



nulli secundus

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

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

RINGO

Courage. Sacrifice. Mateship.

NEWSLETTER

PATRON: COLONEL JM CHURCH, DSO, (RETD)

JULY 2015

THE BATTALION REPORT

2015 has thus far been a busy and successful year for 2RAR. Over the last quarter, the Battalion has completed its consolidation of foundation warfighting skills and continued to progress the Amphibious Ready Element Landing Force (ARE LF) capability.

As part of this progression, the Battalion completed the first exercise of the series of SEA exercises, called Ex SEA SABRE in April. Although Ex SEA SABRE was originally meant to occur on HMAS CHOULES, changes to the ship's schedule required the Battalion to conduct the exercise based from Lavarack Barracks, operating within both the Halifax Bay area and Townsville Field Training Area. The flexibility of the Battalion in responding to HMAS CHOULES' absence allowed the exercise to remain a success. 2RAR proved its capability to operate at the Combat Team level in a complex live fire environment with reduced safety angles, while also gaining valuable experience in the conduct of small scale amphibious operations through the conduct of air and surface assaults.

In June, the Battalion assisted HMAS CANBERRA in the conduct of her ship work up period, in order for her to be certified as a capable amphibious ship. This saw elements from OB and B Coy embarked on HMAS CANBERRA over two very busy weeks. The work up provided the embarked members an opportunity to further build the Battalion's experience of life at sea and more importantly relationships with key Navy elements of the ADF's amphibious capability. Unfortunately the work up period concluded early due to technical difficulties with HMAS CANBERRA; however this has provided the Battalion with additional time to reconstitute and prepare for what is going to be a busy second half of 2015.

The main effort for 2015 continues to be the achievement of the required standards for certification as the ARE LF. The Battalion has just deployed on EX TALISMAN SABRE. This will see the whole Battalion conduct amphibious operations with the US Marines in northern Australia over the month of July. This will be a great opportunity for the Battalion, integrating with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, and providing an excellent primer to ensure the Battalion is prepared to commence the culminating exercises for the year to achieve certification.

The culminating exercises, known as the SEA SERIES of exercises, will commence in August and almost immediately

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(Continued) following EX TALISMAN SABRE. SEA SERIES will continue through to October and will see the Battalion embarked on HMAS CANBERRA throughout. The exercise will test 2RAR as the Landing Force of the ADF's amphibious capability and will result in a Combat Team sized elements being certified as ready to fulfil and deploy as the ARE LF capability within the ADF.

The conclusion of SEA SERIES will be a significant event for the Battalion and fittingly will coincide with the RAR birthday parade. This will be the 70th birthday of the founding battalions of the Regiment and will include a ceremonial parade involving the three Battalions together for the first time in history. Importantly, the parade will also see the presentation and consecration of new colours to both 2RAR and 3RAR.

'Second to None'

CO: LTCOL Michael Bassingthwaighe, DSM
RSM: WO1 Trent Morris

QUEENS BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Member (AM) in The General Division of the Order of Australia

Mr Keith PAYNE VC AM, Mackay Qld 4740

For significant service to veterans and their families as an ambassador, patron and as an advocate for veterans' health and welfare, particularly as an advocate of those suffering post-traumatic stress disorder. Keith Payne previously had been awarded the OAM.

CHIEF OF ARMY: LT GEN CAMPBELL, DSC, AM

Lt Gen Angus Campbell took command as Chief of Army on 16 May 2015. Lt Gen Campbell was CO 2RAR 2001-02, and took over from Lt Gen David Morrison, AO who was CO 2RAR 1997-98.

PRESIDENT
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT/WELFARE
SECRETARY
TREASURER
ANNUAL REUNION CO-ORDINATOR
MERCHANDISE
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
PROJECTS
MEMBER
HONORARY PADRE

L (LEO) VAN DE KAMP
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KR (KEVIN/DASHER) DEAN, OAM (LM)
GW (GORDON) HURFORD, AM
NJ (NORM) DEVEREUX
PT (PAUL) KING (LM)
AJ (ARTHUR) MACDONALD
RJ (RICK) HOLLINGDRAKE, OAM (LM)
TE (TERRY) DINNEEN
RW (ROSS) BIMROSE
MONSIGNOR EA (EUGENE) HARLEY, OAM

07 5444 0889
07 3201 7673
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Postal Address: PO Box 1097 Toombul Qld 4012

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

WARRIORS WHO HAVE MARCHED OUT

- 33723 Major Alexander Patrick (Blue) THOMPSON, MBE 1RAR Korea (Sgt) 1952-53, 2RAR Malaysia (WO2) 1961-63, SASR Borneo 1965, 7RAR Vietnam 1967-68 (RSM), 1970-71 (OC Spt Coy). Funeral held 6 June at Kingston, Qld. Age: 82+ years. You had an enormous & positive effect on so many young Soldiers. Thanks Harry Whiteside, Peter Cunliffe, Butch Mathews
- 311287 Sergeant Thomas Ross DOUGLAS, 2RAR Malaya (Cpl) B Coy 1960-61, 6RAR Vietnam (Sgt) 1966-67, 1969-70. Passed away in Canberra, passing and funeral dates uncertain. Age: 77+ years. Recorded in the Journal of the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia. Thanks Jock Bain, Butch Mathew, Arthur Willemse
- 6/845 Warrant Officer Class 2 Rex William MURFET, 1RAR & 3RAR Japan 1950, 4RAR 1952 (Royal Australian Regiment Depot), 2RAR Korea (Pte) 1953-54, 2RAR Malaya (Sgt) 1955-57. Passed away 28 April at Tyler Village, Tas. Age: 84 years. Thanks Ken McNeill
- 1732255 Private Frank Thomas KEHOE, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68 (5 PI B Coy). A courageous man, always remembered. Passed away 7 April, funeral held at Carbrook, Qld. Age: 69+ years. A great forward scout regardless he was married and a father. Thanks Bob Devers, "Smithy"
- 335111 Major John Damian LLOYD, 2RAR Malaysia 1961-63. Vietnam 1970-71 (OC A & Admin Coy). Passed away age: 78+ years. John battled cancer of the oesophagus; Vicki and family had a private burial. Rest in Peace. Thanks Peter Tilley, John Church
- 6708564 Private Wayne Jeffrey DODGE, 1ARU 1967, 6RAR 1967, 2RAR 1967-68. Passed away 8 December 2013. No further information. Recorded in the Journal of the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia.
- 1200457 Corporal Vivian Peter STUART, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68 (8 PI C Coy), 1970, AATTV 1970-71. Passed away 5 June at Stanthorpe, Qld: age: 69+ years. Rest in Peace. Thanks Wally Musgrave, Shirley and David Evans
- 2782241 Private Michael William LLOYD, 1ARU 1967, 6RAR 1967, 2RAR 1967. Passed away 6 February. Age: 70+ years. No further information. Recorded in the Journal of the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia.
- 5/2841 Private John Desmond WIMBRIDGE, 2RAR Malaya 1955-57. Passed away peacefully 24 March at Kinross, WA: age 79 years. Deepest sympathy on the passing our esteemed member. President, Committee & Members Quinns Rocks RSL, WA. Thanks Brian Millet
- James Benton (Jim) CRAIB, 2RAR Malaya 1960-61 (Tbc). Jim passed away 15 May after a very long illness. Funeral held at Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park, WA on 21 May. Founding Treasurer RARA (WA). Recorded in the RARA (WA) newsletter. No further information. Rest in Peace James.



*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

ABOUT: RSM WO1 TRENT MORRIS



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

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

deployed to East Timor as part of the Battalion commitment to INTERFET as a Section Commander in C Company.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REUNION: 10TH INTAKE NATIONAL SERVICE 2015

A reunion of the 10th Intake National Service will be held 6-12 October 2015 at Sawtell Beach Tourist Park, NSW. Overseas service is not a prerequisite.

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

FOUNDING BATTALIONS: 70TH ANNIVERSARY

The "Founding Battalions" 70th Anniversary Parade is confirmed for 23 Nov 15 in Townsville. It will include the blessing of new colours for 2 & 3 RAR, and the presentation of the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation to 1RAR.

The Governor General is the reviewing officer with HOC Infantry as the parade commander and the Corps RSM as the parade RSM.

There will be an RAR dinner held that evening hosted by 1RAR. 3RAR is the coordinating battalion for the parade. *Further information as it comes to hand. Ed.*

ARMY REMEMBRANCE PIN



The Australian Army Remembrance Pin commemorates the service of members who have died while in the Army; during both times of peace and war, since 3 September 1945.

The Pin is gifted to the families of deceased members as a symbol of their ongoing connection with the

Australian Army and is intended as a family keepsake to be handed down through the generations to ensure the memory of the member and their service continues.

The Army Remembrance Pin continues the tradition of the Mothers' and Widows' badges distributed to the loved ones of World War One and Two veterans who were killed in action, or who died of wounds on active service or after discharge. Applications & eligibility requirements [here](#).¹

HONOURING THE FALLEN²

Trish McGarry travelled around 4000km to be part of ANZAC Day commemorations held in Samford, Qld to join family members from Highvale and the Sunshine Coast at the Samford Avenue of Honour last weekend.

A memorial plaque for her late brother Peter McGarry, killed in action during the Vietnam War (1 August 1967), is one of more than 100 plaques embedded into the pathway, which was officially opened on Saturday.

"He was one of the first to die in his battalion," Ms McGarry said. "Over the years we've all realised what an impact it had on all members of the family. "I think it's all about people recognising the contribution and sacrifices (of fallen soldiers) and on a very personal level, it's from the heart," she said.

"There's a link between many people when these tragedies happen. "I can never think of Peter being old... he will always be 20." More than 8000 people attended last Saturday's ANZAC Day ceremony at the site.

ABOUT: REX 'BOONG' MURFET

Rex Murfet had quite olive skin and a broad nose. As is Australian custom nicknames were prevalent. He was often referred to as 'boong' or 'Mohammad' or even 'brov' by the indigenous in later years. He had a wonderful sense of humour and took it all in good part.

Because of his colouring he wondered about his ancestry and found he had Indian blood from when the British were in rule there. He was also known as 'Moey' as during some of his army days he had a large moustache. I know some of his old comrades better by their nick names. Most of the local Korean veterans still call him 'Moey' even though he didn't wear a moustache since leaving the army.³

Monica Murfet
Hadspen, Tas

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year is flying past and the Committee is already busy in planning the AGM and Annual Reunion to be held in Tweed Heads 30-31 October 2015. As always, I would like to encourage maximum attendance. These reunions are a great way to stay connected with other Association members as well as providing an opportunity to catch up with some old mates. More details are contained in this newsletter.

ANZAC Day 2015 was extremely well supported at Dawn Services and ANZAC Day marches throughout Australia in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. I attended the Dawn Service at the RAR National Memorial Walk at Enoggera which was well attended. The march through Brisbane saw some 60-70 2RAR Association members on parade. Thanks to those members who assisted with the banners and flags.

Our Korea veterans' will commemorate the Battle of the HOOK of 24/25 July 1953, and the 'Armistice' of 27 July at locations across Australia. The main Queensland commemoration will take place at the Korean War Memorial at Broadbeach, Qld. *Second to None!*

The National RAR Association has commenced a project to inform the RAR Battalions about what the RAR Association can do for veterans and serving soldiers. Too often, soldiers view Associations as organisations that only cater for veterans. This initiative is to inform that the RAR Family is dedicated to caring for and protecting both the veteran and serving members.

The 2RAR Association welcomes the new 2RAR RSM, WO1 Trent Morris. We wish him good soldiering with 2RAR and we look forward to a fruitful association. I would also like to thank the outgoing RSM, WO1 Brian Buskell, CSM for his support to the Association during his tenure and wish him well in his new posting.

The Association would like to congratulate the National President of the RAR Association, Michael von Berg, MC on being awarded the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division, in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Association member Mr Alf Vockler, has been involved with the Malaysian Ministry of Defence seeking to overturn the non-eligibility issue of the PJM medal to 2RAR during its 1955-57 tour of duty. Alf has also represented this Association during his visit to the graves at Taiping seeking to have the Commonwealth War Graves to take over the Taiping graves. We thank Alf for his continued efforts.

I attended the ADF National Military War Dog Day held on 7 June at the Military and Service Working Dog National Monument located at the RSPCA Centre in Wacol, Brisbane. 7 June is an appropriate date to recognise military working dogs as on that day in 2010 that Spr Darren Smith with his Explosive Detection Dog Herbie, was killed in Afghanistan as a result of an IED. The ceremony was attended by members of the ADF Trackers and War Dogs Association, as well as Qld Police Force and other government agencies that use working dogs in their organisation.

A special guest of the day was Cpl Mark Donaldson, VC, who had been trained as a dog handler.

A major 2RAR national reunion is planned for May 2017. While it will coincide with the 50th anniversary of our departure for Vietnam in 1967, it will not be a Vietnam reunion. Those who have served with 2RAR in Australia and overseas are encouraged to attend. Members will be advised as information becomes available.

"Second to None"

Leo Van De Kamp
President

¹ www.army.gov.au/Army-life/Honours-and-Awards/Army-Remembrance-pin

² The Westerner, 30 April 2015. <http://goo.gl/H6Lu30>

³ Rex Murfet served with 2RAR in Korea, & Malaya. Rest in Peace.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In 2015 committee meetings will be held as follows:

- Wed 4 Feb 15 ✓
- Wed 3 Jun 15 ✓
- Wed 7 Oct 15
- Wed 1 Apr 15 ✓
- Wed 5 Aug 15
- Wed 2 Dec 15

AGM, Commemoration & Reunion

The AGM will be held on Sat 31 Oct 15 in the ANZAC Room Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL, the Commemoration Service at Chris Cunningham Park and the Annual get-together in the River Room Level 3 at Twin Towns Services Club.

The Reunion

Join/re-new Memberships, buy Merchandise. New format, self-contained venue with sweeping views of the Tweed River, a dedicated bar at Club prices, comfortable lounge seating, standing/sitting bar tables, finger food. No upfront cost! Individual lunch venue choices: 12pm to 1pm. Dry Till from 1pm (Until expended). Win raffles!

"Mates, Memories, Camaraderie"

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

State/Territory Representatives

Congratulations to Alex NIE on his appointment as 2RAR Association Representative in Western Australia. The Management Committee appointed Alex on 3rd June 2015. There is a vacancy in ACT and Northern Territory. We would like to hear from a member in these areas if they would like to volunteer for the representatives' position.

The Website

The website is rolling along well and information on it is being updated regularly. When you first go into the site you will see a login box appear; bypass this. The site is public and there is no requirement for a login. We put this facility into the site at the time we were designing it so that we could use the login later if we needed it.

Sponsorship

A reminder to use your Sponsorship Card at the Vale Tavern & the Kirwan Tavern in Townsville & the Buderim Tavern on the Sunshine Coast. A 10% rebate on your total food & beverage purchase goes to 2RAR Assoc. That's a good thing! Don't have a card? Need a new card? Contact the Secretary: Contact details on front page.

2RAR Fishing Club

The Association was pleased to be able to sponsor a prize for the newly formed 2RAR Fishing Club which had its inaugural competition at Lucinda, NQ.

More competitions will be held later in the year and any member of the Association who is in Townsville at the time is welcome to join the competition. Contact is Jock Cassidy our Rep in Townsville (See below).

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Grahame EDWARDS (NSW)	(02) 9520 5681 edfamily1@iprimus.com.au
Vacant (ACT)	VACANT
Jim COOPER (VIC)	(03) 9548 0016 jimwend@netspace.net.au
Cameron SIMPKINS (Tas)	0458 660 866 cameron.simpkins3@bigpond.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
John 'Jock' CASSIDY (Townsville)	0431 355 579 johncassidy65@hotmail.com
Bill MARTIN (NZ)	0011649) 267 7545 bwmartin@xtra.co.nz

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to our newest members: (9)

SCOREBOARD - NSW: 3, WA: 0, TAS: 1, QLD: 2, NT: 0, ACT: 1, VIC: 2, SA: 0, NZ: 0

Rod Minihan	Rosanna, Vic	2RAR, 2/4RAR
David Aitken	Narrabeen, NSW	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC), 7RAR
Bob Whalan	Peak Hill, NSW	1RAR, 2RAR, 3RAR
Raymond Jones	Rokeby, Tas	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC), 7RAR, 5/7RAR
Douglas Spice	Morningside, Qld	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)
Alex Oscini	Westmeadows, Vic	2RAR
Allan Vincent	Bowen, Qld	2RAR, 2/4RAR
John Shields	Picnic Point, NSW	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC), 6RAR
Greg Cahill	Amaroo, ACT	2RAR

DVA: VETERANS' HOME CARE

To arrange an assessment call a VHC Assessment Agency on 1300 550 450 (Landline only). Entitled persons who have a Gold Card or White Card are eligible for an assessment. What services may I receive?

Personal Care

Respite Care

Domestic Assistance

Safety-related Home & Garden Maintenance

Download Factsheet: [here](#).⁴

SPONSOR: RIVER CRUISING 2016⁵



APT Europe River Cruising have launched an inaugural Luxury France River cruise programme featuring the Rhone and Bordeaux regions.

George Booth, Past President of Rotary Club Fremantle regularly escorts small group tours internationally. This 18 Day tour departing Paris 20th April 2016 is a luxury gem due to the quality of inclusions, the flight benefits offered and the first class service on board the vessels.

The journey will feature river ships with two 7 night cruises and connected by rail after 2 night Paris stops pre and 1 night post tour. From \$13,395.00 per person, double occupancy with an opportunity to select from higher grade cabins. Contact: Ms Leith Malcolm
Tel: 08 9388 1899; Email: leith@traveltree.com.au

MEMBERS' DRAW

Congratulations to Geoffrey BARNES of Bethania Qld and Michael KERWIN of Hollywell Qld, winners of the financial Members' Draw held on 1 April & 3 June who each received the book: 'Uncommon Soldier' by Chris Masters, 2012. This is the seventh year of the draw.

2RAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Join the Association! Help us help you. Your membership is important to US. What do YOU get?
Information: RINGO! 4 editions per year.
Enlist a mate. Sign him up. Encourage him.

2RAR WEBSITES

2RAR ASSOCIATION (NATIONAL)

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

2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion 1967-68

<http://bit.ly/QTc4SG>

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

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

2/4RAR ASSOCIATION

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

⁴ <http://goo.gl/PYY1xh>

⁵ <http://goo.gl/A9ZHV4>

ANZAC DAY: AROUND THE TRAPS

Brisbane



Pres. Leo Van De Kamp led the boys in Brisbane. A great turn out!

Sydney



Peter Jasper (WIA), travelled from Perth WA, and carried the banner with me. After the march we toasted absent friends and recalled the 15 members who are no longer with us. Thanks Phill Evenden & Lynette Adams

Melbourne



In spite of rain and cold a small group of diehard 2RAR diggers (young & older) marched to the Shrine of Remembrance. Our numbers were down a little, but we soldiered on. Thanks Jim Cooper

Capel, WA



Alan Parker Clk BHQ (67-68) and Cpl Ops (70-71) sent this pic of the Dawn Service. Capel is between Bunbury and Busselton, WA. Thanks Rick Avery

Lest We Forget



Adelaide



The boys stepped off led by Ray Baldwin with John Mathwin and his side drum. Later, we proceeded to the Lion Hotel. Thanks Mal Allen

Somewhere, out there!



L-R: Stew Francis, Matthew Harrison, Arthur Francis AO RSM-A (Sect Comd 67-68, Pnr Sgt 70-71), Phil Fletcher, & Reg Frankel (67-68, 70-71 as Int Sgt). Thanks Rick Avery

Townsville



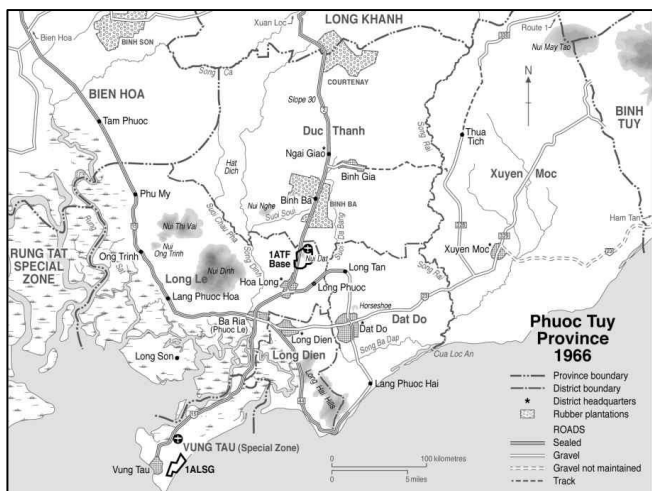
ANZAC Day: 2RAR marched with pride. Sgt Charles Boag, PI Sgt Aslt Pnr PI, continuing a tradition.

'RINGO' QUOTATION

RINGO Vol 2 No 16. October 1967

'CO's Article'

This issue of Ringo is intended as a birthday issue marking the celebration of our 22nd birthday. 1RAR and 3RAR are also celebrating their 22nd at about this time. The battalion now has a distinguished record and background from its inception having fought in three theatres of war.



While our efforts to date in Vietnam might be unspectacular in relation to battles fought the intensity of our operations has shown what the men of 2RAR can do. Hard thorough searching and instant destruction when it is called for. At this stage of our tour it is possible that standards can begin to slip because of the very sameness of each operation. This is dangerous both to the individual soldier and to his mates. A soldier who doesn't carry out his duties fully in the field is a bludger in the old army term. Thank heavens we don't have many in this battalion and the tradition established by our forebears and predecessors are safe in the hands of the men of the battalion. Let us hope and pray the future will be as bright as the past has been and each man can proudly say he has done his bit for Australia and his Regiment.

The Director of Infantry, Col D.S. THOMPSON MC, who is also the Regimental Colonel of the Royal Australian Regiment, visited the battalion a couple of days ago. Prior to becoming Director he was CO 4RAR. Whilst he was with us he gave the officers of the battalion a talk on the immediate future of the Regiment which he has asked me to pass on to all ranks of 2RAR. Some of this information will clarify rumours which are circulating both here and in Australia at the moment.

Firstly the home of 2RAR on completion of our tour in Vietnam. The battalion will return to Brisbane and our home will become the new barracks which were occupied by 8RAR before we left Australia.

At the end of this tour of Vietnam 3RAR will relieve 7RAR, and 4RAR will relieve 2RAR. There has been no governmental decision yet on the question of a third battalion for Vietnam just as there has been no decision on the formation of 9RAR.

7RAR is expected to establish itself in Townsville with 6RAR on completion of leave etc. As you know 8RAR is now established in Malaya and the other two battalions 1RAR and 5RAR are now established in Holsworthy. Any further information on permanent homes for battalions of the Regiment will be passed on when it is available.

Lt Col N.R. Charlesworth
CO 2RAR

CALENDAR 2015

Sun 1 Feb	2/4RAR delink to form 2RAR and 4RAR (1995)	Townsville, Qld Holsworthy, NSW
Sat 25 Apr	ANZAC Day	Local arrangements
Fri 24 Jul	Samichon Day commemorating the Battle of the HOOK 24/25 July 1953. Gus Breen Ph: (02) 9428 683 E-mail: gusbreen@yahoo.com.au	The RAR Memorial, Regimental Square, Wynyard Street, Sydney, NSW
Sat 25 Jul	Korea Veterans' Day (Cascade Gardens)	Korean War Memorial, Broadbeach, Qld
Mon 27 Jul	Korea Veterans' Day 62nd Anniversary of the Armistice in Korea 27 July 1953	Local arrangements
Sat 15 Aug	2RAR and 4 RAR link to form 2/4RAR (1973)	Townsville, Qld
Tue 18 Aug	Vietnam Veterans' Day	Local arrangements
Sun 30 Aug	National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day. Merdeka (Independence or Freedom) Day	Local arrangements
Mon 31 Aug	National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day. Merdeka (Independence or Freedom) Day	Enoggera, Qld.
Tue — Mon 6-12 Oct	Reunion: 10th Intake NS 1967 POC: Richard Barry (richyvon47@hotmail.com) Tel: (02) 6792 3114	Sawtell Beach Tourist Park, NSW.
Fri 16 Oct	2RAR Birthday 1945 (70th Anniversary)	Labuan, North Borneo
Fri 30 Oct	2RAR Annual National Reunion "Meet, Greet & Dine" (4.00pm Harbour Lounge)	Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads, NSW
Sat 31 Oct	8.30am: AGM: ANZAC Room 9.45am: Commemoration Service 10.30am: Reunion: 'River Room', Level 3 "Mates, Memories, Camaraderie"	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL Chris Cunningham Park Twin Towns Services Club
Wed 11 Nov	Remembrance Day	Local arrangements
Mon 23 Nov	RAR Birthday 1948 (67th Anniversary)	Hiro, Japan
Mon 23 Nov	The "Founding Battalions" 1RAR, 2RAR, 3RAR 70th Anniversary Parade	Lavarack Barracks, Townsville

THE LONGEST WAR

The Australian Army in Afghanistan, is a multimedia collection of short videos and interviews with current and former members and their families, as well as documents and photographs, all of which chronicle Army's time in Afghanistan. [View here](http://army.gov.au/the-longest-war/) ⁶

⁶ <http://army.gov.au/the-longest-war/>

COMMEMORATING: THE HOOK ⁷

THE HOOK 1953: The enemy put in two major attacks, on the nights of 24-25 July and 25-26 July, simultaneous with heavy assaults on the 7th Marine Regiment on the left flank. The attacks on C Company on Point 121 were accompanied



Lt Col GF LARKIN, OBE, at Puckapunyal 1952. CO 2RAR 1 Oct 52 to 12 Sep 54.

by heavy artillery and mortar concentrations. Enemy penetrated the wire and on one occasion on the second night were only stopped when artillery fire was called down on top of the Australians' own positions.

In 2RAR five were killed and 24 wounded on these two nights, but they killed between 2000 and 3000 Chinese, in large part thanks to the artillery, which fired 13,500 mixed rounds of high explosive and white phosphorus on the night of 24-25 July alone.

More than 300 enemy dead were counted around Point 111, and Brigadier Wilton later wrote that the valley floor in front of the Hook 'was almost covered with dead Chinese . . . On the approaches to 2RAR the bodies literally carpeted the ground sometimes two deep.'

The ceasefire came into effect at 11.00 pm on 27 July, and was followed within 72 hours by the withdrawal of both sides to create the four-kilometre-wide Demilitarised Zone (DMZ). The defences of the Jamestown Line, carefully constructed and resolutely defended for nearly two years, were demolished, in order to leave nothing of benefit to an enemy who was by no means trusted to observe the agreement just signed.

Commonwealth forces were maintained, with difficulty, for some years after the armistice. Only after the US had decided to reduce its own commitment from six divisions to two in August 1954 was the Commonwealth able to begin reductions in the strength of the Commonwealth division.

Australia was under pressure to supply troops for the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve in Malaya, and in September 1954 one of the two Australian battalions was withdrawn back to Australia, to be followed by the second in April 1956.

THE BAND ON THE HOOK

3/3614 Sgt Kerry A Smith: I include the following comments written by me at the time when our men of the battalion were heavily involved in defending the Battalion's position on The Hook:-

9/7/53	Work party at Hook and move to position and build Hootchie 1800hrs
19/7/53	Chinks' put in big attack
22/7/53	Mortar shells close rear of our position
24/7/53	My best mate Bert Wells killed when returning from duty—heavy attack at night. I believe when returning to his bunker he was killed by mortar blast.
25/7/53	All hell going on still directed at Yanks to our left—mortars on us
26/7/53	Huge attack by Chinks and much artillery from both sides
27/7/53	Cease Fire signed Thank Christ!
28/7/53	Labour (work) party to pack up
29/7/53	Went up to Hill #111-- many dead Chinks --must be hundreds and hundreds

KOREA VETERANS' DAY 2015

Korean Veterans Day at the Cascade Gardens

25 July Saturday: This is our major event of the year attracting some 350 veterans of all three services Navy, Army and Air force and families and the Korean Communities of SE Queensland.

The former Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Australian Defence Forces Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery will be our principal speaker. The ROK Consul General and the President of the Queensland RSL have been invited to respond.



65 years since the start of the Korean War

25 June 1950 marks 65 years since the start of the Korean War, a war in which some 18,000 Australians served, including during the post-armistice period, with more than 350 Australians losing their lives and some 1,500 wounded.

Our nation fought as part of the United Nations (UN) force defending South Korea against North Korean and later also Chinese forces. It was on this day in 1950 that North Korean forces launched their invasion of the south, crossing the border and advancing toward the South Korean capital of Seoul, which they captured within days.

Three years of fighting followed as the UN came to the aid of South Korea. Australia's presence in South Korea carried on into the post-armistice period. With no official peace treaty signed on 27 July 1953, the state of war between North and South Korea persists to the present day.

THE BATTALION BAND

There are too many other stories here, some good and some not so good to include here, but one story I would like to mention is the attitude of the Battalion's men to the Band and its members. The men truly respected the work and entertainment that the band provided and would defend with passion any adverse comments made against it.

And the Band members welcomed the many times they played for the Battalion and were proud to see the chests of the men pump up and backs straighten when it played the Diggers' unclaimed Battalion song, 'Hoop De Doo', or as some used to sing 'Hoopsey Doo!'

I think one of the Bands' responsibilities was to foster the men's morale and their attitude to themselves, their mates and importantly to their Battalion, the Officers, and the CO. I am sure that this was the situation when we were in Korea, and at all times.

CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II PARADE

You may find it is interesting to note that on 2nd June 1953 we, the Band, were withdrawn from the front line area known as Hill 159 at about 0700hrs for transit to Tonduch'on where the Coronation Parade was to be held at about 1100hrs.

I think on the day we numbered about 32 in the Band which included a drum Corps of 13. Band Master was W02. Laurie Fletcher and Drum Major was Sgt. Kerry Smith. See pic above.

The Band returned to Hill 159 area following the Service.

⁷ Duty First by David Horner & Jean Bou. Chapter 4, Pg. 79

INFORMATION RELATING TO MEMBER'S RECORDS ⁸

Medals and Awards Enquiries

The Directorate of Honours and Awards is part of the Defence Personal Executive Branch and handles entitlement to medals. This organisation is not part of CARO.

Postal address for medals enquiries:

DHA (Army Medals Section)
Directorate of Honours & Awards
Locked Bag 2003
COOMA NSW 2630
Phone: 1800 065 149; Fax: (02) 6266 1065

Vales, Eulogy and Service Histories

CARO is concerned to ensure the privacy of ex-service members is not impinged upon. CARO adheres to the Commonwealth Privacy Act and the values of the Information Privacy Principles for all records under its control. In this respect, copies of information held on personnel files may be provided upon receipt of written authorisation from the ex-member.

If the ex-member is deceased, information may be released upon receipt of written authorisation from the next of kin. In certain other circumstances CARO may be able to issue summarised information. Written requests should include as much of the following details as possible such as:

- Surname and all given names, including any possible names the person may have served under
- Date and place of birth
- Date of death
- Regimental service number(s)
- State of enlistment
- Enlistment and discharge dates
- Rank attained
- Unit(s) served with and location
- Date/s and period/s served
- Details inscribed on any medals or badges, if held.

The enquirer should also provide their:

- Title (Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss/Dr etc.)
- Name
- Postal address
- Daytime contact telephone number (if available)
- Relationship to person of whom details are being sought
- Reason for seeking information.

Postal Address for Personal Records Enquiries:

Central Army Records Office
Soldier Career Management Agency
GPO Box 393D
Melbourne VIC 3001
Phone: (03) 9282 5393; (03) 9282 6235
Fax: (03) 9282 5434
E-mail: caro.hq@defence.gov.au

Eulogy Service

CARO will provide limited information on the service of an ex-member to enable an appropriate person to deliver a eulogy at a funeral or memorial service. The person requesting this information must satisfy CARO that he, or she, is acting for the family. A signed request in writing must be received by CARO before it may release information however, as time is often crucial, a request by telephone can initiate action. Often time is crucial so contact:

CARO ARMY Eulogy Hotline: (03) 9282 6235 or (03) 9282 4579; Fax: (03) 9282 5434

2RAR ASSOC. EMAIL LIST

Not receiving emails from us? Email the Secretary!
2rarsecretary@gmail.com

THE BEARDED SERGEANT

The history of the bearded sergeant in the Royal Australian Regiment embraces; 4RAR, 2/4RAR, & 2RAR.

On 11 April 1965, the Governor General, The Right Honourable Viscount De L'Isle VC, KG, GCMG, GCVO, PC presented the Queen's and Regimental Colours to 4RAR and during the inspection of the Battalion, Viscount De L'Isle was introduced to the Aslt Pnr Sgt.

The Governor General queried the CO, Lt Col David Thomson MC, as to why the Aslt Pnr Sgt was not wearing a beard. When the CO replied "It is not the custom in our Army, Sir" the Governor General then said, "It is an old tradition in my Regiment, the Grenadiers, and to mark the presentation of your first Colours and as your Commander-in-Chief, I believe it would be appropriate for the Pioneer Sergeant of 4RAR to wear a beard from now on. I trust you will see to this, Colonel."

Subsequently, the 4RAR Aslt Pnr Sgt became the only soldier in the Australian Army authorised to wear a full beard (no chinstrap was worn when wearing the slouch hat. *Note photograph on page 5*). It was rather disconcerting to the original Aslt Pnr Sgt that he was unable to grow a beard!

On ceremonial occasions, the Aslt Pnr Sgt wore a white leather apron and carried an axe over his shoulder instead of a rifle. This tradition continued within 4RAR but with the evolution of the makeup of an Infantry battalion, the Aslt Pnr Sgt was removed from the battalions of the Regiment and 4RAR did not have an Aslt Pnr Sgt to carry on the tradition. After 4RAR was delinked from 2/4RAR on 1 February 1995 the role of the bearded sergeant was later transferred to the RP Sgt of the Battalion.

When 4RAR became 4RAR (Cdo) in 1997 a Regimental Police Section was removed from the establishment and the tradition of the bearded Aslt Pnr Sgt came to an end. The tradition remained within the Battalion on its re-raising but not having an Aslt Pnr Sgt in the Battalion, it was the task of the RP Sgt to grow a beard and to continue the traditions of the wearing of the apron and the carrying of the axe.

Unfortunately circumstances sometimes dictate that some traditions must fall by the wayside and because of its operational requirements, 4RAR (Cdo) has reluctantly dispensed with the tradition but not the history, of the bearded sergeant. The bearded sergeant however, will still remain as a part of the history and the folklore of the Battalion forever.

Note: The tradition of the Bearded Sergeant continued during 2/4RAR's time, and from 2007 has continued in 2RAR.

AWM: THE LAST POST CEREMONY

At the end of each day, commencing at 4.55 pm AEST, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony. The ceremony begins with the singing of the Australian National Anthem, followed by the poignant strains of a Lament, played by a piper. Visitors are invited to lay wreaths and floral tributes beside the Pool of Reflection. The Roll of Honour in the Cloisters lists the names of more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in war and other operations over more than a century. At each ceremony the story behind one of these names will be told. The Ode is then recited, and the ceremony ends with the sounding of the Last Post.

On the first and third Wednesday of each month the Last Post Ceremony includes the presence of Australia's Federation Guard. At 4.00 pm a catafalque party mounts a vigil at the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier in the Hall of Memory. There is a change of guard at 4.30 pm, and the entire catafalque party then participates in the Last Post Ceremony.

⁸ <http://2rar-association.com.au/membership-account/members-home/>

AUSTRALIA DAY BATTLE: 1968

I was asked by our PI Comd at the time, Barry Corse, to help him research the events of our Australia Day contact with 374 Regt. Barry had hit a brick wall and the soldiers he talked to were either unable or uncooperative.

A fellow model aircraft enthusiast, Brian Fooks DFC, became interested when I mentioned I was in 9 PI C Coy on the 26 January 1968. Brian then took over the conversation and told me that he was the spotter pilot above us on that day and that we were trapped by thousands of North Vietnamese troops swarming towards us.

He said he had contacted his higher command and that we were finished. He then asked how many got out alive and how come we had survived...

More recently, at the opening of the Huey helicopter memorial at Caloundra RSL, I spoke with a number of chopper crewmen. An ex-WO chopper crew chief said he knew the door gunner who was wounded on the 27th while winching our dead and wounded out. He had been hit after the round had travelled through the chopper penetrated his chicken armour and lodged against his chest burning him. He did not want to speak with us, so I just left it and relayed our thanks through the crew chief.

A couple of years ago I attended a 6RAR Pnr PI reunion, when one of my ex-soldiers (Glen Nolan) informed me that he owned Tommies Bar in Vung Tau. I was a bit hesitant about going to Vietnam but I made the plunge. It was not a girly bar but a well-run restaurant and night club where a large number of Vietnamese and Aussie families go for a good night out.

This first visit was to see the lay of the land and put out a few feelers about meeting members of 274 Regt from the Tet period 1968.

About 5 months later I returned, and Glen had found some members of 274 Regt who were wounded on the 26/27 January 1968 and were living in Tran Bom. I met the local magistrate, but he was a bit hesitant to assist us, so we decided to invite 274 Regt to a meet and greet dinner.

In January 2015 I returned with Barry Wallis and his lovely wife Annette ready for the dinner. The magistrate of Vung Tau had organised an Australia Day function and had invited the Australian Ambassador. Glen told the Ambassador what we were going to do and he was happy to lend support if needed. The dinner was rescheduled for the 28 January.

As our guests filed in they were handed a beer by Barry Wallis and myself which brightened up the Vietnamese diggers no end. When the general saw what was happening, and what we were doing for our former enemies, he commanded a video be made of the evening.

The dinner and meet and greet was so successful all agreed this should be celebrated every year.

Reg Gillian
Harvey Bay, Qld

"At the reunion, you and your friends have given 10 million VNDs to children with difficulties so that they can enjoy Tet holiday 2015 happily.

On behalf of the union, we highly appreciate and thank you for your support."

*Do Thi Nhur Mai
The chairwoman of the Union*

Good Report Gillie: Maybe a determined effort in the lead up to the 50th Anniversary (in 2018) of 9 Platoon's 1968 battle will lead to success. Over to you fellas! Ed.

SNIPPETS

- Bringing them home: THE bodies of 12 3rd Bde soldiers buried overseas during the Vietnam War are now eligible to be brought home. Nine members from 1RAR, and one member each from 3RAR, 4th Fd Regt and 105 Fd Bty are buried at Terendak Military Cemetery in Malaysia alongside 12 other Australian soldiers. Australia deployed more than 60,000 servicemen and women in the Vietnam War between 1962 and 1975, with 521 of those making the ultimate sacrifice. Twenty-five of those killed in action were left behind on foreign soil, with 24 still buried in Malaysia and one in Singapore.
- 1RAR Diggers who served in Vietnam 50 years ago have been recognised with the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation (CGWP). 1RAR participated in seven operations with 173rd Airborne Brigade between 5 May 1965 and 31 May 1966 that were referred to in the citation that awarded the Republic of Vietnam CGWP to 173rd Airborne Brigade. The Citation was awarded by the former Government of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) to specific military units that distinguished themselves in battle.
- Vietnam 50 years since Australian Forces arrived in South Vietnam. The major commemorative service will be held in August 2016 on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra, a memorial dedicated to Australians who served, suffered and died in the Vietnam War.
- Phillip Charlesworth, son of Brig 'Chic' Charlesworth (CO 2RAR 1967-68), served in 2/4RAR 1982-86, including as OC C Coy 2/4RAR 1983-84. OC RCB
- China has admitted that it sent more than 300,000 combat troops to Vietnam to fight against U.S. forces and their South Vietnamese allies. It also spent over \$20 billion to support Hanoi's regular North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong guerrilla units...more than 4,000 Chinese soldiers were killed in the war.⁹
- The only Anzac Day photo I have is blurred, having been taken after spending the afternoon in the Long Room Bar at the MCG - Collingwood v Essendon. The photo is of Tim Jackson's new shoes. Tim was in D Coy in 1967. Others present were Geoff Brewer, Brian Parratt and Damon Lutz. *Thanks John Knights. Ed.*
- Battalion snipers on target: Two dozen Army snipers & team leaders have consolidated the lessons of a 10-day training concentration under the guidance of the SASR. Competitors participated in scored range shoots, observational exercises and range estimation exercises, both static and live fire, and in live-fire stalks in rural and urban environments. Weapons used are the SR98 7.62mm bolt-action sniper rifle, SR25 semi-automatic 7.62mm rifle, H&K 417 7.62mm semi-automatic weapon, .50 calibre Barrett semi-automatic anti-materiel weapon, and the primary operational sniper weapon, the Blaser .338. SASR came from behind to win, with 1RAR second and 7RAR third.
- Vietnam Vet Radio is an internet only non-profit radio station dedicated to the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and their families and friends. With a few exceptions all the songs played are from the Vietnam War era. We also play the authentic jingles and public service announcements that were played on AFVN (American Forces Vietnam Network) Radio. No anti-war rhetoric or anti-war songs. LISTEN¹⁰

⁹ <http://goo.gl/5dPvY8> (Deseret News (US) May 16 1989)

¹⁰ <http://vietnamvetradio.com/>

DROP SHORTS

VICTORIA CROSS

14471590 Private William Speakman, VC ¹¹

Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), British Army, attached to the 1st Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers

United Hill, Korea

4 November 1951

At 1645 hrs the enemy in their hundreds advanced in wave upon wave against the King's Own Scottish Borderers' positions, and by 1745 hrs fierce hand-to-hand fighting was taking place on every position.

Private Speakman, a member of "B" Company, Headquarters, learning that the section holding the left shoulder of the company's position had been seriously depleted by casualties, had had its N.C.Os. wounded and was being over-run, decided on his own initiative to drive the enemy off the position and keep them off it. To effect this he collected quickly a large pile of grenades and a party of six men. Then, displaying complete disregard for his own personal safety, he led his party in a series of grenade charges against the enemy; and continued doing so as each successive wave of enemy reached the crest of the hill. The force and determination of his charges broke up each successive enemy onslaught and resulted in an ever-mounting pile of enemy dead.

Having led some ten charges, through withering enemy machine-gun and mortar fire, Private Speakman was eventually severely wounded in the leg. Undaunted by his wounds, he continued to lead charge after charge against the enemy, and it was only after a direct order from his superior officer that he agreed to pause for a first field dressing to be applied to his wounds. Having had his wounds bandaged, Private Speakman immediately rejoined his comrades and led them again and again forward in a series of grenade charges, up to the time of the withdrawal of his company at 2100 hrs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

2RAR at ANZAC Cove

Planning for our trip to ANZAC Cove had been in train for some time when I first met Terry Dinneen at Tim McCombe's funeral. Terry told me that as I would probably be the only 2RAR bloke attending & Rick Hollingdrake would be after a report for Ringo. I had a very nice surprise when talking with the Catafalque Party; two were from 2RAR, including Sgt B. Kirkham.

I went to ANZAC Cove to honour my ancestors who served there with the 2nd Bn and in later wars and campaigns. I attended the formalities at ANZAC Cove and at Lone Pine later in the day. At Lone Pine while walking amongst the head stones I had a yarn to Tony (Abbott) and a short time after to Charles, i.e. Prince.

For me and my wife it was a memorable trip which we won't forget. *Thanks John, well done. Ed.*

John Shields
Picnic Point, NSW

Correction

Thank you for the inclusion, in the April edition, re Sgt Brian "Coops" Cooper, MM. A correction is needed in reference to a Pte "Donald" Hill; this should read, Pte Richard (Dick) Hill.

Dick Hill (1/2600), along with Cecil Fisher (1/2599), were indigenous Diggers & members of the MMG PI in Korea.

(5/1915) Ron "Pappy" Walker
Atherton, Qld

PTSD AND BROKEN STRAWS

What now of those who returned from war and marched yesterday

They too have said hooray to army days and gone their way
No more the accolades, ticker tape and silent are the drums
Their war already forgotten by more than some
These warriors from yesterday eagerly donned mufti¹² at long last

Yet soon to be struggling with tomorrow and lingering with the past

Smothering jungle and deadly bunker systems just feet away
Desert sands and shimmering heat with mines and bloody frays
Exhausted and freezing in icy trenches waiting for an attack at dawn

Urgent pleas, mutilated flesh, spurting blood and mates to mourn

Urban streets where friendly waves mask grenade and gun
No matter where they served, these nightmares and more are as one

A car backfires, a helicopter whirs or other threatening noises near

Such sounds often trigger memories and sudden fear
A face in the crowd or a voice so familiar, he thinks of him
Soldiering so long together, they were closer than Kin

So many comrades lost forever in that terrible din
Suddenly he wants to be alone as if such thoughts are a mortal sin

Trying to obey old rules and routine in what was his beloved home

Ignored by old civilian friends who think it best to leave him alone

Sleepless tortured nights complete with images, shouts and screams

Ghosts pleading but he can't go back to where he once had been

Frustration, pain, anger and questioning past duty with "What For?"

Reaching out for help but too often snatching at broken straws

As youth they answered the call and stepped forward to dare
Now their camps are homes, shelters, parks and god knows where

Lost now in a space age society that simply does not understand

Some say "enough" and depart Planet Earth for a better land
When the next column marches home and crowds do cheer
There will be more with troubled minds and sleepless nights I fear

George Mansford © May 2015

AWM: Last Post Ceremony

Kiwi and I went to Canberra for a few days recently. So we had a look at the War Memorial, and went to see the Last Post ceremony. And we were asked to participate, along with several other visitors.

We were given a wreath to place beside the Pool of Reflection. I wrote on the card from the RAR Association Queensland. You can view videos of the ceremonies [here](#)¹³.

The 2RAR plaque is still in place in the Western Courtyard; Dedicated on Friday 16 October 2007.

Margaret & Kiwi Gibbons, OAM
The Gap, Qld

Both Margaret & Kiwi Gibbons were awarded the OAM for their dedication to the RAR National Memorial Walk, Enoggera, Qld. Ed.

¹¹ 14471590 Private William Speakman-Pitt, VC

¹² Civilian attire

¹³ View the full list here: <https://goo.gl/Ks0pcB>

OUR PRESENCE IN MALAYSIA

The 28th British Commonwealth Brigade was part of the British Far East Strategic Reserve, and as such, was the South East Asia Treaty Organization's (SEATO) Strike Force should the "Yellow Hordes" from Communist China start toppling "Dominoes" in Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. If that had happened, then our Brigade would have been the first troops "into the breach" as it were. We would often practice our "operational readiness" by doing drills and exercises; being inspected by the Brigade HQ Staff and evaluated as to our state of readiness. One aspect that complicated things was the fact that Malaysia was not part of SEATO and therefore, the Brigade could not deploy on operations to Laos or wherever, from Malaysian soil; we had to first go to Singapore, a British Colony still. We even practiced that. However, in the two years we were there, we were not called upon to deploy on such warlike operations.

Border Operations

In mid-1962, we were warned for anti-CT operations on the Malay/Thai border for a period of three months. Even though the Malayan Emergency had ended in 1960, the Malaysian Police Special Branch knew of remnants of the Communist Terrorist Organisation in camps, deep in the jungle near the Thai border and our Battalion was given the opportunity to try to find them. There was great excitement as we prepared and travelled north to an old Malaysian Police Field Force base camp at Kroh in the Province of Perlis. From here, we deployed by train at night towards the Thai border and de-trained near the provincial town of Padang Basar. A Company went to the East of the railway line and B Company went to the West of the line. Within a week, a section from 1Platoon A Company had a successful ambush of a CT group, killing one and wounding another. This had been the first contact by any Security Force with the CTs in more than 18 months but it certainly proved that the CTs were alive and well and in our area of operations.

It was amazing the difference in the way everyone in the Platoon reacted once we entered the jungle on these operations even though we had done it many times before. The difference was of course that we were carrying "live" ammunition; only rifle and machine gun ammunition, no hand grenades or flares or other explosives. We didn't anticipate that we would have to fight a war with the CT's. We expected they would be trying to avoid us plus we imagined that we would have to chase them if we found them at all. Therefore we opted to travel light. So light in fact that although we would go into the jungle for 10 days at a time, we would carry only five days rations each and two would share food to make it last for the total period. This meant only two meals each day and lots of curry and rice. My batman, Pte David Christianson was trained as our Platoon Medic and carried a Medical Kit as well as his normal gear and rifle. The Platoon Signaller, Pte Alf Gee carried the radio naturally plus numerous batteries that were not light. Cpl Norm Hardy and Alf shared their rations and David and I shared ours. We became quite expert at curry and rice which was our standard evening meal. Of course we would add all sorts of things to it to vary the taste day to day.

Whenever we moved as a Platoon or in Section patrols, only the point Section carried their weapons with "one up the spout" and even then only the two forward scouts had their safety catches "off". The Platoon had only one "accidental discharge" (an automatic chargeable offence) and that occurred at the end of our first period of six weeks operations when a machine gunner was cleaning his LMG prior to us being picked up to go back to the base camp at Khro. It cost him a hefty fine plus 28 days confined to barracks.

Luckily, no one was injured.

During this first period of operations, we had a very quiet time. The only thing we found was a new rifle stock lying at the back of a shallow cave in a large limestone feature right smack on the Malay/Thai border. We handed it in to Battalion HQ and they passed it on to the Police Special Branch who identified it as having been made by a former Japanese armourer who had stayed on after WWII, had joined the CTO and was still at large. The only other piece of excitement occurred in this same area. The Platoon was moving along a track through very tall grass and I noticed that the soldiers in the Point Section just ahead of me had stopped and were facing inwards rather than outwards as was the standard drill. It was not a particularly good place to stop tactically and I was anxious to get moving so various hand signals were being passed back and forth and the ones coming back from the front were not very clear. As I was getting up to go forward to give someone a rocket, along the track came a young Thai man wheeling a bicycle with a very young infant in a basket on the handle bars. He was innocent enough and he was let through by the soldiers up ahead and eventually through the whole Platoon but what came next really caused a breakdown in operational discipline.

Walking about 50 meters behind the young man was his young wife who, in our eyes was about 15 or 16 years old and very attractive, particularly when you consider that we had been in the jungle for nearly six weeks without laying eyes on any females. Fortunately, I didn't have to resort to any threats as far as discipline was concerned and she passed through the platoon column unhindered and unmolested. But the incident had caused a major breakdown in the Platoon's operational readiness and focus and it took a good half an hour to re-establish the desired level of alertness throughout the platoon.

A Short Break from the Jungle

At the end of about six weeks on operations, B Company was pulled out of operations for a rest and we were permitted to go on leave to Penang Island, a short truck ride away from Khro. None of us had brought any civilian clothes with us but that was no barrier. Doug Fussell, Ray Harring (the other platoon commanders) and I arrived in Penang and immediately found a tailor shop, each got measured for a pair of trousers and we bought shirts, underwear, socks and shoes, all in about half an hour and then retired to our hotel for a decent meal, a sleep and to await the delivery of our purchases later in the afternoon. By 5.00 pm we each had a decent set of clothes to wear out that night - it all took about 5 to 6 hours, all tailor made, imagine that! We had a good break doing all the things that young men fresh from six weeks in the jungle might be expected to do.

Then, back to the "deep J" for another stint of operations.

(More anecdotes from Bryan Pannell in October. Ed.)

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Check the newsletter address label for the status of your membership. If '2014' or prior, you have lapsed; if '2015' or beyond, you are current. Financial Year: 1 October to 30 September. 1 - 5 years (\$20 - \$100).

Renew online: (Or, complete the form on next page.

<http://2rar-association.net.au/membership/>

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

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



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	Vietnam	Cambodia	Rwanda	East Timor	Solomon Is	Iraq	Timor Lesté	Afghanistan	Other

Post-Nominals: _____

Wife/Partner's Name: _____

SUBSCRIPTIONS

(Financial Year: 1 October to 30 September)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP



\$20

MULTI-YEAR MEMBERSHIP



\$40 - \$60 - \$80 - \$100

Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____ 2014

Receipt Required? YES/NO

MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

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

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	ITEM	PRICE	QTY
Cap: Black - "2nd Battalion"	\$34.00		Pewter Drink Coaster - RAR Badge	\$24.00	
Cap: Black/Silver - "ICB Badge"	\$34.00		Pewter Drink Coaster - ICB Badge	\$24.00	
Lapel Badge - "2RAR"	\$12.00		Pewter Belt Buckle - ICB Badge	\$27.00	
Polo Shirt: Black/Gold - "2nd Battalion" M(97)L(102)XL(107)2XL(112)3XL(117)	\$47.00		Iron On Badge - 2RAR	\$12.00	
Sport Shirt: Black/White - "Second To None" L(102) XL(107) 2XL(112) 3XL(117)	\$47.00		Bumper Sticker - 2RAR Association	\$5.00	
Tee Shirt: Black/White - "Second To None" L(102) XL(107) 2XL(112) 3XL(117)	\$31.00		Bumper Sticker - Vietnam Veteran	\$8.00	
Tie: 2RAR Tie (New style)	\$27.00		Bumper Sticker - 2nd Battalion	\$8.00	
Stubby Cooler - "2RAR"	\$10.00		Car Registration Plate Frames - 2nd Battalion	\$18.00	
Stubby Cooler - "Second To No Bastard"	\$10.00		Note Pad - Leather - ICB Badge	\$20.00	
Sticker (Oval) - "ICB"	\$5.00		Badge: ICB Metal/Bronze - Large	\$14.00	
Sticker (Round) - "2RAR"	\$5.00		Badge: ICB Metal/Bronze - Small	\$12.00	
Key Ring - Black/Gold	\$14.00		Badge: Returned from Active Service (RAS) Metal/Bronze	\$14.00	
Wall Plaque : 2RAR	\$52.00		Badge: Rising Sun - Gold/Metal	\$14.00	
Book: 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1967-68 Vol 1. Reprint 1985	\$90.00		Money Fold Leather with credit card pockets - RAS badge	\$30.00	
Book: Trackers Vietnam 1967/68. Peter Haran	\$29.00		Flag: 2RAR Black (48 cm x 31 cm)	\$17.00	
			Name Tag: Preferred name: _____	\$25.00	

Package Deal 1 Polo shirt & Cap \$73.00 (save \$8.00)	Package Deal 2 Sports shirt & Cap \$73.00 (save \$8.00)	Package Deal 3 Polo shirt, Cap & Tie \$98.00 (save \$10.00)	Package Deal 4 Sports shirt, Cap & Tie \$98.00 (save \$10.00)
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ONLINE PAYMENTS:
2RAR Association, Inc.
Suncorp Bank. BSB: 484-799
Account no: 063 350 355

For membership, and/or merchandise email*/post the above form to: PO Box 1097
Toombul Qld 4012.
For online payments, include your initials, name and description: ('1 - 5 year
membership', &/or 'Merchandise') to allow your payment to be identified.
*2rarsecretary@gmail.com