



9RAR Roll Call



JOURNAL OF 9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW) : Issue 1, March 2017

Australian Vietnam Veterans Honour Roll

www.vietnamveteranshonourroll.com

Wounded Heroes Australia

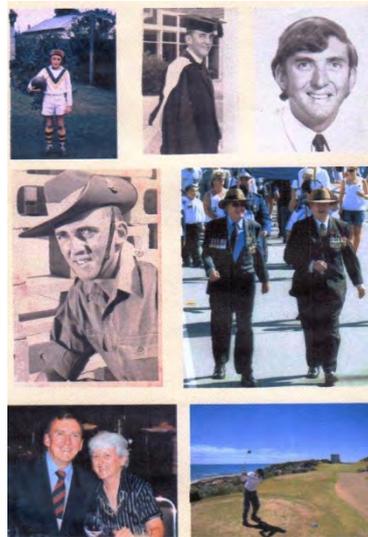
www.woundedheroes.org.au

Aussie Defense Force Trackers & War Dogs Association Inc

www.aussietrackers.org

Veteran Retreats around Australia

veteranretreat.tripod.com/retreats.htm



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Gary Mayer, 9RAR Association co-founder

Feature

Long Tan 50th
Anniversary Report



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Editor's Report

The earth seems to be travelling around the sun faster as we age, where has the last 12 months gone. The highlight as featured in the last edition was the return of one of ours, Gary Archer, from a foreign grave to rest forever in Australian soil.

Another year with more of our battalion "marching on" the sad loss of an original like Garry Mayer highlighted the brotherhood we share with many travelling interstate to personally farewell a comrade.

Most of us old soldiers admit we could not have survived without the support of a loving partner who guided us through dark moments and renewed our purpose in life. None of us thought our partners would predecease us. However when such an event occurred prior to Xmas last year when the bubbly personality of Cheryl Mullavey was cut short the rallying of old diggers to support Tony and his family put a special meaning to our motto "THE FAMILY BATTALION". The battalion tie was there along with the wives to show respect to a woman who had done so much through "the wives of Vietnam Veterans Association" to support other women understand their men.

Barney

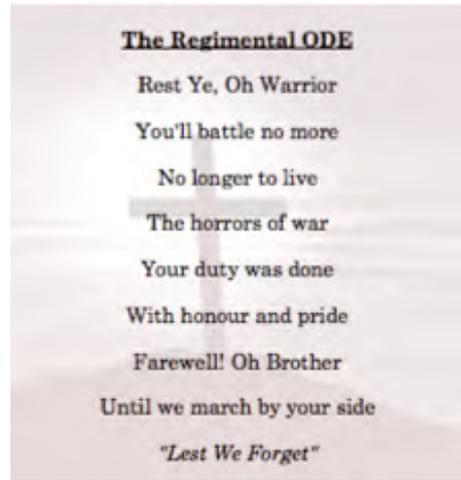


The sails of the Sydney Opera House will be ablaze with poppies to honour the fallen for Remembrance Day. More than 60,000 Australians fell in World War One, with 156,000 wounded or taken prisoner. What are your plans to mark the moment the guns were silenced: 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, November 1918.

VALE

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of some of our former comrades in arms. Our heart go out to their families and friends as we extend our most sincere condolences.

Frederick Crawford, 3RAR (Korea and beyond)
 Cheryl Mullavey
 Tony Eaton, Charlie Coy
 Brigadier Neil Weekes, AM MC
 Christopher Golsby, 9RAR



Left: Cheryl Mullavey. Below: Mick Shave waxes eloquent on Tommy Eaton

Cheryl had had been in remission from cancer for about fourteen years and suffered a relapse two weeks before her death in December, 2016. Tony is renowned for his activities at the St Mary's Sub-Branch and The Train while Cheryl was just as heavily involved in the Ladies' Auxiliary and The Wives of Veterans program. This photo Cheryl travelled Vietnam with Tony and all the way home again. Like Cheryl this photo has been through all the good and hard times with Tony. For those who had no commitments back in Australia in 1969 Tony would share all the news from home that Cheryl would send him. She also arranged and mailed some garden secateurs for our forward scouts so quiet progress could be made



Michael Shave

2 hrs · 2

Tommy Eaton's dead. Just got the word from Frank Chambers. He was a good man in the bush. One of those National Servicemen who commanded infantry sections at war. Tom was left handed and carried his m16 upside down - one assumes to avoid the ejected cartridges. Despite this cumbersome carriage he killed a number of the opposition. Tom was a good bloke. He was a friend - a mate. Now he will be sitting at the festive board with others of his ilk, my ilk, drinking and eating and fighting. I do not believe he would want to Rest in Peace. You went well old friend. Save me a place. Because we're alive, And because we can, Let's lift our glass to the fighting man Of The Royal Australian Regiment.

GARRY MAYER

As Christmas fades into memory and a new year beckons, I can't help but reflect on Garry Mayer's passing and farewell. Those of us honoured to call Garry our friend, greeted the sad news of his passing with mixed emotions. The deep sadness associated with the loss of someone we cared for mixed with the sense of relief that his suffering was over. What a long and protracted fight he had fought and finally lost.

To think of Garry was to think of a thoughtful considerate, capable man. A man of compassion who was never rushed or flustered but always in control. A caring man to those he was close to and those he chose to help. 9RAR is indebted to Garry for his contribution across three states. Few have been so widely respected and admired. He is a huge loss.

His farewell service was a fitting tribute to his life. All who participated did so with dignity and compassion and collectively presented a service befitting so great a personality. The 9RAR family rallied in numbers and Brian Hamilton, Dan Penman, Brian Vickery and Peter Cosgrove all made outstanding contributions to the service. It was a proud day for 9RAR and for Jan, despite her immeasurable sense of loss. Her final words, which I list below, resonated long after the chapel was cleared.

" Strong of mind
Pure of heart
A beautiful man
A thorough gentleman
Loved by all."



FREDERICK WILLIAM CRAWFORD

Passed away peacefully on 3rd November 2016. Aged 83 years. Beloved Husband of Mary for 62 years. Loving Son of Lieutenant Hercules and Agnes Crawford (both dec'd). Brother of Joan and Hercules (both dec'd) and Brother-in-law of Jill. Proud Uncle of Natasha and Matt, Leigh and Leanne and Great-Uncle of Connor, Georgia, Chelsea and Owen.

Fred served in A Coy as Platoon Sergeant, 3 Platoon. He was wounded in action in Vietnam on 10 Jan 1969 and returned to Australia on 28 Jan 69. After Korea he served in 16 National Service Battalion at Woodside followed by active service with 3 RAR in Malaya 1957-1959. Before 9RAR he was posted to Battle Wing JTC. After being wounded in the left forearm on 10 Jan 1969 he lost the use of some fingers on that hand and was medically downgraded and his last posting was with a CMF unit as part of their ARA cadre.

Fred has lived at Southport on the Gold Coast for the last 30 years or so. He never joined any 9 RAR association or attended any 9 RAR reunions that I am aware of apart from a small gathering of ex A Coy members at Canungra a few years ago.

Ninth Battalion (NSW) The Royal Australian Regiment Association (Inc)
Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on 25 April 2017 at the Windsor Hotel, Cnr. Park & Castlereagh Sts. Sydney at 13:00.

The business of the meeting will be;

- (a) to confirm the minutes of the last AGM.
- (b) to receive reports of activities of the Association during the last year.
- (c) to elect office bearers and ordinary committee members of the Association.
- (d) to receive and consider the statement of income and expenditure for the previous financial year.

Eric Pope
Secretary.

Ninth Battalion (NSW) The Royal Australian Regiment Association (Inc)

Nomination form for positions of committee members for 2017/2018

We, the undersigned, nominate
We state that we are financial members of Ninth Battalion (NSW), The Royal Australian Regiment Association (Inc) and are entitled to nominate the nominee for the position. Note; two members must nominate the nominee.

Signed.....

Signed.....

Date.....

This form when completed must be returned to the Honorary Secretary via email to ericpope@bigpond.com or by mail to Eric Pope 9 Ingram Ave. Milperra NSW 2214 before 30 March 2017.



9RAR ASSOCIATION

**Patron: His Excellency General the Honourable
Sir Peter Cosgrove (Ret'd) AK, MC**

Doug McGrath.

National President

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From The President's Pen.

Anzac Day

With Anzac Day upon us I find myself to in awe of the actions of our forbears 100 years before in places like Ypres and Passchendaele in Europe and Gaza, Fallujah and Beersheba in the Middle East. In these brutal battles the Australian soldiers displayed the same character seen earlier at Gallipoli, Fromelles, Pozieres and the Somme. This sacrifice and bravery continued to forge our fledgling nation's identity, the Anzac tradition as we now know it and which has continued through the various conflicts to the modern day.

The aftermath of these conflicts, the human cost, not only to those serving but those at home, is still with us today.

The families and community for 100 years, have had to deal with the loss of a loved one or the return of someone, so affected by their experiences, to be changed forever.

The affect of war service is far more reaching, than just on those who served. As a community, we need to play our role to help those returning from recent conflicts assimilate into a caring environment. As a veteran community, we understand better than most and as such have greater responsibility to help. The suicide rate among modern veterans is terrifyingly high. We must do anything we can to stop this.

The March

As with last year, the March will go down Elizabeth Street, finishing in Liverpool St at the southern end of Hyde Park

Reunion/AGM

As has been the case for many years now, we will gather for our post –March conviviality at the New Windsor Hotel in Park Street. Here we will conduct our AGM, enjoy each other's company and some light food will be provided free of charge by the association. There will be merchandise on sale and raffles from which we need to recoup some of our costs.

This will be the last time at the Windsor. Sadly, the Hotel is to be demolished as part of the Light Rail project so we are on the lookout for a new home for 2018.

Passing Out Parade:

The past few months has seen the list on the Passing Out Parade grow. Good men, warriors all, their duty done.. They leave behind family, friends and the wider 9RAR family, proud of their contribution, a loss to us all.

I cannot attend all such services but in December I was among a strong 9RAR contingent to farewell Cheryl Mullavey, Tony's beautiful wife in an emotional, uplifting and dignified service. RIP Mrs Mullavey.

A week later the 9RAR family was in attendance again to farewell Garry Mayer, one of 9RAR's most loved members. Conducted on the Sunshine Coast in Qld many flew in, included Peter and Lynne Cosgrove. The service documented the life of a very special Australian. Peter spoke beautifully of Garry's time as his Sig, Brian Hamilton and Dan Penman were superb in their presentations and Garry's partner Jan summed up these tributes with a succinct poem.

If there is such a thing, both these funerals were beautiful events, celebrating the lives of these two special members of our family as they were farewelled from this life in tribute.

50th Anniversary Reunion

The Adelaide committee have been working overtime to provide a wonderful program to celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

If you intend going but haven't booked, please do so to avoid disappointment.

I look forward to saying hello on the 25th.

Cheers,

Doug

9RAR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

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FEES PAYABLE

Hello all,

Anzac Day is just around the corner and that is the day that Membership Fees become due.

On the left top corner of the address label is your six digit membership number.

On the right top corner of the address label is the year that your membership is due to be paid.

Some peoples' membership fees have been paid in advance [to a future year, e g 2018] while others have fallen into arrears [e g 2016 or earlier].

Please check the year shown on your address label and if it falls into the latter category please pay your fees urgently. If you disagree with the year shown please give me a call so that we can sort the matter out [02 9774 5113].

PAYMENT METHODS

You can send a cheque or Postal Note made out to 9RAR Association NSW to me at 19 Ingram Ave, Milperra, NSW, 2214 with a note showing your name and address.

You can make a deposit into our bank account by personally visiting your bank or (preferably) Westpac and depositing the money into our account:

Bank: Westpac Branch: Northbridge BSB: 032 199 Account No: 184 308

Be sure to use your six digit membership number as the reference/auxiliary serial number.

If you are cleverer with your computer than I am with mine (most people are) you can do a Bank Transfer from your bank account to our bank account (same details as above). This time you can use your name as reference. And while you are on the computer please send me an email (ericpope@bigpond.com) advising me of the transfer (date and amount). This will enable me to reconcile your payment with the Treasurer's accounts.

DONATIONS

Almost half of our members joined this Association many years ago and paid for a lifetime membership of \$200. Some are feeling guilty knowing that they have paid an average of \$10 per year while the current fees are \$25 per year and would like to make a "donation" to cover their fair share of increases in the cost of producing and posting the Roll Call magazine.

So, if you would like to make a donation (say \$50 or \$100) the Payment Methods above apply and I thank you in anticipation. Unfortunately donations to this Association are not tax deductible.

Membership Fees are \$25 for ONE YEAR, \$65 for THREE YEARS or \$200 for TEN YEARS.

Regards,
Eric Pope

SYDNEY ANZAC DAY MARCH: FORM UP POINT

The same as last year, hence the map is unchanged apart from the date.



LONG TAN 50th ANNIVERSARY

Report by Darryl "Smurf" Menzies

Following is "Smurf's" report on the debacle that was the visit to the Long Tan Cross on the 50th Anniversary last year. There have been a few words circulating via email about the Long Tan site being closed to Veterans on the 50th Anniversary.

I would like to just add my slant on what occurred. They are merely based on my observations as a visitor and there may be facts, which I was not privy to.

On Thursday afternoon 17th August I was in Vung Tau with Trevor Sheahan and our small group for a tour to Long Tan, Nui Dat and to attend the Gala Ball at the Pullman Hotel on the night of the 18th.

We had heard rumours in the afternoon that the Vietnamese Government was going to close the site on the 18th. It was most disappointing news as I had travelled to Vietnam for the first time since the War and it will most likely be my last. Everyone in our group were extremely disappointed and the rumour was confirmed by the arrival of channel 7's Nick McCallum to interview veterans at the bar where we were, to pick up tickets for the Gala Ball.

It was never our (our groups) intention to attend the planned Memorial service at around 3.30pm at Long Tan and until then it had never occurred to me that around 2-3000 vets and their families would be attending. I had never seen the site but had seen some photos from the Internet.

Having now made it to the site, I can say that whoever was organizing the memorial service had no concept of the logistics involved had the Vietnamese Government let it all go ahead. The Australian Government officials in Vietnam don't seem to have had any contact with the Veterans living in Vung Tau who were doing most of the organizing. Everybody seemed to be doing his or her own thing independently. Or that's the way it appeared.

The Vietnamese Governments timing in cancelling the event was absolutely way out of line and although we have no control on how a foreign Government conduct their business the effect it had on visiting veterans was absolutely devastating and gut wrenching.

There were some hastily arranged talks between the Australian Ambassador and the Vietnamese Government officials in Vung Tau. At around 5pm on the evening of the 17th and, resulting from that, we were advised by Nick McCallum, that restricted access would be allowed to the site the following day. One of the concessions made were that there would be no media allowed, even near the surrounding area.

So, Thursday the 18th we decided to get an early start. Interviewed again by Ch. 7's Nick McCallum before we left. Arriving at the main entry about 10.30am., there was already a line of Busses and Vans plus some cars. Trevor approached the DFAT staff and registered our wish to join the queue. There were about 3-4 Police on duty and a large contingent of DFAT and DVA staff on hand. We waited about 25minutes before our turn came. Our DFAT escort briefed us. Each vehicle had to have a DFAT officer as escort at all times. Absolutely no photographs were to be taken. If the Police saw anyone taking photos the site would be closed. The staging area was about 1Km in from the main road. We would have 15 minutes at the site. (or so we thought). Just after 11 am we were called and made our way to the second staging point, which was along a narrow dirt road where we had to wait another 30 minutes and were shuffled around in the queue of cars and one bus. (There was only room for one Bus, which had to back up a side road).

There were more police at this staging area and a lot of officials in plain clothes. Our escort left us for a short time and I was able to discretely take a couple of quick area shots, as we were some distance from the intersection.

Finally our turn came and we were driven the final 500metres or so to the entry to the Long Tan pathway. Again we waited another 10 minutes before finally being told we could alight the van. 'You have 2 minutes' we were told as our escort accompanied us to the actual site.

All the old rubber trees were removed a long time ago and replaced with tapioca plants. They were pulled up apparently, and new rubber planted and doing well until about a year ago when they were pulled up again and replaced with tapioca and corn once again. The site is actually on a farmers land and he had grown his corn right up to the edge of the pathway on both sides. Guess he's not too happy about the Cross, and the approximately 10-12 square meters of his land that is not useable. We walked the 100 or so meters to the site and there we paid our respects to those who had died here on that day. I recited the Ode and we left.

Having accomplished what I had come for (although it would have been nice to memorialise my trip with some photos) we respected the officials wishes and left after 2 minutes, bearing in mind those waiting outside for their turn. After visiting the School and Kindy at the old Luscombe field we returned to Vung Tau. By that time as access had been granted it became no longer news worthy and Channel 7 no longer contacted us for follow up.



The next event was also extremely disappointing, the Gala Dinner. Held in the conference center attached to the Pullman Hotel, the night started by looking promising as the room looked fantastic. All white tables and the beer and wine flowed. The buffet food was terrific and although the queues were long it took only 5 minutes to get your fill and tuck in. What spoiled the night were the exclusion on speeches and the ban on any form of entertainment. One person was allowed to inform the guests of what was going on and the background music was of such a low volume that it was inaudible. By 10 pm our socializing had run its course and I called it quits. This lay fairly on the shoulders of the Vietnamese Government due to the short notice of the cancellation. All in all the whole concept of a big commemoration for the 50th Anniversary of Long Tan was frustratingly devastating and a complete disaster.

To summarise the main points,

1. There was no way that Long Tan could have accommodated the expected 2-3000 visitors. The roads in the surrounding area would not have been able to cope with large busses and vans. Controlling this would have been a nightmare. The solution of small groups of 100 or less worked to a point but it was extremely badly organized, or should I say hastily organized but at least only a few of the last Busses were apparently excluded and we did cross paths with one bus load who just gave up and returned to Vung Tau. Perhaps only those Veterans directly involved in the battle should have been given preference to be at the site at around 3.30pm. The reduced numbers would have been more accommodating. The remainder could have and should have visited early in the morning.
2. The Australian Government is partly to blame for this fiasco. They should have known that a large contingent of veterans would attend the 50th in country and therefore they should have been more involved in the commemoration and perhaps this may have been avoided.
3. The Vietnamese Government must accept the bulk of the blame for the cancelling of the event at such short notice and while it is still under the control of a communist mentality, we are powerless to change their way of thinking. It seems that they have long and unforgiving memories of getting their 'arses' kicked at the battle of Long Tan and it seems that we shall have to wait until the current regime is replaced with younger and more moderate officials. However that, unfortunately, will be too late for many of us to witness.

See the following links for lots of photos from the trip.

Saigon: <https://goo.gl/photos/GEfsz2k8273RYBvP8>

Mekong Delta: <https://goo.gl/photos/gfVpvf2URMZjNLPX8>

Hong Quange Orphanage: <https://goo.gl/photos/bCTn1UhfhFFaze459>

Long Tan, Nui Dat: <https://goo.gl/photos/h32adLnp2zJNFnYf8>

Vung Tau: <https://goo.gl/photos/aZD7H5ZTuGYwx73w6>

1 RTB - 31 Platoon: Volunteers needed

Recently Col Schofield was in touch with Lieutenant KJ Craven (31 Plt, D Coy, 1st RTB) with regards to members of our very own 9RAR Battalion supporting new recruits/graduates. Below appears the reply from Lieutenant Craven to Col. This is the perfect opportunity for the Association to get in touch with the current generation of infantrymen, by talking to the March Out classes at Kapooka Barracks (Wagga Wagga, NSW). If you are interested or want to volunteer please email Col: cschofield1@optusnet.com.au.



Sir,

Thank you for getting in touch with me, I appreciate 9 RAR Association's and your support as we put recruits through initial training.

The following are the key milestones for the current reserve platoon (17 Jan - 25 Mar 17) that we have in training:

- LF 6 Summative Assessment - 13 Mar 17
- Bayonet Assault Course - 14 Mar 17
- The Section Challenge - 21 Mar 17
- The Platoon March out parade - 24 Mar 17

The events listed above are perfect occasions when affiliate support would be greatly appreciated and there is the opportunity for direct interaction with the recruits.

If there is a date that would suit a member from your association briefing the platoon (on your association, its history, challenges faced and providing context/ reasons for difficult combat orientated training) please let me know.

I will request 1 RTB to adjust the training program to suit your availability.

The other Platoon raise that is confirmed for 31 PL this year is:

1. ARMY FULL-TIME: 11 Apr - 03 Jul 17

The Platoon March out parade for this course will be on the Fri 30 Jun 17. Once the timetable is released closer to the raise date, I can send an update of key dates. During the week leading up to the March out parade would be a perfect time to brief the platoons if there are any particular days or dates that would best suit a member from your association.

I look forward to continual correspondence with you and hopefully some scheduled interaction between members form 9 RAR Association and the recruits.

Regards,

KJ Craven

Lieutenant
31 Platoon
Delta Company
1st Recruit Training Battalion

Ext. 38170

Image courtesy of www.army.gov.au



Australian Vietnam Veterans Honour Roll

Australian Vietnam Statistics

Compiled by Haydn Madigan, 9RAR Vietnam Nov 68 - May 69

How Did Soldiers Die

Battle Casualty: 274
Accidental: 46
Friendly Fire: 39
Medical: 44
Mines: 102
Murdered: 11
Civilians: 7

Casualties State by State

NSW: 193
Vic: 101
Qld: 88
WA: 56
SA: 56
Tas: 14
ACT: 6
NT: 1

Casualties by Unit

1RAR: 54
2RAR: 32
3RAR: 31
4RAR: 21
5RAR: 54
6RAR: 50
7RAR: 38
8RAR: 17
9RAR: 35
ARU: 9
SAS: 4
AATTV: 29
RAE: 49
RAAF: 20
RAAC: 23
RAIC: 16
RAA: 8
RAN: 8
RASigs: 7
RAAOC: 4
RAAMC: 1
RAEME: 1
RAANC: 1
AIC: 1
Press: 4
Civilians: 3

Place of Birth

Australia: 471
Canada: 1
England: 12
Falkland Islands: 1
Germany: 9
Holland: 4
Ireland: 2
Italy: 2
Latvia: 1
Norway: 1
Scotland: 14
Wales: 1
Ukraine: 1
USSR: 1

Deaths by Month

January: 44
February: 63
March: 37
April: 39
May: 60
June: 48
July: 45
August: 51
September: 26
October: 34
November: 36
December: 41

Countries, Number of Deaths in Vietnam

South Vietnam 300,000
USA 58,286
South Korea 5,099
Australia 521
Thailand 351
New Zealand 37
Philippines 9
North Vietnamese & VC > 1,100,000
China 1,446
Soviet Union 16

All statistics from this website: <http://www.vietnamveteranshonourroll.com/index.htm>

INFANTRYMAN'S LUNCH, ONCE A MONTH (SYDNEY)

When: 1st Thursday of every month

Where: Royal Automobile Club, Macquarie St, Sydney (near Circular Quay)

Dress: Conservative (trousers and Jacket, with tie optional)

Organisers: Mick Shave and Dave Jeffery

STAN THE RAM: A Yarn by Mick Shave

A little bit of history: When I was stationed at Enoggera, as a young platoon sergeant with 9 RAR a Merino ram was offered, and accepted, as a battalion mascot. The diggers called him Stan. The brigade RSM of the time was outraged because he viewed our adoption of Stan as a direct and improper play on his surname, which was Lamb. And, of course, being as bald as a coot the diggers called him Curly. As I recall, Stan was a lively, ill disciplined beast with little respect for the niceties of service life, hence:

When Stan-the-Ram met Curly Lamb a fracas did ensue.
 For Curly stood beside the road just outside BHQ.
 His Sam Brown belt so shiny, his pace-stick 'neath one arm,
 The RSM of our brigade was used to war's alarm.
 But Stan, although a raw recruit and barely chewing grass,
 Unimpressed by Curly, charged and knocked him on his arse.
 It's contact rear cried Curly, as he struggled to his feet,
 Turned about with arms akimbo his assailant for to meet.
 Meanwhile, Stan's poor handler looked ready to desert
 Cos Stan-the-Ram whilst in his care had Curly eating dirt.
 I guess he felt embarrassed, which was natural, wouldn't you,
 If involved in such a fracas outside of BHQ?
 Your questions are but natural, and in answer I can swear,
 As these events unfolded I was marching off the square.
 Having just dismissed defaulters, I was feeling rather mean
 But my despondency was lifted by that bloody, glorious scene.
 And in the mess that evening rang out laughter clear and loud,
 For I'd told them all my story, and of Stan we felt quite proud.
 There was Sutherland and Massingham, and Peter Cowan too
 And Tim Daly called Jock Gordon from his room, well, wouldn't you?
 And when Jock heard my story he poured port into a glass
 And we drank a toast to Stanley putting Curly on his arse.



AND THEY CALLED US "BABY KILLERS"

Contrary to the widespread misinformation spread by those of the Moratorium Movement of the sixties and seventies the Aussie diggers loved interacting with the village kids. "Uncle" Mick Credlin's compassion continued after Australia's involvement ended. When "Operation Baby Lift" began, just before the fall of Saigon, he got involved helping the orphans.



BERRY St. Babies Home is getting ready for the first Vietnamese war orphans to come to Melbourne.

And Sgt. Mick Credlin, who served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970, helped prepare wards for the children yesterday.

No one is sure when the orphans will arrive — or how many.

The Berry St home is ready for 36, but can handle up to 45.

The children — to be placed with Victorian families — arrived in Sydney at the weekend.

They will fill a nursery decorated with posters of happy, healthy Asian youngsters.

Fifteen nurses and six soldiers from the 3rd Military District yesterday set up cots and folded a seemingly endless supply of nappies.



MICK CREDLIN AND HIS SYDNEY SPODES CHECK SOUND. 12 PLOTON DELTA COY 2 RGR, 1968, SOUTH VIETNAM. PHOTO TAKEN OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF TRANG BOM AFTER THE ENEMY HERE EVICTED BY 12 PLOTON WITH NO LOSS TO OUR MEN

PHOTO TAKEN BY JOHN (BLUE) ROGERS WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION ON 10 FEB 1968 IN BIAH NHO PROVINCE. THE PHOTO WAS GIVEN TO MICK ON 22 MAR 2014 AT TIM CUSCLIFFES MEMORIAL SERVICE IN ORANGE AT THE REQUEST OF BLUE'S FAMILY.

The Sun NEWS-FICTORIAL
 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SALES: 37-42 St. George St. Sydney, N.S.W. 2000
 655,570* Average daily sale (Monday week)
 54 Pages
 TUESDAY CITY FORECAST: High, low, wind, rain, sun, etc. (Page 2)
 THE Victorian suspended four...
 Charge of...
OUTS four
SAIGON OFF-ON TO BABYLIFTS
Viets bow to pleas for visas
Another jet
SAIGON, Mon., AAP. — The Saigon...
SAIGON KIRSTEN is an Aussie
DADE PHOTO ON PAGE 11

PAINTING: TASK FORCE VIETNAM by Brian Woods



This amazing painting shows many aspects of the Vietnam War in one image. To read the full details on it and to see a biography of the author please go to the following link. It is a fascinating read.

<https://www.airforceshop.com.au/features/v50detail.html>

KOREAN WAR HONOUR ROLL QUILT

NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS MEMORIAL CEMETERY KOREA

I am writing to you on behalf of Mrs. Olwyn Green OAM concerning the Korean War Honour Roll Quilt.

Mrs. Green is the widow of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Hercules Green DSO, Silver Star (United States) who died of wounds during the 1950-1953 Korean War. Mrs Green commissioned the Quilt to honour all Australian servicemen who lost their lives defending the freedom of the Republic of Korea during that conflict. In Mrs Green's own words, she intended the Korean War Honour Roll quilt to "tell a story, and to honour those who made the supreme sacrifice, especially in a critical time in the Korean War."

The Quilt was designed by Australian textile artist Meredith Rowe. Its hand-dyed fabric and thread was inspired by Korean Buddhism. It was hand-stitched - over a period of at least 200 hours - by the 'Sit and Sew' group in rural Coleraine, Victoria. There is a legal framework surrounding the Korean War Honour Roll Quilt, protecting its ownership and its designer's Intellectual Property. The quilters have asked only that their role in its creation and development be acknowledged.

As the above image shows, the Quilt has three sections: an upper part that features the topography of Gapyeong (Kapyong), site of one of the most important battles for Australian soldiers during the Korean War. Its middle portion contains some of the notes of the Last Post. Its lower part records the names of the 340 Australian men who died during the Korean War.

Dr Alexander Norman, grandson of Lt. Col Green and Mrs Green says:

"The Quilt has always struck me as a symbol of sacrifice, both in the obvious sense that it details the names of the dead but also because of the less obvious sacrifice of time given by the quilt designer and the quilters. The metaphor of the thread is itself a particularly poignant one, given the socio-political ties between Australia and Korea that have developed over the past sixty years. The thread ties memory to practice, and in particular it ties the sacrifices of those dead and alive to the place and to the people it creates and who create it.

This is what makes the topographic dimension of the Quilt so important; it is not only about remembering people who have been lost but also about remembering places that continue.” The Quilt was launched in Grafton NSW on 27 July 2003, timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. Since then, this beautiful object has been displayed at a number of locations in Australia: the Australian War Memorial, the Shrine of Remembrance in Victoria, and the Army Infantry Museum, Lone Pine Barracks, Singleton. The Quilt has now travelled to the Republic of Korea. Its first exhibition in that country, at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery Korea in Busan, opened on 25 October 2016. The cemetery, where rest the dead of the 16 countries that made up the UN force in the Korean War, is an appropriate place for the Korean War Honour Roll Quilt that acknowledges the Australian contingent who lost their lives. Here the quilt will speak to the world in a memorable, artistic way of service and sacrifice.

Mrs. Green would like to acknowledge and thank certain Koreans and Australians instrumental in the Quilt’s move to the Republic of Korea, especially those of the Embassy of Korea in Australia, the Embassy of Australia in Seoul, the UNMCK at Busan, and those who created the wonderful display case for the Quilt. Mrs Green would like in particular to thank Koreans (in Korea and in Australia) for expressing their gratitude for Australia’s war support, by on-going commemorative events, not only in Australia but in Korea too. Korea’s ultimate gesture is to open its arms to the Korean War Honour Roll Quilt.

It would be helpful if this important account of the Quilt’s journey to its current resting place in Korea could be passed on to other interested organisations and individuals.

We are currently in the process of writing a detailed history of the Korean War Honour Roll Quilt. We intend to submit this material to relevant publications for consideration. In the meantime should you have any questions about the Quilt please feel free to contact me leslie_obrien@yahoo.com and/or Mrs Green’s daughter Anthea Green at antheagreen@ozemail.com.au.



Korean War Honour Roll Quilt hanging in the Australian Embassy in Seoul, Republic of Korea

JOHN MONASH, RESTORING THE SPIRIT OF THE ANZACS

The following article was published by The Australian on 8 November, 2016. It was written by Tim Fischer, a former Australian Army second lieutenant, veteran of FSB Coral and Leader of the National Party.



AUSTRALIAN Lieutenant-General John Monash played a key role in turning the Allies' fortunes in World War I, yet is overlooked by history. Monash, the Australian Army corps commander, made a huge contribution to victory at Hamel on the Western Front with his holistic battle method. This was followed by the Battle of Amiens, then on to Mont St Quentin and beyond.

"Monash was, according to the testimony of those who knew well his genius for war and what he accomplished by it, the most resourceful general in the whole British Army," wrote British prime minister Lloyd George. Anthony Eden, the PM after Winston Churchill, reputedly said of Monash: "There was no greater soldier in World War I."

Field marshal Bernard Montgomery said that if Monash had replaced Haig as commander-in-chief in early 1917, "World War I would have ended one year earlier".

Monash went ashore at Gallipoli one day after the first landings, learned much during the disastrous Dardanelles campaign and August offensive, and repaired to Egypt for retraining in December 1915. On April 25, 1916, the brigade commander initiated the first field Anzac Day service. Then it was on to the Western Front and the dreadful stalemates that dominated 1916 and 1917. It was not until July 1918 that he was given command and orders to conduct a battle from start to finish.

A thousand soldiers from the 33rd Division of the US Army swept into battle alongside 7000 Australians on July 4, 1918, at Le Hamel to take the village and surrounding plateau from the German army. Not only did it represent precision in battle, it was a turning point. Tanks were inserted with platoons for the first time. The artillery barrage was precisely coordinated to protect the infantry, and battle orders were explained up and down the chain of command.

Monash wrote in his diary that if all went to plan, the battle would take 90 minutes. In fact, it took 93 minutes, and far fewer casualties than expected. Never again did the German army move forward. They were broken in spirit and broken apart on the ground. After Amiens on August 8, the German leaders sought terms for an armistice. Within three months the war was over.

Monash is rarely recognised as our greatest general. He was Jewish, of Prussian descent, a colonial and too old for some. But the main reason was because he was not the product of a military academy. He should have been Australia's first field marshal.

Prime minister Billy Hughes denied him promotion to full general in late 1918. Monash resented being kept down the scale after all he had done. And now he is airbrushed or too often spun out of the history of Australia.

When asked to lead a coup during the Depression, he gave a firm no, adding: "There is not too much wrong with Australia that the ballot box and good education will not fix."

Monash deserves a higher place in the history of this nation. The Government can confer retrospective promotion, an option that should be considered between now and 2015 or 2018, key World War I anniversaries.

See the story "Monash: The Forgotten ANZAC" on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/AGkRJHJ5juI>

MATES CORNER

ROLL CALL SUBMISSIONS

If you have some interesting news or humorous anecdotes about the 9RAR Family please send it to us for submission.

Barney (Rick) Bigwood: barneybig@live.com.au

or

Emma Bigwood: emmabigwood75@ gmail.com



REUNION: 5 Platoon B Company

5 Plt B Coy recently had a reunion at Sussex Inlet. See the link for more photos.



<https://goo.gl/photos/QwUp34GLdkduCC1m6>

BRIAN "JOCK" RENNIE

Once again the power of the WORLD WIDE WEB led to the finding of another NOK of one of our KIA, Brian "Jock" Rennie". Martin Rennie, a young lad when our Jock was in Vietnam, was "surfing" the internet on Vietnam to see if he could find anything of interest regarding his brother when he came across Barney Bigwood's web page and a photo of Jock. He made contact with Barney, bought one of his books and laughed as he read about his wild Glaswegian brothers antics.



SICK PARADE

JACK TRICE

Dear D Coy, 10 Platoon and Coordinator 2017 Reunion,

I was speaking to Black Jack a couple of hours ago after Doug Cromb tried to contact him. Jack turned 80 last Thursday and it was also the 60th Anniversary of his marriage to June. Neither of them has been well this year with both spending time in hospital. Jack only returned to their home at American River on Kangaroo Island today.

As some of you will be aware they have been fighting Telstra for about half a decade. The current situation is: Mobile phone. It is still 0409 541 708 BUT it does not work at home!!!

Their latest email address is blackjakt@aussiebb.com.au (the third this year!) Their postal address remains PO BOX 107, AMERICA RIVER, SA, 5221.

Kind regards, Adrian Craig (08 8263 4784)

MAL SPICE

Mal Spice, the Nambucca Kid, is still getting treatment for cancer on his head, has had 3 major skin grafts but is feeling OK.

OUR INTREPID EDITOR "BARNEY" BIGWOOD

I am still getting treatment for prostate cancer. A mate from my time in 4 RAR/NZ in 1969, Kevin Lloyd-Thomas, saved my life by insisting I get a second opinion after my doctor said she only relies on the PSA test. Second opinion diagnosed stage 4 aggressive prostate cancer. I have had great support from Bill Peasy and Des Blazely both fellow prostate cancer victims.

REMEMBER INSIST ON DIGITAL EXAM.

BILLY REEDS

Living in God's country in Tweed Heads and is travelling OK (he must be as argumentative as ever the little prick). Still fishing.

FROM KEV LYNCH:

WATTO is in Brisbane receiving some more treatment, he sounds good and we had a great laugh.

Spoke with **BRIAN MOONEY**, he's having troubles with his leg and very restrictive movement, seems ok otherwise.

PETER WRAITH and I had a long chat, he's doing well, his wife had some serious health issues over recent years but now very well.

JOHN LEAHY travels with a smile as usual, back problems restrict him getting around.

TERRY GODDE is traveling well.

CHERYL MULLAVEY

After lunch on Thursday 24th of November last year I rang Tony Mullavey to talk about “Young Billy Reeds” one of 2 Section 10 Platoon as he, along with a few of us, are in a dance with the big “C”. Tony was driving and a cheeky Cheryl (Tony’s childhood sweetheart) answered and started giving it to me. It was then that I found out she had suffered a relapse of her cancer she had beaten 14 years earlier. They were on the way for more tests. A week later she passed away. There were about 11 9RAR members present to support Tony and his family. A testament to Cheryl’s worth were the mourners in excess of 300. Cheryl had been a tireless supporter of the Nepean Wives of Vietnam Veterans. A mentor to the young girls of her home town Bathurst and the best of partners to Tony. She will be sadly missed.

FROM ALAN ROACH, C Coy

Morning All,

We probably all remember Lithgow, but I was not aware of some of these details. Found it pretty interesting. To those that I haven’t had contact with for a bit, hope all is well ‘with you & yours’.

Regards, Al

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/HqP3jNReCQg?rel=0>

Note from the Editor : An interesting history of Lithgow Small Arms Factory home to the Legendary 303 and SLR.

R.I.P. JOHN MALONEY

A mate of mine has just died. We served together in the same platoon for two years. Once, when ambling along a track through a rain forest in South Vietnam - following my mate, I noticed a snake coiled in the undergrowth. Now this mate of mine was as deaf as a post so to get his attention I had to tap his shoulder then, as you do, I lobbed a stick at the snake. You can imagine our shocked surprise when the bloody thing uncoiled to catapult itself with velocity through the air; it shot between us. I remember that day because it was also my birthday. Well, so far as I know, science has always maintained the impossibility of flying snakes, and every time we got together I would urge him to make public our shared experience. But he wouldn't. And now he's dead. And nobody is ever going to believe me.

John, old Mate, I loved you.

From Mick Shave

REUNION: 9RAR Assault Pioneer Platoon

The Assault Pioneer Platoon had a reunion in Nambucca Heads in November 2016. Des Blazely (Blaze) attended and sent in these photos. *Photo below left* shows RSL President Bill Shepherd and Pastor Ross Duncan ready to officiate. Note the 9RAR Aslt Pnr Pl flag suspended on the cenotaph fence in the background. The RSL hosted the Platoon with refreshments inside the Club afterwards. Blaze noted that it was “a very hospitable town and club for any reunion”.



Blaze also said the following: Just a little story about the Reunion hosts, Arnie Junge and his partner Kaye Morris, neither of whom are in the group photos at the Nambucca Heads RSL Remembrance Day Service. Arnie's Mum is an active 97, lives alone in Melbourne, has terminal cancer and was widowed 10 years ago. Each winter she heads away from winter to Nambucca Heads and shares residences between Arnie and his brother. Mum was going to stay thru the reunion period with Arnie's brother but he had to go away on business a couple of days into the reunion so she moved in with Arnie and Kaye.

Both Arnie and Kaye went down with food poisoning on 9 Nov and Kaye was bedridden on the 10th. Arnie was fit enough to check on things at the White Albatross Caravan Park in the afternoon when he received a call that Mum had fallen and couldn't get up. Result: Hostess in bed. Host suffering but surviving. Mum in Coffs Harbour with a broken hip.

However, doctors plated and pinned Mum's hip and she was up and about in 3 days albeit saying that the pain was worse than her previously broken pelvis. Kaye and Arnie recovered in time for the Farewell Dinner on Sun 13th. *See photo above right.*

Gee there are some great people around, the Mums, the doctors, our mates and special friends.

Right: the wives at the Reunion.



THE LIFE AND TIME OF PRIVATE GRUNT, D Coy 9th Battalion



In the sweaty, humid oppressive weather of 1969 in South Vietnam Australian troops like their ANZAC forebears sought ways to relieve the tedium of base life in the Nui Dat Task force area. The battalions would be in the jungles and bamboo forests of Phouc Tuy and neighbouring provinces for up to 6 weeks at a time. They would then be brought back to Nui Dat, usually for only a week, to replenish ammunition, replace damaged and destroyed equipment and clothing. It was during this week in their tented

community that various activities and schemes were thought up for amusement.

Various pets soon came to also co exist with these young mischievous soldiers. One such pet was Private Grunt. When he was a little piglet he was "liberated" from the village of Dat Do by 11 Platoon stalwarts led by Bruno Adamczyk . This little mite was smuggled back into camp in the back of a combat back pack. Once safely in the 11 Platoon lines the boys set about constructing a suitable refuge for him. They "borrowed" sheet metal, wire, pots and pans from the cook house and other areas around the 9th Battalion task force area.

It was soon discovered that Private "Grunt" was an escape artist and he would wander into all the tents of the company. He had a great life and prospered, growing fat on the scraps provided by the Sgt Cook Ray Stanley and lovingly manicured by "Moogles", the company driver who would care for him while the Company was out on Operations.



Trouble came towards the end of the Ninth Battalion's Tour of Duty in South Vietnam in the form of a Brigadier. Sandy Pearson, who had been the Task Force Commander for all of the battalion's tour, was rotated home to Australia and a replacement arrived. Unfortunately he decided to inspect all Battalion and other Arms allocated base areas within Nui Dat. It was upon his inspection of Delta Company that this event occurred as all the troops were painting their trunks and preparing all their "kit" to be sent back to Australia.

Now one of the characters of Delta Company was Len Scrivener. Len hails from the back blocks of country Queensland with the voice and demeanour of the laconic stockman. Just as the new Brigadier entered Len's tent Private Grunt with his dog tags jangling and sporting a nice coat of yellow paint (courtesy of Len when Grunt made a nuisance of himself while Len was painting his trunk) entered from the back doorway through the sand bags. Brigadier: "WHAT THE F*** is that?" Len's response: "THATS PRIVATE GRUNT, SIR!!"

The brigadier issued orders that pet animals were to be destroyed. So it was many ducks, monkeys, dogs (not including our tracker dogs) and of course Private Grunt met their demise. It fell to Captain Mick Bawdin the task of despatching our pig. Now that pig was pretty smart and



took forever to round him up. Sergeant Stanley the cook was urging Mick Bawdin not to let him run around as it would effect the quality of the meat. Finally Mick's trusty 9mm pistol was fired the first and only time in Vietnam and Private Grunt suffered the indignity of being strung up in the company kitchen to be bled out, slaughtered and eventually barbequed.

Story by Barney Bigwood. Photos supplied by Barney Bigwood

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Mr Warren Stickens: w_stickens@hotmail.com or 0409-151-614

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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 31 October 1973 when it merged with 8 RAR to become the 8th/9th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (8/9RAR). 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 the Vietnam War lists the OC A Coy Major W. McDonald had his MID (Mentioned in Dispatches) upgraded to a Medal of Gallantry and 2nd Lieutenant Geoffrey Locke was awarded a Commendation for Distinguished Service.

We're on the web. Find us at:

www.9rar.org.au



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