters 1st Division, exercised through Commander Landing Forces (CLF), and the reconnaissance company (ISR Coy), and an administration company (ADMIN Coy). 2RAR (Amphib) will remain in Townsville and maintains strong ties with the 3rd Brigade and the Townsville community.

The Amphibious Capability

2RAR (Amphib)'s mission is to generate a light infantry force capable of operating in the littoral to enable full spectrum amphibious operations in support of Australia's national interests. Specifically, the unit is responsible for generating Army's contribution to, and commanding, the ADF's Joint Pre-Landing Force (JPLF), which is a task-organised and scalable force dedicated to answering the information requirements of the joint amphibious force. 2RAR (Amphib), as the JPLF, has the following core missions:

- Amphibious reconnaissance
- Battlespace shaping
- Small boat operations
- Limited scale raids

In addition to the above primary missions, 2RAR (Amphib) has been tasked to be Army's lead for the development of a riverine patrol capability, and to investigate options for the employment in a Divisional land reconnaissance role. At its core, 2RAR (Amphib) remains a light infantry unit, optimised for amphibious operations, and capable (with reinforcement and appropriate lead time) of reverting to the role of a standard infantry battalion.

The ADF's joint amphibious doctrine and the amphibious force concept of employment are evolving and are, as of October 2018, undergoing full re-writes. 2RAR (Amphib) used 2018 to test, evaluate, and validate its structure and concept of operations. The Battalion has found success in 2018 in task-organising into two 'like' Pre-Landing Force company groups, PLF-A and PLF-B, based on A and ISR Coy respectively. Each of these PLF company groups is capable of independent employment, and consists of the following:

- Company/PLF HQ (reinforced with additional staff from BHQ)
- 1 x Reconnaissance and Sniper Platoon (the second of which has been generated by re-rolling and training Rifle Platoon)
- 1 x Rifle Platoon
- 1 x Small Boats Platoon
- The PLF company group is habitually reinforced by the a rifle platoon

- The PLF company group is habitually reinforced by the following enablers:

Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Expeditionary Reconnaissance & Clearance team (ERC).

A platoon-strength team of Clearance Divers specially trained and equipped to support amphibious operations, including underwater survey and mine clearance, demolitions, and limited ground reconnaissance.

RAN Defence Geospatial Survey Team (DGST). A section-strength team trained and equipped to conduct out-of-contact hydrographic surveys.

Light Electronic Warfare Teams (LEWT) from 7 Signals Regiment.

Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAS) detachments from 20 Surveillance & Target Acquisition Regiment (20 STA)

Amphibious Beach Team (ABT) reconnaissance officer / detachment from 35 Water Transport Squadron

Engineer Reconnaissance officer / detachment from the rotational Ground Combat Element.

Being part of the 1st Division and working directly to CLF and the Amphibious Task Group has enabled 2RAR (Amphib) to take some really positive steps in terms of the amphibious capability and associated training, infrastructure, specialist equipment, and international engagement. We have been well-supported from across the joint force; by SOCOMD; by enabling Army units including 35 Water Transport Squadron; and of course, by the Navy, especially HMAS Canberra and Adelaide and the Clearance Diver and Geospatial Survey communities. Internationally we have been fortunate to receive support from the United States Marine Corps (USMC), particularly the 1st and 3rd Reconnaissance Battalions who hosted exchange officers in Southern California and training in Hawaii respectively, and 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment of the Marine Rotation Force – Darwin (MRF-D). Having a MRF-D rifle platoon and a very capable squad of Scout Snipers attached for the busiest months of the year exposed us to new ideas and equipment and very effectively strengthened the Army-USMC relationship.

2018 – Pushing the Capability

2018 has been an exceptionally busy and productive year, providing ample opportunity to test and validate the above structures and the associated concept of operations with the near-simultaneous deployment of PLF-A on Exercise Sea Series 2018 and PLF-B on Exercise RIMPAC 2018.

The Sea Series saw PLF-A deploy aboard HMAS Canberra and execute a number of highly successful amphibious reconnaissance missions and company-strength raids, all conducted by night and from well over the horizon (typically 75-100 nautical miles) and accomplished by a combination of small boat and rotary wing insertion. They did great work advancing the amphibious reconnaissance capability, finding solutions to the challenges of extended range insertions, long range communications, and extended duration on target. They also exploited opportunities to progress the heave-casting capability, inserting surface swimmers into the water by jumping from hovering MRH-90 and CH-47 aircraft, and conducted a full-mission profile raid training mission on an abandoned resort on Lindeman Island that required a demanding surface swim approach followed by pathfinding up steep and heavily vegetated slopes.

Perhaps more significantly, the Sea Series saw the first certification of an Amphibious Ready Unit incorporating a rotational Ground Combat Element. 8/9RAR approached the problem with enthusiasm and a great attitude.

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COMMEMORATION & CAMARADERIE 2018



COMMEMORATION & CAMARADERIE 2018



COMMEMORATION & CAMARADERIE 2018



COMMEMORATION & CAMARADERIE 2018



Continued from page 4

They were very successful, demonstrating that amphibious operations are no 'black art' and setting the baseline for other units to follow. PLF-B deployed aboard HMAS Adelaide on Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2018, where they visited and conducted mutually-beneficial amphibious training with the host nation security forces in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.



Sgt Andrew Rimmer 2RAR (Amphib) HMAS Adelaide RIMPAC 2018

PLF-B was joined by BHQ for Exercise RIMPAC 2018, where the unit formed the multi-national 'Task Force Black', comprised of some 800 troops from the 2RAR and attachments, the United States Marines Corps, Her Majesty's Armed Forces Tonga, the Sri Lankan Navy Marine Corps, and the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force. RIMPAC is the world's largest multinational naval exercise of which the amphibious component is but a small part, though the location and density of assets affords some unique training opportunities. RSS and Small Boats Platoon maximised their use of the challenging conditions to improve their small boat and surface swimming skills, and leveraged the relationship with USMC 3rd Recon Battalion to achieve an Army 'first' (outside SOCOMD), tactically inserting via heave-ho patrols with complete small boat systems. PLF-B took full advantage of the USMC's different approach to range construction to conduct some great live-fire training, and our organic Joint Fires Team controlled a mix and quantity of fixed-and-rotary wing attack aviation that would be unimaginable in Australia.

Second to None

Despite, or perhaps even because of, the changing role and focus, 2RAR (Amphib)'s soldiers continue to demonstrate excellence in all areas. The 2018 Duke of Gloucester Cup team led by Cpl Marc Ford placed a very close second against a strong field, reinforcing 1017's first place. The Battalion's team placed second overall at this year's Australian Army Skill at Arms Meet (AASAM), with stand-out efforts by Pte Keiren Bradburn who was awarded individual champion shot, and Cpl Isaac Morgan who was awarded champion sniper. Pte Bradburn and Pte Eugene Rebsdorf went on to acquit themselves well as representatives of the unit and Army at the Canadian Army marksmanship competition. Cpl Liam Kiernan deployed with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment to Iraq where he was ranked as their best Junior NCO – a remarkable concession from a proud cavalry unit, and a credit to Cpl Kiernan's professionalism and capabilities.

On the sporting field, too, the Battalion continues to live up to its Motto. No longer being a formal part of the 3rd Brigade has not dampened the soldier's enthusiasm for competition, with our teams victorious in the Brigade obstacle course competition and the tough 20km Pozieres Challenge.

2RAR (Amphib) continues to look to its proud past for example and to remain humble. In July the Battalion marked the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Samichon (Korea) with two separate commemorative services, one in Townsville and one on the flight deck of HMAS Adelaide for the contingent deployed on Exercise RIMPAC. September 2018 saw the official unveiling of the Matthew Lambert Marksman Training Range at Mount Stuart Training Range Area, in remembrance of sniper Pte Matthew who was killed in action during the Battalion's 2011 tour of Afghanistan.

Looking to the Future

A desire to put their skills to the test has been a constant refrain from the soldiers of 2RAR (Amphib), and to that end late 2018 will see a platoon-sized group deploy on operations to Iraq, with several more platoon-sized rotations scheduled to Iraq and Afghanistan over the next 2-3 years, where I am sure the teams will acquit themselves well. Late 2018, too, will see composite Small Boats Platoon deploy HMAS Adelaide to support Operation APEC Assist in Papua New Guinea.

At the start of the year, I set the goal of becoming a world-class amphibious reconnaissance and pre-landing light infantry unit, benchmarked against units like the USMC's 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, and the UK Royal Commando's 30 Intelligence Exploitation Group (30 IX Gp). We still have a way to go but building on the hard work done during the 5 year amphibious trial, and from what I have seen in 2018, 2RAR (Amphib) is well on track.

Duty First

Lt Col Douglas Pashley
Commanding Officer
October 2018

JOHN CHURCH'S BATTALION: PREPARATIONS

I have written very sketchily of our activities after we began our preparations in earnest. What is not apparent, are the many weeks of hard work and long days on exercises in the field.

All ranks worked under a great deal of pressure and stress to bring the unit to its final peak of efficiency. These exercises took the men away from young families often at times when a husband's presence was sorely needed in the home. The lives of many of the married soldiers were hectic and stressful, and many marriages went through a very rocky period. Despite this, most of these soldiers spoke of the love and support they received from their families to carry them through this difficult time. Late in March 1970, we were formally warned for service in South Vietnam. We took our pre-embarkation leave, packed up and made our farewells to Townsville.

Before our last parade, Queen Elizabeth II, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Anne honoured us by making a visit to Lavarack Barracks. Charlie Company formed the Royal Guard of Honour with Barry Peterson as its commander. Colin Purcell was the Ensign of the Colour and Bob De Haas the second Ensign.

The principal function of our farewells to the city of Townsville was a march through the streets of the city. Our support battery, the 107th Field Battery, RAA, commanded by Major George Salmon, accompanied us on the march. We gave our salute to the General Officer Commanding, Major General MacDonald who shared the dais with the Mayor of Townsville, Alderman W. Harold Phillips.

The plan of our movement to Vietnam was for the advance party of 150 members to fly from Townsville to Saigon on 29 April. QANTAS provided a Boeing 707 under charter for our flight. Three company groups, each of 150, followed at intervals of four days. (HMAS Sydney was not deployed).

6RAR flew back in the returning aircraft.³

³ Second To None: 2RAR ANZAC Battalion in Vietnam, 1970-71. J.M. Church, DSO © 1996

HISTORY OF THE REGIMENTAL BADGE

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



The King's Crown (above): The crest has had the backing replaced with metal and the RP CPL has polished the cracks and crevasses. It's looking just like the day it was made. Jason (Harry) Harrison

In the early stages of the preparation of a design, it was intended to be the badge of the First Battalion only, but subsequently it was decided that battalions of the Regiment would wear the one badge.

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

In the final form, the badge was the combination of many suggestions put forward by several persons. Those involved in 1 RAR's design were Lieutenant Colonel J. L. A. Kelly DSO, Commanding Officer of the Battalion, Major T. E. Archer, Major K. B. Thomas MC and Sergeant E. J. O'Sullivan, the Intelligence Sergeant. The Intelligence Section of the Battalion prepared sketches and assisted in the design.

In deciding upon the various heraldic devices for inclusion in the motif of the badge, an early intention was to incorporate the identification signs of the AIF Divisions that contributed personnel to 34 Australian Infantry Brigade for the occupation forces in Japan. This proved impracticable because the Sixth Division had a kangaroo, the Seventh Division, a kookaburra and the Ninth Division, a platypus; all surmounting a boomerang.

At this stage it became quite clear that the badge was to become a Regimental Badge and not a Battalion Badge, so it was decided to adopt an animal typically Australian but different somewhat from those of the Division signs. A kangaroo was selected, and the heraldic posture of the beast was to be standing (the Sixth Division kangaroo was leaping) to prevent a direct connection with a division tactical sign.

The devices in the Royal Australian Regiment badge motif have significant meaning:

The Kangaroo

The kangaroo is uniquely Australian fauna and universally accepted as an Australian symbol. The original sketch showed the kangaroo with its forepaws relaxed but on the badge its forepaws are outstretched. This occurred because the die-caster could not achieve proper definition with the paws hanging.

The Boomerang

The boomerang is closely associated with our Aboriginal people and was also related to the tactical signs of the Second AIF from which 34 Australian Infantry Brigade was formed.

The Wattle Wreath

The wattle wreath is a symbolic Australian flora in bloom and a variation of the laurel wreath, which is part of many British and Australian badges.

The Crossed Rifles

The crossed rifles signify the personal weapon of the Infantryman. The rifles are the type that were used at the time of the formation of the Regiment, i.e. "Rifle, .303-inch, Short Magazine, Lee Enfield, (SMLE) Number 1, Mark 3."

The Crown

The Royal Crown was included because the regiment bears the title, "Royal".

A motto for the Regiment was also called for and desirably it had to be original, short and in English. "Duty First" seemed appropriate and was selected because, "The unhesitating and unquestioning performance of his duty is the fundamental requirement of a soldier." Those who selected the motto have said, "It is a good motto for anybody" and they could not then, or now, think of a better motto for the Royal Australian Regiment.

Incorporated in the badge of the Regiment is a great deal of significance and tradition. It is fundamentally Australian and includes the symbol of the Infantry soldier. Thus, with the motto of Duty First, it symbolises the spirit and the task of an Australian Infantry Regiment comprised of Australian Infantrymen.

The Regimental Badge was reproduced on Christmas cards in 1949 but was not issued as a hat badge until early 1954 when the new badges, replacing the AIF Badge, were issued to 2RAR in Korea. The Regimental Badge has been worn ever since.

In June 1950, 3RAR, then serving in Japan, had four large badges cast out of spent brass shell cases by members of the Assault Pioneer Platoon. One badge was sent to each of the three Battalions in the Regiment; 1RAR, 2RAR, 3RAR and one was sent to 1 Infantry Brigade Headquarters.

When 1 Infantry Brigade was disbanded at Holsworthy in 1960 to form Headquarters 1st Division at Moore Park, the badge was handed over to 2RAR, the Battalion resident at Holsworthy, for safekeeping. On the formation of 4RAR at Woodside SA in February 1964, this badge was transferred to that unit.

With further expansion of the Regiment in 1965, newly formed battalions, investigated the possibility of having similar badges cast. At this early date it was not financially practical, and the new battalions temporarily displayed a smaller version of the Regimental Badge with a dull finish. Later, the remaining battalions of the Regiment acquired large crests.

5/7RAR displays two crests; those belonging to 5RAR and 7RAR. The crest of 5RAR was presented to the Battalion by the 2/5 Infantry Battalion Association in November 1967 and the crest of 7RAR was presented by the 2/7 Infantry Battalion Association on 3 September 1966.

The crest displayed by 6RAR was partially cast using spent artillery and small arms cases fired during the Battle of Long Tan, South Vietnam on 18 August 1968. The crest was cast at the Stuart Copper Refinery, Townsville in 1968.

The crest of 8RAR was presented by 4RAR on the occasion of 8RAR's first birthday on 8 August 1967. This crest was cast from spent shell cases fired by V Battery, Royal Artillery and Dragon Battery, Royal Artillery in support of 4RAR operations in Sarawak, Borneo from April 1966 to September 1966.

The crest of 9RAR was cast by the Naval Dockyard Foundry, Sembawang Singapore in 1970 using the 1RAR crest less the crown, as a diecast. The King's Crown was then replaced with the Queen's Crown.

Researched from the Infantry Centre Library Archives by WO2 R.W. Jones MM and transcribed from "The Field", December 1986

THE NASHOS

From 1964 to 1972 more than 804,000 men registered for national service, of whom more than 63,000 were called up to serve in the Army. Of these men more than 15,000 went on to serve in the Vietnam War, with 201 killed and more than 1,200 wounded. "Nashos are an important part of our military history and their contribution should never be forgotten."

JOHN CHURCH'S BATTALION: HOME & ABROAD

As planned, we arrived off Townsville on HMAS Sydney in the early hours of the morning. After an early reveille and breakfast, the troops fell in by LCM loads. Embarkation for the shore began at 6.30 am.

The people of Townsville, who had shown great support for the Battalion, received the marching troops with great enthusiasm. Hundreds of lunchtime shoppers and business people thronged the main street as we marched past the dais outside the Council Chambers. Streamers, confetti and much loud applause greeted us as we gave a salute to the Colonel Commandant, Sir Reginald Pollard, the Minister for the Army, Andrew Peacock, and the Mayor of Townsville, Harold Phillips. There were no outbursts by protesters against the war in Vietnam, nor did they display any moratorium signs. The only placards we saw were those saying 'Welcome Home!' We were all very moved by the enthusiasm of the reception by the crowd, and all ranks of the Battalion felt a deep sense of affection for the people of this northern city.

After the march was over, the Battalion embussed for Lavarack Barracks, where the men returned their arms and other equipment. When this was over, some 400 men went on leave to their home States. Many of these soldiers did not return to the unit as they were reposted to other places and went on there after finishing their leave. Consequently, this was the last occasion on which I saw many of the men who had served with me.

On 15 October, the Council of the City of Townsville honoured the Battalion by granting it the Freedom of the City. I received the freedom scroll on the Esplanade. The new Colonel Commandant, Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Daly, also honoured us by attending the parade.

At the end of the ceremony, the Battalion exercised its newly granted right by marching through the streets of the city with 'swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, band playing and colours flying'. At the intersection, before the Council Chambers, the Superintendent of Police, in the guise of Town Marshal, challenged me. He invited us to continue our progress after I had established the Battalion's right of entry. In accepting the scroll from the Mayor, I referred to the friendship that had developed between the members of the Battalion and the people of the city and their concern for our families during our recent tour overseas.

The backbone of the Battalion, the warrant officers and sergeants, capably led by the RSM, Len Williams, were a deeply involved and competent group of men on who I was able to rely without any reservation. Most of them were on their second tour in Vietnam and were totally dedicated to the Battalion and their men. They served me well, and I still value their friendship and respect.

During our tour, from 14 May 1970 until we ceased operations at midnight on 22 May 1971, we took part in 170 contacts in which we confirmed 110 enemy dead and 23 captured. In the same period, there was a loss of 13 Australians (7) and New Zealanders killed (6) and 68 wounded. On the basis of our own ratio of killed to wounded, we believed that we had caused a significant number of other enemy casualties. Our busiest month was March 1971 when we took part in 29 contacts resulting in 21 Viet Cong killed for the loss of three Australians and New Zealanders dead and wounded.

I include the nominal roll of all the men who served with the ANZAC Battalion between May 15, 1970 and May 23, 1971. While the establishment of the Infantry battalion was 830 all ranks, 1,317 names appear in this roll; this is because of the large number of National Servicemen who returned to Australia for discharge, battle casualties, those evacuated for other reasons and the reinforcements who replaced them. Two New Zealand companies, the fifth Victor and third Whisky companies, individual specialists and the New Zealand component are included.

JOHN CHURCH'S ANZAC BATTALION VIETNAM, 1970-71

Two tours of Vietnam were completed by 2RAR during the Vietnam War, the first one between May 1967 and June 1968 and the second between May 1970 and May 1971.

2RAR's second tour came almost two years later, when it returned to Vietnam in May 1970, relieving 6RAR at Nui Dat. Consisting of three rifle companies and a support company, 2RAR was once again joined by two companies from the RNZIR and on 15 May the Anzac title was adopted again.

The second tour was focused mainly upon 'pacification', which sought to provide security of the struggling South Vietnamese state by seeking out and destroying the VC in their base areas and isolating them from the ordinary civilian population. This was essentially very monotonous work for the infantrymen.

The VC had been greatly weakened by the failure of the Tet Offensive (1968), and as a result over the twelve months that 2RAR was deployed contact was significantly less than had been experienced during the first tour, sustaining half the number of casualties. Nevertheless, the presence of two strong provincial VC regiments in the area meant that security in Phuoc Tuy remained problematic until the end and in May 1971, 4RAR/NZ took over from 2RAR. The battalion returned to Townsville on HMAS Sydney.

OPERATION COBURG: 31ST JANUARY 1968

At about 2.30 PM B Company contacted an estimated platoon of VC occupying a well dug-in camp. The VC were well armed with light machine guns, automatic rifles and rockets. After engaging the area with artillery, a company attack was launched on the camp at 4.00 PM. Soon after the assault was launched 5 Platoon was heavily engaged by VC occupying well-protected bunkers and the platoon was pinned down. Artillery and helicopter gun ships were called in and V Company was ordered to reinforce B Company. For the next two hours B Company fought its way from bunker to bunker in the southern portion of the camp winking out VC snipers. By 5.00 PM fighting had gradually died down. At approximately 6.30 PM V Company reached B Company and as darkness was falling the companies withdrew south and the casualties were extracted by Dustoff helicopters. The results of this fight were impossible to gauge. Whilst in the camp B Company had counted at least four bodies, but there were undoubtedly many more. Six B Company soldiers were wounded. For the period of this phase the battalion sustained four killed and 15 wounded.

QUOTATION

I think I was a pretty cool-headed person most times, but I think that it eventually got to us, because they were all young people that were coming in with their legs off, multiple wounds, and you were sending home week after week, planes full of young, mutilated people. Most people see amputated limbs as nice rounded finished-off stumps. We didn't get that. We had the ragged ends.' Fay Lewis, Army nurse, 1970

MERCHANDISE/MEMBERSHIP ORDER FORM

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

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II

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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				

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Full details on page 11