



9 RAR ROLL CALL!

JOURNAL OF 9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)



AUGUST 2010

ISSUE 2 (2010)

Highlights:

- Important dates 2010
- Reunion 2012 news
- Book review : *No Need For Heroes*
- A Trip Back: One Man's Journey
- One of Us: A Poem
- Opening of 9RAR National Museum

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ANZAC DAY 2010

Anzac Day 2010 was an astounding success apart from petty bureaucrats preventing "OUR" band marching with us. The after march gathering once again provided a relaxed venue for family and friends to enjoy each others company.

"Schoey" provided a DVD player which enabled the showing of films from our tour. Copies of these DVDs were put together by Bernie Fitz and made available for those present. If anyone missed out let us know and Bernie can "burn" some more.

Our CO's son David Morrison joined us and stayed until the death.

Next Year all the RAR will be forming up in Bligh Street in numerical order.



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EDITOR'S REPORT



ABOVE: The dedicated duo from Tracker Platoon, John Parcell & Julian

Well here we go with try number two, my second edition. I was very lucky to have Emma assist me through the first edition and it didn't frighten her off, she is helping again. Thank you all for your encouragement and kind words for my first effort.

For the next few editions we will be rolling out information on the 2012 Re-Union. A separate committee will be formed for the purpose of pulling all parts of the Re-union together. We will be asking for volunteers to assist on sub committees such as Merchandising, Accommodation and so on. With Trevor Murdoch as the "GUIDING LIGHT", John Sheekey as the "KEEPER OF THE PURSE STRINGS", Doug McGrath as the "GRAND COMMUNICATOR" and myself as the "HANGER ON" this small group have been exploring venues for the various events to be staged. **WATCH THIS SPACE>>>>**

Please if you have any updates on former mates or articles for Mates Corner do not forget to send to EMMA or myself for inclusion in "ROLLCALL".

APOLOGIES: Apologies are owed to Barry Wakefield who kindly submitted the book review for the last edition and then failed to get noted as the author. We appreciate your efforts and you have definitely been credited this time!

BARNEY the Editor

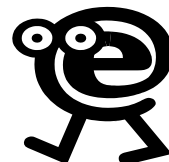
ROLL CALL WANTS YOUR EMAIL!

A Message from the Assistant Editor

Roll Call would like to send you this journal (and other updates) via email, sometimes as a PDF document. However to do this we need an up-to-date list of email addresses. If you would be happy to receive updates and/or Roll Call via email please contact me with your name and current email address so that we can create a database of details.

Emma Bigwood

Ph: 0422-429-745 or email thebigwoods@bigpond.com



VALE

PAUL DRUCE (Admin Coy)

MAL LOMAX (B Coy)

ALLAN MILLER

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of several of our former comrades in arms. Our hearts go out to their families and friends as we extend our most sincere condolences.

The Regimental ODE

Rest Ye, Oh Warrior
 You'll battle no more
 No longer to live
 The horrors of war
 Your duty was done
 With honour and pride
 Farewell! Oh Brother
 Until we march by your side
"Lest We Forget"

REPORT: RSL ANZAC DAY COMMITTEE

Report from the RSL Anzac Day Committee, 4th June 2010.

1. March in 2010 completed 26 minutes earlier than 2009.
2. World War Two Army finished 18 minutes earlier, main factor being a 30% drop in numbers to around 650 veterans.
3. One WW2 unit had only 1 veteran and 20 descendants marching. More pressure to have WW2 descendants march as a group like WW1 descendants.
4. Next year more WW2 veterans will be in Land rovers and units will march abreast of each other where numbers are small. This should also help speed up the march.
5. A suggestion to arrange seating for WW2 veterans similar to what is being done for the War Widows. This would cater for the frail and also reduce numbers in the march but allow the old diggers to feel like they are participating.
6. A suggestion to have "ALL" Land rovers in masse in front of Army.
7. Change to RAR Battalions FUP for next year. RAR will be forming up in Bligh Street and have the street to its self. More information forthcoming later in the year.
8. Criticism of some of the post World War 2 units with some members smoking in Martin Place and in 1 case a veteran carrying and drinking a stubby of beer. Request units to impress on members to be respectful of the day.



These notes are the money that was used by all Allied Forces whilst in Vung Tau and Saigon, to hinder black marketeering.

Recognise this money?



Important Dates: 2010/2011

DEDICATION OF NATIONAL SERVICE MEMORIAL, CANBERRA

The National Service Memorial in Canberra will be dedicated on Wednesday, 8th September. For further details see the following website: www.nashoasutralia.org.au

RAR N.S.W. ASSOCIATION 62nd BIRTHDAY FUNCTION

There will be a function at Victoria Barracks in November, probably 28th. More details will be forth coming before the date.

ANZAC DAY REUNION 2011, HOBART

Anzac Day Reunion of 2 Platoon in Hobart, Tasmania. See article on page 9. More details to come.

BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS DAY Sunday 16th August, 2010

The 9RAR Banner was unfurled and ex dog handler Bob Pearson and machiche gunner extraordinaire Bernie Fitzpatrick carried it with pride. Following behind was "Pogo" Pope, Tony Mullavey and Jim Sillence (all from D company).

As the march culminated at the Springwood centatoph a large crowd listened to a range of speakers. The most appreciated was Miss Patricia Amphlett OAM, (Little Patty" of the 60s). She enthralled those present with her genuine compassion for "Her" Vietnam Vets with her memories of the afternoon of the 18th August 1966, as she jumped in fright at the roar of the guns supporting D Company 6 RAR in the nearby rubber plantation of Long Tan. She told of being whisked away by Huey to the safety of Vung Tau, of visiting the wounded the next day and the tears she shed for those lost.

The names of our 18 Diggers lost in Afghanistan was read. Sadly as we write this report it has been announced that another 2 soldiers ,ironically from 6 RAR, have paid the supreme price in service to our Nation.



Secret Navy Presence in 9 RAR

Disable Seaman fifth class Billy Reeds managed to sneak off the HMAS Sydney in Vung Tau harbour in November 1968. His mission was to see if the Army was getting better hot food every day than their roast dinners and whether they got fresh sheets every second night.

He thought someone was trying to drug him at his first breakfast when he tasted his eggs ,he complained they smelt of ether??!! More disconcerting to Disable seaman Reeds was the expectation that there were people here that wanted to shoot him and he was sorry he had left his cruise ship.

LEFT: Billy Reeds, 10 Platoon, D Company

Presidential Ponderings

Anzac Day 2010 dawned to leaden skies and intermittent rain, which, I am sure contributed to the slight drop in numbers of marchers. Once again, we were in between two distant bands playing different music at different tempo-not exactly ideal.

The crowd of hardy souls braved the weather and were warm in their welcome as we strutted our stuff as best our aging bones would allow. The weather did not dampen the spirits of the family members, however, as they poured into the Windsor. Despite only 60 odd men marching we still managed to feed around 200. If ever we needed justification for our pursuit of family values and inclusion, this was it the 9RAR Family assembled including our very special next of kin.

Our day was enriched by the visit from David Morrison and his RSM, who were later joined by two young Colonels who spent a long time talking to our people. Despite the RSL preventing our band from marching and playing in front of us, they came back to join us. I'm not sure who said what to whom but before we knew it the Police Pipe band had also assembled in the Windsor and we had a Scottish version of a pipe and drum jam session. What fun! They were wonderful and provided a highlight of the day.

On a recent business trip to Qld I was able to spend an evening with Brian and Carole Vickery. It was good to see them both in good spirits after the last few years which must have taxed them enormously. The good news on little Tysen's progress is that he is continuing his recovery and currently back at school.

Tysen is not the only member of the family in recovery mode and Brian, I know, will not want me to

go into detail but suffice it to say he has had a few issues and is recovering from surgery. He looked and sounded fitter and more positive than for some time and has renewed energy to be spread around the family, the Surf Club and his beloved RSL.

Added to the RAP parade are John Sheekey who continues to have "holidays" from work while he trips off for Chemo; Grahame Cook who has not been his usual self for the last few months; gentleman Jeremy Ferguson who slipped in for a short part of the march and our Qld President Barry Stalder who is slowly making a comeback from his medical misadventures. We wish them and others I have missed a speedy recovery

Unfortunately the list of those who have passed on recently has continued to grow and is included later in this publication. May our mates all rest in peace?

A welcome addition to Mates Corner is Rob Davidson, 4Pl B Coy, who made contact recently from his home in Tassie for the first time since leaving us in April '69. Rob has been welcomed into the 9RAR Family and could easily pop up at an Anzac Day March near you someday soon. Please make him feel at home.

In recent times I have been in contact with a number of young soldiers who have served in Afghanistan. They are having a difficult time of it and many are finding it difficult when they come home. They seem to experience lack of understanding by civilians, suffer outbursts of anger, consume excessive grog, end up in too many pub fights, find trouble with the law and a feeling of not fitting in. Sound familiar? Be sure to use the 9RAR principle and extend the hand of friendship to our current day warriors and let them know

that not only are they appreciated but that we understand their plight and care about them.

The NSW Reunion Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of the remarkable Trevor Murdoch and is working full steam ahead to organise a memorable experience for all who attend the 2012 reunion. A lot of regional locations have been examined along with locations in Sydney. The format has been considered and the program is being developed. There is still a long way to go but get your diaries out and start putting a few shekles away so that you can share a few lies with old mates, make some new ones and among other things, commemorate Armistice Day on 11th of November, 2012. Much more will be revealed in time. Ladies, be sure to book in early as we have some pleasant surprises for you to experience the wonders and beauty of the harbour city. It will be a wonderful reunion. As soon as the program is finalised and costs established we will be out with the detail.

We've had many offers of help and as the program develops we'll be assigning tasks to those wonderful volunteers. Should you wish to assist in any way, please contact Trevor or myself, there is no job too small. Also if anyone has any leads on sponsorship we'd appreciate hearing your thoughts as every dollar saved will help us offer the best value for money experience we can.

My best to everyone and special thoughts to those we've lost.

Cheers,

Doug

Book Review: "NO NEED FOR HEROES"

No Need for Heroes by Sandy Macgregor & Jimmy Thomson

This book can be ordered via National Vietnam Veterans Museum Victoria for \$25.

This is a story about a group of Australians who learnt on the job so to speak, 3 Field Troop, Royal Australian Engineers who served in country from September 1965 to September 1966. Originally part of the 1RAR group but also part of the US 173 Airborne Brigade, Sandy learnt he had 2 masters.

Their first major job was to help drain areas of Bien Hoa airbase as well as building showers, roads and other pretty standard engineering tasks. The whole thing changed when, in war zone D, tunnels were discovered. No one had struck these before therefore and no one knew how to deal with them. To be shown willing and to lead from the front, Sandy had himself lowered down a tunnel head first probing as he went. That was just the start, as time went on there methods were refined so that maps could be drawn, to follow the underground cities in some cases. Methods for destroying tunnels were also refined dependant on whether the tunnel was small or far reaching with multi layers. Probably the best example of this was the Ho Bo Woods, where the tunnel system was very extensive. Sandy believes his troop were the first of the allies to go down the tunnels and the first to counter them successfully. Later 3 Troop were responsible for building both Nui Dat and 1 ALSG in Vung Tau.

I found the story both interesting & informative. Sandy Macgregor was awarded the MC for his work in the tunnels; he returned to Australia after losing only 1 man. His mettle was tested later when in 1987 an armed intruder invaded their home and 3 of his daughters were murdered.

This book is well worth the read.

Barry Wakefield



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MATES CORNER

ROLLCALL SUBMISSIONS

GIVE US SOME INTERESTING NEWS OR HUMOROUS ANECDOTES ABOUT THE 9RAR FAMILY, SEND IT TO:-

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9th BATTALIONS WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The new Ninth Battalions War Memorial Museum was officially re-opened on Saturday 24 July 2010. This was a most significant event for the Ninth Battalions Association and had the full support of the current Battalions, 9 RQR and 8/9 RAR. There were in excess of 240 guests attending.

The Service commenced at 10.00am with the President of the Association Colonel M. Plath, the Patron of the Association Brigadier R. Hamilton CSM, RFD and the official guest, Major General A.J. Molan AO, DSC arriving after that. The Welcome Address was given by the Chairman of the Trust, Major P. O'Keefe OAM (Retd).

During the Service, some very notable medals of four past members (Sergeant A. Young DCM; 2nd Lieutenant J. Tunn Albert Medal; Lieutenant Colonel R. Cameron DSO, ED; and Lieutenant Colonel E. Fleming DSO, ED) were presented by the respective families to the Museum for permanent display. These additions will enhance greatly the already excellent collection.

Major General Jim Molan AO, DSC (Retd) delivered a very thought provoking main address. Following the Blessing, the Museum was officially opened and the guests went through for an inspection. On completion of the Service, a BBQ lunch was provided at the RAR National Memorial Walk.

Note 1: The 9 RAR Museum Collection is an integral part of the Ninth Battalions War Memorial Museum and one room has been set aside for the display of their memorabilia. They currently have over 600 items recorded.

Note 2: An extract of the History of the Ninth Battalions was given out on the day. There is a link to a copy for those in the country or interstate.

http://www.9rarqld.org/images/email_updates/History_extract.pdf

The History covers the:

- The First Regiment of Queensland Infantry (1st Queenslanders)
- 9th Australian Infantry Regiment (9 AIR)
- 9th Battalion, AIF
- 2/9th Battalion, AIF
- 9th Battalion, The Moreton Regiment, AMF
- 9th Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment (9 RQR)
- 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (9 RAR)
- 8/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (8/9 RAR)



Report by Dan Penman, Webmaster, 9RAR Assoc. Qld
Email: webmaster@9rarqld.org

A TRIP BACK

Last month I returned to Nui Dat and surrounds for the second time within 4 years - this time with my wife, two daughters and grandson. Very little change was noted since my last visit in 2006 but I suspect that many of my 9RAR colleagues will have also made the visit and noted the differences since 1969. For those who may not have made an RTV, there is very little of the old taskforce area that remains recognisable. The earlier rubber has evolved into later plantings and our unit areas are overgrown or applied to local farming. Luscombe airstrip is now a public road and SAS Hill has lost a fair chunk due to quarrying some time ago. The Kangaroo Pad is largely in place however, and the Luscombe Bowl retains its basic earlier landform. The MP's guard-box to Luscombe remains as does the dam that was constructed during 1969. Even the "gates" into the taskforce area (on the road to Baria) are in a different area to when we were there - you now don't exit in the direction of the "Warbies" but turn left before the old gates and exit almost straight into Hoa Long.



One disappointment is that a syndicate of Australian organisations funded the construction of a school near the airstrip - opening in 2002. Due to lack of funds to pay the wages of a teacher, the school closed down after just 2 years - and remains closed. I feel embarrassed that at least the original benefactors couldn't find the relatively meagre annual Dong to maintain the school's operations considering they included some of our major corporations and authorities.

From "The Dat" we moved on to the Long Tan Memorial for a private memorial service where I was assisted by my 8 year-old grandson to lay flowers and say prayers. Following was a look at "The Horseshoe" (now mostly missing due to quarrying) then Dat Do, Baria and on to Vungers and the Palace Hotel overlooking "Front Beach" where I could almost see HMAS Sydney waiting for us. "Front Beach" is now a long way from the pebbled shoreline from which the barges took us out to "The Sydney" in 1969 - now a magnificent garden with marble footpaths and garden edging. "Back Beach" is "holiday central" with luxury hotels and resorts the entire length. The "Badcoe Club" has now been entirely consumed by this development - with the last remnants of the club area in the process of being built over when we were there in 2006.



BELOW: Looking across Front Beach towards Nui Nho (Small Mountain) headland. The Sydney anchored off to the right!



The Long Hai mountains are worth a walk into to see the bullet damage evident on the rock faces and to witness the strategic advantage the Vietnamese held from that location.

We have traversed Vietnam's length and breadth in each of our recent trips and experienced the entire cross-section of life-styles from staying in village homes to 5-star resorts. In no instance have we not been welcomed with open arms. I wholly recommend the country as a holiday destination for anyone but, particularly, suggest that a "trip back" will serve to vanquish a lot of demons harboured by too many of us.

Garry Goodman (Stretch)

Admin. Coy.

ONE OF US

vv One of Us vv

*A silent drum tapped.
Here and there the silent message was heard.
Men who had long ago laid down their rifles, who had forgotten where their uniforms were last seen. These men heard the silent tap and each quietly stopped what he was doing and raised an invisible flag.
Once again they felt the old cloak of comradeship slip around their shoulders.
They remembered who they were and what they'd done, and now they were going to do it again.*

A Soldier was still outside the wire.

These men remembered when it had happened before and they came together, one more time, to form an invisible fighting force.. An Army of Dads and Granddads;

*To some of the new men in this land, these were The Old Contemptibles.
To those of us who had served with them, we are a band of brothers.
Many have never met, but they recognise the spirit and gladly offer their hand.
Each man in this silent army is sadly proud to be "One of Us"*

*This time their rifles are computers and their uniforms are their feelings.
The ammunition is remembrance of battle fields, unknown to their sons, where courage was a daily walk in the sun or rain.
They remember the deep regret of lost mates, and with no further doubts, they turn to the sound of the silent drum to finish one more battle, to bring in one more soldier.*

*I was that soldier. Lost for 32 years outside the wire. I had failed many times, on my own, and now I asked for help.
The word silently spread like a distant bush fire, growing in size and power.
Where I had struggled on my own for all these years, I was now lifted quietly and carried along in the unwavering care of men I had soldiered with, and many I had never met.... But all are brothers of that forgotten force who wore shirts as thin as sweat and walked the jungle paths. They didn't have to know me as a person, they only had to know me as "One Of Us".*

How do I thank them? I can't! If I thank one of them I might miss one of them. How could I do that?

The only way I can thank them is by being ready to answer the silent tap of the drum, for any "One of Us" who needs.

I promise I will be there till I no longer hear the silent drum, and I have then rejoined all the others who again greet me as "One of Us".

Jim Riddle "One of Us".

Author: Jimmy Riddle, ex 12 Platoon, D Company, 9RAR

2PL ANZAC DAY 2011 REUNION, TASMANIA

2 Platoon are going to Hobart next year for an Anzac Day reunion with Roger Bennett. He has only recently made contact with old army mates after a phone call at the Brisbane Reunion in 2009. He is unable to make it to the mainland for Anzac Day due to family commitments so 2 Platoon are going to him!

Sun 24th—Tue 26th April Agenda (tentative, TBC)

- Sunday 24th April: Meet and greet
- Monday 25th: Dawn Service, followed by breakfast at the Navy Club. March will be followed by get together at The Welcome Stranger Hotel
- Farewell dinner on Tuesday 26th



More details will follow in the next Roll Call as arrangements are confirmed in the upcoming weeks. For further information please contact Peter Nummy on (02) 4997-9759 or via email at pandnummy@bigpond.com

Photo (left to right): Tex Evans (obscured) Tom Merrideth (obscured above) Cres Fackender, Barry Broderick, Barry Cheeseman (below), Roger Bennett

MYTHS OF THE VIETNAM WAR:

Myth: The domino theory was proved false.

The domino theory was accurate. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand stayed free of Communism because of the U.S. commitment to Vietnam. The Indonesians threw the Soviets out in 1966 because of America's commitment in Vietnam. Without that commitment, Communism would have swept all the way to the Malacca Straits that is south of Singapore and of great strategic importance to the free world. If you ask people who live in these countries that won the war in Vietnam, they have a different opinion from the American news media. The Vietnam War was the turning point for Communism.

[[Westmoreland](#)]

Democracy Catching On - In the wake of the Cold War, democracies are flourishing, with 179 of the world's 192 sovereign states (93%) now electing their legislators, according to the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union. In the last decade, 69 nations have held multi-party elections for the first time in their histories. Three of the five newest democracies are former Soviet republics: Belarus (where elections were first held in November 1995), Armenia (July 1995) and Kyrgyzstan (February 1995). And two are in Africa: Tanzania (October 1995) and Guinea (June 1995). [[Parade Magazine](#)]:

Myth: The fighting in Vietnam was not as intense as in World War II.

The average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year thanks to the mobility of the helicopter.

One out of every 10 Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty. 58,169 were killed and 304,000 wounded out of 2.59 million who served. Although the percent who died is similar to other wars, amputations or crippling wounds were 300 percent higher than in World War II. 75,000 Vietnam veterans are severely disabled. [[McCaffrey](#)]

MEDEVAC helicopters flew nearly 500,000 missions. Over 900,000 patients were airlifted (nearly half were American). The average time lapse between wounding to hospitalization was

less than one hour. As a result, less than one percent of all Americans wounded who survived the first 24 hours died. [[VHPA 1993](#)]

The helicopter provided unprecedented mobility. Without the helicopter it would have taken three times as many troops to secure the 800 mile border with Cambodia and Laos (the politicians thought the Geneva Conventions of 1954 and the Geneva Accords or 1962 would secure the border) [[Westmoreland](#)]

Myth: A disproportionate number of blacks were killed in the Vietnam War.

86% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasians, 12.5% were black, 1.2% were other races. ([CACF](#) and [Westmoreland](#))

Sociologists Charles C. Moskos and John Sibley Butler, in their recently published book "All That We Can Be," said they analysed the claim that blacks were used like cannon fodder during Vietnam "and can report definitely that this charge is untrue. Black fatalities amounted to 12 percent of all Americans killed in Southeast Asia - a figure proportional to the number of blacks in the U.S. population at the time and slightly lower than the proportion of blacks in the Army at the close of the war." [[All That We Can Be](#)]

Myth: Air America, the airline operated by the CIA in Southeast Asia, and its pilots were involved in drug trafficking.

The 1990 unsuccessful movie "Air America" helped to establish the myth of a connection between Air America, the CIA, and the Laotian drug trade. The movie and a book the movie was based on contend that the CIA condoned a drug trade conducted by a Laotian client; both agree that Air America provided the essential transportation for the trade; and both view the pilots with sympathetic understanding. American-owned airlines never knowingly transported opium in or out of Laos, nor did their American pilots ever profit from its transport. Yet undoubtedly every plane in Laos carried opium at some time, unknown to the pilot and his superiors. For more information see <http://www.air-america.org>

The information in this report is from the excellent Vietnam War site, www.vietnam-war.info

9 RAR REUNION 2012: SYDNEY CITY

FRIDAY 9th NOVEMBER - MONDAY 12th NOVEMBER, 2012

At the 2009 Reunion in Brisbane, NSW was confirmed as the venue for the 2012 Reunion.

A separate Reunion Committee has been formed and together with volunteers will be organising and conducting the 2012 reunion.

If there are any other volunteers out there who think that they may be able to assist with the reunion by providing their services or ideas, please contact one of the Committee members listed on page 6.

We will need the help of wives, girlfriends, and any family members at all stages leading up to and during the reunion.. We also need a financial type (retired accountant etc) to help "The Sheeks" to control the \$\$\$\$\$ please. Anyone with experience in fund raising or any ideas in this area would be appreciated.

Someone with travel agent experience would also be a bonus.

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER (see details on page 6).

The Reunion is to be held from Friday the 9th of November 2012 until Monday the 12th of November 2012 in Sydney City.

The tentative arrangements are as follows:

Friday afternoon /evening: Registration and meet and greets.

Saturday: National AGM and evening Gala Dinner

Sunday: March then Memorial Service at "Pool of Remembrance" at Sydney Shrine. (This is also the 11th of the 11th National Remembrance day). Followed by BBQ, possibly at Victoria Barracks and Museum.

Monday: Lunch Cruise on Sydney Harbour

ODDS & ENDS

REPLACEMENT MEDALS

If anyone needs replacement medals you can find an application form online at www.defence.gov.au. Enter the words 'replacement medal' in the search box on that page.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN OF VETERANS INTENDING TERTIARY STUDY IN 2011

Children of Vietnam veterans who are intending to undertake full-time tertiary studies in 2011 could be eligible for financial assistance from the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT). For more information see their website at www.avcat.or.au or email Mark Newell on avcat@dva.gov.au.

DONATIONS WANTED—NINTH BATTALIONS WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

If you have any items that you wish to donate for display in the Ninth Battalions War Memorial Museum (located in Queensland) please contact Dan Penman (9RAR Qld). See story on page 7 for further details.



<<<<<<< **WHO ARE THEY??**

Can you name these men?

9 Platoon, C Coy, 9RAR

Answer on page 8

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The 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:

The Battalion was formed on 13 November 1967 in South Australia. The Battalion served in South Vietnam from 5 November 1968 to 25 November 1969. The Battalion then remained at Enoggera until the 31 October, 1973 when it merged with 8 RAR to become the 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (8/9 RAR). The Battalion's service in South Vietnam resulted in the award of a Distinguished Service Order, two Military Crosses, seven Military Medals, and eleven members of the Battalion were Mentioned in Dispatches.

See more at: http://www.9rar.org.au/battn_history.html



We're on the web. Find us at:

www.9rar.org.au

A POEM WORTH READING

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the RSL,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbours
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Bob has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife..
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young
But the passing of a Soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It's so easy to forget them,
For it is so many times
That our Bobs and Jims and Johnnys,
Went to battle, but we know,

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier--
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Soldier,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Soldier,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days..

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."

Author unknown

IF UNDELIVERED RETURN TO:

9 RAR Association NSW

PO BOX 197

Willoughby NSW 2068

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“ROLL CALL”

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