



Nine

December 2013

News

The Newsletter of the 9 RAR Association SA Family
published April, August and December annually

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am very privileged to present the 9 RAR President's report for 2013 at this our AGM.

2013 has been another very satisfying year in the life of the South Australian 9 RAR family.

To share the load, this year the annual graveside services for our South Australian Vietnam war dead were conducted on a roster system by members of the Executive. These most respectful occasions were well supported by NOK, families, friends and veterans. Lunch followed some of these commemorations.

The service for the Hat Dich Battle Honour on 19th January was well organized by Adrian Craig and included all Units involved in the actions of the Australian Task Force.

In 2014 Hat Dich the service will be on **19th February**, the end date of the Operation. This avoids a clash with the graveside commemorations for Sergeant JR Cock and Cpl HR Musicka who lost their lives in 1969. Their service will be at 1100 hours at Centennial Park Cemetery on 19th January.

The ANZAC Day march and lunch at the Old Lion Hotel were well attended both by veterans, their families and friends of the Battalion. We have much to be proud of. Thanks to Michael Mummery for organizing and fundraising efforts.

Vietnam Veterans' Day on 18th August was unique in that all association services were combined at the Vietnam Memorial. Although very wet our members considered the service venue to be quite appropriate and our

Association has recommended that this practice is continued.

I have been concerned for some time that we only see each other on mostly solemn occasions, so it was pleasing to visit Berri as a group and we enjoyed the Riverland hospitality.

The recent Lake Breeze Winery Picnic at Langhorne Creek was attended by a number from the 9 RAR family. This was a follow-on to the 2011 picnic and 9 RAR "Country" weekend in Strathalbyn.

2013 projects were

- tiles with 9 RAR war dead names at the entrance to the Burnside RSL/RAR building.
- support for Haydn Madigan's Pt Pirie RSL helicopter project
- Warren Featherby's recent group tour to Vietnam
- financial support to the RAR Corporation to enable a young veteran to participate in Trojan's Trek
- barbeque at the recent Trojan's Trek River Torrens fundraising walk. Sincere thankyou to Jim & Lyn Fisher and Keith Wright who assisted Jan and me.

In March next year we plan to visit the Seymour Vietnam Veterans' Walk commemorating the 60,000 Australians who served during the Vietnam war. A short commemorative service will be held at the memorial for national serviceman Pte G Scales KIA 5th March, 1969.

Registration for the 2015 National Reunion in Melbourne will also open next year.

A sub-committee meeting for the 2017 Adelaide Reunion Committee was held recently.

On a personal note, many thanks to our Patron, Laurie Lewis, executive committee and active members for your support, because without your help and enthusiasm 9 RAR SA Inc. would not be the success we are. Your support and achievements are admirable.

David Stacey

9 RAR AGM / DINNER

The AGM and Annual Dinner were enjoyed by 53 of our "family" on 9th November. Patron Laurie conducted the business part of the meeting in his usual slick style and before the committee knew it they were all re-elected. The guidance and mentoring Laurie so willingly gives is very much appreciated.

Once again our MC extraordinaire Bob steered the evening with scintillating aplomb and skill.

The guest speaker was unavoidably detained so at short notice 9 RAR's Haydn Madigan; President of Port Pirie RSL gave an update on

the Huey Helicopter project. Haydn entertained us with many humorous and exasperating anecdotes about the journey this project has taken him on. In spite of the bureaucratic speed-humps along the way Haydn's enthusiasm and commitment to this venture is admirable.

www.piriemadigans.com.au/dogtags

Thanks to Michelle for sharing her thoughts about visiting Vietnam with her sister Jackie, where their father Bruno was KIA on 12th July, 1969.



FROM THE EDITOR

While I write this, David is spending 3 days cycling in the mid-north of SA with a group from Strathalbyn U3A. This is very therapeutic and healthy for David and is a direct consequence of him participating in DVA Heart Health. A number of 9 RAR veterans have also benefitted from their involvement in 'Heart Health', and recommend registering for the programme.

Once again members of the 9 RAR family have shown themselves to be a significant group, supporting each other with projects and events.

- Congratulations to Geoff Holman, President Cummins-Yeelanna RSL, Wendy and team, on the completion of the upgrade to the Cummins War Memorial.
- To Warren and Lyn who each week volunteer and make a special contribution to the veteran family at the "Repat" we say thank you.



Part of the group who attended the Lake Breeze picnic at Langhorne Creek.

And they call this the Executive!

- David & I appreciate the effort made by members towards James Stacey's (unsuccessful) bid for the Senate at the recent Federal Election. Without hesitation how to vote cards were handed out and errant corflutes were taken down, thus avoiding a fine.



Crop inspection at Jeff Holman's farm with David & James Stacey

- The article in this newsletter about Denis Way returning a letter to the Phillips family shows the strength of the 9 RAR SA family.

Some of our members who attended a recent General Meeting at RAR Clubrooms Burnside.

We don't know whether they are coming or going – but neither do they!



LONG TAN DAY SERVICE AT THE REPAT CHAPEL 2013.

This service, arranged by Warren Featherby,
was addressed by Bruce Perks Regimental Medical Officer, 9 RAR, 1968 / 69 Vietnam

(printed with permission)

The Vietnam War changed many lives. Many Vietnam Veterans here today know that, for them, the Vietnam War has never ended.

I served with many of you and shared some of your experiences. Before Vietnam, I was a naïve young medical student. After Vietnam, I was a totally changed person, and so you are.

In this address I have been asked to reflect on: the daunting tasks of preparing a battalion for war, the highs and lows serving as the Regimental Medical Officer for the full two year term, and the effect war experience had on your lives, including mine.

Three phases:

- Forming up at Woodside
- Fighting in Phuoc Tuy Province SVN 1969
- Never forgetting the past

Forming up at Woodside

The year started quickly.

I finished my training as an Intern at the Royal Adelaide Hospital on a Mon. 01/01/1968: the first day I was registered to be a Doctor. Later that morning I marched into Woodside as the RMO but with an undeclared unfit medical classification [from a recent severe Rugby Union injury]. It was the start of a life changing journey. Much book knowledge, little military experience and even less practical medical experience.

Dilemma: Could anything in my background prepare me for the daunting task(s) to follow as the new RMO of 9RAR? We NOW know that preparing a battalion for war service involves huge challenges, military and medical, and the preparation timeline for 9RAR was extremely short.

With part time mentoring by Colonel Gay Thornton, [an experienced RAAMC Medical Officer/Unit Commander/ Repat Doctor], I scoped the tasks, did the appreciation, chose the medicals imperatives and prioritised the daunting MUST DO LIST.

The biggest problem was that many of the senior NCO's (with SVN experience) were medically unfit for further war service with this new Battalion. [There were very few posted soldiers and even fewer officers.]

In the Medical Platoon the medics were rebellious, and there were no stretcher bearers. The first DP1 medical I ever performed was completed on the commanding officer in that first week. Hundreds of medicals and scores of medical boards followed whenever the subunits were in base. However most of the year would be spent in the scrub on training exercises. Following the mantra of "choose your path with care" and "start as you intend to go on" I proceeded to downgrade many of the senior NCO's. The numbers were so significant that a reallocation board process was convened at Woodside which resulted in many of the senior NCO's being posted out before mid-year. This left a huge void in experienced soldiers in the middle ranks. It was solved by internal promotions and the best of the best of Tango Training Company stepping up to the plate as junior NCO's.

What a stunning group of young men these recruits turned out to be. After a rapid sequence of training exercises interspersed with hundreds of medicals, the battalion completed pre embarkation training and was deemed ready to deploy. Just like their fathers and grandfathers before them, the Battalion marched through the centre of Adelaide into the history books.

But this war was different. Like the soldiers in the other units deployed to Vietnam our soldiers would pay a high price. Several of the other Battalion RMO's had similar stories. Are you ever ready for active service?

At the final document check, my unfit medical classification was unearthed. I was suddenly upgraded [to FE from BE] and sent off on the Advance Party to Vietnam.

In Vietnam the Advance Party learnt valuable lessons from our 3RAR predecessors. After a

quick shakedown operation we were rapidly involved in the 2nd Tet Offensive.

The Battalion suffered significant battle casualties and secured battle Honours [at Hat Dich].

Bunker assaults against NVA regulars pushed the battalion to its limits. The courage and mate-ship of the young sections was severely tested. Morale took a hammering.

Many wounded section members insisted on rejoining their sections after appropriate hospital treatment. Our soldiers proved to be as resourceful and resilient as the enemy. Our battalion family pride in their performance has never diminished and is properly recognised by the Battalion Association members.

The second major operational experience occurred midway through the term when we were deployed into the minefields south of Dat Do. During this period I was stretched to my personal limit and endured many experiences which have shaped my military and medical career ever since. Resuscitating soldiers during the day and reflecting on the experiences at night led me to decide to retrain as an anesthetist after Vietnam.

Time spent as duty officer in the Command Post at night, doing the drag shift, increased my awareness of the strategic and operational roles of the Infantry [and their supporting arms and services]. It was a very long year!

During Vietnam I learnt the importance of the following timeless lessons:

- Be a strong advocate for every soldier and the reputation of the Battalion at all times.
- RMO works tirelessly to maximize the number of fighting soldiers at the FEBA.
- Health is a command responsibility at all times.
- Fearless advice to commanders at all levels is essential.

On reflection, the advice of my father suddenly took on new meaning:
Son

- Choose your path with care, and then follow it as far as you dare.
- Experience is the best teacher but the fees are a lot higher.
- Be who you are, always.

After Vietnam Never Forgetting

Suddenly, after a lifetime of experience compressed into a year of war service, [most of it in the field as a combat RMO], I was on the Advance Party and home.

Unrecognizably different to my family and my girlfriend, I married during leave and was then posted to the Special Air Service Regiment in Perth for the next two years.

During leave I realized then that I had just had the best job in the Battalion, and wanted to use the life experience gained to develop a new career. I subsequently did a post graduate degree in anesthesia in Adelaide, and after another year in the United States, set up a practice in Adelaide as a private practice anesthetist.

Many of the lessons learnt in Vietnam were transferable into civilian settings thereby allowing me to enjoy two parallel careers, one medical and one military, for the next forty years.

Being a Battalion RMO on active service is a huge learning experience for a new graduate. It is the biggest and best role I have ever had. It was certainly the most rewarding role. It was such a privilege to serve with you and share your stories. It has changed my life and many of your lives ever since.

Most weeks, whilst doing anesthetics, I find myself flashing back to those casualty crises involving many incidents and the courage and mate ship of the men I served with. How proud I am of their many memorable achievements. I cannot forget. We cannot forget.

I conclude with [Adam Lindsay Gordon's]:

Life is mainly froth and bubble,
Two things stand like stone,
Kindness in another's trouble,
Courage in your own.

9 RAR SA TRIP TO SEYMOUR, VICTORIA, 3-6 MARCH, 2014.

It is planned that we drive to Seymour, visit the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk and museum. Some may wish to take a train trip to

Melbourne for the day.

Please register your interest with Warren Featherby - featherby41@bigpond.com

9 RAR NATIONAL 48TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION & COMMEMORATION MELBOURNE, 13 -15 NOVEMBER, 2015

Registrations will open February, 2014.

<http://www.9rar.org.au/index.html>

NOTE: The 50th Anniversary Reunion will be hosted by South Australia in 2017

RAR ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS AND CLUBROOMS

13 Beatty Street, Linden Park SA 5065
Phone: 8379 5771.

Meals every Friday night
(closed 27/12/13 and 3/1/14)

STATE RECORDS SA

To view over 800 WW1 photographs go to

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/state-records-sa/sets/>

VIETNAM VETERANS EDUCATION CENTRE (VVEC) - LOOKING FOR NOK

When we last checked the website in November there were names of 61 Vietnam War dead whose next of kin have not yet been located. The only 9 RAR casualty remaining on the list is Private Brian Rennie who is buried in Compartment S Grave 87, Roman Catholic Section of the Fawcner Cemetery, Victoria.

His official commemoration is in the Victorian Garden of Remembrance, Wall 47, Row D. CAN YOU HELP?

Source:

www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/OAWG/Pages/VVEC.aspx



TROJAN'S TREK FUNDRAISER



9 RAR SA General Meetings are held bi-monthly on the 1st Thursday of even months
RAR Association Clubrooms, 1300 hours.
All veterans and partners are welcome to attend.

LONG TAN DAY AT THE TORRENS PARADE GROUND

A good crowd assembled for the march and service at the Vietnam memorial, Adelaide. NOK and dignitaries attended and appreciated the thought-provoking address by Lt. Col. Mike Dennis, but unfortunately, heavy rain fell during the service and caused a few problems for the musicians and those unprepared for wet weather.

9 RAR was well represented and Jenny was thrilled to meet Normie Rowe.



Simon Kelly &
Ann Dennis



Jenny Howe, Keith Wright & Jennifer Mummery



Terry & Pam McElligot
Jan & David Stacey



Simon Kelly, Adrian Craig & David Stacey



Leon & Jeanette Eddy

LETTER FROM THE VIETNAM ERA

Denis Way, ex C Coy 9 RAR, visited South Australia for 2013 Anzac Day and discussions with the Port Adelaide Football Club regarding 9 RAR KIA Peter Chant. Denis, accompanied by Lulu and Georgia, returned for another visit during September.

At a private function attended by Reg Phillips' NOK/sister Helen Galpin, Denis gave a lengthy presentation about his life, that of his ancestors, and unexpected connections with his R & R destination, Hong Kong.

Denis recounted how he met Reg Phillips, both South Australians and national servicemen, when they fronted up for their compulsory military service. They formed a friendship, travelled together from interstate, and to Vietnam, and Denis recalled Reg writing regularly to his fiancée and family.

Denis, an author, mentioned that when researching through some treasures from his late mother, he found a very precious letter tucked away inside a book. This letter was from Helen's mother, Lorna Phillips, to Denis's

own mother, acknowledging the sympathy expressed by Mrs Way on the death of Reg Phillips. It was a very moving occasion when Denis read the letter to those present, and handed it to Helen as representative of the Phillips family.

The members of 9 RAR SA have very much appreciated the interest, support and hospitality provided by Mrs Phillips, her late husband and family, over the years. We acknowledge that it has taken a very special person with a lot of courage to keep in touch with the men who served with a son who was KIA.

It is too late for many, but to the surviving mothers of 9 RAR men who were on active service in Vietnam, thank you. Thank you particularly to those who supported other mothers in their grief. This is an example of real family history - members who were related not by blood but by experiences.

Thank you Denis.

Denis Way with John Schumann



At the same function were
Warwick and Dianne Archer

COINCIDENCES TO PONDER ON

1730993 McCormack, Albert Frederick &
1730994 McCormack, Dennis James
both 6th Battalion
both KIA in Vietnam 18/8/1966

Tweet with Facebook link from Genevra Charsley a
Battlefield Guide based in Belgium.

Flanders Battlefield Tour

#Australians paying their respects to their relative
Serjeant (sic) Charles Entwistle resting in peace
#ArtilleryWood Cemetery. Attached to the #Guards
Division, killed in the Battle of #Poelcappelle, 9th
October 1917, within the Third Battle of Ypres. We will
remember them.

Attached to the message was a photo showing two
familiar 9 RAR faces - Jill and Dave Greenhalgh,



NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA, 11/9/2013.

Have you checked out the [SODA](#) (Stream of Digital Archives) website yet? You'll find the latest
National Archives records to be digitised.

Among the records digitised over the past few days are more World War II service files, migrant
selection documents, a patent application, Mount Stromlo observatory photographs and a **top secret**
South Vietnam file from 1966-67.

newly scanned records from the Archives

www.soda.naa.gov.au/record/1730737/1

Commonwealth of Australia, Department of External Affairs. TOP SECRET.

South Vietnam - Political - General

National Archives of Australia: A1838, 3014/2/1 PART 12B

EXCITING PROJECTS FOR THOSE WHOSE ANCESTORS SERVED WW1 ANNOUNCING....DISCOVERING ANZACS

The National Archives of Australia and
Archives New Zealand are working together to
build a new website, *Discovering Anzacs*. This
website will have a unique profile of every
Anzac who enlisted in World War I, linked to

their service record. You can help tell the story
of Australia and New Zealand during the war
by building on profiles and adding your own
family stories, photos or details of their service.

www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au

OCTOBER 2013, ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL 9 RAR TOUR OF VIETNAM

Jeff & Jenny Howe

A group of 27 started out for the trip but not everyone did the whole 16 day tour. Dennis and Lulu Way came from Hong Kong especially for the night on the junk in Ha Long Bay but unfortunately after a beautiful lunch on the junk all of the boats were ordered back into shore by the government due to a typhoon.

After seeing the damage the typhoon inflicted on Da Nang a couple of days later everyone was pleased the warning was heeded and the boat turned back!

Another couple left us when we got down to Saigon, Karolann and Lyndon had to return to Australia because poor Karolann was very sick and needed to be hospitalised. So unfortunately they missed out on the Vung Tau leg of the journey.

Apart from that everyone got on well and a great time was had by all. We were lucky

enough to have the same guide that we had on our 2008 trip and he was just as excited to see us again as we were him. We did a few things differently to the last trip but went back to the same places as before. Everyone enjoyed the cyclo tour of Saigon City, out amongst the thousands of motor bikes!

We had three days in Vung Tau and got to Nui Dat and the Long Hai Hills. We held a short service at the Long Tan Cross, we donated rice and juice to the orphanage in Ba Ria, a memorable time for all on the trip.

The local food and shopping was sampled and enjoyed by all too.

The trip will hold different memories to different people but it was enjoyed by all who went.



50th BATTALION MEMORIAL

Thanks to the initiative of Adrian Craig, this memorial on The Pathway of Honour was unveiled on 13th August, 2013.



LOOKING FOR WW1 UNIFORMS

The Australian Dress Register at the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, is keen to support those preparing World War 1 uniforms for display during the Centenary Celebrations. If you know of a collection which contains WW1 uniforms please encourage them to get in

touch and consider entering them on the Australian Dress Register Register.

For further information please contact Rebecca Pinchin, rebeccap@phm.gov.au telephone 1800 882 092.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Jimmy's Anzac Pilgrimage, written and self-published by South Australia's Julie Reece, Battlefield Guide with *Connecting Spirits*. Julie's book was printed by Digital Print Australia and Julie speaks very highly of the assistance given

to her by Vietnam veteran Steve Lewis. *Jimmy's Anzac Pilgrimage* provides a valuable resource for students and schools leading up to the centenary of WW1.

\$49.95, contact: reecy@chariot.net.au.

REQUEST FROM GENEALOGY SA

THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC – 2014 TO 2018. FAMILY STORIES OF THOSE WHO SERVED

Many South Australian organisations with an interest in either History or the Service are planning events to commemorate the Anzac Centenary in 2015. Genealogy SA is pleased to launch its Anzac Centenary Project for relatives of South Australians who served in the Great War to tell their stories about how war service impacted their families. The project will continue through the Centenary of World War 1 in 2014 to the Gallipoli anniversary, ANZAC Day, 2015. We invite contributions of about 1000 words from relatives and descendants to tell their story about what happened to those who remained behind, and what happened when their ANZACS came home. These will be the stories of the wives and mothers, sisters and brothers, the stories of the children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. These will be stories of how a family coped with a war death, or with a returned serviceman who struggled with injury and trauma. These will be stories of sacrifices made, lives changed,

success through struggle and achievement through adversity

We expect these stories will provide moving reading. So we'd like to honour the sacrifice of those who served and their wartime families by publishing the stories. We'll publish them online, one at a time. We think there will be enough stories to fill a book, so in 2015 we plan to publish a compilation.

Contributions should be Word documents limited to about 1000 words and submitted to the email address on this website. Any images submitted will be published at the discretion of Genealogy SA. The contributor grants Genealogy SA exclusive rights to edit and publish, although there is no obligation on Genealogy SA to do so. The contributor is responsible for privacy, authenticity, permissions and ownership.

www.genealogysa.org.au



FIVE PLATOON'S REVENGE

**This story is dedicated to the men of
5 Platoon, "B" Company, 9 R.A.R.,
killed in the month of January, 1969.**



The main text was written circa 1980 and submitted for inclusion in the history of 9 RAR "9th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment – Vietnam tour of duty 1968-1969 – On Active Service". It was rejected.

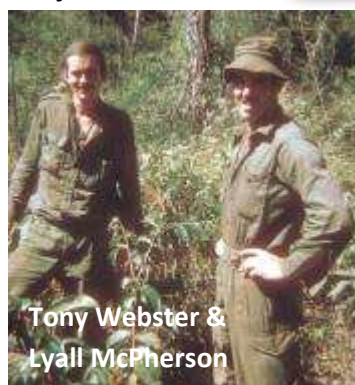
We had been in South Vietnam for little over a month when we found ourselves in Bien Hoa Province defending the approach to Saigon. The Chinese Tet was around the corner and we were waiting for the big push. The country was flat and we were on the verge where the bamboo was creeping back over old paddy-fields. The artillery shells had fired the undergrowth and the summer greenery was interspersed with burnt out areas. We had found an enemy camp of bunkers which had not been inhabited for some time. The engineer sappers moved in and blew them up with plastic explosives.



Mick Young (foreground)

We then moved over a heavily grassed flat, crossed a river and moved back into a company harbour position. We had not seen the company for a few days since we had travelled down from Phuc Tuoy in A.P.C's. Here the country was heavily wooded with big trees and *autumn leaves on the ground. It was rather a pleasant place to be had it not been for a war. It was re-supply time, six water-bottles of water, three days' rations and the mail. I swapped my cigarettes for chocolates and we exchanged jokes about each other's mail.

Mid-morning the order came to move and Lance Corporal Tony Webster moved his Section out past the gun.



Tony Webster &
Lyall McPherson

Greg Thomas and Ralph Braize were both forward scouts, and Barry Whitehead was the gunner. We followed as they edged their way parallel to the river we had earlier crossed.



Lt Ivan Clark

They had stealthily moved 100 metres before Lt. Clark called the Section Leader back to ask what they had seen. A track had been found with fresh footprints. Another Section was called forward to move a little to the right of the track.

Platoon Headquarters followed, I was the sig.

The country dropped away a little and then "bang", the percussion and the fright threw us to the ground, and I crawled in the direction of Lt. Clark. Grey smoke swept past us, and cold fear flew through me. Clark yelled out for us to attack but nothing happened. He yelled for the Forward Section. Mick Young answered, "All right". Relief came



to my brow for a moment until he said, "He's dead". The man in front of him lay dead. He was George Nagle, an Irishman, a round jammed in his gun.

The Section behind moved through and dragged the injured back. Allan (Midge) Graham lay

by me, mortally wounded; Jimmy Jellett, sat a pellet in his eye. Dennis Cole walked about, a pellet in the back of his neck; and John Hallam, Forward Scout, lay face down, a horrible vacant gap between his knees and his jungle boots. He had been hit below the knees by a Chinese claymore mine, the pellets passing through his legs before they distributed themselves through the platoon.

I scratched down a medivac and radioed the message. A few minutes passed before Company got there. Major Ted Chitham pushed his way through. A big Maori sig. grabbed his machete and started lopping down the trees, unafraid of the stray bullets that flew around. 4 Platoon pushed through and cleared to our front to secure the chopper when it came. It arrived, flying about 5 metres off the ground and took our comrades away.



The Company moved back to the edge of the paddy. Major Chitham had called in the Centurion tanks and there we waited for them. They came with a rumble, only recognizable by a soldier, and we prepared for the attack. We followed the tanks back into the bush and they fired rounds point blank into the undergrowth. We pushed past bunker after bunker but the enemy had fled, leaving their mortars and weapons hidden all over the place – in the ground, in the trees, everywhere they thought we would not find them.

During the nights we set up ambushes on all the tracks that ran into the area. This night half the platoon set up an ambush almost at the spot where we were ambushed. It was on a side track with the main track ambushed by 6 Platoon. We had two guns and claymore mines. We moved in at evening, set our claymores and dug ourselves in, both guns facing the same way up the path.



Early next morning we heard 6 Platoon contact. An ambush had been sprung and not long after we heard someone running down the track. "Bang". All the claymores were set off and machine guns fired. "Whity" had been too close to the edge of the pit and took some of the blast of the claymore mines, getting a burnt face and a hand wound. The enemy lay dead, his face obliterated.

Two nights later we were the Platoon assigned to the ambush position. It was down river, almost where we had the company harbour.

The tanks had pushed a path through the river and the place was quite open. We moved in that evening, digging ourselves shell scrapes. I had dug Lt. Clark's, as being a farmer I was rather skilled in the art. The shell scrapes lay diagonal to the track, with the guns facing both ways and one to the rear. Claymore mines ran parallel directly in front of where we lay, about 2 metres from our heads. Lt. Clark brought the mortars in range to land up and down the track to be called in if we were successful.

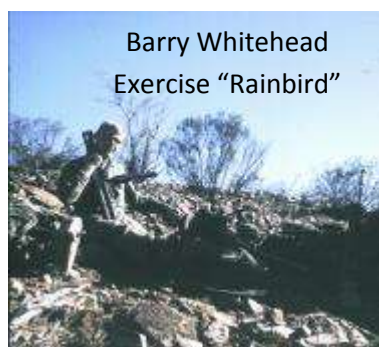


As night passed, we took it in turns to sleep, but at dawn Lt. Clark was on for me. The enemy walked into the ambush, stopped right in front of us, before crossing the river. They had torches with star shapes on their lenses,

presumably to block out the light. The Platoon pushed the plungers. I woke up then, as they had been too frightened to wake me before as I was so close to the enemy. But I was awake now! I fired a magazine into the darkness, and radioed in the mortars up and down the track. Later I was told these were successful.

One Viet Cong took off up the track and crossed the river, never to be seen again. But the others were not so lucky, they lay dead and full of pellets and small holes in front of us.

Five Platoon had carried out its revenge.



* later learned to be caused by herbicides (i.e. Agent Orange)

ADDENDUM

Commander's Diary Narrative downloaded from the Australian War Memorial website in 2008:

www.awm.gov.au/collection/war_diaries/se_asian_conflicts/subclass.asp?levelID=1300
AWM95, 7/9/8—1-31 January 1969, Narrative, Operations log (16.49 MB)

Details:

January, 1969

Reference Map XA Binh Ba

Commanding Officer: Lt. Col. A.L. Morrison

Place & grid reference—Xa Binh Ba

5 January Time: 0001-2400H

9 RAR continued operations AO WONDAI with minor contact. At 1200H at YS221880 5 Pl contacted an unknown number of en resulting

in 1 AUST KIA & 5 AUST WIA. En results unknown. 1201314 Pte G.J. Jellett, B Coy WIA; 39565 Pte G. Nagle, B Coy, KIA; 6708856 Pte J.E. Hallam, B Coy WIA; 43528 Cpl .A.W. Graham, B Coy WIA (DOW 7 Jan '69); 217820 L/Cpl D.J. Cole, B Coy, WIA; 3793147 Pte J. Higgins, B Coy, WIA.

Place & grid reference—Xa Binh Ba

19 January Time: 0001-2400H

9 RAR continued operations in AO WONDAI with continuous contacts. At 0557H at YS222879 a B Coy ambush patrol contacted a group of enemy, believed to be 20 resulting in 1 NVA KIA (BC) [sic], 1 VC WIA (PW), 1 enemy WIA (bloodtrail) & 3 pistols & 1 Chicom SMG captured.

© David Stacey.
May, 2009



HAVE YOU MADE A VALID WILL?

9 RAR and RAR Association Welfare Officer Lyn Fisher regularly has to deal with complicated problems arising when veterans have not made a will. Please ensure that you make a will and advise your family where the original is filed.

Some useful information extracted from the Government of SA and the Public Trustee website.

What happens if a person dies suddenly without a valid Will?

Whether someone has died from accidental death, long or short term illness, or suicide, if they have died without a valid Will, South Australian laws will dictate how the estate will be distributed.

If you cannot locate a Will, the person is deemed to have died 'intestate' (without a valid Will).

If the person who has died intestate has left an estate that requires administration (for example, real estate or superannuation, etc), the estate is dealt with in accordance with the South Australian laws of intestacy. The South Australian laws of intestacy determine who will administer an intestate estate, which may be Public Trustee. For further information, you could contact the Public Trustee, the Legal Services Commission or a private solicitor or Trustee Company.

www.publictrustee.sa.gov.au

9 RAR TOUR BOOK REPRINT

The 9 RAR Tour Book was first published in 1992. The editorial team from Queensland worked tirelessly for many years to have this written record published. The Book was launched by the first Commanding Officer of the 9th Battalion A.L. (Alby) Morrison in September 1992 in the lines of the 8th/9th Battalion.

The Book has been sold out for a great number of years and after many enquiries it was decided to examine the feasibility of reprinting the Tour Book. After determining that the original material was never kept, it was decided to have the original Tour Book scanned and then re-published as an exact replica of the original book. This has now been completed.

The Tour Book Reprint has all the original text and photographs together with the "Omissions" pages that were published in the "9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Proud to Serve" by B. Vickery AND a 10 page "Index of Names" showing the names of the 9 RAR members and 9 RAR family members who are mentioned in the Tour Book.

The cost of the 9 RAR Tour Book Reprint is \$60.00 per book.

The postage and handling rates are quoted as from Brisbane: Brisbane area - 1 or 2 books is \$10.00 All other areas including interstate - 1 or 2 books is \$15.00 3 or more books to all

areas is priced according to weight and distance.

Purchase:

To purchase the 9 RAR Tour Book Reprint there are two ways of doing this:

1. ON LINE: Click on the **Tour Book Order Form**>>, fill out the details on line and click "submit". and then do a Direct Deposit of fees OR send a cheque or money order by mail, OR
2. MAIL: Click on the **Tour Book Order Form PDF**>> to download a PDF copy, fill it out and then mail the Order Form with a cheque or money order OR mail the Order Form and do a Direct Deposit of fees.

Payment:

Direct Deposit: BSB: 803 205 Account Number: 20365969 (Defence Bank) Reference: Ensure to include your name and State. If you make a Direct Deposit please ensure you fill out the Order Form on line or mail the Order Form back asap so they can be linked together.

Make Cheques and Money orders payable to

Nine RAR Association (Qld Br) and post to

9 RAR Association (QLD) PO Box 1221

STAFFORD CITY QLD 4053

see www.9rarqld.org/

2014 PREMIER'S ANZAC SPIRIT SCHOOL PRIZE

This prize was open to all 2013 Year 9 and 10 students in South Australia and a student from the Barossa chose L/Cpl RJ Abraham to be the subject of her entry. Adrian and David supplied relevant information to assist in her submission.

We wish all the applicants and teachers well. The winners will visit commemorative sites

where they will actively participate in ANZAC Day remembrance ceremonies.

It would be wonderful if in the future a student from the 9 RAR family applied for the prize.

Google 2014 SA premiers Anzac spirit prize for the website.

THE WAR GRAVES PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT

Terry McElligott & Jim Fisher at



Pte B R George's grave in Rylstone NSW



Pte R J Gaffney's grave in Mudgee NSW



Geoff Lanigan (who along with Bill Forrest) helped record graves at the Springvale Cemetery (above) and the Victorian Garden of Remembrance (below).



UPGRADE TO THE CUMMINS WAR MEMORIAL

Wendy Holman

Unveiled 7th September, 2013, by four WWII vets still living in the area, accompanied by two local veterans who have just returned from

Afghanistan, and members of the Cummins-Yeelanna RSL sub-branch.



The local branch members of Cummins-Yeelanna RSL enjoying the completion of the upgrade to the Cummins War Memorial



Those who "officially" unveiled the statue.

L to R: Jaxen Norton (Afghanistan veteran: Combat Engineers), Jack Scarff (WWII Veteran serving in Europe in Grenadier Guards 43 to 47), Cor Goosens (WWII veteran, Dutch Resistance 1941 to 1944, Royal Netherlands Marine Corps 1944 to 1948), Kel Blacker (WWII veteran in New Guinea, 2/27 Battalion), David Jones (WWII veteran in New Guinea, 100 Squadron RAAF), Brock Jolly (Afghanistan veteran: Combat Engineers).



Les Maynard & David Stacey - on their bikes – Strathalbyn High School Old Scholars reminiscing after the school's recent Centenary celebrations.

Look out for David and the team from U3A Strath Stents-r-us in the Tour Down Under Bupa Challenge riding from Mt Compass to Victor Harbor.



Dennis and Dorothy Sigston on holidays

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2014

5 1100 Service for Sgt J M Duroux – Centennial Park
 7 1100 Service for Cpl A W Graham – Centennial Park
 18 1100 Service for Pte R A Phillips – Murray Bridge
 18 1200 Lunch with the Phillip's family – Murray Bridge
 19 1100 Service for Sgt J R Cock – Centennial Park
 19 1115 Service for Cpl H R Musicka – Centennial Park
 20 1100 Service for Pte B J Plane - Ardrossan

FEBRUARY 2014

6 1300 General Meeting – RAR Clubrooms
 14 1100 Service for L Cpl P A Chant – Centennial Park

MARCH 2014

3 Visit to Seymour Vietnam Veteran's Walk
 5 1100 Service for Pte G J Scales – Seymour VVW

NOVEMBER 2017 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION IN ADELAIDE

HONOUR ROLL

L Cpl R J Abraham 6 Jul Whyalla
 Cpl B A J Adamczyk 12 Jul Centennial Park
 L Cpl P A Chant 14 Feb Centennial Park
 Sgt J R Cock 19 Jan Centennial Park
 Sgt J M Duroux 5 Jan Centennial Park

Cpl A W Graham 7 Jan Stirling North
 Cpl H R Musicka 19 Jan Centennial Park
 Pte R A Phillips 18 Jan Murray Bridge
 Pte B J Plane 20 Jan Ardrossan
 Pte G J Scales 5 Mar Centennial Park

CONTACT DETAILS

PATRON



Brig. Laurie Lewis AM (Retd.)
 8332 4288
ljdel@internode.on.net

PRESIDENT



David Stacey
 8536 4656 0447 373 130
stacey35@bigpond.net.au

VICE PRESIDENT & FUND RAISING OFFICER



Michael Mummery OAM
 8387 6707 0428 387 670
mmummery@chariot.net.au

VICE PRESIDENT



Gene Costa
 8325 0289
gene.costa1@gmail.com

SECRETARY & MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Bob Plummer
 8555 2526 0403 996 093
bob@cpbsa.com.au

TREASURER & CEREMONIAL OFFICER



Adrian Craig
 8263 4784
as.craig9rar@bigpond.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER



Warren Featherby OAM
 8443 3434 0412 462 143
featherby41@bigpond.com

WELFARE OFFICER



Lyn Fisher
 8371 3090 0438 713 090
fishernine@myacn.net.au

NINE NEWS EDITOR



Jan Stacey
 8536 4656 0447 373 130
stacey35@bigpond.net.au

NINE NEWS ASST EDITOR



John England OAM
 8387 8075
johne9rar@bigpond.com

VIDEO/AUDIO COORDINATOR



Jeff Howe
 8250 4584 0412 838 466
 Email: ennyhow@bigpond.com

CUSTODIAN OF THE BANNER & NOK FLAGS



Jim Fisher
 8371 3090 0438 713 090
fishernine@myacn.net.au

COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES

A: Brendan Crowley
B: David Stacey
C: Michael Mummery
D: Jeff Howe
SUPPORT: Leo Macpanas
ADMIN: Jim Fisher

LIAISON OFFICERS

RAR: Adrian Craig
REPAT: Warren Featherby
RSL: Michael Mummery
TPI: Leon Eddy

AUDITOR

Mark Turner CPA

*President David & the Committee
 wish you a Merry Christmas & a
 safe & healthy New Year .*