

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common?

A. They ALL were invented by women.



9 RAR ROLL CALL!

JOURNAL OF 9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)



DECEMBER 2010

ISSUE 3 (2010)

Highlights:

- Important dates 2010/2011
- Reunion 2012 news
- Book review : "DOORWAY IN THE STORM"
- National Service Memorial
- RAR National Conference
- Opening of 9RAR National Museum

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Above: Intrepid 10 Platoon Warrior Phil Warren, at Kapyong Pad after Operation Nepabunna

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EDITOR'S REPORT



ABOVE: "BLUE" NANCARROW

Welcome to the final edition of Roll Call for 2010. They say "CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS". I believe that "Blue" Nancarrow is practising the best of personal hygiene after a few weeks in the field. He was always a little SHY of the other blokes in the communal shower. No dropping of soap in Charlie company!!!!

From now on there will be a flood of information with regards to the 2012 Reunion in Sydney as Trevor Murdoch and his happy band of volunteers progress the planning for all the events. The dates are Friday 9th November through until Monday the 12th of November, 2012.

Please note that the **FUP** for next year's City of Sydney March is in Bligh Street. Further details will be forthcoming in the next edition of Roll Call.

I have once again press-ganged Emma my daughter-in-law to ably assist in the publication of the "ROLL CALL". Without her computer skills I would be struggling!

BARNEY the Editor

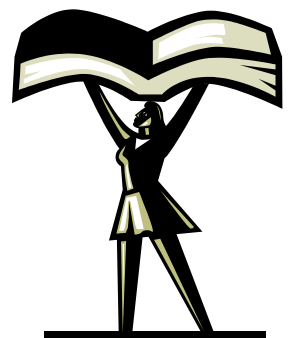
FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

Everyone wants a hard copy!

Thank you for all the positive feedback that we have received about the new look Roll Call. It's very gratifying knowing that the work we are putting in is appreciated. The response to our call for email addresses last time was rather underwhelming, to say the least. It seems that almost everyone wants a hard copy of their Roll Call. So we will continue to send out the hard copies for you all. If you have any questions or have some information that should be included in Roll Call, especially information for Mates Corner, please contact me on the details below.

Emma Bigwood

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



VALE

**14845 Cpl Arthur Raymond Mansell B Coy
4 RAR/NZ Vietnam, 9 RAR Australia**

39588 Neil Docherty (from Glasgow)

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

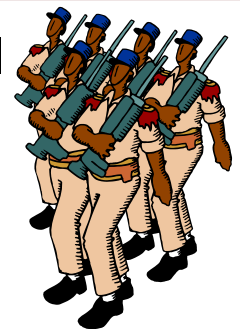
Rest Ye, Oh Warrior
You'll battle no more
No longer to live
The horrors of war
Your duty was done
With honour and pride
Farewell! Oh Brother
Until we march by your side
"Lest We Forget"

SYDNEY CITY ANZAC DAY, 25 APRIL 2011

FORM UP POINT

NOTE: all the RAR will assemble in Bligh street for the March.

Full instructions in the next edition of "ROLL CALL" in the new year.



B coy preparing to leave for R&C early in tour, before "Possum" & "Watto" were banned after numerous fracas with MPs & locals.

However, after being left behind on a later R&C trip, these blokes took matters into their own hands and armed with weapons and personal webbing sneaked outside the wire and hijacked an Ox cart to take them to Vungers. The ready reaction company sent to find them were NOT IMPRESSED.

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Important Dates: 2010/2011

DEDICATION OF NATIONAL SERVICE MEMORIAL, CANBERRA

This event went off splendidly and from a 9 RAR perspective a lot of thanks goes to Tony Daniels and the ACT supporters, Garry Goodman & Ian Mc Donald. Tony Represented us at the official Parliament House function on the Tuesday night.

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

Three 9 RAR members attended the birthday function in the courtyard of the Officer's mess at historic Victoria Barracks in Paddington Sydney. There was only a small roll up but it was an enjoyable day. Crown Lager stubbies at \$2.80 had Bernie in a flap

ANZAC DAY REUNION 2011, HOBART

Anzac Day Reunion of 2 Platoon in Hobart, Tasmania (see page 9 for more details)

THE NATIONAL SERVICE MEMORIAL



On the 8 September 2010 a memorial recognising the sacrifice and service of those who served as National Servicemen from 1951 to 1972 was dedicated at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. See more about the dedication at the DVA site, using the following link:

http://www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/commemorations/commemorative_events/Pages/NationalServiceMemorial.aspx

Also see the Nashos site here: <http://www.nashoaustralia.org.au/memorial.htm>

Presidential Ponderings and Pontifications

Hi everyone,

Christmas, above all else is a time for sharing with the family and as such I wish to share my best wishes to all members of the 9RAR family. In reflecting on this time, my mind goes back to Christmas in Vietnam. Having left our families and loved ones a little over a month before, we were still finding our feet in this strange environment when a pall of homesickness settled over the men like a fog as we came to terms with this new life.

Letters and tapes from home were rays of sunshine as was the tradition of being served by our officers in the mess on Christmas day. I remember singing Carols with a bunch of blokes as homesick as I was, bonding together to mask these feelings then sharing a brew and fruit cake the boss, just six months older than we were but who sat alone in his tent, a prisoner of his rank. As fate would have it, twelve months later, instead of being home with our families, a small group were held over in country so experienced Christmas, Vietnamese style, for a second time without the Battalion proper who had, by then come home. No longer wide eyed youngsters wired with a sense of expectancy and fear of the unknown, we were hardened by the experiences only war can provide. We missed our families no less.

At this time, let us all share a thought for the young warriors of today, many of whom will experience similar feelings as we did having to spend Christmas on foreign soil serving their country. Let's make a commitment to help them in any way possible, should the opportunity arise during their service, while on leave, or on their return.

Royal Australian Regiment National Conference:

I attended the Royal Australian Regiment National Conference recently and was pleased to learn how serious the Army takes the welfare of the soldiers and the measures they have in place to assist them.

The RAR Association has now been incorporated and as such will have the ability to seek the status as a tax free charitable organisation. Membership of the Corporation is limited to "any organisation constituted as an organisation where the control of the organisation is in the hands of ex - members of the Royal Australian Regiment (including those who have served in the Regiment who were not of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps) is eligible to become a member. That means the Corporation's members are only the State RAR Associations and the RAR Battalion Association organisations. Their members are not individual members of the Corporation. Therefore 9 RAR Association is a member of the new Corporation.

There were many other issues dealt with at the conference which are worthy of note:

- The Battalions which had Pipes and Drums had them disbanded two years ago by the Chief of the Army. After intensive lobbying by the Associations and others, the COA has rescinded his previous order which means the Battalions can resurrect them.
- The need for each unit Association to have representation at State RAR Association meetings.
- The need to encourage younger Veterans to join their respective Unit Associations with modern social media communications technology such as You tube and Facebook as suggested tools to gain their interest as the existing marketing and communication means are simply not working.
- The need to keep government agencies focused on the welfare of young Veterans with a view to preventing them "slipping through the cracks".
- The SA Branch presented a fascinating insight into the workings of the Trojan's Trek program held by Association volunteers and some professional psychologists in the Flinders Ranges north of Adelaide. These are designed to assist veterans suffering PTSD without the need of psychiatric hospitalisation and associated drug therapy. Rather, a program of mentoring by older Veterans in particular, is used and is proving to be very successful and cost effective. A similar course is currently mooted for Brisbane. I would like, sometime in the future, to attend one of the courses as it seems to be a very successful way of helping or young men.

I would note that SA is a very proactive State for the Regiment Associations and Veterans affairs support from all levels of government and that the SA branch of the 9RAR Association was singled out for special praise for the wonderful work they have done in their community.

Reunion – Sydney November 2012

In the near future we should have the exciting program of events for the reunion. We are conscious that Sydney has never hosted a reunion as NSW branch previously planned the reunion in Canberra to coincide with the unveiling of the Vietnam Veterans memorial. I would encourage you to start planning now. The organising committee has already broken new ground by expanding our vision to encompass those of other Corps who played a direct and vital operational role alongside our men as we fought in Vietnam. An invitation has been extended to the NZ 161 Artillery Battery and the Tunnel Rats Association of combat engineers for representatives to join us so that we can thank them for their support of our humble grunts. The response from both organisations has been that they are honoured to have been invited and are sure some of their members will attend. We have some other surprises yet to be revealed –watch this space.

My thanks to the hard working members of the committee who continue to toil on your behalf and wish the very best to everyone for Christmas and the year to come.

Our thoughts to absent friends and those they left behind who are welcome in everything we do.

Cheers,

Doug

Book Review: “DOORWAY IN THE STORM” By 9 RAR Rifleman Errol Pentony

DUTY First regularly receives books for review about the Australian experience in Vietnam from a personal, Company and Battalion level - and great reads they always are.

However, former 9RAR rifleman Errol Pentony has chosen to write an intensely personal account of his experiences in the 40-plus years since he came home and shed the baggy green skin. Pentony was a forward scout in 5 Platoon, B Company, which was commanded by Lieutenant Peter Cosgrove (who wrote the foreword to the book), then a clean cut subbie fresh from Duntroon.

The first six chapters of the self-published work are dedicated to Pentony’s sessions with the Vietnam Veteran’s Counselling Service ... although the reader is walked through the process, I also got the feeling that the writer was taking stock of his progress.

“I had been trying to explain how coming home from the war was like waking up from a nightmare,” Pentony writes.

“My body is here, back in Australia but my mind is somewhere else - back in that bad place it just came from. It struggles to be present in the real world.”

The writer then takes us back from the decades since his experiences in Vietnam to the decades before to his childhood in Fremantle WA.

Pentony sums up his life until the time he leaves school and takes a job at the Crown Law Office: “My life was peaceful ... I am a gentle soul. Too gentle to run with the wolves”.

The next chapter begins with the author as a conscript aboard the Vung Tau Ferry, steaming for South Vietnam.

The scene again flashes forward to a session with a counsellor, talking about Canungra: “I learn how to use weapons to kill people. I learn how to live and move quietly in the jungle.

“An important part of the training is about remaining silent when words beg to be spoken. Like a machine, I am trained to follow orders. I learn to put aside personal feelings and do what I’m expected to do.

“At 20 years of age I am completely unaware - intellectually, emotionally and spiritually - that all this is setting me up for a big fall.”

Losing his best mate Lyall was a pivotal point in the writer’s post war struggles.

“I never got the chance to see Private Lyall McPherson again after he was shot or to say any final words to him,” he writes. “He is taken out by helicopter and just disappears off the face of the earth. There is no funeral service. No words of endearment. No time to grieve. No nothing.”

The reader travels a long journey with the former forward scout Errol Pentony as you read this book. Its final words are: “The End (of the beginning)”.

Reviewer: Mick Toal

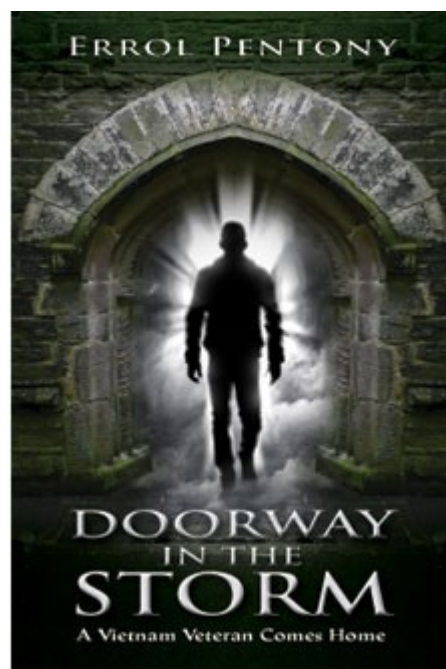
Special thanks to Mick, editor of “DUTY FIRST”, for allowing us to reproduce this review

To order Doorway in the Storm (RRP \$29.95) e-mail: errolpentony@smartchat.net.au

25 Bight Reefs Rd Singleton

Western Australia 6175

Phone 0895372668



MATES CORNER

ROLLCALL SUBMISSIONS

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

Emma Bigwood thebigwoods@bigpond.com ph: 0422-429-745

or Barney (Rick) Bigwood rich@bigpond.net.au ph: 02 9873-5209



THE 'DOG' IS ALIVE

S

To: Andrew REED; Bill BAILEY; Bob HANNAH; Colin SCHOFIELD; Doug McGRATH; Kanga Griffiths; Kevin LYNCH
Subject: DOG IS ALIVE

G'DAY TROOPS

That's right, the 'DOG' is alive following a lengthy period of rehab (ongoing) and living in the Failford Caravan Park, via Forster, just north of Nahiic, with his real Dog 'Bella', a Smithfield Bobtail Blue Healer, Same colour hair as I seem to have now.

Not long after Anita and I parted company I had a pretty serious fall from a 6 meter Balcony at a property near Forster I was looking after for a guy from Bourke. I was badly busted up and have been off the radar for about 4 years. In this time I have not renewed any Club or Organisation memberships and have had very little contact with other Vets with the exception of Blue REED who has sent several email addresses to me today including yours.

I have been really disappointed that I have missed the last reunions but certainly hope to make the next one, if I'm here.

As you are probably aware I was involved with Variety, the Childrens Charity, for 18 years, I am now involved, as a volunteer, with a Sydney based organisation called NETS (Newborn Emergency Transport Services) www.nets.org.au Over the last 6 months I have been keeping very busy putting a fundraising event together for Jeff Johnson (www.jeffswalk2.com) Jeff lives near Beudesert, up near Ernie Hardgraves I imagine, and is 70 years old in January next year. In April he intends to walk from Byron Bay to Steep Point, the most Easterly point of Australia, to raise money for NETS. I hope the next 9 RAR reunion is after November next year or I will be a scratching from that one as well. I have organised a full Camera crew to travel with us who will produce a documentary of the event as well as organising live feeds to Television networks on a regular basis so keep your eye out for it.

Later this month I will be heading to Byron Bay to do a survey for this event, out to Mungindi, then home. I'd love to catch up with Mick Prowse on the way through or anyone else up that way. If anyone has any contact details it would be appreciated if you could forward them to me.

I have attached the 'Proposed Route' for JEFFSWALK2. If you know of anyone along the way perhaps you could also forward their contact details.

That's about it from 'The Kennels', hope to hear from you soon.

Kind Regards 'DOG' (6 Pl, B Coy, 9 RAR Rules)

Editor's Note: You can see Jeff's proposed walking route at the following site: www.jeffswalk2.com

The Veteran

That’s no way for a soldier to die, he looks so frail and weak
His eyes shone bright as he heard my voice and he began to speak
Son....I’ve seen a thousand ways a soldier dies, on battlefields far away
He glanced down at his worn out body, old and bent with age
These feet have walked through jungles, my legs across desert sands
Upon my back, I have carried loads, across tracks in foreign lands
My hands have held a weapon, my arms a wounded mate
My lips have screamed in battle....sounds... I’ve grown to hate
My ears have heard the battle noise...that makes a grown man cry
These eyes have seen a thousand ways, how a soldier dies
My memory...remembers all the tears and the sacrifices that they gave
A rifle sticking in the ground with a slouch hat on top...an Aussie soldiers grave
I remember fallen comrades, as I stand in the first light of dawn
The rising sun’s rays ...shine upon, a soldiers medals worn
I’ve relived all the battles...seen their ghosts rise and fight again
I have watched a country remember...so that they did not die in vain
Son...I’m not afraid of dying, It’s living that is hard to do
This last request is all I ask, the rest is up to you
Please wear my medals proudly...on your right hand side
March alongside those who served... and are serving still... remember those who died
As soldiers we get older ... the sound of war fading slowly away
It is easy to forget the traditions...the road to freedom, their blood paved
It’s not easy being a veteran...but I would do it all again
To be in the company of the greatest diggers, a man could call as friends
He passed away peacefully...no more to rise and fight or morn
In the distance a lone bugle sounds ...another Anzac dawn
In his hands he held his medals, our flag at half-mast in the sky
Another veteran has joined his mates...Lest We Forget
That’s a soldier’s last goodbye

Author: John Seagg

Charlie Coy O Group

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>



“ROCKET MAN” Mick Credlin

THE SPOILS OF WAR

10Platoon were sent to investigate an area which had been engaged by artillery the previous evening. They found signs of hasty burials withdrawal of the enemy and abandoned rockets. One of these rockets was returned to the company position .It was new, khaki in colour, with various coloured writing on it, about one metre long and fifteen centimetres in circumference Our company had always displayed a keen desire to obtain enemy weapons and stores for display in our canteen. But how to get it back to Nui Dat? Cpl Mick Credlin being a “Mr Fix it” was going on R&R and volunteered to take it back with him. Mick with our “Suitably” disguised rocket in tow boarded a Wallaby Caribou for the return to the DAT. All went well until at about 1200 metres the plane lurched and out rolled



the rocket from its hiding place to the feet of the RAAF loadmaster who freaked out and confiscated it. Mick many years later had reason to call Alby Morrison over a DVA matter. Margret answered the phone and after asking who was calling , handed the phone over to Alby who asked “What can I do for you “ROCKET MAN” , he remembered Mick from the exploits of some 40 years previous.

NEWS FROM BURMA: Glen Roberts

Tony Daniels has been in contact with Glen Roberts, who is currently on the Thai/Burma Border. Glen was a radio operator with A Coy CHQ. He's working as a volunteer with the UN Admin Team at a refugee camp. Below is some news from him, taken from emails between Tony and Glen (with Glen's permission).

Thanks for the reply and yes the boys might be interested in what happens in this part of the world, so go ahead. It's an open book here. Those who fought in the Burma campaign called it 'The Silent War'. This part of WW2 was not the most publicized, but it was as though as any other theatre of the conflict and it was the jungle that took the most casualties on both sides. And for us Vietnam vets we well know all about that. I do enjoy what I do here and life has always been an adventure for me, things are a bit basic but it's the work we do that drives us and gives me great pleasure and its the people that make it all worthwhile. Besides, I have always felt restless in comfortable places.

The refugee camp [that I work in] is to help the Kerens as they are perused across the border by the Burmese army, that is men, women and children. I volunteer here and help the UN administration team here doing what needs to be done. We help set the priorities for the volunteer squad who come here from all over the world, which include medical crews (doctors, nurses, paramedics, rehab specialists, infant carers and so on), building crews, skilled people who teach the refugees their trades, teachers, gym instructors, soldiers, god-botherers and more. You name it we have them come and go every day. All in all they are people who really care about the situation and want to do something and I make sure there is something for them to do. It's fun but sometimes gets to be hard work.

I do this because the Burma war was my father's war. The Kerens were the guides and the men who guided my dad and his unit on the long trek out of Burma when it fell to the Japs. The Kerens were also the scouts and civilian soldiers who led them back into Burma to take it back from the Japs. The Kerens are a hardy and jovial lot and the children are the strongest little things imaginable, with huge immune systems and strong constitutions. Yep, we also have a load of Japanese volunteers, too many of them with fathers and relatives who fought in the same war as my dad but on the other side. They also seem to have a great respect for what the Kerens did in that conflict. It is always very interesting to meet these people and you cam imagine our camp fire chats.

Cheers for now, Glen.

You can contact Glen on his email address: glenville_roberts@hotmail.com

Asst. Editor's Note: This was also my (paternal) grandfather's war. He was a British soldier, captured at the fall of Singapore and worked as a POW on the Thai-Burma railway. He was one of the lucky ones that lived and come home. I'm sure he would appreciate the work that Glen is doing now, as I know I do.

9 RAR REUNION 2012: SYDNEY CITY

FRIDAY 9th NOVEMBER - MONDAY 12th NOVEMBER, 2012

The NSW Reunion Committee is pleased to announce the following tentative program for the 2012 National Reunion to be held in Sydney.

The program has been finalized except for one function which we hope to have locked in by the end of the year.

REUNION PROGRAM

Friday 09/11/2012

1400hrs– 1800hrs Registration, finger food and drinks Darling Harbour

Saturday 10/11/2012

1000hrs-1200hrs State Presidents meeting Darling Harbour

1830hrs-2400hrs Formal Dinner Darling Harbour

Sunday 11/11/2012

1030hrs– 1200hrs Remembrance Day Sydney War Memorial Hyde Park
9 RAR Service March through Hyde Park to War Memorial

1310hrs-1600hrs Lunch & Tour Victoria Barracks Paddington Sydney

Monday 12/11/2012

1000hrs-1400hrs Harbour Cruise (buffet lunch) Departing King Street Wharf

Please note that this is a preliminary advice and whilst dates are firm and will not change, the venue details may be subject to change.

What you need to do:-

- Book your airfares and travel arrangements to take advantage of the cheaper rates.
- Identify what events you wish to attend. Please note we would expect that all attendees will attend formal dinner.
- There will be a range of accommodation from 5-3 star plus apartments and caravan parks. The organising committee will be negotiating special rates for all 9 RAR members, family & friends. All accommodation except for caravan parks, will be in the Darling Harbour precinct just a short stroll from most venues.
- As soon as the venue details are locked in we will be advising costs for each venue and activity.
- All family members & friends are welcome to all activities and we would be particularly interested in inviting anyone that had either a direct or support role with the Battalion during its tour of SVN.
- If you have any initial queries at this stage or need to discuss any of the above aspects please contact:

Trevor Murdoch (Vice President, NSW 9RAR Association)

PO Box 253 Narrabeen NSW 2101. Ph: (02) 9913 2442 Mobile: 0414 015204

Email: tmurdoch@customfinance.com.au

BATTLE OF LONG TAN: a PowerPoint presentation

A 50-slide animated Power-point presentation on the battle at Long Tan

Below is a link to a PowerPoint presentation on how the Battle of LONG TAN started and was executed. This was put together by Dave Sabben, one of the Platoon Commanders involved, and is more informative than any text book put together by academics.

It can be downloaded free from the net, and Dave would like it sent as far and as wide as possible. The contents are suitable for school teachers and students, as well as Viet Vets, serving members of all forces, including those overseas and in Allied forces and those that are just plain interested.

It's a PC version only (a Mac version may follow, if funded), and runs on Power-point version 2003 and later. (Don't try to run it on earlier Powerpoint versions - eg, 97 - it uses features not available before the 03 version.) It's large - about 5.6Mb - but it's paced to the viewer (approx. an hour or more of viewing/study).

The website is: <http://www.dave-sabben.com/>
Click on Download LONG TAN PowerPoint presentation

(I suggest you "save to disk" so you can run it whenever you wish, rather than opening it in Powerpoint?)
Comments from the author: If you download and view it yourself, please feel free to add comments as you pass the message along. May I ask you to ask your contacts to also pass it on as well? It's good to see something worthwhile and free on the Internet - let it ping around the web for a while.

Dave Sabben



National Corporation of RAR Association—Inaugural Conference

Left to right:

- Doug McGrath—President National 9RAR Association, President NSW 9RAR Association
- Paul Sullivan—President NSW RAR Association
- Major General (retired) Mark Kelly
- “Horri” Howard



ABOVE: another Charlie Company Warrior prepared for battle.

CAN YOU HELP US FIND THIS MAN?

A REQUEST FOR HELP

A friend doing the heart rehab course with me is trying to track down a Vet. His name is Sam Samartino. He was in Infantry (Battalion unknown) and also year unknown. Apparently he was a friend of M.J Noonan who appears on the Roll of Honour. Another mate she thinks who also knew him was a C.J.Nelson (9RAR). If anybody can help please reply to:

rickshaw@optusnet.com.au

Thanks guys.

Loris Mavrick



In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint).

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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



We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful and joyous Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

IF UNDELIVERED RETURN TO:

9 RAR Association NSW

PO BOX 197

Willoughby NSW 2068

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“ROLL CALL”

The Official Newsletter of 9RAR Association (NSW)

December 2010



Above: A great friend of the editor, “JOCK” Brian Rennie ex British Forces 1 RAR, 4 RAR/NZ, 2nd D&E and A Coy 9 RAR . KIA 7th September 1969.

A great comedian, mischief maker and loyal mate. Also known as “Chicken Man” because of the huge eagle tattooed on his chest a reminder of his days in the Royal Military Police in Hong Kong.

R.I.P Jock