



9 RAR ROLL CALL!

JOURNAL OF 9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)



April 2013

ISSUE 1 (2013)

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Lonely Forward Scout
9RAR Network Success
Book Review: Exit Wound

ATTENTION ATTENTION

The After March Meeting

will this year be held at

THE “ALBION PLACE HOTEL”

531 GEORGE ST SYDNEY

Next door to George St Cinema Complex.

Inside this issue:

<i>Editor's Notes</i>	2
<i>Reunion Photographs</i>	3
<i>ANZAC Day Details</i>	4
<i>President's Report</i>	5
<i>Vale</i>	6-8
<i>The Big Pretzel</i>	9
<i>9RAR Merchandise</i>	10-11
<i>Membership Application</i>	12
<i>SAVM Tour</i>	13
<i>9RAR Network Success</i>	14
<i>The Lonely Forward Scout</i>	15
<i>Book Review</i>	16
<i>Mates Corner</i>	17
<i>8/9 Inauguration</i>	18



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EDITOR'S REPORT

As the last edition covering the reunion was a little Delta Company centric I solicited photographs from other company representatives for this issue. Darryl "Murf" Menzies came to the party on behalf of B Coy and Dennis Rayner (Support Coy) supplied a DVD with photos. I hope this makes up for the Delta Coy excesses.

Early in the year an email was circulated far and wide across various veteran networks. This email was from Joy Evans, widow of Stephen Evans. Stephen was formally of Charlie Company and author of the poem "The Lonely Forward Scout". This poem was his tribute to his mate Ray Kermode, KIA in the same bunker attack that he himself was wounded. I have put together a piece on this search by Joy and the resolution.

Those that attended the reunion last November were witness to an extreme act of dedication and courage. Bill Kennedy attended the reunion bearing the trauma of his ongoing battle with cancer, he showed up seeking no compassion or pity just looking for the mateship of his peers. He enjoyed the reunion as much as his fragile condition would allow and after returning home finally succumbed in January .

Finally I hope you all paid ATTENTION to the cover, the Windsor Hotel (our Anzac day gathering place since last century) will be closed for renovations March through May this year. Thank goodness for Colin "Schoie" Schofield for following up on our booking; he was told only 2 weeks ago it would not be available for us this year. Luckily we have been able to secure the first floor bar of the "ALBION PLACE" hotel next door to the Cinema complex on George Street.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on Anzac Day.

Barney



The 36th US Evacuation Hospital VUNG TAU

Many of the 9th Battalion had treatment here during our tour. One of my best mates DOW (died of wounds) here in September 1969. Brian "Jock" Rennie of A company was also known as "Chicken Man" due to the huge eagle tattooed on his chest.

FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rick hasn't left me much space in this issue! I hope that this issue finds you all well. I look forward to seeing many of you after the March on Anzac Day. My top tip is to hold off on the beers until you get to the new venue, otherwise you may end up at the Windsor by mistake! Hopefully The Albion are as welcoming as The Windsor are every year and we all have another fabulous day.

Emma Bigwood

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

MORE REUNION PHOTOGRAPHS



Jeannie Hope: Bugler



The Form Up



MICK SHAVE enjoying the cruise



Dianne Gage. Sister of Sgt J Duroux KIS 5/1/69



Thomas Goode and Cronies



Col Joye Groupies !!!!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's Point of View.

I still find it hard to believe that after nearly four years of planning, the Reunion has come and gone. I must say, I view this with great pride. It took a lot of planning and attention to detail by a lot of people under Trevor's Murdoch's Chairmanship but I believe we delivered a memorable series of events for the 9RAR Family to share.

So much goes into the planning of different aspects of the program of events that we did not ever stop to really consider how people may be affected. This was never more in evidence than when the new Geoffrey Locke Memorial Banner was so proudly marched in by Brian Hamilton, reverently bearing the names of our fallen. For the NOK present, this was very emotional. The unveiling of the Alby Morrison Memorial Banner presented by Lawrie Lewis to our matriarch, Margaret Morrison was, I think the highlight of the event. For completely different reasons, the impromptu performance by the legendary Aussie music icon, Col Joye brought the house down. The March and Remembrance Day service on Sunday followed by our luncheon in the grounds of the Officer's Mess at Victoria Barracks will live long in our memories and the Harbour Cruise on Monday capped off a memorable event. Thanks to all who assisted and those who participated.

As Anzac Day approaches, memories of the reunion will be relived as families gather together in towns and cities across the country. As always I bring you the best wishes for the occasion, from Margaret, who I can report is in rousing good health. Anzac Day will, this year, be different in Sydney. With the New Windsor undergoing extensive renovations, we have been forced to find a new home. One wonders if on completion the New Windsor will then be known as The New, New Windsor, The Newer, New Windsor, The Newest Windsor or possibly The and Improved Windsor. Stay tuned. I'd like to thank Rick Bigwood for his efforts in locating an alternative venue, The Albion Hotel, the details of which are provided elsewhere in this publication.

By the time this goes to press, another important occasion will have taken place. 8/9 RAR will have conducted a parade to mark the opening of the Uruzgan Lines at Ennoggera Barracks in Brisbane under the watchful eye of Chief of Army, our very own Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO. I have no doubt our Queensland branch will have represented 9RAR with pride.

I wish you all the best for Anzac Day, wherever it is celebrated, as we thank those who went before us and those who have left us prematurely, for their role in the forging the nation of we enjoy today.

Cheers,

Doug

VALE

Bill South (4 Platoon B Coy)

Warwick Smith (OC A Coy)

Bill Kennedy (3 Platoon A Coy)

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing 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"

BILL SOUTH

Sad news from Glenn Willmann:

Sorry for the late notice but Bill South, Platoon Commander of 4 Platoon B Company 9RAR (1970/1972) had a massive heart attack on Saturday at the Aboriginal mission where he worked in the Northern Territory. I was Bill's Platoon Sergeant for the whole period. He was a very determined lad, strong headed but a leader you would have followed, as he took the bit between his teeth and got on with the task allocated to him. I was proud of Bill and enjoyed being his platoon sergeant. RIP Bill.

BILL KENNEDY

You have to look no further to find a man of courage then Bill Kennedy. Despite his serious medical condition he summoned all his strength to attend the 9th Battalion's Reunion in December. He soldiered on through the events but was too fatigued to attend Victoria Barracks on the Sunday. Bill hung on to have his last Xmas with his family but sadly passed away shortly after.. Following is a report from Brian Vickery on Bill's funeral:

Just a quick report on Bill's funeral yesterday. Well attended by family, friends and particularly 9RAR veterans. I think about 30 of us were there and about 150 overall. Just a couple of names: Doug Dobbins, Peter Stewert, Bruce Sutherland, Don and Jill Gow, Adrian Craig, Lyn Fisher (South Australia), Woodie and Margret Woodrow, Garry Mayer and Jan, Barry Broderick, Ted Chitham, Dawn Stalder, Dan and Kathy Penman etc. Very hot day but an excellent service and in typical Bill Kennedy style the music for us to leave the chapel was 'Always look on the Bright Side'. Very inspiring.

BILL KENNEDY Cont.



1968: A young Bill third from the left back row in Woodside with the boys that would become men.

WARWICK SMITH



Maj Warwick Smith and Sandy Savige, A Coy, during cordon and search.

Warrick Smith: "OPERATION KING HIT 1" December 1968.

WARWICK SMITH Cont.

FROM GLEN ROBERTS:

RIP Smithy, from all of us your close admirers at A Coy CHQ. We were along side as we admired you, double our age, and still up to hoofing it with us everywhere. You are and always will be the real C.O. of Alpha Company. A great loss to A Coy, a true warrior and a real leader to me, from the day I met you to the sorry day you had to leave us in Vietnam. Then the s@#t set in. My heart goes out to all of your family. RIP mate.

FROM DAVID PRESGRAVE:

Warwick's funeral service was befitting of the man. There was hardly any standing room with his large family from all over Australia, his many civvy friends and a wonderful group of his brothers-in-arms who represented the Regiment well.

His three sons spoke so well of their father's life and his influence on them and their eulogies generated every emotion possible in the audience.

There were smiles, tears, laughter, applause and of course the inevitable sadness, particularly when the casket was carried out by his three sons and a fourth unattended handle embossed with a flower, representing Warwick and Pauline's daughter, Sally –Anne who died in 1984.

He was indeed a larger than life man whose ethics and principles were well known to and admired by many of us and he will be sorely missed.

Naturally, but not condoned by Pauline, he had requested that his musical departure should include "Little Old Wine Drinker Me".

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NEW MEMBER: THE BIG PRETZEL

WELCOME NEW MEMBER TRANSFERING FROM SOUTH AUSSIE:

Many of you would have had the pleasure of seeing Patti on stage at Luscombe Bowl Nui Dat during your tour of duty. Patti and her husband Laurie (also an entertainer who toured South Vietnam in the sixties) have moved to the Central Coast recently and will be joining us on ANZAC DAY. Patti was honoured in the New Years Day Honours List this year.

Patricia "PATTY" MAY KENNEDY OAM

A.K.A. "The Big Pretzel" in Vietnam

The following is the official release regarding Patty's awarding of the OAM in the 2013 New Years Day Honours list:

"MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION"

"Mrs Patricia May Kennedy, 20 Edgar Street Beford Park SA 5042.

For service to veterans and their families, particularly as an entertainer. Founder/Organiser/Host, Vietnam Veterans' Day Concert, Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day Committee, Torrens Parade Ground, Adelaide, since 1999; Committee Member, since 1999.

Performer/Entertainer, Australian Forces Overseas Fund Concert, Vietnam, 1966 and in 1968 for 3 months; performed under the stage name "BIG PRETZEL".

Has performed at numerous memorial concerts for Vietnam Veterans around Australia.

Awards/recognition include: Inducted into the 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Association of South Australia, 2003.

MRS MARGARET MORRISON



**ONE PROUD
WIFE,
MOTHER
AND
MATRIACH**



MERCHANDISE including new Reunion stock



CAPS \$20.00



HATS with all badges \$90.00



Medal Boxes
Engraved \$60.00 Plain \$50.00



ALL TEE SHIRTS \$25.00
Superb Quality



ABOVE: Super fit B Coy Digger is shown modeling Tee shirt on reunion cruise. Note that this picture has been digitally altered to enhance model's features.



NOTE: The pictures above show the back (left) and front (right) of the 3 different Tee shirts that are available. Please specify which shirt you want when ordering.

POLO SHIRTS \$35



Below are 2 examples of the Polo shirt. You will notice in the first one how well it can be displayed when you possess a svelte body like Thomas Goode, a top notch Delta Coy man. In the second, when worn by a Bravo Coy man, the design of the polo shirt is put to the extreme test of endurance.



POSTAGE: Please include \$15.00 for postage and delivery for everything except the AKUBRA HAT (which depends on location).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

9th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association (NSW) Branch.

Family name: _____ Title: _____

First name: _____ Middle name: _____

Known As [if different from above]: _____

Partner's name: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Pone numbers: [h] _____ [mob] _____

e-mail: _____

Army No. _____ 9RAR Coy. _____ Platoon _____

Other Unit Details [if not 9RAR] _____

Membership fees are: \$20.00 one year, \$50.00 three years, \$200.00 for life

Please send a cheque or Money Order in favour of :
 "9RAR Association NSW" with this application to
 9RAR Association NSW
 19 Ingram Ave, Milperra NSW 2214

Enquiries: Eric Pope (Honourable Secretary) Ph [02] 9774 5113

Alternatively, you can use the new bank transfer option (details below), remembering to use your surname as a reference.



**BANK (BRANCH) - WESTPAC (NORTHBRIDGE)
 ACCOUNT - 9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)
 BSB - 032-199
 ACCOUNT NUMBER - 184308**

Please remember to put YOUR SURNAME as the reference on the transfer, both for your records and for Steve's reconciliation.



MORE HONOURS FOR OUR BATTALION

In addition to Patti Kennedy receiving an award in this year's Australia Day Honours List, JOCK STATTON was also honoured with an AM, recognizing his dedication and service to veterans. Jock is renowned for his work with all veterans and rightly deserves this honour.

WELL DONE JOCK!!!

SON OF ANZACs VIETNAM MEMORIAL TOUR

PATRON: MAJGEN David McLachlan AO (Retired)

President Of RSL Victoria. (No relation to Mat McLachlan)

In 2015 it will be the centennial of the landing at Anzac Cove and coincidentally a significant anniversary for Vietnam Veterans, being 50 years since the deployment of our first battle group. That deployment went on to last 10 years.

The synergy between the first ANZACS and Vietnam Veterans is that their grandfathers' fought at ANZAC cove and WW1. To commemorate this fact: We have approached the highly advocated 'Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours' and LT.COL Gary McKay (Retired), a prolific author and historian on Vietnam. Mat and Gary will be tour leaders and lecturers, at the sites of Australia's major engagements.

At the Long Tan Cross there will be a significant memorial service honouring our generations who have died in uniform for Australia, Army, Navy and Airforce.

Mat and his company have enthusiastically embraced this event; as an Historian he understands the significance. Matt's company will arrange all of your travel arrangements and in country logistics. There will be a series of additional tours to see Vietnam if desired.

It is envisaged that an initial tour of approx 7 days will cover the 'battlefield' tour experience, with further options for you to understand Vietnam today.

Your assistance in spreading the word through your website, and/or newsletter, would be greatly appreciated our website is: <http://battlefields.com.au/index.php/tours/69> details of the Tour can be found there with contact information etc.

Many thanks,

SAVMT committee.

LTCOL Gary McKay MC (retired) Gary Phillips, Geoff Lowe Stretcher Bearers and Members of the 5rar band 1st tour, Mat McLachlan of Battlefield tours.



THE 9RAR NETWORK SUCCEEDS AGAIN

Back on the 11th of February **Joy Evans (wife of Stephen Evans from C Coy)** wrote to Rod McLennan:

"Would you mind forwarding a request to the reunion of 9RAR, if anyone can remember my husband Stephen Evans, who served as a forward scout in 1969. He died in a car accident, in Canberra, in 1994. If they can share any stories about his time in Vietnam, I would be most grateful, as would our 6 children. Many thanks, Joy Evans"

Rod added the following details: *"Steve Evans was a regular soldier, 218535, who went Vietnam into these units, ARU, 1RAR and ended up in C Coy 9RAR. Steve wrote the poem "The Lonely Forward Scout". He came from Liverpool."*

2 DAYS LATER Joy responded:

"Hello everyone, Thank you so much for your responses, it has been really encouraging and amazing to know that he is remembered. There's a few more to reply yet, so hopefully I can get some more info on Stephen's time in Vietnam and any anecdotes are wonderful"

I appreciate your effort to contact me. Many thanks, Joy Evans

From the Editor (Barney): Many of the 9th Battalion who knew Steve contacted Joy. My service number is 218527 and Steve was 8 digits more . We trained together from Kapooka, Inf centre, Canungra and both went through 1 ARU and to 1 RAR together. I was able to send her a CD of Charlie company photos that were originally supplied by Dave Sheekey and the poem Steve wrote as a tribute to Ray Kermode put to music by Daniel Wakefield (the son of the wonderful B Coy warrior Barry).

Many others have contacted Joy and today I received the email shown below.

WELL DONE TO ALL YOU FELLOWS FOR HELPING JOY AND HER FAMILY.

Good Morning everyone, (I nearly wrote "Good morning Vietnam!")!

I want to say a huge Thank You for your interest and responses for my questions about my husband, Stephen Andrew Evans.

I have been inundated with that many emails, it was amazing to me. Yes guys, the networking works very well.

I have received mail too, of the poem The Forward Scout, and a CD of photos, and excerpts from books, with Stephen's name in it....FABULOUS!! Unfortunately I have no name of some info sent, as the envelope was sealed over the name..it was not David Sheekey or D Penman. Someone else??

My sincere apologies for not responding sooner. I have been up to my eyeballs in supporting my brother in his re-election for the Liberal seat of Morley, here in WA (which he won. Yay!!)

And that was in the middle of family matters in my household and still going to work...so I have been pooped...

I still have a few phone calls to make, with more questions (as us women have..lol..)

I have found out a little more about Stephen being part of an ambush, where he was wounded...specific details will emerge after a phone call yet to be made.

Someone has asked for photo's of before and after, to include in a book...I earnestly will try to get onto that ASAP...though much is on slides still...

I still want to know more about being a Forward Scout...no doubt I will get this info eventually.

My grateful thanks, for such a warm welcomed incoming of information. Not only do I begin to put together the puzzle of Stephen's time in Vietnam, to pass onto my children, but I am able to let his Father (who is 91yrs) and Stephen's siblings know more too. I am thrilled for your gallant efforts.

Many thanks everyone, a big hug all round...

Joy Evans (Address: PO BOX 357 Beechboro 6063. Email is joyevans3@gmail.com)

FORWARD SCOUT

BAISBANE SUNDAY MAIL

17/7/11

WITH RUPERT McCALL



THE LONELY FORWARD SCOUT

Young Ben Schumack gathered his script, rose to his feet with a deep breath, swallowed his nerve and marched to the microphone, alone. In that big school assembly hall, the poem he was about to deliver would reverberate off walls and echo through the ears of his St Columban's peers in Caboolture.

A slouch hat hung on a white cross stationed in front of him. It was the week before Anzac Day and he recited with all the raw and admirable adrenalin of youth.

*Each man has his duty
Yes, each man has his job
And each one takes the chance
That he will stand before his God
But ask of any soldier
What he thinks about the scout
The one that leads the others
The lonely forward scout*

On a foreign field in Long Khanh, young Ray Kermode gathered his rifle, crouched to make himself one with the terrain, swallowed his nerve and scouted forward through the thick Vietnamese jungle, alone. It was July 1969.

Somewhere behind him, his men. His mates. One of those young Aussie soldiers was Derek Nixon-Smith, the son of a Highvale dairy farmer from northwest of Brisbane. Two enemy snipers were spied and engaged. One fell dead. The other turned and ran. The men of 9RAR gave chase.

In a split second, the jungle spat fire at them from all directions. Lashed by mayhem, they'd landed smack bang in the middle of an ant nest and an angry one at that. It was an ambush.

Rocket launchers obliterated palm trees above, as

shrapnel rained down in heavy showers of hell. As Pte Nixon-Smith motioned for cover, it felt like the looming hand of death itself, grabbed him by the back of the head and pushed his face into the mud. He was hit.

And out in front, Pte Kermode had the best view in the house. After all,
*He's the first one into danger
The first to face the shots
He sees and hears what other miss
And reads right on the spot
For none may walk beside him
While he's up in front, the scout
He's known as both the eyes and ears
The lonely forward scout*

When Pte Nixon-Smith woke up, he thought he must have passed into the next world. Through his groggy haze, he honed focus on a screen to vaguely make out some guy in a strange white suit stepping out from a weird-looking ship then bouncing through outer space. Heaven, hell or hallucination?

Once the nurse at Long Binh Hospital convinced him it was history instead, he was told of the man who stepped forth in his own hour of need. Being honest (as soldiers generally are) he never quite clicked with Stephen Evans and yet Cpl Evans was the first man by his side when life hung in the balance.

He was the Fairfield-born poet who penned these words.
*But man is man and life goes round
And returns to form a ring
The whispering of the leaves may mean
That death is on the wing*

*The rifles boom, the rockets crash
Many lives hang deep in doubt
His chest now but a crimson cloak
The lonely forward scout*

In that action on July 19, 1969, the day before man landed on the moon, nine Australian soldiers were wounded. One courageous soul lay dying, destined to return to his family in the most honourable of coffins. Ray Kermode. A 21-year-old kid from Manly in Brisbane. The lonely forward scout.

Cpl Evans recited this ode to his friend in the eulogy at his funeral. It might have honoured the ghosts of any number of Australian soldiers in the history of war.

When 16-year-old student Ben Schumack stood tall this year and echoed the poetic sentiment, he did so at a school that educated some of Pte Kermode's mates. They are commemorating the anniversary of that moment in their lives this weekend.

How many kids sitting in that big assembly hall will follow? Only destiny knows, but as much as these haunting words pay tribute to one, they pay tribute to all.

*There now lies in our sunburnt land
Deep down beneath the earth
A boy who died a soldier's death
For all this, it was worth
We were hit from every side it seemed
Just able to get out
But there up front, alone, he died
The lonely forward scout
Thank you Ray.
Lest we forget.*

BOOK REVIEW: Exit Wound

EXIT WOUND by Andy McNab (Fiction)

The title says it all really, it's another highly entertaining book from Andy McNab written with his customary style of 'black humour'. The story follows the protagonist Nick Stone who is talked into a massive gold heist in Iraq, by some mates whom he served with in the British SAS.

Things of course are never as easy as he's been told and of course things go 'tits up'. Nick has to travel into Abu Dhabi, Iran and even into Russia trying to get his just desserts with just a touch of revenge.

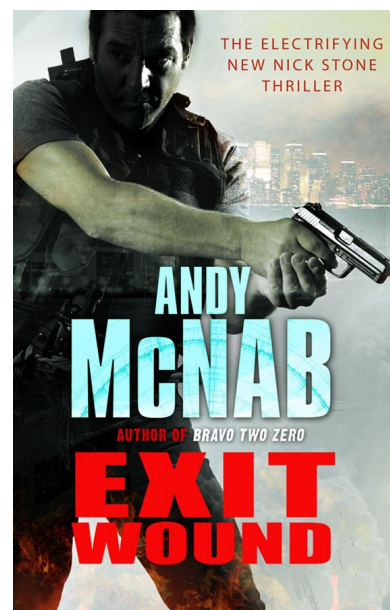
The treachery is just below the surface but also the other side of the human character, loyalty, is present. Gold enters the story not in ingots but in the form of the massive gates from a Saddam Hussein palace carefully secreted after the first Gulf War. The story becomes even more involved when a plot is discovered to buy the latest SAM's (surface to air missiles).

All parts of the story come together beautifully and we have a happy ending... or do we?

He has developed into an excellent writer that holds the reader's attention and interest. I love a story where I can't second guess the author. The jacket sums it up beautifully: "Ticking like a time bomb, brimming with terror and threat, Andy McNab's latest Nick Stone adventure is a high-voltage story of corruption, cover up and blistering suspense—the master thriller writer is at his electrifying, unputdownable best".

For those unfamiliar with McNab, he left the SAS in 1993. At that time he held both the DCM and the MM and was the British Army's most decorated soldier. These days, apart from writing, he lectures in both the UK and USA to security and intelligence agencies.

Review by Barry Wakefield



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



CATCHING UP WITH LONG LOST MATES

What is so wonderful about our service with 9RAR is that at Reunions and ANZAC day we get together and look forward to seeing faces that have long been missing and remembering those who did not come back.

One such face is **Colin Evans 4PL B Coy** who although not knowing him in Vietnam met in 1973 in a Kathmandu Hotel with his lovely wife Sue. I was Tour leader /driver for Sundowners Overland Tours and said



why not join the tour back to London passing through Pakistan Afghanistan and Iran – would think twice about doing it now but in those days the world was a different place.

We had a great tour finishing up in London then went on our ways, it is only in the last few years he surfaced after hiding in Port Headland working for BHP and attend for the first time our 2012 Reunion.

He now lives up near Byron Bay and hope to see him soon and any other old Grunt we haven't seen that wants to enjoy the 9RAR camaraderie in the future for that one day a year.

Colin Schofield 6PL BCoy 9RAR

SICK PARADE

As advised by Kevin Lynch and the National President Doug McGrath: **Geoff Strawbridge** is resting, or so he says, at home in Broken Hill, heading on the road soon and plans to be in Brisbane for ANZAC Day all things going well.

Stan Sutherland is doing well after his recent trip to surgery. No complications so far and is to commence some further treatment in mid March.

Allan Chandler rang me yesterday. He has been diagnosed with bowel cancer and has surgery on 16th March. He is very positive and a full recovery is expected.

Ian Farrell is out of Hospital and convalescing after an operation in early March.

WE WISH A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO ALL IN SICK BAY

8/9 URUZGAN INAUGURATION PARADE

I had the pleasure of representing 9RAR at this very special event. I was made to feel totally welcome by the 8/9 CO Lt Col Fegan, the RSM and Adjutant who met me as soon as I arrived. It was pleasing to see a group of Niners in attendance, resplendent in Battalion ties, led by the "Mayor of Ennogerra", Dan Penman. It is an interesting experience moving around with Dan as, with his work at the Museum and The Memorial Walk, there is no-one he doesn't know. Soon after I met Ted Chitham, who was with Maj Gen Adrian Clunies-Ross, Guy Baggot and the Brigade Commander Brig Greg Bilton, who was also very welcoming.

The parade itself was very impressive, led in style by a drive past of the highly acclaimed Bushmasters. The 8/9 soldiers then performed superbly in a crisp display of precision marching, led by the RSM and the CO. The star of the show was Corporal John Macarthur—"Stan the Ram" who gave his handler some anxious moments.

This was a United Drumhead parade, unknown to me but in which both sets of colours were draped over stacked drums and blessed by the padres. The parade was reviewed by the Chief of the Army, Lt General David Morrison who gave a very poignant address.

He spoke of the emotional return to 8/9 having served with the Battalion as a Platoon Commander in B Coy in his first posting on graduation from Portsea.

Speaking of B Coy, the scripture reading was delivered by Lt Col Ted Chitham, MC OAM who had been my Company Commander in Vietnam and had later served as CO of 8/9 as had Gen Clunies-Ross. Linking the history of 8/9 Gen Morrison told with pride of his father's role as the inaugural CO of 9RAR. It was a very emotional day, linking the history of the three units, all of whom were represented by personnel on the day.

A BBQ lunch was provided for all soldiers, families and guests at the Ram's Retreat. This afforded the opportunity for a mingling of soldiers bridging the generation gap. I spent a lot of time with a number of these modern day warriors and found stories of their exploits as interesting as they of ours.

We were then able to clamber over the Bushmasters and tour the lines which were great experiences. These facilities are absolutely first class bearing no resemblance to the army I once knew—quite remarkable.

I was very proud to represent 9RAR in such exalted company at an historic occasion

Doug McGrath



LEFT: Members of the 9th Battalion Association, with Lt General David Morrison (son of the 9RAR founder Alby Morrison).

RIGHT: (From left) Fred Young (President of 8RAR Association), Doug McGrath (President of 9RAR Association) and Greg Decker (Secretary of the Queensland Branch of the RAR Association).



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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.

With the end of Vietnam War lists the OC A Coy Major W. McDonald had his MID (mentioned in Dispatches) upgraded to a Medal of Gallantry and 2nd Lt Geoffrey Locke was awarded an Commendation for Distinguished Service

See more at:

http://www.9rar.org.au/battn_history.html

We're on the web.

Find us at:

www.9rar.org.au



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“ROLL CALL”

The Official Newsletter of 9RAR Association (NSW)

APRIL 2013



LYALL McPHERSON 23/04/1947-12/04/1969

On the morning of the 12th of April 5 section 5 platoon B Coy, while patrolling a track running east-west, was fired upon by approximately three enemy. The patrol returned fire and the enemy withdrew. In this encounter , Ptes Lyall McPherson and Robert Fitts were wounded. A gallant attempt by patrol signaler Glyn Mincherton to apply the medical advice given over the radio by the RMO failed when Lyall died.