

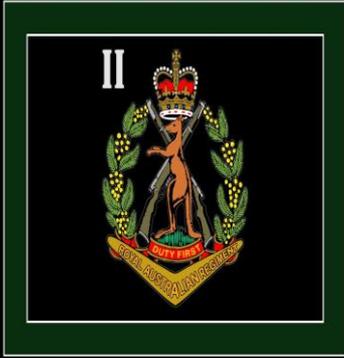


2nd BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT (Amphib)

Faces of the Battalion throughout 80 years of formation

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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: 66Bn/Ken Taylor-Korea /unknown soldier-Malaya/Doug Brooks-Vietnam/Lt Justin Parker-Solomon Islands / 2RAR soldier patrolling 2024

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

Numbers are starting to come in for the 2RAR Association 80th Anniversary of formation to be held from 24-26 Oct 2025. In this issue a Pre Order Merchandise form has been added indicating merchandise available for this event. If you are interested in purchasing merchandise for this special event, please advise our merchandise Member ASAP so that Qty and sizes can be obtained. The Anniversary event is a significant milestone for the Battalion starting from its humble beginnings as the 66th Battalion in 1945 to today's 2RAR Amphibious Battalion so we hope to see many in attendance.

It is always good to see stories about what the Battalion is up to especially in our current times of uncertainty. You can read a bit about A Coy latest activity in this issue.

2025 marks a significant occasion for many, The National Commemorative Service marking 75th Anniversary of the Korean war outbreak was held recently at the Australian National Korean War Memorial in Canberra, whilst the 75th Anniversary of the Malayan Emergency will also be held, with a National Commemorative service in Canberra on 31 Aug.

The 2RAR Association would like to congratulate LTCOL Jon WICK (previous CO of 2RAR) who was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) during the Kings Birthday Honours list for 2025.

2025 has seen the passing of many of the Battalions strongest soldiers, Terry Dinneen being one such warrior. Terry was the invaluable 2RAR Association Historian and was always a font of knowledge about the Battalion, his Military knowledge will be sadly missed.

The 2RAR Association has implemented some changes over the past months, our website is getting a bit of a makeover at the moment, any feedback on the information provided on the website is appreciated. In turn with that change the Association has now also implemented a new emailing address for all correspondence, our new email is Secretary@2rar-association.net.au and our banking details have also been changed which can be found on both the Merchandise form and the Membership form.

'Second to None'



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

Significant 2 RAR Dates: Jun-Aug

07 Jun 1953 – Korea – 2/401510 Pte J.R Jamieson KIA Aged 26 years, was originally known as Robert William Walker but changed his name for unknown reasons.

13 Jun 1968 – Vietnam- 2 RAR completed its last major operation (OP Toan Thang) of its first tour to Vietnam and on 01 Jun 1968 were relieved by 4 RAR and returned to Australia, arriving home on 13 Jun 1968

Jun 1961 – Holsworthy – Australia – After a major reorganisation of the Army, the Bn became a Pentropic unit. It was reorganised on tropical establishment again in Jun 1961 to prepare for its second tour of Malaya.

Jun 2011 – Afghanistan – 2RAR deployed to Urozgan province, Afghanistan as mentoring Task Force Three (MTF-3)

09 Jul 1953 – Korea – The Bn relieved the 1st Bn, The King's Regiment around a feature known as 'The Hook' on the left flank of the 1st Commonwealth Division. As peace talks were currently underway, offensive operations were not undertaken although patrolling operations continued.

24-26 Jul 1953-Korea- The Battle of Samichon River, 2RAR Commanded by LTCOL George Larkin deployed 2RAR with three companies forward, and one back in reserve as a counter-attack force. In the centre, the Hook was held by B Coy, while C Coy held the left and A Coy the right, with D Coy in reserve.

Jul 1962 – Malayan Emergency – After the Malayan Emergency was officially over, 2RAR was on active service in this area from Jul to late Oct 1962 and from 28 May until 02 Jul 1963.

Jul 2003 – Solomon Islands – 2RAR as part of the Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF), was deployed to the Solomons to operate in support of police to re-establish law and order.

01 Aug 1967 – Vietnam – 2412362 Pte P.S. McGarry KIA when he activated a booby trap just after 2am, in Phuoc Tuy, while attached to 2 RAR as a rifleman. Aged 20 years.

31 Aug – Malaya and Borneo Veterans Day. Australia commemorates and reflects on the service and sacrifice of all military personnel who served in the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation.

Aug 1995 – Rwanda – B Coy return to Australia after completion of its rotation to (UNAMIR) United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda. During their rotation there was serious unrest at the Kibeho Displaced Persons camp during Apr 1995 where the actions by the Rwandan Peoples Army caused considerable loss of life amongst the local Rwandan population.

Veteran Stories — 1731783 2nd LT Murray James FLETCHER

Untold Stories

Murray James Fletcher was born on 27 November 1945, at Pittsworth, QLD, the younger son of Sir Alan, a farmer, and Lady Enid Fletcher, a New Zealand born music teacher, of Te Mata, Irongate, a farming community near Mt Tyson, west of Toowoomba.

Alan and Enid met while Enid was on a working holiday in Australia in 1929. Alan went from farming to representing the seat of Cunningham in the Queensland State Parliament from 1953-1974. Alan was knighted in 1972.

Murray's primary education was at Irongate and Mt Tyson schools. His parents then enrolled him at The Scots College, Warwick, as a boarder. Murray's father, a College Old Boy, served on the School Council and was President of The Old Scots Collegians' Association for many years. There was a strong family connection between Scots and Presbyterian Girls' College. Murray's brother, Mostyn, went to Scots and sisters Jill and Lyndsey attended PGC, so it was natural Murray would attend Scots.

Arriving at Scots in February 1960, Murray became known as a resourceful, industrious student who adapted to secondary education. He passed the Junior Certificate in 1961 and was a better than average sportsman, being a member of the First XI in 1962 and proving to be a competent high jumper. He developed further as a leader and sportsman in his final year in 1963 when he was appointed a Prefect and Captain of DeConlay House. He made his mark as a member of the First XI and in the winter season, captaining the college Second XV rugby team. He was also awarded the A. W. Fadden Cup for Outstanding Citizenship and Service.

After leaving school. Murray, being a man of the land, worked as for 12 months as a Jackeroo on 'Thylungra', a sheep station north-west of Quilpie, then on Granada, a Shorthorn and Santa Gertrudis stud at Cloncurry. He returned to Mt Tyson in October 1964 to work and manage Te Mata, his parents' property, and Mt Russell, the property he would later buy.

Murray proved to be a very capable farmer with a great love and respect for the land. Profit was secondary to the conservation of the soil and the best outcome for both farmer and land.

Murray's destiny changed in November 1965 when the then 19-year-old learnt his birth-date had come up in the National Service Ballot. Like most young men who were 'Called Up', Murray accepted his fate and entered the Army.

Being a Queenslander, on 20 April 1966 Murray commenced his service as 1731783 at 3 TB, Singleton. Selected for officer training, on 6 May 1966 he commenced OTU with Class 2/66 in 3 Platoon, A Company. In his Senior Term, he was in 9 Section, 3 Platoon, A Company. Murray graduated with his class on 29 September 1966, was allocated to Infantry and posted to the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR) located in the Brisbane suburb of Enoggera.

When Murray arrived at 2 RAR the battalion was preparing to deploy to Vietnam to replace one of the existing battalions of the 1st Australian Task Force. With 2 RAR, Murray undertook the pre-embarkation course at the Jungle Training Centre at Canungra before departing for his 'tour'.

On 19 May 1967, Murray said farewell to his parents on the dock at Hamilton in Brisbane and boarded HMAS Sydney for a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam. The troops disembarked at Vung Tau on 30 May.

In July-August of 1967 Murray took part in Operation Cairns, the purpose of which was to protect the wooded eastern approaches to the barrier minefield and its nearby population centres. Because the Viet Cong were breaching the barrier fences in order to harass the local villagers, Murray's platoon was flown to the area by Chinook helicopter under cover of darkness, to clear the area of infiltrators. This clandestine operation was effective, but it was in this action that Murray's courage and leadership came to the fore.



Encountering enemy contact and "Booby traps", Murray's platoon was caught in a Viet Cong minefield in which two members of the platoon were killed and six were wounded by exploding mines. Disregarding his own safety, Murray entered the minefield and rescued some of the wounded, bringing them to a safe area. He was extremely lucky himself, when he tripped a mine which failed to explode.

For this heroic action, Murray was awarded a Mentioned in Dispatches.

LT Murray James Fletcher - Continued

His citation read:

“Second Lieutenant Murray Fletcher, a National Serviceman, was called up for Selective service on 20 April 1966, and after attending the Officer Training unit at Scheyville, NSW, joined the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, on 17 October 1966. He arrived in South Vietnam with the Battalion on 30 May 1967.”

“On 1 August 1967 Second Lieutenant Fletcher was commanding 12 Platoon, C Company, 2 RAR involved in Operation Cairns, a search and destroy operation to clear the area East of Hoi My.

“At 1220 hours, the forward section of the platoon found a Viet Cong camp where an anti-personnel mine exploded, killing two soldiers and wounding three of his soldiers.

“Second Lieutenant Fletcher moved forward taking his Platoon Medic with him and gave immediate first aid to the wounded and removed them from the area. He removed the body of one soldier, in the process of which a further mine was uncovered.

“His actions enabled the swift evacuation of the wounded, who, without immediate attention, could also have died. His choice in this action was to probe slowly forward or to move forward quickly disregarding his own safety. Probing later took trained engineers one and a half hours.



“Second Lieutenant Fletcher by his action allowed seriously wounded soldiers to be evacuated quickly; possibly preventing more deaths. His disregard for his own safety in moving into an area known to contain mines displayed a standard of personal courage and bravery that brings great credit upon himself, the 2nd Battalion and the Australian Regular Army.”

Not long after this event Murray was again lucky to survive another dangerous incident when he was to witness a rocket explosion. This happened as he and others were observing a demonstration of American fire power, when a rocket from a US Helicopter went astray and landed among the group, killing several Australian soldiers.

These 2 incidents were to have a profound effect on Murray, but he did manage to survive any physical injuries in Vietnam. Murray finished his tour of Vietnam and was discharged from his army service in 1968.

Murray’s time with 2 RAR ended on 21 November 1967 when he was posted to HQ, 1 ATF. This was followed by a further posting to the AFV Amenities and Welfare Unit on 22 January 1968.

Murray returned to Australia on 26 February 1968 and on 19 April was discharged from the Army on the completion of his NS commitment.

In early 1967, while Murray had been undergoing his training at the Army’s Jungle Training Centre at Canungra, he had met Barbara Bolton. The Boltons were long-time family friends with the Fetters. Murray and Barbara married in a garden wedding at Toowoomba on 12 October 1968.

Murray and Barbara returned to Mt Tyson where they managed the property growing sorghum, wheat and barley, as well as breeding Hereford cattle. They raised two children, Tom and Cathy, and lived a quiet life until tragedy struck on 22 April 1980, when Murray’s life ended, no doubt hastened by his war time service.

Murray’s funeral service was conducted in Toowoomba a few days later and afterwards, his ashes were transported by an Army helicopter to Mt Russell, where they were reverently scattered over the place that Murray had a deep and everlasting love for.

Although he did not die in battle, his exploits in Vietnam and his actions for his fellow men are in the highest traditions of those who went before him. Murray Fletcher your Alma mater salutes you and hopes this story honours you

John Telfer

All information for this article was attained from a Scots PGC College article written by John Telfer in 2010

80th Anniversary Reunion

80th Anniversary of formation of the Battalion

AT: Coolangatta/Tweed Heads & Canungra Valley

AT: 24-26 October 2025

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

WHAT: Celebrations are 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 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.

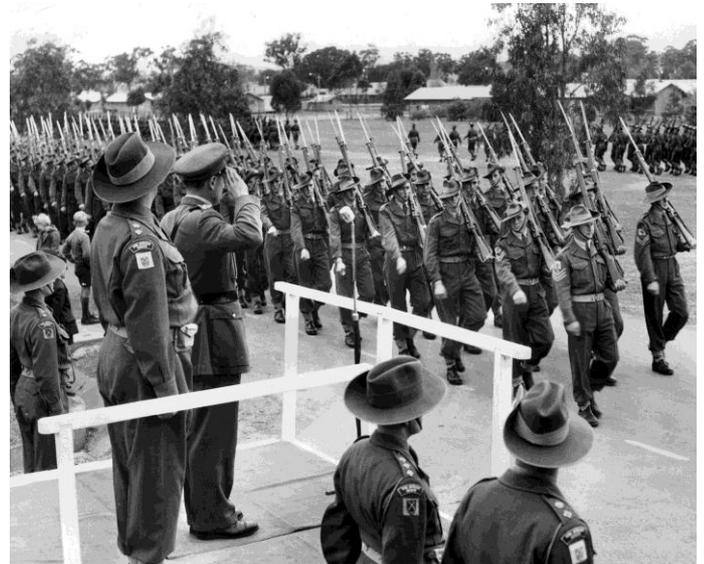
Please plan now to come along and join in an event that will be one not to forget across all eras.

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.



Rwanda – Bravery Under Fire

In the days leading up to Anzac Day 1995 a small group of Australian troops displayed a special kind of bravery. While working at the Kibeho refugee camp in southern Rwanda, they witnessed the Rwandan army carry out a revenge attack on Hutu refugees, some of whom had taken part in the Rwandan genocide of the previous year. The Australians could not stop the massacre, but they courageously continued to work under fire to save as many civilians as possible.

A small, mountainous country in central Africa, Rwanda is populated mainly by two ethnic groups: the minority Tutsi and the majority Hutu. When the Belgians ruled Rwanda the Tutsis held a privileged position. When the country became independent in 1962 the Hutus gained power, and many Tutsis were forced to flee to neighbouring Uganda.

In April 1994 negotiations to end a Hutu–Tutsi civil war broke down when the president of Rwanda, who supported the peace plan, was assassinated. Hutu extremists then perpetrated genocide on Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Half a million Rwandans were killed in a little over three months. At Kibeho, as throughout the rest of the country, the Hutu militia attacked the village church, blasting holes in the walls with rocket-propelled grenades and murdering about 3,000 people who had sought sanctuary inside.

Innocent people were dying in their thousands, but the international community did nothing. The genocide ended only because the Tutsi rebel army, the Rwandese Patriotic Front, defeated the Hutu government and took power in July 1994.

Eventually the United Nations (UN), which had retained a small mission in the country during the genocide, established a new expanded UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), and the Australian government, after long deliberation, decided to provide the medical contingent along with an infantry company to provide security. The Australian component of UNAMIR arrived in Rwanda in August 1994.

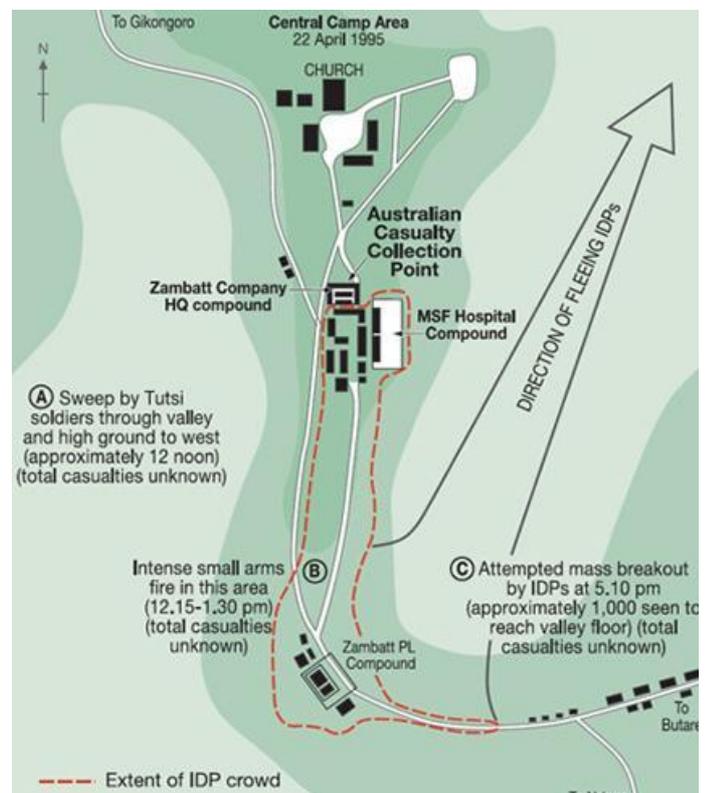
In February 1995 the first Australian contingent completed its tour and was replaced by another. Although the civil war had ended more than six months previously, hundreds of thousands of “internally displaced persons” (IDPs) – refugees who had not crossed an international boundary – were still living in camps in southern Rwanda. The largest of these was Kibeho, which sprawled over nine square kilometres and held between 80,000 and 100,000 people.

The new Tutsi government believed the camps were sheltering many people who had taken part in the genocide, and feared the camps could become the base for a Hutu guerrilla army. After the United Nations had been unable to persuade the refugees to voluntarily return to their homes, the Tutsi-controlled Rwandan army began planning a military operation to close the camps by force.

On 18 April about one thousand Rwanda army troops arrived at Kibeho to shut down the camp. The UN mission, taken by surprise by the Tutsi government’s action, hastily requested the Australian contingent put together a force consisting of a medical section with an infantry platoon. Early the next morning it left for Kibeho with orders to provide medical assistance to the refugees before they began their journey home.

When the Australian convoy reached the massive camp it drove past abandoned shelters, discarded possessions, and smouldering campfires, and many wondered where all the people had gone. The answer came when they reached the hill above the church and found that the Rwandan army troops had herded the entire camp population into an area 1,000 metres long and 500 metres wide on the ridgeline below. One Australian soldier compared the scene to a football crowd, another to cattle crammed into a feedlot.

The Australians made contact with the UN force already at Kibeho, a Zambian infantry company, and then with the Rwandan army, which limited the medical team to only briefly treating the refugees once they exited the camp. Before the people could reach the Australians, they had to pass through a checkpoint where genocide survivors pointed out individuals who had taken part in the killings. Rwandan soldiers would arrest these men and women and take them away, presumably for execution. Each evening the Australians left Kibeho, but the Zambian troops remained in the camp overnight.



Map, based on the incident at Kibeho

On 22 April the Australians arrived at Kibeho to find that many of the refugees had been killed or wounded during the night. About half of those injured had gunshot wounds inflicted by Rwandan soldiers; the other half had machete wounds from Hutu militia members who were trying to terrorise the refugees into remaining in the camp, so as to provide the militia with a “human shield”.

The wounded were being treated at a hospital run by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF – Doctors Without Borders), so the Australians set up their medical station there. While the medics worked on patients, the infantry went out with stretchers to retrieve more casualties. At about 10 am shots were fired towards the hospital. In response, Lieutenant Steve Tilbrook, the Australian infantry commander, moved the Australians to the Zambian company compound for protection.

Shortly after, in heavy rain, the Rwandan troops moved into the hospital compound and started shooting. The refugees stampeded. Some tried to break out of the camp but were hunted down in the valley by troops forming an outer cordon. Others surged over the razor wire barrier surrounding the Zambian position and swamped the compound. Lance Corporal Andy Miller was knocked over by the rush and separated from his infantrymen. After being hit by a stick and a rock, and having to brandish his Steyr assault rifle to ward off further attacks, Miller got back to his men. They then fixed bayonets in case they needed to defend themselves, the first time Australian infantrymen had done so since the Vietnam War.

Despite the gunfire and stampede, the Australian medical team, led by Captain Carol Vaughan-Evans, continued to work, using a sandbag wall and a truck for cover. When calm returned, the Australians were required to remove all able-bodied refugees from the compound, but the medics and infantrymen were also able to collect the wounded and evacuate 25 seriously injured patients by helicopter to hospital. One of these was a small boy named Buregeya, whom Vaughan-Evans recalled was “just riddled with shrapnel and bullets”, but despite this managed to survive his wounds.

The staff from the MSF hospital had escaped to the Zambian compound and told Tilbrook that there were some doctors still in the building. Tilbrook and two soldiers ran to the hospital, crossing a large open area as Hutu militia and Tutsi-government soldiers traded fire. The Australian officer found the French doctors and took them back to the Zambian compound. Later, a panicked MSF doctor told Tilbrook that another person was still in the hospital. Tilbrook went out again with two more soldiers, found the woman hiding in a cupboard, and returned safely.

As the medical evacuation helicopters took off at about 5 pm, Australians on board saw at least a thousand refugees rush out of the camp. The Tutsi troops stood on the ridges and fired down on them with automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, and a .50-calibre machine-gun. The soldiers then moved through the valley in the still-pouring rain, bayoneting or shooting the wounded.

As the rest of the Australians prepared to leave Kibeho that night, SAS medic Trooper Jon Church (who would later be killed in the 1996 Black Hawk training accident) found a bawling three-year-old girl and decided to rescue her. Another medic bandaged her arm to make it appear that she was injured, and she was given a biscuit laced with Diazepam. When the sedative put her to sleep, she was hidden in one of the ambulance storage bins and taken to an orphanage. As Vaughan-Evans later wrote, “We always remember that as a small victory. Despite all the [Rwandan army] did to that mass of humanity, we got one little girl out of there.”

That night, still shocked by the events of the day, the Australians camped at a small village just north of Kibeho. As Tilbrook later wrote, they had been placed in an impossible situation: “We didn’t like what was happening, but we knew that we couldn’t do anything to stop it. What we could do, though, was help as many of the wounded as we could.” If the Australians had opened fire at the Rwandan army, they would probably have been wiped out, and the Rwandan government would certainly have demanded the immediate removal of the UN mission.

On 23 April the Australians returned to Kibeho to treat casualties and recover bodies. Warrant Officer Rod Scott of the medical section organised teams to move through the massacre site to count the dead. Pools of blood and drag marks indicated where Rwandan soldiers had removed bodies overnight, and the Australians were prevented from looking in huts and latrines where corpses could have been hidden. In the areas of the camp to which the Australians had access, they counted 4,050 dead. Both UN and Rwandan government reports minimised the numbers killed. A senior UN military officer visited Kibeho that day and decided that 2,000 people had lost their lives; the Rwandan government later claimed that only 330 had died.

The Kibeho massacre was a horrific and disturbing event for all members of the Australian contingent in Rwanda. Many would later be diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Four who served at Kibeho – Corporal Andy Miller, Warrant Officer Rod Scott, Lieutenant Steve Tilbrook, and Captain Carol Vaughan-Evans – were awarded the Medal of Gallantry for their actions, the first time Australian soldiers had been awarded gallantry medals since the Vietnam War.



The author of this Article is Dr John Connor – a senior lecturer at the Australian Defence Force Academy

Warriors Who Have Marched Out: Feb-Jun 25

5/34303 Pte Kevin William ALLEN

26 Jun 1939 – 27 May 2025

Kevin enlisted in the Australian Army 1958 until discharged in 1964. He served with 3 RAR and in Malaya with 2 RAR (1961-63 – 307 days) in C Coy and Spt Coy. Whilst in Malaya Kevin attended a PT Course at the FARELF School of PT (5 Jan - 6 Apr 63) and departed Singapore on 13 Aug 63 deplaning in Perth on 14 Aug 63. Kevin, late of Lynwood WA passed away suddenly on 27 May 2025, age 85. Kevin's funeral was held in the Simplicity Funerals Chapel, Kelmscott WA. Kevin's 2 RAR Association Membership number was "3" and he appreciated his comradeship with the 2 RAR Assn and members. *Thanks to his daughter, Tracey Marsh*

238691 Pte Paul Anthony BLISS

28 Aug 1970 – 20 Feb 2025



Paul joined the Army in 1989. Recruit training 1 RTB Kapooka C Coy June 1989 (25 or 26 Pl), Infantry Corp training: Long Tan Pl at Singleton then D Coy 2/4RAR (3 Feb 1990 – 5 Aug 1994) and Advance Party Rwanda UNAMIIR 1 (Aug 1994 – Feb 1995). Paul, late of Conondale QLD and formerly Kempsey NSW passed away on 20 Feb 2025, age 54. A Memorial service was conducted at The Chapel of Walkers Crematorium, Frederickton NSW. *Thanks Pete Marsh*

3788649 Pte Neville John CRELLIN

05 Sep 1945 – 12 Jun 2025



Neville, a National Serviceman and served in South Vietnam in 2 Pl A Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (19 May 1967 – 26 Mar 1968). Neville, late of Irymple Vic passed away in his sleep on 12 Jun 2025, age 79. A graveside funeral service was held for Neville at Koondrook Lawn Cemetery, Koondrook Vic.

Thanks Edward Whelan

14350 Maj Terrence (Terry) Edward DINNEEN

23 Jan 1940 – 4 Apr 2025



Terry enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 29 January 1957 until 28 Jan 1980, undertook Recruit Training at 1 RTB Kapooka and posted to the School of Artillery on 21 May 1957 and posted to 1 Feld Regiment on 12 Aug 1957, then to 101 Field Battery on 5 Aug 1959 and served in Malaya/Singapore (20 Sept - 25 Dec 1959), then to the Unallotted List Northern Command (25 Dec 1959), 4 Field Regiment (09 May 1960), 103 Field Battery (18 July 1961) including Malaya (6 Oct 1961 - 1 Jul 1962). Selected for Officer Training at OCS Portsea, graduating on 15 Jun 1963, and posted as a 2Lt to 2RAR including service in South Vietnam as a 2IC D Coy (6 May 1967 - 18 Oct 1967), posted to HQ, 1 ATF (18 Oct 1967 - 02 Apr 1968). On RTA to HQ Singleton area, then 8 RAR (16 Aug 1971), 6RAR (17 Oct 1973, Infantry Centre (18 Mar 1974,

Australian Staff College (28 Jan 1975), HQ 2 Military District (15 Jan 1976), Department of Defence Central Office (23 Jan 1976), HQ Training Command (17 Dec 1976), 4 RNSWR (23 July 1979). Terry transferred to the Army Reserve on 29 Jan 1980 and served with 3 Training Group, District Support Group Puckapunyal (26 Feb 1981), 3 Training Group (1 Feb 1982), Monash University Regiment (16 June 1983), Operations Branch, HQ 3 Division (01 July 1985) and discharged as a Major on 21 Jan 1988. Terry was the invaluable 2RAR Assoc Historian and was always a font of knowledge about the Battalion, his Military knowledge will be sadly missed. Terry, late of Winmalee NSW, passed away suddenly in Nepean Hospital, Penrith NSW with his family by his side on 4 April 2025, age 85, after suffering a severe stroke. Terry's funeral was held at Leura Memorial Gardens, Leura NSW with many ex 2 RAR Veterans in attendance; his Service was live streamed with many others paying their respects on line.

Thanks to Geoff Bulow (Terry's Cousin)

WO1 Mark Darrell (Daryl) McLagan FISHER

30 Jun 1965 - 27 Feb 2015



Mark served in 1RAR including a deployment to Somalia. Sect Comd, 4PI B Coy for INTERFET. Promoted to Sgt in 2RAR. Mark retired as a WO1 after 25 years' service and was attached to 1 RAR for a large part of his career. Mark, age 59, passed away on 27 February 2025, after a long battle with cancer a few months before his 60th birthday. Mark's funeral was held at St Georges Cathedral in Perth. Mark's brother, who was in the RAAF read The Ode and the Soldiers Prayer. So very brave through his long battle with cancer. A soldier to the end.

Thanks Gary (Legs) Leggett 2RAR (1995-2001)

2783994 Pte Leonard James (Jim) HOLMES

10 Dec 1945 – 26 Feb 2025



Jim, a National Serviceman, saw active service in South Vietnam with 1 ARU (12 Dec 1966 - 13 Jan 1967), then posted to 6 RAR (14 Jan - 28 May 1967) then to 2 RAR CHQ B Coy (29 May - 12 Dec 1967). Jim lived in Central Mangrove NSW and passed away on 26 February 2025, age 79. Jim's funeral service was held at The Belmont Chapel of Pettigrew Funerals, Belmont, NSW

312826 Pte Ashley (Ash) William LINDSAY

27 Jun 1951 – 28 Feb 2025

Ash was posted to South Vietnam initially with 1 ARU (10 Dec - 30 Dec 1970), then 7 RAR (31 Dec 1970 - 08 Feb 1971), returning to 1 ARU (09 Feb - 11 Mar 1971) before being posted to 8 Sect 6 PI B Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (12 Mar - 06 May 1971), returning again to 1 ARU (07 May - 13 Jun 1971), then to HQ, 1 ATF (14 Jun 1971 - 09 Mar 1972). Ash, age 73, died on 28 February 2025, in a scuba diving accident and his funeral service was held in the Catholic Church, Avoca NSW. Followed by his wake in nearby, Birchip NSW.

5714570 Pte George Kennington NICHOLS

25 Oct 1945 – 30 Apr 2025



George, a National Serviceman served in South Vietnam with 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn, (09 May 1967 - 14 May 1968) initially in 10 PI D Coy before it was disbanded and posted to 4 PI B Coy for the remainder of the tour. George, late of Wembley WA passed away on 30 April 2025, age 79. The Funeral Service celebrating George's life was at Brown Chapel, Karrakatta Cemetery WA.
Thanks Ralph Hoger and Geoff Brewer

312640 Pte Ian Douglas "Paint" PAYNTER

28 Mar 1951 – 18 May 2025



Ian ("Paint") served in 9 PI C Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn South Vietnam (17 May 1970 – 01 Jun 1971). Ian, late of Warner Bay NSW passed away on Sunday morning, 18 May 2025, age 74, after a 3-year battle with cancer. *Paint* had asked early in the peace that we were not to be informed of his illness. *Paint* asked that there not be a funeral but that he be cremated without "fanfare" with his family. RIP "PAINT" Your Duty is Done. Lest We Forget.
Thanks Ian "Chips" Rafferty

61489 Pte Graeme "Big Simmo" Vivian SIMPSON

01 May 1945 – 13 Jun 2025



Graeme enlisted in the Australian Army in 1962 at the age of 17 and served with 3 RAR in Malaya/Borneo (1965) and a founding member of 4 RAR at Woodside SA (1966), later serving in Transport Pl, Admin Coy, 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam (19 May 1967 – 13 Jun 1968). After 20 years military service Graeme was discharged as a Sgt. A member the 2 RAR Association since 1994. Graeme passed away on 13 Jun 2025, age 80, after ongoing health issues. A private family cremation was held for Graeme in South Australia and a Memorial Service held in his home town, Smithtown, Tasmania where he will be laid to rest.
Thank you to his daughter, Kathy Friend.

5714433 Pte Gerald Robert WATTS

03 Aug 1945 – 13 Jan 2025

Gerald, a National Serviceman served in South Vietnam with 1 ARU (25 Feb – 18 May 1967), 6 RAR (19 Mar – 28 May 1967) and 2 PI A Coy 2 RAR (29 May 1967 – 25 Feb 1968). Gerald passed away in a Perth Hospital on 13 Jan 2025, aged 79 and his funeral service was held at Karrakatta Cemetery WA.
Thanks to Peter Heeney and RARA (WA)

1410932 Allan "Lofty" Joseph WENT

15 Feb 1947 – 18 Jun 2025



Allan was a Sig with A Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn, South Vietnam (19 May 1967 – 13 Jun 1968). Allan, late of Forest Lake Qld, passed away on 18 June 2025. Allan was a long-time member of the 2 RAR Association. No funeral details available at time of publication. This is very sad news indeed. This man was a gentle giant and an outstanding soldier. He toiled tirelessly for the NMW and also on the sidelines of the Association. A pillar of the community. RIP Allan. You duty is done.
Gordon Hurford

We Brave Few

556506 CPL Andrew Colin MILLER, MG Rwanda: 22-23 April 1995

Born in 1969 in the United Kingdom, the Miller family emigrated to Western Australia in the 1970s. Joining the Army Cadets whilst still in high school, Miller was simply marking time until he could join the Regular Army.

Enlisting in May 1988 at the age of 18, Miller found himself heading off to the School of Infantry after completing his recruit course. In January 1989, Private Miller marched in to 2/4 RAR as a rifleman in C Coy.

In 1991, he moved to the Mortar Platoon as a mortarman before moving again to B Coy in 1993, and was promoted to Lance Corporal the following year.

In February 1995, Miller found himself and the rest of B Coy 2 RAR on the second rotation of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR II).

Two months later, Lance Corporal Miller faced the ultimate test to his soldering skills and leadership as he and less than 30 other soldiers watched the Rwandan Patriotic Army massacre thousands of Rwandan internally displaced people.

For his exceptional gallantry and leadership, Miller was awarded the Medal for Gallantry, the first of its kind awarded to an Australian soldier since the Vietnam War.

His citation reads:

For acts of gallantry as a Rifleman with the Infantry Protection Unit at Kibeho, with the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Rwanda.

Corporal Andrew Colin Miller is cited for the Medal of Gallantry for his exceptional courage and leadership in hazardous circumstances during the extraction of wounded throughout the massacre of civilian refugees at the Kibeho Displaced Persons Camp in 1995.

Corporal Miller was a section second-in-command who was tasked with the protection of Australian Medical Support Force members as they sought to extract, treat and evacuate the wounded displaced persons from the Kibeho Camp.

Throughout the period of the massacre, the Australian Medical Support Force and the Infantry Protection Unit were placed under intense pressure and immediate physical danger. Corporal Miller displayed exceptional judgement, gallantry and leadership as he performed his duties throughout the action.

Corporal Miller organised stretcher parties into the Kibeho Camp to extract wounded displaced persons for treatment. During these tasks Corporal Miller displayed sound judgement and courageously led Australian stretcher teams, with their wounded, to positions of safety through direct small arms fire from snipers.

The leadership and gallantry displayed by Corporal Miller ensured the safe conduct of the extraction of wounded displaced persons while avoiding loss of life or injury to his fellow soldiers.

Corporal Miller's personal courage and the disregard for his personal safety whilst in action ensured that many civilian lives were saved where they may otherwise have been left to die.

Corporal Miller's extraordinary courage, judgement and leadership ensured that Australian medical Support Force members could successfully save the lives of many wounded displaced persons throughout the period of the massacre.

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



2RAR – A Coy - Inside the Battalion

RIGHT OF THE LINE

A COY 2RAR 2025 TRAINING TO DATE

Exercise Black Spear

The battalion hit the water kicking this year with Exercise Black Spear in February. After the rains gave way A Coy were out on the water refreshing important amphibious skills and watercraft familiarity, before heading out to High Range for Live Fire. Our ability to fight is our corps skill and the Company was highly efficient in working all the way from individual serials up to platoon Live Fire over the course of a week, setting the *young* platoon commanders up well for the year ahead.

Exercise Black Cutlass



The intervening period afforded the platoons time to train in the lead up to Exercise Black Cutlass, which would see Joint Pre-Landing Force Alpha conducting reconnaissance operations. 1PL were flown into TFTA under cover of darkness and completed a 15km infiltration march to their objective. 2PL were delivered discreetly to multiple beaches along the North Queensland coast to gain observation onto key enemy locations. 3PL demonstrated their boating expertise by conveying 2PL undetected to their respective insertion points.

All of the information gained through the exercise culminated in a dawn raid on an enemy high value target. 1PL supported by snipers, engineers, medics, JFO's, and naval gunfire executed a deliberate assault and cleared the objective. A Coy secured the beachhead and paved the way for follow on forces to land.

Exercise Sea Raider

After generating some highly complex exercises and activities internally, it was time for the battalion to put through its paces by the exercise designers of the Combat Training Centre.

Exercise Sea Raider saw A Coy deployed in vicinity of small townships throughout North Queensland. Inserted by sea, the Platoons worked their way inland through the complex terrain that surrounds populated areas. Gaining information on the enemy, 1PL & 3PL would ultimately seize the sugar mill in Lucinda and drive out the insurgent elements there. Overt patrolling through the town gave the public a chance to interact with the soldiers of the Second Battalion and witness our professionalism firsthand.

With 2RAR having secured key points, elements of the 3BDE and its international attachments began to filter into the exercise area. A Coy ended up playing host to a Japanese Battalion in Lucinda and acting as the impromptu liaison as our JSGDF counterparts eagerly worked to support us. Job done, 2RAR set the conditions for follow on forces to safely roll in and continue to press the enemy deeper inland. For us, it was back to the ship (in this case Lavarack Barracks) to prepare for our next task.



Exercise Black Axe

With so many competing efforts in June and multiple international deployments in coming months, credit need be given to the Ops Cell and SPT Coy who coordinated and supported the Live Fire range for Exercise Black Axe. All three platoons of A Coy were able to execute a deliberate Live Fire attack, supported by snipers, engineers and JFOs.

The platoon patrolled in with live ammunition loaded. The support by fire team, as well as a sniper team, patrolled on ahead to a planned position. The enemy had placed protective wire obstacles to the front of their objective. From the concealment of a creek line the platoon commander conducted a reconnaissance of the objective and formulated a plan.

2 RAR – cont.

With the platoon now in the creek line and ready, the engineers rushed forward with cover from the support by fire position and placed Bangalore explosive charges in the wire. Smoke was thrown to create a screen and when the wire was blown open the platoon rushed forward from their waiting position.

From there the assault commenced in earnest and soldiers manoeuvred forward, supporting each other as they took enemy pits and scanned the horizon for the next threat. All the while PC-21 training aircraft flew overhead simulating F-18s strafing the enemy position. With all these different elements at work, the platoon commander on the ground had a huge amount of information coming in and had to exercise a measured control of the assault. Section commanders and 2ICs earned their pay and maintained the control of their soldiers, driving them forward when necessary.

When the dust settled and the smoke cleared, commanders at all levels were already planning the next key action; moving to a secure location to reorganise and reposture for the next task. When the Officer In Charge of the range stopped the practice, soldiers were eager for more, and there were plenty of important lessons and points identified to help structure future platoon training.

Article written by CAPT Harrison Potamianakis – Adj 2RAR amphib

The Spirit of Our Tribe

I see soldiers of the space age wearing the beloved Roo
No different from yesterday's youth who wore the badge too
Young warriors marching heads high, and as one
Sacred cloth flying high, mid cheering crowd and beating drums

From Japan to Afghanistan, our badge was seen, and now, who knows where?
Always sound discipline, and with each other, sacred rules of share and care
Often cheery campfires with much loud laughter and song
Clearly powerful evidence of camaraderie fuelled by human spirit so strong

Everlasting ANZAC genes, once clad in khaki and then jungle green
Now in cam suits, ready for war where those before them had been
To add honours to sacred cloth already stitched with deeds against old foe
Emulating those of the past, never faltering wherever they do go

It has always been a special family of warriors with firm intent
Despite danger, fear or privation, always as one, and confident wherever sent
Love of country spurs them, be it peace or war, and always as one
A close, happy proud kin, watching and protecting each other, even after duty done

Home is where they hang their hats; be it barracks, tents, and bunkers too
Ready to travel at short notice, to do what they must do
Examples set for new members of the tribe and what they will strive to be
Junior and senior, marching with pride and purpose, for the entire world to see

Today, a new generation carries the torch still burning bright
For evil abounds, and is always a threat to douse our proud national light
No matter race or religion, all with the same purpose, and as one, standing tall
Whatever the task or odds, always "Duty First" will be the call

Often asked is "why do old soldiers still seek each other's company?"
Watch their excitement, laughter and shouts of joy, as familiar faces they see

They're young again, sharing, caring and daring with comrades so dear
As the reunion ends with sad bugle calls for lost comrades, often are the tears

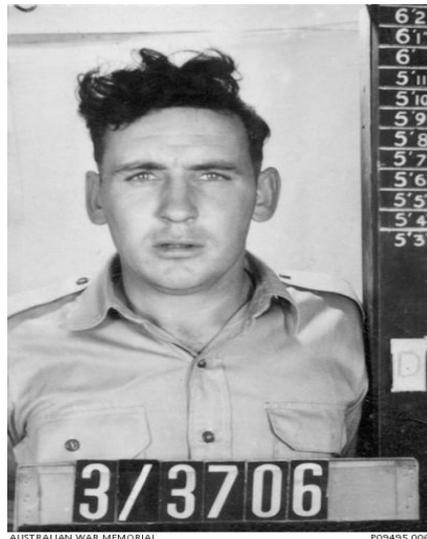
At the sacred Walk, each of the fallen has a tree to honour service and sacrifice
Nearby are army barracks with the familiar noise of military life
Each night as a bugle sounds "lights out", the Grove's feathered sentries shriek
Amid the trees where the spirits of our fallen comrades sleep

George Mansford © August 2020



Roll Of Honour: Remembering our Fallen

3/3706 CPL John Berkley ASHE (29 Nov 1929 – 28 May 1953: Aged 23 yrs)



Service Details:

Cpl John Ashe was born on 29 November 1929 in the Melbourne suburb of Richmond, one of five children born to Guy and Mary Ellen Ashe. John grew up in Brighton, but after WWII began, his father, Guy, left the family and joined the AIF, so John and one of his brothers were put into an orphanage. When his mother moved to Benalla to work on various properties, Ashe went too. He enjoyed the farming life and was known as a good horseman and an excellent shot with a rifle.

He enlisted for service in the Australian Regular Army on 15 November 1951 and in February the following year, after his initial training, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, where he joined 10 Platoon, D Company.

Soon after joining the battalion, Ashe was placed on courses for promotion. He successfully completed these on 14 August and was promoted to temporary corporal the following day. On 5 March 1953, 2RAR embarked from Melbourne aboard the SS *New Australia*. The men disembarked at Pusan 12 days later. Ashe was promoted to corporal a week after arriving in Korea.

In the evening of 27 May, Ashe was in charge of a three-man lying up patrol that had been tasked to go into no-man's land and observe Chinese movements. In the pre-dawn hours of the next morning, the group was ambushed by Chinese troops near the Australians' defensive minefield. In the initial exchange of fire, Ashe was wounded in the left thigh by a grenade fragment, but was able to continue. The two other members of the patrol were also wounded, and continued to engage the Chinese.

Another Australian patrol engaged the Chinese which allowed Ashe and his men to begin withdrawing. Due to the intensity of the firefight, the men were separated. Ashe inadvertently tripped a mine and was seriously wounded. One of his patrol mates made his way over to Ashe who said "stuff off" as he had "had it". He then said "go, and that's an order" leaving his mate no choice but to withdraw, leaving Ashe behind.

In the aftermath of the firefight a search was conducted to locate Ashe, but no trace of him could be found. Two more members of 2RAR were wounded after triggering a mine during the search. Ashe was listed as missing, presumed killed. He was 23 years old.

Unit: 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment – 17 Mar-28 May 1953 (73 days)

Fate: Presumed KIA, Korea

Cause of Death: Unknown

Memorial Details: United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan, Korea

Note - Corporal Ashe's body was never recovered and is therefore regarded as missing, presumed killed in action.

'Lest we forget'

 <h1>The 2 RAR Historical Collection</h1>		
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p> <p> 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/</p>	<p>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></p>
		

The 2RAR Historical is slowly moving back into its reconditioned facility within Samichon Lines, this will be a long process to re-establish the Historical collection with walls to be built before the task of building displays again. The aim is to make the 2RAR Historical collection the best collection in the Regiment. This will continue to be a massive task for the curator, Mr Jason Harrison and his willing band of volunteers and if you wish to help, be it a donation or through providing items to the collection such as photos, objects, maps, from your time in service I am sure it will be very much appreciated and will be well preserved now and into the future.

WEBSITE: The 2RAR Association is undergoing a bit of an update so please feel free to provide any feedback on what should be added/included on this site. If any changes are also required, please let us know. The website is:
2rar-association.net.au

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: 563 274 144

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

PRE ORDER 80th ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE 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
80th ANNIVERSARY ITEMS					
ANNIVERSARY POLO			STUBBY COOLERS	\$11	
Polo Shirt, Off Duty M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL	\$55		ANNIVERSARY SCOTCH (other options below)	\$190 + postage	

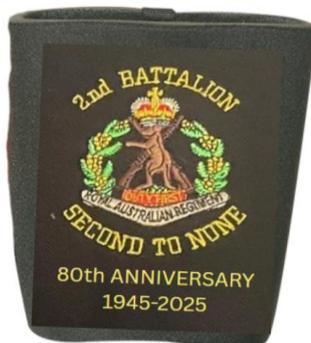
NOTE:
This is a pre order form – Polo shirt sizes / stubby cooler numbers/Bottle Scotch numbers required to be sent NLT 10 Aug to the Merchandising officer so that orders can be attained.

The Whiskey pack can be purchased direct through Chief’s Sons Distillery. Once quantity is known all details on when payment is required and when Chief’s Sons Distillery website is open for orders will be provided.

Website for Alcohol: <https://www.chiefsson.com.au/product-category/defence/>

			Price
Whisky Pack	45%abv	Single Malt Whisky 700ml in Pack	\$190
Single Bottle	45%abv	Single Malt Whisky 700ml	\$140
N ^o 7 Single Malt Vodka	43%abv	700ml	\$75
Rum	40% abv	700ml	\$84
Gin	40%abv	700ml	\$75
Port	17%abv	700ml	\$49
Postage		Can be multiple items	\$19

All other items will be purchased through the 2 RAR Association



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