



MARCH 2012

# 9 RAR ROLL CALL!

## JOURNAL OF 9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)



ISSUE 1 ( 2012)

### HIGHLIGHTS:

Competition for 2 DVDs

Anzac Day Events.

Mates Corner.

REUNION INFO.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Editor's Notes</i>	2
<i>Vale</i>	3
<i>The Enemy</i>	3
<i>Enemy Bravery Certificate</i>	4
<i>REUNION FLYER</i>	5
<i>Presidential Ponderings</i>	6
<i>Assault Pioneers Reunion</i>	8
<i>"JUST A NASHO"</i>	9
<i>"Moogles" An Original.</i>	10
<i>MATES CORNER</i>	11
<i>Freemantle Dec 1969 revisited.</i>	12
<i>COMPETITION: Who is he?</i>	13
<i>Book Review: Barry Wakefield.</i>	14-15
<i>Sword Of Honour</i>	16
<i>9th Battalion Pennant.</i>	17
<i>MERCHANDISE LIST</i>	18
<i>ANZAC DAY 2012</i>	19
<i>THE "Bushranger"</i>	20

## WAR TROPHYS



## 9 RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)

**MEMBERSHIP & CORRESPONDENCE:** C/- Eric Pope 19 Ingram Ave Milperra  
NSW 2214 Phone 02 9774 5113

ericpope@bigpond.com

**TREASURER :** C/. Stephen Nugent 33 Bertana Crescent Mona Vale 2103  
9997 1552

cheryl.nugent@hotmail.com

**ROLL CALL:** C/. Barney 73 Barclay Rd North Rocks 2151

02 98735209 0488727475.

## EDITOR'S REPORT



NODDY and POGO  
brave 10 platoon  
warriors.

Both relaxing after  
Ops before hitting  
the Boozer.

Xmas came and went but boxing day brought our family a new grandson , Kristian, making a grand total of 4 for Helen and me,.

- 9RAR was represented at the funeral of Mrs Vera Kermode the mother of Ray KIA Charlie Company July 1969.
- The REUNION Chairman Trev Murdoch is anxious to get bookings in as we are now liable for costs associated with the venues we have booked. See details on website and in this edition [www.9rar.org.au](http://www.9rar.org.au)

## 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](mailto:thebigwoods@bigpond.com)

You can Mail your annual fees to Eric Pope 19 Ingram Ave Milperra NSW 2214.

\$20 for 1 year or \$50 for 3years.





9th Battalion

The Royal Australian Regiment Association



Gary A Schreck November 2011

Allan E Jarrad January 2012

Kenneth G Dutton February 2012

Trevor L Dart February 2012

Barry Stalder March 2012

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"*

## THE ENEMY:

VC BUNKER WHO IS  
THIS ????



D Company 1 RAR

The effect of VC pressure  
detonated mines on  
Firestone Trail.

CAPTURED VC WEAPONS AFTER  
SUCCESSFUL RIVER AMBUSH



Captured VC  
Claymores, 12mm  
MG rounds, RPGs  
rice etc from  
Ambush

**Q.G.P.M.D. = Quân Giải Phóng Miền Đông**

**Liberation Army - Eastern Nam Bo**

**Ba Ria Provincial Force Long Khanh**

**Recorded in the reward book in accordance with decision number 503**

**Q.D.G.P.M.N.V.N = Quân đội giải phóng miền nam Việt Nam (National Front for the Liberation of South Viet Nam)**

**Citation/official military award of recognition.**

**Award to Comrade: Do Van Minh**

**Rank: Squad Leader Position: Squad Leader Unit: Scout Squad D 440**

**Place of Birth: Cam My Village - Xuan Loc District: - Long Khanh Province**

**Citation: For his gallantry in combat. Volunteered to launch the first rocket-propelled grenade to pave the way for his squad to accomplish their mission. Contributed to the victory in the campaign to destroy Bao Chanh post on the night of 26.6.68**

**Dated 22 Month 12 Year 1968**

**On behalf of the Provincial Force Committee**

**Deputy Political Cadre**

**Nguyen Thanh Can**

### **TRANSLATION OF Bravery Certificate:**

**This certificate was taken  
off a VC KIA by Dennis  
Manski. In May 1969.**

**In all he had 6 such**







## **9 RAR National Reunion**

### **9th November-12th November 2012**

*Fancy a cruise on beautiful Sydney Harbour while enjoying a sumptuous banquet?  
**Come to the Reunion***

*Ladies your ultimate dream, shop till you drop on guided tour to some of Sydney's best warehouse and factory direct outlets, travel in comfort by coach and have lunch provided.  
**Come to the Reunion***

*Do you enjoy having a few beers with your mates and reliving some of the memorable times of your army service? **Come to the Reunion***

*Have you always wanted a tour over historical Victoria Barracks to see some of our oldest military history, enjoy a casual smorgasbord lunch and a few beers with your mates?  
**Come to the Reunion***

*It is also the Battalion's 45th Birthday celebrations. **Come to the Reunion and celebrate***

*We are all getting older and because of the work involved in organising the Reunions, there will not be too many better opportunities to catch up with old mates and remember our 9 RAR family members that we lost in SVN and those that have passed since coming home.*

*If you have not received your Reunion advices or have not registered as yet please do so, you won't regret it.*

*Any queries or to get a registration form log onto the 9 RAR Website or contact the Reunion Coordinator direct.*

*See you in November.*

*Trevor Murdoch  
2012 9 RAR National Reunion Coordinator  
PO Box 253 Narrabeen, NSW 2101  
[tmurdoch@customequitygroup.com.au](mailto:tmurdoch@customequitygroup.com.au)  
(02) 9913-2442  
0414 015 204*



---

## **PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS:**

As Anzac Day draws near for yet another year, I wish to extend a warm welcome to all members of the 9 RAR Family and invite you all to take part in this special day on our calendar. A day when we thank our fathers and grandfathers for the freedom their sacrifices provided us; a day when we reflect on those we lost in our conflict and those who have left us since; a day when we think of the families who lost their loved one so long ago and a day that we meet as a family and reconnect with each other's lives.

I would like to issue two challenges to our regular marchers:

Bring your mate

Bring your mate's family

How many of us know a mate who has never marched? Someone who sits at home and doesn't join you and others he served with? My challenge is to have you ring a mate and get him to join us. Offer to pick him up, if need be. If he has to come from a long way, let him stay at your place. We all know how beneficial it will be. Have him bring his wife, his kids or grand kids-we are a family. There are still 9RAR men in the wilderness. We are finding some with our planning for the reunion but we need to be proactive and seek out our friends and get them to break the ice. It is a great way to ease into the family surroundings.

I would also like to have a huge turnout of next of kin, not only of the men we lost forty years ago but those who have passed on since. It is important for these families to know they are a part of something and we care about them. They must continue to have our support and to know they are welcome members of our family. So my second challenge is for you to make contact with your mate's family and personally invite them to join us. Those who have the Welcome Home March Australian Flag are invited to bring along so they can be paraded in honour of all who have fallen, whether in Vietnam or in the intervening years since.

Let us all go that extra step to make Anzac Day more memorable than it normally is.

We have lost more members since the last edition of "Roll Call" and I would like to extend the sympathies and condolences of the 9 RAR community at large, to the families concerned and reiterate that we are all here for them at any time.

---

## PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS Continued:

### The Sydney Reunion

Let me commend this to you. It will be a sensation! Set in our most beautiful city in the month of November, it is a very exciting program. Under Trevor Murdoch's outstanding leadership, a group of hard working committee members have put together, what will be a very memorable series of events. This will provide the opportunity to spend time with your mates, many of whom are seen infrequently. We will also have the chance to embrace the members of other units who provided us with such valuable support, often in critical circumstances, to share in their experiences and thank them for their assistance all those years ago.

If you haven't booked, please do so now. Contact your mates and ask if they are coming. Some may have moved, don't have emails or, as we have found, many are not members of an association so we don't have them on a list. Tell them they are invited, that we want them to be there. If you find your mate has received nothing from us, advise the committee so we can distribute the relevant information. I want us all to follow up guys we served with-run them down and get them to Sydney.

To accurately plan something of this magnitude, we need an indication of the numbers attending the various activities. The costs are very reasonable for a program of this quality but our drive for sponsorship has the potential of reducing costs to you and your families even further. The committee is working feverishly to do so.

Our aim is to stage a memorable event that is accessible to everyone who wishes to attend, at a reasonable cost.

I look forward to a huge turnout to this fabulous family reunion.

Cheers,

Doug

**The democracy will cease to exist  
when you take away from those  
who are willing to work and give to those who would not.  
Thomas Jefferson**



The 9th Battalion Assault Pioneers with a few “Ringins namely Des Blazely.” at the Berry NSW reunion they held last year



Back L to R: Lionel Corrie, Les Bart (7RAR), Des Blazely (A/Tnk Pl), Bruce Heard, Graham Jensen, Bruce Stratford, Rod Slater. Middle L to R: *Jeremy Ferguson, Laurie Woods, Arnold Junge, Greg Kercher, Benny Morgan.* Front L to R: Dinga Bell, Dennis Coats, Leo Macpanas, Bob Hnatyszyn.

THE REAL WORKERS AT THE BERRY REUNION OF THE Assault Pioneers

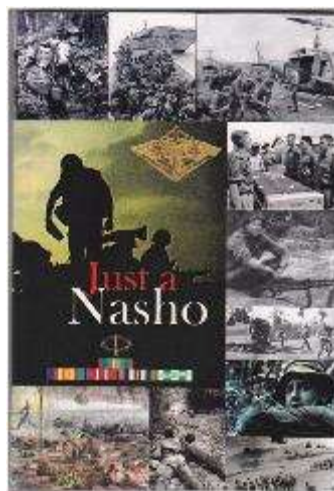


Back L to R: Rae Coats, Kathy Hnatyszyn, Kathy Jensen, Marilyn Morgan, Julie Slater, Pam Heard. Front L to R: Helen Bart (7RAR), Brenda Woods, Margaret Bell, Fay Stratford, Ann Blazely (A/Tnk Pl), Rose Macpanas.





# Just a Nasho (Revised Edition) by - Bill Parry (Ex RAR)



New Release....Author....Bill Parry Ex RAR.

This book is a tribute mainly to our era of THE NASHOS who we trained and took to South Vietnam. This book contains a general rundown of the first National service scheme 1951 - 1959 and the second National service scheme 1965 - 1972 followed by personal stories. After this there is a story which is fiction based on fact of nine members of a infantry rifle section in Vietnam. This book was previously published in 2003 and sold 800 copies and since then I have been asked many times when I was going to print more copies so here it is, a revised edition which I am sure you will be happy with. I think most of you know that I am a one man operation and things are hard to get done in the Philippines and that I did not win my Warrant rank on the football field but earned it by being a good soldier who was loyal to my Regiment, Queen and Country so I would appreciate it if you could promote my book in your publications and journals. Thank You .

**THEBOOKISAFASTMOVINGACTIONSTORYAND  
THESCENARIOANDSITUATIONS WILLMAKEYOU  
SHED A TEAR...GO BACK DOWN THE BROKEN ROAD  
OFMEMORIESANDRECALLYOURLIFEWHENYOU  
WERE 10 FEET TALL AND BULLETPROOF.....**

Write, call or email Bill Parry and buy a book.

**\$25.00 (PP)** or \$20.00 if picked up

winston.parry@y7mail.com 07 32040950

Mr WO Parry 36 Ruby St Mango Hill Qld 4509 Australia



Arnold "Moogles" Ryder was one of the originals from Woodside did his bush time became offsider to CQMS Laurie O'Sullivan . "moogles passed away in WA some years ago . We WILL REMEMBER THEM.

## 9 RAR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

<b>President</b>	Doug McGrath	<a href="mailto:panache26@optusnet.com.au">panache26@optusnet.com.au</a>	02 9981-2675
<b>Vice President</b>	Trevor Murdoch	<a href="mailto:tmurdoch@customfinance.com.au">tmurdoch@customfinance.com.au</a>	02 99132442
<b>Secretary/Membership:</b>	Eric Pope	<a href="mailto:ericpope@bigpond.com">ericpope@bigpond.com</a>	02 9774-5113
<b>Treasurer :</b>	Steve Nugent	<a href="mailto:Cheryl.nugent@hotmail.com">Cheryl.nugent@hotmail.com</a>	02 99971552
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Rick "Barney" Bigwood	<a href="mailto:ricb@bigpond.net.au">ricb@bigpond.net.au</a>	02 9873-5209
<b>Assistant Editor</b>	Emma Bigwood	<a href="mailto:thebigwoods@bigpond.com">thebigwoods@bigpond.com</a>	02 9837-5546
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Trevor Murdoch	as above	as above
<b>Members</b>	Peter Nummy	<a href="mailto:panddnummy@bigpond.com">panddnummy@bigpond.com</a>	02 4997-9759
	Colin Schofield	<a href="mailto:schoey58@gmail.com">schoey58@gmail.com</a>	02 9789-3349
	Ross Coughran	<a href="mailto:r.coughran@telstra.com">r.coughran@telstra.com</a>	02 9892767
	Warren Stickens	<a href="mailto:w_stickens@hotmail.com">w_stickens@hotmail.com</a>	02 9863-4383
	Wayne Love	<a href="mailto:wayne.love@absoluteattics.com.au">wayne.love@absoluteattics.com.au</a>	
	Andrew Bigwood	<a href="mailto:thebigwoods@bigpond.com">thebigwoods@bigpond.com</a>	02 9837-5546
	Barry Wakefield	<a href="mailto:barry.wakefield@hotmail.com">barry.wakefield@hotmail.com</a>	02 4733-1052
	Greg Barr-Jones	<a href="mailto:gjbbuild@bigpond.net.au">gjbbuild@bigpond.net.au</a>	0414945024 Charlie
	Carter	<a href="mailto:charlescarter@optusnet.com.au">charlescarter@optusnet.com.au</a>	.0418221436



# MATES CORNER

## ROLLCALL SUBMISSIONS

**GIVE US SOME INTERESTING NEWS OR HUMOROUS ANECDOTES ABOUT THE 9RAR FAMILY, 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: 02 9873-5209



“ROLL CALL” reaches the USA. I emailed Bill Peasey a copy to “ROLL CALL” which he opened in the USA

Hi Barney

Many thanks for emailing my copy of "ROLL CALL". It arrived just at the right time, as it happens, as Gina and I are in the US at the moment, where her daughter is not well, so I needed something to take my mind off things and the "ROLL CALL" is just the ticket. Will try and organise the purchase of a copy of your book on my return to UK.

Wally Neesom (who featured in last mates corner) is fighting fit and very happy however the scourge of Dementia is with him. Eric Pope called into see him on the day the facility he now calls home was having a New Years Eve party and Wally much to Eric's consternation asked him to dance!!!!

Bob Stewart, now a "GREY NOMAD" hit Sydney a week or so ago and met up with Bernie Fitzpaterick, Trev Murdoch and Eric Pope for drinks at Parramatta RSL. Bob was the stalwart of D Company's "Crown & Anchor" games.

Lower the flag to half-mast now,  
 Pull down the Southern Cross,  
 There's more to grieve that the Sun-God's son,  
 Or a nation's ritual loss....  
 It's sayonara to our pride,  
 And an end to memory -  
 A government's love of the mighty yen  
 Has crooked the official knee.  
 And we must bow to the force of trade,  
 The Divine Wind sweeps our shore,  
 And now in peace we are set to lose  
 What we fought to defend in war.  
 With folded hands and with lowered eyes  
 We acknowledge the Rising Sun,  
 While a thousand skeletal ghosts of the past  
 Are rising one by one,  
 And they hold aloft in their bony hands  
 The flag that they died to save:  
 We left it with you to honour, they said,  
 But it's safer with us in the grave.....  
 (Bruce Dawe)

**WHO REMEMBERS FREEMANTLE DECEMBER 1969****DAILY NEWS**

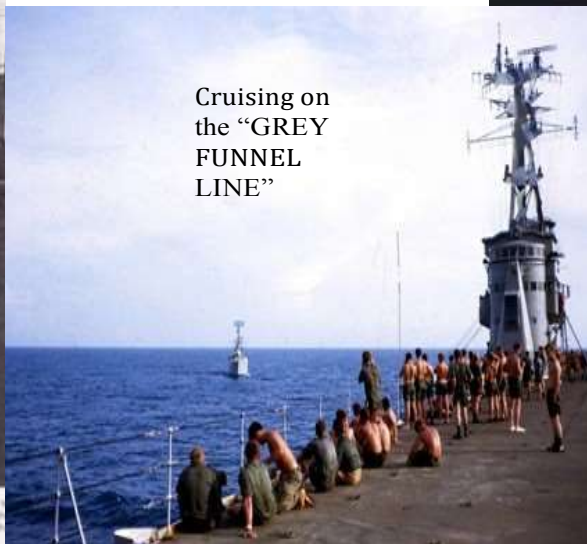
Price 5c

PERTH, Friday, December 5, 1969.

Registered at the G.P.O., Perth, for transmission by post as a newspaper.

**FIRST ABOARD—BEER CANS**

Story by Sally Squires, pictures by Brian Gordon.



Cruising on the "GREY FUNNEL LINE"



Wives, sweethearts, friends and relatives were momentarily forgotten by homecoming soldiers as cans of beer were thrown up over the side of the troopship HMAS SYDNEY at Freemantle today.

Returning from Vietnam to Australia in the ship were 494 soldiers of the Ninth Battalion, in which Bill Whitney was recently discharged from thought of the idea.

Bill and his brother soon ran out of supplies they left and returned with an army trunk full of bottles and cans. The soldiers dropped down a line to which Bill tied bottles of beer which were hauled aboard.

The soldiers were eventually let off the ship onto the wharf. Here the renowned left wing "Wharfies" shared French Congac which they had liberated from some shipment. Soldiers were drinking Congac out of china cups.

It made sleeping in the hammocks that night as they sailed off much easier.

Bill Whitney was a seasoned regular who toured with 2 RAR/NZ in 1967/68 and then returned in December 1968 and served with 4RAR/NZ, 2nd D&E Plt and then 12 plt D coy 9 RAR

"Wild" Bill Whitney 12 Platoon D Coy



## Statistics from USA CENSUS 1995 and 2000

In the "Who Claim to Have 'Been There" department, it's written in the issue:

- 1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive as of August, 1995 (census figures).
- During that same Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in country was: 9,492,958. (Those who actually served in country amounted to 2.7 million)
- As of the current Census taken during August, 2000, the surviving U.S. Vietnam Veteran population estimate is: 1,002,511. This is hard to believe, losing nearly 711,000 between '95 and '00. That's 390 a day.
- During this census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in country is: 13,853,027. By this census, FOUR OUT OF FIVE WHO CLAIM TO BE Vietnam vets are not.

Stats such as the above make the hairs on my neck rise up. In my mind the pulpy and tacky idjits who claimed to have served in country are no better than those who would steal butter from a man that's got hot pancakes coming.

Al Billings

[WWW.combatsar.com](http://WWW.combatsar.com)

Life's journey is not to arrive safely at the grave in a well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting "Holy Cow.....What a ride"

**WHO IS IN THIS PHOTO?? Especially the dude in the fancy  
cumberband.**

**PRIZES OF THE DVD "SWORD OF HONOUR" to the first 2  
diggers who identify those in the photo. Email editor.**



---

BOOK REVIEW By Cpl Barry Wakefield retired .

## All Day Long the Noise of Battle - An Australian attack in Vietnam by Gerard Windsor

Each battalion has its own set of 'dramas'. For C Coy 7RAR, Monday February 5th 1968 at around 1515 was the start of an extraordinary set of circumstances. The TET offensive had started just a few days before & C Coy found themselves in Bien Hoa province attacking a bunker system on & off for 3 days. Most people have heard about Long Tan, Coral & Balmoral but the story of this attack was something I had never heard about. Perhaps the set of circumstances that arose to bury this event in the mists of time was just a coincidence or maybe it was something else. Either way, after reading this book I felt as if everyone should have known about it.

Rather unfortunately the action was never dignified with the name of a battle: the nearest village being 6kms away, reports that should have been filed, weren't, and soldiers who should have been recommended for bravery awards were not. The writer felt through his investigation that one particular officer should have been recommended for a Victoria Cross. In the weird world of awards where quotas were king sadly people who deserved to be recognised weren't.

The writer reports details not as facts but as information gathered from all different sources. I found the book easy reading & highly informative. It also gives the reader an insight to the characters that every company has.

The Americans believed that the NVA/VC would attack their supply & air bases at Bien Hoa & Long Binh & asked the Australians for assistance, which is why 7RAR was moved the 40kms north to Operation Coburg. With C Coy finding & attacking a large bunker system for 3 days.

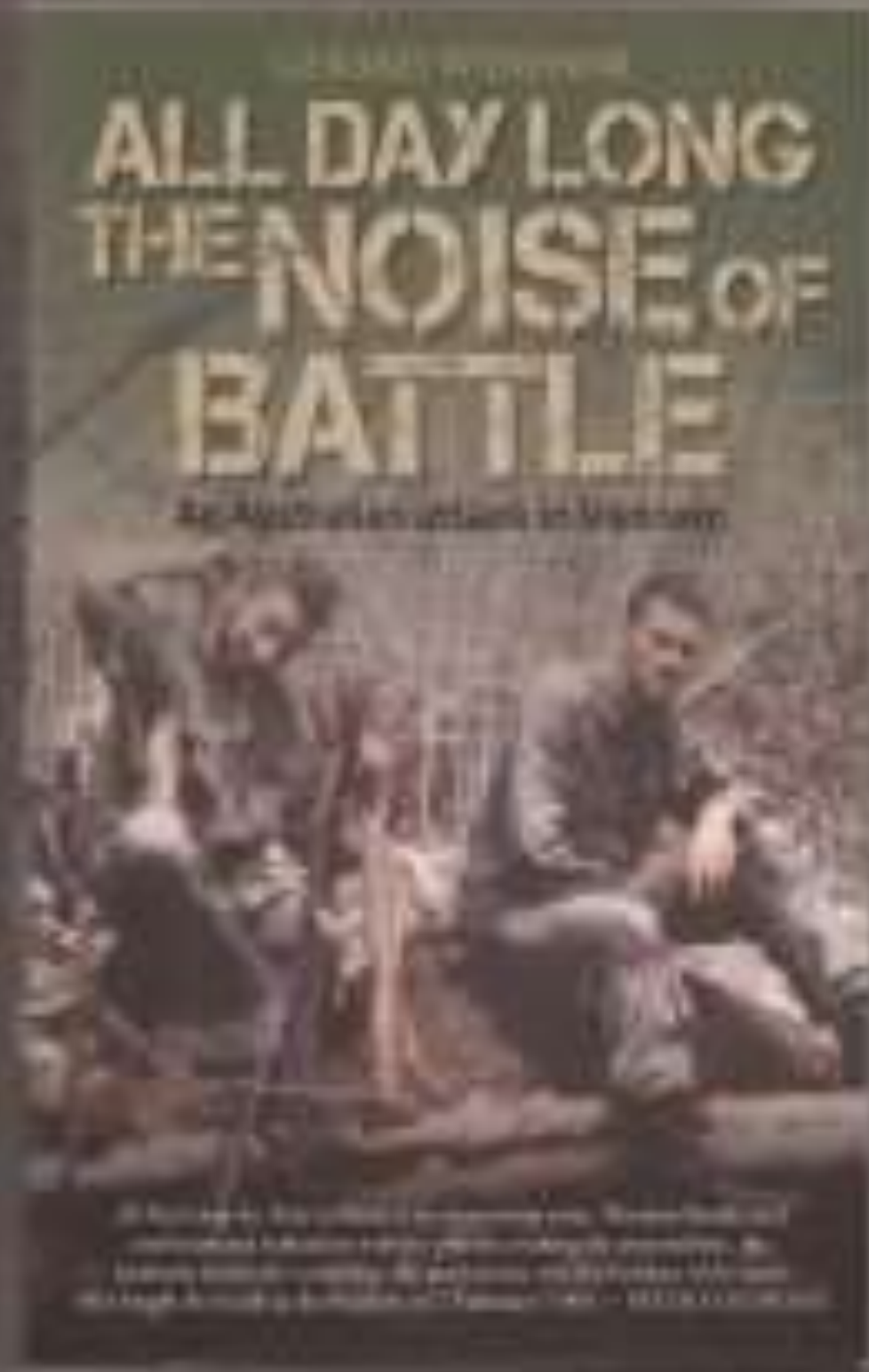
It was only a few weeks later that 7 RAR came home, due to arrive in Sydney aboard the HMAS Sydney on Anzac Day 1968. It was delayed so there was no conflict with the parade. They were marched through the streets the following day minus most of its national servicemen.

For me, the most poignant part of the story was of a digger trying to get a bottle of milk late at night after getting off the plane but being unable to do so as he 'didn't have an empty' to swap! His pleas went unheeded. He was picked up for home by his family, got to his room sat down on his bed & began to bawl his eyes out. His mother came in & said 'That's enough of that, you're home now'. That says a lot about the lack of understanding of the families & society at large.

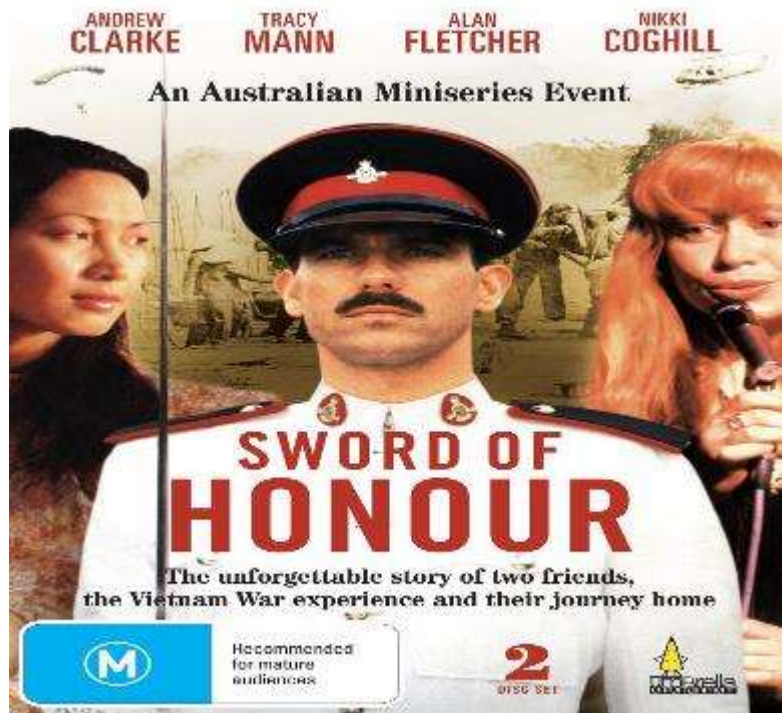
Cost: \$29.99

Rating: 9/10





Umbrella Entertainment is pleased to announce that "Sword of Honour", the classic 1986 miniseries starring Andrew Clarke, Tracy Mann and Alan Fletcher is coming to DVD for the first time on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2012. This may be of particular interest to your members as it is one of the few Australian TV programmes available set around the Vietnam war and was critically acclaimed at



Capturing the spirit of the age and the turmoil of the times, *Sword Of Honour* tells the heartbreaking story of a nation at war, the soldiers who left their families to fight, the social upheaval and the emotionally perilous journey back home.

At 21, Tony Lawrence (Logie winner, **Andrew Clarke**, *ANZACS*) won the Military Academy's Sword of Honour. At 22 he was fighting in the Vietnam War with his best friend and brother-in-law Frank Vittorio (**Alan Fletcher**, *Fran*), just as the conflict began to escalate. The horrors and carnage of the war leave an indelible impression on the two young men - ripping them apart from their families, girlfriends and country.

Back home after the devastation of the battlefields, both men try to cope with life in their own way. For Tony wandering into the wilderness is one way of coming to terms with the horror he has experienced. A journey that takes him back to the killing fields where it all started...

Featuring AFI Award winners **Tracy Mann** (in a Logie winning performance) and **Julia Blake** (*Innocence*), along with **Nikki Coghill** (*Dark Age*) and from the awarding winning producers of *Snowy* and *Nancy Wake*, *Sword Of Honour* is a gripping 6 hour , 4 part miniseries that will take you back to a time and conflict that created heroes and divided a nation.

Would you kindly mention this in your forthcoming newsletter/ publication or on your site. The DVD is available from all good retailers including JB HiFi and online at [www.umbrellaent.com.au](http://www.umbrellaent.com.au)

**You a chance to win a copy of this DVD by identifying the Officer drinking in D coy Boozer as shown on page 13 of this edition . First 2 people to email Emma or Myself will be declared the winners and their prizes mailed to them. Good Luck Barney .**

**WHEN IN SYDNEY FOR THE REUNION IN  
NOVEMBER MAKE SURE YOU GO INTO THE ANZAC  
MEMORIAL AFTER THE SERVICE ON THE SUNDAY.  
ONE OF THE PRIZE EXHIBITS IS THE 9th BATTALION  
1st AIF PENNANT THAT LEGEND SAYS WAS THE FIRST  
FLAG ASHORE ON ANZAC DAY AT GALLIPOLI>.**

**From:** Brad Manera [<mailto:Brad.Manera@dpc.nsw.gov.au>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 August 2011 2:34 PM

**To:** rick

**Subject:** Re: 9th Battalion 1st AIF Flag

G'day Rick

Thank you very much for enquiring about the 9th Battalion AIF marker pennant on display at the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park.

The mythical history of the marker pennant is much more fascinating than reality I'm afraid. It was souvenired by a sergeant named Coyle from the 9th Battalion AIF. Coyle's service record indicates that he did not land on Gallipoli as he contracted a disease and was repatriated in 1915.

The pennant first entered the public domain in 1927 when it was used in an Anzac Day March and touted as 'the first flag ashore at Anzac.' This is a wonderful story, and deserves to be true, but like so many of our Anzac legends there is a strong sense of myth surrounding it and there is much that we will never know.

It is a misnomer to call this object a flag. It is a marker pennant. The pennant is rather crudely made and appears to be an unofficial attempt to create a formation sign for the 9th Battalion of the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division of the Australian Imperial Force at the time that the AIF was adopting a system of colour patches. The AIF adopted a system of colour patches in the weeks before the Anzac landing. Colour patches replaced the barely visible oxidised brass numerals and corps abbreviations that the men of the AIF had worn as unit badges from their formation in September 1914.

The 3rd Brigade had light blue or 'Saxe' blue as its brigade colour, the bottom colour on a horizontally divided rectangular colour patch. The top colour indicates the battalion. The 9th Battalion, as the first battalion of the 3rd Brigade uses the colour black. The second battalion of the brigade uses purple as the top colour, the third Battalion, Brown, the fourth Battalion white. This created a system whereby the informed observer could work out which battalion in which brigade a soldier belong to by looking at his colour patch.

As I have mentioned, this system was introduced when the AIF was already serving overseas so I believe the marker pennant was a locally produced object that was used to indicate tent lines or battalion headquarters while the 1st Division was in camp in Egypt or on Lemnos.

As to whether it actually went ashore at Gallipoli, I have my doubts. As a veteran of a 20th-century war yourself you will appreciate that the idea of carrying a flag onto a battlefield when the enemy has high-powered repeating rifles with good-quality sights is folly.

Our marker pennant does have some rather famous signatures including two princes and at least one general. I will have a colleague send you the information on the signatures shortly.



**FEES & MERCHANDISES ORDERS TO:**

9 RAR ASSOCIATION NSW BRANCH  
 PO BOX 253 Narrabeen NSW 2101  
 Cheques or money orders accepted



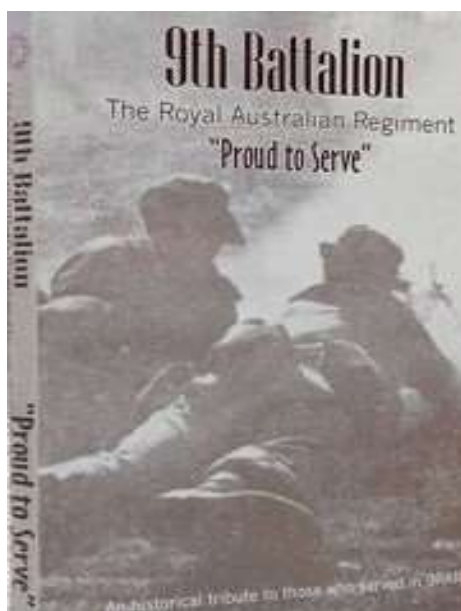
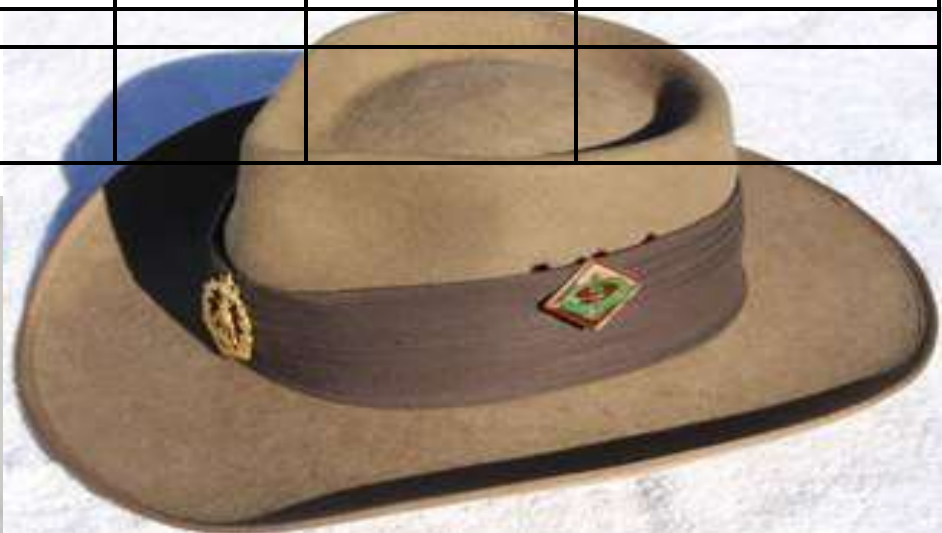
**SURNAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FIRST NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

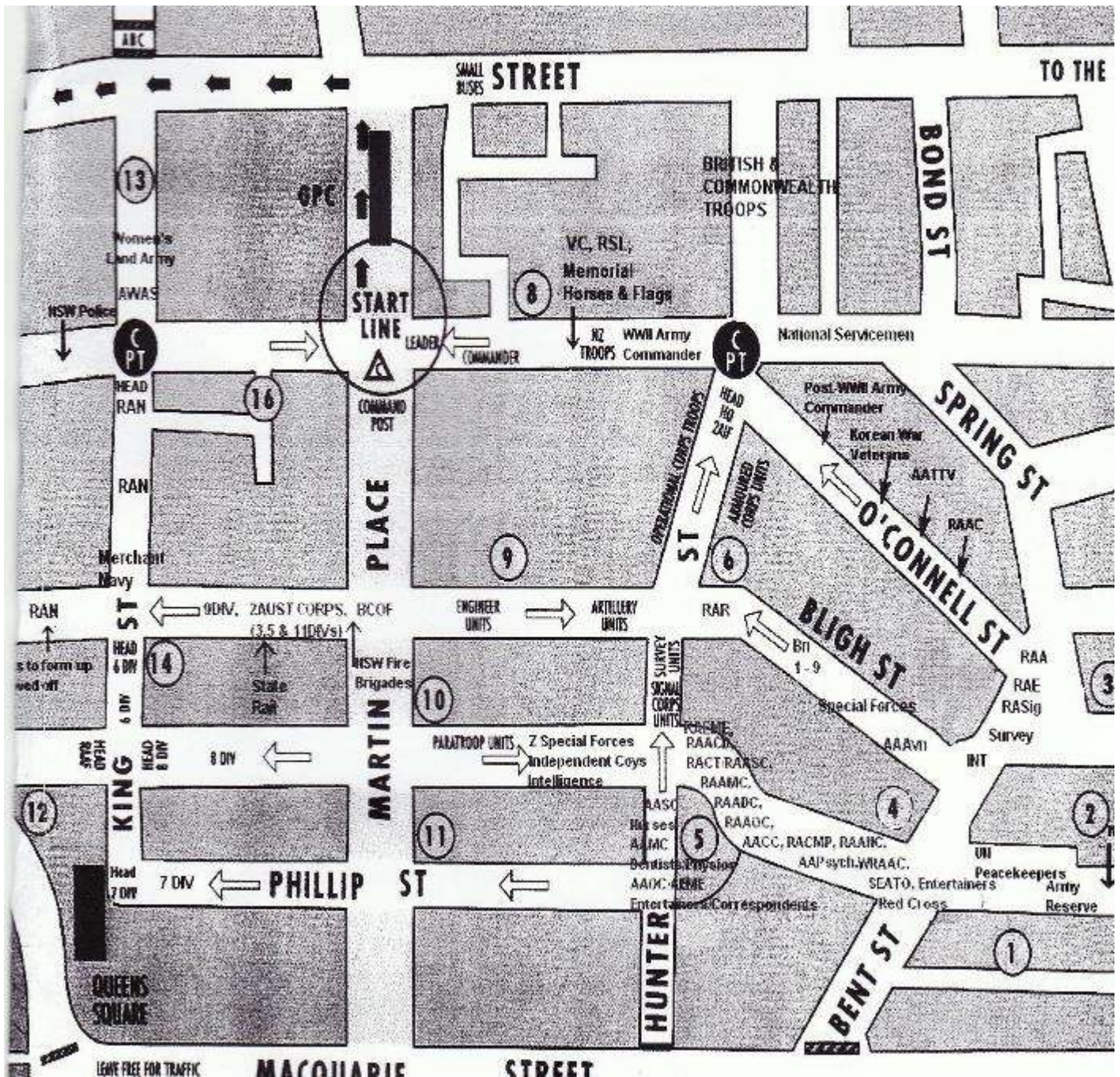
<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>PRICE per UNIT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	Akubra Hat complete		\$90	
"BYE GONE WARRIORS"	Grey Tee Shirts		\$15	
	POLO Shirts Blue		\$40	
	9 RAR Book DVD		\$10	
	9 RAR 2 <sup>nd</sup> Book		\$35	
	9 RAR Ties		\$35	
	9 RAR Car stickers		\$2	
	9 RAR Badge sets		\$20	





# **ANZAC DAY WEDNESDAY 25th**

## **April 2012: FUP Cnr Hunter and Bligh Streets in order of battalion 1 through 9**



After March drinks and food as usual first floor Windsor Hotel cnr Castlereagh and Park Streets. Family welcome . AAlso any 8/9 battalion diggers.



© Copyright on all original items in *ROLLCALL* is held by the author and should not be reproduced for profit without the written permission of the author. Reproduction for non-profit newsletters, military archives or study purposes in proper context is encouraged, but acknowledgment should be given to the author and source. Items reproduced in *ROLLCALL* are acknowledged wherever possible.

### **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)**

### **The Bushranger Story**

This story describes the development and introduction to operational service of the Royal Australian Air Force 'Bushranger' Iroquois helicopter gunship during the Vietnam War, a derivative of the Bell UH-1H that was unique in the world.

The first hand account of this project by Wing Commander Brian Dirou, DFC (Ret'd) provides an accurate record of a highly successful and enterprising endeavour accomplished within No. 9 Squadron to provide a very effective intimate close air support weapons capability that reflected typical Australian ingenuity.

The story graphically depicts several action events to demonstrate the need for the gunship capability and the effectiveness of the Bushranger concept, also the operational discipline and intimate teamwork necessary in very close quarters engagements with the enemy. Australian and New Zealand Air Force, Navy and Army personnel involved in these actions are also mentioned. Humorous and sad anecdotes balance the story and some moving poetic tributes are also included. The tale reflects appreciable credit upon the Air Force.



An e-book on CD, readable in Adobe Acrobat Reader format on a computer, with 188 images (no audio).

Printed by Brian and Diane Dirou, 97-99 Eastslope Way, North Arm Cove, NSW, 2324.  
Telephone: (02) 4997 3242 / 0402 217 773; Email: [bddirou@iinet.net.au](mailto:bddirou@iinet.net.au)

**IF UNDELIVERED RETURN TO:**

**9 RAR Association NSW**

**PO BOX 253**

**Narrabeen NSW 2101**

**Print Post Approved**

**PP255003/09703**

**PRINT**

**POST**

**PP255003/09703**

**POSTAGE**

**PAID**

**AUSTRALIA**

**TO:**



Windows Media Player.Ink

**“ROLL CALL”**

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

**April 2012**



Pte Trevor Black was manning the M60 in 1 platoon A Coy on the 8/4/1969 when the platoon were fired upon from a VC bunker. Trevor immediately went to ground giving support to the forward elements with solid bursts from his gun. As all infantry men know the enemy fire is always attracted to the opposing machine gun fire and Trevor paid the supreme price for his actions. RIP MATE!!



