



18 Aug 2023

Vietnam Veterans Day – 50th Anniversary of the end of Australia’s Involvement in the Vietnam War

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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

Cover Image: AWM Commemoration plaque of 2 RAR veterans who passed away in Vietnam. Picture - veterans who passed away in Vietnam.

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 PayPal, direct debit or cheque. Please advise us if you have changed any of your contact details, particularly your email address.

President's Report

As I am writing this the 2 RAR Annual General Meeting would have now concluded. As you may now be aware I have stood down as President of the 2 RAR Association to fill the role as Secretary. I have enjoyed being the President of the 2 RAR Association over the last 3 years as it was a privilege to have been given such an honour to represent all veterans and serving members of the Btn. The Association is not about any one person as we do what we do to support all veteran's past, present and future and will continue to do so.

I would like to welcome on Board two new State Reps being Robert Pickersgill for the ACT and Cameron Simpkins for Tassie who has come back on board. There are social catch ups being organised across the states so please reach out to your State rep for more information. We are continuing to look for volunteers to act as State Reps for SEQLD and NSW so if you have some time on your hands and like to have a yarn or two with other like-minded veterans, we would love to hear from you.

A big congratulations and welcome to the Association committee to Merv Diction, Merv is a mainstay with the 2/4 RAR Association and has happily jumped on board to support the 2 RAR Association as well.

In Aug we were able to honour our thirty-one 2RAR Vietnam Veterans KIA with attendance at all Commemorative services across Australia for the Vietnam Veteran Vigil. A big heartfelt thank you to all former members of both tours of South Vietnam, their families, all veterans and the various sub branches who were able to make such an achievement possible.

The Commemorative services for both the Korean Veterans and Vietnam Veterans Day were well turned-out events. The commemorative service at the AWM for Vietnam 50th Anniversary was particular impressive.

Congratulations also to 2 RAR for being the 2023 Duke of Gloucester Cup winners.

Final Word

With the xmas period soon upon us, take the time to enjoy this period with family and friends and we look forward to new adventures with you all in 2024.

'Second to None'



'Second to None'
Robert Althofer
Past President
2RAR Association, INC

Significant 2 RAR Dates: Oct-Jan

08 Oct 1955 – The Battalion sailed from Brisbane to Malaya and was the first Australian unit to serve in Malaya since WWII.

16 Oct 1945 - 66 Australian Infantry Battalion was raised at Labuan in British North Borneo. Volunteers came mostly from men of the 9th Division, 2nd AIF. The Battalion celebrates its birthday on this day.

10 Oct 1999 – 8PL C Coy reported first Operational contact since the Vietnam War in Motaain, East Timor as part of INTEFET.

10 Oct 2001 – 2 RAR deployed to East Timor for Second Tour of Duty under OP TANAGER.

27 Oct 1956 – 'Operation North Shark' in Malaya conducted in the region of Sungeri Siput from 27 Oct-02 Dec 1956. 2 RAR returned on 04 Feb 1957 to Operation 'North Shark'.

31 Oct 1957 – Battalion returned to Australia from Operations in Malaya and marched through Sydney to a ticker-tape parade with some 100,000 people in attendance.

Oct 1961 – The Battalion was the first to serve two tours in Malaya. It joined the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade group, at Terendak camp near Malacca.

15 Oct 1971 – 2 RAR was granted freedom of Entry to the city of Townsville for the first time.

Oct 2006 & 2007 – OP Slipper RTF-1 – Sniper pair sent to Afghanistan. C Coy depart in Oct 2007 for RTF-3.

Oct 2018 – OP APEC ASSIST – PI from A Coy 2 RAR (Amphib) provide support in PNG.

Nov 2003 – 6PL B Coy 2 RAR replaces C Coy 2 RAR for OP ANODE in the Solomon Islands.

23 Nov 1948 – 66 Inf Battalion became the 2nd Battalion, The Australian Regiment.

Dec 1948 – 2AR returned to Australia from Japan and was located at Puckapunyal, Victoria.

Dec 1979 – Three 2/4 RAR soldiers deploy on OP AGILA – Commonwealth Monitoring Force Rhodesia.

03 Jan 1956 – The Battalion entered operations in the kulim area of Malaya. Bravo Company had the first successful contact with the communist Terrorist enemy during 'Operation Deuce'.

19 Jan 1993 – Fifty-four 2/4 RAR soldiers accompanied the 1 RAR Battalion Group to Somalia as part of OP SOLACE.

Veteran Stories — Everyone who survived that day was lucky

29 October 2011 - Afghanistan

Sergeant Robert Althofer had returned from picket and was still in his body armour when he heard the gunfire.

"I just thought they were shooting into the air," he said. "And then I got hit."

It was 29 October 2011, and Robert was at Patrol Base Sorkh Bed in Afghanistan's Kandahar province when, without warning, an Afghan soldier calmly fired his assault rifle at a group of Australian soldiers who had been tasked with mentoring the Afghan National Army.

"There were roughly 350 Afghan soldiers on parade, and I got there right at the end," he said. "The parade had just finished when a soldier broke from the ranks and walked directly in front of us... "He was only approximately ten metres away when he lifted up his weapon, and started firing at us.

"Three Australian soldiers – Lance Corporal Luke Gavin, Captain Bryce Duffy and Corporal Ashley Birt – were killed and myself, and six other Australian soldiers, were wounded.

"My interpreter, who was right next to me, was shot as well and we immediately tried to give first aid."

At first, Robert didn't realise that he'd been shot. "The first rounds went off, and I was standing behind my 2IC, so I didn't see him firing at us," he said. "The second burst of fire is when I fell to the ground.

"I didn't know I had been shot at that stage, but I fell to the ground, and I looked up and that's when I saw him with his weapon pointed towards me. "For some reason, I thought my hand over my face would protect me, so I ducked away, and the rounds landed near my face."

The rogue soldier was shot dead as Australian soldiers raced from a nearby compound and began treating the wounded.

"Our medic had been shot in the knee, and he was crawling around, trying to triage everyone who had been shot," Robert said.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

AWM2018.1052.1

"The hierarchy of the whole company was essentially on parade that morning and had been shot up. "So the other, younger diggers came running out.

"By this stage, I'd realised something was wrong because I couldn't stand up. "A young digger [then] started working on me, and he put both hands into the right side of my leg where the exit wound was."

Robert was rushed to a small Afghan National Army hospital facility at the base, before being airlifted to Tarin Kowt. "We knew by this stage that choppers were inbound to casevac us out of the area, so I got put on a litter," he said. "I was starting to feel the pain because they'd put two tourniquets around the leg, pretty high up.

"But I was directly opposite Luke Gavin, so that was pretty painful too. I was his section commander, and I'd been his platoon sergeant on two other operations, and had done two previous tours of East Timor with him, so I knew him really well."

Robert was flown from Tarin Kowt to a US military hospital in Germany and then home to Australia.

"The bone in my upper leg was completely shattered, and I was lucky the bullet didn't hit an artery," he said. "The first four days I was in and out of surgery, and when I got on the plane, I was still in a bad way. "I had to get a couple of blood transfusions just to fly back to Australia, and when I got home, I couldn't bend the leg at all.

"The first couple of months were just constant surgeries and there was a machine which forces your leg to bend. I was literally just pressing a button and forcing the leg to bend until I was pretty well in tears and I couldn't take it anymore.

"Everyone who survived that day was lucky,"

"I was in rehab with this other guy who had been blown up by an IED. This guy was really struggling just to stand up and move around; and that's what makes you put things into perspective. "I'm alive, and I've still got my family."

Story attained from AWM on 2RAR veteran 8242858 SGT Robert Andrew Rodney Althofer – MTF 3 Afghanistan 2011.

Green on Blue: the betrayal of trust by artist and 2 RAR veteran Rob Douma that was displayed at the AWM.

Green on Blue is the name given to incidents involving insider attacks on coalition forces.

East Timor - Motaain Shooting Incident

10 Oct 1999

On 10 October 1999, International Force East Timor (INTERFET) received reports that there was to be some sort of parade at the town of Motaain, some 3km to the South of Batugade, and a possible handover of weapons to militia members by the TNI.

Motaain was a small village located on the main road between Kupang, 290km to the Southwest, and Dili the Capital of East Timor which was 113km to the East. Motaain contained the major border crossing checkpoint between West Timor and East Timor.

During the morning C Company, commanded by Maj Jim Bryant, closed up on the village of Motaain. 8 PL C Coy from 2 RAR led by 19-year-old LT Peter Halliday and accompanied by MAJ David Kilcullen, Officer Commanding Support Company were lead advance with one section as lead section.

As Australians approached the border area, an Indonesian Officer saw them. He moved forward to warn them not to come closer because, based on his map, they were only a few hundred metres away from the border and were about to cross into West Timor.

As the Australian patrol approached along the main road to the border bridge at Motaain, and before the Indonesian Officer could make contact, several of his men opened fire on the Australians.

At 1400hrs the first operational contact report sent on a 2RAR radio since the Vietnam War was sent out. Approximately 600m from the border, the column approached several small huts astride the river. Just short of the river a burst of fire was heard.

Most of this fire was directed at Corporal Paul Teong's section, who completed their contact drill, gave each other target information, took aim and awaited direction. Teong ordered return fire. This opening burst from the Australians killed one Indonesian policeman and seriously wounded two others. There was a pause in Indonesian fire. Teong ordered his men to cease firing and to watch their front.

During the course of the short engagement the lead scout from the section, was isolated a short distance forward of the remainder of the section and unable to move due to fire directed over his position. Cpl Teong assessed the situation and ordered that covering fire be placed into the area of the group of enemy that were firing toward his section.

After both sides shouting assurances that there would be no more firing, both Maj Bryant and Kilcullen met with the Indonesian Officer and began discussions on what had occurred. It had become clear that INTERFET forces and the Indonesian Military were using different maps.

The incident appeared to have been caused by confusion about the location of the border between East and West Timor. Militia groups sponsored by the Indonesian army had congregated in the west since INTERFET arrived in September to try to bring peace to East Timor after the militia terrorised the territory for voting at the end of August for independence from Indonesia. The Militia were able to withdraw immediately into West Timor due to both TNI and police assistance who engaged INTERFET troops long enough to cover the militias withdrawal, then called for a ceasefire.



Contact – Motaain East Timor

The incident at Motaain produced high level concern with senior TNI Officers accusing INTERFET troops of crossing into West Timor and opening fire on Indonesian troops. Fortunately, the presence of several journalists and a camera crew verified that the Indonesians had fired first and that the Australians had demonstrated professional fire discipline.

CPL Paul Teong, 2RAR's lead section commander, was awarded the DSM for exemplary leadership under fire during this incident.

Cpl Teong's reasoned decision making and sound judgement during this contact was instrumental in providing for the safety of his section.

Duke of Gloucester Cup - 2023

The regular Infantry Battalions of the RAR compete against each other for the Gloucester cup in an annual military skills competition. The Duke of Gloucester Cup was first presented in 1946 and is a competition demonstrating the section from each Battalions strength and endurance over a five-seven day period.

After seven days of tough competition, soldiers from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment proved they are second to none after winning the 2023 Duke of Gloucester Cup.

2RAR section commander Corporal Locksley Pryce said he couldn't fault his section's performance. "Everyone performed equally well. If it wasn't for their hard work we wouldn't have won," Corporal Pryce said. "We were quite motivated and confident we could win it, but we also had a flexible mindset that anything could be thrown at us, as well."

A section from each infantry battalion took part in the competition, held at the School of Infantry from August 19-25. It started with marksmanship, before moving into the field to test the soldiers in combat and medical skills. The competition finished with a 14km endurance test and obstacle course.

Corporal Pryce said an intense physical training program and focusing on the basics helped them prepare. "Each Friday we did a bit of a culminating activity, which also involved a pack march and obstacle course, so we were physically drained but also touching on the theory or practical skills we did that week," he said.

2RAR also came home with the Royal Ulsters Rifles Trophy for best falling plate shoot, and Corporal Pryce was awarded the Regimental Sergeant Major's Trophy for best section commander.

Private Cooper Cattanach, who was the only member of the winning section who competed in 2022, this year was named best individual soldier and awarded the DSM Roche CSC Memorial Cup.

The Winning 2 RAR team took home the following awards for 2023:

- Royal Ulster Rifles Trophy,
- DSM Roche CSC Memorial Cup – Pte Cattanach,
- RSM's Trophy – Cpl Pryce

2 RAR have been previous overall winners of the Duke of Gloucester cup in 1981 & 1993 (2/4RAR), 1996, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2017, 2019 and 2023.



Warriors Who Have Marched Out

6708421 Pte Nigel Wayne BAKER – Died 12 Aug 2023

Baker was a 3rd Intake National Serviceman who served with 2 Sect 4PI B Coy 2RAR in South Vietnam from 19 May -14 Nov 1967. Nigel passed away on 12 Aug 2023 from Lung cancer aged 77+.

5714456 Pte Gregory John BRACEGIRDLE – 31 Dec 1945-24 Oct 2023

Greg posted to South Vietnam initially with 1ARU the Coy 6 RAR before joining 9PL C Coy 2RAR from 29 May 1967-26 Feb 1968. Greg passed away on 24 Oct 2023 from Motor Neurone Disease.

4717471 Pte Robert Lyle CARRISON - 08 Jan 45 – 28 Apr 2023

Robert was born in Semaphore SA, went to Kings College, Adelaide and called up for 2 years National Service on 1 Jul 1965. Robert completed basic training at 1 RTB Kapooka then posted to 2 RAR, then 3 CCS. He passed away on 28 Apr 2023, aged 78+.

53419 Major Peter George COWAN MBE - 8 Dec 1937 – 17 Aug 2023

Peter served with 1 RAR (LCpl Malaya 1955-57) 2 RAR, WO2 with AATTV South Vietnam (24 Mar 1967-30 Mar 68), 9 RAR, as 3rd RSM of 8/9 RAR (May 76-Mar 79), retired as a Major. Peter pass away on 17 Aug 2023 at his home in Hervey Bay QLD, aged 85. Peter's funeral was held at Nikenbah Qld.

35767 WO2 Alistair George CUNNINGHAM OAM - 3 Jun 1927 – 27 Dec 2021

Alistair served with 1 RAR, 2 RAR including service in Malaya and Malaysia and as a WO2 with 3 RAR in Vietnam (12 Dec 1967 - 26 Nov 1968). In the 2006 Queens Birthday Honours Alistair was awarded an OAM for service to swimming, particularly through the Liverpool City Amateur Swimming Club and the Cumberland Swimming Association. Alistair, formerly of Greystanes NSW, had been ill for quite some time and passed away on 27 Dec 2021, aged 94. His funeral was held at Pinegrove North Chapel, Minchinbury NSW.

WO1 Heinz GRABOWSKI - 4 Aug 1934 – 30 Oct 2023

Heinz served with the French Foreign Legion 1955-1958 (Vietnam & Algeria). He served in the Australian Infantry for 21 years from 1963 – 1984, serving with 1 RAR in PNG (twice), Cpl in 2 PI A Coy 2 RAR in Vietnam (19 May 1967 – 14 May 1968), 3 RAR and 5 RAR. He passed away on 30 Oct 2023, aged 89.

347762 Pte Hugh JONES - 25 Aug 1934 – 21 Jun 2022

Served with 3 RAR in Korea (29 Sep 53 – 30 Sep 54), with 2 RAR in Malaya 1955-57. Hugh, from Warrnambool Vic passed away on 21 June 2022, aged 87+, with his funeral held at Geelong Vic.

212920 Sgt Victor John LAGETTIE, AACC 8 Aug 1939 – 21 Jul 2023

Served in South Vietnam with the Australian Logistics Support Company (27 May 1965-13 May 1966) as Sergeant cook and again with 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (28 May to 27 Dec 1970). During his career he also served as WO Caterer in 1 RAR. Vic passed away 21 Jul 2023, aged 81+. He was an inaugural member of the Down Under Chapter 11 of the 173d Airborne Brigade, US Army. When the Queensland Chapter 23 was formed in 1996 Vic was the inaugural president. His leadership style brought forward a strong social strength and built a camaraderie that remains the foundation of the Queensland Chapter today. His funeral was held at Fry Bros Funeral Chapel, Rutherford NSW

2784787 Pte Michael John "Mick" LOWE - 4 May 1946 – 25 Jan 2020

Mick was born in Warialda NSW. Called up for National Service he served in 12 PI D Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam from 19 May 1967 – 13 Jun 1968. Late of Glenfield NSW, Mick passed away on 25 Jan 2020.

54937 Cpl David Clifton MANSFIELD -8 Feb 1947 – 29 Oct 2023

David joined 2 RAR in 1963 and saw Active Service with the Battalion in South Vietnam, with 5 PI B Coy in 1967-68 and as a Section Commander with 4 PI B Coy in 1970-71. On RTA he remained with the Battalion until it was linked with 4 RAR on 15 Aug 1973. Served with 2/4 RAR until 21 Nov 1976, later 1 RAR from 1980-1983, then 1 Trg Gp at Wacol before retiring in 1984. David passed away on 29 Oct 2023, aged 76. David's wishes were for no funeral service.

1201143 Sgt Sydney "Mac" Alexander McLEOD - 21 Jun 1943 – 8 Sep 2023

Sydney was in 6 PI B Coy 3 RAR in Malaya and Sarawak, Borneo. Later posted to 1 ARU in SVN (13 Aug 67-14 May 1968) then 3 RAR (15 May to 20 Aug 68). He returned to SVN for a Second tour of Duty as PI Sgt 5 PI B Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (16 May 70-1 Jun 71). Sydney passed away on 8 Sep 2023 at Townsville General Hospital. Friends were with Sydney to comfort him until he passed, he was aged 80. Adhering to Sydney's wishes there was no service but a gathering at his favourite venue "The Avenues Tavern", Kirwan, Townsville QLD to celebrate his life.

5714952 Pte Kenneth Gordon MITCHELL -2 Nov 1946-13 Jul 2023

Ken, as a National Servicemen, served in 7 PI C Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam (24 Oct 1967-13 Jun 1968). Kenneth passed away in Albany WA on 13 July 2023, aged 76+. Funeral service held at Bethan Chapel, Albany WA.

14200 Sgt Roland "Rod" Keith MULLINGS 16 Oct 1935 – 27 Aug 2023

Rod served in Malaya with 3 RAR, Assault Pioneer PI (1957-1959), 1 RAR, with 2 RAR in South Vietnam (29 Apr 70 – 1 May 1971) as the Sig PI Sgt, 2/4 RAR (15 Aug 1973- 3 May 1976). Rod passed away on 27 Aug 2023, aged 87. Rod's funeral was held at Redcliffe Qld and attended by Ken "Tojo" O'Doherty and Denis "Tiny" Riley.

14801 Pte Bruce George MUNDAY 26 Jun 1941 – 13 Dec 2020

Served from 1958-1964, including Malaya 1961-63 and awarded the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal (PJM). Bruce passed away in Stanthorpe Qld on 13 Dec 2020, aged 79+. A funeral ceremony was held at the International Club, Stanthorpe followed by a private Cremation and burial in Cairns Qld

53176 SSgt Ronald (Ron) James O'HALLORAN 7 Sep 1934 - 2019

Ron was born in Perth WA. He was a Pte with 3 RAR in Malaya 1957-1958 and RTA at Enoggera before joining 2 RAR and was D Coy CQMS in South Vietnam from 19 May 1967 - 02 Apr 1968. Ron was living in St Marys TAS and passed away in 2019.

220337 Pte Richard (Dick) John PLEASH 20 Dec 1949 – 10 Oct 2023
Dick was posted from 1 ARU (9 Dec 70-14 Jan 1971) to 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (B and Sp Coys) in South Vietnam (15 Jan 1971 - 07 May 1971) then back to 1 ARU (8 May – 14 Jun 1971) before being posted to HQ 1 ATF (15 Jun – 20 Oct 1971). Dick passed away on 10 Oct 2023, aged 73, his funeral service and Wake were held at the Altona RSL Vic. He is buried at the Altona Memorial Park, Altona North Vic.

2785982 Cfn Bruce Keith RILEY 10 Jun 1945 - 4 Feb 2017
Was a RAEME member of Admin Coy 2 RAR in South Vietnam from 13 Nov 1967-13 Jun 1968. Bruce passed away on 4 February 2017, aged 71. Bruce is buried in the Korea South East Asia Vietnam Veterans Section, East Ballina Cemetery, Ballina NSW.

16039 LCpl Lloyd (Snow) Noel ROYAL 27 Nov 1941 – 28 Jun 2023
For most of his service Snow was a “professional Batman starting with 3 RAR (12 Oct 61-63), 2 RAR (1 May 63- 15 Jan 68), Lt Murray Blake (later MajGen), CO 5 RAR (24 Jan 69 – 5 Mar 70) in SVN, RMC, 9 RAR then 8/9 RAR and 6 RAR (1973-1980), HQ 7 Mil District, HQ 7 Brigade. He also saw overseas service in Hawaii, USA (19 Jun- 03 July 1985, retiring in 1996. Snow passed away on 28 June 2023, aged 81. He was farewelled in the White Lady Chapel, Kelvin Grove.

23450 WO1 Kevin Duncan STOCKLEY 11 Jan 1931 – 6 Jan 2023
Served in 2 RAR, 4 RAR, 6 RAR and 8 RAR. Kevin served in South Vietnam with AATTV from 23rd March 1965 to Jul 65m 3/1 ARVN, 1st 8 Division, Quang Tri. Aug 65 – Feb 66 as Admin WO, Danang. RTA 9 Mar 66; CSM, Sp Coy 8 RAR Malaysia 1967-1969; RSM 3 TB Singleton and RSM 6 RAR 1974-1975. Kevin passed away on 6 Jan 2023, aged 91, followed by his wife Joy Madeline within 24 hours. A private funeral was held at Kelvin Grove, Brisbane.

23237 Cpl Ronald (Bob) Francis WHALAN 26 Feb 1930 – 26 Jan 2023
Served with 1 RAR, 2 RAR (Korea 25 Feb-5 Jun 1953), 3 RAR. Op service in Malaya 1955-57, Hong Kong, as WO2 in AFV Detachment, 1st Division Intel Unit SVN (18 Jun -28 Dec 1970). Bob from Peak Hill NSW passed away on 26 Jan 2023, aged 92+.

VX500295 Pte William (Bill) Irvin WALLACE 20 Sep 1930 – 1 Oct 2023
Bill was born in Footscray Vic and enlisted in the AIF at Watsonia Vic on 7 Mar 1946 to Jun 30 Jun 1947 in the AIF, then the Interim Australian Army 1 Jul 1947 to 2 Apr 1948. Bill served with 66 Infantry Bn in Japan as part of the BCOF from 19 Nov 1946 to 22 March 1948 and discharged on 2 Apr 1948. He was a long-time member of the 2 RAR Assoc attending many Reunions. Bill lived in Kamerunga Qld and passed away on 1 Oct 2023, aged 93. His funeral was held at Westcourt QLD

2265234 Pte Wayne David YOUNG 8 Oct 1948 – 30 May 2023
Wayne was in the CMF in the mid-1960s prior to completing 2 years National Service (9 July 1969 – 8 Jul 1971) including 12 months on “Active Service” in South Vietnam (SVN) as Forward Scout in 7 PI C Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn. Post SVN Wayne rejoined the “Green Machine” and graduated from OCTU as a Lt and posted to 1/19 RNSWR in the early 1980s and later promoted to Capt. Wayne passed away on 30 May 2023, aged 74. His funeral was held at the RSL Chapel Narrabeen NSW.

6776 LtCol Harry Arthur SMITH SG MC 25 July 1933 – 20 Aug 2023

Born in Hobart, Tas, Harry’s journey in the military began after his time as a National Serviceman and then joined the ARA, completing his training as a 2Lt at OCS Portsea he was posted to 2 RAR as PI Comdr 9 PI C Coy during the Malayan Emergency from 1955 to 1957. He served in 1 CDO Regt and PTS plus other units. Between 8 June 1966 and 14 June 1967, Harry, then a Major, was OC D Coy, 6 RAR. On August 18, following intense mortar shelling of the Australian base at Nui Dat the preceding night, units from 6 RAR were dispatched to locate the involved Vietnamese units. Leading a group of 105 soldiers from D Coy and a 3-man NZ Artillery Party, Harry Smith embarked on a patrol. At 3:15 pm that day, while navigating a rubber plantation at Long Tan, their path intersected with a heavily reinforced Vietnamese force of regimental size (consisting of the Viet Cong 275th Regiment, supported by North Vietnamese Army 806 Battalion, D440, and D445 Battalions). This Vietnamese force aimed to advance on the Australian base. Simultaneously, a monsoon struck, further complicating the situation. Nevertheless, Harry Smith’s adept leadership enabled his forces to repel the attack, all the while coordinating artillery support from Australian, New Zealand, and United States units stationed back at Nui Dat.

During the Battle of Long Tan, D Coy suffered 18 casualties and had 24 soldiers wounded. Despite these losses, under Smith’s strategic command, the company successfully defended against a numerically superior enemy force. The engagement resulted in the confirmed death of at least 245 Vietnamese and an estimated 500 wounded. Notably, records discovered in 1969 indicated that around 800 enemy combatants had been either killed or succumbed to their injuries.

The valiant efforts of 9 Delta Company men were recognized with gallantry awards, although many of these awards were downgraded from their initial nominations. Harry Smith’s exceptional leadership during the intense battle merited him a recommendation for the Distinguished Service Order. However, he ultimately received the Military Cross in recognition of his exceptional contributions.

Harry’s character and his dedication to his fellow soldiers will ensure he is remembered. Harry exemplified the true essence of a leader, always putting his men’s well-being and recognition above all else. His legacy is undeniably strong, and his peers held him in high regard for his unwavering commitment. The annual acknowledgment of his memory on Long Tan Day serves as a reminder of his leadership and the honourable way he led his troops. His legacy will undoubtedly live on, reminding us of his selfless service and leadership his contributions and sacrifices.

Harry passed away on 20 August 2023 at Buderim Private Hospital, aged 90 years. Harry’s full military funeral was held at Buderim Qld.

We Brave Few

VALE: 26275 Warrant Officer Class 1 Jim HUSBAND BEM OAM (24 June 1933-21 May 2023)

2 RAR, AATTV, 2 Cdo Coy, 7 RAR, PTS

Veterans from many arms of the Army and Air Force were saddened to hear of the passing of Jim Husband in May this year, a month before his 90th birthday, at Coolum Beach in Queensland.

Jim served with distinction in Korea, Japan and Vietnam and in many senior NCO postings back home in Australia. A tireless worker for his old battalion comrades and fellow Vietnam veterans, he was a strong advocate on their behalf. Jim was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease a number of years ago but remained strong until the end.

The son of a WW1 veteran, when Jim was not selected in the 'Birthday Ballot' for the 1950s era of National Service, he enlisted in the Regular Army in Sydney in 1952, aged 18. On completion of recruit training at Kapooka, NSW was posted to 2 RAR at Puckapunyal, Vic where the Battalion trained for deployment to Korea.

Jim's father, who was in the 1st Machine Gun Battalion in WW1, wrote to the Battalion and requested that I be moved to the MMG PL in keeping with the "family tradition". His older Brother, John, had served in the Pacific theatre during WW2 in the 2/1st Machine Gun Battalion. Jim was moved to MMG PL as a Regimental Signaller and remained with them during his 'stay' in Korea with 2 RAR. As a signaller he participated in the Battalions battle on "The Hook". At one stage he was the only link to the section on Hill 111, which was crucial to the outcome of the battle.

In 1953 (after the Korean Truce) he was medically evacuated to Kure, Japan. After hospitalisation he was posted to BRITCOM Base Signals Regiment as a Dispatch Rider and during his time in this unit he transferred to the Royal Australian Signals Corps and was promoted to LCPL.

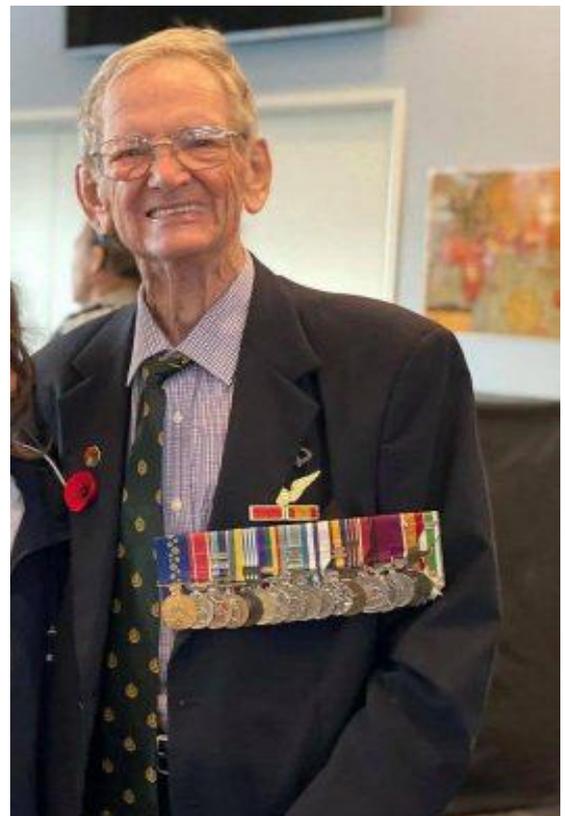
In 1954/55 he was promoted to CPL and posted to the British Commonwealth Battle School at Haramura, Japan as an Assistant Instructor, Regimental Signals. In late 1955 he returned to Australia and was posted to 19 National Service Battalion at Holsworthy, NSW still as an instructor. It was here that he changed from a regimental instructor to the physical training field. He successfully completed a course at the Army PT School at North Head, NSW and was then posted as a long-term student to the Royal Australian Naval School of Physical Training at HMAS Cerberus in Vic.

After the 6-month course he was then posted to 1 Recruit Training Battalion at Kapooka, NSW where he was eventually promoted to SGT. He remained at Kapooka until 1957 when he was posted to the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe, Victoria, still in a physical training role. During his term at the Apprentices School, he was awarded the British Empire Medal.

Army reorganisation caused Jim to transfer back to Infantry Corps and he attended the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam selection course, was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2 and was posted to the training Team in 1963/64 as an Assistant Advisor at the Dong Da National Training Centre near Hue, in ARVN 1st Corps area.

A disciplinary misdemeanour saw him being re-posted as an Assistant Battalion Advisor with the 2nd Battalion. 5ARVN Infantry Regiment in the ARVN 2nd corps area. During this time the Battalion was involved in numerous combat situations, and during one of these operations he was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.

Jim's next posting was as Company Sergeant Major to 2 Commando Company at Ripponlea and Williamstown in Victoria where he qualified for the Green Beret. Jim undertook all of the commando skills courses and qualified in the fields of Cliff Assault (Climbing), small craft operations, Parachuting and Diving. During a leave period Jim was seconded to the Victorian Water Police to assist in the search for the late PM, Harold Holt, at Cheviot beach near Portsea Victoria,



We Brave Few - cont

Still with the commando company he then undertook extensive parachute training and qualified as a Parachute jump instructor (PJI) in both static line and freefall skills and was a member of the RAAF Dominos Parachute Display Team.

In early 1968 Jim was selected to be attached to the British Royal Marine Commandos. He attended the Cliff Leaders Course at the Royal Marine Corps Infantry Training School at Lymptone in Devon. Training took place in Wales and Scotland as well as Britain. On completion of this attachment, he returned to 2 Commando Company.

In 1969 Jim was reposted to the Parachute Training Flight at RAAF Williamtown, NSW, however whilst visiting the postings officer at Albert Park Barracks he received a telephone call from the CO of 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, wanting a replacement Company Sergeant Major for deployment to Vietnam. Being in the right place at the right time, Jim secured the battalion posting and served as CSM of A Company.

Jim served with 7RAR during the Battalion's 2nd tour of South Vietnam and on return to Australia was posted to the Infantry Centre at Ingleburn NSW instructing on the Warrant Officer Courses. It was at the Infantry Centre where he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One and was with the unit when it relocated to Singleton NSW.

The RAAF relinquished the role of training army parachutists and when the unit became the Army Parachute School Jim was posted as the first post-war School Regimental Sergeant Major. Jim was a member of the original Army Red Beret Parachute Display Team which performed nationwide. In all he completed 400 odd parachute descents, including, a water descent in the UK with the Marines. Most of the descents were free fall from 10,000 feet although on one occasion he undertook a descent from a helicopter at 13,000 feet which was the record height at that time. In later years, when the school relocated to its present location, the main training drop zone was named "DZ Husband" on account of Jim being the first RSM.

Jim's last posting in the regular army was to 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, at Enoggera Qld where he served as RSM. This tour of duty included a joint army exercise in NZ. Jim's service in the battalion gained him the Queens Jubilee Medal. Jim completed a further four years with the Army Reserve at Ingleburn NSW.

Jim was awarded the OAM for services to the veteran community in 1999.

An oral History Recording and PDF document about WO1 James Husband service can be found here: [1866316.PDF](#)

Acknowledgement:

2 RAR Association would like to thank the Australian Commando Association for allowing us to share the story written by Barry Higgins. You can read the full unedited version by Barry that is published in the Commando Magazine – Edition 16 2023.

MATES

I've travelled down some lonely roads, both crooked tracks and straight, and I've learned life's noblest creed, summed up in one word "MATE".

I'm thinking back across the years, (a thing I do of late) and this word sticks between my ears, you've got to have a "Mate."

Someone who'll take you as you are, regardless of your state, and stand as firm as Ayres Rock, because he is your Mate.

My mind goes back to '42, to slavery and hate, when man's one chance to stay alive, depended on his Mate. With bamboo for a billy-can, and bamboo for a plate and bamboo paradise for bugs were beds, for me and my "Mate".

You'd slip and slither through the mud and curse your rotten fate, but then you'd hear a quiet word, "don't drop your bundle Mate".

And though it's all so long ago, this truth I have to state, a man doesn't know what lonely means, until he's has lost his "Mate".

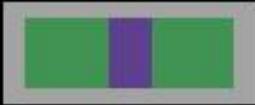
If there's life that follows this, if there's a Golden Gate, the welcome I just want to hear is, "Good on you Mate".

And so, to all that ask me why we keep these special dates, Like "Anzac Day".... I answer: "WHY??!" - We're thinking of our Mates."

And when I've left the driver's seat, and handed in my plates, I'll tell old Peter at the door –

"I've come to join my Mates".

Poem written by Rod Kenane – 5 RAR



The 2 RAR Historical Collection

MAILING ADDRESS

The 2 RAR Historical Collection
2 RAR(Amphib)

Samichon Lines
Lavarack Barrncks
Queensland 4814

The curator can be contacted
on: 0419749198 or via email at
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.



Objects can be viewed by visiting: www.thecollectingbug.com/2rarmuseum/



Like us on Facebook - search "The 2 RAR Historical Collection"



2



II



Veterans Matters

75th ANNIVERSARY THE ROYAL AUST REGT

The Royal Australian Regiment marks 75 years on the 23 Nov 2023.

The event will be marked by a RAR Colour Parade followed by a RAR dinner. The trooping of the colours will occur at RMC from 1100-1230hrs.

The RAR Dinner is a paid event with tickets limited. The dinner will take place at Australian Parliament House in the Great Hall from 1800-2200hrs.

For more details please contact the 2 RAR Association.

PENSION PAYMENTS

Veterans may have just noticed changes to their pension payments in line with cost of living increases. You don't have to do anything to receive the increase; it will automatically be applied to your payment.

SERVICE PENSION	NEW FN RATE
Single Person	\$1,096.70
Couples (each)	\$826.70
Single person - Transitional	\$906.80
Couples (each) - transitional	\$731.60
WAR WIDOWS	
War Widow(er)'s	\$1,116.30
Income Support Supplement	\$331.40
DISABILITY PENSION	
T&PI (Special Rate)	\$1,729.20
Intermediate Rate	\$1,146.40
EDA	\$933.20
100 per cent	\$600.30
10 Per cent	\$66.96
VETERAN PAYMENT	
Single Person	\$1,189.70
Couples (each)	\$927.60
MRCA	
Wholly Dependent Partner	\$1,116.30
Special Rate Disability Pension	\$1,729.20

SEEKING SUPPORT

2RAR Association is seeking any information on a possible NOK of Malaya veteran **3/10499 Pte William HALLIDAY**.

Pte Halliday served in Malaya on 2 RAR's 1st tour with C Coy from Jul 55-Mar 57 and sadly passed way in 2008.

His unmarked remains and a collection of photos were handed into Trafalgar – Thorpdale RSL and we would like to pass these on to any known relatives.

Any assistance in this matter is appreciated.

NOVEMBER 1918 – By Robert Kearney OAM

Now that peace has been declared and we've marked,
war's ending
'tis time for praise and thanks and to begin the work of
mending.

The broken men and women who have, --- or soon will
return,
like we at home who lost someone dear---have so much to
relearn.

We remember those who gave their all and those who gave
so much
silent rooms, an empty chair, in the hallway stands a crutch
drawn blinds, old school books and a broken bat with ball
and a sad old dog, like a sentry, awaits his master's call.

The years of war have taken much and our losses sadly vast
but we must press on and live our lives in each new day—
and not the past.

Sad it was, and sad it is, sad it will forever be
scarred we are, but still unbroken with a future living free.

Remember,--but dwell not on our loss, or the sacrifices
made

Take up your books, a needle, plough, or the tools of your
old trade,

we must press on to show our thanks -- and begin
repatriation,

'tis time to heal, time to work, and advance our great young
nation.



Weapons of the Australian Army

JAVELIN



MERCHANDISE: Item of the Month

2 RAR Challenge Coin (new) - \$20



FGM-148 Direct Fire Guided Weapon System

DFGWS is a crew served fire and forget guided missile weapon able to defeat armour out to 2000m.

The Javelin Weapon System has been engaged to destroy enemy armoured vehicles and bunkers at ranges beyond that achievable with previous shoulder-fired anti-armour systems.

The system also offers the capability to destroy slow-moving or hovering rotary wing aircraft, or fortifications. Combat arms units employ the Javelin as a dismounted shoulder-fired weapon. The Javelin may also be fitted to vehicle platforms.

Targets are engaged by locking on to their heat signature and, once fired, there is no further requirement to guide the missile. The Javelin's time of flight is approximately 14 seconds for 2 kilometres.

DFSW platoon employed this weapon system capability by providing infantry battalions with direct fire support; tracing its origins through the separate anti-tank and machine gun platoons from the early years of the RAR.

Video link attached shows 2 RAR DFSW members using the Javelin in the field.

<https://fb.watch/o5tyv2pXtg/>

GUESS WHO?



Can you name all the veterans in this photo? First with the correct reply will win a 2RAR Challenge coin. Send answers to 2rarassoc@gmail.com

Support Services

WELFARE CENTRES

Two new Veteran & family wellbeing centres have opened in Queensland. The centre in Cairns, Qld and Brisbane both opened in August.

These centres focus on a holistic approach, and offer easy access to support from RSL QLD, Mates4Mates and other organisations, all in the one convenient location.

The V Centre in conjunction with Vasey RSL Care is set to open in mid November located adjacent to the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital in Victoria. The V Centre Veteran Empowerment Program aims to reduce veteran homelessness and increase employment prospects so as to improve the transition experience for veterans.

GEELONG, VIC NETWORKING EVENT

On Dec 12 2023 there will be networking event for ESO's to see how they can mutually assist each other in the care and rehabilitation of veterans within Victoria.

2 RAR Association will have a representative at this event and would be good to see fellow veterans in attendance. The event will be conducted from 1030-1pm at the Geelong RSL, 50 Barwon Heads Rd, Belmont.

RSVP by 04 Dec to CSA.VIC@dva.gov.au

VETERANS FAMILY EXPO

Canberra is set to host the first ever Veterans and Families Expo on 25 Nov 23. The event will take place at the Australian Catholic University's campus in Watson, ACT, and is free to attend.

The event is aimed at improving the wellbeing of Defence families, the expo will introduce attendees to a variety of local information, support, services and programs.

GO BEYOND PROGRAM

Is a free online program that provides each user a self directed training program based on individual needs, and is designed to help guide veterans through their transition to civilian life.

Go beyond focuses on purpose and connection, help seeking, beliefs about civilians, regimentation, resentment and regret. Users will be given practical activities and resources in their own personalised program base on their profile.

To learn more about this program go to [Go Beyond - Gallipoli \(gallipoliresearch.com.au\)](https://www.gallipoliresearch.com.au).

NEVER LEAVE A MATE BEHIND

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

Roll Of Honour: Remembering our Fallen

SX38810 PTE S EVANS (01 Aug 1922 – 19 Dec 1945: aged 23 yrs)



Service Details:

Samuel Edley Evans was born in Peterborough, South Australia on 01st Aug 1922. Prior to his service, Samuel worked as a Labourer before enlisting on 09 Jun 1942 at Henley Beach in South Australia. Samuel Evans enlisted in 1942 as a Pte with his original serial number being S59449 (part of Army in Australia) then later SX38810 when he transferred to 2nd AIF on 3rd Oct 1945.

Pte Evans was posted to units as a labourer (25 Employment Company) before he was Taken on strength (TOS) from 1 HQ Aust Army to 17 CRE Works on 26 Oct 1945. He embarked on the Kamibula on the 12 Nov 1945 for Morotai and was stated missing at sea on the 19 Dec 1945 from an aircraft accident. Pte Evans emplaned at Morotai on 19 Dec 1945 for medical evacuation to Darwin. The plane was lost at sea between Ambon and Darwin.

Pte Evans received multiple charges during his career and spent time on and off in hospital. Pte Evans was married to his wife Joyce at the time of the planes disappearance.

During the period leading up to Pte Evans plane being lost at sea there was massive troop movement around the Pacific. The 66th Battalion at the time had a lot of soldiers coming and going and Pte Evans may have come under command just prior to the evacuation, however there are no details to confirm or deny that Pte Evans was taken on strength with the 66th Battalion. A death certificate was issued by the 66 Battalion as by the time it was issued they were one of the fully functional administrative units able to issue it.

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

Fate: Died at sea (between Ambon and Darwin), 19 December 1945.

Cause of Death: Accidental (Aircraft accident)

Memorial Details: Column 6 Ambon Memorial, Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia. Panel 71, Supplementary Panel 2, Commemorative Are, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT, Australia.

'Lest we forget'



WELFARE:

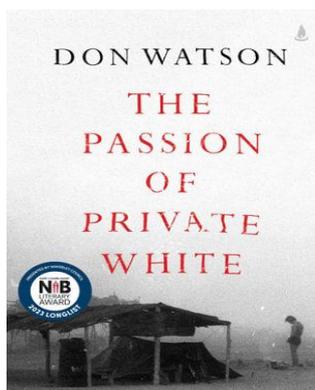
RAAF Holiday Resort - Ambassador Apartments - Gold Coast, QLD

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

BOOK REVIEW:



THE PASSION OF PTE WHITE

The story of a fifty-year relationship between a Vietnam veteran and a remote Aboriginal tribe: a miniature epic of human adaptation, suffering and resilience.

The Passion of Private White describes the meeting of two worlds: the world of the fiercely driven biologist and anthropologist Neville White, and the world of the hunter-gatherer clans of remote northern Australia he studied and lived with. As White tried to understand the world as it was understood on the other side of the vast cultural divide, he was also trying to transcend the mental scars he suffered on the battlefields of Vietnam. The clans had their own injuries to deal with, as they tried to adapt to modernity, live down their losses and yet hold onto their ancient lands, customs, laws and language.

Over five decades, White mapped in astonishing detail the culture and history of the Yolgnu clans at Donydji in north-east Arnhem Land.

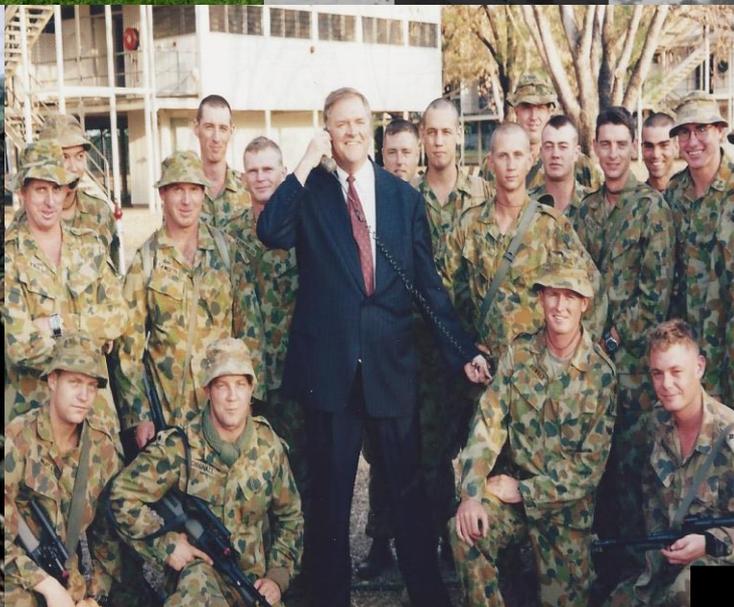
And the fifty-year endeavour served another purpose for White and the members of his old platoon he took there. Working to help the community at Donydji became a kind of antidote for the psychic wounds of Vietnam. While for the clans, from the old warriors to the children, their fanatical benefactor offered a few rays of meaning and hope. There was no cure in this meeting of two worlds, both suffering their own form of PTSD, but they helped each other survive.

This is a miniature epic of human adaptation, suffering and resilience, an astonishing window into both our recent and our deep history, the coloniser and colonised – indeed into the human condition itself.

2RAR – In Pictures



 
2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) BATTALION





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)
 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

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