



RINGO *Newsletter*

ISSUE 164 - MAR 2026



75th ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL SERVICE (1951-72)

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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: Peter Trease/Peter Donnelly/Francis Hyland/Ian Williams/Slouch Hat – Peter Appleyard/Keith Anderson/Bob Hooper/Rodric Newham/Ray Beattie/Memorial

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

As I write this report the 75th Anniversary of National Service Commemoration (1951-1972) will have been held in Canberra on 14 Feb 26. The 2 RAR Association wishes to acknowledge all National Servicemen for their contribution and sacrifice including those who died on active service.

The National Servicemen's Memorial serves as a reminder of the impact of National Service on Australia's defence preparedness and the personal cost it brought to the lives of those who served.

We also wish to reach out and send our condolences to the Battalion who tragically lost one of their own, Pte Patrick Morgan, whilst on Xmas leave from a vehicle accident. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his brothers and sisters in arms from the 2nd Battalion.

It is now over a year since the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide delivered its final Report which included 122 recommendations aimed at reforming policies, practices, and support systems for Defence personnel and veterans.

Apart from the announcement to establish a Veterans Wellbeing agency to commence from Jul 2026 and consultations to begin an independent inquiry into military sexual violence not much has changed in this space. DVA wait times for MRCA IL on average has increased to 338 days up from 296 days and is an ongoing concern for many veterans that still requires to be addressed.

The recent Government announcement to sell of historic Defence properties around Australia with up to 67 Defence sites in the crosshairs has raised some serious concerns. Only ten of these listed sights are vacant so what will this mean to some historically listed buildings and current serving forces at these establishments.

Historical Barracks such as Newland Barracks which was established in the 1870s are in the firing line from this fire sale of surplus requirements. Reserve forces and cadets are likely to be affected greatly from this announcement. What this means for future retention and recruitment would also be of concern in a time when more soldiers are needed not less.

The financial cost to ensure that these sights are cleared of contamination would likely be in the tens of millions of dollars before they would even be ready to be sold. This divestment process for some of these historic sites will be a sensitive issue also as once these sights are sold then it's gone for good. This announcement appears rushed and without foresight to how this process will be conducted and would likely take years and a hell of a lot of money just to begin. Removal/relocation of serving personnel and the upgrades to existing infrastructure to accommodate the influx of these personnel would also need to be established prior to any sell off. What's your thoughts?

'Second to None'

Significant 2 RAR Dates: Dec-Mar

15 Dec 1970 – Vietnam – B Coy conducted a PL ambush. For his actions under extremely hazardous circumstances, PTE Dennis Townsend was awarded the Commendation for Distinguished Service.

Dec 2006 – Iraq – 2RAR returned to Australia after providing support to Overwatch Battlegroup West – OBG (W). The Overwatch Battlegroup responsibility was for the four southern provinces and was available to assist the Iraqi security forces in the event of an emergency.

15 Jan 2002 – Tongo – 2RAR (Amphib) provides 3PL (small boats) element as part of a JTF to assist after the eruption of underwater volcano, Hunga Tonga – Hunga Ha'apai.

31 Jan 1968 – Vietnam – North Vietnamese and Viet Cong units attacked the American bases in considerable strength but they repelled, suffering heavy casualties. Australian units disrupted these attacks and were praised by the American Commander General Westmoreland.

Jan 2012 – Afghanistan – Mentoring Task Force-3 (MTF-3) completed its tour of duty and returned to Australia. MTF-3 role was to mentor the 4th Brigade of the Afghan National Army in the Uruzgan province. This meant operating with the Afghan troops at all levels, patrolling with them and living with them in forward operating bases.

04 Feb 1957 – Malaya – 2RAR returned to operation 'North Shark' relieving the 1st Battalion, Royal Lincolns.

14 Feb 1968 – Vietnam – 2RAR returned to Nui Dat and resumed conducting cordon and search operations. Of particular interest was Hoa Long which was known to be an enemy stronghold.

Feb 1971 – Vietnam – 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn was allocated the Western half of the province of Nui Dat, and in addition, provided a training group to assist the South Vietnamese Regional Force Units.

04 Mar 1956 – Malaya – 2/7271 SGT Cecil Charles ANDERSON was seriously wounded-in-action during a fire fight in Kulim, Malaya and died of wounds on 4 Mar 1956, age 32. Cecil was posthumously awarded an MID for his bravery and leadership.

05 Mar 1953 – Korea – 2RAR embarked on the Motor Vessel New Australia from Sydney, Australia bound for operations in Korea.

21 Mar 1953 – Korea – 2RAR relieved 1 RAR in Korea, bring all three Battalions of the RAR together for the first time and, as this happened on foreign soil on active service, a special parade was held to commemorate the fact

31 Mar 1971 – Vietnam – PI from 2RAR made contact with the enemy in a well defended bunker position. After a firefight which continued for three hours the PL was ordered to withdraw.

Veteran Stories — 2786091 Pte DAVID CROFT — National Servicemen

Untold Stories – A Nasho in Vietnam

National Servicemen, or “Nashos”, were Australian men conscripted to serve in the armed forces between 1951 - 1972, contributing to national defence both domestically and overseas.

The second scheme (1965-1972) was established to support Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam war and the Confrontation with Indonesia. Men aged 20 were selected by a birthday ballot for two years of full-time service in the Australian Regular Army. Over 63,000 men were called up with around 15,000 serving in Vietnam. This is but one story of a 2RAR National Servicemen.

The registered letter arrived telling of my success. What a win! Congratulations you were born Jun 9th 1946, and you have been selected to represent your country....in the army.

David Croft

Monday Feb 1st 1967 was a bleak morning for me. I was about to lose my freedom for another life. I was about to set off on a new and unknown voyage into a world I did not know and did not understand. This voyage was going to last for exactly two long years.

2 RAR was my destination, it had a long and distinguished history from previous wars. I was placed in 2PI A Coy. The LT had just been changed and the company was to be led, if that was the correct term, by “Yappy The Terrible” from England. Yappy was a fearless leader who led us to many a stuff-up.

Two diggers from Reo Wing were chosen to be sent to 2RAR. I was one and felt like an outcast to begin with. No one really spoke to us about the soldiers we were replacing. Looking back, it is little wonder that we were regarded as outcasts as the rest of the section had to pack up their dead mate’s gear and send it away. This final act was not a very good way for these grieving Diggers to farewell their mates.... But that was war.

There was also a need for trust. New arrivals were always treated with suspicion as they were not battle tried and hardened and could not be relied upon to be effective under fire. Trust had to be earned through action not words and training. Eventually we both became part of the section, earning trust and expecting mateship and the protection, which came from being a real Digger.

One of the worst things about the Vietnam experience was the pit toilets. The toilets were deep pits dug into the ground and surrounded by a wooden sort of building. Each time the big guns went off the earth shook and the air whooshed up through the toilet seats. This was a most disconcerting experience for the newly arrived in Vietnam. Can you imagine an almighty gust of air lifting you off the toilet seat each five to ten seconds? Not a pleasant experience

News of contacts travelled fast in the confined are of the camp. A contact was just that.... Contact between the Aussie troops and the enemy. Worse, news of a tragedy for the Australians travelled twice as fast.

Up into this time I had always carried an SLR rifle. I was required to keep up my practice and was still an excellent shot. On the early patrols and ambushes, I carried my SLR. Later I carried an Armalite (M16A1) an American rifle, which was partially made of plastic, a rarity in 1968. Even later I carried an F1, which was a small machine gun. Everyone said this was like a peashooter and couldn’t hurt a fly.

Have you ever been without a shower, a bath or a real wash for 19 days? I have, but not of my making. It happened during the Vietnamese lunar new Year holiday period known as “TET”. The TET Offensive happened during the early months of 1968, whilst we were on Operation COBURG.

We didn’t know but when the TET Offensive erupted over 80,000 communist troops attacked cities and towns throughout South Vietnam. We really didn’t know what was happening because we were sent out into the bush. We were away from TV, radio and all communications except the field radio, which was our lifeline to support, supplies and orders.

Our platoon was told to mobilise and get ready for a long stay in the bush. We set up camp then spent many hours and days moving short distances. No one knew what was going on nor why we were where we were. Most guessed something big was happening, as there was a lot of action nearby.

One day, our platoon heard a big battle going on nearby. We saw gunships firing rockets into the bush. We watched as Phantom jets screamed overhead and peppered the countryside with cannons and missiles at an unknown and unseen enemy. Not knowing was really scary.



David Croft – South Vietnam

Pte David Croft - Continued

Soon the platoon began to move. I spent my time as forward scout. I figured that if there was going to be action it best to be at the hot end knowing what was happening. I had learned about Viet Cong signs and believed I was able to recognise most potential dangers.

At one time I came upon a group of huts. I moved ever so slowly looking for signs of life, for signs of a booby trap and for signs of a mine. It is funny that I still shudder when I think about those huts. I can remember creeping, crawling, sliding as we moved closer trying to spot signs of movement. I can remember to this day the feelings I felt through not knowing. The adrenalin was pumping and that, I believe, is why we were able to do what we did without question. The fear came after, when we stopped to rest.

.... I remember thinking about what Diggers at Gallipoli must have felt as they went over the top of their trenches to their certain death. That day is indelibly etched in my inner being. I survived!

No one was found as the platoon surrounded the huts and began to search. Tunnels were found and the Engineers were called in to search them.

We moved on again day after day. After two week all were tired, exhausted. My section was on the northern side of a path where the platoon had set an ambush. The section was well dug in and settled for the night when all hell broke loose. I was watching my favourite night sky saucepan when it began.

I quickly cut the mosmosquito net and inched myself further into my foxhole and peered out into the dark jungle, rifle at the ready. Suddenly a small sapling just above my head disintegrated and vanished, shattered into a million pieces. I knew where the bullets came from as I saw the flash and the silhouette dashing across the night ridge.

That was the closest I came to being killed. Again, the memory is etched forever. I crept lower into my foxhole.

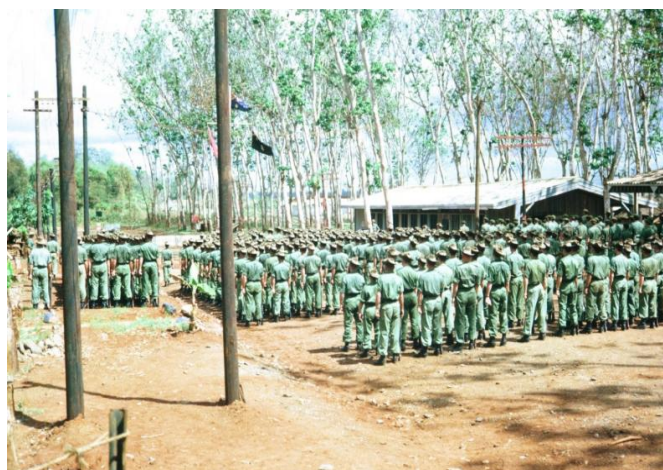
Then the artillery began to fall. It came overhead from the Fire Support Base. It came and landed a short distance to my left exploding with frightening force. When I thought it couldn't get any closer, it did. Some shells began to hit the trees above on their way into the jungle, splintering trees and showering our platoon.

If I had never been scared before I was now. I was terrified not knowing what was going on. All the action was on the other side now behind me. I can remember thinking how helpless I was, how vulnerable, how lucky, lying in a hole wishing it was a mile deep.

During this night, I lost my God.

After a while the world became soundless except for the moaning of unseen humans and the rustling of leaves off in the distance.

At first light after standing to, when everyone waited rifle ready, peering into the distance in front of them looking for signs of the enemy, my section was readied for the sweep. This involved moving around the perimeter of the platoon to make sure all was safe to a distance as far as the eye could see from our perimeter.



2RAR – South Vietnam

Carefully, ever so carefully, I moved again. I saw the tangled, splintered wood and debris close to the front position of other sections. I saw bloodstains and I saw drag marks, but no sign of the enemy. Ont thing the Viet Cong always tried to do was to remove their dead and wounded.

Eventually, on the nineteenth day, we moved into a clearing with our platoon. I saw coloured smoke, heard the familiar and welcoming sound of the choopers. I was told the choppers would be on the ground for no more than a few seconds. There was no way I would miss this flight.

Back at base I showered and washed away the mud, sweat and tears and the smell of fear. Rumour had it that our platoon had set up an ambush on the path of the North Vietnamese Regiments 274 and 265, which boasted 2,500 soldiers and one of the best fighting forces in the South. How lucky was the platoon of 30 soldiers!

Many years later I still Shiver as I remember the day I lost my "God"!

The TET Offensive set off events, which would change the course of the war. This was the beginning of the end of Australia's war.

2RAR Association thank David Croft for allowing us to tell a small part of his story. The book, *The Ghost lives on in 2786091*, written by David Croft is a part of the 2RAR Historical collection and tells a unique story with many photo captions of his time in service.

Malaya – 2nd Tour (1961-1963)

Border Operations:

The Australian soldiers deployed to Malaya were some of the first to engage in jungle warfare since the Second World War. The experience they gained in counter-insurgency operations in Malaya's jungles would prove invaluable. Their mastery of jungle warfare would be passed on to future generations of soldiers in the Indonesian Confrontation, and later, the Vietnam War.

Malaya was granted independence in 1957, with the Malayan Emergency declared over on 31 July 1960. However, the battalion's second tour of Malaya came in Oct 1961 more than a year after the Emergency was called over when they joined the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade (Far East Land Forces), this time at Canberra lines, Camp Terendak, near Malacca.

Whilst 2 RAR had been in Australia after its first tour, they had been converted to a Pentropic Battalion, however, prior to their deployment they were converted back to the local establishment so as to take its place again in the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (BCFESR). In addition to deploying the troops, families also accompanied the battalion to Malaya. This required family inoculation and the packing up of limited domestic items. Furniture, utensils etc were not required as fully furnished houses were provided.



Camp Terendak – Malacca

On 01 Jun 1961 at Holsworthy Barracks, NSW a handover parade was conducted to LT Col A.B Stretton MBE on reorganisation of 2 RAR for service in Malaya. The advance party departed Sydney for Malacca under the command of Capt K.W Kennedy on 23 Jul 61 with 78 soldiers which also included 28 wives and 58 children. The main body departed Australia on 12 Oct 1961 embarked on M/V Flaminia for service in Malaya.

2RAR role was to be part of an infantry brigade which was essentially a ready force and deterrent to communist expansion in South East Asia. The battalion conducted patrolling operations aimed at finding and combating the Communist insurgents in their remote jungle camps, on river-ways and amongst the many villages they used for recruitment and provisions. However, on two occasions the battalion was sent back to the Malay Thai border to deal with terrorist activity, so their tour was split between training and counter-insurgency operations. The terrorists were as elusive as ever. Whenever pressed they would simply cross the Thai border where they could not be followed.

In August 1962 the battalion was committed to anti-communist operations in Perlis and Kedah. Operation MAGNUS (1 Aug 1962-6 Oct 1962, 1 May 1963-late Jun 1963) had a similar focus to operations conducted by 1RAR, its predecessor, which was aimed to disrupt the flow of food and supplies to the MCP (Malayan Communist Party)/MRLA (Malayan Races Liberation Army) by destroying the 12 Regiment Asal Organisation, which served as a conduit between the Orang Asli and the communists. Operations during this period posed unique challenges for the battalion. Even more so than in previous years due to MCP/MRLA personnel who were determined to avoid contact with the security forces. The 2RAR area of operations was still a declared border security area which meant that nobody except security forces were allowed there. Smugglers and fruit pickers were known to move in this area, the problem for 2 RAR was how to distinguish a CT from a normal lawbreaker and deal with him should he attempt to escape.

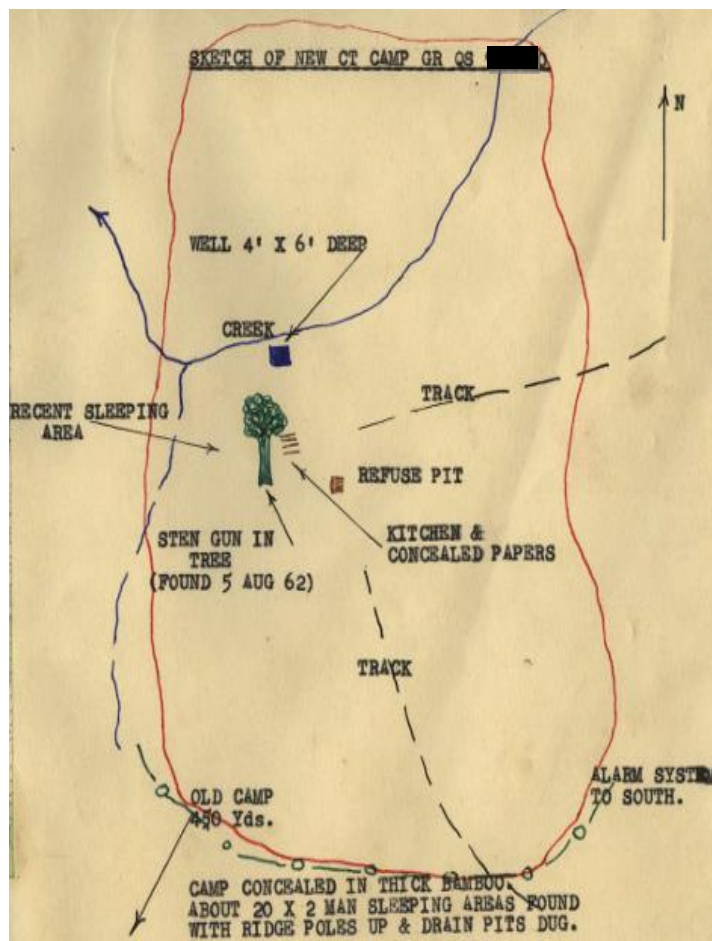
2RAR had two contacts during this period – a successful ambush on 4 Aug 1962 that left one Communist Terrorist (CT) wounded, and a contact on 3 May 1963 in which the enemy escaped unharmed. One of the earliest clashes with CT involved A Coy 2 RAR after the patrol managed to come across an enemy camp near the Thai-Malay border.

A Coy moved out of the Company base on 1 Aug 62 and discovered a deserted CT camp for 40-50 CTs concealed in thick bamboo. The camp appeared to have been occupied only recently as half eaten fruit, fresh cuttings and cigarettes were found. OC 3 PL Lt Honner set into motion an ambush consisting of eight men and included two LMGs at the camp waiting for any CTs to return

Malaya – Cont

On 4 Aug 1961 two CT males with weapons were surprised, but managed to attempt an escape. The CTs jumped of the track and fired two shots, the ambush party replied with two bursts of LMG fire but the CTs had withdrawn. A follow up was conducted on the retreating CTs firing as they went, a blood trail was found where the ambush party followed and were able to find a pool of blood and a razor blade, presumably to dress the wound. Police tracker dogs were also brought in but the trail went cold because of the rain leaving no further trace of the CTs.

After consolidating and securing the camp the men moved through the area to discover a fairly well organised set up. Bottles of Chinese beer (a local brew) were hidden inside hollowed out water filled trees (their refrigerators). Cooking utensils were on a make shift BBQ plate and a tiny kitten was discovered alive nearby. Whether it was a pet or a meal no one really knew. It was subsequently named Chin-Peng after the famous CT leader.



CT Camp - Diagram

So rare were contacts by mid-1962 that the battalion executed an entire operation due to the discovery of the CT camp and subsequent ambush, Operation HOT TRAIL was planned for a battalion cordon and search operation with a possible attack on any CT base if found in an effort to locate the man wounded from the 4 Aug ambush.

Three companies, HQ and the Police Special squad Group were to be involved with an expected duration of one week. The CT was never found however, emphasising just how elusive the enemy had become.

In the absence of CTs, the jungle remained the major threat to the battalion. Standing orders emphasised the need for patrols to carry significant supplies in case they became lost, kits to deal with snakebite, and the dangers posed by scrub typhus and leptospirosis.

Soon after the Battalion was withdrawn from this role for six months' training as part of the Far East Strategic Reserve. Several 2RAR companies were used on further operations against the Communists in May 1963, before the battalion returned to Australia in August, without having suffered any losses.

On 20 Aug 1963, the Battalion handed over to 3 RAR and returned to Australia where they were required to restructure back to the Pentropic establishment.

The service of Australians on active service during and immediately after the Malayan Emergency (16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960) was not in vain, serving to uphold the sovereignty of Malaya allowing the eventual creation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963.



Souvenir Tray – AWM Collection

Information for this article has come from: The Malayan Emergency by Thomas Richardson, AWM – Commander War Diaries, and 2RAR Historical Collection notes by John Twomey

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. You can read a short story of 2RAR National Servicemen David Croft on page three of this edition. If you are willing to share, you can email the editor at: secretary@2rar-association.net.au

2RAR Association AGM and Reunion Warning Order (30-31 Oct)

To coincide with the 2RAR Association AGM to be held in Townsville QLD, the following Reunion will take place: SEQLD Reunion Gathering 2026:

Friday 30th October

1200 hrs lunch at Greenmount Surf Club for the boys. Own costs (informal gathering – no reservations)

1200 hrs lunch for the ladies at Twin Towns Resort. Own costs (informal gathering – no reservations)

1630 hrs Meet and Greet at Harbour Bar Balcony. Own costs

Saturday 31st October

0930 hrs - Commemorative Service in Cunningham Park.

1030hrs – Move to the allocated function room – Visions Room. Commence reunion

1100 hrs – Participate in 2RAR Association AGM by Zoom (or similar platform)

1200 hrs – Gathering continues – Visions Room.

Lunch own arrangements and expense.

Afternoon - depart

Note: Accommodation at the Mantra/Twin Towns 10% discount will apply for 2RAR veterans. The flyer will be sent out with a Warning Order shortly.

CENOTAPHS:

The desecration of sacred war memorials in the name of protest dishonoured the very sacrifice that made our freedoms possible. All levels of government have a responsibility to act. There must be increased security and surveillance at war memorials, particular around key dates, stronger penalties for those convicted of defacing monuments should also be enforced.

PODCASTS:

There are a number of podcasts available online that are made by ex-serving members of 2 RAR or about ex 2RAR members stories in service.

Some of note include:

<https://www.zerolimitspodcast.com/>

[Grumpy Grunt](#)

[2.worlds.collide.podcast](#)

<https://www.lifeonthelinepodcast.com/>

VETERANS ISSUES:

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

INVICTUS GAMES:

Invictus Australia is pleased to announce that Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are now open for the 2027 Adaptive Sports Program (ASP). This intake will prepare participants for the [Invictus Games Birmingham 2027](#), set to take place from the 10 – 17 July 2027.

The Adaptive Sports Program is delivered in partnership between the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Invictus Australia. The program is for current and former serving personnel from the regular or reserve ADF who have become wounded, injured or ill (WII) during or as a direct consequence of their service.

To apply visit [Expressions of Interest for the Invictus Games Birmingham 2027 open for former serving veterans](#)

LACK OF GOVT SUPPORT:

The recent claim by the US president suggesting that NATO troops “stayed a little off the front line” was called out by the Chief of the Defence Force, David Johnson, who issued a personal message to all military personnel reassuring them their service during the Afghanistan war has not been forgotten. National RSL president, Peter Tinley called on the Australian Prime Minister to ask Mr Trump to apologise, which the Prime Minister has not done. Whilst Australia isn't a NATO member, the response by the Australian Government shows a lack of support to all the men and women who served in this theatre of war.

COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE:

Mr Dennis Wayne TOWNSEND for distinguished performance of duty as the Number Two Machine Gunner with 9 Section, 6 Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment during a platoon ambush in South Vietnam on 15 December 1970. Mr (then Private) Townsend performed his duties as the Number Two Machine Gunner with great skill and in extremely hazardous circumstances. His actions were pivotal in enabling the Machine Gunner to operate the weapon effectively, preventing the entire section being overrun by a numerically superior enemy force. In addition to his duties, he restrained his wounded Section Commander, wrestling him to the ground and preventing him from further wounding or death. Mr Townsend's distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations has brought great credit upon himself, and the Australian Army.

A belatedly well-earned honour some 55 years after the event. Congratulations Dennis

Warriors Who Have Marched Out: Nov 25-Jan 26

2783519 Pte Peter "Apples" Arthur APPLEYARD

26 Feb 1945 – 18 Nov 2025



Peter was born in Sydney NSW, the son of an English Merchant Seaman and grew up in Gymea NSW. Peter trained as a Secondary School Teacher and in 1965 was appointed to Gulargambone Central School where he taught himself History and English. Peter was called up for National Service in 1966 and served in South Vietnam as member of 4 and 5 Platoons B Coy 2 RAR (19 May - 6 Dec 1967). Peter had been in a nursing home for a couple of months in Dandenong, Vic and passed away on 18 Nov 2025, aged 80. Peter's Memorial Service was held at White Lady Funerals, Burwood Chapel, Burwood Vic.

Thanks Geoff Brewer

1200261 CPL Kenneth (Ken) "Kenny" Leslie BOALER

25 Feb 1944 – 26 Dec 2025



Ken was born in the Women's Hospital, Brisbane Qld and when 6 months old, baby Kenneth Boaler "attracted attention at the opening of Windsor Child Minding Centre, Windsor" Qld. Ken attended Leichhardt Ward Boys' State School, Qld in 1952 and was a Pupil at Rockhampton State High School, Rockhampton Qld in 1958. Ken enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 29 Jun 1964 and was discharged on 28 Jun 1970. Ken served in Malaysia/Borneo with 4 RAR (27 Jan 1965 – 22 Nov 1966). When 2 RAR was warned for service in South Vietnam, a bunch of 4 RAR soldiers, including Ken, were posted into 2 RAR on 23 Nov 1966 to bolster numbers for the upcoming deployment. Ken served in the Battalion's First Tour in South Vietnam with 6 Pl B Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (8 May 1967 – 14 May 1968). Returning to Australia, Ken moved with the Battalion from Enoggera Barracks, Brisbane Qld to Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, Qld. Ken was deployed to New Zealand (07 - 23 Sep 1968) and completed his service as a Cpl Clerk in BHQ 2 RAR.

Ken, late of Wandal Qld passed away on 26 December 2025, age 81. A funeral and Poppy service for Ken was held at the East Chapel Rockhampton Crematorium Qld. Ken was a member of the 2 RAR Association for many years (Member No. 42).

Thanks to Merv Dicton

3790809 PTE Robert (Bob "Bomber") Willam BROWN

29 Oct 1945 – 11 Nov 2025



"Bomber" was born in Werribee Vic and called up for National Service on 1 Feb 1967, underwent Recruit Training at 2 RTB Puckapunyal Vic and active service in South Vietnam with 5 Pl B Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (24 Oct 1967 - 13 Jun 1968). "Bomber", late of Werribee Vic passed away in a Geelong Hospital at 3.30pm on 11th November 2025, age 80, and had been struggling for some time with respiratory problems. A celebration of Bob's life was held at The Werribee Racecourse, Werribee Vic followed by private cremation. A terrific guy who was very close to his 5 Pl mates.

Thanks Bob Devers and Geoff Brewer

2783939 Pte Michael "Mick" COLLINS

14 Dec 1945 – 24 Dec 2025



Mick was born in Weston NSW and was called up for National Service and saw active service in South Vietnam (9 May 1967 – 26 Mar 1968) with 3 Pl A Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn.

Mick, formerly of Helensvale Qld, was living in Thailand and found to be in poor health by his son Dale, and brought home but despite treatment, Mick passed away on Christmas Eve, 24 December 2025, aged 80.

Thanks Bob Edwards, Frontline Veterans News 28 Dec 2025

6709351 Pte Trevor Charles GARRETT

05 Nov 1948 – 25 Nov 2025



Trevor was born in Launceston Tas and was called up for National Service and saw active service in South Vietnam with Admin Coy, 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (29 Apr – 24 Dec 1970). In mid-November 2025 Trevor became unwell at home and was taken by ambulance to Royal Hobart Hospital, Tas. having suffered a stroke and admitted to ICU. Just after 9pm on 25 November 2025, Trevor, aged 77, passed away suddenly age 77, with his girls by his side. A Funeral Service for Trevor was held at Phillip Stephens Funeral Chapel, Rosny Tas.

Thanks Kate Louise, Trevor's Daughter

15920 SSgt Chester Edwin HALLAM OAM

16 Mar 1943 - 11 Nov 2025



Chester joined the army in 1961 and was allocated to RA Inf. He served with both 2 Bn & 3 Bn RAR (Malaya 2 RAR (Transfer from 3 RAR on 1 May 1963) and Corps transferred to RACMP in 1963. In RACMP, he served in Brisbane, Townsville, Sydney & Melbourne. He also served in Malaysia, Singapore, South Vietnam (AFV Provost Corp 25 Nov 1971 – 27 Feb 1972) and England. In the 2008 Australia Day Awards Chester was awarded an OAM for or service to veterans and their families through Veterans Support and Advocacy Service Australia. Chester had been ill for many years and eventually succumbed to his illness on 11

November 2025, aged 82. As per Chesters wishes, a private funeral service was held. Chester was an affable and well-respected soldier who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Frontline Veterans News 06 Dec 2025

236155 Pte Stephen “Jacko” Andrew JACKSON

24 Aug 1968 - 22 Nov 2025



Jacko, enlisted in the Australian Army in 1986 and was posted to 2 Sect 4 PI B Coy 2/4 RAR (23 May 1987 – 28 Dec 1988). After discharge *Jacko* worked as a Driller in Zambia and West Africa. *Jacko* passed away on Saturday morning, 22 Nov 2025 from Cancer, age 57. A Celebration of *Jacko's* life was held at Lakeside Memorial Park, Kanahooka NSW.

He is a good mate and will always be brothers, He was one of the good ones always had a smile on his face nothing was a drama just a top bloke. Rest now Brother your Duty is Done. Ride your Harley on the endless highway in VAHALA RIP.

Thanks Anthony Bradbury, Steve Jerome and Merv Diction

1/3962 Pte Desmond (Des) Alfred LIBKE

1935 - 14 Dec 2025



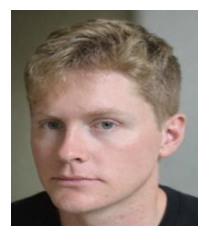
Des was born in Gayndah Qld in 1935 and at 7 years of age began attending the Tamborine North School, Qld. At 13, Des worked on a farm near Canungra Qld and decided to join the Army when he was 18. Des was posted to the MMG PI, 2 RAR and embarked from Sydney 26 Nov 1956, deplaning in Singapore 27 Nov 1956 for service in Malaya. Des embarked Singapore for Australia on 24 Nov 1958 and deplaned in Sydney 25 Nov 1958. Des was discharged on 21 Nov 1961 and joined the Qld Police Force in Brisbane. After leaving the Police, Des worked with Hunter Brothers, a waste disposal company and then with the Brisbane Council dealing with hazardous waste and retired at 61 and moved back to Canungra Qld. Des was the Patron of the Canungra and District Historical Association. Des was admitted to hospital passed away 4 days later on 14

Dec 2025, age 90.

Thanks Jason 'Harry' Harrison, 2 RAR Museum

8705388 Pte Patrick John MORGAN

25 Aug 2002 - 21 Dec 2025



Patrick was a member of B Coy 2 RAR (Amphib), having been in the Australian Army for only 8 months and wanted to become a Sniper.

Patrick, from “Rich Avon East”, Donald, Vic. was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident whilst on leave on 21 December 2025, age 23.

A service to celebrate Patrick’s life was held in St Mary’s Catholic Church, Donald Vic followed by a private burial with 16 members of his Platoon in attendance.

Thanks Merv Diction

2410315 Pte Thomas “Mick” Miles O’BRIEN

06 Feb 1937 - 13 Dec 2025



Mick enlisted in the Australian Regular Army Special Reserve (O) on 10 March 1955, undertaking Recruit Training at 1 RTB Kapooka, then posted to 4 RAR (20 July 1955), 3 RAR (29 Nov 1955), attached to JTC Canungra (24 May – 30 Jul 1956), posted to 2 RAR and deployed to Malaya departing Sydney on 10 Aug 1956 for Singapore and returning to Sydney aboard the NEW AUSTRALIA on 31 Oct 1957 and discharged on 09 Mar 1958.

Mick late of Rose St. Grenfell, passed away peacefully at Calvary Hospital, Wagga Wagga, on 13 December 2025, aged 87, surrounded by family. *Mick's* Funeral was a grave side service at Grenfell Lawn Cemetery, Grenfell NSW. If you didn't know *Mick*, he was a bloody nice man and a real gentleman.

Thanks to Glen Ivins, President, Grenfell RSL Sub-Branch

2782926 WO1 Robert "Pinky" John PINK OAM(Mil), OAM

18 Oct 1945 - 14 Jan 2026



Robert served with 2 RAR in Admin Coy Q Store in South Vietnam (06 May-06 Dec 1967). Robert was the holder of 2 medals for the Order of Australia (OAM). The first in the Military Division in 1980 for service to the Army Reserve, the second in the General Division in 2017 for service to veterans and their family. Robert passed away early on 14 Jan 2026 with a funeral service conducted at Rookwood Crematorium, NSW followed by a private cremation.

*Thanks to max Ingles***17684 Major David George SAVAGE**

14 Jan 1939 – 10 Dec 2025



David graduated from OCS Portsea Class of December 1963, posted to Infantry as Pl Comd C Coy 2 RAR 1964 - 65 (Enoggera Qld); Tp Comd 2 Sqn SAS Regt 1965 – 67, South Vietnam (10 May - 19 May 1966), then AATTV (13 Aug 1968 - 06 Aug 1969) (13 – 26 Aug 68, 5th SFGA, OC 212 MSD Coy, Pleiku. Aug to early Sep 68 hospitalised, US hospital and 1 Aust Fd Hosp. WIA bullet wound right arm, 24 Aug 68. Sep 68 – Jan 69, S2 Pleiku Mike Force. Feb – 25 Apr 69, 1st ARVN Div Recon Coy, Gio Linh. 26 Apr 69 – 6 Aug 69, Van Keip, LRRP Wing, Phuoc Tuy), then regimental and staff appointments until retirement 1983. In addition to the AATTV unit citation David was also awarded the US Bronze Star for Valour with 'V' Device US Army

Commendation Medal for Service and the RVN Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star. David also wrote a book "Through the Wire" which centred mainly around the Battle of Duc Lap. David passed away in his sleep at Wesley Hospital Brisbane Qld on 10 Dec 2025, aged 86. David's funeral was held at St David's Anglican Church, Chelmer Qld.

*Thanks to Graham Hoffman***43600 Cpl Geoffrey (Geoff) "Tubby" SHAW OAM**

24 Dec 1945 - 18 Dec 2025



Geoff was born in the Todd River, Alice Springs, Northern Territory. Geoff, a proud Kaytetye and Arrernte man was a veteran of the Indonesian Malaysian conflict serving as an Assault Pioneer with 4 RAR (6 Jul – 4 Sep 1966) then posted to 2 RAR Assault Pioneer Pl and served in South Vietnam (19 May – 20 Nov 1967) and WIA and repatriated to Australia. Geoff returned for a Second tour with 9 RAR (18 Nov 1968 - 05 Dec 1969), where he served as a Section Commander (Cpl) and later as Acting Platoon Sergeant. A fierce and passionate champion of Aboriginal rights, Geoff helped establish both the Central Land Council – serving as a delegate from its inception until 2006 and the Tangentyere Council, where he later served as

President. Geoff also played a key role in establishing the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and the legal service that later became the North Australia Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA). He later became the first ATSIC Commissioner for Central Australia and was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 1993 in recognition of his advocacy and service. Geoff, late of Mt Nancy Camp, NT, had been unwell for a long time and passed away peacefully in his sleep on 18 Dec 2025, age 79. A Funeral Service was held for Geoffrey at the Alice Springs Convention Centre, Alice Springs NT followed by his burial.

*Thanks to National Indigenous Times***8517169 Pte Kevin "Kevy" James STEPHENS**

23 Nov 1978 - 16 Nov 2025



Kev served with 2 RAR (22 Jan 2007 - 20 Apr 2010) including OP SLIPPER (Afghanistan) (21 Sep 2007 - 22 Mar 2008) and was also a Sniper during his service (28 Jul 2008 - 07 Jan 2009). Kevin, late of Woolgoolga NSW, passed away suddenly at home on 16 Nov 2025, aged 46. Kevy's Funeral Service was held in the Chapel of Hogbin Drive Crematorium & Memorial Gardens, Coffs Harbour. In lieu of floral tributes donations were made to the Black Dog Institute.

*Thanks to Adam Kelly***6410161 WO1 Wayne Trevor WILLS**

23 Jul 1942 – 27 Jan 2026



"Sparra or Willsy" served in Malaysia with 4RAR (25 Apr-04 Sep 1966), 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn South Vietnam 8 Pl C Coy (19 May 1967-13 Jun 1968) and MFC B Coy (12 May 1970-01 Jun 1971). He went on to serve with 2/4RAR (15 Aug 1973-25 Aug 1975) and retired as a Wo1 after service with 5/7RAR as the RSM. In accordance with Wayne's wishes no funeral was conducted. Wayne was a 2 RAR Association Member.

Thanks to Adam Wills

We Brave Few

1400713 Pte George Edward KENT, MM

Korea: 01-27 Jul 1953

Private George Kent, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment had a very diverse and interesting career reflected in a unique medal set.

George Edward Kent was born in Henty, in the Riverina district of New South Wales, on the 25 July 1922. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy on 14 October 1940.

He saw service with the Royal Australian Navy during WW2, from October 1940 to February 1946. His service papers show service aboard H.M.A.S. Westralia. In the early part of the war and the later stages of the war he was onboard H.M.A.S. Quickmatch. His papers show him qualifying in Gunnery. He discharged from the Navy at HMAS Rushcutter in Sydney on 25 February 1946.

On the 13th June 1952, he enlisted in the Australian Army giving his profession as 'Horse Breaker' and 'Kangaroo Shooter'. He was posted to the 2nd Bn, Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR) as a rifleman and joined the Battalion in Korea (10 Jun-5 Sep 1953) as a reinforcement. George was on the Hook in Jul as a member of D Coy which came into the line from reserve taking over from B Coy on 22 Jul 1953.

It was during 'The Hook' action that George Kent was dangerously wounded with a gunshot wound to the right shoulder and forehead. He also earned his Military Medal as an immediate award for holding off repeated Chinese attacks with his Bren gun. Kent was recommended for the award signed by the Australian Governor General on 23 Jan 1954, Gazetted 15 Jun 1954, with Kent being awarded the Military Medal at Government House, Sydney, by the G.G. Lt. General Sir John Northcott on 14 Apr 1955.

During the period, Pte KENT displayed on all occasions exceptional courage and devotion to duty whilst on patrols of all types. His citation for the Military Medal reads:

"On the night of 22/23rd July PTE Kent was an LMG Bren gunner in the reconnaissance element of a standing patrol on Green Finger. Whilst moving to their position on the highest point of Green Finger ridge the patrol was engaged by an unknown number of enemy with grenades and small arms fire which killed one member of the patrol and seriously wounded the patrol commander. With complete disregard for his own personal safety and displaying a devotion to duty and enthusiasm beyond that normally required of him, PTE Kent charged the enemy group firing his Bren and inflicting certain casualties of at least 12 killed and 2 wounded. PTE Kent continued to engage the enemy until he was forced to withdraw through lack of ammunition. It was while reloading his weapon that he received multiple wounds from grenade and small arms fire.

The act of PTE Kent disorganised and demoralised the enemy party forcing them to withdraw so that they could be subsequently dealt with by artillery directed by the patrol and was typical of PTE Kent's qualities as a soldier. The calm courage, initiative, determination and devotion to duty and the placing of his own safety second to that of other members were an inspiration to all"

He recovered from his wounds, but by that stage his K Force commitment had expired (13 Jun 1952 – 18 Dec 1953), and he did not serve on in the Army.

George passed away on 29 Sep 2000, aged 59 and is buried in Holbrook Cemetery, Holbrook NSW and is commemorated in The New South Wales Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood NSW.



2RAR – Inside the Battalion

OPERATION KUDU – A Coy (Z1)

The last half of 2025 saw the Battalion fortunate enough to take the lead on OP KUDU, ROTATION XI. Mounted under Bravo Company Headquarters, a company-sized element from the across the Battalion, reinforced by members from the School of Infantry, Kapooka, 4th Health Battalion, 39th Operational Support Battalion, Royal Australian Navy, the School of Military Engineering, and the School of Artillery deploy for four and a half months to the United Kingdom.

Subordinate to the UK-led multinational training mission, Operation Interflex, OP KUDU is tasked to deliver leadership training to trainees from the Armed Forces of the Ukraine (AFU); supporting them in their defence against Russian invasion. For ROT XI, this was through the delivery of the Platoon Commander Battle Course (PCBC), Platoon and Company Sergeant Battle Course (PCSBC), and the Section Commander Battle Course (SCBC). Training Ukrainian soldiers came with its own set of challenges, including a language barrier, cultural differences, and different warfighting experiences. Supported by a fantastic team of linguists, as well as support from several other nations including Finland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Sweden, the Training Teams were able to deliver several well-run courses to assist the leadership and planning skills of Ukrainian trainees.



Armed Forces of Ukraine trainees conduct a trench clearance (image captured as a part of ROT X, due to OPSEC limitations on image capture during ROT XI).

Additionally, OP KUDU provided Australian soldiers the opportunity to develop skillsets, which are largely taught within Ukraine, and wider-Europe. This included Trench Warfare (assisted by the Finnish instructors), counter-explosive ordnance, first aid in a contemporary large-scale conflict, and counter-UAS training. Being able to develop skillsets based on real-world experiences from a multitude of nations was very beneficial to the members of the deployment. Overall, OP KUDU was a rewarding experience for all involved. The opportunity for members of the Second Battalion, and the wider-ADF, to develop and train members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in their troop-leading procedures and foundation warfighting is an experience that will not be soon forgotten.

EX KILAT 2026

2026 has been a rapid start for the Battalion. Hitting the ground running, members of the command team were out the door within fourteen days to take part in EX SEA HORIZON, the command post exercise component of EX KILAT. With the Battalion now undertaking the responsibility of the Joint Pre-Landing Force, Ground Combat Element, and the Logistics Combat Element, EX SEA HORIZON saw a higher number of Battalion participants than usual. Undertaking a complex planning serial under the guidance of Headquarters Australian Amphibious Force so early in the year presented its own challenges, however provided a good opportunity for key appointments to complete a planning iteration prior to larger exercises later in the year.

Concurrently, under the direction of the senior soldiers, the remainder of the Battalion conducted a rapid induction and battle preparation period. Completing all the normal requirements expected at the start of the year, including a range visit, swim tests, medical courses, and mandatory training, the Companies could then shift focus to prepare for EX KILAT.

2 RAR – cont.

For newer members of the Battalion EX KILAT will be their first opportunity to embark on a naval vessel; providing them with an excellent opportunity to get used to life at sea prior to the end of the year Regional Presence Deployment. Additionally, EX KILAT will provide the Companies the opportunity to shakeout their skills, particularly for Bravo Company within their new GCE role, prior to the busy year ahead.



Armed Forces of Ukraine trainees conduct medical training (image captured as a part of ROT X, due to OPSEC limitations on image capture during ROT XI).

As always, the Second Battalion is busy. With both domestic and overseas constantly being presented to Soldiers and Officers, being in the Second Battalion remains Second to None.

Article provided by Capt Connor Stephenson, 2RAR (Amphib)

Ode to the fallen

Stand fast for these heroes as they march by
 In step with shoulders braced and heads held high
 Still donned in our nation's proud thread of their time
 Carrying packs of ageless dreams never to be; unlike yours and mine

Salute with pride as their column merges with the fading light
 Hear the sobs of the bugle call to greet their long, long night
 The faint echoes of a cry reach out from their sacred hall"
 Familiar words in peace and war, "Duty First" is their proud call.

George Mansford, one of the Tribe @June2019

VALE:

52028 Brigadier George "Warry" MANSFORD AM (19 Aug 1934 - 19 Feb 2026)



LEST WE FORGET

Roll Of Honour: Remembering our Fallen

5/1482 CPL Kevin Joseph COOPER (02 Dec 1931 – 26 Jul 1953: Aged 21 yrs)



Service Details:

Kevin Cooper was born on 2 Dec 1931 in Subiaco, Western Australia, the son of Herbert, a First World War veteran, and Kathleen Cooper. After leaving school, he completed an apprenticeship as a motor cycle mechanic and bought his own motorcycle as soon as he was able. Cooper also served as a senior cadet with the 11th/44th Battalion. At the age of 18, with parental consent, Cooper enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 16 Aug 1950. After completing his training in late Oct, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, which was then based at Puckapunyal in Victoria. After flying out of Sydney to Japan, at the end of March Cooper was posted to 1RAR, sailing with his unit to Korea in early Apr.

On 3 Aug Cooper was sent to the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade's junior NCO school to undergo instruction for promotion to corporal. Cooper successfully completed the course in Sep, he was promoted to lance corporal. After three weeks leave, Cooper returned to his battalion in late Nov and spent Christmas in the front line. Although Cooper had completed his 12 months of service in Korea, he elected to serve for a further eight months and transferred to 2RAR. On 21 Mar, Cooper was present at Camp Casey where Brigadier Tom Daly presided over a parade where 1, 2 and 3RAR were together for the first time in the regiment's history. After the parade, Cooper was taken on strength of 2RAR and was posted to C Coy.

After a period of leave Cooper returned to his battalion on 24 Apr and was promoted to corporal. In late May 2RAR entered the front line for the first time. Over the next month it was involved in intense patrol activity against the Chinese. In early Jul, 2RAR moved to the Hook, one of the key positions in the Samichon Valley.

On 24 Jul the Australians were subjected to heavy shelling and C Company, including Cooper, fought off a Chinese attack. The following night Cooper was in charge of a seven-man standing patrol forward of the Australian main line. When Chinese infantry attacked Cooper's patrol position, he remained in control of the situation and continued to pass back information on enemy mortar fire and troop movements. In the early hours of 26 Jul, Cooper was ordered to bring his patrol in and supervised the withdrawal of his men under heavy fire. As he neared the Australian front line a Chinese shell detonated nearby and piece of shrapnel struck him in the head, killing him instantly. Cooper's men brought his body in and he was taken to Pusan, where he was laid to rest with full military honours in the United Nations Cemetery. He was 21 years old.




For his bravery and leadership Cooper was posthumously Mentioned in Despatches. Part of his citation reads: *this NCO... previously displayed exceptional initiative and determination with a coolness unusual in a young NCO... in command of a patrol... he was absolutely fearless... his reputation as a leader was admired and is remembered by all ranks of C Company. Despite his youth, Cooper possessed fine leadership abilities. Combined with his dedication to his mates and his job as an infantryman, he was the embodiment of the Royal Australian Regiment's motto, "Duty first."*

Unit: 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment – 7 Apr 1952-21 Mar 1953, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment – 22 Mar 1953-26 Jul 1953 (476 days service)

Cause of Death: KIA, Enemy Artillery

Memorial Details: United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan, Korea. Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour

'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>
		

RSM 2 RAR (Amphib) – BIO

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE CHARLES ALLAN



Warrant Officer Class One Charles Allan enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1998, serving in the 4th/3rd Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment before transferring to the Australian Regular Army and being posted to the 3rd Battalion (Parachute), The Royal Australian Regiment in 2003. His experience includes postings to the School of Infantry, Sydney University Regiment and the 2nd/17th Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment.

He has held sergeant major appointments in the 2nd Battalion (Amphibious), The Royal Australian Regiment and at the Royal Military College - Duntroon. In 2024, Warrant Officer Allan was appointed as Regimental Sergeant Major of the 4th/3rd Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment, and in 2026 he returned to the 2nd Battalion as its senior soldier.

As well as participating in numerous training and engagement activities with Australia's regional partners, as a junior leader he served in the United Kingdom on exchange with 42 Commando, Royal Marines, gaining exposure to world best-practice in amphibious operations. He has deployed overseas to Timor Leste on Operation ASTUTE in 2007, to Afghanistan on Operation SLIPPER in 2008 and 2012, and on Operation SAVILLE as the Embarked Forces Sergeant Major in HMAS *Canberra* during freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea in 2020. In addition to campaign and service medals commensurate with his service, Warrant Officer Allan was awarded a silver ADF Commendation by the Commander of the 1st Division for his service as a section commander in Timor Leste in 2007, and was presented with a Soldier's Medallion for Exemplary Service as an instructor at the School of Infantry in 2009. In 2022, he was selected by the Deputy Chief of Army to represent Army in the 'Games Ready' collaborative mentorship program with the Australian Institute of Sport, preparing elite Australian athletes for the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

When not spending time with his partner Dominique (an Air Force officer who is also Commanding Officer of No 27 [City of Townsville] Squadron) and children James (11), Sophie (9), Emily (2) and Nicholas (9 months), Warrant Officer Allan is finalising his study towards a Bachelor of International Studies at the University of New England. He enjoys keeping his mind and body active by swimming, weightlifting, rock-climbing and reading, and tries not to embarrass himself with his new hobby of stand-up paddleboarding.



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