



**25 YEARS EAST TIMOR REUNION: 19-22 Sep 2024**  
**Townsville, QLD**

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**RINGO** is the official newsletter of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association, Inc.

All correspondence is to be addressed to the Association via email at [2rarassoc@gmail.com](mailto:2rarassoc@gmail.com)

**Cover Image:** Map of East Timor/Timor Leste.

*Disclaimer: The objectives of our association are clearly outlined on our website, or available from the Committee on request. In keeping with those objectives, the Committee and the Editor of RINGO will not publish any correspondence or article which is defamatory, insulting, lewd, political, religious, discriminatory, or in the opinion of the Committee or the Editor is otherwise in conflict with the objectives or Committee standards.*

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## ***Passing of a mate***

If you have become aware of anyone who has served in 2 RAR at any time, pass away, please advise the Secretary ASAP so that all members of the Association may be made aware of the situation. Funeral details and a photo are appreciated if known or the Funeral Directors who are handling the funeral. In this way we can keep up the information flow to the membership.

## ***Membership***

Membership fees are due as of 30 Sep each year. The fees are \$20.00 per year, and you can pay 5 years in advance. You can renew membership on the website at [Membership Subscription Form | 2rar-association.net.au](http://Membership Subscription Form | 2rar-association.net.au) and you can pay through PayPal or direct debit. Please advise us if you have changed any of your contact details, particularly your email address. The 2 RAR Association is looking for a new Membership member, please reach out if you wish to assist in this matter.

## Association Report

This year's ANZAC Day Commemoration saw a strong turnout for the 2 RAR Association and we thank all who attended across the country. Our support networks in both Victoria and now in the ACT are beginning to grow and we encourage members in these areas to reach your to your state rep to find out more on activities happening in your area.

Digital Veteran Cards are now being rolled out in the myGov app as a more secure way to access your government issued cards and documents and to keep them in the one digital location.

The 2 RAR Historical collection has had to close to visitors for a period of time due to toxic mould issues within buildings. Rest assured the collection will be reopen in due course bigger and better than ever.

2024 sees a number of reunions with the 2RAR Association running a 25 year East Timor Reunion in Townsville to be held over the period 19-22 Sep 2024. This is open to all veterans who served with 2RAR throughout its many deployments to East Timor/Timor-Leste. We encourage members to book your tickets and join in for what will be a great occasion.

Additionally, those that live in the Canberra region that are unable to travel to Townsville there will be a Government lead Anniversary that will be televised nationally conducted at the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra from 0930 on 20 Sept 2024. Registrations for this service can be done at [dva.gov.au/timor-leste25](http://dva.gov.au/timor-leste25).

A dedication service and opening of a new cenotaph will be conducted at the time of writing this on 07 Jul at Toongabbie Village Green, Vic. All RAR members are invited to attend to honour all those that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Samichon Day will soon be upon us, it will be a good time to remember all those who fought at the Battle of Samichon River including the 5 Australians who were killed and the 24 who were wounded. Korean Veteran's Day is on 27 July, the anniversary of the day when the armistice was signed to end the fighting in Korea.

### 'Second to None'



*'Second to None'*  
**Malcolm Gray**  
President  
2RAR Association, INC

## Significant 2 RAR Dates: May - Aug

**May 1956-Malaya-** 2RAR was redeployed to Perak in early May for OP SHARK NORTH.

**May 1993-Cambodia-** OP GEMINI- United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) begins with 28 soldiers from 2/4RAR deployed with the Force Communications Unit.

**May 2004-Solomon Islands-** OP ANODE- A Coy HQ and 2 PI relieve B Coy elements on the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) as part of the Response Force Company.

**May 2006-Iraq-** OP CATALYST – Al Muthanna Task Group (AMTG 3) & Overwatch Battle Group West (OBGW 1) deploy to Iraq as part of Battle Group Samichon consisting of BHQ and A Coy from 2 RAR.

**05 May 1953-Korea-** On the night of May 05, after a period of intensive 'in country training', the Bn entered the line for the first time in Korea.

**08 May 1946-Japan-** The Composite Bn made up of 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade troops numbering some 680 servicemen under the command of Lt Col Marson, marched through the streets of Tokyo to the main entrance of the Imperial Palace.

**15 May 1970-Vietnam-** 2RAR officially relieved 6RAR and resumed the title of ANZAC Bn.

**19 May 1967-Vietnam-** 2RAR Embarked for Operational service in South Vietnam (First Tour) on HMAS Sydney to serve with the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force at Nui Dat in the Phuoc Tuy Province.

**22 Jun 1956-Malaya-** A five-man patrol was ambushed by communists about 400m North of the Sungei Bemben reservoir. This was the most intense action Australians were engaged in during the Emergency, costing three dead and three wounded. It became known as the "Pipeline ambush".

**24-26 Jul 1953-Korea-** The Battle of Samichon River, 'The Hook' took place.

**Aug 1994-Rwanda-** OP TAMAR – A Coy, 2/4RAR deploy as the Australian Security Company for Australian Medical Support Force to Kigali in Rwanda (ASC 1).

**02 Aug 1949- Australia-** OP COALSTRIKE – 2RAR despatches soldiers to support strike breaking activities by the Australian Government on miners in the Lithgow, Muswellbrook region of NSW.

**15 Aug 1973-Australia-** 2RAR and 4RAR are linked to become 2/4RAR.

**16 Aug 1952-Australia-** 2RAR receives Royal Ascent to form an alliance with the Second Regiment of the Foot Guards, The Coldstream Guards.

# Veteran Stories – SGT Brian Cooper MM

## Hill 111 – Korea, 1953

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*At nineteen years of age, with three stripes on my sleeve, a section of medium machine guns and a dozen men under my command, off I went to war as thousands of boys must have done before me.*

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2RAR was warned to prepare for defence of "The Hook". My section was assigned to occupy Point 111, a small feature to the West from where we could give flanking fire to the forward company on the principal feature. When I went forward to familiarize myself with the tasks and ground, a section of the Kings Regiment had the 111 position with the major defence left to elements of the Turkish Brigade. When I eventually arrived with my section and relieved The Kings, the main defenders were the US Marines.

I believe we arrived on the 8 or 9 July, I had eight gun numbers, two of whom were corporals, a radio operator, a KATCOM (Korean assistant) and a cook located some 600 metres to the rear in a more secure position. About 500 metres to our front was the enemy. The ground between was heavily cratered by shellfire. The forward Australians were some 1100 meters to my right front (north) on the "The Hook" and Hill 121 was to my right flank (east). Between my position and the nearest Australian troops were US Marines, with the rest of the Marine Division extending westward to my left. My position had two machine gun bunkers, with my small command bunker between. The defences were run down. With a single sand bag taken from my bunker wall, I was looking across no man's land.

It was obvious from the frequent rotations and the status of the Marines who came and went that they were resting exhausted troops on Point 111, regarding it as an inactive area. We were well prepared and armed, including 50,000 rounds for the MMGs. We commanded the communication trench system from the rear of the feature to defences on the forward slopes of Point 111. There was no chance to get to know the US Commanders, since they came and went too frequently. Whilst my main task was the defence of "The Hook", a secondary task was to liaise with the Marines about their patrol movements so that clashes of friendly forces could be avoided. The routine was to sleep by day, except my radio operator who rested at night, and repel the enemy at night. Things were relatively quiet, with only an occasional skirmish, until 19 July.

Sunday 19 July, with my regular ammunition re-supply, came a sandbag full of bottles of Scotch whiskey from officers and non-commissioned officers (NCO's) of my Battalion to be exchanged for weapons and equipment from the Americans. Australian Officers and NCO's had a monthly ration of one bottle of Scotch. US troops were dry in the field. I felt bad about what I was expected to do, because it was against US regulations and against what I believed to be right. But I knew that I was a small pawn in the game and outranked by almost all those who sent

booze to trade. The Marines were very keen and would have traded almost anything to get Scotch. The trading was done and we had some extra weapons and equipment.

At last light that night, a heavy bombardment commenced and was followed by an attack on the Marine perimeter. A fierce fire fight followed with the Marine 60mm mortar on a rear position struggling to supply illumination with flares. I got my 2 inch mortar into action from the trench floor firing illuminating flares. The fight was short but spirited; our first hard encounter with the enemy. Some of the wounded Marines ended in my command bunker. One of them was slightly wounded, but had a bottle of whiskey smashed in his hip pocket and his buttock was badly cut with slivers of glass, but surely well sterilized. Routine activities resumed until Friday 24 July.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H08J4565

### Ron Walker and Brian Copper – Korea

Friday 24 July 1953, at last light, a very heavy bombardment of Point 111 commenced and it was obvious that it would be followed by an attack. Subsequent battalion intelligence reports showed the counted incoming enemy artillery pounding Point 111 as 4500 rounds on the night 24/25 July alone. Bunkers and trenches caved in under the concentrated blasting. Barbed wire and mines were neutralized. A number of rounds exploded near the parapet knocking me to the trench floor and wounding Pte Mudford and Corporal Franklin, both of whom were unfit to fight and needed evacuation.



## Hill 111 - cont.

My part of Point 111 came under enemy infantry assault in strength. Just prior to this, some eleven Marines had made their escape back to our position, most of them out of ammunition. We had kept the weapons of the evacuated and dead Marines, which the survivors now eagerly took to continue the fight with. We had also primed box after box of grenades, which were now being furiously thrown at the enemy around us.

I believe that the eleven Marines were the only fit survivors of what must have been 50 at the start of the battle. I also believe that my small area was the only part of Point 111 not in enemy hands and that, as a result, I was in command of the hill and all the friendly forces that fought for it. To a man, we all believed we were destined to die that night, and we were hell bent on taking the enemy with us. A strange thing happened at that time. Despite the danger of the moment, it seemed to occur to all of us at once, that we might die with a man and not know his name. We all made sure that we learnt each unknown man's name, despite the obvious dangers of the battle. Still my machine guns remained steadfastly aimed at "The Hook". We were losing the situation and were completely overrun. Enemy infantry were attacking us on all sides. The only course of action I could see, given that we had some cover and the enemy none, was to use my radio to call friendly artillery fire down upon our own position, I did, and it was delivered with great accuracy and deadly effect.



I repeated that action several times that night until the enemy assault had faltered and broken up. Friendly artillery fired 13500 rounds in that battle and much of it fell on our position. I was personally stressed by the blast that knocked me over. For all I know I was concussed. I was certainly feeling exhausted. The radio was also a stress in one sense since my own unit was constantly after information about the state of the battle for

Point 111. This pressure certainly complicated my ability to appreciate situations and command. I was informed that a company of the Durham Light Infantry was amongst our unit reserves and preparing to counter attack our position should all seem lost, which gave rise to requests for information. There was a real threat of being attacked by friendly troops, on ground unfamiliar to them. During the action and in the dark, a figure moved slowly toward where I was located. The silhouette was unmistakably Asian with a characteristic bandy legged movement. I held a point 45 calibre Colt pistol cocked and ready until his face came in to contact with the muzzle. A panicked voice gave out: "No Sergint! Me SOO." It as Soo Kyo Soong, South Korean Soldier (KATCOM) under my command. I came within an ace of blowing him to kingdom come. I found I was calm, my hand steady. At daylight, the tattered remnants of my command, including Marines, set about looking for wounded comrades.

The Chinese had come to stay and were occupying all strong points by this time. One bunker had a Chinese soldier in it and he was armed and firing, but quite ineffectively. My men tried to coax him out, Pte Cranston suffering grenade fragments to his buttocks; but languages may have confused the messages. My men asked what to do. I ordered them to kill him. His fate was decided by grenades and the Owen gun. We found many corpses; enemy and friendly. The gruesome sight of some live with me forever. Other US Marines arrived before long and used the security of our position, and our 3.5 inch rocket launcher, to commence retaking their lost defences, such as they now were. This was achieved by last light, still under bombardment.

On the night of 25/26 July 1953, the enemy once again mounted a concerted attack on Point 111 and Hill 121, but the weight of artillery fire now given in support and the reserves committed to the battle, meant the enemy infantry assault failed. By then, the Marines were also taking Point 111 more seriously. The enemy body count when daylight came was about 300 on the forward slopes. The war came to end on July 27, about two weeks before my 20th birthday.

The members of this section at Hill 111 were:

SGT Brian Cooper  
CPL Kevin Power  
CPL Ron Walker  
PTE Arthur Tranter  
PTE John Perring  
PTE Kenneth Cranston  
PTE D Hill  
PTE Allen Madgwick  
Also CPL Douglas Franklin (WIA)  
PTE Allen Casey (Section Sig)  
KATCOM - Soo Kyo Soong  
PTE Dan Mudford (WIA)  
PTE H. Mathews

**5/2053 SGT Brian Charles Cooper MM  
(RIP - 1933-2024)**

# Never Leave a Mate Behind

## The Story of 3/10499 Pte William Halliday

William was born on 16 Mar 1927 in Bonnygate, Cupar, Fife, Scotland and travelled to Australia aboard the "SS Australia" from England on 14 May 1951.

Pte Halliday embarked to Malaya with 2RAR's 1<sup>st</sup> tour with C Company and served the full tour from 14 Jul 1955 to 14 Mar 1957 before returning to Australia and discharge from the Australian Army.



Not much is known of Pte Halliday post service until one day his ashes were anonymously handed into a local RSL. His unmarked remains and a collection of old photos were found in a garage at Yarragon in Victoria's east but it was unclear how or when they ended up there.

The mementos that were handed to the sub branch contained ashes of PTE Halliday and what was believed to be his dog Lady, a black and white photo from Williams's time in Malaya and an image of him celebrating Melbourne Cup Day in Hospital.

After months of investigation by Trafalgar-Thorpdale RSL Treasurer Paul Altmore with assistance from Debra Mackeown from Latrobe Regional Health, they were able to ascertain that the belongings were of Pte William Halliday, 2RAR who served in Malaya from 1955-57.

Pte Halliday passed away at Latrobe Regional Health in 2008; he loved the Essendon Football Club, 50s to 70s music, sports and a punt on the horses.

After being discharged from the Army, the former soldier worked as a Tram conductor and as a postie.

Once Mr Altmore had exhausted all efforts to find a living

relative and friend of PTE Halliday then a nationwide wide search was conducted to find the family of the mysterious digger in the hopes to one day give Pte Halliday's ashes to his loved ones so that he could finally be laid to rest.

Unfortunately this search did not lead to fruition, so it was decided that an Internment service for Pte Halliday would be conducted. A modest service hosted by the Trafalgar-Thorpdale RSL, led by President Jim Crowe was conducted at 110hrs on the 16 Apr 2024.

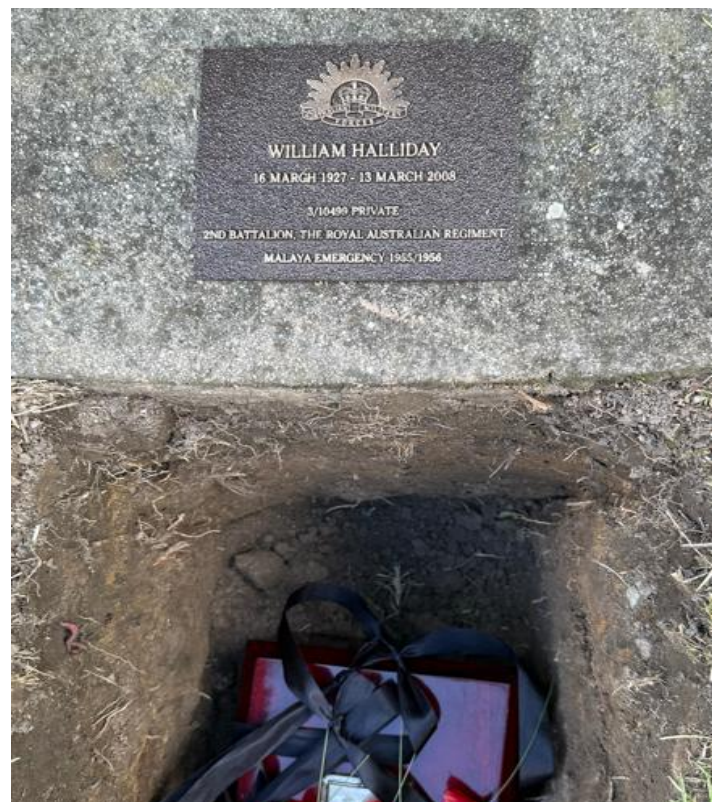
Members from the Latrobe Regional Hospital, VVMC, Warrigal Pipes and Drums and a Bugler plus the RARA Vic branch and other veterans were in attendance to say a final farewell for William.

The service outlined his life and passions and his love for stories from what information was gathered.

Unfortunately none of William's relatives could be found so the veteran community came together to farewell a fellow soldier and was finally able to give Pte Halliday a soldier's funeral.

Gone but never forgotten.

3/10499 PTE William HALLIDAY (May 1927-2008)  
RIP





# TIMOR LESTE – 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Australian-led deployment of the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET).

Before East Timor's referendum for independence from Indonesia in Aug 1999, and after the return of the overwhelming "yes" vote, pro-Indonesian militias unleashed a campaign of violence, murder, arson, looting, and intimidation upon the Timorese people. With the support of the international community, the first Australians from INTERFET arrived in Dili on 20 Sept 1999 with which 2 RAR personnel were a central part.

Australia's involvement in East Timor, from 1999 to the end of 2012, was instrumental in that nation gaining independence. 2RAR has a proud history of service in East Timor/Timor Leste which includes the following tours:

- OP WARDEN – International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) under OP STABILISE – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Group: Sep 1999 - Jan 2000
- OP TANAGER – United Nations Transitional Authority in East Timor (UNTAET) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Group – AUSBAT V: Oct 2001 - Apr 2002
- OP ASTUTE – 2 RAR elements in support of Battle Group Faithful (3 RAR): Apr - Nov 2006
- OP ASTUTE – TLBG 2 – Sniper pair support: Mar - Sep 2007
- OP ASTUTE – TLBG 3 – Battle Group Samichon: Sep 2007 - Mar 2008
- OP ASTUTE – TLBG 6 – Battle Group Samichon: May 2009 - Feb 2010

The 2RAR Association would like to formally invite all veterans of service with 2RAR in East Timor to come together for a reunion from 19-22 Sept to be held in Townsville QLD. This event is open to all veterans from the deployments indicated above. For more information and to book attendance please indicate via the following:

- Reunion: <mailto:2rar.ass.social@gmail.com>
- POC: 0459214186 (Brendan Martin)

## Try booking links for tickets:

- Meet and greet: <https://www.trybooking.com/CRSTW>
- Bus leaving from Rydges Palmer Street Townsville going to 2 RAR and return: <https://www.trybooking.com/CRSUR>
- Back to Battalion Day BBQ: <https://www.trybooking.com/CRSUE>
- Dinner: <https://www.trybooking.com/CRSSW>
- Farewell lunch: <https://www.trybooking.com/CRSVC>



# Warriors Who Have Marched Out

## **310983 Cpl George Harry AVERN**

26Apr 1927-23 Dec 2021

George was born in Swindon, Wiltshire, England. Served in Korea with 2 RAR (17 Mar 1953 – 5 Jan 1954) and in Vietnam 161 Indep Recce Flt (14 Sep 1965 – 7 Sep 1966). George, late of Dinmore Qld passed away in 2021 aged 94 years. 1995 joined 2 RAR Assn (No. 2 G).

## **16341 Cpl Thomas Vincent BURTON**

04 Feb 1937-22 Feb 2024

Tom passed away on 22d February this year. He served for nine years and five months in the Australian Regular Army. He first joined the army when called up for National Service on 18th Aug 1955, serving for five months in the 11th National Service Training Battalion.

Then, in 1961 Tom volunteered for service in the Regular Army. Following recruit training he was allocated to the Infantry Corps and served for three years in infantry battalions, first with 2 RAR, then with 3 RAR. It was here that he was promoted to corporal and his instructional skills were noted, leading to his posting as an instructor at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Recruit Training Battalion, which was raised to meet the needs of the Army as it expanded for its role in the Vietnam War. In December 1965 Tom returned to 2 RAR and in April 1969 he was posted to 8 RAR (Vietnam 17 Nov 1969 – 16 Jul 1970). Tom was a section commander in 9 Platoon, C Company and, as we all know, he was quietly spoken and a real gentleman, and as a leader he proved you didn't have to be a fire-breathing dragon to lead men in battle. His quiet, but firm and reassuring manner ensured he was respected and got the best out of his men. RIP Tom – your duty done! "Behind the Eight Ball" April 2024

## **4720945 Pte William (Bill) George CORNISH**

11 Apr 1949-11 Apr 2024



Bill served in South Vietnam as a National Servicemen with 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn Mortar Pl from 16 May 1970 – 1 Jun 1971. Bill passed away at Greenslopes Hospital, Brisbane QLD, it was his 75th Birthday. There was a gastro outbreak at the nursing home, and he contracted it resulting in internal bleeding. There was no funeral and his ashes will be taken to Adelaide SA for a memorial service. Thanks to Helen Cornish for the information.

## **154339 WO2 Edward (Ted) William CLARK**

23 Aug 1958-26 Jul 2004

Ted enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 1 Mar 1977 and was posted to the Royal Australian Infantry Corp, serving with 1 RAR, 6 RAR, C & SC, 11/28 RWAR, 16 RWAR, 2 RAR (as CQMS B Coy, including operational Deployment to East Timor from 20 Sep 1999 to 10 Jan 2000), 9 RQR and The Pilbara Regiment. Ted served a total of 26 years in the Australian Regular Army. Ted, late of Karratha WA, formerly of Brisbane and Townsville and Maryborough passed away on 26 Jul 2004 and is buried in Laidley Cemetery, Laidley Qld.

## **230745 Pte Ian Malcolm CUTHBERTSON**

10 Feb 1963-07 Jun 2024

Ian served with C Coy 2/4 RAR (11 Jul 1984 – 14 Jan 1985). Ian lost his fight with cancer. A celebration of his life was held at Brighton Lake Golf Club, Moorebank NSW.

## **5/2053 Sgt Brian Charles COOPER, MM**

11 Aug 1933- 15 May 2024



Brian Cooper was born in East Perth, WA, in Aug 1933, and was a painter before enlisting in the Australian Army as an eighteen year old in 1951. Brian served in Korea with 2RAR (17 Mar 1953-06 Apr 1954). In Jul 1953, holding the rank of temporary sergeant, he

received an immediate award of the Military Medal for his gallantry and leadership at Hill 111, a position protecting the Australian lines at The Hook, near the Imjin River in North Korea. After service in Korea, Brian Cooper remained in the Army until 1968, reaching the rank of WO1, and was later prominent in the WA RSL. Brian passed away aged 90. His funeral was held at Pinnaroo Cemetery West Chapel,

## **52396 MAJ Robert (Bob) Ian GEORGE**

13 Jun 1934-08 May 2024



OCS Portsea Class of Dec 1952. 1RTB (1953-55) 4RAR (1955-58), 2RAR (Holsworthy 1958-59), AATTV (original Team member 1962-64, Vietnam 3 Aug 62-30 Oct 63- Dong da, National Training Centre, Phu Bai near Hue, Chief Weapons Committee. 2-6 Aug 63. Observer

2<sup>nd</sup> ARV Division operation), Inf Centre (1964-65), 3TB (1955-67), 2/4RAR Bn 2IC (15 Aug 73-15 Jun 77). Bob had a great career in the Army and was a mentor and legend to the vast majority. He died peacefully in his sleep in Carlyle Gardens, Townsville QLD, aged 89 years, just five weeks short of his target (90<sup>th</sup> Bday) declared to others on ANZAC Day 2024. Bob did not want a funeral and was privately cremated. Farewell George RI, until we all gather in Valhalla. Duty First. A well-respected officer and a gentleman. He will be missed by many. Rest in Peace.

Thanks Dutchy Hemerik, Alan Braby, Merv Dicton & Terry Dinneen

## **2783685 LCpl Ross James HORNE**

14 May 1945-18 Apr 2024



NS. Vietnam: 2PL A Coy 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (19 May 1967-26 Mar 68). Ross passed away on 18 Apr 2024 after a long battle with dementia, aged 78 years. His funeral was held at Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park,

Matraville, NSW. Ross was a long term 2RAR Association Member (No 235).

(Thanks to Gordon Hurford for the information).

## **5716688 Pte Allan James "Jimmy" WILLCOX**

05 Sep 1948-13 Feb 2024

Allan was called up for National Service and posted to 2 RAR Transport Pl Admin Coy. He flew to Vietnam on 28 May 1970 with the Rear Party for the Battalions second tour. Allan RTA on 18 Feb 1971. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and admitted to Palliative Care and sadly passed away on 13 Feb 2024. Jimmy's funeral was held in Merridin WA followed by a private burial with his family only in attendance.

(Thanks to "Rocket" Rod Hooper for the information).



**3789311 Pte William (Jim) "Irish" James LYTTLE**

03 Aug 1945-09 May 2024



NS. Jim was born in Rathfriland Down, Northern Ireland. Served in 5PL B Coy 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn South Vietnam (19 May 67-11 Mar 68). "Irish" passed away from Pulmonary Fibrosis, aged 78 years. Jim's funeral was held at Bunurong

Memorial Park, Dandenong Vic. He had been ill with that condition for over 10 years, so he virtually lived with an oxygen bottle beside him. As you know he was a 'one off' character.

**28483 WO1 Wally Christopher "Jock" MCDONALD**

28 Mar 1935-26 Dec 2002



Wally served in Malaya 2RAR 1961-63 (AACC) And Vietnam as Sgt Caterer, A Coy 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (19 May 1967-13 Jun 1968). He passed away on 26 Dec and was buried in Gregson and weight Buderim Memorial Gardens, Buderim, QLD. Wally had been a

2RAR association member since 1991.

**2794153 Pte Garry Thomas MCDONALD**

8 Oct 1948-19 Nov 2023



Garry, a National Serviceman, serve in Vietnam With 1ARU (20 Aug-09 Sep 1970) before being Posted to 6PL B Coy 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (10 Sep 1970-01 Jun 1971). Late of Beelbanger, NSW, Garry passed away peacefully at the

Griffith Base Hospital on 19 Nov 2023, at the age of 75 years. A Graveside service was held for Garry in the Lawn section of the Griffith Cemetery.

**29534 SSgt Charles Stuart "Mouse" MCLEOD**

20 Aug 1936-13 Sep 2017

Served in 2RAR (no details), Vietnam 5RAR (28 Jan-22 Oct 1969). Assn member (No 357). Charles late of Warrnambool Vic passed Away aged 81 years and is buried in Warrnambool Cemetery, Warrnambool, Vic.

**3788224 Pte Raymond John MOLONEY**

14 May 1945-23 Sep 2023

NS. Raymond was born in Warrnambool, Vic. Served in South Vietnam in 8PL C Coy 2 RAR (10 May-14 Nov 1967). Passed away in Warrnambool aged 78 years and is buried in the Warrnambool Cemetery.

**5714569 Pte Timothy (Smiley) Smyley NELSON**

20 Feb 1946-31 Mar 2024



NS. Tim served in Vietnam with 4 Sect 11PL D Coy 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (19 May 1967-13 Jun 1968) during the Bns first Tour of duty. Tim was an Association member (738). Tim, Late of Darwin, NT passed away after a long

long illness on 31 Mar 2024 at the age of 78. Tim's funeral was held at Darwin Funeral Services, Marrara, NT.

**2786005 Pte James Lawrence (Jim) SHEPHERD**

14 May 1946-26 Mar 2024.

NS. Vietnam: 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1 PI A Coy (13 Nov 1967 – 13 Jun 1968. James, late of Callington SA passed away on 26 March, aged 77+ years, his funeral was held in the Carr Memorial Chapel, Mount Barker SA followed by a committal in the Callington Cemetery.

**2793195 Pte Phillip (Phil) Mervyn SHERD**

07 Feb 1950-17 Jun 2024



NS. Vietnam: 4PL B Coy 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (16 May 1970-01 Jun 1971). Phil passed away in hospital surrounded by family. No funeral details are available.

**2785617 Pte Frederick William (Billy Snow) Leonard SKINNER**

30 Jun 1946-28 May 2024



NS. Vietnam: 8PL C Coy 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (14 Aug 1967-13 Jun 1968). Billy had been fighting a very aggressive cancer, beat it twice but suffered a heart attack and rushed to hospital,

where he passed away peacefully aged 77 years. Bill's funeral was conducted by Mackay Family Funerals, Ourimbah NSW. Bill was the Secretary/Treasurer of the "NAMBUS". He did an awesome job. Rest in Peace Bill, love you like the brother I never had. (Thanks to Bob Meehan ex 4RAR)

**3787036 Pte Donald (Don) "Tubby" Alexander TRELOAR**

30 May 1945-05 Feb 2024

Don was a first intake National Service man, he did recruit Training at 2RTB, Puckapunyal, then Corps Training with 2RAR. In Jan 1966 he joined 2 Sect, &PL, 5RAR, as a rifleman. With 5RAR he deployed to Vietnam aboard HMAS Sydney on 22 Apr 1966. Don continued with 7PL and occasionally operated as the PL's Sig. He returned to Australia on 12 May 1967. Don's funeral service was held at the Kyabram Community Church, Vic.

**3786964 Pte Trevor "Tiger" Allan WALSH**

05 Mar 1945-22 Apr 2024

NS. Vietnam: 1 ARU (6 Feb-11 Mar 1967), 6 RAR (12 Mar-28 May 1967), 2 RAR C Coy (29 May – 15 Aug 1967). Trevor passed away aged 79 years. A Graveside Service was held in his hometown of Koondrook (on The Murray River) Vic. Trevor joined the 2 RAR Assn in 1991.

**2785630 Pte Robert Thomas Frederick "Bobby" WICKES**

15 Apr 1946-31 May 2024



NS: Vietnam: 4 Sect, 5PL, B Coy 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn, South Vietnam (14 Aug 67- 13 Jun 68). Bobby passed away on 31 May, aged 78, he was struggling and agitated and having severe trouble so an

Ambulance was called but they were unable to revive him. Bob's funeral was held at Greenway Chapel and Memorial Gardens, Green Point, NSW. RIP Bobby, we shall miss your cheeky smart wit.

# We Brave Few

## 1800660 Lieutenant Thomas Steven TILBROOK MG Rwanda: 22-23 Apr 1995

Born in country NSW in 1972, Tilbrook grew up in the Blue Mountains before his family relocated to country QLD.

After first dabbling his hand at University, Steve was accepted to attend the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1992 at the age of 19.

Upon completion in Feb 1994, he was then posted into 2/4RAR as a Platoon Commander of 4PI, B Coy. Twelve months later, he would be leading his PI on an operation as part of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR II). Giving up his leave to lead his soldiers into the Kibeho internally displaced people's camp, he soon found himself forced to make horrendous decisions in the face of carnage death, and destruction.

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"We didn't like what was happening, but we knew that we couldn't do anything to stop it. What we could do, though, was help as many of the wounded as we could."

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Because of his fine and gallant leadership, Lieutenant Tilbrook was awarded the Medal for Gallantry, the first officer to be awarded a decoration of this kind since the Vietnam War.

His citation reads:

Lieutenant Thomas Steven Tilbrook is cited for the Medal of Gallantry for his acts of gallantry while commanding the Infantry Protection Force at Kibeho, Rwanda during the massacre of civilian refugees in April 1995. As the Infantry Protection Commander, Lieutenant Tilbrook was responsible for the security and protection of the Australian Medical Support Force at Kibeho. This responsibility included the disposition, deployment and coordination of the infantry force, the coordination and tasking of support for the medical team, and liaison and negotiation with the Rwandan Patriotic Army Forces.

The fighting that erupted on 22<sup>nd</sup> April placed the Australian Medical Support Force under intense pressure and immediate physical danger. The camp population made two attempts to escape from Kibeho. The first attempt occurred at 1100hrs and resulted in the death of approximately 130 people. The second attempt occurred at 1710 hours and resulted in the death of thousands of people and an overwhelming number of casualties.

Throughout the entire crisis Lieutenant Tilbrook displayed outstanding leadership and personal courage. His decisive leadership, clear orders, consistently accurate assessment of the situation and personal example maintained the security of the medical team, allowed the evacuation of humanitarian workers and more than five hundred casualties, and ensured that the medical team could continue to operate throughout the entire

period of the crisis. On a number of occasions on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April Lieutenant Tilbrook led his men into the camp to evacuate the wounded, often when small arms fire was impacting around them. When advised that three humanitarian workers were separated and alone in one of the camp buildings, Lieutenant Tilbrook immediately led a small team to rescue them, again while firing was continuing.

On the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> April Rwandan Patriotic Army troops began a sweep of the hospital in the camp with the intent of clearing the hospital. Lieutenant Tilbrook was able to negotiate successfully the evacuation from the hospital of non-walking casualties who, otherwise, would have been forced from the hospital regardless of their wounds. Lieutenant Tilbrook's acts of gallantry and leadership were crucial to the success of the Australian Medical Support Force's operation in Kibeho. That success has reinforced and enhanced the reputation of the Australian Medical Support Force, the Australian Defence Force and his country.

His personal courage, leadership and dedication to duty were in the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps.





# HISTORICAL ITEMS — South Vietnamese Flag

## South Vietnamese Flag- 10PL D Coy names on flag (Donation by the family of Frank Moffitt)

Frank Moffitt was a very well-respected elder of the RAR who served from 06 Jan 1943-26 Mar 1973 and discharged from the Army with the rank of Warrant Officer Class Two.

He served in 2 RAR a total of four times during his career, in some very pivotal points in the Battalion's history.

The first was in 1952 when the Battalion had returned from Japan and was a depot Battalion, prior to its departure to Korea. The second was in 1955 when the Battalion served in Malaya on its first tour. The next occasion was in 1963 when the Battalion returned from its second tour of Malaya and was stationed in Enoggera and the fourth and final posting to 2 RAR was as the Platoon SGT for 10 Platoon, Delta Company.

Frank served on the first tour of South Vietnam by 2 RAR in 1967/68.

The item donated by Frank's family, Carole Ann and Kevin Ford was a South Vietnamese flag that contains all the names of 10 Platoon D Company written on the top. This flag is a snapshot in time of the manning of the platoon.

Approximately 1000 soldiers served in 2 RAR during its first tour, with national servicemen leaving when their time was up. Also, it's important to note that Delta Company was broken up when 2 RAR was combined with RNZIR soldiers to form 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion.

Frank was a legend in the RAR, and sadly passed away on 12th June 2022. Provided are the some of the Eulogy words provided from George Mansford that he wrote for Frank.

Many salutes to our cobber - Frank Moffitt

Moff served with varying rank in five campaigns from private to warrant officer. The South West Pacific-WW2; Korea; the Malayan Emergency (two tours); Thai Border and finally Vietnam (Three tours). He was wounded four times during his service to his nation and often reminded of his scars with frequent pain and poor mobility throughout his final years, and yet he never complained.

His loyalty and concern for his mates was exceptional. I recall him travelling to an out of bounds district to rescue a mate in danger of harm. His mate made it back to base and in the process Moff was arrested and reduced to the ranks yet again. However, he was so well recognised as a leader, he never lost command of his section, and in record time was once more commanding as a corporal.

His record as a junior leader was second to none. Years later, in his tours of Vietnam, Moff served as a platoon sergeant and then as a Warrant Officer with AATTV and there his luck faltered when he was seriously wounded. After recuperation in Australia, still with the rank of warrant officer, and still carrying his luck charm, he returned for a third tour. In the 68 years of close comradeship with Moff, the only major and irritating flaw I ever noted was he would never admit error.

Moff retired as a warrant officer with a proud record of service, including at least nine years of active service overseas, and a recipient of a USA award, the Silver Star for bravery which he never wore.

Moff's character was your typical ANZAC. He was always there when needed, and well known for leading from the front. Moff was never reluctant to voice his views, particularly when the welfare of his soldiers was being neglected and as soldier of junior rank had a well-known reputation for ignoring barrack room rules and procedures.





# Veterans Matters

## LONG TAN BURSARY

The Long Tan Bursary awards up to \$12,000 per person to children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans to assist with costs related to tertiary education.

The awarding of the bursary is to help support Vietnam veterans children and grandchildren in gaining the skills and qualifications they need to pursue their chosen career.

Applications for the 2025 Long Tan Bursary will open on Vietnam Veterans' Day, 18 August 2024.

For more details please contact the 2RAR Association.

## SHINING A LIGHT

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has published a special book honouring the contribution of people with lived experience of military suicide into this landmark enquiry.

The book, Shining a Light: Stories of Trauma & Tragedy, Hope & Healing is now available through the Royal Commission's website.

The book aims to provide a greater understanding of the unique sacrifices made by those who serve our country, and their families – and supports the need for real and meaningful change to address the national crisis of Defence and veteran suicide, once and for all.

## REUNIONS

B Company 2 RAR Veterans, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour 1970-71  
16-21 August 2024, Rainbow Bay, Gold Coast, QLD.  
All veterans and partners of Bravo Company are invited to attend.

Contact: Philip Burke  
PH: 0412 739 435  
E: [reunion24@familia.com.au](mailto:reunion24@familia.com.au)

Vietnam Veterans Day – Old Bar  
Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia reunion (FAAAA)  
Aug 16-19 2024

Contact [hfvemu67@gmail.com](mailto:hfvemu67@gmail.com) for further details or the 2RAR Association at [2rarassoc@gmail.com](mailto:2rarassoc@gmail.com)




## SUPPORT NEEDED

The 2 RAR Association is looking for a few good men and women to take up roles within the organisation.

The Following positions are available for volunteers to support the Association in its goal of supporting all veterans across Australia:

- Website Manager
- Membership Member
- NSW State Rep
- SEQLD State Rep

If you are interested in supporting fellow veterans and would like to help, the Association would like to hear from you. To find out more on the role or to volunteer contact the 2 RAR Association at [2rarassoc@gmail.com](mailto:2rarassoc@gmail.com)

 <h2 style="margin: 0;">The 2 RAR Historical Collection</h2>				
<b>Mailing Address</b> The 2 RAR Historical Collection 2 RAR (Amphib) Samichon Lines Lavarack Barracks Queensland 4814 The curator can be contacted on MB - 0419749198 <a href="mailto:2RAR.Museum@gmail.com">2RAR.Museum@gmail.com</a>	The 2 RAR historical Collection exists to collect, preserve, display and research all items from 66 BN, 2 AR, 2 RAR, 2/4 RAR, 2 RAR (Amphib). Ex-members and their family are permanently invited to visit. Please think about donating your photos, slides, objects, uniforms, maps, trinkets from your time in the Battalion to the Collection  <b>Like us and follow us on Facebook</b> <b>See 'The 2 RAR Historical Collection'</b> Objects in the collection can be viewed by visiting <a href="http://www.thecollectingbug.com/2rarmuseum/">www.thecollectingbug.com/2rarmuseum/</a>		Donations (Bank transfer) Acc Name - Historical Collection BSB - 833205 Acc Number - 20419234 <b># All money is spent directly on the 2 RAR Historical Collection</b> <i>The Collection is staffed by volunteers who have all served in the Battalion at some time or another</i>	
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# Weapons of the Australian Army

## Enhanced F88

The enhanced F88 (EF88) Austeyr rifle is an improved weapon system characterised by superior lethality, accuracy, ergonomics, reliability and modularity.

The EF88 began entering service in mid-2016 to replace the F88 Austeyr.

The EF88 improves close combat and general combat capability due to its superior accuracy and lethality, improved ergonomics, balance and increased mounting options for ancillary devices from the previous F88 Austeyr version. The EF88 can be reconfigured to meet specific mission roles by utilising these ancillaries in the below picture.

The next generation EF88 is subsequently lighter than its predecessor and possesses a much better centre of gravity. By virtue of its cheek weld and butt plate, it allows for far better purchase when firing from the shoulder – with or without body armour and helmet. With the change in the centre of gravity to the rear it aims to improve speed of engagement for users. This resultantly increases the first round probability of a hit.

The EF88's grenade launcher is side opening and is one of the lightest available while the extended rails on top and side of the weapon allow for several configuration options based on the mission requirements.

Fundamentally the EF88 remains much the same as its predecessors, a bull pup-configuration selective fire weapon, chambered for the 5.56x45mm NATO cartridge, short stroke piston operated and firing from a closed bolt.



# ***Roll Of Honour: Remembering our Fallen***

**SX26369 PTE K PARKEN** (21 Sep 1923– 14 Aug 1946: aged 22 yrs)



## **Service Details:**

Private Kenneth Parken was born in South Australia on 21 Sep 1923 and grew up in Gawler, South Australia. Pte Parken enlisted on 14 Oct 1942, in Field, South Australia and was given the service number SX26369 (S53498)

Private Parken passed away on 14 Aug 1946 by accidental drowning near Nigata, Japan and his body was never recovered due to the swirling currents of the inland sea.

**Unit:** 66th Battalion, Australian Infantry, 2nd AIF.

**Fate:** Died Accidentally (drowning) near Nigata, Japan 14 Aug 1946

**Cause of Death:** Drowned

**Memorial Details:** Panel 71, Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT, Australia. Adelaide WW2 Wall of Remembrance, Singapore Memorial Kranji War Cemetery column 133.

From 66 Bn War Dairy:

Pte PARKEN, a member of the battalion band, was drowned near NIGATA. The body could NOT be recovered due to the swift and swirling currents of the INLAND SEA at this point.

*'Lest we forget'*





#### WELFARE:

RAAF Holiday Resort - Ambassador Apartments - Gold Coast, QLD

Not-For-Profit group who provide Discount Holiday Accommodation to Current and Former Serving Members of the Australian Defence Force, their families and Defence Australian Public Servants.

Location: 9-13 Parnoo Street  
CHEVRON ISLAND QLD 4217

Phone: + 61 417 780 961  
Email: aambassador@bigpond.com

## SUPPORT SERVICES

#### OPEN ARMS

Veterans and Families Counselling - 1800 011 046, or [www.openarms.gov.au](http://www.openarms.gov.au)

#### OPEN ARMS SUICIDE INTERVENTION

<https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/suicide-intervention>

ADF – All-hours Support Line 1800 628 036

- Defence Members & family Helpline  
1800 624 608
- Defence Chaplaincy Support  
1300 333 362
- ADF Mental Health Services <https://www1.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/health-well-being/garrison/adf-mental-health-services>

#### LIFELINE

13 11 14, [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

#### BEYONDBLUE SUPPORT SERVICES

1300 22 4636, [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

#### SUICIDE CALL BACK SERVICE

1300 659 467

#### HOMELESS HOTLINE

1800 474 753

#### VETERANS OFF THE STREETS AUSTRALIA

1800 868 726

#### ALCOHOL & DRUG INFORMATION SERVICE

1800 177 833

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DV CRISIS

1800 737 732

#### DVA

1800 555 254



**2ND BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
*(Incorporating 66 Inf Bn, 2 AR, 2 RAR, 2/4 RAR and 2 RAR (Amphib))*

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

☐ **New Member** ☐ **Renew Membership** ☐ **Change of Details**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Tele: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Mob: \_\_\_\_\_

Regimental /PMKeyS No: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/19\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_

**Years Served** in the Bn from 19 \_\_\_\_ to 19 \_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_ to 20 \_\_\_\_ Total Years \_\_\_\_\_

A COY	B COY	C COY	D COY	ADMIN COY	SPT COY	BHQ

**Deployments**

YEAR				
AO				

**Honours and Awards (NOT Service Medals)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Post-Nominals: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer to receive your copy of ☐ **SUBSCRIPTIONS** ☐ **Membership** ☐ **RINGO** via email or post  
 Yearly \$20 **or** Multiple-Years \$40 (2 years), \$60 (3 years), \$80 (4 years), \$100 (5 years)  
 Year: 1 October to 30 September  
 Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Receipt Required? YES/NO

Either – **POST** this Form to: The Secretary, 2 RAR Association, PO Box 2352 IDALIA QLD 4811  
 Or **EMAIL** a copy to [2rarassoc@gmail.com](mailto:2rarassoc@gmail.com)

**DIRECT DEPOSIT** to: Account Name: 2RAR Association, Inc.  
 Account details: Suncorp Bank. BSB: 484-799  
 Account no: 063 350 355. Include your NAME as reference.

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS** – Ring Rick Avery M: 0419 415 365



2RAR Association, Inc  
Merchandise Order Form

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Tele: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ Mob: \_\_\_\_\_

PostCode \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

**All prices are inclusive of transaction fees, packaging and postage fees within Australia**

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	ITEM	PRICE	QTY
<b>Clothing Items</b>					
<b>SHIRTS</b>					
Polo Shirt, Off Duty M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL	\$55		Polo Shirt, Black Cotton M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL	\$55	
Tee Shirt: Black – M/4XL/5XL	\$30				
<b>HATS</b>			<b>STUBBY COOLERS</b>		
Cap - Black 2 RAR	\$35		Stubby Cooler - "2RAR"	\$11	
Cap - ICB Silver	\$35		Stubby Cooler - First Round On Us	\$11	
Bucket Hat - II	\$30		Stubby Cooler - Second to no Bastard	\$11	
<b>TIES</b>			<b>CHALLENGE COIN</b>		
Tie - 2 RAR Black Heritage	\$30		Coin Black and Gold – 2 RAR (NEW)	\$20	
<b>BADGES</b>					
Lapel Badge - Member	\$13		Lapel Badge - NOK	\$13	
Lapel Badge - replacement Life Member	\$13		Lapel Badge – Slouch Hat	\$5	
<b>STICKERS</b>					
Sticker – Unit Colour Patch	\$8		Bumper Sticker - 2RAR Association	\$8	
Sticker (Round) – "2RAR"	\$8		Bumper Sticker – Second to None	\$8	
Sticker (Square) Roman Numerals II	\$8		Bumper Sticker – Vietnam Veteran	\$8	
Sticker (Oval) – "ICB"	\$8		Sticker (oval) – Vietnam Veteran	\$8	
Sticker – ICB Window Transfer	\$8		Sticker – 2 RAR Amphibious	\$8	
Sticker – 2RAR/NZ ANZAC Bn	\$8				
<b>PATCHES</b>					
Patch – Woven - Rising Sun	\$8.00		Patch – Woven - Unit Colour Patch	\$8	
Patch – Woven - Combat Vietnam	\$8.00		Patch – Woven - ICB	\$8	
<b>KEY RINGS</b>			<b>PLAQUES</b>		
Key Ring - Black/Gold – 2RAR	\$20		Wall Plaque: 2RAR	\$55	
<b>PRINTS</b>					
Print - 2RAR Air Assault Operations Nui Dat Vietnam	\$40		Print – Korea, Samichon	\$40	
<b>FLAGS</b>			<b>BOOKS</b>		
2 RAR Large Double Sided	\$90		Book – East Timor in Pictures	\$20	
2 RAR Single Sided	\$50		Beat PTSD	\$20	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>					
Enamel Mug - 2RAR	\$25		Pewter Drink Coaster - ICB Badge	\$25	
Note Pad Leather ICB	\$10		Bar Runner – 2 RAR	\$55	
Cards – Deck Playing	\$20				

You can pay for your merchandise by:

Direct deposit to the Association's bank account:

Account details: 2RAR Association, Inc.  
Bank: Suncorp Bank.  
BSB: 484-799  
Account Number: 063 350 355.

When ordering merchandise using this form, email to:

2rarassoc@gmail.com  
or  
Post the Merchandise Order Form to:  
PO Box 2352, Idalia  
Townsville Qld 4811

- Please include name and address