



9 RAR ROLL CALL!

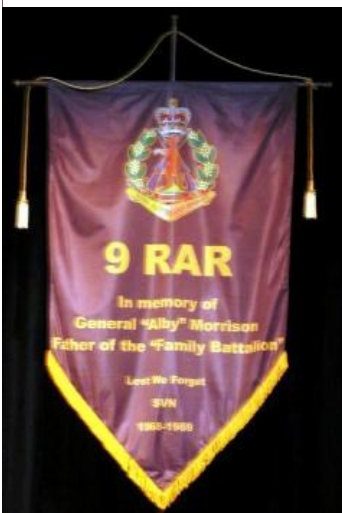
JOURNAL OF 9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)



September 2014

ISSUE 2 (2014)

NOT WHERE THE "F" ARE WE BUT WHO "TFRW"



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EDITOR'S REPORT

Time marches on and so have more of our comrades, unfortunately we are in that twilight period of our lives with more time behind us than in front of us.

Anzac day was a huge success despite the torrential downpours that had us all reminiscing about the 1500hrs monsoonal rains of the "WET" season in Vietnam.

We returned to the Windsor after missing 2013 when our bar was closed for renovations. The food was again up to a high standard thanks to SCHOIE's good negotiation skills. The improvements in the PA system was also an advantage.

Please take note of the information on next years Victorian Reunion. Stan Sutherland has supplied information on the costs that should allay some concerns over the venue costs etc.



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 thebigwood@bigpond.com



VALE: Noel Hamblion A Coy . 17th July 2014 : Bob Hannah B Coy . 15th August 2014



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"

Bob as us boys remembered him . He would appreciate this photo he loved a laugh.

Article courtesy of "Lois Lane" , as Noel called her, Britt Ramsey of the Nambucca Guardian
britt.ramsey@fairfaxmedia.com.au
www.nambuccaguardian.com.au



Noel lived life to the fullest

By LOIS LANE*

A MAN like Noel Hamblion shouldn't be forgotten. But doing justice to the life of someone who touched so many is no easy task.

We pay tribute to this great man following his death earlier this week.

Noel Laurence Hamblion, born in 1947, was certainly a loveable rogue.

He joined the Army when he was underage and the powers that be were none-the-wiser ... when they did find out, he had already turned 18. Noel served as a private between 1968 and 1969 in the Vietnam War.

He carried the signal set and was in charge of the communications between vehicles and helicopters and soldiers. As a result he carried twice the weight as his mates, the set up and his own rations pack.

Wife Helen said she's confident the commander gave him that job because he knew he had the nous, bush sense and great instincts.

"He could react in a second to save you from anything," Helen said. "It's something he's had all his life ... he was our rock."

He joined the Army to find that sense of

a home, and it taught him a lot about life and the skills needed to survive. He had a hard life, but certainly lived life to the fullest.

He married his soulmate Helen in 1971 and in '78, the pair moved to the Valley from Goulbourn. A bricklayer by trade, Noel retired early on a Veteran's pension and pursued his love of birds and fish. He took up fishing and was the founding member and president of the fishing club, even building the clubhouse at Shelly Beach.

He was president of the Nambucca Heads RSL club for 18 years and became the youngest ever life member of the RSL, and a life member of the sub-branch.

He once said "I couldn't live in a town without a football team", so Noel took on the role of president where he pushed to bring the Nambucca Roosters Football Club back to its feet. The success of the club over those three years was incredible ... three grand finals in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

In his later years, his children and grandchildren were his life.

"The kids called him Bop/Boppy, and they absolutely adored each other," Helen said. "Noel taught the kids so much about life, from how to tell the weather to how to kill a rooster, axe and all, and spent time

despite the aching limbs giving them piggy backs and playing on the floor."

If Noel was ever lost, no doubt you'd find him at the Sands, the pub he would frequent on a daily basis to have some beers with mates.

He would sit in the same seat every time ... if it was taken, he'd wait until the intruders were gone and settle right in. He called it his "office".

Noel's wife Helen, their children Kelly, Troy and Ben, in-laws Glen and Helen and grandchildren Isaac, Liam, Sophia and Jackson said losing someone so special is the hardest thing to go through.

"He was a pain in the ass, but, words cannot describe how much he will be missed," Helen said. "When you know someone is sick, you think you're going to cope when they're gone, but when the time comes it's devastating, and so surreal."

Noel's funeral will be at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Nambucca Heads, at 1pm tomorrow, and the family extends an invitation to those who knew and loved him to attend the service, before heading back to the 'office' for one last beer.

■ Noel only ever referred to *Guardian News* journalist Britt Ramsey as Lois.

VALE Continued:

Picture of the "OLD & BOLD"

from December 2007.

Left to right: Kiwi Gibbons
Barry Stalder Cec Zabielo,
Bob Hannah and Neil Roche



Hi Barney,

Pic as requested, funeral was yesterday, very good service, well attended, From the 9 RAR family there was John Prince, Lyle Orreal from Bathurst, Derek Nixon-Smith, Les and Judith Baynham from NSW, Ken "Bluey" Dorward from down near Mt Gambier SA, Rod Slater, Jim Kelly, John "Jack" and Jan English, Peter Cowan, John Leahy from Bundaberg, Ted Chitham and Kevin Lynch.

There were members of other units there and Sashes were presented to the family from 9 RAR, RAR and 8 RAR.

It was a very good service and Bob would have been proud.



The moat that surrounds the Tower of London has long stood empty and dry. But now, what may look like gushing blood from it's very walls, is actually something beautiful



This summer, the moat has been filled with 888,246 red ceramic poppies, one for each British and Colonial soldier who perished during World War I.

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

9RAR ASSOCIATION

Patron: Gen Peter Cosgrove AC, MC

Doug McGrath.



National President.

, Both Anzac Day and Vietnam Veteran's Day have been commemorated since our last edition of Roll Call.

I have marched in the Sydney Anzac Day March every year since I arrived home in 1970 and have only been wet three times. This year we were drowned! The heavens opened on us during the RAR Service at Regimental Square. I was soaked to the skin through my suit and my shoes took so much water I sloshed when I walked. Fortunately it abated and we were able to assemble the troops at the FUP without rain. Setting off in dry weather with a band in front, what could be better?

I was very proud to lead our march this year and with all three of our banners on display and seventy-five to eighty marchers on parade 9RAR was an impressive sight. My worst fears were realized as we strode down George Street to the strains of Waltzing Matilda and Raindrops keep falling on my head!

The New Windsor was a picture after the extensive renovations which prevented us from attending last year. It is now very well laid out, fortunately has much more seating which is convenient for the aged and infirmed of our family, has a very good in-built PA system and a very accommodating Chef who kept the food coming all afternoon. Our plans for the incorporation of the Association were presented to the members and voted unanimously during the AGM. The convivial atmosphere was enjoyed by well over two hundred who joined us on the day. The 9RAR Family was on display! This is such a special day and I always go home proud of what we have achieved in bringing our families together.

As you will see elsewhere in this edition we have had to farewell more of our warriors in recent times. This is always sad and we will miss them one and all.

Some may know that I am very involved with the Army Cadets particularly at Knox Grammar School. I was very proud to have both Generals Morrison and Cosgrove praise the cadets so highly for the excellence they displayed in the two separate Parades they presented which were reviewed by two of 9RAR's finest.

My best to you and yours,

9 RAR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

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THE OLD & BOLD AT THE AWM PLAQUE DEDICATION



MATES CORNER

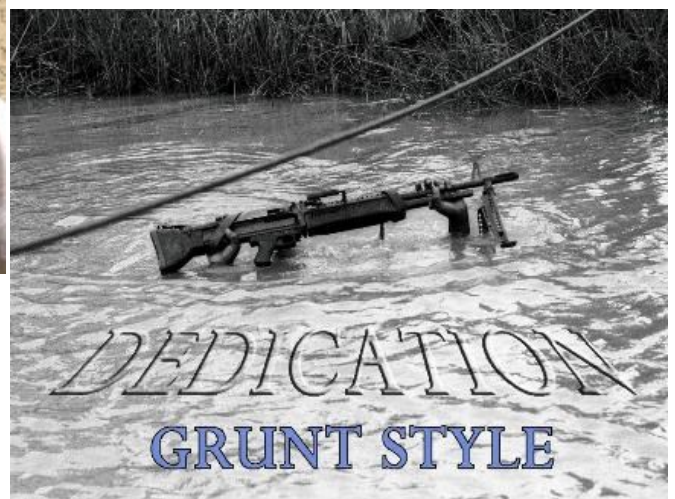
FROM THE JET SETTERS Pete & Di Nummy

Hi Rick and Doug

I had the great honour of visiting our National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux earlier this month I was able to find the grave of my Great Uncle (Roy Fluke). It was a very emotional day. We also visited Theipval Memorial for the British where Dianne was able to also find her Great Uncles (Ernest Sinclair) listed with the missing in action, Whilst we were there Ray Jackson a guy from Perth, read a poem he had written in memory of his father. I have attached a copy, I thought you might like to put into "Roll Call", Ray gave me permission to do so. I also added some photos of Di and I.

Regards

Peter



MATES CORNER

ROLLCALL SUBMISSIONS

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

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

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



FROM BILL PEASEY in the UK

Hi Rick

Hope that you are keeping well. So sorry for the delay in replying to your e-mail ref your proposed exhibit in the Vietnam Veterans Museum, but have had a few things on my mind over the last couple of months so communications have suffered a bit as a result. I do have a colour-slide photo of Bob Yule, 5 platoon B Coy who was KIA 11/05/69. He was my #2 on the Gun for a while. I may have another of Grant Scales somewhere so I'll rummage through my collection and see what I can find.

I had an email from some people from a film company here in UK reference a documentary that they want to make about British Veterans who fought in SVN. I'm still undecided as to whether I will take part in it or not. I actually enjoyed my time in Vietnam and I'm not sure that's what they want to hear. I did take part in a documentary for Channel 4 in the late eighties when I spent just over 3 years in Mozambique helping to train that country's Special Forces. It didn't come out the way I would have liked it to so am a bit wary on this occasion. Anyway, it's early days and I'm still thinking about it. I've got a mate here who is ex 6 RAR and I gave them his email so if he decides to go for it I may just tag along. Pity that Jim Riddle wouldn't get involved (I don't think so anyway) as that would make for a great documentary as he has got more than a story to tell.

Had a great ANZAC Day in London again this year. Took my partner, Gina, up this time and we spent most of our after-parade time in the bar with a currently serving Major in the RAE and his girlfriend/partner, a currently serving Squadron Leader in the RAAF. Absolutely top people and have an invite to the Officers Mess when we are in Australia next. Ran into Trevor Whitton, ex D coy, also but didn't talk to him too much as he had an invite to the do at Australia House, so he must have known someone in the upper echelons. I had the Australian Major take a picture of me and Trevor with my smartphone, with the intention of sending it on for inclusion in the next 'Roll Call', but am damned if I can find it anywhere. Officers...don't you just love 'em ?

Best wishes to you all over there. Am wishing my life away waiting for Nov 2015 Melbourne.

Regards

Bill P

MATES CORNER: Continued

Why Do You Cry

I stood in a field in a faraway land drawn to the spot but could not understand

What made me stop right next to this grave and what was this strange sad feeling it gave

Though there all alone I really felt a presence of someone and so I just knelt

It seemed I needed to sit in the cold and wait for something to me to be told

Why do you cry the young soldier said and why are you here in the field of the dead

His voice was so soft I hardly could hear and when I first looked there was nobody near

He looked like a shadow in his old uniform and it seemed to me he could never be warm

I knew in my mind he could not be real but it seemed his presence would help me to feel

What all people think where their loved ones

He asked me again and of mankind that I cried

I cry for the children the soldiers came over

I cry for those fathers went to war in a land

I cry for the mothers' every last one who watched as the war took their dearly loved son

I cry for the girl who lost her sweetheart as she waved him goodbye when they had to part

I cry for their friend who at home had to be as their mates went to war far over the sea

I cry for the man who lies in this ground not knowing if ever his body was found

I cry for the freedom this hero gave me and I cry that his knowing this never will be

I heard a soft sigh and his voice gently said this is my grave and though I am dead

You have found me and so I know I can rest happy to know we all gave our best

I then saw his eyes fill with tears so I said who you weep for young soldier now dead

As he faded away like I knew he would do his voice said my son my tears are for you.



when they come to see the place lie over the sea?

when I replied I said it was for all

that were never to be when all of the sea

who all had to stay as their sons far away

MATES CORNER: Continued

The Kirribilli RSL recently had a promotion by Joe Elkusch of a book, Dearest Geraldine, which is a reprint of letters from Norman M. Johnstone, an infantry soldier of the 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion to his sister Geraldine.

During the promotion, Joe had great words to say about infantry soldiers. Below is a quote that I reckon a lot of the 9RAR guys fit pretty well.

"The Australian infantryman is the quintessential 'soldier's soldier' : pragmatic, tough, tenacious, a true professional, proud of his skill at arms. He has a sardonic sense of humour, is intolerant of cock-ups and fools, irrespective of their rank but ready to give respect to those who earn it. He is endowed with a capacity for endurance of hardship and discomfort at levels known to only a few. Taciturn with strangers but at ease with his mates - prepared to risk his all for them and determined to complete the task in hand.....a man to be reckoned with by any measure."

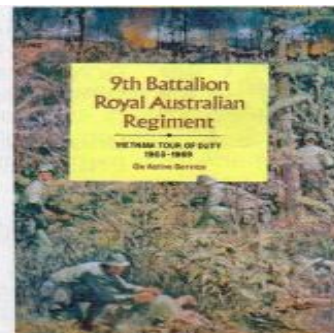
I know a few guys like that, and have the greatest admiration for them

Ross Richard. B Coy

The infantryman's tool of trade in Vietnam the SLR



Reprint of 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Vietnam Tour of Duty 1968-69 On Active Service



Details of the Reprinted Tour Book

The text and photographs of the original Tour Book have been scanned and then examined to ensure the scanned copy matches the original. No alterations have been made to the text or captions.

The reprinted book is a replica of the original book including the dust jacket, the brown hard case, section sewn and the original 295 pages. The only addition was the inclusion of 12 pages at the end of the book as appendices. The additional pages were:-

The two "Omissions" pages from the "9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Proud to Serve" published by Mr Brian Vickery.

A ten page "Index of Names" was created and included.

Each book is enclosed in a cardboard mailing carton to prevent damage.

Note: A new ISBN number had to be obtained.

Details of Sale Prices

The sale price is \$60.00 per book plus postage and handling.

The postage and handling rates are as follows:-

Brisbane area - 1 or 2 books - \$10.00
(this will be forwarded in their mailing cartons)

All other areas - 1 or 2 books - \$15.00
(includes interstate)
(this will be forwarded in a parcel post satchel)

All areas - 3 or more books - price according to weight
(this will be forwarded in a parcel post carton)

Examples:

Purchase 1 book delivered to Brisbane \$60.00 + \$10.00

Purchase 2 books delivered to Brisbane \$120.00+ \$10.00

Details of Purchase Methods

To purchase the 9 RAR Tour Book there are two ways of doing this:

1. Online via the Website:

Visit the 9 RAR Queensland website www.9rarqld.org and click on the Tour Book Reprint heading.

Click on the 9 RAR Tour Book Reprint Order Form.

Fill out the details on line and click "submit", and

then do a Direct Deposit of monies OR send a cheque or money order by mail.

2. Mail:

Fill out the Order Form at the back of this newsletter and then mail the Order Form with a cheque or money order

OR mail the Order Form and do a Direct Deposit of monies.

(If you need another form visit the 9 RAR Queensland website www.9rarqld.org and click on the Tour Book Reprint heading, click on the 9 RAR Tour Book Reprint Order Form PDF to download a PDF copy)

To make the payment:

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BSB: 803 205

Account Number: 20365969 (Defence Bank)

Reference: Ensure to include your Name and State. If you make a Direct Deposit please ensure you fill out the Order Form online or mail the Order Form back asap so they can be linked together.

Cheques and Money orders

Make them payable to

Nine RAR Association (Qld Br)

and post to

9 RAR Association (QLD)

PO Box 1221

STAFFORD CITY QLD 4053

A special account has been set up in the Defence Bank to account for all monies.

All monies for the purchase of books will be receipted and the receipt will be included with the book when posted out.

9th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment Association



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

9 RAR National 48th Anniversary and Commemoration Melbourne, Victoria 13 – 15 November, 2015

The cost to attend the 2015 Reunion and Commemoration is a key factor considered by the planning committee. For that reason each event in November 2015 has been planned separately, with no charge to attend the central event, the Remembrance Service at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 15 November.

For the other events, the planning committee wanted to ensure that the 2015 Reunion and Commemoration is truly memorable. It is unlikely that another national reunion will be held in Melbourne, given the advancing years of those who served with

9 RAR and with members of the 9 RAR family needing to travel from all over Australia to be in Melbourne in November 2015. The planning Committee needed to make the trip worthwhile. We could have done it cheaper if we'd gone to some pub or RSL in the suburbs for the Friday night Meet and Greet but then there would be additional travel costs for interstate visitors and we deemed the inconvenience and lesser quality experience to be simply not worth it.

National Gallery of Victoria

The NGV is recognised all over the world and is the venue we used in the first Melbourne reunion. It's centrally located and only a short walk from the vibrant Southbank precinct of the CBD, and is a first class venue for a full Battalion Assoc. Meet and Greet.

Reunion Dinner

The MCC Committee Room is one of Melbourne's premier venues. Pre-Dinner drinks, a beautiful three course meal, some drinks at dinner and entertainment by Normie Rowe and his band are all included and the setting is superb. Enjoying dinner looking out over the hallowed turf of the Melbourne Cricket Ground will provide a life-long memory.

Again, we worked hard to keep the cost at the lowest possible level. We could have found a venue in the suburbs at a cheaper rate but it would have perhaps come out at \$25.00 cheaper. Factor in the additional travel costs, the distance from the CBD, inconvenience and the inferior venue and consider whether the difference is worth it.

The cost to attend the key events in November 2015 is only a portion of the overall costs of the reunion when travel and accommodation is taken into account. Even if we set out to find lower quality venues and experiences the overall price difference wouldn't be that great. Remember, this is happening at the end of 2015 and prices of all activities and venues reflect that. The cost to attend all the key events will be \$289, or \$578 per couple.

Sunday Events

The central event – the Remembrance Service entails costs but there is no charge.

Whether we have the Sunday BBQ at Government House or in a park, there are substantial costs for catering, shelter, toilets etc. To get to Government House you simply walk across the road from the grounds of the Shrine. We couldn't have chosen a better venue.

Post Reunion Options

Optional events are offered with frills and no frills at \$15,\$35 and \$100 per person. In both cases the cost of transport is the most expensive item.

The visit to the National Sports Museum prior to dinner is entirely optional. We feel that if you're in the same building as the nation's premier sports museum, we should at least offer it as an option. Thousands of people visit it every year and anyone who's vaguely interested in sport will find it fascinating.

There will unfortunately always be people who find the cost of reunions quite onerous. Holding reunions every few years and giving people a list of functions paid for separately helps those of limited means plan with their budgets. Simply attending Friday night and the Shrine Service on Sunday allows someone to meet everyone else, renew friendships and participate in the essential commemorative event which is at the centre of the reunion.

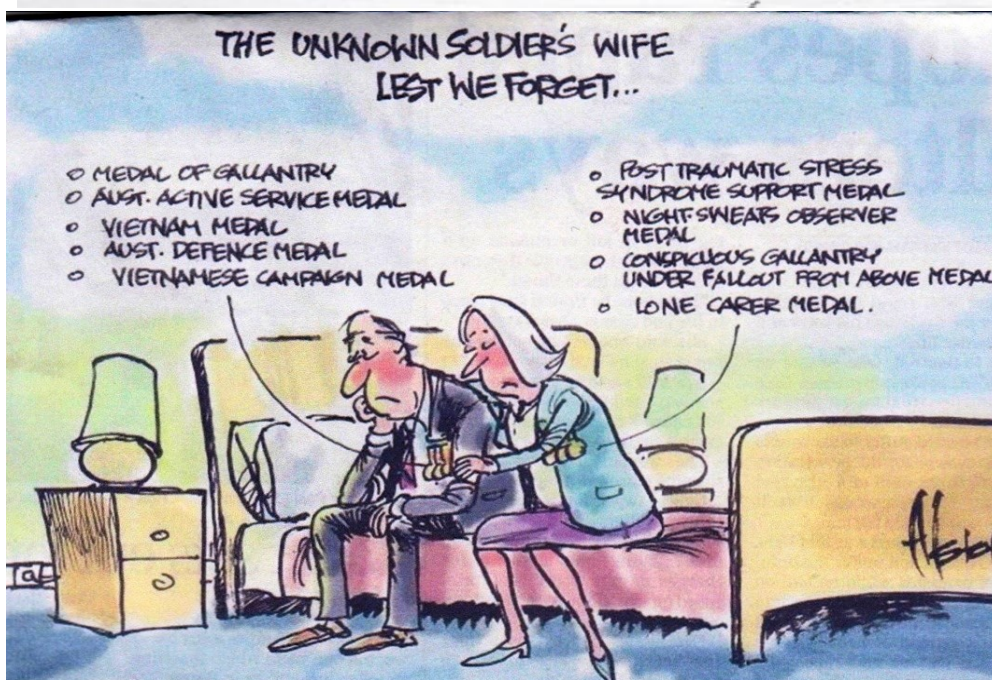
Costs associated with a national reunion are not limited to meals and drinks and have to be addressed and scrutinised wherever possible, in the interests of our members, this we have done.

Reunion Planning Committee.

Thank God For Military Wives- Past, Present and Future

Remember the medals Governments gave to hang on our chests?
 The bastards should have given some to our Sheilas' who were the best
 Now I know the term is not politically correct but it's a compliment, dead set
 By Sheilas' I mean those wonderful true blue partners and wives
 It was such women who followed the beat of the drum for much of their lives
 They were our loyal devoted mates in thick and thin
 During many goodbyes they made brave faces with forced grins
 They kept the home fires burning, trying to be happy, never sad
 As well as being a loving Mum, they were also good old Dad
 How many times did a grass widow toss and turn in a half filled bed
 After news of a battle, wondering if a loved one was alive or dead
 How many of their girlfriends did they comfort when there was bad news
 As it is in the game of soldiering, there were quite a few
 Don't forget the old married quarters the system was generous to give
 For which we paid rent and only the homeless if rent free would want to live
 Struth, even recent refugees refused to set up home where we once lived

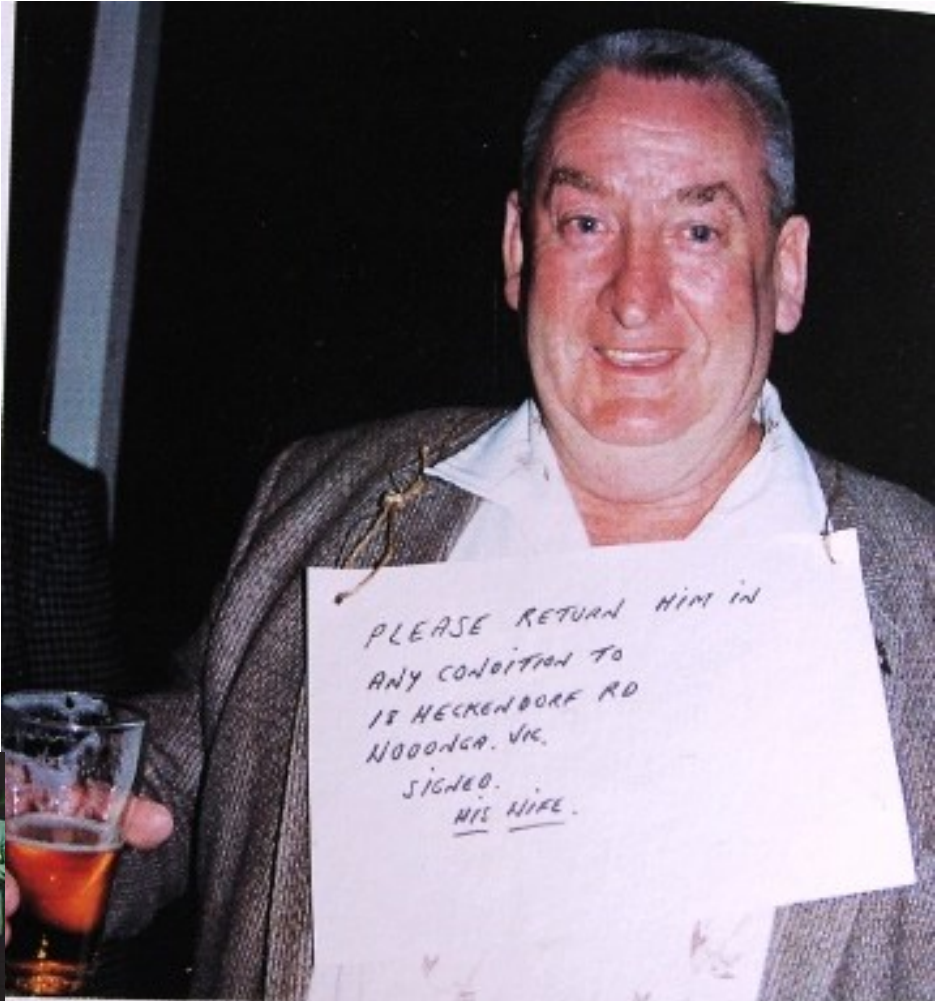
Today, that military super that retired Regulars are paid
 Has been eroded quicker than old soldiers do fade
 Is it any wonder blokes worry about an aging wife
 If she is left behind, alone and to battle in what's left of life
 They have concern how their dearest mate will get by
 Given reduced super for widows based on the CPI
 Just 5/8ths of bugger all, no matter how hard widows try
 Perhaps in a future life, our girls should capture Politicians as pets
 Cos their widows get a very good slice of the kitty and are very well set
 Meanwhile in Canberra, to the feeding trough has been another stampede
 With unanimous agreement for new allowances to sate the Pollys' greed
 Yet despite pre- election promises, the Senate ignored a fair go for soldiers' needs
 It knocked back a bill for equal and fair indexation for those who had served
 After all, they claimed the CPI is sound and what soldiers deserve
 Let there be no doubt that regardless of Canberra Suits and others
 We'll never give up the Fair Go fight for all sisters and brothers
 George Mansford April 2012



THE SGT MICK CREDLIN APPRECIATION PAGE



Mick and his men outside Baria in 2 RAR in 1968



10 Platoon SGT Mick Credlin was a fair hand with a compass in the Jungles of South Vietnam but Lesley the wife thought his directional skills at home in Australia were somewhat challenged



SGT MICK hard at work defending Australia on the radio with his loyal troops

MERCHANDISE: Plenty of stock

SEPTEMBER 2014



CAPS \$25



HATS \$90 Complete with badges & pugaree

MEDAL BOXES engraved \$60 plain \$50



ALL TEE SHIRTS \$28.00

ALL items plus postage & Packing.



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

Merchandise sales will help next years Victorian Reunion . Please Support us to Support



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"9RAR Association NSW"

9RAR Association NSW

19 Ingram Ave, Milperra NSW2214

BOOK REVIEW: Cpl Barry Wakefield.

The Crossroads by Mark Donaldson, VC

Mark Donaldson was awarded the Victoria Cross after an action in Afghanistan in 2008, this was the first V.C. awarded since Keith Payne in Vietnam in 1969.

Mark's father had served in Vietnam thereby providing another link 'to our generation' the book is remarkable for several reasons, the first is that it's his first, (& i hope not his last), it is very readable, informative & brutally frank.

I believe the action for which he was awarded the VC was so outstanding that if it were to be put into a film no-one would believe it, saying it was too far-fetched. This was to be his 3rd trip to Afghanistan with the SAS & they were deployed in a 'hot' area where US troops would act as bait & the SAS would ambush the Taliban fighters. Everything went according to plan with 13 enemy fighters taken out plus 2 vehicles.

After spending the night at the Forward Operational Base they asked the Americans if they could do anything else while waiting for their transport. The US troops said that a certain valley, known as the Ana Kalay Valley was a no go area past a certain point. The SAS suggested a similar operation to the previous one; however this time Mark's patrol would also be part of the bait. Some walked the 12k's into position the night before while Mark was part of a 5 vehicle convoy with Aussies, Americans, & Afghans numbering nearly 40. They set out the following day; their movement drove about 7 Taliban fighters into the SAS patrol, which cleaned them up.

At this stage the SAS were happy to lie up & return the next day but the US troops were very keen to get back to base before nightfall. As they did they were ambushed, rounds were flying in, plus RPG's. Mark's was the last vehicle & in a short time they realised they were surrounded & they were taking casualties. An air strike bought them some time & by moving around the vehicles as they drove they tried to extricate themselves from the valley. As this was happening a round passed through Mark's trousers; as they moved so did the enemy. As all this was going on an Afghan interpreter was hit & slumped into the dust. Risking his own life Mark raced out under fire & rescued him, it was a hugely brave thing to do & very risky.

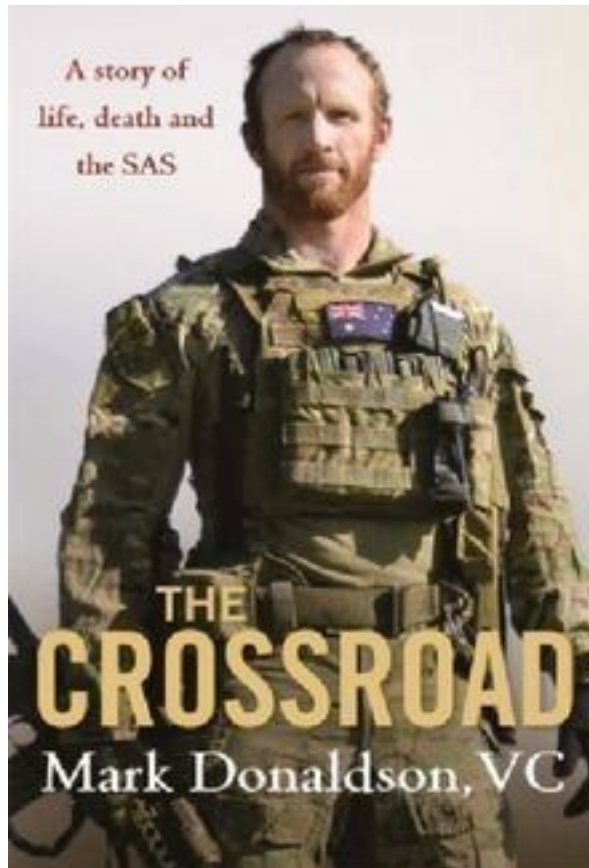
They had called in further air-strikes with the Dutch flying over at several thousand metres & claimed they couldn't see any contact. So no help there then!.

Eventually they were able to extricate themselves but the details are all

in this excellent book.

Mark's early life was perhaps early training for the army with his father taking him out into the bush for shooting & fishing lessons & for general bush craft. Sadly his father died suddenly leaving a huge hole in his life. How was to come later when his mother disappeared, never been found. He was 19 at the time & the man who had shown an interest in his mother was suspected but he committed suicide. It was after this that Mark started to go wild, getting into many scrapes & becoming known to police, mainly for stupid things.

He discovered surfing & later snowboarding, travelling to Canada & the USA. Later at Thredbo he met someone who had been in the SBS (Special Boat Squadron) with the

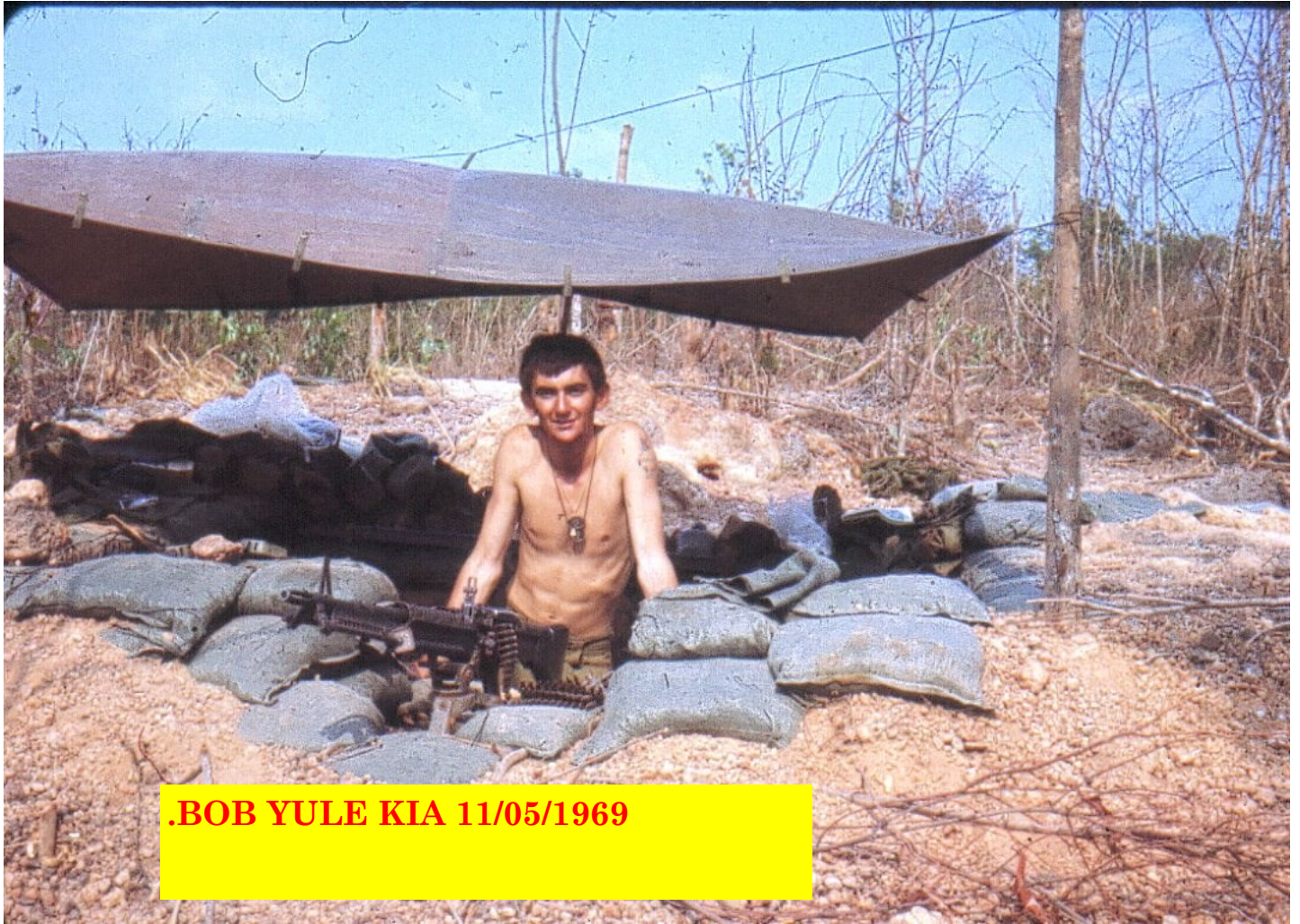


Royal Navy. It was he who sparked an interest in Special Forces. He started training seriously to get fit to pass the test to get into the army, which he did. Having passed all the basic training he ended up in 1 RAR & even got to go to Hawaii to train with the Green Berets. Later he was accepted into the SAS.

The Governor-General Quentin Bryce actually pinned the medal on Mark's chest at Government House 16th Jan 2009, later that year he gave it to the War Memorial so that it could be on display for all Australians. He felt that was the right thing to do. Later he would meet with the Queen & lay a wreath at Westminster Abbey.

This book was entertaining & a joy to read. For those who take the plunge & get a copy, good reading. Barry Wakefield

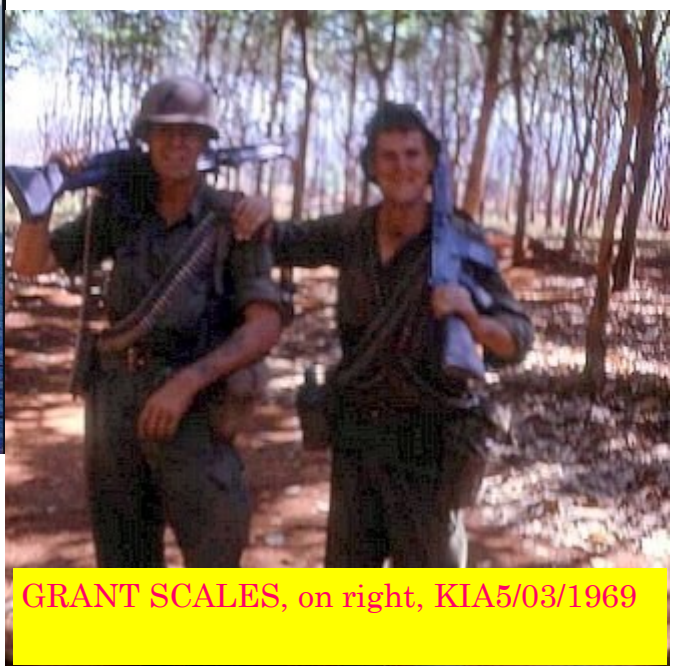
Some of our KIA as we and their families remember them:



.BOB YULE KIA 11/05/1969



MAL McCONACHY, on right, KIA 8/02/1969



GRANT SCALES, on right, KIA 5/03/1969



KEVIN PRIOR, on right. KIA 2/10/1969



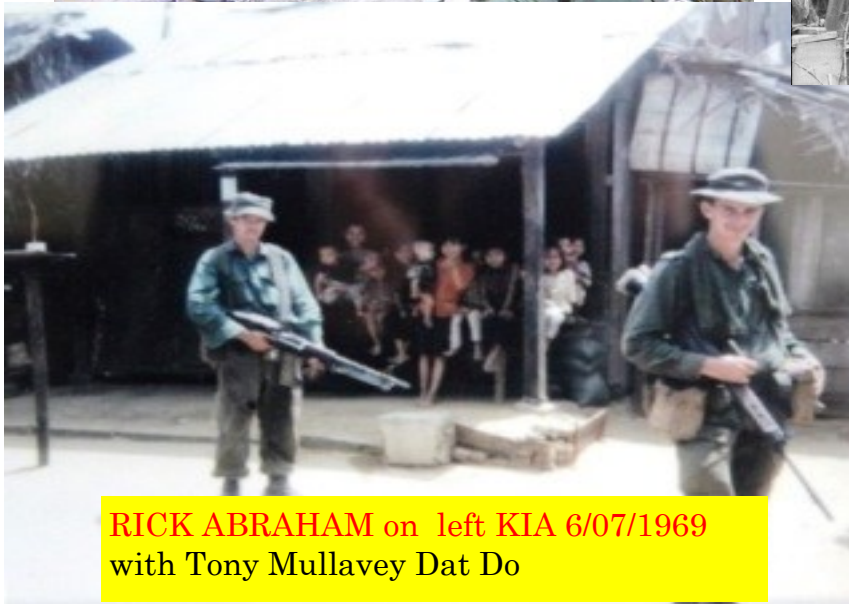
**TREVOR BLACK KIA
8/04/1969**



Bernie Fitzpatrick, Billy Morris **GARY ARCHER KIA 4/02/1969**, Terry Moore, Ian Lygoe and Ted Bennett.



**MARTIN BINK, standing.
KIA 5/11/1969**



**BRIAN "JOCK" RENNIE
KIA 7/09/1969 . Jock on left
with giggle hat with Len
Ellcombe responding to an
attempted ambush from
D440 enemy .**

**RICK ABRAHAM on left KIA 6/07/1969
with Tony Mullavey Dat Do**

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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