



# 9 RAR ROLL CALL!

JOURNAL OF 9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)



SEPTEMBER 2013

ISSUE 2 ( 2013)

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

Quest for a Mate

Anzac Day 2013 Photos

Book Review: Defence of the Realm

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Guest Speaker  
Major General  
Michael David  
(Mick) Slater  
AO, DSC, CSC  
gives the  
address to  
Veterans of the  
RAR on ANZAC  
DAY 2013



## 9 RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)

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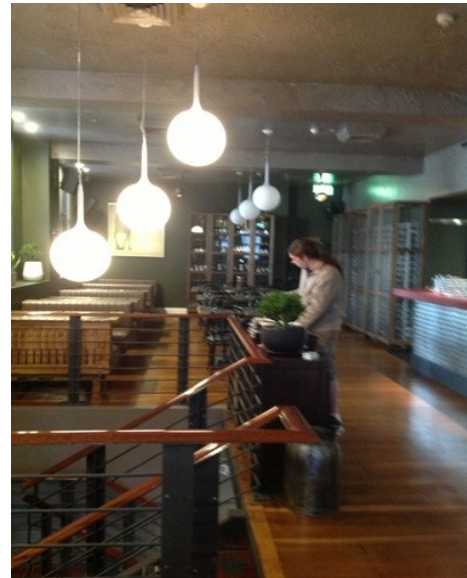
## EDITOR'S REPORT

Anzac Day this year saw us in a temporary home "THE ALBION PLACE" Hotel. It was a last minute rush to find an alternate place due to the late notice that the "WINDSOR" was under going refurbishment. Although very tight on space we all seemed to enjoy ourselves and the food. A big thank you to our fund raising girls Kelly and Nicole, as well as the people who donated prizes and the ticket sales ladies. The raffles raised money that just about offset the catering cost and will be a feature next year at our old home the "NEW WINDSOR" (see pictures below).

First information is to hand on the Victorian Reunion in 2015. See the news on Page 3. We hope this (slightly late) version of Roll Call finds you all well.

Cheers,

Barney



## TRAVELLING IN STYLE

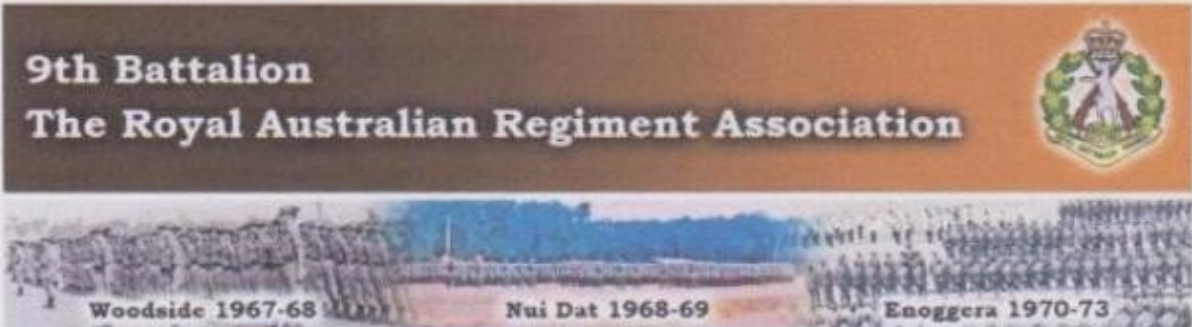


**SPOTTED:** One of my sources provided this evidence of the National President and Secretary arriving at this year's Anzac Day in a stretch limo. This is particularly surprising when you see that Navy are involved, as the Secretary doesn't have a pleasant history in dealings with the Navy. I believe they passed Peter Cosgrove on the Harbour Bridge, giving him a royal wave.

# VICTORIAN REUNION

9RAR ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC

July 2013  
47th Edition



## 9 RAR

### National 48th Anniversary Reunion and Commemoration

Melbourne, Victoria

13 -15 November, 2015.



Friday 13 November

Arrival  
Registration  
Meet and Greet  
Cocktails and Finger Food

Arts Centre/ANZ Pavilion



Saturday 14 November

Reunion Dinner and  
Entertainment 7pm

Melbourne Cricket Club

Sunday 15 November

Remembrance Service 11am  
BBQ 1.15pm

Shrine of Remembrance  
Government House



### Post Reunion Option

Monday 16 November

Day trip to Vietnam Veterans Museum      Phillip Island

**Registrations will open February 2014**

## ANZAC DAY IN VICTORIA & QUEENSLAND

ANZAC DAY MELBOURNE 2013 - THE START — COLLINS STREET



ANZACDAY INTERSTATE — QUEENSLAND




## ANNUAL FEES REMINDER

Please remember that you can mail your annual fees to:

Eric Pope, 19 Ingram Ave, Milperra NSW 2214.

\$20 for 1 year, \$50 for 3 years or \$200 for life membership.

## INFANTRY: By Craig Hannan





I shall lead but do not expect comfort. Do not think it will be easy. Do not think you shall not suffer loss.

Expect fear and sadness. Expect anger and rage. Expect exhaustion and hunger. Expect heat, cold and wet. Expect pain and weariness to the bone. Expect laughter and camaraderie.

Expect to stand the finest line between good and evil, this will be your test. Courage, determination, training and belief will be your guide. Expect pride to grow as tears dry and smiles crack fearful faces of those now safe behind you.

Do not expect gratitude or thanks, it is your Duty, it is expected. Only those that have been with you can truly understand and that is thanks enough, that they are there.

These privations you accept because you are an Infantryman

Craig Hannan 2012

## A DUTY DONE: Online Reading

Note from Editor: Thanks to **Darryl Menzies** for bringing the following information to our attention.

The following link will take you to a PDF version of 'A Duty Done', by Lt Col (ret) Fred Fairhead IO 6RAR/NZ 1969-1970. It is quite well written (barring a few small typos) and covers most of the major operations during that time. It is too long to print so you'll need to read it online. See an extract on Page 17.

<http://rarasa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/A-Duty-Done.pdf>

## THE PREDIENT'S REPORT

A number of 9RAR members attended the RAR Service in Regimental Square prior to the march on Anzac Day. It is always an exceptional experience and one of the rare opportunities for members of the regiment to mingle irrespective of what battalion each served in. General Mick Slater CO Forces Command gave an informative, concise and stimulating address outlining the deeds of each Battalion over the past year and the roles each will play in the years to come. He is a very impressive leader who spoke with clarity, vision, humility and praise for all who have served the regiment. He described members of the regiment as "ordinary people doing extraordinary deeds" who bear the responsibility of being "Custodians of the Anzac spirit." It was a very thought provoking and invigorating address.

We then moved off to form up and march in our individual units.

The Sydney Reunion has been widely reported with all well earned praise being accepted by those who worked so tirelessly under Chairman Trevor Murdoch. This was the first time we have been together since those remarkable events of November last year but the reunion camaraderie was in evidence as we formed up. Faces appeared who had never participated in any 9RAR events prior to November including Bill MacDonald, the former Coy Commander of both A & D Companies in Vietnam. Bill graciously accepted the offer to lead our march and did so with pride and distinction.

Our name as the "Family Battalion" is no more evident publicly than the bearing of our banners. Over the years many families have been represented proudly carrying our banners. In past years Bob Carr and Tony Webster have marched with their sons in uniform as serving members of the ADF, Brothers Sheekey, the Murdoch Brothers and my son Lachlan carrying his namesake, Lockett's banner are just a few who have filled this role with honour. This year, Mick and his son Shane Coble accepted this honour along with Peter Nummy and Bill Morris. Another reminder of the reunion was that this was the first time the "Alby" Morrison Memorial Banner and the new Geoffrey Locke Memorial Banner had been presented to the public at an Anzac Day March. Under sunny skies on a glorious day, we were represented by 74 marching as the Family Battalion!

Our regular after-march venue was undergoing renovations so we had to find a new "home" and we were very fortunate that the Albion accommodated 250 of our "Family" at such short notice. As we gathered there we reflected on the heroic sacrifices of our forebears for whom we thank for the freedoms we enjoy

## THE PREDIENT'S REPORT cont.

today. We also reflected and honoured the 35 men of 9RAR we lost among over 1,000 killed in Vietnam and we remember also all those we have lost since our return from that conflict so long ago. We have always reserved a place in our hearts for the special members of our family – the Next of Kin of our fallen, some of whom are with us at our reunions as but for luck, our families could have been among their number.

Both David Morrison the remarkable Margaret sent best wishes to all our men and their families. Sadly, Margaret has a recurrence of cancer – she, however, is strong, pragmatic and determined to enjoy every day.

As is our custom, the AGM was held and I would like to thank the outgoing committee for their efforts and welcome the new committee. Those members are: Trevor Murdoch, Steve Nugent, Rick Bigwood, Eric Pope, Ross Coughran, Warren Stickens, Colin Schofield, Tony Mullavy, Phil Barry, Peter Nummy, Gregg Barr-Jones and I once more have to privilege of leading this worthy “Band of Brothers”. I'd like also to honour the modern day warriors currently upholding the traditions set long before them as they answer the call of serving their country. The new Afghanistan Memorial was dedicated last week recognising the commitment of all who have served in this conflict and in particular the sacrifice of the 40 Australian warriors who have lost their lives

Tuesday 30 July was an eventful day for our Fair Go campaign's progress to achieving its military superannuation indexation objective.

Both sides of politics now officially admit that CPI indexation alone does not keep up with the cost of living over time. The Coalition admitted this in June 2010, three years ago, and it is pleasing to see the government catching up, albeit belatedly. As you are aware, there is still a way to go.

I wish you and your families good health and look forward to seeing you soon.

Cheers,

Doug



## QUEST FOR A MATE

**The following is an excerpt from a number of emails (edited and amalgamated by A/Editor) received early this year. It is from a concerned 'Stuart' Hodgson, regarding his mate Merv Judd.**

Hi,

My name is Stuart Hodgson. I served in Vietnam with 4th Platoon, B Company December 1968-February 1969.

I was injured and returned to Australia along with my mate Mervyn Judd who also served in Vietnam, 4th Platoon, B Company.

I was advised a couple of years ago, whilst trying to contact Mervyn in Tamworth NSW, that Mervyn had died some years prior (approx 6 years). A Vietnam Veteran Association member was able to contact DVA who confirmed this for me. Apparently his family have never even claimed his remains and he has not been laid to rest. He did have a wife and children (we caught up in 1981) but obviously that went sour. Nobody in Tamworth remembered him, not even the RSL or surrounding clubs. We were hoping that you may have a contact who can give us more information.

I am now very ill and would like to ensure that Mervyn is mentioned in the Honour Roll as his family have not seen fit to ensure this has happened. I did ask a 9 RAR member here in Adelaide some time ago but note that it still has not happened.

Could you please ensure that Merv gets the recognition he deserves.

In anticipation of your co operation and assistance, I am very thankful.

I am in and out of hospital but would be happy to assist if you require further information or are able to give us more information regarding Merv. My phone numbers are 08-8252-1946 and 0419-808-968.

Or contact me via email on: [stuart-barb@bigpond.com](mailto:stuart-barb@bigpond.com)

Since this series of email South Australian members (Adrian Craig and others) have visited Stuart in hospital, He is home now but remains very ill. He graphically portrays the problem of being a REO, only in 4 Platoon for a couple of weeks. He can't remember other Platoon members apart from Merv Judd, who was shot in the same contact and is now dead. If one of you out there would give him a ring I'm sure he'd appreciate it. If any of you live in the Armidale/Tamworth region and could get a photo of Merv's grave he would be forever indebted to you. See a copy of the contact report on the next page.





## VALE

### George "Scruffy" McGovern

(87 yrs young)

- Staff Sgt, 2/33 Battalion WWII

- 8RAR Vietnam

- 9RAR and 8/9RAR Australia

### John Selmes (6, 3, 9 & 8/9)

### Christine Hughes

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"*

## JACK SELMES

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the death of Jack Selmes at Bungendore NSW. Jack had been discharged from hospital on 21 Apr 13 after a bout of salmonella poisoning, (Jack's daughter Stephanie remains in hospital). Jack passed away at home later that evening. Battalions (hooker for 9 Rugby)

## CHRISTINE ANN HUGHES

Sadly Frank Jennings, one of the 9th Battalion family, and his wife Bev lost their daughter Christine (aged only 42) in May this year. Christine was the mother of 3 (including a set of twins).

We send out our thoughts to them over this sad loss.

### Unless You've Been a Soldier by Clive Sanders

Unless you've been a soldier,  
You just won't understand.  
The things that we have seen and done,  
In the service of our land.  
We have trained to live in combat,  
To cope with awful sights,  
That shouldn't be seen by anyone  
And keep you awake at nights.

We don't discuss the wounds we have,  
To the body or the mind.  
We just put our hurts behind us,  
And turn our memories to blind.  
We are proud we served our country,  
And remember those we lost.  
For the freedom that you have today,  
They paid the awful cost.

## COOKIES WANTED!

My name is Graham Wilson, I am a retired WO2 ARA (RAR and AUST INT, 26 years total) and now a full time military historian, researcher, writer and consultant.

I have been asked by the Head of the Army History Unit to write a book dealing with the history of feeding the Australian soldier from 1885 to 2000 and am now researching this topic and identifying sources.

I am keen to make contact with any Vietnam veterans who would be prepared to share information, stories, anecdotes dealing with the subject of food for troops in Vietnam, both in base and in the field.

I would also like to hear from anyone (especially ex-RAN cooks) who can provide information and anecdotes on the feeding of troops in transit from and to Australia aboard *Sydney*.

Finally, I am very keen to contact any ex-AACC cooks and caterers who served in Vietnam and get their side of the feeding story.

I would greatly appreciate if my request for contact and information could be circulated to your association.

I can be contacted via this e-mail address ([duty\\_first@hotmail.com](mailto:duty_first@hotmail.com)) or via snail mail at:

Mr G.F. Wilson, PO Box 6021, Lanyon LPO, CONDER ACT 2906

I hope that you will be able to assist me and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Wilson (Author of: *Bully Beef and Balderdash: Some Myths of the AIF Examined and Debunked; Dust, Donkeys and Delusions: The Myth of Simpson and the Donkey Exposed*. Contributor to: *The Oxford Companion to Australian Military History*)

## SAVMT WEBSITE AND NEWS

**Veterans – The Sons of Anzacs 2015 Memorial Tour Website [www.vietnamtour2015.com.au](http://www.vietnamtour2015.com.au)**

The total cost has not been finalised at this stage, however deposits have already been paid. These will be fully refundable if you are unable to attend, these deposits are in recognition of your interest and they will also register you for EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS.

### **For further interest and prior to the Tour:**

In Queensland, at the Caloundra RSL on the 30 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. Battlefield Briefings will be conducted by Brigadier N Weekes MC, Major L. Tranter (both survivors of Coral-Balmoral) and subject to posting, The RSM of the Army D. Ashley (Afghanistan) along with another significant hero which has been confirmed as Sgt. Bob Buick M.M. (Long Tan). The Army Band Brisbane will be providing the entertainment.

In NSW the concert and battlefield briefings will be held at the ROOTY HILL RSL, with the same actors and the Army Band Sydney will provide the entertainment. The dates for Rooty Hill are 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

There will be a nominal entry fee and every dollar collected will be given to a charity, either the RSL Anzac appeal and or Legacy. More dates for Melbourne and other venues to be announced.

On behalf of the committee of Sons of Anzacs Vietnam Memorial Tour

## PHOTOS FROM ANZAC DAY 2013



**ABOVE:** In keeping with the “Family Tradition” father & son Mick & Shane Coble proudly carried our banner in this years ANZAC DAY



**ABOVE:** Old 12 Platoon man Michael De LA Hunty, a member of the “Historical Aircraft Restoration Society” (HARS), was instrumental in arranging in the fly past of these old war birds. The Caribou is also a “Vietnam Vet”.

**BELOW: The Pipes and drums of the St George Sutherland Band that marches with us each year proudly step off leading the aged and infirm of the 9th Battalion.**



**RIGHT: The 0830 service of the Royal Australian Regiment at Regimental Square Sydney. Our stalwart committee man Jeremy Ferguson is in the foreground ready to lay a wreath in memory of our fallen**



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### 9<sup>th</sup> 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.



# MERCHANDISE including new Reunion stock



CAPS \$20.00

HATS with all badges \$90.00

Medal Boxes  
Engraved \$60.00 Plain \$50.00



ALL T-SHIRTS (left)  
\$25.00

POLO SHIRTS (below)  
\$35.00



**POSTAGE & HANDLING:**  
Please include \$15 for P&H for all items, except for Akubras. P&H for Akubras depends on delivery location

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.

## 9th BATTALION 1st AIF



### BUTLER MEDAL

The Butler Medal or medalette struck in sterling silver and enamel with the colour patch of the 9<sup>th</sup> Bn on the obverse, was presented by Capt Butler's family to all members of the 9 Bn who served continuously on the Gallipoli Peninsula for the six months between the 25 April and 25 October 1915.

Hallmarked sterling silver, the reverse is chisel engraved in three lines for ORs – with regimental number on the top line, and two lines for officers with the top line for rank and the lower for initials and surname as shown.



A total of 94 were presented including six Lieutenants, two CSMs, five Sergeants, 5 Corporals, 7 Lance Corporals, one Bugler with the remaining 68 to Privates. A complete list is available in *Campaigning with the Fighting 9<sup>th</sup> Bn* by C.M. Wrench MC p433.

#### Value:

| ISSUE        | NUMBER ISSUED | VALUE  |
|--------------|---------------|--------|
| Butler Medal | 94            | \$750- |

## MEN OF WAR AND PEACE: A Calendar



The first edition of Men at War & Peace was produced in 2006 and raised over \$65,000 for veterans welfare services. Public demand has encouraged Greg and Annie Carter who organised the first calendar to get vets together once again to "bare all".

*Men at War and Peace* sees veterans shed all their worries, fatigues, medals and RSL badges to flaunt the freedom they served for.

"We may not be as taut and trim as we were in army days, but if older ladies can get their gear off, why can't we?" said Greg. "We want to show the world how much we Vietnam veterans can still enjoy life." Funds raised with this edition will go towards providing better facilities at Cockatoo Rise war veterans retreat at Bairnsdale. Greg (a Vietnam veteran) and his wife Annie run this retreat with a group of dedicated veterans

providing a safe, secure and peaceful environment for them to enjoy time with their partners and mates. The retreat is a free service giving vets a place of their own. To purchase a copy go to:

[www.menatwarandpeace.com.au](http://www.menatwarandpeace.com.au)

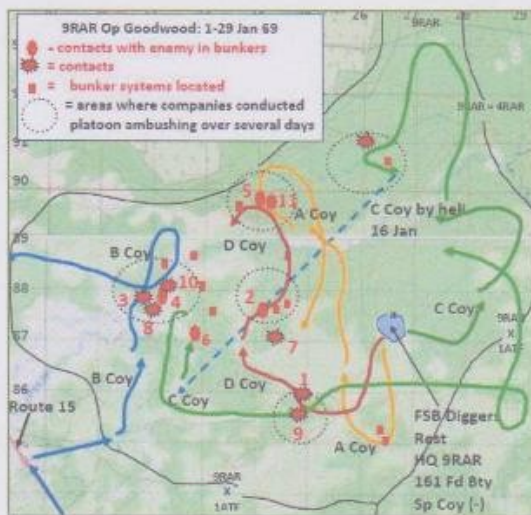


# INTO THE HELL OF HAT DICH January 1969

## 9RAR is Raised and Rapidly sent to War

The raising of 9RAR on 13 November 1967 at Keswick Barracks in Adelaide was unique in two ways: firstly it wasn't based on the usual practice of drawing on a cadre of trained officers and men from an established battalion but instead was constituted by the posting of individual Officers and NCOs and by drafts directly from Recruit Training Battalions; secondly the Battalion had to be raised, trained and tested within a single year before deploying to Vietnam. In line with the often practice of muddled thinking, the planners at AHQ in Canberra in acknowledging that the Vietnam War was set in a tropical environment, then proceeded to have 9RAR train in one of the most arid and in winter, coldest areas of Australia, to wit the Cultana Training Area and the north Flinders Ranges. Training however, did occur at JTC Canungra and a test exercise at Shoalwater Bay and after a farewell march through Adelaide in early October, the Battalion (*Lt Col AL Morrison, CO; WO1 D Cassidy, RSM*) departed Port Adelaide on HMAS Sydney on 9 November 1968.

After a couple of work-up operations involving: a Cordon and Search of An Nhut Village (*King Hit One*); and a short Reconnaissance In Force operation about 20 kilometres north of Nui Dat (*King Hit Two*), the Battalion replaced 1RAR on *Operation Goodwood*.



## 9RAR Operation Goodwood: 1-29 January 1969

The operation began with A Company (*Maj WL Smith*) joining HQ 1RAR at FSB Diggers Rest to supervise the fly-in of the remainder of the Battalion less B Company (*Maj EA Chitham*) which deployed by APC along Route 15. As usual the area of operations was divided into company AOs and patrolling commenced in the southern parts immediately.

As the companies moved north contact with the enemy increased, mainly with small groups and the pattern of operations varied with company movement dictated by enemy reactions. In one case for example, C Company (*Maj LJ Lewis*) was airlifted from the north east of the AO to the south west in response to a sighting of a large enemy group by aerial reconnaissance.

On 1 and 2 January 10 Platoon (*Lt PJ McAuley*) had successful contacts with small enemy groups (1) and on 5 January the Platoon was engaged from a large enemy bunker system with RPGs and small arms (2). The Forward Scout (*Pte DJ Cromb*) continued to engage the enemy with rifle fire and M79 grenades allowing six wounded men, including the 10 Platoon Sergeant (*Sgt GV Rashleigh*) to be evacuated and then to cover the deployment of 11 Platoon to a flank which distracted the enemy thus allowing 10 Platoon to withdraw.

On the same day, 4 Platoon (*2Lt M Bell*) contacted five enemy (3) killing two but losing its Platoon Sergeant (*Sgt JM Duroux*) who died from wounds. On 6 January, 5 Platoon (*Lt IM Clark*) was investigating a track running from an enemy water point (4) when it was engaged with a claymore mine killing one man (*Pte G Nagle*) and wounding five including a Section Commander (*Cpl AW Graham*) who died from his wounds the next day.

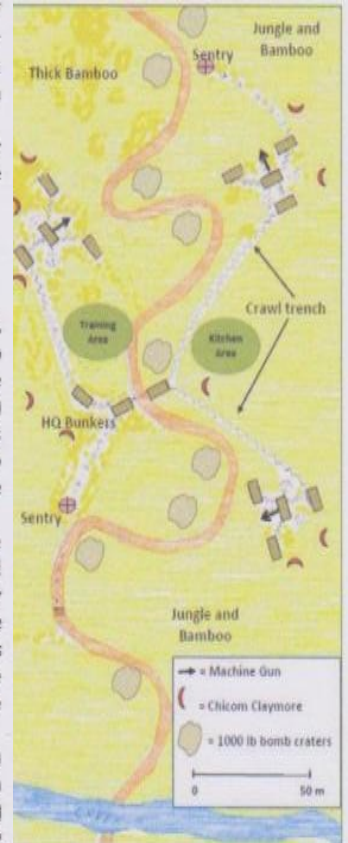
A pensive Lt PJ McAuley as 10 Platoon arrives on bunker ridge on 15 Jan 69  
AWM BUL/69/0015/VN



The following individual awards were made for Operation Goodwood and in some cases were combined with other operations:

- Military Cross: Maj EA Chitham, OC B Coy 9RAR; Maj WJ Reynolds OC B Coy 4RAR/NZ (see 16 Feb); Maj LG Williams (RNZIR), OC W Coy 4RAR/NZ.
- Medal of Gallantry: 2Lt BJ Sullivan, Tp Comd, B Sqn 1 Armd Regt (see 16 Feb).
- Distinguished Conduct Medal: Cpl M Gibson, Section Commander B Coy 4RAR/NZ (see 16 Feb).
- Military Medal: Cpl WL Brown, Medical Assistant B Coy 4RAR/NZ (see 16 Feb); Pte DJ Cromb, Forward Scout, 10 Platoon 9RAR (see 5 Jan); L Cpl AGS Ochiltree, Section Commander 8 Platoon 9RAR (see 14 Feb); Cpl ABP Rae, Medical Assistant A Coy 9RAR (see 10 and 18 Jan); L Cpl TR Whitton, Section Commander 12 Platoon 9RAR (see 24 Jan).
- Mentioned In Despatches: 2Lt I Jones, OC 9 Platoon 9RAR (see 19 Jan); WO2 R Richardson, CSM B Coy 4RAR/NZ (see 16 Feb); Maj WLH Smith, OC A Coy 9RAR (see 10 Jan).
- Commendation for Distinguished Service: 2Lt GR Locke, OC 6 Platoon 9RAR (see 21 Jan and 4 Feb).

Article from "A DUTY DONE". A summary of operations by the Royal Australian Regiment 1965-1972. By Lt Col (ret) Fred Fairhead.



## Anatomy of a Bunker System

The sketch is adapted from one prepared by Cpl JH McKay of a bunker system located by C Company 9RAR in January 1969. The two man bunkers, sited in depth and all round defence were mainly for protection against aerial bombardment with fighting done from behind or alongside the bunker. This allowed the extensive use of RPGs with back blast areas provided and fire lanes cleared on all approaches.

Each cluster of bunkers could be mutually supported by fire and reinforced through crawl trenches.

They were a formidable obstacle to overcome.

By courtesy of the 9RAR Association

## BOOK REVIEW

### The Defence of the Realm-The Authorized History of MI5

by Christopher Andrew

In 2009 MI5 celebrated its centenary & to mark the occasion a very thick tome was published giving the reader an inside look into the world of security, spying, counter intelligence & the like. It makes for a fascinating subject.

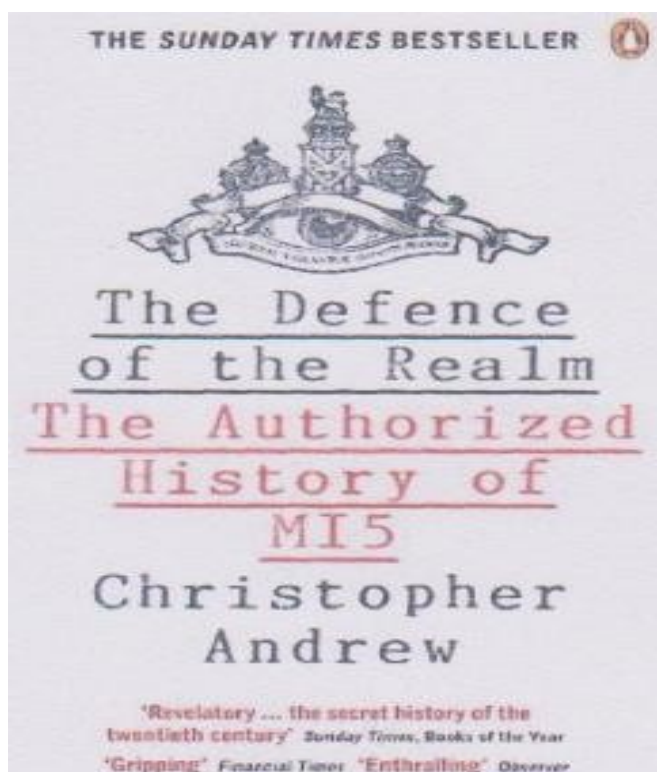
The author is Christopher Andrew, who has really done a marvelous job in wading through what must have been more files than you could read in your lifetime. Christopher was given free reign to wade through all archives unless they were active. His background is one of education being a professor of Modern & Contemporary History & former chair of the Faculty of History at Cambridge Uni. He is also the chair of the British Intelligence Study Group. He somehow found time to write 15 books & be a visiting professor at Harvard.

The amount of detail available to the reader is astonishing, but highly entertaining. The service first came to prominence in WW1 where they seemed to have the Kaiser's measure. Even in WW2 they were able to fool Hitler by 'running' the German security services via subterfuge & false information. It is a disadvantage of security work that the results are negative. That is to say the better it is carried out the less there is to show for it.

One comical point to me was P.M. Ramsey MacDonald had a distrust of security, he always kept it at arms length. He never knowingly met with MI5 or any of the security services. When he finally had to question a Major Malcolm Woolcombe head of S.I.S. he had him placed in an adjoining room. He then had an aide placed in the doorway to relay Q & A's. These bizarre proceedings continued & at no time did Major Woolcombe catch sight of the P.M.!

So complete was the disguise of where the British troops were through disinformation that even after D Day the Germans were convinced the main attack would come through Calais.

Another successful measure was to be able to fool the Germans as to the point of impact of the V1's & V2's. They in turn adjusted their aim which resulted in considerably less casualties. Later it was concluded that 1300 less had been killed & 10,000 less injured.



Many thanks to  
Barry for reading  
all the books for us  
so he can give us  
these book reviews!

## BOOK REVIEW cont.

Post WW2 the USSR were very aware of the things in the west, they had spies in most countries, however western intelligence had none inside their services. In fact 3 days after the Atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima the G.R.U. had details of the dropped bomb & 2 sample of Uranium. An enriched specimen & a thin deposit. This knowledge was gained from a defector who revealed a major ring in Canada & came close to unmasking Kim Philby. A month after Hiroshima, Soviet Intelligence had obtained documentary materials of the atomic bomb, technological process, drawings & calculations.

Gradually the west was able to meet the threat from the USSR, this was helped by a consolidation of the service. In the 80's the security services found themselves in 9 different buildings & apart from a main frame computer little had changed. However by the ingenious use of a single track railway, files were able to be moved around. Prior to this a fleet of vans were driving from building to building, many carrying classified documents. Many of these were urgently required & could be stuck in traffic jams.

The most effective way to counter the USSR's spying was to deny visas to some operatives & expel others. In total 105 were expelled which put them on the back foot. Until then there were so many intelligence officers that British security was swamped. A defector was able to point out those who were intelligence officers & they were expelled. An interesting point was that he also showed them a map with landing sites in north Yorkshire for soviet forces & paratroopers. This was stopped due to the expulsions.

The book continues through all the troubled period of the I.R.A. & onto the modern threats, basically it's never over, as Winston Churchill said "The further backwards you look, the further forward you can see"

A must read for anyone who enjoys the truth about what has happened in our lifetime.

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

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



## CATCHING UP WITH LONG LOST MATES

- “**Murf**” **Menzies** (avid news fiend) spotted on the Channel Ten News **Harry Birrell** being interviewed outside Buckingham Palace.
- It was great to see the former OC of Delta company **Bill McDonald** show up on ANZAC Day.
- **Jimmy Sillence** of 12 Platoon fame says he is picking up after some trials and tribulations since the government returned his licence, after a little misunderstanding about the need to register your vehicles.
- **Billy Reeds** is on a trip to the UK to visit the in laws of his child bride Yvonne. Also can you imagine the “quiet mannered” Billy as a Grandpa? His daughter Sharon has given Billy a grandson, Austin.
- Mean while **myself (Barney) and Helen** with 2 of our grandsons in tow were about to sit down for some fish & chips at the local shopping centre when a voice booms out “Barney”. It was my old B company mate **Cec Ebsworth** fresh from a knee reconstruction in Sydney with “the boss” visiting their daughter.

## SICK PARADE

- **Geoff Strawbridge** : No further advice if you here anything please advise the editor.
- **Danny Grimes**: Danny is in Flinders Hospital in Adelaide suffering from “GILLIAN BARRE” syndrome which has paralysed most of his body. He is taking calls on 0418-852-799.
- **Alan Chandler**: Alan advised he is out of hospital and now has had his colostomy bag removed and plumbing reconnected and is travelling OK.
- **Adrian ‘Stuart’ Hodgson**: Stuart, a REO to Barry Wakefield’s section in January 69 ( just in time to join them on “GOODWOOD” has been very ill. He has been in and out of Lyell McEwin Hospital in Adelaide with Pan Vasculitis, which has already led to amputations. “Stuart” was wounded in February so most of 4 Platoon cannot remember him. See further story regarding Stuart n page 8/9.



## **SICK PARADE: continued**

### **FROM STAN SUTHERLAND:**

To all the 9 RAR family and friends

This is the final report on my health as my treatment is now finished. I've been quite ill over the last few weeks having contracted pneumonia on top of all the other side effects associated with the chemo and daily doses of radiation etc. which hospitalised me for 2 weeks. I've been home from hospital for 8 days now and am getting stronger as each day passes. In the process I lost my appetite and sense of taste but these are now starting to return. All in all, I'm progressing very well and in the fullness of time I'm looking forward to the all clear from my doctor.

I'd like to thank you all for your kind words and support over the last couple of months. I really appreciate it.

Kind regards and cheers for now. Stan Sutherland.

**The latest from Stan, received not long before going to press:** I'm really travelling very well. I have to go to Melbourne on the 19th August for a PET scan but this is a post-treatment formality. My sense of taste has returned and since then I've put back a fair amount of the weight I initially lost simply because I'm able to eat again. The prognosis for the future is very good.

*WISHING A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO ALL*

Just the thing for all  
you old grunts out  
there to freshen up  
in the morning.

**I LOVE THE  
SMELL OF  
NAPALM IN THE  
MORNING!**



## SPRINGWOOD MARCH 8th AUGUST

The usual six 9RAR boys, including Jeremy Ferguson for the first time, were joined by diggers from other Battalions and one ex-Field Engineer on a warm sunny day for the parade through Springwood shopping centre.

The boys from "The Train" [ex Army, Navy and Air Force] forgot their banner so were forced to join us and bolstered our numbers to twenty four.

We proudly marched behind the Geoffrey Locke banner which was carried by Lachlan, a young local School Cadet who did a great job.

The only difficulty, for all those with crook knees, backs and hips, was trying to stay in step while having to hurdle the mounds of horse manure. All's well that ends well they say.

An important part of this parade is that the organisers invite the Vietnamese community to participate.

There were middle aged ladies in their beautifully coloured ao dais flowing in the breeze adding to the spectacle of the day.

The Guest of Honour was Lt Col Gary McKay who gave an insightful speech on the battle of Long Tan. Having written a book on the subject, he had done a lot of "behind the scenes" research and was able to inform us of some interesting facts and situations that weren't well known.

After the Ceremony we were invited to attend a function where free beers and snacks were put on.

Lorrae Desmond [the well known Vietnam era entertainer] and Senator Doug Cameron circulated among the crowd and were well received by all.

This event continues to get bigger and better each year and it should be noted that the organizers brought this year's event forward one week so that it did not clash with the official Vietnam Veterans' Day ceremonies.

I can highly recommend that you put this event in your calendar for next year.

Good weather, great company with free drinks and eats; you can't beat it.

**BELOW LEFT:** Tony Mullavey and granddaughter Kate Harrison carrying on the Family tradition of the Battalion. **BELOW RIGHT:** The new "Geoff Locke" banner gets an airing in the mountains with ring-ins from 5RAR. The hat of Jeremy Ferguson can be seen in the second row next to the little "BEACHBALL" Popie with the Snowy white hair of the grand old M60 gunner Bernie Fitzpatrick.



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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](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)



**PLEASE PAY YOUR FEES  
AND HELP US GIVE  
VICTORIA A FLYING START  
FOR THE NEXT REUNION.  
MAKE SURE YOU ARE  
FINANCIAL TODAY!**

**IF UNDELIVERED RETURN TO:**

**9 RAR Association NSW**

**PO BOX 253**

**Narrabeen NSW 2101**

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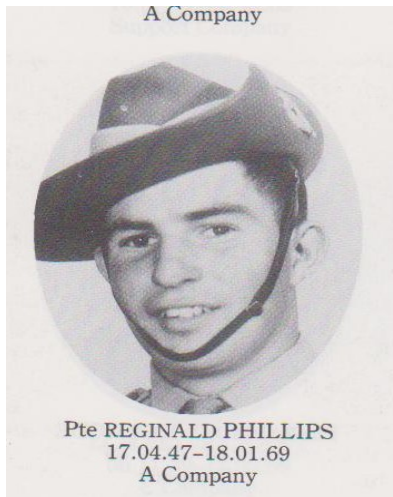
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## **“ROLL CALL”**

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

**SEPTEMBER 2013**

A Company



Pte REGINALD PHILLIPS  
17.04.47-18.01.69  
A Company

On 18 and 19 January, A and B Companies had a series of contacts with tragic outcomes. On 18 January 2 Platoon (2Lt AJ Daniels) was the point platoon moving into a company harbour when it was engaged by a VC squad (7) fatally wounding the Forward Scout (Pte RA Phillips) who was retrieved by the Company Medic (Cpl APP Rae). Early the next morning as the Platoon was retrieving Claymore Mines, an enemy group fired three RPG rounds into the Company position one of which landed in 2 Platoon's area; three men were killed including the Platoon Sergeant (Sgt JR Cock) and (Pte RM Key and Pte A Sykes) and five wounded including a Section Commander and a Section 2ic.