



# 9 RAR ROLL CALL!

JOURNAL OF 9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)



NOVEMBER 2011

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## HIGHLIGHTS

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier:  
Amazing facts  
Answers to 'Who are they?'  
The "Peter Smith" Project  
Book Review: We Were Reos

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## WTFRW?



ABOVE: Charlie Coy going bush on OPs.

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## EDITOR'S REPORT



ABOVE: Why would you worry about going bush with “switched on” Diggers like “CHIP” Dale and Mick Delahunty?

Well sad times continued over the last few months since our Autumn edition, with more of our 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion brothers marching on to join the CO and those that have gone before. See Vale for details.

Also with the news of further Australian KIA and WIA in Afghanistan during October and November it is timely we think of our current generation of servicemen and women and commit to supporting them both overseas and when they come home.

Finally, now is the time our Reunion leader needs support to bring our 2012 Reunion to a successful conclusion. It is imperative to register your attendance so venues and events can be firmly booked. Please see the Reunion information in this issue and forward your deposits and numbers of those attending with you, so we can ensure a great time will be had by all.

Cheers,

Barney

## FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

The most notable event for me since the last issue was the launch of my husband Andrew and father-in-law Barney's book at State Parliament House in Sydney. (To me he has always been Rick but I know most of you won't realise who I'm talking about if I call him that!) It was a really special day for us as a family and I was very proud of both Rick and my husband Andrew on the day. What a privilege to have the book launched by an MP! It was nicely timed in that we got some (rather unexpected) publicity also and so the day was even better when we came home and watched the ABC news that night. It was a fantastic morning and I would like to thank David Elliott M.P. for his support and assistance as well as all the other 9RAR members who came on the day. It meant a great deal to us as a family. Also, it was really great to meet Barry Wakefield on the day and finally put a face to the name. I would like to thank Barry for all the help he gives us with Roll Call, providing us with a book review for every issue.

Please remember if you have anything you would like to see included in the Roll Call or have any questions to call or email me any time. I'm always happy to help if I can.

Emma Bigwood

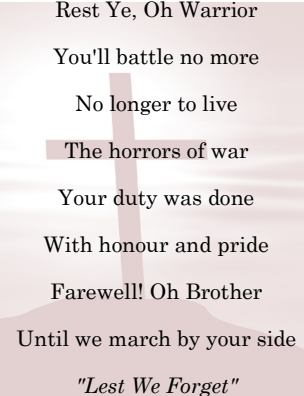
Ph: 0422-429-745 or email [thebigwoods@bigpond.com](mailto:thebigwoods@bigpond.com)

## VALE

### 4719791 Andrew “Bluey” Reed

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of a former comrade 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"*

## “Returned from Active Service” Badge Reclaimed

In the last issue we reported on the finding of a “Returned from Active Service” badge by Charlie Carter and his boys on the floor of the Windsor Hotel last ANZAC day just before the cleaners turfed them out. The editor is pleased to report that the owner, Mal Spice, was identified and Charlie was able to return it to him at the 10 Platoon reunion in Wodonga in October.

## HISTORY OF D 445 VC BATTALION

As a Vietnam veteran, I have just written and privately-published a non-commercial and limited edition book that would be of interest to veterans who served in Phuoc Tuy Province: *The Viet Cong D445 Battalion : Their Story*. Complimentary copies of the book are with departments and agencies in Canberra (Defence, Army, DVA etc), and with several libraries. These can be acquired on inter-library loan.

However, I have also placed the text of the book on the Internet as “free-to-read”. Interested readers will probably find it more convenient to access the copy on the Internet. To reduce the file size on the Internet, I have not uploaded the many annexes (ie A to N), but I am happy to answer any queries on that detail. Most readers would be interested on the Viet Cong take on the Battle of Long Tan (at pages 39-48) and the 7RAR ambush at Ca Thi on 31 December 1970 (page 79).

You can access this at the following link:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/62621973/The-Viet-Cong-D445-Battalion-Their-Story>

By Ernie Chamberlain

## THE “PETER SMITH” PROJECT

Michael Hauser is a year 10 student at Sydney Boys High School and part of his curriculum was to do a project on a Vietnam Veteran who was KIA (killed in action). Michael chose Peter Smith from "B" Company of the 9th Battalion. He approached some of the 9RAR Committee members for help. You can see below an edited version of his final piece of work. Thanks to Trevor Murdoch for drawing our attention to this piece and to Michael for his caring and compassionate portrayal of Peter Smith.

### DUTY FIRST (motto of 9RAR)

Peter Charles Smith was born 9/1/45. A man with a simple name but big dreams to a humble but loving home at 8 Linda St Belfield. His father Charlie, worked for the railways and his mother was a home-maker. He had one younger sister, Dianne (3-4 years younger). He attended Belmore North Public School (then a boy's school) and then went on to Belmore Technical High School.

By the end of training, it was obvious to his mates that Peter, due to his deep felt religious beliefs, would have great difficulty killing an enemy on the front line. They thought in such circumstances, he might pose a danger to himself and his fellow soldiers and so expressed their concern to their Platoon Commander 2 Lt Geoffrey Locke, 6 Platoon B Company 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion RAR. It was agreed by the Company Commander, Major Ted Chitham that Peter would be transferred to the Company Headquarters, a relatively safe position as his batman.

Peter was a highly religious man – a true gentleman, who under different circumstances would have never joined the military. He believed in humanity and doing good to people. He was a hero both to those who personally knew him and to those veterans who care for the Regiment's National Memorial Walk who are definitely “keeping the (his) spirit alive” (Motto of the Royal Australian Regiment Association of Past Servicemen).

On the day of Peter's death, 19/1/69, approximately 3 months arriving in Vietnam, 6 Platoon had ambushed a Viet Cong force moving on a track in the jungle. The killing ground was reportedly cleared of enemy before the Company HQ with Major Chitham, his second in charge Captain Algie Bruzga and their batmen moved to join 6 Platoon at the ambush site. At the site Peter was directed to move off the track approximately 10m when a pistol shot went off. An injured Viet Cong soldier who had not been discovered as he lay amongst the debris had shot Peter at point-blank range in the head and neck killing him instantly. Wounded at the same time was another “nasho” and tent-mate of Peter, Selwyn “Buck” Rogers who was the batman for Captain Algie Bruzga and was injured severely enough to be returned to Australia the following month. Ted Chitham said that waiting for the helicopter to remove Peter's body was one of the most emotional times of the war for him.



ABOVE: (L-R) Michael Hauser, Peter Smith

## PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

The best event featuring 9RAR personnel I have attended in recent times was held at Parliament House in Sydney for the launch of "We were Reos" co-written by Rick "Barney" Bigwood and his historian son Andrew. It was a tribute to the Bigwood family who were well supported by nearly 20 members of the 9RAR Family. Barney's local member paid him a great compliment by hosting the launch in such splendiferous surrounds and spoke very warmly of Barney and his family. I felt very proud of Barney, for what he and Andrew had achieved.

Perfectly timed for maximum media exposure, Barney was interviewed by the press to give his view on the RSL's memorandum of understanding with former members of the NVA. The backlash from the Veteran community and the community at large saw the RSL's reversal of this within a few days.

I am sad to report to those who are unaware, the passing of Andrew "Bluey" Reed. Blue served with us in 6Pl B Coy and was a real character in the company. As I said in the email advising of his passing, he was from Adelaide but 'Bluey' was one of many who headed to far flung places on RTA. His working life was spent in Darwin from where he emerged for the Welcome Home March. His latter years have been spent battling cyclones and cancer concurrently in FNQ. His memorial service in Adelaide saw a good attendance of 9RAR members.

Those on the email system, will have been receiving a lot of information from the RARC, particularly about the Fair Go campaign. There is a group of very committed ex service-men leading a campaign for greater pension equity among the veteran community. There is a need for assistance, so if you can help in any way, please contact Ted Chitham or me. If you have an email address but are not receiving emails from me and would like to, please let me know.

The Reunion Committee are working hard to provide a memorable series of events and activities for next year's reunion in Sydney but we need your help. If you are intending to attend, please complete the initial booking form as soon as possible as we need an indication of the numbers who will attend each event.

My best wishes to all members of the 9RAR Family.

Cheers,

*Doug*



ABOVE: The 9RAR Family at the book launch, including Barney Bigwood (left end) and Doug McGrath (right end).

## MATES CORNER

### ROLLCALL SUBMISSIONS

IF YOU HAVE SOME INTERESTING NEWS, HUMEROUS ANECDOTES OR REQUESTS FOR HELP TO FIND AN OLD MATE, PLEASE SEND IT TO:-

Emma Bigwood [thebigwoods@bigpond.com](mailto:thebigwoods@bigpond.com) ph: 0422-429-745

or Barney (Rick) Bigwood [ricb@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ricb@bigpond.net.au) ph: 0488-727-475



#### LEFT: Our welfare team at work!

Machine gunner extraordinaire Bernie Fitz (middle) and Popie (right) called on Wally Neesom (left) in hospital and smuggled him out for a 'lemonade'. Good effort by these 2 caring mates.

## 9RAR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I was saddened to see the listing of Adrian Ryan in the VALE section, I knew Adrian very well whilst we were in Adelaide and Vietnam, Adrian appears in a photo on page 203 in the 9 RAR On Active Service book. The background to the photo was Adrian and I decided that we needed to get rid of some of our MPC, as we were heading home early. [We decided that] we would have a Happy Hour and only charge five (5) cents a can of beer in the Support Company Bar, we paid the difference. It was a very popular move with all the Support Company blokes.

Last I knew Adrian was living in Melbourne where he originally came from, I would be interested to hear from any one who knew him and could provide some further detail.

Thanks also once again for providing the contact with Vince Restuccia, have spoken with him a few times since, we are going to catch up at some stage in the near future, I just need to get to Hobart.

Cheers,

Alan Barnes

## WHO ARE THEY? SOME DIFFERENT ANSWERS!



**PETER NUMMY SAYS:** Barry Cheeseman ,Wayne Love [in helmet] Phil Barry [smiling]

Group photo L to R. Cpl John McDonnell, John Borshoff, Lcpl Wayne Schmidt, Unknown, Warren Tlise, Frank Gal, Lou Hyland.

**POPIE (ERIC POPE) SAYS:** In the last Roll Call you asked for names of those in the A Coy boozier. I had a phone call from Margaret Hyland who identified the digger on the farthest left is her husband Lou Hyland. They are living at South Leumeah, Campbelltown, NSW. Lou is not in the best of health, suffering from prostate cancer. I was planning on paying them a visit and seeing how they are getting on.

*A/Editor's Note: Do we have it right now? If not, let us know!*

# BERND BINDER MEMORIAL: WODONGA

Delores Binder (Lori) had only one picture of her brother Bernd KIA with 9RAR October 1969. That was until members of his section Charlie Carter and Alf Cairns had mounted photographs from their slides in Vietnam. As a 17year old she was the only next of kin and had to arrange his burial. Below is her story and a picture of the presentation of photos.

News

bordermail.com

## Pictures ease the burden

### Sister comes to terms with soldier's horror death

BY ASHLEY ARGOON

FOUR decades after Bernd Binder died in a horrific accident in the Vietnam War, he has been remembered by his mates on the Border.

They met his sister and gave her photographs of him on duty with the army in the weeks before he died.

Until now, Dolores Binder, of Wangaratta, had only one picture of her brother as a young man. Her other pictures were all of him as a child.

But at a ceremony marking the 42nd anniversary of Bernd's death yesterday, she held a montage of pictures she had never seen before.

They were given to her by Bernd's army friends from their own collection. They show Bernd at 20, in Vietnam in 1969.

One picture was taken just weeks before the night of his death, which happened when he was



● Bernd Binder

Even after the then 17-year-old Dolores, who was Bernd's next of kin, organised Bernd's body to be buried at Wangaratta Cemetery close to where she lived, she did not believe the brother she had not seen since she was 14 was dead.

"I found I was in disbelief a lot of the time," she said yesterday.

"I kidded myself for a long time, thinking he was missing up there and they had taken the wrong body," Ms Binder said.

But she said the pictures of her brother in Vietnam made it real for her what had happened.

Ms Binder was yesterday surrounded by those who knew and served with her brother at a memorial service to her brother at Wodonga's Vietnam and Associated Veterans Club yesterday.

"It is nice to know the Vietnam vets and meet his friends. They are not nothing," she said.

returning from a patrol as a stern brew.

Lightning struck a Claymore, an anti-personnel mine he was holding and electrical impulses detonated it.

Bernd's platoon commander Adrian Craig yesterday said he had no chance of survival.

"As he was coming back in, lightning struck and the mine went off," Mr Craig said. "It was pretty gruesome."

Ms Binder did not accept that her brother was dead for about 20 years.



● Dolores Binder with the pictures of Bernd taken days before his death. Picture: MATTHEW SMITHWICK

On 27th October the 10 Platoon survivors got together at Sgt Mick Credlin's place to meet Lori and present her with the photos. Here they are on the day.







**ABOVE:** Section 10 Platoon, Operation Jack Oct 1969

Left to Right: Charlie ? (*do you know his last name?*), Trev Lynch, Ugly Coble (AWOL from 2 Sect), Tim Butler, Bernd Binder putting his rations away, Peter Atkinson standing and Georgie Hill walking away.

## **BATTALION & REGIMENT FLAGS**

Vinnie Falcocchio is a fellow RAR brother from 2/4 Battalion who produces memorabilia and flags. The one pictured below costs \$100 (including postage within Australia) and the size is 30 cm x 60 cm ( \$180 for 2).

To order contact Vinnie via email at: [vfalcocchio@bigpond.com](mailto:vfalcocchio@bigpond.com)



## BOOK REVIEW: We Were REOs

**WE WERE REOs: Australian Infantry Reinforcements in Vietnam**

**Authors: Richard “Barney” Bigwood and Andrew Bigwood**

Politically incorrect, passionate, confusing, horrifying and witty. Such are the best words to describe Richard Bigwood’s autobiography detailing the personal horrors he endured as a young Sydney man trying to escape his suburban existence by enlisting into the Australian Army at the height of the Vietnam War.

Bigwood’s post school years are all too familiar to young men who eventually feel the need to break out of the directionless and claustrophobic life they inherit from the lower middle class lifestyle synonymous with a sprawling metropolis.

But how many young men would volunteer to join the Army as a means of escape during a bloody and forbidding war?

This is the question readers of “*We Were Reos*” will find themselves asking very quickly.

Like all good autobiographies, Bigwood brings the read into the sense of belonging. He is able to offer specific reasons for his feelings of enthusiasm, distrust, courage, respect and, eventually, love for his family, albeit 20 years after his discharge from the Australian Army.

Bigwood describes the life of a “reo” as one even more transient than that of the average soldier. As a “reo”, or reinforcement soldier, he is sent from one Battalion to another depending on which platoon had seen its soldiers discharged, wounded or killed.

His extraordinary recollection of names and dates makes this a remarkable resource for students of modern history. It tells the story Hollywood can’t do in 90 minutes.

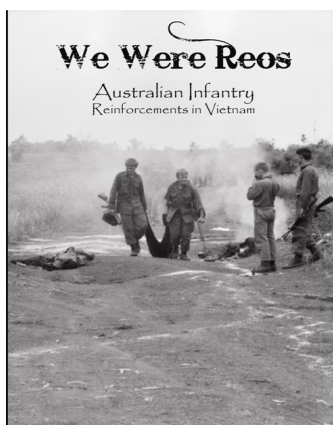
Walk on parts by football legend Bobby Fulton and retired General Peter Cosgrove make this a very Sydney-centric account of life in the late 1960’s and the raw use of language aptly portrays the life of a ‘grunt’ in the field. Men who have no thought of their own safety and with courage to spare when it comes to their soldier comrades but who, as a means of escape, don’t feel the need to bother themselves with normal workplace pleasantries.

It tells the lifestyle of the soldier not promoted by the Recruiting Sergeant when the parents of wayward sons refer their offspring to alternate vocations.

The irony of Bigwood’s story is in the now. He has retired to Sydney’s Hills District where he relishes in his suburban life as a father and grandfather. “*We Were Reos*” is a dramatic account of a soldier grateful for the lessons he has learnt whilst a student at the University of Life.

Copies of this book are available for \$25 (+\$6 postage) at the following site: [www.barneybigwood.com](http://www.barneybigwood.com)

*This review was kindly done by David Elliott (NSW State Member for Parliament—Baulkham Hills). Thank you to David for hosting the official book launch at NSW State Parliament House.*



LEFT: Book cover image. ABOVE (L to R): Barney Bigwood, David Elliott, Andrew Bigwood

## REUNION 2012: NEWS

This is a gentle reminder to all 9 RAR members, families and Next of Kin that our next, the 45<sup>th</sup> National Reunion is in Sydney, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12 November next year.

So far the registrations have been slow and in particular NSW is dragging the chain. If you haven't received your first advice including the Registration Form please contact the Reunion Chairman on the number or email below.

***It is absolutely imperative that we get our numbers up in order to keep the costs down.***

If you haven't registered as yet please give thought to the following:-

The National Reunion is held only held every three years which gives you plenty of time to save up for the costs.

We are all getting older and with the increasing high rate of mortality of Vietnam Veterans many of us will not be around for the next Reunion.

At our stage of life there will probably be only another one or two National Reunions due to the decreasing membership numbers and the huge amount of organisation required to run each reunion.

It's great to catch up with our fellow 9 RAR family members from other states.

There will be individual Company Reunions conducted on the First Night of the Reunion.

They will be a totally new range of merchandise available to all attendees All functions have been locked in and detailed costings plus a full range of merchandising will be sent out in February, 2012.

Please get your registrations in as soon as possible, remember if you need to cancel, your money will be fully refunded up to one month prior to the event.

***We need your registration to keep the costs for all down.***

Look forward to seeing you in November 2012 at Darling Harbour.

Regards,

Trevor Murdoch

Chairman 9 RAR National Reunion 2012

Phone 02 9981-3811 or email [tmurdoch@customfinance.com.au](mailto:tmurdoch@customfinance.com.au)

## GEORGE NAGLE MEMORIAL



**LEFT:** George Nagle's grave (photo by Gene & Pauline Costa 9RAR SA)

For about the last 4 to 5 years, 9 RAR Association SA has been holding commemorative services at the grave side of those members KIA who are interred in South Australia. My wife and I were on holiday in Ireland and it was only fitting that we extended to George Nagle, his family and friends, the same courtesy.

A commemorative service was held in Clonmel, Ireland, at the graveside of George Nagle who was killed in action on 6th January 1969. Walter O'Shea, President of the Tipperary Remembrance Trust has set up a website George Nagle. Mr O'Shea is hoping to be in contact with anyone who knew or served with George in Vietnam or Australia and is also searching for photos. You can contact him via email at [wsos50@hotmail.com](mailto:wsos50@hotmail.com). You can see the memorial page at: [www.freewebs.com/9rar-rvn/index.htm](http://www.freewebs.com/9rar-rvn/index.htm)

## IAN STENLAKE: Support for "Fair Go" Campaign

Would you would like to publicly thank actor Ian Stenlake for his support of the "Fair Go" DFRB campaign? You can do it one of two ways. You can 'friend' him via his Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/ian.stenlake>) and offer him your thanks publicly, or you can write to his management company (Marquee Management, The Gatehouse Studio B, 188 Oxford Street, Paddington NSW 2021).

*Photo courtesy of [www.cyberpaddock.com.au](http://www.cyberpaddock.com.au)*



## LOOKING FOR "MEGGSIE" GARDHAM 5/7RAR

Don Robertson, who served with 7RAR 2nd Tour, is looking to catch up with an old mate of his, "**Meggsie**" **Gardham**. "Meggsie" was with Pioneers 5RAR and was in the same position when 5 and 7RAR linked up. Don lost track of "Meggsie" many moons ago and would like to know how he is travelling and his address or whereabouts if possible. If you have any information regarding "Meggsie" please phone Don Robertson on (02) 6566-5468.

*A/Editor's Note: Are you looking for someone from your Army days? Let us know the details and we can run an article like this to try and help you get back in touch.*



## **VIETNAM VETS: Thank you, from a Marine in Iraq**

**Below is an open email that is currently doing the rounds, from an American Major in the Marine Corps, currently serving in Iraq.**

### A Thank You to all Vietnam Vets from a Marine in Iraq

A guy gets time to think over here and I was thinking about all the support we get from home. Sometimes it's overwhelming. We get care packages at times faster than we can use them. There are boxes and boxes of toiletries and snacks lining the center of every tent; the generosity has been amazing. So, I was pondering the question: "Why do we have so much support?"

In my opinion, it all came down to one thing: Vietnam Veterans. I think we learned a lesson, as a nation, that no matter what, you have to support the troops who are on the line, who are risking everything. We treated them so poorly back then. When they returned was even worse. The stories are nightmarish of what our returning warriors were subjected to. It is a national scar, a blemish on our country, an embarrassment to all of us.

After Vietnam, it had time to sink in. The guilt in our collective consciousness grew. It shamed us. However, we learned from our mistake. Somewhere during the late 1970's and on into the 80's, we realized that we can't treat our warriors that way. So ... starting during the Gulf War, when the first real opportunity arose to stand up and support the troops, we did. We did it to support our friends and family going off to war. But we also did it to right the wrongs from the Vietnam era. We treat our troops of today like the heroes they were, and are, acknowledge and celebrate their sacrifice, and rejoice at their homecoming ... instead of spitting on them.

And that support continues today for those of us in Iraq. Our country knows that it must support us and it does. The lesson was learned in Vietnam and we are all better because of it.

Everyone who has gone before is a hero. They are celebrated in my heart. I think admirably of all those who have gone before me. From those who fought to establish this country in the late 1770's to those I serve with here in Iraq. They have all sacrificed to ensure our freedom. But when I get back home, I'm going to make it a personal mission to specifically thank every Vietnam Vet I encounter for THEIR sacrifice. Because if nothing else good came from that terrible war, one thing did. It was the lesson learned on how we treat our warriors. We as a country learned from our mistake and now we treat our warriors as heroes, as we should have all along. I am the beneficiary of their sacrifice. Not only for the freedom they, like veterans from other wars, ensured, but for how well our country now treats my fellow Marines and I. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice.

Semper Fidelis,

Major Brian P. Bresnahan

United States Marine Corps

After reading the above letter you should consider watching the following clip. It was put together by a 15 year old American girl called Lizzie Palmer and is entitled "For The Troops". At the time of printing this newsletter this clip has received almost 31 million hits. Get your tissues ready!

<http://www.youtube.com/v/ervaMPt4Ha0&autoplay=1> (or go to YouTube and search "For The Troops")

# TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

On Jeopardy the other night, the final question was "How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier?" All three missed it. Below are some really interesting facts about the Tomb and the Soldiers that guard it, including the answer to the Jeopardy question. This is really an awesome sight to watch and it is highly recommended that you see it if you get the chance.

## Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

**How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and why?** 21 steps: It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honour given any military or foreign dignitary.

**How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?** 21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1

**Why are his gloves wet?** His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

**Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?** He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

**How often are the guards changed?** Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

**What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?** For a person to apply for guard duty at the Tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30.

**Other facts of interest:** They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin. The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror. The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe Lewis {the boxer} and Medal of Honor winner Audie L. Murphy (the most decorated soldier of WWII and of Hollywood fame). Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

**The highest honour:** In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/ House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honour that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

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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](http://www.9rar.org.au/battn_history.html)

*We're on the web. Find us at:*

*[www.9rar.org.au](http://www.9rar.org.au)*

*"We sleep soundly in our beds at night because rough men stand ready to do violence on our behalf."*

**- George Orwell**

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## **“ROLL CALL”**

**The Official Newsletter of 9RAR Association (NSW)**

**November 2011**



**ABOVE: GRANT SCALES (right) KIA 5/03/1969, pictured with best mate Bill Peasey before operation.**