



## **2<sup>nd</sup> BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT (Amphib) Anniversary Reunion Catch Up October 2025**

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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](mailto:secretary@2rar-association.net.au)

**Cover Image:** 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion, faces of 2RAR.

*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.*

#### PATRON

**Major General M.D “Mick” Slater AO, DSC, CSC (Retd)**

#### PRESIDENT

**Mal Gray**

M: 0428 588 431

E: [president@2rar-association.net.au](mailto:president@2rar-association.net.au)

#### VICE PRESIDENT

**Grant Chisnall**

M: 0402 118 971

E: [grant@leftofboom.com.au](mailto:grant@leftofboom.com.au)

#### SECRETARY

**Robert Althofer**

M: 0404 078 797

E: [secretary@2rar-association.net.au](mailto:secretary@2rar-association.net.au)

#### TREASURER

**Brendan Martin**

M: 0459 214 186

E: [treasurer@2rar-association.net.au](mailto:treasurer@2rar-association.net.au)

(assistant – Maree Struhs)

#### COMMITTEE

**Troy McGill – Membership**

M: 0409 649 633

E: [Membership@2rar-association.net.au](mailto:Membership@2rar-association.net.au)

**Anthony Duroux – Social/Reunions**

M: 0467 826 522

E: [socialmember@2rar-association.net.au](mailto:socialmember@2rar-association.net.au)

**Merv Dicton & Jason Martin- Welfare**

M: 0427 657 742 & 0466 347 138

**Martyn Struhs - Merchandise**

M: 0408 397 952

E: [Merchandise@2rar-association.net.au](mailto:Merchandise@2rar-association.net.au)

**2RAR Association Email:**

[Secretary@2rar-association.net.au](mailto:Secretary@2rar-association.net.au)

**Postal Address:**

Po Box 2352, Idalia, QLD 4811

**Website:**

[www.2rar-association.net.au](http://www.2rar-association.net.au)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/2RAR-Association-Inc](http://www.facebook.com/2RAR-Association-Inc)

#### ASSOCIATION STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

**TAS:** Vacant (volunteers requested)

**NSW:** Vacant (volunteers requested)

**SQLD:** Vacant (volunteers requested)

**VIC:** Shaun Hughes – 0421 546 494

**SA:** Mal Allen – 0451 374 133

**WA:** Alexander Nie – 0417 993 751

**NT:** Wayne Woodhouse – 0499 432 315

**ACT:** Vacant (volunteers requested)

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

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

### ***Membership***

Membership fees are due as of 30 Sep each year. The fees are \$20.00 per year, and you can pay 5 years in advance. You can renew membership on the website at [Membership Subscription Form | 2rar-association.net.au](http://Membership Subscription Form | 2rar-association.net.au) and you can pay through direct debit. Please advise us if you have changed any of your contact details, particularly your email address.

## Association Report

As I write this the 2RAR Association AGM will be in full swing with our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of formation reunion being well attended by many veterans of the Battalion.

For those unable to be in attendance, 2025 was a year to reflect on positive events that occurred throughout the year.

We have welcomed onboard to the 2 RAR Association a new Vice President being Grant Chisnall. Grant is the CEO and founder of Left of Boom, and he specialises in Crisis Preparedness and Response. A published author and veteran of 2RAR, serving as a Platoon Commander in East Timor we welcome Grant to the Association Committee.

As we move into 2026, we are on the look out for veterans to assist as our State representatives for NSW, ACT, SEQLD, TAS. We welcome members to nominate for these regions.

2025 saw the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battalion's deployment to Rwanda. A reunion event was held in Townsville run by the Townsville RSL as was a successful event for those in attendance.

The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since formation held in Oct was a standout event thanks largely to the efforts of Gordon Hurford in organising the event putting on a remarkable gathering for many with a vineyard tour to cap of the culmination of the event being a resounding success.

I want to take this opportunity to also thank Rick Avery, Rick has conducted a massive undertaking in researching and putting together the official 2RAR Association publication of all Warriors who have passed of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. This was a enormous endeavour and he is to be commended for the time and effort his research has taken to preserve the memories of all soldiers who have passed from 2RAR.

We encourage all veterans to continue to keep the history of the Battalion alive by providing your stories to the association and to continue to support the 2RAR Historical collection with items of significance. The Historical collection is embarking on updating the museum to its former glory and any support of items and photos are always appreciated by the Historical collection team of volunteers.

May you all enjoy the Christmas festivities and we look forward to catching up at future Association events moving into 2026.

### 'Second to None'



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

## Significant 2 RAR Dates: Sep-Nov

**14 Sep** – Anniversary - of Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations. 2 RAR has been at the fore front of these activities providing individuals to deployments like the MFO in the Sinai, more recently South Sudan and UN observers in Iraq. We have also provided small groups to operations such as the Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Southern Rhodesia as well as platoons, companies and even the whole Battalion to Operations in places such as East Timor, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda and the Solomon Islands

**28 Sep 1967 – Vietnam**- Three young Australians lost their lives in South Vietnam. Pte Stanley RADOMI, LCPL Peter McDuff and Pte Dennis NELSON. On 28 September 1967, they were watching a live fire demonstration in Phuoc Tuy Province. The incident involved American helicopter gunships, vital to operations in Vietnam. As one of the helicopters carried out a live-fire run, a rocket veered off course. It struck the Australians watching from the ground. Private Radomi, Lance Corporal McDuff, and Private Nelson were killed instantly.

**Sep 2007 – East Timor**- OP ASTUTE-TLBG 3 – Battle Group Samichon. 2RAR deploys to East Timor as part of a Battle group from Sep 2007-Mar 2008.

**16 Oct 1946 – Hiro**- 66<sup>th</sup> battalion First Birthday celebrations for the battalion were held at Hiro, with plans for the day including an Officers v Sergeants football match followed by a dinner. The football match was attended by all Battalion members quite voluntarily as most wanted to see blood spilt. There was also no shortage of food nor liquor with the local Asahi brewery on the outskirts of Hiroshima. The troops reckoned its non-destruction by the atom bomb was indeed an "Act of God".

**19 Oct 1955 – Malaya**- 2RAR arrive in Malaya for its first tour as part of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR). Throughout the two year tour the battalion was based at Minden Barracks on Penang Island, although it spent large periods in the jungle conducting operations.

**23 Nov 2015 – Australia**- On 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the RAR then Governor General of Australia, the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC (Retd) presented the Queens's and Regimental colours to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment at Lavarack Barracks Townsville, QLD. This would be the fourth time the presentation of Colours has occurred.

**4 Dec 1967 – South Vietnam**- 1411181 Pte Francis "Joe" FEWQUANDIE was shot accidentally whilst on sentry duty, in Phuoc Tuy Province Vietnam and DOW. He is commemorated on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour.

**7 Dec 1948 – Japan**- 66<sup>th</sup> Battalion departs Japan aboard HMAS 'Kanimbla' following the withdrawal of BCOF and returned back to Australia.

# Veteran Stories — 52028 Brig George Lyon Mansford AM (retd)

## Untold Stories – Service in Malaya 1955-57

George was born in Guildford in Western Australia 1934. Brigadier Mansford joined the Citizens' Military Forces in 1950, then enlisted in the Regular Army in 1951 and soon after joining the Army served in the Korean War with the 1st Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment; then as a rifleman in the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment in the Malayan Emergency, from 1955 to 1957; followed by a second tour with 1 RAR from 1959 to 1961. Additional tours on the Thai border, in Vietnam, in Papua New Guinea and in Singapore followed.

George was commissioned from the ranks in 1964 while serving with 2RAR and served for four decades before finally retiring in 1990. George was the last Australian Soldier to receive a 'Battlefield Commission'. Prior to his retirement he authored the Australian Army publication, "Junior Leadership on the Battlefield". This 1990 publication is still used in Army training today.

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*Mention George "Warrie" Mansford and instantly the conversation becomes animated and stories are recounted about a man who rose from Private soldier to Brigadier but who never lost his humble beginnings. George Mansford is one of those rare men, whose word is binding, a man who is not afraid to speak his mind but does so only after very careful deliberation, a man who will never leave a friend behind and, in country terms, I would ride the river with George Mansford anytime, anyplace.*

**Neil Weekes AM, MC**

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Upon returning to 2RAR in 1953 after his deployment to Korea, George was a member of C Coy. There was a feeling of coming back home as he had previously served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in Puckapunyal in 1951. 2RAR at this time had a significant number that had already seen service in WWII or in Korea so was well experienced. "The brotherhood was so immense that you could be away somewhere for three or four years and when you turned up again somebody would say, 'Where the bloody hell have you been? It's your shout.'"

There were soldiers such as Bomber Harris, who was decorated as a tail-gunner flying over Europe with the RAAF in WWII, who was a LCpl in the platoon as well as David McAuley, a Kapyong veteran and Dick Mayals, who was an ex-prisoner of war of the Japanese in Singapore. "In those days, and in Malaya, in the 2nd Battalion, there was a lot of them, and they weren't exactly saints. I mean, if the orderly officer came and closed the canteen in Enoggera, before we left, you could guarantee that there was sufficient supplies somewhere else throughout the night because, I mean, these old soldiers certainly loved their beer. I'm not implying they were drunks, they were far from it, but they played hard and they soldiered hard, and playing hard obviously meant great quantities of beer."

2RAR departed to Malaya on the MV Georgic arriving in Penang on 19 Oct 1955. While in Malaya, the battalion was stationed at Minden Barracks, in the foothills on the eastern side of the island. Although Minden was the nominal home of the battalion while it was in Malaya, it rarely spent any length of time there. Operations through the jungle lasted for days or even weeks at a time, and breaks between operations were brief.

Due to a delay in obtaining Australian government approval to conduct operations against the Malayan Communist Party (MCP), and their armed wing the Malayan National Liberation Army, 2 RAR did not commence operations until 1 January 1956 when the battalion was involved in Operation Deuce, which was a search and security operation in Kedah that was to last until the end of April.

*"I can certainly remember in Penang, and out at Minden Barracks, a couple of Brits coming out - with good intentions - from the Leicesters, I think they were, who had just been in action - and we were sitting down having a few beers, illegally, in the tents, and they started to remind us that we hadn't been anywhere at this stage of the game and that they had, and they'd heard rumours that we weren't going to be committed. Well, that didn't go down very well and there was a few altercations over that, and that spread into Penang on a couple of occasions. So overall the boys were very sensitive about the fact. They were eager to go, as any soldier would be, not matter what nation, and here were the Brits, our arch enemies, stirring us."*

Malaya saw a distinct evolution of equipment with the new jungle rifle, the bolt-action 303, that was an impressive weapon for the time. "I was very impressed with that, I thought that was like a laser gun, instead of this big rifle". The bush hat was introduced as well as moving to British webbing and new ration packs. "...they got better as they went - the Mars bars were terrible, and the oatmeal, nobody ate oatmeal"

Conditions in Malaya were pretty rugged, particularly in the wet season. The storms would come in the night-time making your turn on piquet a dread.

George was a forward scout in Malaya alongside Terry Iland with Arthur Horne the Bren gunner. Everyone had their own particular job and as always composition of the section would change due to the inevitable courses, somebody would be away on course, or sick or with a skin rash so you would never have a full ten-man section with most sections composing only 7 men. Even though contacts were limited, and battle casualties few, there was immense physical strain – and mental strain that impacted the men.

Other than Eagle Swoop most operations at this time were close to the rubber edge or the jungle edge conducting ambushing and cordon and search type operations.

## Brig George Mansford, AM - Continued

*"...one of the biggest mistakes I think we made in the Emergency is we were too conventional - in hindsight, it's easy to do in hindsight, and I mean, I wasn't a company commander, I was just a bloody insignificant rifleman - but I can still recall when we first went into Kedah, the company going in as a whole company, this long trail of troops going up into the mountains in the jungle, operating close to the rubber. Obviously, when you've got about 100 people there's a fair bit of noise, there was a lot of sign. Even after the Pipeline ambush, our company went straight out and we went as a company. There were obviously good reasons, I suppose, the company commander or the CO might have decided that he didn't want to have a small group surrounded by this apparent threat that existed with this large force of enemy. But it seemed to me that our force was always too big in those early days, that we would have been - this is the vision in hindsight, not understanding the problems at the time - but obviously it makes sense that the smaller your force, dealing with what you were up against - and our fellows were quite capable of handling anything, even if you had bumped into something that was much larger than your own force you could give them a whack, and in the worst case, get out."*

The operational environment of the Malayan Emergency being a jungle environment, and combating it was an immense challenge. Operation Deuce which was the search and security operation in Kedah involved intense, lengthy patrols tracking the communists through the jungle. Often there was little or no result, with the work being tiring, demanding, and monotonous.

*".....it was the sort of war where you get some blokes who'd go for the whole two years without seeing anything, and others that would run into things. When we were in Kedah we had our CSM shot at, so we went down - he was in the rubber when the resupply came, I might add - our patrol went down to help him out and got fired on by a sniper. Then, about three days later, we had that other incident I talked about, the courier. Then we found the enemy camp with the 500-pound bomb. Then we had our accidental clash. Then we went to Perak and our company went to Sungei Siput. "*

Georges Platoon was tasked with guarding Gelon Tinggi, after reports that there was going to be a big meeting there in the rubber. The platoon was isolated from the rest of the Battalion for about four weeks, guarding this planter. "... it was decided to put an area ambush in there, Charlie Company ambush. It was well planned, we went through the jungle and the rubber about three o'clock in the morning, and all these different cut-offs, the typical thing. You might be familiar with it, but as it turned out, the enemy did turn up, and there were twelve of them - twelve or fourteen - quite a large group in those days. They didn't come through out ambush, but we could hear the firing just down the road."

The one thing that George recalls the Company doing well was moving around a lot. "... we were in Kedah, and by the time we were starting to get toey, or bored, or whatever, we moved to Perak. Perak was a new phase for us, and each company rotated around it. For example, we went to Sungei Siput; then

went out to Gelon Tinggi; then we went to Kuala Kangsar; then from Kuala Kangsar we went to Lintang; so we moved around and I thought that was pretty clever of the system to do that, otherwise there would have been a great danger of a mortar being in the one place. ... I thought the Headquarters of the Battalion, or whoever dreamed up those things, was very clever and had vision, and really understood what soldiering was all about."

Further operations continued, including further patrols and ambushes, until finally in August 1957 2 RAR was withdrawn from anti-Communist operations and returned to its primary deterrence role as part of the FESR. This did not last long, however, as the battalion returned to Australia shortly afterwards in October 1957, to a large welcome home parade in Sydney. 2 RAR's total losses for the Malayan Emergency were 14 killed.

*"...I've often said that when I catch up with my mates. I say that of all my time in the military - and this, to me is a pretty accurate statement, although some of my mates would think I was bonkers, all the same - the time I spent in Malaya, with 2nd Battalion, 1st Battalion, on operations against terrorists, and so forth, was the most demanding, most rewarding time, endearing time, of my whole military life, and it was the time that I learnt more than anywhere else. I'm quite convinced about that. You had all of those aspects; you had the junior leadership, you had it without supervision, you had it with complete trust, ad nauseam, and it just seemed to me ... but more importantly, it was - I still say - it was more physical - more demanding physically and mentally - than anywhere else..."*

George Mansford is often referred to as a laconic, patriotic Australian who regales his many friends with tales of yester-years and has a rare talent of being able to express his deepest feelings and emotions in his poems. One published book, 'The Mad Galahs' captures the initiative of the Australian soldier.

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*I think the characteristics that they demonstrated, that I've always sworn by and tried to emulate, was their total loyalty to their unit, their ability to be critical of the system, and after they'd stopped jumping up and down and throwing tantrums they'd put on their gear and go and do it, and there would be no further questions, whether they believed in it or not, they would go and do it.*

**Brig George Mansford, AM**

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A transcript of the oral history recording of Brig George Mansford AM (Rtd) time in service can be read from the Australian War Memorial – Sound collection which gives a thorough detailed account of his service as told by himself to the AWM in 2003.

# 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion & AGM

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## Honouring 80 Years of Courage: Veterans Reunion Celebration

On a momentous weekend filled with pride and remembrance, veterans from across the country, and some from across the ditch, gathered to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Battalion. This historic reunion honoured the brave men who came before us during some of the most pivotal times in our storied history.

2RAR Association veterans and partners gathered together in Coolangatta/Tweed Heads to remember good times, share tall stories and to raise a glass to mates passed. This milestone event was more than a celebration – it was a tribute to resilience, sacrifice, and the enduring bonds forged in peace and in war.

Friday Lunch started of the festivities for the lads at the nearby Surf Club looking over the pristine waters, whilst the ladies also had their own gathering. For some, it was a long-awaited return to familiar faces and shared memories; for others, it was a chance to remember fallen comrades and pass on stories. For young and old the reunion served as a living bridge between past and present, reminding all in attendance of the price of peace and the strength of unity.

Lunch turned into night with the official meet and greet kicking into the night at the Twin Towns Resort. A move to the outside tables allowed all the ability to hear each other over the music. Veterans swapped tales of bravery, hardship, and humour, with their voices animated with the energy of youth and the wisdom of age. I was quickly bailed up by Harry Leggett and his son, both making me look like a bit of an amateur in the drinking department, the stories were extraordinary and the enjoyment of the night flowed.

Saturday Commemoration began with a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at Cunningham Park, led by the 2RAR Honorary Padre, Reverend Graeme Davis, OAM, CSM. The service was attended by many with Leo Van De Kamp welcoming veterans and families to the ceremony before valedictory was given to recent past veterans and supporters of the Association with some thoughtful and touching words by Gordon Hurford OAM. Silence fell as the Last post was played and the National Anthem was sung, for a fitting end to the service.

Following the touching service, the atmosphere shifted to the Annual General Meeting of the 2RAR Association. This gave all in attendance the opportunity to raise questions and concerns to the Association Committee. The Association welcomed onto the committee a new Vice President, Grant Chisnall who we look forward to working with moving into 2026. A fitting three cheers was also given to Gordon Hurford for his and his helpers enormous effort in planning and setting in motion the reunions event so that it all ran smoothly, well almost all smoothly until I gave the Treasurer the microphone. My ears may be still ringing from that.

Finally, the AGM ended and it was onto the raffles with so many items available to win, we thank all supporters for these prizes as it definitely helps the Association to continue to put on worthy reunion events such as this. A big Thank you to Alf Vockler, who donated \$300 for one of the raffle prizes, it was a very generous and thoughtful gift. I was a lucky enough to receive a pet accessory which is now proudly worn.

The reunion concluded with a trip out to O'Reilly's Winery where I think a few extra glasses of red may have been snuck away under the table. This event included the celebration of many of our young veterans (80years young) cutting the cake to celebrate the Battalion and their own 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

This 80th Anniversary reunion was not just a gathering—it was a living monument to honour, and remember the unbreakable spirit of those who served. It reminded us all that freedom is never free, and that the stories of our veterans must be cherished, shared, and remembered for generations to come. The 2RAR Association wishes to thank all who made this event possible, including Gordon, his wife and volunteer helpers, Twin Towns Resort, who always continue to make us veterans feel welcome, and to all our veterans and families who travelled from far and wide to attend. This event is for you so I hope you all enjoyed the experience and will be back for many more years to come.

# Timor Leste – A fight for Independence

On 16 July 1976, East Timor was officially declared the 27<sup>th</sup> Province of the Republic of Indonesia. This began an occupation that would last until 1999.

The Indonesian Armed Forces were ordered to defeat any resistance to the Indonesian occupation and over the next 23 years, an estimated 102,800 people died. In November 1992 resistance leader Xanana Gusmao was captured and taken to Jakarta. He was tried in May 1993 and found guilty of subversion and as a result, he was sentenced to life imprisonment (although was later released in Oct 1999 due to international pressure).

In May 1998, extended riots and protests in Indonesia forced then president Suharto step down with the Deputy President, Jusuf Habibie taking over. The Indonesian backed Militia was increasingly engaged in actions against pro-independence Timorese and there were many reports of killings, destruction and sexual violence. By August 1998, President Habibie entered into negotiations with the UN and Portugal about the future of East Timor. By Jan 1999, President Habibie announced that East Timor would be granted a vote for self-determination.

The referendum for independence took place on 30 Aug 1999. It was supervised by the United Nations Assistance Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) and gave the East Timorese two options: either full independence; or autonomy within the Republic of Indonesia. An overwhelming majority, 78.5% voted for full independence.

The reaction from the pro-Indonesian militia was to increase violence. In a systematic campaign of terror and destruction, they looted and burned homes, businesses, schools and government buildings; they disrupted water supply and destroyed the electricity grid. The chaotic rampage resulted in the death of over 1000 people, and led to the remaining UN staff to be evacuated from the country.

On 12 Sep 1999 the Indonesian government relented and approved the deployment of a UN sponsored peacekeeping force to restore law and order in East Timor. This was to be known as The International Force in East Timor (INTERFET).

INTERFET consisted of almost 10,000 personnel from 17 nations. The initial deployment was codenamed Operation WARDEN and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion; The Royal Australian Regiment was one of the first units to land in Timor on 20 Sep 1999. The battalion was deployed into Dili to quell the violence and restore order. The initial intervention was a tense period and the potential of contact between INTERFET and the Indonesian forces was real. The Indonesians subsequently withdrew and when they did, the majority of the pro-Indonesian militia fled to Indonesian West Timor.

By October 1999, the UN officially recognised the referendum results and on 26 Oct, an interim government – the United Nations Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) was established to assist the world's newest nation to find its feet.

UNTAET was responsible for managing the transition period towards independence and to provide support and guidance on establishing and maintaining self-governance. On 14 Feb 2002, the mandate for INTERFET ended and command of the peacekeeping operation came under control of the UN.



On 19 May 2002 a large ceremony was held in Dili to observe the raising of the flag of the now independent Timor-Leste.

Since the initial deployment on Operation Warden in 1999, elements of 2RAR have maintained a constant presence in Timor-Leste including the following operations:

OP WARDEN – Sep 1999-Jan 2000  
 OP TANAGER – UNTAET – AUSBAT V Oct 2001-Apr 2002  
 OP ASTUTE – Elements support 3RAR battle group – Apr-Nov 2006  
 OP ASTUTE – TLBG2 – Sniper pair - Mar-Sep 2007  
 OP ASTUTE – TLBG 3 – Battle Group Samichon – Sep 2007-Mar 2008  
 OP ASTUTE – TLBG G – Battle group Samichon – May 2009 – Feb 2010

Battle Group Samichon was named after a 2RAR battle Honour earned during the Korean War. The name now also represents over 700 members who served with the Battle group over the six-month deployments.

On the morning of 11 Feb 2008, a band of rebels led by Maj Alfredo Reinado launched coordinated attacks against President Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Gusmao in and around the capital Dili. An exchange of gunfire resulted in the death of Reinado and one of his associates in the presidential compound. The attacks were later labelled as attempted assassinations and a failed coup.

All soldiers who served with 2RAR should be proud of their service in supporting the people of Timor Leste to go from a fledgling nation to where they are today.

## DIGGERS OWN STORIES

If you served in 2RAR we want your personal story for RINGO. Stories of your time in service be it on Operations or about the larrikins of the unit, these are all wanted for upcoming RINGO issues. If you are willing to share, email the editor at: [secretary@2rar-association.net.au](mailto:secretary@2rar-association.net.au)

### Australia's Contribution to Afghanistan

In the shadow of horrific terrorist attacks in the United States on 9/11 (11 September 2001), then US President George W Bush declared a 'war on terror', marking the beginning of the War in Afghanistan.

Days later, the Australian Government invoked the ANZUS treaty, pledging support, committing to deploy the ADF to join US and other coalition forces in Afghanistan. Each year, we mark our nation's contribution to the Afghanistan War on 11 October, the anniversary of the formation of Operation Slipper which was the first of the ADF's declared missions for the Afghanistan War.

The ADF contingent, made up of personnel from all 3 services in the ADF, the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force, formed a part of the US and then NATO led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from 2001 to 2014, and the NATO led Resolute Support Mission from 2015 to 2021.

Australian forces played their part in a multinational attempt to bring security to Afghanistan, and stabilise the wider region, quash terrorist activity and provide safe conditions for democratic governance and reconstruction.

ADF personnel who served in the Afghanistan War deployed in a wide array of roles and missions, including warlike service in Operation Slipper (2001-14), Operation Highroad (2015-21) and the Kabul airlift (August 2021), and non-warlike service in support, in Operation Manitou (naval and air maritime operations in the Persian Gulf) and Operation Accordion (headquarters/logistic support in Gulf state bases) from 2014 to 2021.

We recognise the approximately 40,000 Australians who served in the Afghanistan War. We honour the 47 who are named on the nation's Roll of Honour as having lost their lives and all other casualties of this war. We remember and reflect on their professionalism, strength of character, selflessness and fortitude. We acknowledge that many of our veterans have encountered personal struggles related to their service and we thank their families for the vital role they play in supporting them.

Lest we forget

## VETERANS ISSUES:

**Advocate Register** – To find an accredited advocate in your region go to [Advocacy Register](#) for further details and locations.

**Veteran Discounts and Concessions** - Veterans may be eligible for a range of concessions offered by state, territory and local governments to help reduce the cost of everyday services such as electricity, vehicle registration, public transport and council rates. Access and eligibility can vary, depending on your location and individual circumstances and is often determined by the state, territory and local governments that facilitate the discounts. Veterans are encouraged to check their respective state or territory websites for more information.

Visit [www.dva.gov.au/discounts](http://www.dva.gov.au/discounts) for links to state and territory government concession websites.

**Veteran Pensions** - From 20 September 2025, some veterans and their families will receive an increase to their DVA pension and compensation payments. This increase helps make sure your payments keep up with the cost of living. You don't need to do anything to receive the increase, it will be applied automatically. The first full payment at the new rate will be the payday 16 October 2025. Current pension and compensation rates are available on the [DVA website](#).

**Coordinated Veterans Care Program (CVC)** - The Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program uses a proactive approach to manage your chronic conditions to improve your wellbeing and quality of life and reduce the risk of unplanned hospitalisations. If you are a Veteran Gold Card holder with a chronic health condition or White Card holder with a chronic DVA-accepted mental health condition, and you meet the other eligibility program criteria, your GP may enrol you in the program. Speak with your GP to determine if you are eligible. For further information on this program visit: [Coordinated Veterans' Care \(CVC\) Program Brochure | Department of Veterans' Affairs](#)

### Defence Honours Reform –

*Defence recommends that legislative amendments are progressed so that honours, operational, and service awards are only considered to be reviewable for a period of 20 years from when the service occurred or when the relevant operation ceased.*

This formed part of a bill that passed the House of Representatives in Sep 25 by the current Government which is currently being examined by a Senate inquiry. Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal (DHAAT) summarised Defence's recommendations to be 'unjust, counter-intuitive and perverse'. You can read more on this at: [Chapter 3 - Broader improvements to the Defence honours and awards system – Parliament of Australia](#)

# Warriors Who Have Marched Out: Jun-Oct 25

**2786147 Pte Peter James DONNELLY**

22 Aug 1946 – 09 Sep 2025



Peter, a National Serviceman was born in and grew up in Parkes, NSW. and served in South Vietnam as member of A Coy, 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (13 Nov 1967 – 13 Jun 1968). He spent his working life as a Self-employed Truck Driver, living in St Clair, NSW and retired in 2006. Peter passed away on the morning of 9 September 2025 from cancer, age 79. Peter's funeral was held at Pinegrove Memorial Park, Minchinbury, NSW.

*Thanks Jason Harrison*

**1200075 Capt John "Toad" Henry Sibbel DUNSHEA OAM**

27 Jan 1943 – 05 Sep 2025

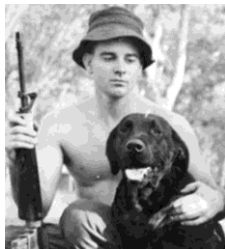


"Toad" served in Borneo with 4 RAR during the Indonesian Confrontation 1965-66; South Vietnam with 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn, First tour: Sect Comd (Cpl) 7 Pl C Coy (19 May 1967 - 13 Jun 1968), Second tour: B Coy CHQ / 5 Pl B Coy, later 3 Pl A Coy (12 May 1970 - 01 Jun 1971). "Toad" was an "original member" of 2/4 RAR (15 Aug 1973 – 29 Sep 1974) and was RSM 2/4 RAR (7 Dec 1983 – 11 Dec 1985) and later RSM, Land Warfare Centre, Canungra Qld. Late of Burnette Heads Qld, "Toad" was admitted to Bundaberg Hospital on New Years Eve 2025 and passed away on 5 Sep 2025, age 82. A Commemorative Service was held for "Toad" at Burnett Riverside Hotel, Bundaberg Qld.

*Thanks to Gregg Dunshea, (Toad's son) and Ken "Tojo" O'Doherty*

**1411134 LCPL Denis Reginald FERGUSON**

9 Oct 1947 – 9 Oct 2025



Denis, a Regular Soldier was posted to the Tracking Wing, Infantry Training Centre, Ingleburn NSW. In 1967 during a Tracker Team Course for members of 2 RAR Anti-Tank/Tracker Pl (in readiness for deployment to South Vietnam), Denis and his tracker dog, Marcus and the late Peter Haran and his dog, Caesar were fully integrated into the Platoon during the course and were the first Tracking Team to be attached to a Bn. Denis served two tours in South Vietnam as a Dog Handler with the Anti-Tank /Tracker Pl 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn, (15 May 1967 - 13 Jun 1968 and 29 Apr 1970 - 01 Jun 1971). Denis, late of Caloundra Qld passed away on 9 Oct 2025, on his 78<sup>th</sup> birthday. Denis' Funeral Service was held at the Caloundra Chapel of Gregson and Weight, Funeral Directors, Caloundra Qld.

*Thanks Paul Richardson*

**5714492 Pte Geoffrey "Mick Raymond" GAMBLE**

29 Mar 1946 – 12 Jul 2025



Geoff, a National Serviceman served in South Vietnam with 9 Sect, 6 Pl B Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (9 May 1967 - 14 May 1968). Geoffrey passed away peacefully on 12 July 2025, aged 79 and his funeral service was held at Brown Chapel, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth WA. Geoff was a founding member of the fabulous Bushels Bush Band and known for his love of music, storytelling and infectious laugh.

*Thanks to Lloyd "Grass" Young and Geoff Brewer*

**5713667 LCPL peter "Jazzy" Neil JASPER**

26 Feb 1945-19 Jun 2025



1Sect, 1 Pl, A Coy 2 RAR South Vietnam 19 May – 26 Sep 1967

Peter was severely wounded in a blue-on-blue, when he was on a late afternoon clearing patrol and they came in via the wrong gun. Peter copped an M60 burst from his crutch up to his right arm. Peter was evacuated to Saigon, then Concord RGH, then Hollywood. He later returned to the ANZ Bank where he was the accountant at a number of branches, before being TPI'd out in the late 1990s. He told an interesting tale of his repatriation flight from Sydney to Perth. The airline removed 6 rows of seats at the back of the aircraft to accommodate his stretcher. He was loaded on the aircraft on a stokes litter from a catering truck. On arrival in Perth, all passengers were asked to remain onboard while Peter was unloaded as a sign of respect. Two WAPOL motorcycle police observed him being loaded into a military ambulance and took it upon themselves to provide police escort up the Terrace and on to Hollywood with lights and sirens."

**52605 Cpl Colin Ernest KIESEY**

04 Oct 1935 – 14 Jun 2025



Colin was a member of 2 RAR and embarked from Brisbane Qld on MS "GEORGIC" on 8 Oct 1955 and disembarked Penang, Malaya on 20 Oct 1955 for service with 2 RAR in the Malayan Emergency. Colin returned with 2 RAR to Australia aboard "NEW AUSTRALIA" on 18 Oct 1957, disembarked Sydney on 31 Oct 1957 and posted to Airborne Pl, 8 LAW RAAF Williamstown NSW. Colin, formerly of Kilmore Vic passed away at Currans Hill NSW on 14 June 2025, age 89, his funeral and burial service was held at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Leppington NSW. Colin was a soldier, diesel mechanic, sailor, miner, pilot, horse owner and trainer.

*NSW RSL REVEILLE Sept 2025*

**312882 WO1 Geoffrey "Pom" David Hamilton PERRY**

03 Feb 1948 – 22 Jul 2025



Geoffrey was born in Bristol, Gloucestershire, England. He enlisted in the ARA and served with 7 Pl C Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam (17 May 1970 – 28 Jan 1971), Malaysia (2 tours): 1976 Section Commander 6 Pl B Coy. Geoff was Pl Sgt in B Coy 8/9 RAR, CSM B Coy 6 RAR, ARA Trg WO 12 IRC 1980-81, RSM Infantry Centre and retired to Thailand. Geoffrey passed away peacefully in a nursing home in Chang Mai, Thailand with his wife, Jasmine at his bedside on 22 July 2025, aged 77. Geoff was very proud of his service in the Australian Army.

*Thanks Charles Cocker & Peter Heeny*

**2793945 WO1 John Patrick REED**

26 Apr 1949 – 11 Oct 2025



John was born in Delegate NSW and went to school at Inverloch, Goulburn NSW. John was called up for National Service (NS) entering 1 RTB Kapooka NSW for Recruit Training on 1 Oct 1969 followed by Infantry Training at the Infantry Centre. John was posted to South Vietnam: 1 ARU (15 July – 12 Aug 1970), then 8 RAR (13 Aug – 3 Oct 1970), returning to 1 ARU (4 Oct – 25 Nov 1970) then posted to 3 Pl A Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn as a re-enforcement (26 Nov 1970-1 Jun 1971). On RTA John was attached for a Tactical Training Exercise (18 - 30 July 1971) and discharged on 30 Sep 1971. John enlisted in the Army Reserve on 27 Nov 1976 and posted to 1/19 RNSWR attaining the rank of WO2; posted to 2 Trg Gp on 1 Oct 1994, then Army HQ, Western Command (24 Mar 2000 – 29 Apr 2001) and Combined Arms Training Centre on 30 April 2001, retiring as a WO1. John, late of Bombala NSW passed away on 11 Oct 2025, age 76, after a long battle with cancer. A Graveside service was held for John at Delegate Cemetery, Delegate NSW, including an RSL Poppy Service conducted by one of his mates, followed by a gathering at the Delegate Country Club, Delegate NSW. John was a Group Captain, NSW Rural Fire Service, Snowy Monaro Region, also a member of the 2 RAR Association.

*Thanks to Denis "Tiny" Riley and Michael Muir, Manly-Lota RSL Sub-Branch Qld*

**2784297 Pte Donald Peter RUMBLE**

03 Jul 1945 – 23 Sep 2025



Peter was born in Griffith NSW and moved to Grenfell NSW at the age of 5 and attended the local schools. He initially worked for a Grenfell Accountant before moving to Canberra ACT as a Public Servant in the Department of Navy then with a finance company before he was called up for National Service in March 1966. After Recruit training Peter undertook Infantry Corp Training at Singleton NSW and straight to JTC Canungra Qld. Peter was one of 40 re-enforcements for 6 RAR (after Long Tan in Aug 1966), arriving in South Vietnam on 12 Dec 1966 and posted to 1 ARU before joining 5 Pl B Coy 6 RAR on 14 Jan 1967. During Op BRIBIE on 17 Feb 1967, Peter was one of three members of his Section that were wounded, while three of his mates were killed beside him. When 6 RAR RTA, Peter was posted to BHQ, 2 RAR (29 May - 12 Dec 1967). Peter, late of Warriewood NSW passed away overnight on 23 Sep 2025 in a palliative care facility, Wyong NSW, age 80. Peter's funeral service was held at Collaroy Surf Life Saving

**235076 LTCOL Barry Ross TINKLER, MBE, BA**

4 Aug 1933 – 07 Jul 2025



Before enlisting in the Australian Army Barry was an industrial chemist at Newcastle NSW but decided on a full-time career as a soldier in the Australian Army. In 1954, Barry graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon and posted to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. He was seconded to 2 RAR and served in Malaya as Pl Comd 8 Pl C Coy (8 Oct 1955 – 16 Sep 1956), on returning to Australia Barry was posted to the School of Sigs, Balcombe Vic as an Instructor, in 1957, he served on the staff of the Master General of Ordnance Branch and held regimental and corps signals appointments until 1962. Barry was an original AATTV member and the first 'Pronto' to arrive in South Vietnam on 29 July 1962 serving at Hiep Khanh Training Centre near Hue, Tactics Committee then S3 Operations & Training. Visited USSF Camp Keh Sanh. Aug 63, studied signals, equipment and techniques, J-6 MAC-V returning to Australia on 16 Sep 1963. In addition to unit citations awarded to AATTV, Barry was also awarded an MBE for his service with AATTV. Barry revisited South Vietnam on Official Duty (from Army Headquarters, Canberra) from 26 May 1971 - 23 Jun 1971. Barry passed away on 7 July 2025 in Wyong, NSW – just shy of his 92nd birthday. A Celebration of the Life of Lt. Col. Barry Ross Tinkler MBE was held at The Pavillion Room, Diggers The Entrance, Long Jetty NSW. Barry Tinkler was a long-time member of the 2 RAR Association (Member No. 502).

**4721088 Pte Gary "Ace" John WILKINS**

03 Apr 1949 – 27 Jul 2025



Gary, a NS, served in 6 Sect 5 Pl 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam (16 May 1970 – 01 Jun 1971). Gary ("Ace") passed away peacefully at home on 27 Jul 2025, age 76, his funeral was held at the Heysen Chapel, Centennial Park Cemetery, Pasadena, SA. Gary was a Past President and long serving member of the Mitcham RSL Sub Branch SA.

*Thanks Philip Burke*

# We Brave Few

**4/7538 LT Patrick Oliver Giles FORBES, MC**  
**Korea: 01-27 Jul 1953**

Born in 1930 in Sydney, NSW to a Military family, his father Brigadier Alexander Forbes served in WW1 as a Regular Army Officer and was awarded the MC in France whilst his elder brother, LT Jim Forbes was awarded the same award during service in WWII for his actions in New Guinea.

Educated at Knox Grammar School, Patrick would move around a lot at a young age due to his father's service and then joined the CMF in 1948 before moving onto the regular Army

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*"They are believed to be the only family in Australia to have received the distinguished Military Cross for Gallantry in three successive wars."*

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2RAR took over the HOOK- on 9 July. The Australians were faced with the daunting task of rebuilding the shattered defences of the HOOK, which they set to with a will. Despite great attempts by mother nature and the constant harassing fire of the Chinese artillery, within a fortnight, bunkers had been rebuilt, trenches restored and the defensive minefields had been re-marked and fenced by the pioneer platoon, led by the seemingly unflappable LT Patrick Forbes, who would be awarded an MC for his efforts in the face of enemy interference. He was awarded the medal for his leadership and putting his own life in danger to protect those he commanded.

His citation reads:

During the period that the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment has been in the Korean theatre Lt FORBES has commanded the Assault Pioneer Platoon. His work involved the checking and maintenance of minefield wire on the Battalion front each night, and the guiding of patrols through the minefields. He performed these dangerous tasks regularly and unflinchingly despite the fact he was frequently under hostile fire. Lt FORBES also supervised the construction of all defensive works in the unit.

The main effort of defensive work construction was carried on in the forward company area of the HOOK proper. This area had continually been the subject of the enemy's attacks, and was subject to much enemy fire. Lt FORBES moved around the area each night supervising work. The fact that the defences of the HOOK were maintained and improved was largely due to Lt FORBES' personal courage and efficiency. Throughout the entire period Lt FORBES has carried out his duties with more than normal zeal and efficiency. His duties constantly exposed him to enemy fire or the dangers of unallocated minefields or unfenced minefields.

Whenever an Assault Pioneer was required to carry out a dangerous or difficult task Lt FORBES was always present to carry it out. On two separate occasions, he was involved in recovering our casualties from within a minefield. At all times his personal courage, zeal and efficiency were a constant inspiration to those who worked under him, and a great example to all members of the unit.

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*"You think about the families of all those people...if anything pushed home the futility of decisions it was that. We want to admire the people who did well at a certain point in time but we don't want to glorify it"*

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Lt Col Patrick Forbes MC (Retd) as a young lieutenant in Korea had a bloke in his platoon called 'Sparrow' Ross. He was quite a small man and this was most probably the reason he was called 'Sparrow'. 'Sparrow' had a brown felt toy dog that he carried in his pack. The dog had a small army slouch hat and various insignia including the Commonwealth Division Badge.

Some years after Korea, the then Major Forbes, as a member of the CMF, was at JTC Canungra doing his promotion exams for Lt Col. At the end of the course, he returned to his room to find 'Sparrow's Dog' on his bed with a note saying 'I thought you might like the dog, Sparrow'. Unfortunately, he was never able to catch up with 'Sparrow', who died a number of years ago, and has had the dog ever since.

Lt Colonel Forbes decided that he would take the opportunity to present the dog, now named 'Sparrow' in memory of his former owner, to the then battalion CO Lt Colonel Michael Bassingthwaight, DSM who was attending the 2RAR Association's 2014 ANZAC Reunion in Adelaide. Lt Colonel Bassingthwaight accepted 'Sparrow' on behalf of the Battalion which now holds a place of honour at the Battalion Museum.



# 2RAR – Inside the Battalion

## Exercise ALON 2025 – JPLF-A, 2RAR (Amphib)

Exercise ALON 2025, conducted at locations across the islands of Palawan and Luzon between 15-29 August 25, enabled the Armed forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Australian Defence force to practice multi-domain warfighting and regional security collaboration.

Joint Pre Land Force – Alpha (Coy Gp based on A Coy) presented a credible deterrence effect in our Primary Operating Environment (POE) through the focused demonstration of amphibious competence and interoperability with our partner-force the AFP. The exercise consisted of three main components: Force Integration Training (FIT), Pre-Landing Operations (PLO), and a Combined Joint Force Entry Operation (CJFEO). Z11 and Z13, as well as attachments, took the lead on Force Integration Training encompassing shooting, jungle training, shotgun qualifications, engineering effects, sniping, small-boat training and Nano-UAS qualification. Z12 was tasked with a 72hr ISR Full Mission Profile (FMP) as the Pre-landing Force in support of the culminating activity, a Combined AUS-PHP Joint-Force Entry Operation at BLS Red on Long Beach, San Vicente, led by Z10.

## Force Integration Training (FIT): 19-21 August 25

The FIT focused on sharing close shooting techniques with our partner force the AFP. This began with members from 2 RAR (Amphib) instructing members of the AFP on the fundamentals of close quarter shooting. Supporting FIT training were engineer attachments, E11A, who shared knowledge on building clearance and booby trap awareness training, and Z65, who shared TTPs in camouflage, concealment and stalking. Small Boat platoon, Z13, integrated with AFP Marine Force Recon and conducted interoperability training on watercraft for joint insertion and extraction, and high-speed handling on water. While the FIT was occurring, JPLF-A also conducted their own upskilling by conducting qualifications on the NUAS Black Hornet-3



## Pre-Landing Operation (PLO): 22-24 August 25

Shaping operations are an essential part of any Amphibious Operation. Amphibious shaping sets the conditions in the battlespace to enable friendly mission success. This enhances freedom of manoeuvre, both at sea and ashore, increasing the protection of landing forces and disrupting an adversary's ability to contest landing operations. Z12 lead by patrols Alpha and Charlie inserted in the period of darkness (POD) 21/22 August, and married-up with their AFP Marine Force Recon partners to conduct a clandestine beach insertion at Wild Beach (BLS Green). Each patrol manned an Observation Post with their task OBSERVE, gathering information on their respective named areas of interest (NAI). Attached was a member from the JFT, Z67, who coordinated simulated strikes from a HIMARS BTY and linked up with ANGLICO to assist with the coordination of aircraft.

## 2 RAR – cont.

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### Combined Joint Force Entry Operation (CJFEO): 24 August 25

Prior to sunrise, JPLF-A in a mounted move, deployed to Philippines Coast Guard wharf IOT embark Z13 Small Boats for the transit to the FRV. Flanked by AFP Small Unit Riverine Craft, JPLF-A was lethal in its approach towards BLS Red. Flotilla One hit the beach followed by Flotilla Two, enabling JPLF-A and the AFP to simultaneously seize two objectives on the BLS. CSM called Reorg and it was over. Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles was suitably impressed at the capability JPLF-A revealed in its Amphibious Demonstration. Sodas, photos and trucks back to AFP lines saw end-ex for the CJFEO.

In closing, Exercise ALON 25 was a tremendous success. The successful seizure of an opposed beach stands as a testament to discipline, coordination and unrelenting resolve in the face of simulated danger. By securing a foothold, JPLF-A not only achieved its mission but set the conditions for follow-on operations and demonstrated mastery in Amphibious Operations.

Si pacem vis, bellum para



Article by LT JJ Gatica 2RAR (Amphib)

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

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**2/401173 LCPL Edmund "Sonny" George BOURKE** (25 Mar 1927 – 07 Jun 1953: Aged 26 yrs)



### **Service Details:**

Edmund was born in Langley Vale NSW on 25 Mar 1927; his hometown was Singleton NSW. He enlisted in the Australian Army on 25 Jun 1950 and served in Korea with 1 RAR (11 Jun 1952 – 21 Mar 1953) then joined C Coy 2 RAR on 22 Mar 1953.

On the night of 6/7 Jun 1953, LCpl Bourke was a member of a fighting patrol which had as its objective the Mound, a feature forward of Pt159. When moving into position the patrol was ambushed by an enemy force later estimated to be thirty strong. LCpl Bourke was forward scout when the clash occurred and was caught in the crossfire of at least three enemy automatics. Although wounded he opened fire on the enemy, thus repulsing them and enabling the remainder of the patrol to take up a defensive position. Then still under fire he went to the assistance of a wounded comrade and helped him back.

After leaving the wounded man within the perimeter LCpl Bourke, although knowing full well there was still enemy within the vicinity, moved out to recover the weapon dropped by his comrade. Whilst he was out the enemy again attacked the patrol. After this second clash LCpl Bourke was not seen again.

LCpl Bourke displayed keen devotion to duty throughout this action. By engaging the enemy single handed he enabled the patrol to reorganise and by the assistance he rendered to his comrade undoubtedly saved his life.

LCpl Bourke was posthumously mentioned in Dispatches.

Edmund, aged 26, was presumed killed on 7 Jun 1953, last seen near the feature, Hill 159 (The Mound), GR 1444 1855 Map: Majon Ni 1:50,000, his body was never recovered and is therefore regarded as missing, presumed Killed in Action and has No known grave - "*Known Only Unto God*".

**Unit:** 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment – 11 Nov 1952 - 21 Mar 1953

2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment – 12 Mar - 07 Jun 1953 (209 days total)

**Fate:** Presumed KIA, Korea

**Cause of Death:** Unknown

**Memorial Details:** United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan, Korea

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

*'Lest we forget'*

 <h1 style="text-align: center;">The 2 RAR Historical Collection</h1>		
<p><b>Mailing Address</b>  The 2 RAR Historical Collection  2 RAR (Amphib)  Samichon Lines  Lavarack Barracks  Queensland  4814  The curator can be contacted on  MB - 0419749198  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> <b>Like us and follow us on Facebook</b>  See 'The 2 RAR Historical Collection'</p> <p>Objects in the collection can be viewed by visiting  <a href="http://www.thecollectingbug.com/2rarmuseum/">www.thecollectingbug.com/2rarmuseum/</a></p>	<p>Donations (Bank transfer)  Acc Name - Historical Collection  BSB - 833205  Acc Number - 20419234  <b># All money is spent directly on the 2 RAR Historical Collection</b>  <i>The Collection is staffed by volunteers who have all served in the Battalion at some time or another</i></p>
		

## 2783818 John Shields – A Life of Courage, Care, and Faith: (Stretcher Bearer – Vietnam)

He walked through fire, not with a gun,  
But with resolve that weighed a ton.  
Through jungle deep and battle's cry,  
With God beside him, striding nigh.

A stretcher bearer, calm and brave,  
He stepped where others feared the grave.  
He carried lives through pain and loss,  
Each step beneath a heavy cross.

Back home again from distant land,  
To his beautiful Cherly's waiting hand.  
They built a life, began anew-  
But war came home with him, still too.

The trauma lingered, raw and wide,  
A burden carried deep inside.  
For family, too, the scars were there,  
In silence shared and heavy care.

Rejected once by war-torn pride,  
By those from World wars unified –  
But heroes know their own, and so  
His brothers saved would tell you so.

To those he lifted from despair,  
To those he treated with such care,  
To souls who left that field too soon –  
He was their light beneath the moon.

And finally, in rightful grace,  
His service found its honoured place.  
His story told, his name embraced,  
A man of dignity and grace.

Now in our churchyard, rich with green,  
John tends the garden, still serene.  
With weathered hands, he plants and prays,  
And shares his cross in quiet ways.

And each ANZAC Day at morning light,  
Outside his home, a moving sight –  
A service born in COVID's years,  
Now marked with tribute, pride, and tears.  
Local voices, wreaths, and song,  
A tradition he began lives strong.  
Dignitaries and neighbours stand,  
United by his gentle hand.

He speaks in schools, with purpose clear,  
To make the legacy draw near.  
To teach the young what silence cost,  
The meaning found in what was lost.  
He speaks of mateship, aloneness, courage, pain-  
And why their memory must remain.

And in the pages of that fight,  
His name endures in black and white.  
The Platoon Commander 2022, p two-nine-oh,  
John's bravery recorded so.  
6RAR-2RAR, a soldier medic true,  
Who did what only few could do.

Eighty years have shaped this man –  
A life well-lived, a sacred span.  
With God, with family, faith, and friends,  
A legacy that never ends.

So let us raise a heartfelt cheer  
For John, who soul we hold so dear.  
A soldier, healer, husband, father, guide –  
With love and honour by your side.

***With deepest respect, warmest wishes, and eternal  
gratitude for your service, sacrifice and spirit.***

***Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday***

***John Shields***

***(From Jane Ewing)***



2RAR Association, Inc  
**Merchandise Order Form**

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

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

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	ITEM	PRICE	QTY
<b>Clothing Items</b>					
<b>SHIRTS</b>					
Polo Shirt, Off Duty M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL	\$55		Polo Shirt, Black Cotton M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL	\$55	
Tee Shirt: Black – 4XL/5XL	\$30		<b>STUBBY COOLERS</b>		
<b>HATS</b>			Stubby Cooler - "2RAR"	\$11	
Cap - Black 2 RAR	\$35		Stubby Cooler - First Round On Us	\$11	
Bucket Hat - II	\$30		Stubby Cooler - Second to no Bastard	\$11	
<b>TIES</b>			<b>CHALLENGE COIN</b>		
Tie - 2 RAR Black Heritage	\$35		Coin Black and Gold – 2 RAR	\$20	
<b>BADGES</b>					
Lapel Badge - Member	\$13		Lapel Badge - NOK	\$13	
Lapel Badge - replacement Life Member	\$13		Lapel Badge – Slouch Hat	\$5	
<b>STICKERS</b>					
Sticker – Unit Colour Patch	\$8		Bumper Sticker - 2RAR Association	\$8	
Sticker (Round) – "2RAR"	\$8		Bumper Sticker – Second to None	\$8	
Sticker (Square) Roman Numerals II	\$8		Bumper Sticker – Vietnam Veteran	\$8	
Sticker (Oval) – "ICB"	\$8		Sticker (oval) – Vietnam Veteran	\$8	
Sticker – ICB Window Transfer	\$8		Sticker – 2 RAR Amphibious	\$8	
Sticker – 2RAR/NZ ANZAC Bn	\$8				
<b>PATCHES</b>					
Patch – Woven - Rising Sun	\$8.00		Patch – Woven - Unit Colour Patch	\$8	
Patch – Woven - Combat Vietnam	\$8.00		Patch – Woven - ICB	\$8	
<b>KEY RINGS</b>			<b>PLAQUES</b>		
Key Ring - Black/Gold – 2RAR	\$20		Wall Plaque: 2RAR	\$55	
<b>PRINTS</b>					
Print - 2RAR Air Assault Operations Nui Dat Vietnam	\$30		Print – Korea, Samichon	\$40	
<b>FLAGS</b>			<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
2 RAR Large Double Sided	\$90		Cards – Deck Playing	\$20	
2 RAR Single Sided	\$50		Note Pad Leather ICB	\$10	
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>			Pewter Drink Coaster - ICB Badge	\$25	
2RAR Association Membership 1-5 years	\$20 per yr		Bar Runner – 2 RAR	\$55	

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