



2nd BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

16 Oct 1945 - 2025 – 80th Anniversary

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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 secretary@2rar-association.net.au

Cover Image: 2RAR Roll of Honour Board at Samichon Lines, Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, QLD

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 and you can pay through direct debit. Please advise us if you have changed any of your contact details, particularly your email address.

Association Report

2025 marks a significant year for the Second Battalion, this year marks our 80th year since formation.

2RAR had its origins as the 66th Australian Infantry Battalion, which was raised on 16 Oct 1945 at Labuan in Borneo. Since then, the Battalion has seen service to Japan as part of BCOF from 1946-1948, changing its name to 2nd Battalion, The Australian Regiment on 23 Nov 1948 then becoming The Second Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on 10 Mar 1949.

The battalion was deployed to Korea in 1953-54 receiving the battle honour 'SAMICHON' for its performance under heavy sustained attack. On return, the Battalion was presented Queens and Regimental Colours being the first regular unit in Australia to do so in Sep 1955.

The Battalion departed to Malaya to assist in the Malayan Emergency from 1955-57, during this tour official approval was received for the 2RAR flag to be black.

2RAR second tour 'Confrontation' to Malaya took place from 1961-63. Following the Malaya campaign 2RAR conducted two tours to Vietnam from 1967-68 and 1970-71. During the first tour two companies of New Zealand Infantry were placed under command and 2RAR became 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC). This title of ANZAC Battalion resumed during the Battalions second tour with New Zealanders again under command.

2RAR returned to Australia and set up at its new home in Lavarack Barracks Townsville. With the cessation of National service and the reorganisation of the Army 2RAR and 4RAR were linked on 15 Aug 1973 to form 2/4RAR.

Smaller contingents of 2RAR soldiers deployed to Cambodia in 1993 and to Somalia in 1992-93.

2RAR was re-raised in 1995 during which soldiers were deployed to Rwanda in 1994-95. In 1999 2RAR deployed to East Timor returning again in 2001-2002, 2006 and 2007-08.

Additionally, 2RAR has deployed to Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan as well as assisting in domestic operations including for cyclone and flood relief.

Our history is long and is something to be proud of for all those who have served within the Battalion.

'Second to None'



'Second to None'
Malcolm Gray
President
2RAR Association, Inc

Significant 2 RAR Dates: Nov-Feb

06 Nov 2011 – Timor Leste - 8514280 Pte Ashley Arthur BAKER, 2RAR TLBG-6 died from wounds on operations (Accidental Death)

01 Dec 1980 – Townsville, QLD – 2/4RAR assumes online responsibility for the first time as the online Battalion

15 Dec 1970 – Nui Dat – Vietnam – Ambush by 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) when a patrol engaged a VC group near the De Courtney rubber plantation north of Nui Dat.

01 Jan 1956 – OP Deuce – Malaya – 2RAR conducted a search and security operation in Kedah, Malaya as part of OP Deuce.

03 Jan 2000 – East Timor – 2RAR officially handed over to 5/7RAR after completing operations to East Timor as part of the International Force East Timor (INTERFET) efforts to restore safety within the region.

19 Jan 1993 - 21 May 1993 – OP Solace - Somalia – United Task Force in Somalia (UNITAF) with 54 private soldiers from 2/4RAR join the 1 RAR Bn group for deployment to Baidoa in south-central Somalia.

24 Jan-01 Mar 1968 – OP Coburg – Bien Hoa-Long Khanh border Vietnam – Heavy fighting took place between 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) and the North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN). On 26 Jan B Coy, 2RAR fought a two-hour action against enemy VC entrenched within a bunker system, whilst on the same day 9PL C Coy assaulted an occupied a camp and held it for 16 hours against repeated attacks from a VC force estimated to be of company strength. 2 RAR was involved in OP Coburg until 14 Feb.

06 Feb 1952 – Australia – 2RAR took delivery of a set of drums, the day of the death of HM King George VI, and in his memory the original black colour of the drums was maintained.

11 Feb 2008 – OP ASTUTE-Timor-Leste – A band of rebels led by MAJ Alfredo Reinado launched coordinated attacks against the President and Prime Minister of Timor Leste. The attacks were later labelled as attempted assassinations and a failed coup and changed the shape of the security environment for the Battle Group's deployment

Feb 1995 – OP TAMIR II - Rwanda – B Coy, 2RAR took over from A Coy, as the Australian Security Company for the Australian Medical Support Force for Rwanda. During B Coy tour there was serious unrest at the Kibeho Displaced Persons camp during Apr 1995. Action by the Rwandan Peoples Army caused considerable loss of life amongst the local Rwandan population.

Mid Feb 1957 – OP Rubberlegs – Malaya – 2RAR took part in a search mission in the narrow jungle salient in the Kuala Kangsar/Kinta districts.

Veteran Stories – CAPT John White

Untold Stories

John White graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in December 1963. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment as a Lieutenant. After a subsequent posting as an instructor at the Officer Cadet School at Portsea and a number of short training courses, Captain John White arrived in Saigon on posting to the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam. Despite his modest experience and lack of Company Commander training, Captain White must have stood out somehow, because in late February 1968, he was assigned to command the 11th Coy Mike (Mobile) Force of the United States 5th Special Forces Group, commonly known as the Green Berets.

The 11th Coy Mike Force or Mobile Strike Force was primarily a reconnaissance unit. The company comprised three platoons commanded by one US Special Forces sergeant and two Australian Army warrant officer advisers with 122 Nung mercenaries, four other Green Berets, three Vietnamese Special Forces, and three interpreters.

In March 1968 after just a few weeks training his company, Captain White was tasked by US special forces command in Da Nang to deploy to a US Special Forces Forward Operating Base at Kham Duc near to the Laotian border. From there, White was then sent eight kilometres downriver from Kham Duc to an area known as Ngok Tavak. Ngok Tavak, was only 20 km from the Laos border. The main feature in the area were the ruins of a small, earthen French fort that White hoped to use as patrol base, from which he could reconnoitre south to make contact with, and monitor the movements of, an enemy force believed to be elements of the 2nd North Vietnamese Army Division.

The North Vietnamese Army's 2nd Division was moving down the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos from which it planned to enter South Vietnam. The 2nd division sent two advance regiments – the 1st and 2nd Regiments – into South Vietnam using the French-built Route 14 which were tasked with clearing the way for the remainder of the Division, through Ngok Tavak and Kham Duc. The 400 strong NVA 40th Bn was sent to wipe out Ngok Tavak.

After five weeks of patrolling, first contact was made with the NVA force by elements of Captain White's Coy. Contact between Captain White's patrols and elements of the 40th Bn increased as they probed White's unit to test its size and strength. It soon became apparent to Captain White that the NVA must be aware that his Coy occupied the fort at Ngok Tavak. As White's Mike Force Coy was primarily a reconnaissance unit, it was neither trained nor equipped to defend or hold ground. Captain White informed his US Special Forces HQ in Da Nang of his intention to vacate Ngok Tavak and head back to Kam Duc, however he was directed to maintain the position.

To ensure that White would stay in place, on 9 May 1968, without reference to Captain White, a US Marine Corps artillery unit was flown into Ngok Tavak with two 105mm howitzers, ammunition and 33 Marines. The insertion of the artillery

"I was impressed by Captain White's control, his leadership during what appeared to be a deteriorating situation and his determination not to depart until every survivor had boarded our helicopters [...] I was frightened to death but tremendously reassured by Captain White's demeanour. When I heard Captain White's voice, I knew I could fly and return and make that second extraction"

MAJ Flater

effectively anchored the Coy to Ngok Tavak and forced Captain White to adopt a defensive posture. White pointed out his predicament to his superiors in Da Nang, who then sent him 35 Montagnard (mountain people) CIDG reinforcements, who it was later discovered had fled a local ambush in odd circumstances. The CIDG force was posted to the outer perimeter due to concerns about their loyalty. It was later learned that the CIDG force contained VC infiltrators.

Ngok Tavak was attacked by an NVA infantry Bn at 0315 hours on May 10. The NVA assault began with RPGs, grenades and flamethrowers being used to break through the Mike Force and Marine defensive lines.

As the frontal assault began, the CIDG soldiers on the outer perimeter moved toward a guarded gap in the perimeter yelling, 'Don't shoot, don't shoot! Friendly, friendly!' Suddenly they lobbed satchel charges and grenades into the Marine positions and two companies of CIDG traitors and NVA ran into the fort, where they shot several Marines. They also cut the claymore mine and communication wires. The CIDG mortar crews also abandoned their weapons. The NVA fired their 60 mm mortars which detonated an artillery ammunition storage area and set on fire a 3/4 - ton truck.

The Marines' artillery ammunition had been set ablaze by the mortars and flamethrowers and the Marines had been dispersed, eventually forming up 2-and 3-man pockets of resistance. The NVA advanced across the eastern side of Ngok Tavak and brought forward more automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

About 4:20 a.m. White called an AC-47 Spooky Gunship, to strafe the perimeter and, after warning the Marines, called fire on the Marines' overrun artillery positions, despite the possible presence of friendly wounded in the gun pits. His request to hit the howitzers was never acted upon for some reason.

CAPT J White - Continued

Spooky's fire was concentrated outside the perimeter. The gunship remained overhead dropping flares and providing a communication link until daylight, when an Air Force pilot flew overhead to determine enemy positions and direct other planes in airstrikes. He called in 30 strikes to keep the NVA at a distance.

"It was just miraculous, the plan he put together, coordinating the airstrikes all day long, coordinating the medevacs coming in there and getting the wounded ... it was amazing ... and every one of us that got out of that camp, we owe it all to John. ... I have served under several different commanders in the Mike Force and I've got to say that he was the best, he was the best."

Mr Deleshaw

The NVA eventually countered with tear gas, but the wind kept drifting the gas over their own lines. After three attempts, the NVA stopped and withdrew to avoid casualties from the Spooky gunship. A pot-shot and grenade fight between the two forces lasted until dawn.

At daybreak Australian Warrant Officers Cameron and Lucas, joined by Blomgren, led a CIDG counterattack to retake the eastern section of the fort. The North Vietnamese pulled back under covering fire, and the artillery positions were retaken. The Marines fired off the last nine shells and spiked the tubes to prevent capture by the NVA. White and the Spooky gunship directed fighterbombers against suspected enemy positions around Ngok Tavak.

White arranged for some of the NVA dead and wounded to be taken outside the perimeter, to be collected by their own.

Later that morning medical evacuation helicopters supported by covering airstrikes took out the seriously wounded. The dust off helicopters, with their red crosses painted on them, were not fired upon by the NVA despite the helicopters flying over areas controlled by the NVA.

Two CH46's were able to land 45 replacements from the 12th Mobile Strike Force Coy, but one helicopter was hit in the fuel line and forced down. Another helicopter was hit by a rocket and burst into flames, wrecking the small helipad and making further landings impossible. The remaining wounded were placed aboard a hovering helicopter. As it lifted off, two Mike Force soldiers and one of the stranded aviation crewmen, grabbed the helicopter skids. All three fell to their deaths after the helicopter had reached an altitude of over one hundred feet.

The strike force soldiers were exhausted and nervous. Ammunition and water were nearly exhausted, and Ngok Tavak was still being pounded by sporadic mortar and RPG fire. White asked permission to withdraw, but was told to 'hold on' as 'reinforcements were on the way'. White decided that aerial

reinforcement or evacuation was unlikely, due to the unusable helipad and the accurate NVA RPG fire. White decided to leave, calculating that his force would not be able to withstand another NVA assault, which would come at night, when the enemy would be able to get closer to the fort before being detected and air support was less effective.

White established and reinforced a defensive perimeter and formulated a plan to evacuate. All the weapons, equipment and munitions that could not be carried were hastily piled into the command bunker and set afire using the NVA flamethrowers. The helicopter that had been grounded by a ruptured fuel line was destroyed with a LAW rocket launcher. Napalm strikes were ordered along the escape route White's Coy would take, clearing the way. The vegetation and the ground was still smoking as they left the perimeter.

Rather than leaving Ngok Tavak in the direction of the FOB at Kham Duc, Captain White wisely directed his company to move away from Ngok Tavak in a south-westerly direction.

After directing the remaining survivors well clear of Ngok Tavak and having his company clear a small landing zone at a hilltop location by hand, Captain White coordinated the extraction of the surviving members of his company by a series of helicopter flights.

As the final helicopter left the improvised landing zone it appeared as if Captain White and a number of his men would be left behind. Noting Captain White's predicament, the pilot of the second to last helicopter dropped his load of survivors at Kham Duc and returned for the remaining men.

Although grossly overloaded, this helicopter managed to extract the final members of the Coy by all on board jettisoning equipment and the pilots executing a very marginal take off. At his own insistence, Captain White was the last survivor to board the final, overloaded, helicopter.

In July 2019, some 50 plus years after the battle of Ngok Tavak, John White was finally awarded the Distinguished Service Cross he earned and deserved

All information for this article was attained directly from the Defence honours and awards system – Submission 21

80th Anniversary Reunion-Update

80th Anniversary of formation of the Battalion

AT: Coolangatta/Tweed Heads & Canungra Valley

AT: 24-26 October 2025

WHAT: Celebrate 80th Birthday of the formation of the Battalion.

WHAT: Birthday celebrations is open to all who have served in 2RAR or its derivatives (66thBn, 2AR, 2/4RAR, Task Groups, 2RAR Amphib)

WHAT: Sequence of events are as follows

Fri 24 Oct 2025

1200-1500Hrs: Veterans only Lunch – Greenmount Surf Club (7 Hill St Coolangatta QLD)

1700 Hrs: Meet and Greet in Harbour Bar Twin Towns Resort (cnr of Griffith St and Wharf ST, Tweed Heads, NSW)

Sat 25 Oct 2025

0930 Hrs: Commemorative Service (Cunningham Park Cenotaph adjacent to the Twin Towns Resort).

1015 Hrs: All Gather for 2RAR Association AGM and reunion (Visions Room)

1100 Hrs: Participate in AGM

1200-1600 Hrs: After AGM function/luncheon and raffles

Sun 26 Oct 2025

1030 Hrs: Depart Twin Towns by Bus to O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards.

1130-1230 Hrs: Arrive at vineyards pre-lunch drinks on The Deck

1230-1430 Hrs – Lunch in the Wine Cellar. Birthday celebrations all round.

1430 Hrs: Depart Vineyards back to Twin Towns.

1600 Hrs: Arrive Twin Towns.

This event is open to all veterans and their families that have seen service with the Battalion.

Please plan now to come along and join in an event that will be one not to forget across all eras.

ASSOCIATION EMAIL UPDATE:

The 2RAR Association now has a new emailing address. Please email the 2RAR Association at:

Secretary@2rar-association.net.au

All email correspondence going to our Gmail accounts will still be monitored before closing down at the end of this year.



VALE - LIFE MEMBER #3 – Matthew Rennie

2/4932 Matthew David RENNIE OAM

Matthew was just 19 when he joined the Korean War effort, defending South Korea against the invading North and its communist allies.

The newly trained soldier arrived in Pusan, South Korea in 1952, joining 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) on the front line for 13 weeks.

"The first night I was there, there was a rocket attack. I thought it was very spectacular. But the bloke I was relieving, he's pushing me into a foxhole saying, 'Pray, you so-and-so, pray!'. I thought it was a great fireworks display. I was very naïve; I had no idea what all this was about."

Matthew's naivety wouldn't last long. As his battalion moved on to different positions, the reality of war soon set in.

"When the Chinese put in an attack, it wasn't two or three; you'd have 200 charging in," he says. "And the noise was horrendous – the shell, the mortars, the machine guns, everything blazing over. And my God, the winters – it wasn't unusual to hit 26 degrees below freezing."

Matthew is lucky to be alive after the night of 24 May 1953.

"The Turks were having a battle alongside our position, and the Chinese weren't making any ground on them. So they were trying to find a weak spot in the line," Matthew recalls. "We happened to be the ones they found, and someone said, 'Here they come'. That was the last thing I remember."

Matthew was shot in the back of the head. The bullet pierced his helmet but somehow only grazed his skull. "The next thing I remember was Frank trying to stop the bleeding."

Having fatally shot the enemy shooter, Matthew's best mate Frank set about bandaging Matthew's wound, tearing a field dressing with his mouth – and losing his false teeth in the process. "They went onto the ground, and he just put 'em back in back in his mouth," Matthew says.

Sadly, Frank later suffered poisoning from the fertiliser in the soil. "He told everyone 'til the day he died that I tried to poison him," Matthew laughs.

"We were very close. When he died, it left a void in my life because we never lost contact over 70 years. I still miss him today."

Reading notes from a book he bought at the UN headquarters; Matthew details the devastation wreaked by the 'forgotten war'.

"There were two capital cities, 50 towns and 12,000 villages destroyed," he says. "Two and a half million civilians dead; three and a half million homeless."

Australia suffered more than 1,600 casualties, and many veterans, including Matthew, continued to suffer long after the war.

"I have problems sleeping. I have a noise problem. I can't stand being in a crowd, like going to a football match."

"The other thing is the medical problems. We used DDT powder – one of the most insidious poisons ever manufactured and put out to public use – like talcum powder under the arms and groin. Dieldrin was used to kill mice and rats. Creosote was put around all the toilets. Everything used around us was carcinogenic. That had a bearing on a lot of the problems Korean War veterans had up until their death."

After 12 months in Korea, Matthew – like many veterans of the Korean War – returned to Australia almost as if nothing had happened.

"We were given a leave pass and told, 'go home'. That was it," he says. "There was never any 'job well done', pat on the back or welcome home parade. Nothing. We just weren't valued for what we were doing."

"We weren't invited to join the RSL because the American president said at the beginning of the war, 'It's like a United Nations police action'. I was told to get out of the Sydney RSL Club in 1954."

In South Korea, however, Australian veterans are honoured as heroes.

South Korea's government has gone to many lengths to support Australian veterans, Matthew says. As well as helping fund Australia's first Korean War memorial, they've provided Christmas luncheons, care packages, and even comfortable shoes for ageing feet.

"Although I always say my contribution to Korea was very small, they say, 'If you weren't there, the Chinese could have come through that gap'. They appreciate what we did, and they go all out to make sure we're welcome."

Article written by Belinda Crossman for RSL QLD – the full article can be found and read here: [Matthew](#).

Matthew David RENNIE OAM
11 Jun 1933 – 13 Feb 2025
Lest we Forget

Warriors Who Have Marched Out—Nov 24-Feb 25

2784850 PTE Geoffrey Raymon CANTRILL

02 Dec 1945 – 04 Jan 2025



Geoff, a National Serviceman, served in South Vietnam with 1 PI A Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (19 May 1967–13 Jun 1968). Geoff, late of Vivian Street, Inverell and formerly of Moree, passed away at Inverell NSW with his family by his side on 4 Jan 2025, age 79. Geoff's funeral service

Place at the Sapphire City Crematorium Chapel, Inverell NSW, followed by cremation.

1202700 PTE Robert "Bob" COLE

1951 – 11 Nov 2024

Robert served in 4 RAR, 2 RAR & 2/4 RAR. Bob, late of Toowoomba, passed away on 11th November 2024, aged 73 years and his funeral was held at the Garden Chapel, Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance, Toowoomba.

3411111 SGT Austin "Mick" Michael CREDLIN

11 May 1936 – 5 Nov 2024



Mick was born in Sea Lake Vic and served in Malaya/Borneo with HQ Comms attached to 4 RAR; in South Vietnam with 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn Section Comd 10 PI D Coy (19 May 1967–13 Jun 1968), 1 ARU (16 Nov–2 Dec 1968), 9RAR (3 Dec–27 Nov 1969), 1ARU (28 Nov–5 Dec 1969), HQ,

1 ALSG (21 Jan–23 Jul 1970). Mick passed away peacefully on 5 November 2024, aged 88. Funeral Prayers for Mick were offered at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Wodonga followed by a private cremation. Mick's wake was held at the Wodonga RSL Club.

43952 CPL Peter HARAN

11 Feb 1948 – 10 Feb 2025



Peter, born in Birmingham UK, spent his childhood in Zimbabwe, South Africa, and came to Australia after leaving school and joined the Australian Army. He enlisted in Adelaide SA on 6 Jan 1966 and served in South Vietnam with 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn, Tracker PI (15 May–13 Jun 1968), returning with 3 RAR Tracker PI (25 Feb–16 Oct 1971)

And was discharged on 6 Jan 1972 and became a journalist and author, working on Adelaide newspapers for nearly 30 years. Peter late of Prospect SA passed away from complications from Leukaemia in Ashford Hospital, SA on 10 February 2025, aged 76 years.

4718504 PTE Michael "Mick" John HOLLOW

09 Jun 1946 – 18 Nov 2024



Mick served in 2 Sect 10 PI D Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam (10 May 1967 - 14 May 1968). Mick was from Balhannah South Australia and passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on 18 Nov 2024, aged 78. Mick's funeral was held at Bowen

Funeral, Darroch House, Felixstow SA. Mick had been a member of the 2RAR Assn for many years.

43484 SGT Albert "Alby" John LUNDIE

07 Jul 1941 – 17 Dec 2024



Pte Albert Lundie, served with 4 RAR in Borneo in 1966. He was PI Sgt with 1 PI A Coy and then Sp Coy in South Vietnam with 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (12 May 1970–1 Jun 1971). Albert, late of St Vincent's Aged Care Douglas, formerly Rasmussen Qld, passed away peacefully on 17 December 2024, aged

83, at the Townsville University Hospital, surrounded by family. In keeping with Albert's wishes a private service was held with the family.

54587 SGT Murray Graeme MARTIN

14 Dec 1941 – 13 Jan 2025



2 RAR (1963–Jun 1965), 6 RAR A Coy (6 Jun 1965–1967 including active service in South Vietnam (Sect Comd A Coy - 31 May 1966 - 30 Jan 1967 - Battle of Long Tan). Corp transfer 1968 to Catering Corp as Sgt Mess supervisor in various postings including 2/4

RAR (20 Apr 1976 – 14 May 1978) for the rest of his career until 1986. Murray passed away on 13 Jan 2025, age 83.

Murray's funeral service and burial was held at the Allambie Park Cemetery in Albany WA.

2791028 LCPL Donald (Don) "Noofa" William McINNESS

16 Apr 1948 – 28 Dec 2024



Don, a National Servicemen served in South Vietnam with 5 PI B Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn South Vietnam (17 May 1970–3 Sep 1970). Don passed away on 28 Dec 2024, age 76. Don had an outstanding career in the Army, a great man that will be missed.

218905 Pte Kevin "Pol" Harry POLLEY

06 Jul 1949 – 10 Jan 2025



Kevin was a member of the Signals Platoon, 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam (12 May 1970–1 Jun 1971). Kevin passed away on 10 January 2025, age 75, at the Aged Care Facility where he resided at Hammondville NSW. A private cremation was held and his ashes laid

alongside those of his parents. Rest in peace Kevin.

The 2 RAR association thanks all veterans, organisations and family members who have provided details of our passed veterans for this article. It is very much appreciated.

5/1915 CPL Ronald (Ron) George "Pappy" WALKER

04 Feb 1934 – 10 Jan 2025



Ron enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 1 July 1951 in Perth, WA, at the age of 17 and undertook Recruit training at Guilford, WA, and advanced infantry training at Puckapunyal, Victoria. He was then posted to the Machine-gun platoon, Support Company 2RAR as a CPL No.1 Gnr

ON a Vickers medium machine gun. He sailed with the battalion on the 'New Australia' and arrived in Korea on 17 March 1953. He joined SGT Brian Cooper's section at 'Vickers Village', a platoon position of four guns, and was positioned in the machine-gun bunker on Hill 111 during the battle of the Hook-on 24-26 July 1953, just prior to the war's end. Ron returned to Australia on 6 April 1954, having served 386 days in Korea. On his return to Australia, he served with 2 RAR at Enoggera and then Canungra, Queensland, and then with the 17th National Training Battalion at Wacol, Qld (Oct 1955-Dec 1956). From January 1957 until June 1957, he was with the Bomb Search & Disposal Squad, Brisbane. He was discharged on 1 July 1957. Ron, late of Pearamon Qld passed away peacefully with his family by his side on 10 Jan 2025, aged 90. Ron's Ashes were interred at the Tablelands Memorial Gardens, Nasser Road, Atherton FNQ. A Poppy Service was conducted by the local Malanda RSL Sub Branch. Ron was a long-time member of the 2 RAR Association (No. 523).

1731889 PTE Ivan James WENDT

02 Oct 1945 – 16 Dec 2024



NS. Ivan Wendt served as a machine gunner with 2 PI, A Coy, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam from 19 May 1967 until 26 Mar 1968, shortly before his discharge from National Service in April 1968. Ivan attended the Welcome Home parade in 1987 and went

to a couple of 2 RAR Assn Reunions, but generally kept to himself. In 2021 his family's 4th Generation Dairy Farm was resumed by the local council and turned into a Sewage Treatment Works; this had a great effect on his well-being. Ivan finally succumbed to a prolonged battle with dementia at Logan Hospital, Qld on 16 Dec 2024, age 79 and his funeral was held at the historic, Bethania Lutheran Church, Bethania Qld. Ivan will be greatly missed by Dellas, his wife of over 50 years, his six daughters, his close extended family and his 2 RAR mates. May he now Rest in Peace.

54802 PTE William (Bill) "Circles" Harold WHITNEY

23 Nov 1944 – 20 Nov 2024



Bill was born in Farnborough, Kent, England and joined the Australian Army serving in Malayasia with 4 RAR (1965); later in South Vietnam as Forward Scout, 6 Sect, 5 PI, B Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (19 May 1967-25 Jun 1968), 1ARU (23 Dec 1968-09 Feb 1969), 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (10 Feb-13 May 1969), HQ 1 ATF (14 May-08

Jun 1969), 9 RAR (9 Jun - 8 Oct 1969). Bill late of Beverly WA passed away on 20 Nov 2024, aged 79. No formal funeral was held; a Commemorative Moment was held at the Beverley RSL (WA). Bill was a member of 2 RAR Association for many years.

1735284 LCPL Boris ZOUBAKIN

21 Jul 1947 – 05 Feb 2025



Boris a National Serviceman was born in China and served in A Coy HQ 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam (28 May-26 Nov 1970). Boris passed away on 5 Feb 2025, aged 77 and his Funeral Service was held at Somerville Funerals Nerang Chapel, Nerang QLD. Boris was a member of the

2RAR Assn (No. 602) regularly attending Reunions and the 2 RAR SE Qld Coffee Mornings. Rest in Peace Boris.

2/4932 CPL Matthew David RENNIE OAM

11 Jun 1933 – 13 Feb 2025



Matthew served in Korea with 3RAR (4 Jul 1952-4 Jul 1953), Japan with 1st Com Div Battle School (1953-54) in Malaya with 2RAR (1955-57) and with 11th NS Training Bn Wacol QLD (1958-61). Matthew, late of Springfield QLD passed away on 13 Feb 2025, age 91.

Matt was a Life Member of the 2 RAR Association and served as Committee Member (2001-06), Vice President (2006-2010) and President (2009-11). In 1993 Matthew was awarded an OAM for service to Veterans and their families. A proud Korean veteran, he was highly respected figure within RSL QLD and a cherished member of both the Ipswich and Toowoomba communities. His commitment to honouring our veterans will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on in the countless lives he touched.



*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon him.
March out with pride digger
Your duty done
May he rest in peace.
Amen. God bless*

**Rev Graeme Davis, OAM, CSM
Hon Padre 2RAR Association**

We Brave Few

2/35069 Lieutenant Anthony Walter CAMPBELL MC Sungei Siput, Malaya: 22 Jun 1956

Lt Campbell has led his platoon, 1PL A Coy, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, in jungle operations since 1 Jan 56.

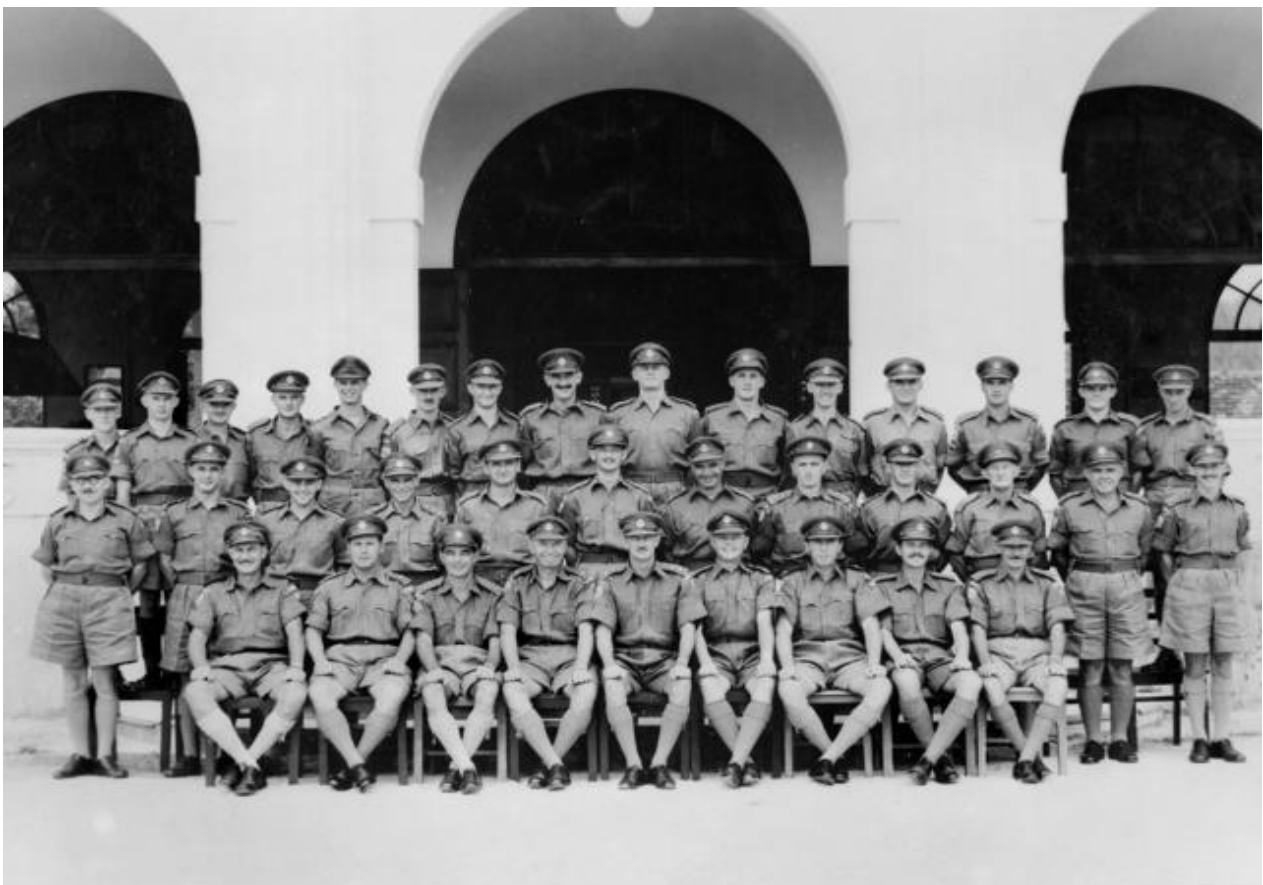
During this time, he has continuously displayed the highest degree of leadership and courage, enthusiasm and efficiency.

His part in training his platoon and his personal example have been responsible for the fighting spirit displayed by 1PL.

On the afternoon of 22 Jun 56, 1PL was patrolling inside the jungle fringe south of Sungei Siput. No. 1 Section entered a strongly prepared ambush position occupied by 24 terrorists and was pinned down. No. 2 Section, following No.1 section, outflanked the ambush with difficulty.

Lt Campbell led two men from his base nearby to assist his men. When three terrorists opened fire he returned the fire, silencing it with two grenades. The enemy was forced by 1PL to withdraw.

Lt Campbell led his two men in a local follow-up killing one terrorist and capturing his machine carbine. The careful training of 1 PL and the determined and courageous leadership of Lt Campbell were responsible for inflicting casualties on the terrorists and forcing them to withdraw.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P04683.002

Officers of The Second Btn, Royal Australian Regiment, Malaya Dec 1956

Lt Anthony Walter Campbell, MC is Back row – 9th from the left in the direct middle.

HISTORICAL ITEMS — Mug – 2RAR SGTs Mess 1953

51581 SGT John ACOL – 2RAR Korea 1953

Service History:

WWII – 526952 (51591, 5900011, W25389, WX26563) CPL John ACOL enlisted into the Australian Army on 07 Dec 1941 at Pinjarra, WA. Discharge on 13 Jan 1949 from 130 Australian General Hospital (AGH)

BCOF Japan – WX26563 SGT John ACOL served with 130AGH and was a member of the United Nation as force sent to the Congo, Africa. MID

Korea – 51581 SGT John ACOL served in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps with 2 RAR (17 Mar-27 Sep 1953) MID.

John Acol was born in London, Westminster, England on 31 Oct 1920 and passed away on 14 Oct 1989, aged 68 years.

John was found on a doorstep as a young child and was taken to a London hospital. Although not a patient, he stayed at the hospital until he was 9 years old. John remembered fondly one doctor at the hospital who he followed around as he conducted his rounds.

John had no medical training but became so gifted in the medical field especially during his time in the Army and in later life. After his time at the hospital in London, he left for Australia as part of a group of children in the care of Mr. Kingsley Fairbridge bound for Fairbridge Farm.

Fairbridge Farm School was a school to give underprivileged kids a brighter future, learning skills from farming to crafts in the Pinjarra, WA region.

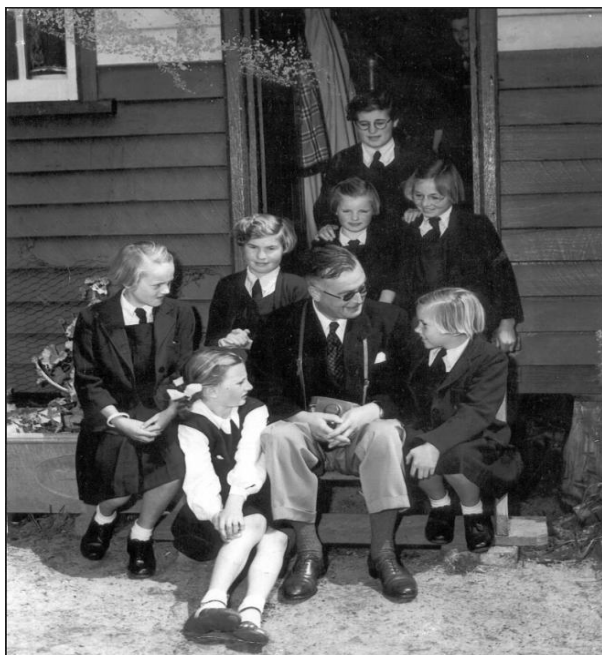


Photo: John Acol (Old Fairbridgen) taking to students at Fairbrige Farm school in 1960. John played the piano accordion and was a very caring and kind man

When John was stationed at Morotai he would attend a small church on the island to play on a little wooden organ for Sunday morning services. One morning there was an air attack by the Japanese and the base was severely damaged including the church. Amazingly though, the little organ remained intact, John packed it into a crate, labelled it medical supplies and had it shipped back to Australia. John's granddaughter has this cherished item to this day.

John received honours for his service which included Mentioned in Despatches in both BCOF Japan and in Korea.

After retiring from the Army, John was employed at Royal Perth Hospital. During this time, he assisted Mr. George Bedbrook, a renowned orthopaedic surgeon.

This SGT's mess Mug from 1953 will now be presented to the 2RAR Historical Collection for safe keeping.

"When my father was stationed in Korea, the only surgeon in his unit was taken to Japan with a complete breakdown leaving my father to continue in his place in the operating theatre. I asked him once if it was like the TV show, Mash and he just laughed. Truly an amazing person of whom I am very proud."

Peta Saunder



To learn more about items held within the 2 RAR Historical collection you can visit there Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/The-2-RAR-Historical-Collection-2110949075591616/>

If you wish to donate items to the 2 RAR Historical collection please email the Curator at: 2RAR.Museum@gmail.com or call Jason Harrison on 0419 749 198.

(Information for this article was provided by Peta Saunder)

Veterans Matters

MEDICARE MENTAL HEALTH CENTRES

The federal Government has announced the Medicare Mental Health centres which are located in all States and Territories. There is no requirement to present a Medicare or DVA Healthcare Card in order to utilise their services.

This service is open to all veterans and non-veterans. For further information and locations visit here:

<https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/medicare-mental-health-centres>

VETERANS & FAMILIES BENEFITS

On 13 Feb 2025 Parliament has passed the most significant legislative reform of Australia's veteran support system.

The Veterans Entitlements, Treatment and Support Act 2024 – The Vets Act – will bring the three current systems governing veterans' entitlements under a single Act – an improved Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA)

This reform will make it easier for veterans and families to understand their entitlements, simpler for advocates to support veterans making DVA claims, and it will streamline claims processing.

The changes will come into effect from 01 July 2026, no veteran will see a reduction in their current payments and will open a pathway to a Gold Card for many veterans that were previously not eligible.

New claims with DVA after 01 July 2026 will come under this new MRCA act.

LEGACY HOUSE

A brand-new Legacy House in Brisbane's south is one step closer, with construction now underway at the former Australian Red Cross Centre site in Greenslopes, QLD.

This will become home to Legacy QLD and will feature a hub for both veterans and families, as they continue their mission of supporting the whole family unit.

OUR VIETNAM WAR

Our Vietnam War tells the story of Australia's involvement in the words of the men who were sent to fight; the battles, the protests, returning and the long shadow the war cast on the people whose lives were turned upside down.

These stories can be viewed on ABC iview at:

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/our-vietnam-war>

PODCASTS

There are numerous podcasts out there telling stories of varies 2RAR veterans. If wish to listen to their stories you can visit the following:

Zero Limits Podcast – EP. 150 – Adam Kelly- 2RAR Snipers
<https://www.zerolimitspodcast.com/ep-150-adam-kelly-australian-army-2rar-sniper/>

Zero Limits Podcast – EP. 198 – Jared Purcell - 2RAR (hosted by Broken Fathers podcast)
<https://www.zerolimitspodcast.com/ep-198-jared-purcell-2rar-australian-army-host-broken-fathers-podcast/>

UP Close – AWM Podcasts

<https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/podcasts>

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">The 2 RAR Historical Collection</h2>				
Mailing Address The 2 RAR Historical Collection 2 RAR (Amphib) Samichon Lines Lavarack Barracks Queensland 4814 The curator can be contacted on MB - 0419749198 2RAR.Museum@gmail.com	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  Like us and follow us on Facebook See 'The 2 RAR Historical Collection' Objects in the collection can be viewed by visiting www.thecollectingbug.com/2rarmuseum/			Donations (Bank transfer) Acc Name - Historical Collection BSB - 833205 Acc Number - 20419234 # All money is spent directly on the 2 RAR Historical Collection <i>The Collection is staffed by volunteers who have all served in the Battalion at some time or another</i>
	2			

COMMANDING OFFICER 2RAR - BIO

Commanding Officer LTCOL Luke Holloway

Lieutenant Colonel Luke Holloway is a graduate of the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College – Duntroon, commissioning in 2007. His regimental service consists of service in the 1st and 8th/9th Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment, culminating in his current appointment as the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Holloway has had the privilege of commanding and leading soldiers on various operations throughout his career. As a junior officer, he was fortunate to gain specialist qualifications and experience in Reconnaissance and ISTAR roles. His formative experiences included service on Rifle Company Butterworth as well as Operations YASI ASSIST (North Queensland), SLIPPER (Afghanistan), and CATHEDRAL (Papua New Guinea). On Operation CATHEDRAL, Lieutenant Colonel Holloway was the Liaison Officer to the Papua New Guinea Defence Force Joint Task Force operating in the highlands, receiving an ADF Bronze Commendation for his performance in this role. Lieutenant Colonel Holloway has also led a combat team on a range of exercises, and within the Amphibious Ground Combat Element as part of the Ready Battle Group. In 2018, he commanded the Land Mobile Training Teams on Operation AUGURY – Philippines based in Mindanao. Lieutenant Colonel Holloway led the design and delivery of combined arms urban operations training for several formations of the Philippines Armed Forces. For his efforts he was awarded the Philippines Military Merit Medal on three occasions. In 2023, Lieutenant Colonel Holloway deployed on Operation OKRA as CJ35 Chief Plans for Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. For his leadership of the planning team conducting deliberate planning as well as crisis action planning he was awarded the United States Defence Meritorious Service Medal and an ADF Gold Commendation.

Lieutenant Colonel Holloway's staff appointments include Adjutant 1st Recruit Training Battalion, desk officer in the G1 and G3 branches of Headquarters Forces Command, and Aide-de-Camp to Commander 2nd Division for which he awarded an Army Bronze Commendation. Post staff college, he served as Staff Officer Grade 2 Post 1 and Staff Officer Grade 2 PAC. On promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he served as Staff Officer Grade 1 – Joint Collective Training within the G3 branch of Army Headquarters, followed by several months as Acting Director Preparedness – Army. In 2024, he served as Director Land Engagements and Communications – Land Capability Division. Lieutenant Colonel Holloway's staff experience has afforded him considerable insight into the Army People, Capability and Preparedness Systems, Army's future strategic direction, and Army's contribution to the Integrated Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Holloway holds a Bachelor of Arts (History and Politics), a Master of Business (Human Resources), a Master of Military and Defence Studies (Art of War) and has completed the Cranlana leadership Colloquium. He is a Distinguished Graduate of the Australian Command and Staff Course, where he received the Charlie Green Leadership Award.

His partner – Major Gabrielle Taylor, is a military police officer who is currently serving in Headquarters 3rd Brigade. They enjoy travel, rugby union, and most importantly, parenting Rose (six years old). He actively contributes to national security and military history journals and recently authored a chapter on building partner capacity in the book *An Army of Influence: Eighty Years of Regional Military Engagement*.



Roll Of Honour: Remembering our Fallen

WX 23289 PTE Henry Alan ROWBOTTAM (11 May 1927 – 27 May 1946: Aged 19 yrs)



Service Details:

Private Henry Alan Rowbottam was born in Dalwallinu, WA on 11 May 1927. Pte Rowbottam was the son of Harry Walter and Eileen Marion Rowbottam. Henry was a storeman prior to enlisting as a General Reinforcement in the AMF on 22 May 1945 at Karrakatta WA.

After training in Australia, Henry arrived in Kure, Japan on 26 April 1946 posted to 66th Aust Inf Bn.

On 27 May 1946 in Hachihonmatsu, Japan, Henry, aged 19, died from a 303-bullet wound to the abdomen from an Accidental discharge whilst on duty. Henry's PI attended his funeral, with members of the Hachihonmatsu detachment his pall bearers.

Henry was the first soldier to be buried in the ground of the temporary British War Cemetery and is now buried in the Yokohama War Cemetery, Japan.

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

Fate: Died accidentally in Hachihonmatsu, 27 May 1946

Cause of Death: Accidental discharge whilst on duty

Memorial Details: Yokohama War Cemetery, Yokohama, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa, Japan – Plot Aust.Sec.E.C.3. Panel 71, Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT and the Subiaco Fallen Solders Memorial, Subiaco, WA.

Inspector Rowbottom's loss son killed in Japan:

Inspector Rowbottam, in charge of the South-West police and stationed in Bunbury, received a telegram on June 30 from the Minister for the Army advising him that his son Pte Henry Alan Rowbottam (19) had been killed as a result of an accident.

Henry Rowbottam, who will be well remembered in Bunbury, where he was employed at Donaldson's Garage, was a member of the Australian Occupation Forces in Japan when the tragedy occurred. Beyond the bare announcement of his son's death, Inspector Rowbottom has so far received no information in regard to the unfortunate occurrence.

Inspector Rowbottam, during the period he has been stationed in Bunbury, has won wide popularity as a police officer, and all sections of the community will hear of his loss with very great regret, and extend to him a full measure of sympathy.

Henry Rowbottam was in Bunbury on leave last February before being drafted to duty in Japan. Two other sons returned safely after serving their country with the fighting forces.

South Western Times (Bunbury, WA Thu 6 Jun 1946)

'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

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

BEYONDBLUE SUPPORT SERVICES

1300 22 4636, 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: _____

Additional Information:

Regimental /PMKeyS No: _____ DOB: ____ / ____ / 19 ____ / 20

Post-Nominals: _____ Spouse/Partner's Name: _____

Years Served in the Bn from-to: _____

Sub Units served with: Example: A Coy 1955-56 / Spt Coy 1957-59

Deployments: Example: Malaya 1st Tour A Coy – Oct 1955-Feb 57

Honours and Awards (NOT Service Medals)

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Membership Year From -To: 1 October to 30 September

Yearly \$20 or Multiple-Years \$40 (2 years), \$60 (3 years), \$80 (4 years), \$100 (5 years)

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 Membership@2rar-association.net.au

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.

For Membership enquires: Ring Troy McGill - 0409 649 633

RINGO: Our intent is for the Ringo Newsletter to be sent out to you via email. Please advise if you require this by mail YES/NO



2RAR Association, Inc
Merchandise Order Form

FULL NAME: _____ Tele: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Mob: _____

PostCode _____ Email: _____ @ _____

All prices are inclusive of packaging and postage fees within Australia

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	ITEM	PRICE	QTY
Clothing Items					
SHIRTS					
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 – 4XL/5XL	\$30		STUBBY COOLERS		
HATS			Stubby Cooler - "2RAR"	\$11	
Cap - Black 2 RAR	\$35		Stubby Cooler - First Round On Us	\$11	
Bucket Hat - II	\$30		Stubby Cooler - Second to no Bastard	\$11	
TIES			CHALLENGE COIN		
Tie - 2 RAR Black Heritage	\$35		Coin Black and Gold – 2 RAR	\$20	
BADGES					
Lapel Badge - Member	\$13		Lapel Badge – Slouch Hat	\$5	
Lapel Badge - replacement Life Member	\$13				
STICKERS					
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				
PATCHES					
Patch – Woven - Rising Sun	\$8.00		Patch – Woven - Unit Colour Patch	\$8	
Patch – Woven - Combat Vietnam	\$8.00		Patch – Woven - ICB	\$8	
KEY RINGS			PLAQUES		
Key Ring - Black/Gold – 2RAR	\$20		Wall Plaque: 2RAR	\$55	
PRINTS					
Print - 2RAR Air Assault Operations Nui Dat Vietnam	\$30		Print – Korea, Samichon	\$40	
FLAGS			BOOKS		
2 RAR Large Double Sided	\$90		Book – East Timor in Pictures	\$20	
2 RAR Single Sided	\$50				
MISCELLANEOUS					
Cards – Deck Playing	\$20		Pewter Drink Coaster - ICB Badge	\$25	
Note Pad Leather ICB	\$10		Bar Runner – 2 RAR	\$55	

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:

Merchandise@2rar-association.net.au
or
Post the Merchandise Order Form to:
PO Box 2352, Idalia
Townsville Qld 4811

- Please include name and address and shirt size if required