



nulli secundus

## 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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

# RINGO

Courage. Sacrifice. Mateship.

NEWSLETTER

PATRON: COLONEL JM CHURCH, DSO, (RETD)

OCTOBER 2015

### MATES, MEMORIES, & CAMARADERIE

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 (*under shade:*

*confirmed*), and the annual get-together in the River Room Level 3 at Twin Towns Services Club. Entry is free, drinks & lunch at own expense: see venue choices next column.

Notice of AGM, method of voting & outline Agenda are at page 11.

### PROGRAM

Friday 30 October

4.00pm	Meet, Greet & Dine	Harbour Lounge (Indoor/Outdoor area), Level 1, Twin Towns Services Club, Wharf Street
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Saturday 31 October

8.00 am	Membership check	'ANZAC Room' Level 2, Mantra Twin Towns <u>Resort</u> , Wharf Street
8.30 am	Annual General Meeting	(As above)
09.40 am	Commemoration Service & Wreath Laying.	Chris Cunningham Park, Wharf Street
10.30 am	Annual Reunion Memberships Merchandise Raffle Draw	River Room Level 3, Twin Towns Services <u>Club</u>
12.00–1.00 pm	Lunch (at own expense)	Twin Towns Services Club Venues (Level 1)
1.00 pm–	Reunion continues Dry Till (until expended)	River Room Level 3, Twin Towns Services Club
4.00 pm	Reunion concludes	

Note: Both the Services Club and Mantra Resort operate on Queensland time, not New South Wales daylight saving time.

### MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Check the newsletter mailing label for the status of your membership. If '2015' or prior, you have lapsed; if '2016' or beyond, you are current. Financial Year: 1 October to 30 September. 1 - 5 years (\$20 - \$100)

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### FOUNDING BATTALIONS 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARADE

October 2015 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the 65<sup>th</sup>, 66<sup>th</sup> and 67<sup>th</sup> Battalions, later to be the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions, The Royal Australian Regiment.

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions will together hold a Ceremonial Parade at Lavarack Barracks on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015.

As part on the Ceremony, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions will have the honour of being presented replacement Queens and Regimental Colours by the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, MC, whilst the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion will be awarded the Unit Citation Streamer for the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

On behalf of the Commanding Officers of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions, you are invited to attend the parade which will occur at 3.45pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Parade Ground at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville.

Dress for the Parade is civilian coat and tie with medals where appropriate.

### THE ANNUAL REUNION

New format, self-contained venue with sweeping views of the Tweed River. Dedicated bar at Club prices. Comfortable lounge seating, standing/sitting bar tables, finger food. No upfront cost! *Zero, zip, zilch, nada!*

Lunch venues (at own expense): 12pm to 1pm.

*Flame Pizzeria, Flame Cafe & Deli, Flame Bistro, Flame Carvery Roast, Orient.*

Dry Till from 1.15pm (Until expended).

### 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. Bring him to the Reunion.*

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## WARRIORS WHO HAVE MARCHED OUT

- NX206339 Private Francis James FARRINGTON, 66 Bn. Date of discharge: 17 October 1947. Recently passed away. Age: 88+ years. Recorded in Reveille Vol 88 No 3 May/June 15. Thanks Terry Dinneen
- 2401043 Private Francis Martin MCCAFFERY, 1RAR Korea 1952-53. 2RAR 1953 (22 Mar-31 May). Recently passed away. Age: 85+ years. Recorded in Reveille Vol 88 No 3 May/June 15. Thanks Terry Dinneen
- 57046 Colonel James Percival MONTEATH, 3RAR Malaya (Lt) 1957-59. 2RAR Vietnam (Maj) OC C Coy 1967. Passed away 2 September in Perth. Age: 81+ years. Jim was a fine officer and a good friend Thanks Don Cruden, Brian McFarlane
- 212621 Warrant-Officer Class 2 Mervyn George BURT, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68 C Coy (7PI Sgt), 1970-71 (CSM B Coy). Sad news of the passing of 'Taffy' Burt. Age: 88+ years. Born & died Margam, Wales. Thanks Jens Schroeder
- 3787926 Private Viktor (Vic) WINKLER, 2RAR Vietnam 1967 (WIA) Age: 70+ years. Funeral held 4 September at Montmorency, Vic. A great bloke and a bloody good soldier. Thanks Gordon Hurford, Dennis Piltz
- 18252 Lieutenant Colonel James Raymond (Jim) BOURKE AM, MG, WIA, 2RAR, 1RAR Vietnam 1965-66, AATTV 1968, 1ALSG 1969. Passed away 25 September in palliative care. Age: 72+ years. Thanks Terry Dinneen.
- 3790757 Private John Raymond TAYLOR, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68. 1 PI A Coy. Passed away at Hervey Bay Hospital on 15 March surrounded by his children and grandchildren. Age: 67+ years. Thanks Jane Taylor, Phill Evenden
- 18276 WO2 John Frederick YOUNG, 1RAR 1964-65, 5RAR 1965, 4RAR Malaysia/Borneo 1965-66, 2RAR Vietnam 1967 (WIA) D Coy, 6RAR Singapore 1971-73, RAINF/RAAC. Passed away 24 August. Age: 69+ years. Thanks John Barnes, Peter Phillips
- 3796686 Private Bruce Edward BICKHAM, 2RAR Vietnam 1970-71. Age: 66+ years. Passed away peacefully 9 July at Pindara Hospital, Qld. Funeral held 16 July at Parkwood. Thanks Denis 'Tiny' Riley
- 235060 Colonel Ian Hubert MACLEAN MBE, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68, HQ 1ATF 1968, (Visit 1971). Passed away 18 July after a long spell with dementia. Age: 85 years. Funeral held at Marcus Beach, Qld. Thanks Pepe Prendergast
- 185272 Private Jamie Thomas 'Cass' CASSIDY, 2/4RAR B Coy/Admin Coy. 2RAR (No details). Passed away 26 July (tragically). Funeral held 5 August at Nerimbera, Qld. Remembered as a real life character. Thanks Gary Jear
- 243321 Private Kevin Wayne SIMMONS OAM, 2RAR Vietnam 1967-68. 5 PI (Medic) B Coy. Passed away 24 July with cancer. Age: 67+ years. Thanks Robert Wickes, Bob Topping, "Doc" Harley, Rod Newham
- 18471 Private Eric John JOHANSSON, 2RAR Vietnam 1967, 4RAR 1971, 2/4RAR 1973-76. Eric had been sick at home with cancer. Age: 71+ years. Funeral held 11 September at Hervey Bay. Thanks Alan Price
- 216071 Lance Corporal Raymond John JONES 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) 1967-68, 7RAR, 5/7RAR. Passed away Rokeby, Tas. Age: 68+ years. No further information. Thanks Terry Dinneen

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LEST WE FORGET

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is sad to note the continuing transit of our veterans through the 'Warriors who have marched out' pages; we mourn every one of them. It is particularly sad when we know someone personally. The recent passing of Private Francis Farrington, 66 Aust Inf Bn, had almost gone unnoticed. As is often the case, we have scant information about Francis. We do know he was discharged in October 1947, but nothing about his life since then.

Mr Kevin "Dasher" Dean, OAM, a Korea and Malaya veteran, was recently hospitalised and underwent an operation to remove a brain tumour. Kevin is a past President and Vice President of the Association. Kevin has resigned from the management committee to look after his health, and will take no more part in committee and welfare matters.

Kevin's support to the Association has been exceptional and on behalf of all members, I would like to thank him for his dedication throughout the years and his advice and guidance have been invaluable. We pray for a speedy recovery and wish him well.

Details of the October reunion are contained in this issue and I urge any of you who might still be hesitating, to come along and enjoy the Friday evening "Meet, Greet and Dine" as well as the Saturday morning AGM, Commemoration Service followed by the reunion social get together. The reunion is open to all members who have served with 2RAR, not just those who are members of the 2RAR Association. Families are particularly welcome.

So if you are coming and know of any ex-2RAR mates who may not be a member of our Association, please encourage them to come along.

We thank Twin Towns Services Club for continuing to waive venue fees for our annual reunions which is very much appreciated by us. This year we also appreciate drinks being at Club price, and not Function price.

As you may be aware, in recent times we have had difficulty providing shade cover for the Commemoration Service. The problem appeared to be Tweed Shire regulations. Recently we wrote to the general manager and requested that Alf Vockler, our committee representative, liaise with Council officers to find a solution to the shade problem. We were successful. Thank you Tweed Shire Council! Well done Alf.

A reunion of B Company 2RAR 1970-71 of Vietnam was held on the Sunshine Coast over a number of days in mid-August. I had the pleasure of attending the Meet and Greet session and it was wonderful to see so many members and their families in attendance. I also had the honour of marching with this proud Company on Vietnam Veterans Day at Maroochydore.

I attended the annual RAR Corporation AGM and conference held at Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera, 31 August to 2 September this year. A number of issues regarding both serving soldiers of the Regiment as well as veterans were discussed and the updated Action Plan will be placed on the 2RAR Association website.

On Monday 23 November the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment will parade at Lavarack Barracks, including presentation of new Colours to 1RAR & 2RAR, and a battle streamer for 1RAR 1965-66. Details are on page 1.

The organising committee has worked hard to ensure an enjoyable reunion and I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Rick Hollingdrake, Paul King, Norm Devereux, Arthur MacDonald and Alf Vockler.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our October reunion. Please travel safely.

"Second to None"

Leo Van De Kamp  
President

## THE BATTALION: ALL AT SEA

Australia's newest military capability, the Amphibious Ready Element, commanded by the Amphibious Task Group Headquarters and comprising HMAS Canberra, Air Force assets and supported by the Army's 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and other Army units, has been conducting Exercise SEA EXPLORER, which is the second of the 'Sea Series' of exercises.

The focus of the exercises is on training and assessing the Amphibious Ready Element in a permissive environment scenario which is currently taking place in waters off the North Queensland coast from August through to October. <sup>1</sup>

## SICK: KEVIN 'DASHER' DEAN, OAM

Thanks everyone for your kind thoughts. I have had brain surgery, so my days of looking after veterans have finally come to an end. I have been advised that I will have to move into a smaller place and that will be near my family who have been very good looking after me. I and my late wife, Joyce, have been very proud of 2RAR. Please keep me in touch. <sup>2</sup>

'Dasher'

A very proud 2RAR Vet

## HELP: PRIVATE ROBERT CHAPMAN

UK relatives of Pte Robert Chapman will visit Australia next year and would like to locate Robert's place of burial. Robert passed away in Australia a few years ago and his place of burial is unknown to the family. Most of his siblings are dead, only one survives.

Can you help?

311077 Private Robert Chapman, 2RAR

Korea: 17 March 1953 to 6 April 1954

Born: Ayr, Ayrshire, Scotland

Contact: Sally Imrie: sidreghorn@yahoo.co.uk

## ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

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## 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.bcoy2rarnz.com/>

### 2/4RAR ASSOCIATION

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

## 2RAR ASSOC. EMAIL LIST

Not receiving emails from us?

Left out of the loop? In the dark?

Email the Secretary!

2rarsecretary@gmail.com

## 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 9 Dec 15

## NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to our newest members: (12)

Scoreboard - NSW: 4, WA: 0, TAS: 2, QLD: 4, NT: 0, ACT: 1, VIC: 1, SA: 0, NZ: 0

Peter Howe	Burwood, Vic	2RAR 1972
Robert Hughes	Rockhampton, Qld	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1970
Douglas Spice	Morningside, Qld	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1967-68
Greg Cahill	Amaroo, ACT	2RAR East Timor (2), Solomons
Ronald Whalan	Peak Hill, NSW	2RAR Korea 1952-53
Richard Cairns	Goondiwindi, Qld	2RAR 1966
Robert Woolcott	East Devonport, Tas	2RAR Malaya 1955-57
Eric Pearson	Gosford, NSW	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1967-68
John Milne	San Remo, NSW	2RAR Malaya 1955-57
Patrick McIntosh	The Gap, Qld	2/4RAR Rwanda 1993-94
Dianne Johnston	Terrigal, NSW	Sister of Peter McDuff KIA 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1967
Raymond Jones	Rokeby, Tas	2RAR/NZ (ANZAC)1967-68

## MEMBERS' DRAW

Congratulations to Tom Bourke, of Greensborough, Vic winner of the financial Members' Draw held on 8 August who received the book: 'The Malayan Emergency' A brief history of Australian involvement in a Jungle War. By Ray Alcorn, 1990. This is the seventh year of the draw.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS (LM)

For the record: we have 9 current life members:

John 'Shorty' Baker	Charles 'Fred' Clark	Ken Cupples
Kevin 'Dasher' Dean, OAM	Marco 'Kiwi' Gibbons, OAM	Ron Gildersleeve, BEM
Rick Hollingdrake, OAM	Paul King	Matt Rennie, OAM

## REGIMENTAL SQUARE - SYDNEY

Regimental Square - Wynyard Street, Sydney will be closed between January and approximately September 2016 for reconstruction and revised layout. This layout will coincide with the introduction of a light rail network along George Street Sydney which will border the Eastern end of the Square. A major building refurbishment is currently being carried out on the Northern side of the Square and in conjunction with the Sydney City Council the Developer will contribute \$500,000 towards our refurbishment. Regimental Square will become a real showplace.

Gus Breen, AM DFC  
Lane Cove, NSW

## PENSION INCREASE FOR VETERANS

Veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia will see an increase to their pensions from 20 September 2015 as part of the bi-annual indexation process. As pension rates are calculated on a daily basis, the next pension paid after the 20 September increase (on payday 1 October 2015) will be paid partly at the old rate and partly at the new rate.

The first full payment will be 15 October 2015. Source: <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: <http://goo.gl/mvYFQH>

<sup>2</sup> Email: kevdean@optusnet.com.au

<sup>3</sup> A full list of pension rates are available on [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au) or by calling 133 254 or 1800 555 254 from regional Australia.

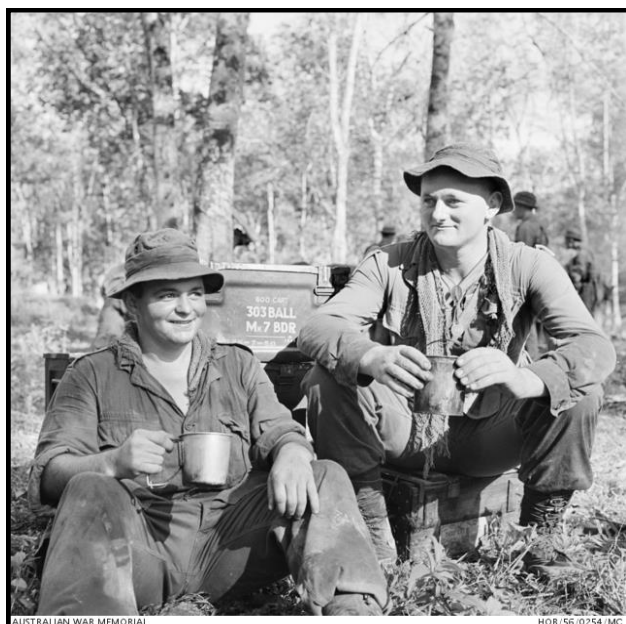
## REUNION REPORT: B COY 1970-71

We enjoyed this years' reunion on the Sunshine Coast from the 16th to the 21st of August. As is very much the case in our recent reunions was extensively social – bowls, golf, river cruising, and a hinterland bus trip. All organised by our convener extraordinaire Keith Carter (ex 4PI.)

Vietnam Vets Day was hosted by the Sunshine Coast Branch of the VVA and the Maroochydore RSL. We also remembered Absent Friends, now numbering 30, including Sgt Tom Birnie who died of wounds. We conducted this ceremony at our formal dinner.

By keeping our reunions small and social we have been able to encourage more ex B Coy mates and their partners to attend. This year we had six who had never attended before. Thanks to President Leo Van De Kamp from 2RAR Association for giving the talk at our Meet and Greet. Our next reunion will be in the S.A. Riverland in 2017.

## REMEMBERING MALAYA



Pte MG 'Tubby' Campbell, Left, and Cpl (later Sgt) HE 'Mother' Smith enjoying a brew in a rubber plantation, after jungle bashing in Southern Kedah.

## SAMICHON DAY REPORT 2015

Thankfully, after a week of rain, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July dawned fine and clear for our Commemoration Day Service. Sydney Legacy again provided chairs and a pop-up tent – which were greatly appreciated by the somewhat aging attendees – 31 in total. As is our custom, 'I spoke on the Battle of the Hook' whilst our Chaplain Tom Stewart – ex-3RAR – conducted the Ecumenical Service.

Our Wreath, generously donated by 2RAR Association, and made of Australian Native Shrubs/Flowers was laid by Dawn Wellfare whose late husband, Kevin, served with 1 and 2RAR Korea. Ernie Holden WIA prior to the Hook laid his floral tribute in memory of several mates KIA with 2RAR. Many passing members of the public stopped, and listened whilst paying their respects.

It was noted by all as a great success. Sincere thanks go to KWVA Assoc. (NSW) for their support.

Gus Breen, AM DFC  
Lane Cove, NSW

## MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Check the newsletter envelope address label. If '2015' or prior, you have lapsed; if '2016' or beyond, you are current. Renew online here.<sup>4</sup> (Or, complete the form on page 12.

## CALENDAR: AUGUST - DECEMBER

Mon 31 Aug	55th Anniversary of the Malayan Emergency 1948-1960. 49th Anniversary of Indonesian Confrontation 1962-1966	Malaya, Borneo
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)	66 Battalion 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	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL
	9.45am: Commemoration Service	Chris Cunningham Park
	10.30am: Reunion: 'River Room', Level 3	Twin Towns Services Club
Wed 11 Nov	Remembrance Day	
Mon 23 Nov	RAR Birthday 1948 (67th Anniversary)  The "Founding Battalions" 1RAR, 2RAR, 3RAR 70th Anniversary Parade	Hiro, Japan  Lavarack Barracks, Townsville
Mon 24 Aug - 1 Sep 2016	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary end of Indonesian Confrontation & Memorial Dedication at Kuching	Sarawak, Borneo

## VALE: JOHN YOUNG

I was with the Australian Protective Service at the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre in the mid 1990's. The boss of Stage 1 at Villawood, seeing that I wore service ribbons, asked me who I was with in Vietnam. I said 2RAR and he said "So was I". I said 1st tour and he said so was I. I said D Coy and he said so was I. The man was John Young who had been wounded early in our tour and whom I hadn't recognised. It had only been 30 odd years ago.

Whilst working together, John was diagnosed with his cancer and we spent quite a few night shifts discussing various things. He never once complained. He had been a bit quiet lately and I now know why. John was a good man. I wish there were a lot more like him.

Peter Phillips  
Woonona East, NSW

## VALE: IAN MACLEAN MBE

I knew Col Ian MacLean when I was in 11 FF Gp as a G3 Ops staff officer & others would know him from his time with 2RAR, & as G2 Ops in TF HQ in 1968 & at Coral CP.

He tells the true story that the name for the FSB Coral came from 12 Field's Jack Keldie's wife Coral. When planning the Op Ian was looking at what to name this base when Jack came into the TF CP in Nui Dat. Ian was looking for a simple name to use, a quick question to Jack of what's his wife's name & bingo we got FSB Coral. Rest in Peace Ian.

Pepe Prendergast  
1RAR, FSB Coral 1968

<sup>4</sup> <http://2rar-association.net.au/membership/>

## VETERANS' AGED CARE

If you're a veteran of the Australian defence forces, a war widow or widower, there are services available from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) that can help you remain in your own home for as long as possible.

### *Veterans' Home Care Program*

The Veterans' Home Care Program (VHC) includes a range of services to help support eligible veterans, war widows and widowers to remain living independently in their own homes for longer. VHC services can include:

- domestic assistance
- personal care
- safety related home and garden maintenance
- respite care (both in-home and residential).

To receive these services, Gold or White Repatriation Health Card holders need to receive an assessment; telephone VHC 1300 550 450. Veterans may be eligible for home help services through other programs or packages if they are not eligible for the VHC program.

### *Community Nursing Program*

This program helps eligible veterans, war widows and widowers to continue living in their homes by helping to manage medical or personal care needs; incl medication management, wound care, & hygiene assistance.

To receive these services, eligible veterans need to be referred for an assessment this could be your GP, a treating doctor in hospital, a hospital discharge planner or a VHC Assessment Agency. Telephone: 1300 550 450.

Other services for veterans:

- aids and appliances through the Rehabilitation Appliance Program
- Veterans' and Veterans' Families Counselling Service – a program for Australian veterans, peacekeepers and their families. Contact 1800 011 046
- Veterans' Access Network – a network of regional offices throughout Australia. This network can give information, support and assistance on DVA services and entitlements. Contact 1800 113 304.

### *What happens to your pension when you die?*

Although it is not a topic that is easy to discuss, it may assist your family if you are aware of what happens to your pension after you die, like finding out what benefits may be available to them. Your pension is only payable to you during your lifetime.

### *What happens when you die?*

Gather important documents such as a Will, birth and marriage certificates and death certificate (when it becomes available). Gather identity documents. Please let your family know they must contact DFRDB following your death so we can cease your pension and avoid overpayments.

Your spouse may be eligible to receive a portion of your pension after your death. If you are survived by a child or orphan they may be eligible to receive a portion of your pension. Depending on the number of years your pension has been paid prior to your death and if there are no eligible dependants, a lump sum benefit may be payable to your estate. DFRDB: dfrdb.gov.au

DVA has advised it will pay for treatment for eligible veterans with diagnosed PTSD, anxiety or depression without the need to establish that his or her mental health condition is related to service. If you have any injury or illness that may be related to your service, you should contact DVA as soon as possible.

DVA: dva.gov.au 133 254 or 1800 555 254

## RINGO VOL 2 NO 16. OCTOBER 1967

### **Battalion Birthday Address by Brig Stuart Graham<sup>5</sup>**

First may I thank Colonel Charlesworth and through him the Battalion to have given me the privilege of reviewing the Battalion on this its 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Also may I congratulate you on the standard of dress, bearing and marching you have managed to achieve under pretty difficult conditions. It is quite clear that you don't only know how to fight, you have also not forgotten how to drill.

This Battalion was formed 22 years ago in 1945 from a number of very famous units which had made a name for themselves in World War II, and in one way it's a little bit wrong to say that it is its birthday. It had in fact been in existence in one form or another before that.

It was formed for the occupation of Japan after a very long and bitter war, and (as) is so often the case, of course, at that stage we were all looking at the enemy who had already been defeated rather than the one we were going to have to worry about next. And while we were in Japan, the Communists proceeded to take over mainland China. And when that was almost complete in 1948 they launched a series of Communist uprisings throughout the whole of Asia - in Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaya and of course the fighting flared up here in VIETNAM.

In 1949, the Communists finally got complete control in China and that was followed by this country and thereafter very rapidly by the Korean War, and since those days this part of the World has not known any peace, and the 2nd Battalion has been intimately concerned with all these events. In fact, I think it has spent nearly half its existence in this part of the world.

I mention these things on the Battalion birthday purely to impress upon you, if any of you need impressing, that this war in which we are engaged at the moment is not just something which has suddenly occurred. It has been carefully planned and building up for a long time, and I'm afraid it will probably go on for some time to come.

I wish to make this point because one reads from time to time that this is none of our business, we shouldn't be here and so on and so on. Certainly, from my point of view, we have every right to be here and we should be here. What happens in this country will determine what happens to you, your country and your children for a long time to come.

It's been a great honour for me to have commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, and having done that, a pleasurable surprise to command the Task Force in which the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion should now be serving. This is somewhat of a unique privilege for me I think. There is no question this is a good Battalion. It can handle anything it may be given to do.

I think it appropriate also on the birthday to remember those of our comrades who are no longer with us. And probably some of us who are here on parade today owe the fact that we are here (due) to those who are not with us. I can only hope that their relatives can derive some consolidation from the fact that what they were doing here, and what they tried to do, was worthwhile. For the rest of your tour I wish you good fortune. You have the skill, you have the training and you have the leadership. But these things also require a little luck to go with them sometimes, and that luck I wish you.

For those of you who will be leaving the Army at the end of your tour, I hope, and I'm sure in fact, that in years to come when you look back on your service, you will agree you got something more from it than the prickly heat and field punishment. And for those of you who are staying in the Army the best I can say, and I sincerely hope, I serve with you again. The best of good luck, and may your future birthdays be spent in a better world.

<sup>5</sup> Address given by the Comd of 1ATF by Brig Stuart Graham, on the occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday of 2RAR at Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam.



## FAREWELL: VIC WINKLER

It was a fine sunny mild day when we farewelled Vic Winkler. The church was filled with family, friends and old comrades. It was a really good turnout of former comrades. Over 90% of them were NSM, and were 50/50 ex-2RAR and Vic's mates post SVN whom he met in rehab or socially.



At Vic's Funeral: Terry Dinneen, Tiffany Young & Max Ingles

Max Ingles represented us and gave the congregation details of Vic's short military service and support for the Battalion Association over the last five decades.

Vic is irreplaceable and we have another blank file in our ranks that cannot be filled. This is the first time my now fading battalion flag has been used for such an occasion.

## VALE: JIM MONTEATH

I first met Jim Monteath at Enoggera in 1965-66 in our shared officers' mess when I was OC C Coy 6RAR and he was in 2RAR. Later as OC C Coy 2RAR in Vietnam 1967 his company occupied the same lines that my men and I had set up during 1966-67.

In 1968 Jim and I were at Staff College and lived in the mess, both being single.

I again knew him in Sydney when he was on the General Staff at Eastern Command and handled the evacuation of VIPs attending the CHOGM Regional Meeting to the Blue Mountains following the Hilton bombing incident on 13 February 1978. In that incident three persons in the street including a policeman had been killed and eleven others injured.

Jim was a fine officer and a good friend and I am saddened to hear of his death.

Brian McFarlane  
East Bowral, Vic

A humble, unpretentious and articulate man, Jim loved his soldiers and always saw the best in them. He gave everyone a fair go. As a boss I couldn't have had better. He taught and guided me with great patience; he forgave me of my sins on many occasions and we became life-long friends.

His early departure from Vietnam was a blow to all in C Coy 2RAR; we missed him greatly and as he said to me years later, it hurt him very much to leave his soldiers behind; he felt a responsibility to lead them home.

I had intended seeing him in a couple of weeks' time, when visiting Perth. Sadly this is no longer possible. May 'gentleman' Jim rest in peace.

I will miss him and so will most who have been fortunate to know him; a great man and a damned good officer.

John George  
Cherrybrook, NSW

## SNIPPETS

- I was saddened to learn yesterday from Margaret Gibbons of the death of Peg Williams, the wife of my RSM, Len Williams. John Church, CO 2RAR 1968-71
- Memories of Korea linger: This day & days previous, are remembered for old mates. To be able to get up out of the trenches, away from the mud, the stench, the rats & their diseases, the feral pigs, foraging & rattling the barbed wire at night. Away from the Chinese & Mongolians with bad attitudes & harassing mortars. Back to clean socks, underwear & hot showers, every day. To sit on a chair at a table & eat a meal off a plate. Ron (Pappy) Walker
- I am so pleased to see Margaret and Kiwi Gibbons acknowledged for their many years of dedication to the National Memorial Walk, at Enoggera. In appreciation. Olwyn Green. (Widow of CO 3RAR, KIA Korea) *Well done RARA (Qld). Ed.*
- Correction: WO1 Keith Dobson lead the Adelaide ANZAC Day March as reported in the April edition of RINGO. Unfortunately our July edition, on page 5, had erroneously given Ray Baldwin that honour. *Our apologies to both members! Ed.*
- I've just been going through the latest edition and noticed an error. In the ANZAC Day photo titled "Somewhere, out there", it has Arthur Francis as Aslt Pnr Sgt 1970-71; Les Dennert was the Pnr Sgt then. Arthur was the Anti-Tank PI Sgt. Anyway RINGO is a good read. Keep it up. Ray Johnson
- John Schumann donated the artists' royalties of 'I Was Only 19' to the VVAA's Agent Orange Royal Commission fund. It was a most generous act. Now he's doing it again for the younger diggers. He's donating the royalties from 'On Every Anzac Day' to Trojan's Trek, a wilderness-based program for veterans suffering from PTSD. Read about [Trojan's Trek](#).<sup>6</sup>
- At the cemetery for Vic Winkler's internment, we were close enough to overhear a conversation between 2 younger women: 'It's amazing how they stick together and support each other after all these years'. I responded 'They had to, their lives depended on it'. To which they agreed. Terry Dinneen
- I was recently cleaning out some junk & came across a copy of RINGO February 1971 edition. "I hope you can use some of the material in the excellent publications you guys make available to us & perhaps it could end up on display somewhere appropriate." Ross Britt. *Thanks Ross, your edition is now in our library. Ed.*
- A Commemorative Service for LCpl Peter McDuff 11 PI D Coy 2RAR 1967 is to be held at Darlington Point NSW on Friday 22 April 2016 commencing at 10:00am. Peter McDuff, together with Stan Radomi and Dennis Nelson, were killed on 28 September 1967 in the rocket incident at Nui Dat. An open invitation is extended to members of 2RAR first tour especially members of D Coy. This is the final commemorative service for members of D Coy killed during 1967-1968. Aub Terry, Bob Pink, Arthur MacDonald
- One day in 1966 when training at Inf Centre Ingleburn, NSW Cpl Taffy Burt gave us diggers a lesson on the SLR. We were inside a WW2 era hut of poor repair. At one point during the lesson Taffy stepped back and fell through the floor. Having climbed out, he said: "Gentlemen, you will have noticed I did not let go of the weapon." I still remember that lesson. Rick Hollingdrake

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.trojanstrek.com/>

## THE DELTA COMPANY PHOTO

### D Coy 2RAR SVN 1967-68

Barry Bennett of 10 Platoon wrote a poem about The Company Photo in December 2010. A good effort and quite fitting. Not many companies have one similar.

Tom Young and several others tried to reconstruct the Company Manning Chart at one of our reunions and we did not succeed. We then stumbled onto the Casualty List and that together with the Nominal Roll for Vietnam Veterans gave us a lot more information, but not who was in which section and platoon when.

### REMEMBERING VIETNAM



*Pte Bob Lee-Sye of Townsville, Qld (left), and Pte Errol Cavanagh of Taree, NSW. Operation Atherton 1967*

We did learn however that D Coy had about 200 on its Roll Book during the nine months it existed in South Vietnam. It was disbanded in March 1968 and its personnel were distributed mainly to the other three Australian rifle companies.

The normal strength of a rifle company all up was 120. That means D Coy had 100 replacements during the period it operated. 50% or half of those were replacements for those whose time was up, normally National Service Men. About the end of each quarter those NSM whose time was up went home, unless they signed on.

The remaining 50 were casualties, were either KIA, WIA or too sick or too seriously injured to recover in country. Of those 50 casualties 35 occurred in the months August and September 1967. The remaining 15 were spread out over the other seven months, i.e. on average one casualty per fortnight. That could be considered acceptable level under the circumstances. However the 35 in two months, i.e. on average more than one every second day is rather high.

The casualties did not occur regularly. The mines and Rocket Incident caused multiple casualties with varying length of intervals in between.

Now the photo was probably taken after Op Kenmore which finished on the 11th October and before the Battalion Birthday 16th October. A platoon was missing from the photo as they were manning the FDLS and/or patrolling the TAOR. There are 96 in the photo so 24 were elsewhere. 80% of the Company were present in the photo. Bob Blair has named all of us in the photo and only two names have doubled up. So the names are nearly 100% correct.

Barry in his poem declares that we are thinking of home and perhaps all or most of us were. As the statistical information above was not available to Barry when he wrote the poem he could not have known that we were probably 'shell shocked' at the time, but we did not know it then, and even if we had known it, none of us would have admitted to it, and some of us won't admit it, even now. Such is the nature of the beast.

Terry Dinneen  
Winmalee, NSW

## THE COMPANY PHOTO

There's a photo in that album, taken up in Vietnam.  
A Company of soldiers. A moment captured by the cam.  
None of us is smiling. Not got much to smile about  
Ranks are thinned, some gone to God, and some Conscripts  
flown out.

Lean and hungry hunting dogs, waiting to patrol again  
To combat with the VC, sweat and mud and constant rain.  
While the Posties and the Wharfies all treat us with  
contempt.

They reckon ammo, food and mail, stuff to which we are  
exempt.

Each day we do our duty, Reaper waiting in the wings.  
Safe at home, some folk deride us with hateful words that  
sting.  
So we're staring past the camera, eyes focused out in  
space.  
Across the miles of ocean, searching for a loved one's face.

And we ache as we remember  
Thursday 28 September  
Ten of ours were wounded and three mates died that day  
Lost. Because a rocket from a Huey went astray.

Barry Bennett  
Castaways Beach, Qld  
© September 2015

### VALE: KEVIN (DOC) SIMMONS OAM

I remember Kevin well from my B Coy days 1967/68. Smithy and I knew Doc quite well being with him on PI HQ. Doc was the 5 PI medic and highly respected. I think I only saw him once after we came back when he attended part of the Platoon reunion at Sandgate, Qld.

He corps transferred post-Vietnam and we both ended up in RMC Band; and he was arguably one of the finest Tuba players we ever had in RAE Band. He was also my intake at the Army Apprentice School and one of only 5 enlisted musicians to graduate in 1964. A few years after Vietnam, I think he married the QMS's daughter. The world will be a sadder place without that mischievous smile. *Thanks: Keith Walker, Ted Harley, Kevin Noon (AABC Assoc.), Eric Pearson, & Rod Newham*

### ABOUT: STEVEN "SIMMO" SIMPSON

It is lunchtime, Monday 29 June at the RSL St Marys NSW. Colin Campbell and his wife Helen, who drove up from Canberra, Graham Edwards, Terry Dinneen, 'Jock' Kennedy and Lorraine Simpson, widow of 'Simmo' Simpson who passed away several years ago, were present.

Most of us had never met Simmo who along with several others from 1ARU were re-posted to 6 Tp 3 Cav the same day they arrived in 2RAR at Nui Dat in 1967.

We were gathered there to tell Lorraine a little about what Simmo did in Vietnam nearly 50 years ago. He had never told his family anything about it. Lorraine has consistently marched with 2RAR on Anzac Day in Sydney.

Colin Campbell, the author of *More Bang for No Bucks*, the story of 6 Tp gave Lorraine an insight into Simmo's tour before presenting her with a copy of his book. Col was the Tp Comd, 6 Tp at the time.

Lorraine was thrilled and could not wait to return home to read the book and to inform her now grown-up children of what their father did in Vietnam a long time ago. Simmo gets a good run in the book.

*Duty First, (the magazine) Autumn 2011 Vol 10 No 3, also has an article on 6Tp. Both the book and the article are well worth a read as they record a unique piece of the Battalion's history. Thanks to fellows like Simmo and their Ironside Sunray Col Campbell.*

Terry Dinneen  
Winmalee, NSW

## DROP SHORTS

### MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES

#### 27330 Major William Kenneth CARTER <sup>7</sup>

Major William Carter graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea on 12 June 1953, and after several regimental and staff appointments was posted to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on 20 December 1965. Major Carter arrived in South Vietnam on 30 May 1967, as Officer Commanding B Company.

On 24 January 1968, B Company was deployed with the remainder of the Battalion on Operation Coburg in Bien Hoa Province. On 26 January 1968, Major Carter's Company made contact with a large number of enemy entrenched in a base camp. The company sustained some casualties in the initial contact. Major Carter calmly assessed the situation and after completing a reconnaissance under enemy fire, he deployed his platoons in such a way as to force the enemy to withdraw leaving their dead and wounded behind. Over the next few days Major Carter's Company had a series of minor contacts killing a further five enemy. At 1030 hours on 31 January 1968, B Company made a further contact with an estimated enemy Company, well entrenched in a base camp. More Australian casualties were sustained and again under sporadic enemy fire Major Carter carried out a personal reconnaissance. He initiated the first phase of the assault and skilfully employed his other Platoons in such a way that twenty three occupied enemy bunkers were attacked with grenades, killing or wounding the enemy in these emplacements. He then organised the withdrawal and evacuation of his own casualties, having inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and causing their subsequent withdrawal.

On all other operations conducted by the Battalion, Major Carter showed the same cool, skilful application to the task in hand. His personal bravery, outstanding leadership and single mindedness have been an inspiration to his men and an example to all who have served with him. Major Carter has conducted himself in the highest traditions of his profession. His actions have been a great credit to himself, his Battalion and the Australian Forces in Vietnam.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Final Battle of The HOOK <sup>8</sup>

A short memo to let you know that my health has deteriorated these last few months and I now find it difficult to get about the way I used to. As usual I shall be pleased if you will kindly please pass on to all Association members my best wishes for the coming (62<sup>nd</sup>) Anniversary of the Final battle of The Hook.

I shall endeavour to keep you informed from time to time.

Col Peter Childs, MC  
Teignmouth, UK

## QUOTATION

*"The Malayan campaign was a small one, averaging around ten or twelve allied battalions, pitched against an elusive enemy in the unfriendly, thick jungles of the Malayan hinterland.*

*The communist forces consisted of fifteen fighting regiments, and these were the main core, uniformed army. The Min Yuen or Peoples Movement, was the underground "masses organisation".*

*The Min Yuen provided food, funds, clothing, medical supplies, recruits and intelligence to the fighting regiments."* <sup>9</sup>

## MALAYA: AN INDIVIDUAL VIEW

### Warrant Officer Class One Wally Thompson OAM <sup>10 11</sup>

Over my years in the Regiment there have not only been many personalities and many humorous incidents, but a lot of history and enormous changes. For instance when I joined in 1954, the enlistment period for the majority was a six-year engagement. The training was for limited warfare for operations in Korea and emphasised skills such as defence routine and fighting patrols. During this period there were no functional commands and all Infantry Corp Training was conducted at Ingleburn at 4 RAR (Depot Battalion) which was in itself a training unit.

Trucks were a rare sight at this time. We would march to and from our training area which was Ingleburn to Broken Bridge (now Holsworthy Training Area). The longest march was from Tianjara (near Nowra) to Ingleburn. Obviously foot hygiene was high on our list of priorities. The use of Condis crystals for foot baths to harden our feet made us purple-footed soldiers. Leave was not automatic on Saturday. Saturday mornings were spent doing 'make and mend', area maintenance or a battalion parade followed by church parade. Even then leave only came if we passed inspection. Uniform was KDs with RAR flash, black shoes and a correct bash in slouch hat. (Our company was 'Archie Dennis' bash.)

Although I was on posting to Japan (Korea) my posting orders were changed and I joined 2 RAR, which was warned out to become part of 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group, which was to be part of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve. This was the period of the Domino Theory; Communists were expected to overrun the countries of South East Asia.

Enoggera, where 2RAR was based at this time, was considered to be our premier barracks for infantry battalions. It not only had its own close-training area, but also a rifle range. The emphasis in training was now switched to jungle techniques. The battalion had a major role in the re-opening of the Jungle Training Centre (now the Land Warfare Centre). We not only helped rebuild the centre, but were the first troops to be trained at it.

Prior to our departure for Malaya we received our colours from Field Marshal Slim, being the first battalion of RAR to do so. We paraded through the Brisbane streets in summer in Ceremonial Blues. Our tracker dogs were also on parade.

We sailed to Malaya on SS Georgic in October 1955, arriving in KDs. We were issued with British clothing and equipment, a new style of webbing 1944 pattern, the jungle boot, which had rubber soles and canvas tops, and hockey boots to wear at night to allow feet to air. This was our introduction to the bush hat, which many people incorrectly think was of Australian origin.

Our platoon weapons included the Bren gun, the Owen gun, the British No.5 Short Barrelled Lee Enfield rifle (jungle carbine) and a shotgun, used by one of the scouts. We also had the M1 carbine and carried M36 and 80 WP grenades. Later we were issued with the then new 7.62 mm SLR, one per section, for familiarisation. With this hotchpotch of weapons, we had constant bush work, which concentrated mainly in company AOs, moving into platoon patrol bases and section patrols.

Operating in primary jungle with a hostile enemy for the first time can be quite frightening. During the day the only animals one would usually disturb would be monkeys and when disturbed they are very noisy and clumsy in their

<sup>7</sup> Vietnam veterans : honours and awards, Army / by Alexander M. Palmer, © 1995

<sup>8</sup> Capt Peter Childs was the 'CRA authorized' FOO with C Coy on Hill 121 Korea during the final battle of The HOOK.

<sup>9</sup> The Malayan Emergency. A brief history of Australian involvement in a Jungle War. By Ray Alcorn © 1990

<sup>10</sup> Duty First: The Royal Australian Regiment in War and Peace. Edited by David Horner © 1990 (First edition) Page 406-409

<sup>11</sup> RSM-A Wally Thompson OAM Jan 83 to Jan 87. Another veteran of 2RAR was appointed RSM-A: Arthur Francis CSC, OAM Dec 93 to Dec 96



movement. Otherwise the day was very quiet, making movement very cautious and slow.

But approaching last light the jungle comes alive with every conceivable noise. Thousands of insects (or so it seems), including 'the dreaded mossie', swarm to attack any unprotected portion of the body. Large and small animals make their way towards the water and to search out food. These animals do not move as quietly as one is led to believe. This contrast of noise lasts until just after last light when the fireflies become visible. Then the absolute blackness descends upon you, broken only by the continuous crescendo of chirps, whistles, hoots and shrieks. This noise, however, did not deter one from sleeping—a sleep induced by the utter exhaustion from the day's patrolling, which made one oblivious to the possibility of being bitten by a scorpion, centipede, snake, spider or countless other creepy-crawlies. In retrospect, I believe the one main flaw in our training was that we did not attend the FARELF Jungle Warfare School. Although Canungra gave us training in jungle techniques, it did not include the type of operations we were to encounter against CTs.

The Diggers of this period were generally older than present-day soldiers. In our platoon, we had two Second World War Diggers and a large number of Korean veterans, and in many cases they were not interested in attaining rank. This gave the younger soldier, who was willing to accept the challenge, the opportunity to gain rank more quickly. This period produced extremely capable, competent and professional junior NCOs, who could look after their sections in isolation and who became experts in patrolling and navigation. These young soldiers went on to become the nucleus and solid base of our expansion for the later conflict in Vietnam.

As well as 44 pattern equipment, we were issued with 1/2 tents and lightweight blankets, and these produced a great variety of sleeping arrangements. Copying from the CTs, we produced plastic tents; 'Li Los' were brought to keep us up off the ground, and parachute resupplies (although parachutes were accountable there was always one damaged) often became lightweight sleeping bags. Equipment used today is the result of some of these ideas.

During the Malayan Emergency we were not only involved in intensive patrolling operations but also took part in 'food denials' to the local population. This involved gate checks of locals and vehicles and was not a task enjoyed by the soldiers, who considered it more a police action than a military duty. During this time the Australian soldier was first introduced to rice and curry powder in his ration pack. These packs had a breakfast and light lunch to be eaten on patrol and the main meal in the evening, when time was available to cook the rice. Many soldiers soon began to complement these meals with onions and potatoes. When one visiting British officer asked a Digger how he cooked his midday meal, the reply was 'who ever heard of cooking a bloody Mars Bar?' On another occasion, a visiting VIP, when enquiring about our rations, asked the question, replied and concurred with his own reply saying 'How's the grub', 'Grub good?', 'That's good' and then moved onto the next group without waiting for a reply.

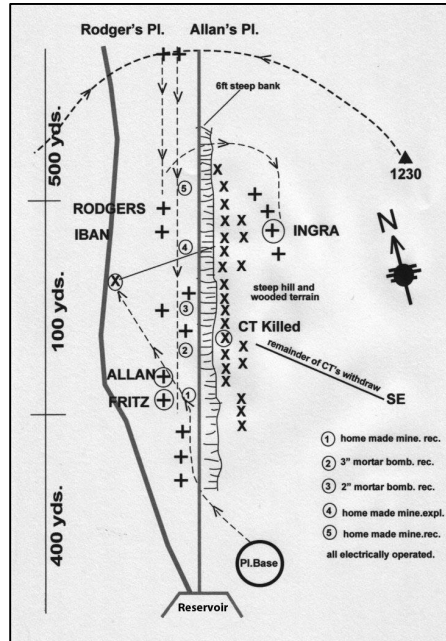
It was impressed upon us that we were not only soldiers but ambassadors of our country and that being the case, very strict, and unreasonable restrictions were placed on the soldier when he was on leave. There were the normal 'out-of-bounds' areas which were clearly signposted, and naturally were immediately ignored by all. It was a chargeable offence to ride in a trishaw and many were charged. With the going down of the sun, sleeves must come down and a tie be worn—rather alien to most Australian soldiers. The reason given—an anti-malarial precaution!

This was a unique period for the Australian Army; to be on operational service and accompanied by families.

## THE PIPELINE AMBUSH

By Graeme Hardiman<sup>12</sup>

The pipeline ambush occurred on 22 June 1956 at approximately 1445 hrs. 1PI A Coy, consisting of one 5 man patrol under the command of Cpl JN Allan, one 6 man patrol under the command of Cpl LH Rodgers and PI Comd Lt AW Campbell with 2 men were carrying out duties in the Sungei Siput area. Both patrols met on the pipeline at VJ 877970 approximately 100 yards inside the jungle edge from the rubber in Lombong Division of the Heawood Estate.



That day both patrols had carried out sweeps from the patrol base at the reservoir at VJ 871963 to the jungle edge searching for CT sign and likely SF ambush positions. Rodgers patrol had searched in an area to the west of the Sungei Bemban and Allan's patrol to the east.

At approximately 1500 hrs Allan's patrol moved off SW along the track beside the pipeline to return to the patrol base at the reservoir.

At about 10 minutes later he was ambushed at VJ 874 968. The area of the ambush was along the line of the track running between the Sungei Bemban and the pipeline. The ambush position itself was located on steep ground (6 foot rise) in dense undergrowth overlooking the track.

The ambush position contained 23 prepared fire positions, 12 to 18 inches deep, spread over a distance of approximately 100 yards. The track through the ambush was mined, 3 home-made bombs and a 3\" and 2\" mortar bomb, all electrically fired. In addition all positions were connected by rattan vines for communication.

The ambush was sprung by a land mine and automatic fire from Sten and Thompson SMG's. Most of Allan's 5 man patrol were thrown to the ground by the explosion but no fatal casualties were initially sustained by the explosion. The patrol scattered into fire positions beside the track. Corporal Allan was killed by automatic fire while making a dash across the track to a better fire position.

Although mortally wounded, Pte GC Fritz fired three magazines (30 rounds) from his OMC at the CTs before he died. The remainder of the patrol, although pinned down, returned the fire of the CTs. Pte LA Pennant, the Bren gunner, although blown over initially by the mine blast and blown off his feet a second time by CT grenade, kept his LMG in action and continued to rake the ambush position. During this initial engagement the patrol did not see the CTs who were extremely well camouflaged in dense undergrowth.

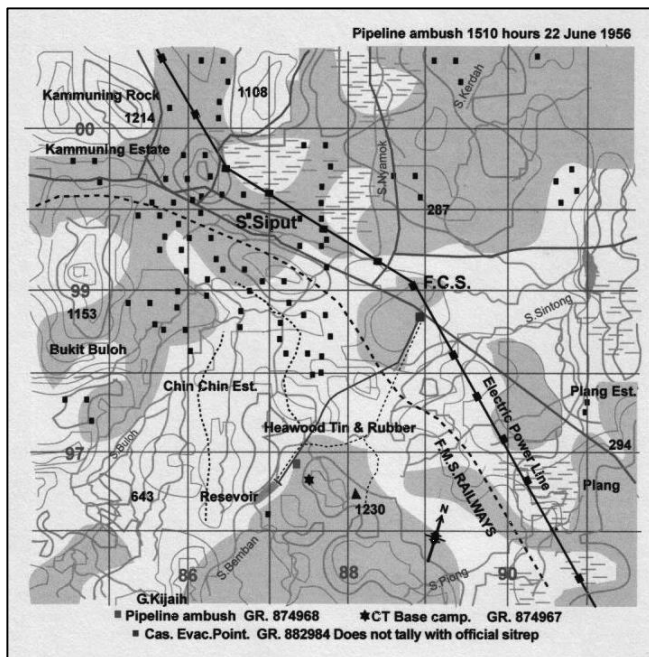
The fire returned by the patrol in fact was directed at where the CT's fire was coming from. The CTs talked and shouted amongst themselves and a further group were heard to come from an area north of the ambush. During the time this patrol was pinned down the two other groups moved on the

<sup>12</sup> Graeme Hardiman served with Aslt Pnr PI 2RAR 1955-57.

sound of firing. Cpl Rodger's patrol doubled up along the track from the NE and the PI Comd Lt Campbell with two men, doubled down from the patrol base 400 yards away from the SW.

Cpl Rodgers moved his patrol along the track toward the sound of firing and was fired on by the flank of the ambush approx. 50 yards NE from where Cpl Allan's patrol was pinned. Rodgers, with an Iban Pte BA Musa were initially pinned down, but they charged the CT position having sent the remainder to assault from the NE flank. Both Rodgers and the Iban were wounded, Rodgers in the arm and the Iban in the leg. The flank assault commanded by Pte Falk with three men, was carried out and Pte CC Ingra was killed in the assault. The CT who killed Ingra was seen to move toward the Sungei Bemban.

He appeared to be the cut-off man and had been wounded in the engagement. Pte Falk shot 1 CT in the chest at 5 to 10 yards range. The flank party got into fire positions above the ambush positions and poured LMG, SMG and rifle fire down into the position.



At the same time Lt Campbell with two men moved NE down the track and sighted a group of CT's moving off the track and move toward the Sungei Bemban. Campbell's party was then engaged by three weapons from unseen CTs in the ambush position and returned the fire. After Campbell had hurled two grenades at where this firing was coming from, the CTs ceased firing and moved off. Following a series of whistle blasts from the ambush position, 6 CTs ran down across the track and pipeline and into the scrub towards the river. It was later discovered that the remainder of the CTs vacated the ambush in a SE direction.

Campbell and his two men then swept toward the river where they located and killed one CT and recovered one Thompson SMG. At this stage another small patrol of 6 men, which had also moved from its patrol area SW of the Reservoir joined Campbell's party. Campbell regrouped and searched the area. Security Force dead and wounded were immediately evacuated to RV at the road/pipeline junction.

[Comments by CO 2RAR: The area selected by the CTs for the ambush was extremely well sighted and left very little room for the SF to manoeuvre. The ambush was very carefully planned with the intention of allowing the whole of a SF patrol to enter the killing area before it was sprung. In the event the CT plan miscarried, owing to the presence of a follow up section of 1 PI, who although themselves fired upon by the more northerly element of the ambush party were able to execute a flanking movement. By this time the CTs had lost the element of surprise. By determined action on the part of the ambushed parties and a willingness to stand and fight, not only were casualties inflicted on the CTs, and weapons and equipment captured but no losses of material or weapons suffered by the patrols. Sitrep 2 July 1956 2 RAR Admin Comd.]

## BILL ROLFE: CANBERRA LEGACY CHIEF

Bill Rolfe, the president of Canberra's 87-year-old Legacy branch, clearly remembers lying in a bed at the Ingleburn Military Hospital wondering what he was going to do with the rest of his life.

It was 1970 and the then 24-year-old army lieutenant had just had both legs amputated below the knee after being badly wounded in a booby trapped bunker in Vietnam.

"I'd never really thought about what would happen if I was wounded," he said. "At that age you think you are bulletproof."

The reality, that his army career might be over, hit home when a mate looked him over and said: "Well Bill, you're too short for the infantry".

Mr Rolfe's second good break came when the army, aware it had spent big dollars putting him through Duntroon, decided he was a keeper. It sent him to the Australian National University where he studied law and joined the Army Legal Corps. His first good break had been getting out of the bunker alive.

"We had been patrolling in Phuoc Tuy province," he said.

"We located a bunker system and mounted a quick assault. It was abandoned but had been left booby trapped."

A hidden bomb exploded, catching four men in the blast. Mr Rolfe and two others were badly wounded but survived. The fourth man did not.

"[Despite what happened to me] I was lucky," he said. "I came home. Many others did not."

This sentiment has always been the heart of the Legacy ethos.

Mr Rolfe, who retired from the army as a brigadier in 1997 to work for the Department of Veterans Affairs, does not use his title because ranks do not matter in Legacy.

"For me the terrible thing [in 1970] was leaving the men I had trained with and fought with; the men who got me out," he said.

"We had a reunion recently. We were talking about how we looked after each other then and still look after each other now. We were living Legacy values long before [any of us] joined it.

"Legacy is the formal recognition of the obligation every soldier feels [towards their mates and their mate's loved ones]. It does not create that obligation."

## INDIGENOUS ELDER: 'ZEKE' MUNDINE, OAM MID <sup>13</sup>

On Anzac Day 1969, Roy 'Zeke' Mundine was on an operation with 5RAR in Phuoc Tuy Province, Vietnam. While moving forward to clear a bunker system, Roy tripped a mine. 'I was engulfed by a huge explosion', he says, 'then realized my leg was in tatters'. He continued to direct his troops but later lost the leg. Following that incident Roy was Mentioned in Despatches (MID).

Roy is a Bundjalung man and was born in Baryulgil in New South Wales. After joining the Army in 1958 he enjoyed a long and distinguished career including active service during the Malayan Emergency and two tours in Vietnam. He had many postings including as an instructor at RMC, Duntroon.

On 17 April 2015, Roy was appointed the first Indigenous Elder of the Australian Army by Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison AO.

Roy will represent serving and ex-serving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island personnel, advise Army's senior leadership, and participate in events of Indigenous significance.

Well done Zeke! Ed.

<sup>13</sup> Published in the Journal of the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia, Inc. Jun/Jul 2015 edition, Pg 21

## OUR PRESENCE IN MALAYSIA

By Bryan Pannell

### Singapore

It took most of the day to embark the battalion and its families in Sydney and the Flaminia sailed early in the evening. By the time we reached Queensland waters, we had our sea-legs and settled down to a leisurely 10 days sailing to Singapore. When we arrived it took another day to disembark and the families went by train to Malacca in Malaya while the single soldiers and officers stayed at Nee Soon Barracks in Singapore for a few days more. In typical "British Army" style, we officers let the senior NCOs look after the soldiers while we acquainted ourselves with the sights of the city, still in its British Rajah glory. A couple of British Army junior officers took it upon themselves to show us the high and low spots of the colonial outpost.

### Camp Terendak

After a few days, it was time for us, the main body of the Battalion, to go by train to Malacca. This was uneventful but took most of the day with us arriving eventually, at our new barracks at Camp Terendak, to the north of Malacca City on the West Coast of Malaya. The Terendak Garrison Camp was brand new, well laid out and included married quarters, a hospital, a shopping centre, clubs for each of Officers, NCOs and for soldiers and their families. The Garrison comprised the 28th British Commonwealth Brigade of three infantry battalions (one Australian, one New Zealand and one English) an artillery unit, engineers, signallers and service corps personnel. Our area of the Garrison was known as "Canberra Lines" and we planted numerous Australian Gum Trees throughout our unit area. Our new home for the next two years was an idyllic location, perfect for "peace time soldiering". We settled in fairly quickly, with our work times changed to what was commonly termed "Ghurkha Hours". This meant that, because of the tropical heat, we got up early for breakfast, started training early, stopped for lunch about 1.00pm then after lunch, we all had a siesta for a couple of hours then played organized sport until 4.00pm or so.

Becoming acclimatized to the tropics was the main priority in the first few weeks so little unit training was under taken. As a Platoon Commander, my responsibility was to ensure my men were fit and that their weapon handling skills were first class. We had one new weapon to master which didn't take too much effort at all. The unit's weapons were supplied by the British Army and therefore all the Yank gear we had been issued with remained in Australia and we were issued with new "44 Pattern" web equipment and British weapons.

The standard NATO 7.62mm SLR rifle, 9mm Sterling Sub-machine gun (similar to our Owen Gun) and a 7.62mm "Bren" Light Machine Gun, just like we used to have before the US GPMG was introduced to us in Australia. Back to normal, thank God for that. Normally, Platoon Commanders carried a sub-machine gun as their personal weapon however I chose to carry an SLR on exercises and later, on operations. The basic reason for this was that I had always been a reasonable shot with a rifle and I considered that in a tight spot, I would be more use with a rifle than with a short range weapon. Thankfully, I was never tested in this regard. (More anecdotes (Kota Tingi) from Bryan Pannell in December. 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.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION,

### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2015

#### Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of 2RAR Association, Inc is to be held at 0830 hours Saturday 31st October 2015 in the 'ANZAC Room' Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL Sub Branch, Level 2, Twin Towns Resort.

**Note:** The Club operates on Queensland time, not NSW daylight saving time.

Members attending are asked to arrive at 0800 hours and check their financial status. Only financial members are permitted to vote or stand for election.

Notice is also given that all Committee positions will be declared vacant. If you wish to nominate yourself or another person for a position on the Committee, contact the Secretary Gordon Hurford: (07) 5443 5583; 2rarsecretary@gmail.com

Listed below are the current Executive and Management Committee positions and incumbents filling those positions.

President .....L. (Leo) Van De Kamp  
Vice President .....Vacant  
Secretary .....G.W. (Gordon) Hurford, AM  
Treasurer .....N.J. (Norm) Devereux  
Committee.....R.W. (Ross) Bimrose  
.....T.E. (Terry) Dinneen  
.....R.J. (Rick) Hollingdrake, OAM  
.....P.T. (Paul) King  
.....A.J. (Arthur) MacDonald  
Immediate Past President.... M.D. (Matt) Rennie, OAM  
Auditor .....Mr P. (Paul) Masters

*Note: K.R. (Kevin) ('Dasher') Dean, OAM is not standing for re-election as Vice President.*

#### Method of Voting

Each financial member present at the meeting shall be entitled to one vote and in the case of equality of votes; the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Voting shall be by show of hands. The First Past the Post method of voting will be used. This means the nominee with the most number of votes for a position wins.

#### Outline Agenda

The outline agenda for the meeting is as follows:

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

Note: Any matters for discussion / notice of motion under General Business must be notified to the Secretary in writing no later than ten days (21st October 2015) before the date of the AGM.

Gordon Hurford, AM  
Secretary

**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
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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	

<b>Package Deal 1</b> Polo shirt & Cap \$73.00 (save \$8.00)	<b>Package Deal 2</b> Sports shirt & Cap \$73.00 (save \$8.00)	<b>Package Deal 3</b> Polo shirt, Cap & Tie \$98.00 (save \$10.00)	<b>Package Deal 4</b> 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