



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)

JULY 2019

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



We are already halfway through the year. Time does fly. Welcome to the July edition of the Association newsletter. We have some good news as we have a new member joining the management committee. Graeme Smith has agreed to come on board, and he is welcome addition to our team. Graeme was the 2RAR RSM from Jan 2000 to December 2001.

We supported the Battalion in Townsville this year by providing funds for five of its members to attend the Legacy breakfast in Townsville. The Battalion 2I/C sent the following message to the Association:

"Many thanks for the support for the Legacy Breakfast. I spoke with some of the team that went, and they really enjoyed it. The opportunities to listen to people like Sir Angus Houston are rare so thank you for the support, not only as it offered an opportunity for our people to professionally develop but it has also helped out a great cause."

As previously mentioned, the Association has commissioned a painting by two renowned Australian war artists to produce a painting which will provide a legacy of the Battalion's two tours of Vietnam. The painting is nearing completion and it is planned for the painting to be formally presented to the Battalion later this year. Once the painting is completed, we plan to arrange for prints of the painting to be made available for sale to our members.

I will attend the RAR Conference and AGM which will be held in Canberra 23-25 July.

2RAR(Amphib) was very heavily involved in rescue operations in the recent devastating floods in Townsville and the region. It was an outstanding effort which was very much acknowledged by the Townsville Council and the community.

I had the opportunity to visit Townsville over the ANZAC period and was fortunate to be hosted by the Battalion at the Dawn Service held in Lavarack Barracks. It was an outstanding service and I wish to acknowledge the wonderful hospitality of the Battalion. While in Townsville I took the opportunity to hold discussion with the CO and RSM. Discussions were wide ranging and the connection between the Battalion and the Association remain strong.

The Association continues to look for ways we can support the Battalion and our NQ rep Jock Cassidy has arranged a number of social activities in support of the unit. Jock continues to do a great job as our Association representative. I also took time to meet with Jock Cassidy, as well as Merv Diction, President of the 2/4RAR Association. I am looking at ways that both the 2RAR and 2/4RAR Associations can support each other. Merv has indicated that he supports such an initiative.

Our Facebook Page continues to flourish and is now the primary medium for getting regular information out there. While the quarterly issue of Ringo is most important, I ask that you keep a regular eye on the Facebook Page as well as the Association website. If you have anything interesting regarding 2RAR issues and/or members, pass the details on to Rick Hollingdrake to see if it can be posted on our Facebook.

Just an early warning regarding this year's annual reunion and AGM. Again, the activity will be held at Tweed Heads Services Club from 25-26 October 2019. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Start planning now. There will also be a D Coy lunchtime get-together on Friday 25 October at the same venue. Details can be found on our Facebook Page.

Finally, I wish to advise that Dave Hatton has resigned from the committee of management. Dave's heavy ongoing involvement in a number of community organisations has made it difficult for him to provide adequate commitment to the committee. I have accepted his resignation and would like to thank Dave for his contribution while a member of the management committee.

Leo Van De Kamp
President

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THIS EDITION OF RINGO

This edition of RINGO has been printed courtesy of the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Federal Member for Dickson. You will notice that it has a much different appearance and that is due to some technical problems in the composition of it.

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT / EDITOR
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MERCHANDISE
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HONORARY PADRE
Postal Address: PO Box 1097 Toombul Qld 4012

WARRIORS WHO HAVE MARCHED OUT

- 54754 Corporal Terence John BROWN, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Vietnam 1967-68, 1970-71. Terry passed away 2 June 2019. Age: 75+ years. Terry remained in 2RAR and was in the Battalion in 1973. When the Battalion formed 2/4 RAR, he stayed until 1975. Thanks Peter Pheaney
- 3788223 Lance Corporal Richard Patrick (Dicky) GLENN, 2RAR Vietnam (LCpl) 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment 19/05/1967 to 25/10/1967 4 PI B Coy DOB: 23/08/1945 Age: 73+ years. Funeral: Friday 12 April Loc: Kardinia Church, 65 Albert St. Sebastopol, Ballarat, Vic. Thanks, Ian Atkinson
- 51851, 1200606 Lance-Corporal Victor Kenneth OTWAY, 2RAR Korea 1953-54. 2RAR Malaya 1955-57, 1RAR 1966 Vietnam, 6RAR 1966-67 Vietnam (5PI B Coy). Passed away 28 June 2019. Geraldton, WA. Rest in Peace Victor
- 2400796, 29850 Private Geoffrey Maurice (Uki) BARNES, RAN 1951-52, Japan 1952, Korea 1RAR 1952-53, Korea 2RAR 1953. Malaya 2RAR D Coy 1955 -57. Funeral held 12 June at Allambie, Nerang Qld. Rest in Peace Uki
- Sergeant Tristan HARDY, 2RAR, 1RAR. The service was held at All Saints Lavarack Barracks Chapel, on 22 May 2019. A wake followed the service. A smaller ceremony was held in Coonabarabran on 27 May 2019. Thanks Mitch Hardy, Corey Boyce, Merv Diction, John Cassidy.
- 1200131 Warrant Officer Class 1 Connie SANDERSON, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn Vietnam 1967-68, Cpl 4 PI B Coy (Sandy). Age: 74 Years. Sandy passed away on 26 January 2019. Thanks, Tiny Riley
- 156647 2nd Lt Terry John PETRIE, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn Vietnam 1970-71. DOB: 14 Mar 1947. POB: Kogarah NSW. No further information. Rest in Peace Terry
- 17804 Corporal William Edward HARRIS, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn Vietnam 1967-68. Bill passed away on 28 May 2019. Age: 73+ years. A service was held at Capalaba on 6 June 2019. Bill was cremated at Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens. Rest in Peace Bill
- 454106 Craig Andrew ATKINSON, 2/4 RAR 1985 to 1989 A Coy, and Spt Coy (Mortars). Sad news of the passing of Craig Atkinson. Rest in Peace Craig
- 181107 Steven George HART, A Coy 2PI, 3PI, Mor PI 2/4RAR from 1983 to 1989. Steven passed away from pancreatic cancer on 5 June 2019. Age: 57 years. Trained with the Gloucester Highlanders. Rest in Peace Steven

†

*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

UPDATE FROM CO 2 RAR

To the 2 RAR family



2019 continues to be a busy year for the Battalion as it progresses its capability as the Joint Pre-landing Force and support to operational commitments around the globe.

Upon return from the Christmas break the Unit was immediately faced with the challenges of the Townsville floods that not only left many in Townsville homeless, but also many soldiers and families within the Unit. While supporting our own families affected by the floods the Unit was called upon to support the 3rd Brigade who raised a Joint Task Force in response to the emergency. The officers and soldiers of the Battalion performed admirably throughout the event, braving flood waters and dangerous conditions to support the local community. This was epitomised by the events on 03 February, when the Battalion rescued over 450 people. Under the threat of a major flood surge from the Townsville dam, torrential rain and with limited emergency forces capable of handling flood waters, the Battalion deployed a team of two small boat platoons, transport platoon and command elements. Over 12-hours of darkness, in perilous conditions, the team did a magnificent job to evacuate stranded

residents; an action that in my opinion saved lives. It was a fantastic effort and one of which you can be exceptionally proud.

The Unit continues to drive forward with its commitment as the Joint Pre-Landing Force and commitment to ongoing operations. 2RAR provides the Australian Defence Force a world-class amphibious force that is tasked to conduct amphibious pre-landing actions that set the conditions for the Australia Amphibious Force to conduct joint entry operations. The role involves specialised reconnaissance and battlefield shaping to ensure the conditions are set to get combat forces ashore. This capability is a culmination of six years of sustained and committed work by many men and women and is a world-class capability. The role continues to give great focus to our troops and sustains a sense of meaning, which is pivotal as we move forward into the future.

The Unit has also been tasked to generate and a force level reconnaissance capability, tasked to answer the information requirements for a Joint Task Force or Division. This is an exciting time for our Unit with the trial of a reconnaissance vehicle to enable a mounted reconnaissance capability as well as investigating options for riverine operations based off our small boat platoons. Along with the Joint Pre-Landing Force role, 2RAR is at the forefront of realising critical capabilities for the Australian Defence Force. These efforts see the integration of joint and coalition elements right down to the section level; requiring our soldiers to be smart, flexible and with a keen understanding of the higher picture. As always though, we remain a light infantry battalion ready to provide a dismounted combatant effect where and when required.

The Unit has continued to provide ongoing support to the Australian Defence Force's international engagement activities and operational commitments. A company minus supported HMAS CANBERRA on Indo-Pacific Endeavour, a major international engagement activity that encompassed Sri Lanka, India, Singapore and Malaysia. The team did a cracking job and conducted

mobile training team activities and engagements aboard HMAS Canberra and within Sri Lanka. The amphibious capability is providing our soldiers incredible opportunities to see the world and contribute to engagement in the region.

The Unit currently has force elements abroad both in the Middle East and the Philippines on operational service. This remains an important commitment for our troops to serve their country and value add to Defence's contribution. It is a credit to the team that they can transition between Joint Landing Force responsibilities, international engagement and operational commitments. The standard of the young officers and soldiers within our unit, and Army in general, is outstanding; young men and women we can be proud of.

There have been some outstanding efforts this year from our soldiers and officers. The Unit won both the best sniper team at ASSAM (Matthew Lambert Trophy) and also the International competition (Billy Sing Trophy). This was a major effort from the team who competed against some of the best international teams in the world. This is a testament to the snipers within the Unit who continue to be to benchmark for the Regiment. The team will now travel to the US for another international competition later this year. Additionally, we have had individuals awarded student of merit on the North Queensland Junior Leaders Course, Majors Course and others; an indicator of a willingness to perform and succeed no matter the task.

We have made a committed effort this year and focused on reconnecting with those who have served the Unit in the past and to push the message of "Back to the Battalion". This Unit is built on the collective memories of those who have served it in the past. It is not made up of things, but of people. If we do not remember and pay respect to those who have served us in the past then we will have no foundation on which to move forward. It has been fantastic to see an increased participation of the ex-servicemen coming back to the Battalion this year for a number of events. We encourage those we have not reconnected with the Unit for a number of years to reach out and to once again become a part of the Battalion. 2RAR is not only here to serve our country, but to continue providing a home and rally point to those who have served it in the past. We will continue to use the Ringo in the future to highlight future events.

The Unit remains ready as always, to serve this fine country and fight and win our nation's wars.

Duty First

LTCOL Judd Finger

CO 2 RAR

Second-to-None

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.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

We welcome new members:

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---|
| Noel Thomas | Casino, NSW | Vietnam 1967 |
| Bill Wearne | Whittlesea, Vic | Vietnam 1967-68 |
| Brent Mickelberg | Buderim, Qld | East Timor 2009, Afghanistan 2012-13 |
| Graeme Arblaster | Nambour, Qld | Rifle Coy Butterworth |

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.

Email: johnccassidy65@hotmail.com

DELTA COMPANY GET TOGETHER

I am planning a gathering of past D Company at Twin Towns Resort on Friday 25th October 2019.



All those who served in, passed through, were trained in D Company are most welcome to attend. Partners/Carers are most welcomed to attend as well.

When: Friday 25th October 2019 (followed by AGM, Commemorative Service and reunion on Saturday 26th October).

Where: "1st on Wharf" (a pub that is part of Twin Towns Resort, Wharf Street, Tweed Heads)

Time: 1130 hours to late afternoon

Cost: Lunch available (pub grub) from \$9 to \$20.00, beverages at pub prices. Everyone will pay as you go.

Dress: Casual. D Company or 2RAR shirt if you have one.

Gordon Hurford

OTHER REUNIONS

Are you involved in organising a reunion for your platoon or company? RINGO would love to publish details so the information gets wide publicity among the 2RAR groups. Please pass all information on these reunions to the Secretary:

2rarsecretary@gmail.com.

RINGO NEWSLETTER

Our preference now is to send RINGO by email, however if you want to continue to receive RINGO sent to you via Australia Post you should contact the Secretary ASAP: 2rarsecretary@gmail.com. At last count we only have 119 members who chose email delivery.

ASSOCIATION 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: now overdue June 2019.

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

DONATIONS

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

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| John Brownbill | Norman Newell | Brian Woolley |
| Leo Van De Kamp | Graeme Arblaster | |

MEMBERS DRAW

Congratulations to Peter VINCENT, Sanctuary Point, NSW winner of the financial Members' Draw held on 4 June 2019 who received the book: AFGHANISTAN Australia's War, by Gary Ramage & Ian McPhedran. A photographic story of the nation's longest war and those who served.

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| Bill MARTIN (NZ) | (0011649) 267 7545 rwmartin@bigpond.com |

Note: If there is a member in TAS or NT who would like to represent the Association in your state/territory, please contact Secretary: 2rarsecretary@gmail.com

THE BATTLE OF THE HOOK & ARMISTICE – INVITATION FROM THE BATTALION

The CO, LTCOL Judd Finger and RSM WO1 Jason Sten invite 2RAR Korea veterans to return to the Battalion for a reunion and commemoration of the 'Battle of the Hook' and the Korean War Armistice.

The invitation is open to former 2RAR and 2/4RAR members and their families, as well as families of 2RAR veterans (especially Korea War Veterans) who have since passed on.

We will assist our Korea war veterans on arrival in Townsville and deliver you to your accommodation; and to and from on the day of movement for your return journey.

We encourage family members to share in his service and the experiences of the Battalion.

Our Korea veterans are in their eighties and are not as spritely as they are used to be; we encourage a carer or family person to be in attendance.

Schedule of events

Friday 26th July 2019

09.00 – 09.45 am: Arrive at the barracks and assemble at BHQ (water and coffee and tea available)

10.00 am – Service on the Battalion Parade ground (Includes marquees and seats for Korea guests, their families and other members requiring seating).

10.45 to 11.00 am – Service concludes and all move to the Edgar Towner V.C Club for refreshments, welcome, museum and BBQ lunch

From Conclusion of Service the 2RAR Historical Collection will be open

Dinner

All Returning Korea veterans will be hosted at a location and time to be confirmed. Admin Company, Company Sergeant Major is the point of contact for this commemoration for all Korea Veterans. If not a Korea Veteran, there will be a 2RAR soldier on the Gate from the guard allowing entry on a photo ID for anyone attending the commemoration.

WO2 Paul Harrison

paul.harrison3@defence.gov.au

Mob: 0408 462 861

BOOK: JUNGLE GREEN SHADOWS

Victor 2 Company – Vietnam 1967-1968

Author: Tony Howell Lieutenant Platoon Commander Victor 2

Victor 2 Rifle Company joined 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion in November 1967.

Tony has managed to weave the thoughts and experiences of so many surviving Company soldiers into this factual account.

This book is well researched, and the sources are all identified. Jungle Green Shadows is a must for Vietnam Veterans, families, schools, stress counsellors, amateur or professional military historians and researchers on the Vietnam War.

The book will become available in November 2019.

KOREAN WAR 1950-53: THE HOOK

Australia's last battle of the Korean war

On Monday 27 July 1953, Private Alastair Manson Shaw of 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), died of wounds received while fighting on a ridge above the Samichon River in Korea. At 10 pm that evening the long-anticipated armistice took effect. The twenty-nine-year-old was the last of five Australians killed, and 24 wounded, in the final battle fought by the Royal Australian Regiment in the Korean War.



The HOOK Battle (2RAR Painting)

In early 1952, a reasonably static front had been established near the 38th parallel. It was known to the United Nations Command as the Jamestown Line. The Commonwealth Division, of which the Australians were a part, had earned a reputation for aggressive patrolling from its sector of the Jamestown Line as each of its brigades rotated through the forward trenches and bunkers.

One of the most infamous features in the Commonwealth Division's sector was the Hook. The Hook was a ridgeline feature approximately a kilometre west of the Samichon River, a tributary of the Imjin. It had been the focus of the intense fighting when the Canadians occupied it in 1954. British regiments held the Hook in May and June 1953, but winter and heavy enemy shelling had left the defences in very poor condition when on 9-10 July the 28th Commonwealth Brigade took over the defensive positions. The brigade's Australian commander, Brigadier L.G.N. Wilton, placed Lieutenant Colonel G.F. Larkin's 2RAR on the most exposed portion of the Hook and Lieutenant Colonel A. L. MacDonald's 3RAR on their right (from the Hook to the Samichon River). The 7th US Marine Regiment held the front to the left of the 28th Commonwealth Brigade. Facing them were elements of the Chinese Communist Force's (CCF) 46th Army.

The fire from Chinese artillery was heavy and constant on the UN line, and placed great strain on the US and Australia troops.

On the night of 19-20 July, the Chinese attacked the US Marines and drove their line back. This turned the 2RAR position into a salient jutting into the enemy position.

Brian Cooper, recently made sergeant, commanded a section from 2RAR's medium machine-gun platoon. Cooper and his men were sent west, to the US Marines on Hill 111, to provide covering fire for 2RAR's flank. The US withdrawal placed him in a very forward position. Between Cooper and 2RAR was a contact bunker manned by Lance Corporal Ken Crockford and five others.

In front of the Hook, 2RAR and 3RAR aggressively patrolled no man's land. In patrols on consecutive nights a team lead by Corporal T.W. Maguire (with Private G.E. Kent on the Bren gun) clashed heavily with the Chinese. In the first contact 24-year-old Private E.C. McDonnell was killed, and in the second contact both Maguire and Kent were wounded, but killed or drove off the Chinese, and assisted their mates before returning to the Hook. Both were awarded Military Medals for bravery in the field.

Information gathered by the patrols and from air reconnaissance indicated the CCF were massing for an attack.

At 6 pm on 23 July Brigadier Wilton informed his battalion commanders that the long-awaited armistice was imminent. This was not passed on to their men, but they quickly noticed the scaling down of patrols to only those considered essential for defence. They guessed that the end of the war might only be days away.

The CCF had other plans. On 24 July the enemy's harassing fire became a barrage. Over 500 mortar and artillery shells fell on the 2RAR position during the day. During the night another 2,000 screamed down out of the darkness. Around 9.30 pm the shellfire falling on Cooper's machine-gunners on Hill 111 lifted, so that the bunkers could be attacked by a company-strength group of Chinese infantry.

During the bombardment they had crept through the rushes in the paddy fields beneath Hill 111, then charged as the shelling moved to the rear of the bunkers and trenches occupied by the US Marines and Australian machine-guns. The Chinese hurled satchel charges at the bunkers. The Australians and Americans replied with grenades and machine-gun fire. As the Chinese swarmed around his position in overwhelming numbers, Cooper, in desperation, called down artillery fire from the Commonwealth Division onto his own position. "I could see the 'daisy cutters' bursting above the ground everywhere", Private Ron Walker recalled. Some of the US trenches were overrun but the Australians held. The attack was beaten back by dawn.

Sunrise revealed Chinese dead in their hundreds. At least 30 US Marines had been killed or wounded. Of Cooper's ten men, three had been wounded (one of them remained on duty). Sergeant Brian Cooper would later be awarded the Military Medal for his leadership and personal bravery that night.

While Cooper and his machine-gunners were fighting for their lives, 2RAR's D Company position, the most forward on the Hook, was also heavily shelled. Twenty-two-year old Corporal A.J. Wells was killed, and it was at this time that Alastair Shaw (along with a dozen others) were wounded. A patrol from D Company was caught in the shelling as they returned with their wounded from a contact with a Chinese patrol. Private J.M. McAuliffe engaged the enemy, taking command of the patrol and leading them until he was severely wounded. Lance Corporal L. Hayden arranged the evacuation of the five wounded while under shellfire for seven hours. Corporal K.G. Condon, at the patrol base, supervised the evacuation of the wounded despite being seriously wounded himself. McAuliffe was awarded the Military Medal and Hayden and Condon were mentioned in despatches.

The men of 2RAR and the US Marines spent Saturday 25 July clearing snipers and reconstructing their defences. CCF kept up harassing fire through the day. With sunset came a new assault. This time the CCF kept up harassing fire through the day. With sunset came a new assault.

This time the CCF charged into the narrow corridor between 2RAR and the Marines. On one side of the corridor was C Company, 2RAR, and in the middle was the contact bunker occupied by Ken Crockford's small team. Coming on even stronger than they had the previous night, the CCF assault troops attacked through the barrage. They advanced up slopes already littered with their own dead.



In the Australian positions the casualties increased. In D Company's position, 19-year-old Private Leon Dawes was killed; C Company lost Private Ronald Mc Coy.

Another C Company man, 21-year-old Corporal Kevin Cooper, was everywhere, leading and encouraging his men, exposing himself to the enemy to spot enemy mortars and report their location. He was killed in the early hours of Sunday morning. Behind the forward bunkers, the company signaller, Corporal J.B. Slater, repeatedly crawled out into the shellfire to repair severed telephone cables, and the company cook, Corporal D.A.W. Youngman, kept hot food and morale up to the troops despite shelling so close it damaged his kitchen. Youngman is said to have managed on barely four hours' sleep during the 48 of the battle. He, Slater, and Cooper were all mentioned in dispatches, Cooper posthumously. Lieutenant C.A.C. Wilson, also of C Company, was mentioned for extracting two patrols and saving men in a minefield. The company sergeant major, was later made an MBE for inspiring the men, evacuating casualties and directing fire during battle.

In Crockford's bunker the situation became critical. The fighting was hand-to-hand. Crockford, like Brian Cooper the previous evening, resorted to the desperate measure of calling artillery fire down onto his own position. For over an hour waves of Chinese troops poured small arms fire into the contact bunker, until they were eventually killed or driven off. During the night Crockford made several trips through the constant artillery barrage and the enemy troops moving around his position to report on the situation then return to his men. He was awarded the Military Medal for his bravery.

Another leader who distinguished himself during the barrage was the officer commanding Assault Pioneer Platoon, Lieutenant P.O.G. Forbes. He earned a Military Cross for constructing and maintaining the defences that held the enemy and for twice rescuing Australian casualties inside the minefields.

Around 3 am the CCF attacks petered out. By sunrise the only movement to be seen from the Hook was enemy stretcher-bearers recovering their wounded. On Hill 111, machine-gunner Ron Walker remembers "feeling very numb, bloody tired and having a feeling of detachment, watching the stream of stretcher-borne bodies (US Marines) going past, some still smouldering from the effects of the flame-throwers".

The battalion war diary notes that more than 4,200 enemy shells fell on 2RAR on the night of 25-26 July. In two nights of fighting, British, New Zealand and US artillery and Australian mortars had fired 23,000 rounds in support of the Australians fighting for their lives on the Hook.

Brigadier Wilton estimated that between 2,000 and 3,000 Chinese dead lay in front of the Hook: "The floor of the valley between the Hook and the Chinese positions was almost covered with dead Chinese."

The Australians did not fire on the Chinese removing their dead and wounded through the next two days – there was no point to further killing. One of the conditions of the armistice was a four-kilometre withdrawal by both sides.

Within days, the defensive positions were demolished. The area became a demilitarized zone and remains so to this day.

THE CHINESE SNIPER

On Sunday, 24 May, we were again sent up to 'C' Company all day as a digging party to help improve the trenches etc. A British 'Auster' liaison aircraft flew over to drop a batch of 'surrender money' leaflets to the Chinese but the wind blew a couple our way. One fell on the huge pile of empty shell casings out in front of the Centurion tank hidden at the top of the hill.

Young and silly, I decided to throw caution to the wind, and I climbed up on the shell casings to collect a souvenir. As I picked one up, I heard a sound like a highly tensioned wire snapping. At first, I didn't know what the sound was, then suddenly realised my danger, as a second bullet hit the trench about five feet to my right.

Someone yelled, "Get down! A Chinaman has you in his sights".

Sure enough, there was a Chinese sniper hidden in the valley in front of us, equipped with a machine-gun with telescopic sight, waiting for silly buggers like me to stick their heads up. I smartly jumped down as a third bullet went somewhere overhead.

In my diary that day, I wrote 'dryly', "Mortars and snipers active".

THE LOST PATROL: THE FULL STORY

By John 'Jack' Barden:

On the afternoon of the 27th July 1953 as I came off an eight-hour shift in the front operations, Corporal Jack Ashe asked me to go on a twenty-four-hour lay-up patrol [laying low in no-man's-land or enemy territory to observe the Chinese movements]. The soldier who was picked as radio operator did not get along with Jack, so I said yes. Bob Hipworth was forward scout and myself radio operator.

Just on dusk we were all up at the jump-off point and were wished good luck by our stand-by patrol as they made their way out to set up an ambush. It was these men who eventually saved our lives.

As we checked our route with night glasses, we had a chat and a smoke, then they took away all our cigarettes. We were talking to Padre Joe Phillips when we saw a 'chink' patrol setting up an ambush about halfway to where we were going. I radioed headquarters for a new route but was told to hollow orders.

Joe Phillips got on the radio and told headquarters that it was suicide if we went that way but follow orders we did. As we continued, all seemed to be going well. We had passed where we had seen the ambush and radioed back that all was okay, when we heard a strange lingo telling us to "Halt". We did not know the lingo, but we did know the sound of safety's being taken off weapons. We were right in the centre of the enemy. They later told us that there could have been up to 60 or more Chinese.

They started firing and we couldn't just stand there, so all we could think of was to fire back at the gun flashes. We must have been doing okay, as we could hear a lot of screaming. Corporal Ashe was yelling to "bug out", Hipworth was swearing that he was hit in the right side of his backside and as he slept on the right side, he would not be able to sleep. The Chinese must have thought we were mad standing there firing our guns and laughing our heads off. I dropped a full magazine and as I picked it up a Chinese grenade went off and blew some shrapnel into my right hand.

As we turned away, 'Cookie's' Bren opened up from the stand-by patrol and I could see the tracers and bullets hitting right into the Chinese. We started to run and kept running until we came to a minefield wire. Ashe and Bob went along the wire to the right and I went to the left. I came to another wire running at right angles, so I turned back. Jack and Bob had found the gap through the minefield, but the Chinese were already there.

We called headquarters on the radio but the Canadian operators would not give us airways as they were calling their own men and told us to get off the air. We eventually made contact but could hear the Chinese coming up the hill.

Bob ran into the minefield, while Jack and I stopped and rolled a couple of grenades down hill to try and slow the Chinese advance. As I turned around, I got hit in the right shoulder and back of the head with shrapnel and could see Ashe up in the air with blue and green flames all around him – he had tripped a mine. I copped another hit in the hand and shrapnel also hit the radio receiver. I ran back up to Jack Ashe, but he said to "stuff off" as he had 'had it'. I lay down alongside him, but he said, "Go and that's an order", as he didn't want the Chinese to get the radio.

I ran up to Bob and wanted him to come back but by then the Chinese were all around us. We made it to the gap where the standing patrol was supposed to be, but they had been called in and there were Chinese in their location. We turned left and ran until we hit a low spot. There were shells and bullets whistling all around us, so we stopped and lay there.

As it became a bit lighter, we found that the radio receiver had taken a bad hit and couldn't be used. I crawled through the scrub, pulling myself along with my one good hand. When I reached Bob, we managed to get through to headquarters on his radio. We made our way out through the minefield, following the same footprints that we had made coming in. As we got up to the top, we ran into a patrol and I could see two blokes out to our left in a minefield. As I radioed to tell them that they were in the wrong area, they suddenly 'went up' and found out later, they were Maury and Ernie. After I got away, I wanted to lead the boys back to Jack but was ordered in. At that time, I would say they were within 70 to 80 yards of Jack, maybe less.

I spent nearly two months in hospital at Kure and Hiro and later came back to 'The Hook' in Korea. After the peace treaty, I went with a patrol to where we had entered the minefield but by that time the summer growth was everywhere, and the place was like a jungle. They said they had already searched the minefield but could find no trace of Jack Ashe.

THE "NEW AUSTRALIA": HOMEWOOD BOUND

Then I found out that the "New Australia" was bringing 2RAR back to Australia – the same liner that I had travelled on to Korea. It arrived in Sydney Harbour after the Royal Yacht *Gothic* brought the Queen and Duke to Sydney Harbour. It was 17 April 1954.

The men of the battalion were to march through the centre of Sydney and break off for leave at Belmore Park near Eddy Avenue at Central Station. I asked for time off from my job to meet my mates, but the bosses said they couldn't spare me. I was furious and said I was going no matter – and I did.

I watched my mates march along George Street Sydney, and then continue on to Belmore Park where they dispersed to go on leave. I met them there to see how many of my mates had come back.

The ones that knew me were surprised to see me in good condition. Some had last seen me on a stretcher very ill and white on my way to the aid station.

Once I had seen my mates, I went back to work, happy in the knowledge that so many had returned home like me. Seeing them made me even prouder of our service.

IS IT REALLY OVER?

The armistice was signed at 10 am on 27 July 1953. Sporadic fighting continued throughout the day, but as evening fell the guns fell silent. The armistice came into effect at 10 pm, ending three years, one month, and two days of war in Korea. The end came so suddenly that some soldiers took some convincing that the fighting was really over. The former belligerent nations each withdrew two kilometres in accordance with the armistice agreement, forming the Demilitarized Zone which still exists today. Australian Forces remained in Korea as part of the multi-national peacekeeping force until 1957.

ANOTHER DRAMA

My left forearm was starting to annoy me, and I could feel some lumps in it. One night I went to my local GP, Doctor Giblin, who gently operated on my arm in his surgery, removing two pieces of shrapnel about the size of cent pieces. It hurt as he dug them out apologising all the time as I felt myself going white. I kept the two pieces for many years before I lost one piece – the other I still have. Even today, I carry around eleven pieces inside of me, like loose 'jumping-jack' change. Once the pieces were removed, with my arm bandaged, I took the pieces in tissue, to show my sister Ethel.

BY NOT HONOURING THEM, WE DISHONOUR THEM

The title refers to those Korean Veterans who were awarded a Mentioned in Dispatches (MID) for their military service in the Korean War. The MID does not appear on their entry in the Nominal Roll of Australian Veterans of the Korean War published on the net by DVA. That line on the Service Record is titled Honours and records None for Display.

For 11 it was their final act that earned them a posthumous MID. The list of MID's awarded in the Official History Vol II Combat Operations by Robert O'Neill has a total of 302 which includes Army, Navy and Air Force recipients.

Two were awarded a second MID.

At the time the Prime Minister of Australia submitted a written recommendation for each award to the Governor General for his approval. So, the award was not lightly given. By not including the award on the individual's entry on the Nominal Roll of Australian

Veterans of the Korean War they are being dishonoured, and the deed or deeds performed by which the award was earned are being considered as inconsequential, and they are not.

This error has been rectified in the Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans and all who were awarded a MID in that conflict have had that recorded on the line titled Honours. So, the precedent has been set.

The task appears to be relatively simple and inexpensive, ie delete None for Display and insert MID, 302 times. The list in the Official History is in alphabetical order and identifies which Service the awardee served in. It is doubtful that extra staff or overtime would be required, and the task cannot be considered to be monumental. Cost therefore is minimal and well within the capability of the current staff of DVA.

It is recommended that this omission be corrected at the earliest opportunity as the numbers of Korean Veterans are declining and they who survive still are now all over eighty.

Terry Dinneen
Winmalee, NSW

MARYANG SAN

On 3 October, as a part of Operation Commando, a large UN offensive against a Chinese salient, 3RAR advanced north of the Imjin River, attacking two key high points: hills 317 and 355. After five days of heavy fighting the Chinese were forced to withdraw off both objectives, and on repulsing several counterattacks the men of 3RAR were firmly in control of Hill 355, known as Maryang San.

The Australians suffered 20 men killed and a further 89 wounded during the fighting.

1200481 SERGEANT DARRYL COOPER

I was born and educated in Rockhampton, Queensland. After finishing my sub-junior schooling, the principal advised me I would be wasting my time if I returned so at the age of 14 I got a job at Rocky's meat works. After working there for a few months, I got a job as a store boy at Southern Cross Windmills. It was not long before I was working out west assisting in building water tanks, sheep and cattle troughs and erecting windmills.

I worked on stations around Rolleston, Springsure and Clermont. After a few years I got bored of station work, digging holes with a crowbar for foundations for windmills or post holes for troughs, so I decided to join the Australian Army.

I joined the army in February 1965 and volunteered for the Infantry Corps where I dug holes for the next twenty years, some of

which I lived in. After finishing basic and corps training I was sent to Woodside in South Australia, not far from Adelaide, to join the Fourth Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (4RAR) which was training to go to Malaysia for two years.

We arrived in Malacca, Malaysia in late October, 1965. We were loaded on to trucks and travelled 15 kilometres to Terendak Garrison where we joined the 28 Commonwealth Brigade. The brigade was made up of infantry battalions of Scottish Guards, New Zealanders and Australians with supporting units from other Commonwealth countries. We trained in jungle warfare and underwent helicopter training with British belvedere whirlwinds and scouts.

It was not long before we were warned that our battalion was to go to Borneo to protect the Malaysian border from neighbouring Indonesia. We embarked on the British troop ship the Auby at Port Dickson on April 25, 1966 and arrived at Kuching, Sarawak a few days later. We were put in helicopters and flown to an outpost near the village of Stass which was 1000 metres from the border. Living in bunkers and patrolling mountains and swamps we had to hack our way through the jungle with machetes. Sometimes there was nowhere else to sleep but in the trees. Supplies were sent to us by



parachute and the only time when the parachute would not open was when it would be fastened to our beer rations. For the Vietnam vets we only had two cans of beer per day and we had to sign for them.

We got our first Nasho reinforcement in Borneo. They were second intake and good blokes. It was only B Company (B for Best) at "Stass". The rest of the companies were posted along the border. We left Borneo in mid-September 1966 and as I look back now although I never had to fire even one angry shot, it was the hardest time in my twenty years of army life.

When we returned to Terendak Garrison we held funerals in Malaya for our mates who were killed in Vietnam as it was before the government changed their minds and began sending bodies home to Australia. We just continued training and wondered why we were not sent to Vietnam to help our mates who were over there.

On March 25 1967 it happened. About 60 of us regulars were sent back to Brisbane to join the second battalion RAR (2RAR) who were going to Vietnam in May that year. After a few weeks in Australia we boarded the HMAS Sydney at Hamilton Wharf and headed for South Vietnam.

Vietnam was completely different from Borneo. It was like a two-way range with the targets returning fire. Now I got a few angry shots away. If you heard the cracks go over your head you were right; if you heard the blast of a rocket, mortar or artillery shell, waited a few moments and felt no pain, you were pretty right too. At 9.30am on January 31, 1968 I did not hear one crack go over my head. Instead it went through my forehead above my right eye. At that moment I knew what pain was. I never lost consciousness, so I knew what was going on around me. They were even shooting at me while I was being winched into the chopper. I must have really upset them. I was flown to an American M.A.S.H unit at Long Binh and after a while back to the Australian Army Hospital at Vung Tau. Eventually I was taken back to army hospitals in Sydney and Brisbane. I spent nine months in 1 MD Army Hospital at Yeronga, Brisbane.

After being discharged from hospital I marched straight back into 2RAR at Enoggera, Brisbane. I took a quick trip to New Zealand with one of the rifle companies and after returning to Australia I was posted to transport platoon within 2RAR. The battalion was soon transferred to Lavarack Barracks, Townsville to get ready for another tour of South Vietnam. So, in April I was on my way again. This time we flew with Qantas and as we were flying into South Vietnam and seeing all those bomb craters, I thought to myself what a bloody idiot I was.

I got a job driving the water truck which I thought was the best job in south Vietnam. Then one day my old sergeant who saved my life when I was shot asked me to go back to my old rifle company. I transferred back to "B Coy" and ended up in the same bed and tent as my first tour. I soon got promoted to corporal and was put in command of a rifle section of about 10 men but most of the time you only had about six or seven. One day during a contact with the enemy my sergeant was killed beside me. (*Sergeant Thomas Bernie*)

Our battalion returned to Australia early 1971 and was to get ready to go to Singapore for two years. But the Labor Government came into power and ceased national service. 2RAR was disbanded and joined 4RAR to become 2/4RAR. I went to 1RAR to join their band as a saxophone player. I stayed in the band for nine years becoming a sergeant and being their drum major and bandmaster. After the band I decided to go to the "Q Store" and was sent to Victoria as a staff sergeant. I had an argument with a full colonel and decided to take my discharge. I was discharged as a sergeant in Brisbane on July 1, 1985.

I settled in Gladstone, bought some land and a house at Callopie and worked for a milk processing company. After a couple of years, I moved to Bundaberg to manage the factory there. It was there that I met my partner Michelle who was working in the milk laboratory. In 1995 we moved to Maroochydore and then in April 2000 we moved into our new house at Cudgerie Estate. My son found me after 26 years, but that is another story.

It was hard for us when we returned home from Vietnam being spat on and called awful names but that is why we went to Vietnam so people could express their opinion. It was the Federal Government who sent us to Vietnam not our Generals and who puts the government there? The Australian people.

AUSTRALIA'S VIETNAM WAR 1962-75

The arrival of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) in South Vietnam during July and August 1962 was the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Australia's participation in the war was formally declared at an end when the Governor-General issued a proclamation on 11 January 1973. The only combat troops remaining in Vietnam were a platoon guarding the Australian embassy in Saigon, which was withdrawn in June 1973.

The Australian commitment consisted predominantly of army personnel, but significant numbers of air force and navy personnel and some civilians also took part.

Overview

From the time of the arrival of the first members of the Team in 1962 almost 60,000 Australians, including ground troops and air force and navy personnel, served in Vietnam; 521 died as a result of the war and over 3,000 were wounded. The war was the cause of the greatest social and political dissent in Australia since the conscription referendums of the First World War. Many draft resisters, conscientious objectors, and protesters were fined or jailed, while soldiers met a hostile reception on their return home.

Australian support for South Vietnam in the early 1960s was in keeping with the policies of other nations, particularly the United States, to stem the spread of communism in Europe and Asia. In 1961 and 1962 Ngo Dinh Diem, leader of the government in South Vietnam, repeatedly requested security assistance from the US and its allies. Australia eventually responded with 30 military advisers, dispatched as the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), also known as "the Team". Their arrival in South Vietnam during July and August 1962 was the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. In August 1964 the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) also sent a flight of Caribou transports to the port of Vung Tau.

By early 1965, when it had become clear that South Vietnam could not stave off the communist insurgents and their North Vietnamese comrades for more than a few months, the US commenced a major escalation of the war. By the end of the year it had committed 200,000 troops to the conflict. As part of the build-up, the US government requested further support from friendly countries in the region, including Australia. The Australian government dispatched the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), in June 1965 to serve alongside the US 173d Airborne Brigade in Bien Hoa province.

The following year the Australian government felt that Australia's involvement in the conflict should be both strong and identifiable. In March 1966 the government announced the dispatch of a taskforce to replace 1RAR, consisting of two battalions and support services (including a RAAF squadron of Iroquois helicopters), to be based at Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy province. Unlike 1RAR, the taskforce was assigned its own area of operations and included conscripts who had been called up under the National Service Scheme, introduced in 1964.

All nine RAR battalions served in the taskforce at one time or another, before it was withdrawn in 1971; at the height of the Australian involvement it numbered some 8,500 troops. A third RAAF squadron (of Canberra jet bombers) was also committed in 1967, and destroyers of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) joined US patrols off the North Vietnamese coast. The RAN also contributed a clearance diving team and a helicopter detachment that operated with the US Army from October 1967.

In August 1966 a company of 6RAR was engaged in one of Australia's heaviest actions of the war, in a rubber plantation near Long Tan. The 108 soldiers of D Coy held off an enemy force, estimated at over 2000, for four hours in the middle of a tropical downpour. They were greatly assisted by a timely ammunition resupply by RAAF helicopters, close fire support from Australian artillery, and the arrival of reinforcements in APCs as night fell. The armoured vehicles had been delayed because they had to 'swim' across a flooded creek and fight through groups of enemy on the way. When the Viet Cong withdrew at night fall, they left behind 245 dead, but carried away many more casualties. Seventeen Australians were killed and 25 wounded, with another dying of wounds later.

The year 1968 began with a major offensive by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army, launched during the Vietnamese lunar new year holiday period, known as "Tet". Not only the timing but the scale of the offensive came as a complete surprise, taking in cities, towns, and military installations throughout South Vietnam. While the "Tet Offensive" ultimately ended in military defeat for the communists, it was a propaganda victory. US military planners began to question if a decisive victory could ever be achieved and the offensive stimulated US public opposition to the war.

For Australian troops, the effects of the offensive were felt around their base at Nui Dat, where a Viet Cong attack on targets around Ba Ria, the provincial capital, was repulsed with few casualties.

By 1969 anti-war protests were gathering momentum in Australia. Opposition to conscription mounted, as more people came to believe the war could not be won. A "Don't register" campaign to dissuade young men from registering for conscription gained increasing support and some of the protests grew violent. The US government began to implement a policy of "Vietnamisation", the term coined for a gradual withdrawal of US forces that would leave the war in the hands of the South Vietnamese. With the start of the phased withdrawals, the emphasis of the activities of the Australians in Phuoc Tuy province shifted to the provision of training to the South Vietnamese Regional and Popular Forces. At the end of April 1970 US and South Vietnamese troops were ordered to cross the border into Cambodia. While the invasion succeeded in capturing large quantities of North Vietnamese arms, destroying bunkers and sanctuaries, and killing enemy soldiers, it ultimately proved disastrous. By bringing combat into Cambodia, the invasion drove many people to join the underground opposition, the Khmer Rouge, irreparably weakening the Cambodian government. When the Khmer Rouge came to power in April 1975, it imposed a cruel and repressive regime that killed several million Cambodians and left the country with internal conflict that continues today. The extension of the war into a sovereign state, formally neutral, inflamed anti-war sentiment in the United States and provided the impetus for further anti-war demonstrations in Australia. In the well-known Moratorium marches of 1970 and 1971, more than 200,000 people gathered to protest against the war, in cities and towns throughout the country.

By late 1970 Australia had also begun to wind down its military effort in Vietnam. The 8th Battalion departed in November (and was not replaced), but to make up for the decrease in troop numbers, the Team's strength was increased, and its efforts became concentrated in Phuoc Tuy province. The withdrawal of troops and all air units continued throughout 1971 – the last battalion left Nui Dat on 7 November (4RAR), while a handful of advisers belonging to the Team remained in Vietnam the following year. In December 1972 they became the last Australian troops to come home, with their unit having seen continuous service in South Vietnam for ten and a half years. Australia's participation in the war was formally declared at an end when the Governor-General issued a proclamation on 11 January 1973. The only combat troops remaining in Vietnam were a platoon guarding the Australian embassy in Saigon (this was withdrawn in June 1973).

In early 1975 the communists launched a major offensive in the north of South Vietnam, resulting in the fall of Saigon on 30 April. During April a RAAF detachment of 7–8 Hercules transports flew humanitarian missions to aid civilian refugees displaced by the fighting and carried out the evacuation of Vietnamese orphans (Operation Babylift), before finally taking out embassy staff on 25 April.

From the time of the arrival of the first members of the Team in 1962 almost 60,000 Australians, including ground troops and air force and navy personnel, served in Vietnam; 521 died as a result of the war and over 3,000 were wounded. The war was the cause of the greatest social and political dissent in Australia since the conscription referendums of the First World War. Many draft resisters, conscientious objectors, and protesters were fined or gaoled, while some soldiers met a hostile reception on their return home.

THE SEARCH FOR TACTICAL SUCCESS IN VIETNAM

On the eve of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the 1st Australian Task Force in South Vietnam, it is still widely believed that despite winning some memorable battles, the Australians and New Zealanders lost out militarily to an enemy which resorted to low intensity warfare conducted over a long period of time. In the discipline of operations research, a recent study shows that contrary to this view, 1ATF dominated the enemy within the task force area of operations.

VIETNAM WAR, 1962–72

| Australian Infantry Battalions in Vietnam, 1965–72 | |
|---|---|
| 1 RAR | May 1965 – June 1966 April 1968 – February 1969 |
| 2 RAR | May 1967 – June 1968 May 1970 – May 1971 |
| 3 RAR | December 1967 – November 1968 February 1971 – October 1971 |
| 4 RAR | May 1968 – May 1969 May 1971 – March 1972 (D Company only from December 1971 – March 1972) |
| 5 RAR | April 1966 – March 1967 February 1969 – February 1970 |
| 6 RAR | May 1966 – June 1967 May 1969 – May 1970 |
| 7 RAR | April 1967 – April 1968 February 1970 – February 1971 |
| 8 RAR | November 1969 – November 1970 |
| 9 RAR | November 1968 – November 1969 |
| Source: Kuring 2004, p. 364 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Australian_Regiment | |

2RAR : THE FIRST ANZAC BATTALION

Following an agreement in late February 1968 between the Australian and New Zealand Governments, 2RAR, V Company RNZIR and W Company RNZIR were amalgamated into 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion (2RAR/NZ).

D Company 2RAR was disbanded and the Battalion 2IC was filled by a RNZIR Officer (Maj RIG Thorpe). 4RAR, which was to relieve 2RAR in May 1968, was to be reorganised on similar lines and in due course the RNZIR component of the 'ANZAC Battalions' would also include Mortar and Assault Pioneer Sections as well as Administrative personnel.

A DUTY DONE: A summary of operations by the Royal Australian Regiment in the Vietnam War 1965-1972 by Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Fred Fairhead.



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|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Years Served, eg 1970/71 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|---------------------|-------|-------|--------|---------|----------|--------|
| Years Served | | | | | | |

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|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|------|------------|-------------|-------|
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| Lapel Badge - "2RAR" | \$13.00 | | Badge - Rising Sun - Gold/Metal | \$15.00 | |
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