



9RAR Roll Call



JOURNAL OF 9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW) : Issue 1, April 2018

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Entrance to Cheers, post-March venue

Change of Venue After March

See inside for details

9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW) CONTACTS

MEMBERSHIPS & CORRESPONDENCE: Eric Pope
ericpope@bigpond.com or phone (02) 9774-5113

ROLL CALL: C/- Barney (Rick) Bigwood
barneybig@live.com.au or phone 0488-727-475

EDITOR'S REPORT

What a sad start to 2018 , we have lost some great comrades and characters. For me 2 in particular. Terry "Noddy" Jones who was in my section in 10 Platoon. I had an email after the last issue of "Roll Call" from Terry's son Jaessen. He informed me that his Dad had passed in August but wanted no fuss. Noddy asked him for a private cremation, no service and scatter his ashes across Lake Macquarie which Jaesson did. I will remember him this ANZAC Day. Below is a pic of Noddy on far right, 2 Section 10 Platoon.

I also felt personal loss with the passing of "Jimmy" Riddle from 12Plt D Coy. Jim an ex British Royal Marine before joining the Australian Army so he could fight in Vietnam. He ended up serving in excess of 700 days with service in 4 RAR (2 tours), commanding the controversial 2nd D&E platoon, then 9 RAR, then 8 RAR and 1 ARU.

We have a growing RAP list as age does weary us survivors. Doug Cromb and Eric Pope are the latest to battle the BIG C. Keep in touch with our brothers from different mothers and support each other. See you all on ANZAC DAY.

Barney

**FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR**

As both Doug and Barney have mentioned, the number of members that we are losing seems to be increasing. Every time I put together an edition of Roll Call I am saddened to see all the members that I list in the Vale section. This time it was more personal for me, with the passing of Barry Wakefield. He was such a great support to me in this role and I was very upset when I read of his passing. Thank you for everything Barry. Rest easy soldier, your duty is done. Finally a special thank you to Popeye, who has ably taken on the Book Reviewer title for me.



VALE

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

Jim Riddle, 4RAR/9RAR/8RAR

Terry 'Noddy' Jones

Nev Taylor 8Plt C Coy

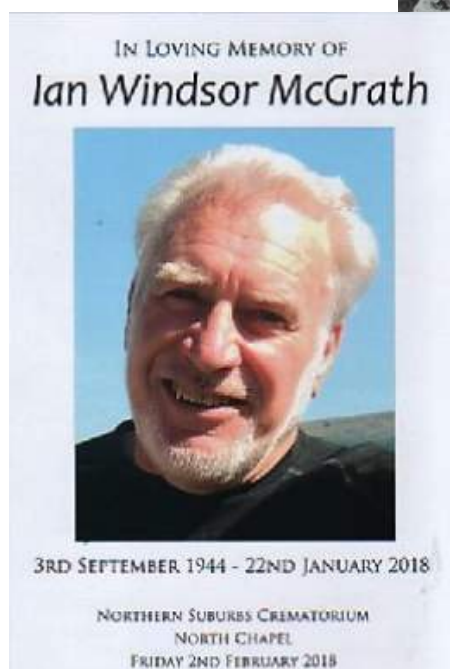
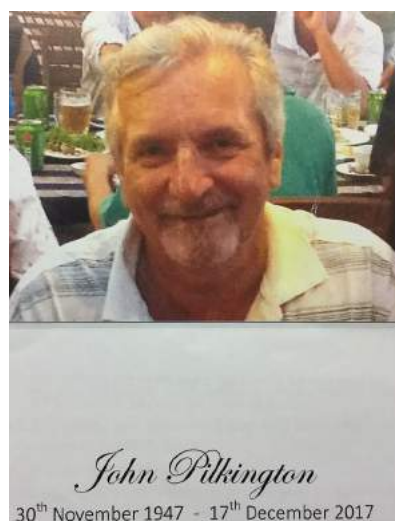
Ian McGrath, Doug's brother

Barry Wakefield, 3 Sect 4 Plt B Coy

John Pilkington

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"

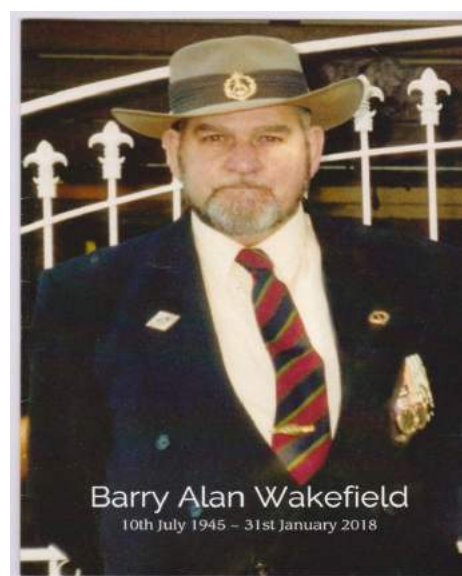
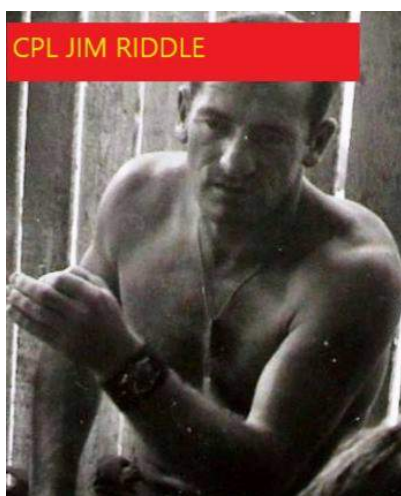


BARRY WAKEFIELD

Yesterday Cpl Barry Wakefield 217705 was laid to rest in Sydney. More than 20 members of the 9th Battalion formed a guard of honour for Barry's family and fellow mourners as Barry was carried into the Chapel. Barry was an original with the formation of the Battalion at Woodside South Australia in 1967.

He commanded 3 Section 4 Platoon B Coy 9 RAR with the distinction of not losing any members KIA. He is remembered for his waxed moustache, for being a stickler for discipline and sorting out differences in the boxing ring. Barry was married twice, having a son by his first marriage and 2 more sons with Eileen (his rock that supported him through his trials and tribulations). Barry served on the NSW Committee of the Association for many years and was the resident book reviewer extraordinaire for the NSW magazine "Roll Call".

He is at peace now after a tremendous battle after suffering multiple strokes before the end of last year. Tony Mullavey (ex 10Plt) and Sam Vecchio (32 Transport Coy) from the St Mary's train of the VVAA organised through DVA all the equipment and services to allow Barry to spend some time at home with Eileen and the boys.



JIM RIDDLE'S SERVICE

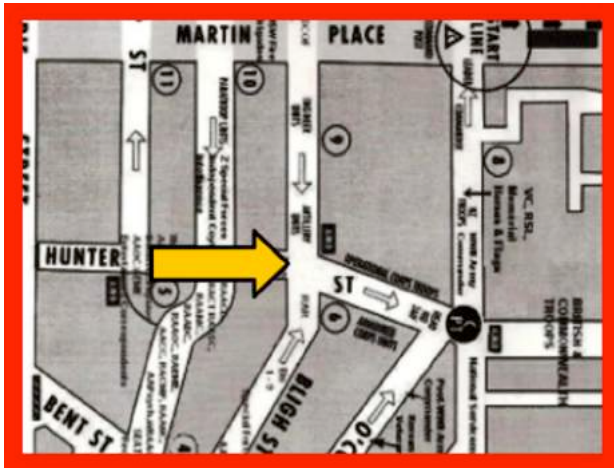
Summary of Unit	Name(s)	Start Date	End Date
1 Australian Reinforcement Unit		23/12/1968	03/02/1969
4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment		04/02/1969	13/05/1969
Headquarters, 1st Australian Task Force		14/05/1969	16/06/1969
9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment		17/06/1969	27/11/1969
Australian Reinforcement Unit		28/11/1969	08/12/1969
Headquarters, 1st Australian Task Force		19/01/1970	26/01/1970
8th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment		27/01/1970	23/07/1970
1 Australian Reinforcement Unit		26/08/1971	22/09/1971

ANZAC DAY 2018

Regimental Service: Commences 0830hr at Regimental Square, George Street

Form Up Point (Main March): Bligh Street, 1030hrs.

After March Venue: Downstairs at Cheers Bar and Grill, 561 George Street



CHEERS BAR: How to get there and details for the day

When the March finishes just continue 100 yards down Castlereagh Street to Liverpool Street and turn right. Walk two blocks to George St. and you will arrive at the Bar, which is located on the SW side of George Street opposite the World Centre. I will be trying to arrange for reduced parking costs at the World Centre for those who are driving.

- 9 RAR will have exclusive use of the lower ground floor.
- The room should comfortably take 150-200 (which will include children).
- We will be selling our merchandise on the day and conducting raffles to help with our costs.
- Audio visual equipment will be available. All A/V and music must be on a thumb drive
- There will be a private function sign at the top of the stairs.
- Lift access to the area via RSL will also be available if required.
- Cloak Room to be available for the storage of Jackets and banners,
- Xbox table to be set up for children. NO ADULTS
- Normal bar facilities for beer and coffee.
- Local beers at \$6.00 with Hahn Superdry at \$5.50 and XXXX at \$4.70. All others plus wine and spirits at usual prices.
- Food package \$8.00 per head for finger food, to be brought out at various stages throughout the afternoon. Some platters to be ready for 12.30pm.

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 2018 at the Cheers Bar, 561 George St. 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;
- (e) to approve, by special resolution, the adoption of the revised constitution.

Eric Pope, Secretary

Ninth Battalion (NSW) The Royal Australian Regiment Association (Inc)**Nomination form for positions of committee members for 2018/2019**

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 2018.



9RAR ASSOCIATION

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

Doug McGrath.

National President

**1164 Pittwater Road,
Collaroy Beach. 2097 NSW**

P: (02) 9981.2675 M: 0407.832.675

E: panache26@optusnet.com.au

From The President's Pen.

With Anzac Day looming it is timely to reflect on the events of WWI in France and the Western Front in 1918, which led finally to the allied victory a century ago this year. How things have changed in this time. I reflect also on the Anzac Day we shared while serving in Vietnam 49 years ago.

Anzac Day this year, will bring with it some changes in Sydney. The Sydney March will be led by WO1 Mick Shave. Mick served 22 years in the RAR on top of 9 years in REME with the British Army. He completed two tours of Vietnam. 68-69 as a Corporal in Charlie Company 9RAR then two years later Mick went back for a tour with the legendary AATTV. His final posting was as the RSM of the Sydney University Regiment as a WO1

With the New Windsor Hotel demolished to make way for the light rail we needed to find a new home. This we have done. We will gather at Cheers Bar, 561 George Street which is a short walk from the end of the march in Elizabeth Street and which we have exclusively for 9RAR. It has increased seating, food, inexpensive drinks, a PA and security so we are very happy to have found this new venue.

As we all move into the 70's sadly we are losing too many of our mates. January and February were tragic months for the 9RAR family as will be detailed. In this time, I lost my brother Ian to the dreaded cancer. He was a great supporter of 9RAR and all we did. He generously made the banner poles for our three banners before the Sydney reunion and was always on hand to assist with running repairs. His death was sudden and a great shock to the family. In his eulogy I urged our gathering of family and friends to live every day as it is your last; to do the things you want to do, tell those you love that you love them-every day and don't put things off to tomorrow as tomorrow may never come.

I commend you all to these thoughts. Look after each other,

Hope to see you on Anzac Day,

Cheers,

Doug.

BOOK REVIEW: The Tattooist of Auschwitz

Publisher: Echo Division, Bonnier Publishing Australia
ISBN: 9781760403171 (paperback) (277 Pages)

Dear Folk,

Despite the subject matter of this book, to all you blokes, make sure your respective child brides, she who must be obeyed, your partner even, rascals, read this book, before or after you, it matters not. Why? Simply because it is a love story as well as a survivors story, gentlemen, we are nothing if not survivors, so to my mind, this story should resonate with you all.

The hero of this book is a Slovakian, 'Lale' Ludwig Eisenberg, 32407 is the number tattooed on his arm, at Auschwitz you were a number, not a name. The heroine in the story, 'Gita' Gisela Fuhrmannova, also a Slovakian, tattoo number 34902. Gita arrived in Auschwitz [on April 13, 1942](#), Lale arrived [April 23, 1942](#). Lale speaks 5 languages fluently, "Slovakian, German, Russian, French, Hungarian and a little Polish". Both of them were assigned to Auschwitz 2 - Birkenau.

Two incidents define Lale's drive to survive, the first occurs on his second night in Birkenau, he needs to respond to nature's call, number one, as he is about to leave the shadows of his hut, he hears two SS guards talking and smoking with rifles slung, three other men, fellow prisoners are quietly conversing whilst complying with nature's call number two whilst perched on a plank over the ditch used for this purpose. The SS flick their cigarettes and shoot the three men dead, the bodies fall into the ditch where they remain. The SS walk off, laughing at the "joke" they have played on the three dead men. Having witnessed this incident, Lale determines that he will survive Auschwitz and tell who ever will listen of the atrocities he has and will witness.

Hard to believe? Not when you read on further and come to the part of the book relating to the rock moving field. On one side of the field rocks, job, move the rocks to the other side of the field, simple as. SS complication to this simple task, if you are the last man to pick up the last rock and you have moved it to the now rocky side of the field, you are executed. The job and the executions go on all day.

Lale at one point in the day is second last. The rock moving is a daily occurrence.

The other defining moment for Lale is when, having been "apprenticed" to the Tatowierer, he is working beside him tattooing women, each woman passes a slip of paper to the tattooist, he then tattoos the number onto the woman's arm. His task with one young lady is to re-do the first attempt at tattooing her number. Her number is 34902. Thus, our hero meets the love of his life. The moment is fraught with tension and danger, read the book to find out why!!

Lovely people this book is not light reading, it recounts the story of a time and a place that destroyed the world's innocence. Here are some statistics from Auschwitz-Birkenau, 1,300,000 were sent to the camp, 900,000 were executed on arrival

They came from 23 countries, 400,000 were tattooed and worked in the factories, crematoria, gas ovens, and in Canada, so named by the inmates, as it represented a place they felt would never allow such filth as Auschwitz to exist. 200,000 of them died in the camp. Should you wish to pursue further information concerning Auschwitz, I recommend 70auschwitz.org as a reliable resource.

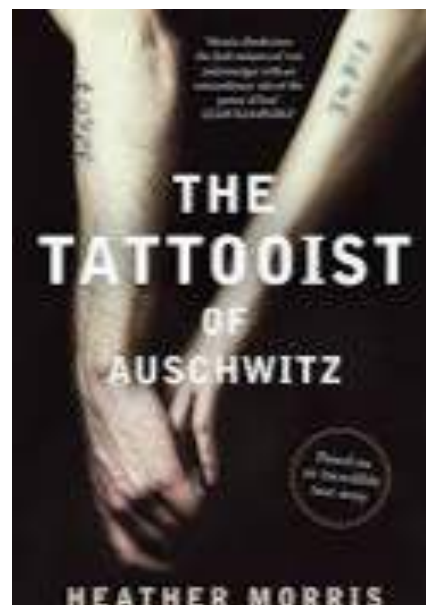
How blessed were our hero and heroine, as Jews, of the 1.1 million Jews sent to Auschwitz, 1 million died.

Popeye's rating of this book, 10 spinach cans. My recommendation to you all, share it with your children and grandchildren so that they can understand our history, you see when they died both our hero and heroine were Australians, they lived in Melbourne, Gita passed in 2003 and Lale in 2006.

Take Care

Popeye

PS: Next review is a spy story, you have my word.



SYDNEY INFANTRYMAN LUNCHEON

Event: Infantry Luncheon

Purpose: To eat good food, drink good wine, talk old soldiers' talk and walk away feeling pleased!

Required: Infantrymen, ANY nationality, any army with service as infantry whilst on nominal roll of any infantry battalion. War service is not essential.

When: First Thursday of every month

Where: Royal Automobile Club of Australia, 89 Macquarie St, Sydney

Time: 1200hrs for 1230hrs

Dress: At least, collared shirt and shoes

Contact: Mick Shave (lynnette111@live.com) or Dave Jeffrey (dave.jeffrey@yahoo.com) for notice of attendance



IN SEARCH OF A WWI DIGGER: Can you help?

"Belgian Jean Van Campenhout was grieving his father's death when he discovered an old photograph, and with it a family mystery. THE young geologist had found an Australian Imperial Force (AIF) group portrait, with a cross inked above a soldier in the photo – indicating the man who was his Australian great-grandfather. Sadly, no name was inscribed on the photo and Jean was left in the dark about his identity.



The unknown Australian soldier returned home in March 1919, before the young Belgian woman he had been courting was even aware she was pregnant. The Digger never knew that on December 7, 1919, his son Robert was born."

Intrigued? Head to the link below to read more and to see if you can help.

<https://www.rslqld.org/RSLOutpost/RSL-Outpost/Military-History/In-Search-of-a-WWI-Digger-Can-You-Help>

Reprinted from the Returned & Services League of Australia, Queensland Branch website.

9RAR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

President	Doug McGrath	panache26@optusnet.com.au	02-9981-2675
Vice President	Trevor Murdoch	tmurdoch@customequitygroup.com.au	0414-015-204
Secretary	Eric Pope	ericpope@bigpond.com	02-9774-5113
Treasurer/Subs	Steve Nugent	Cheryl.nugent@hotmail.com	02-9997-1552
Newsletter Editor	Rick 'Barney' Bigwood	barneybig@live.com.au	02-9873-5209
Assistant Editor	Emma Bigwood	emmabigwood75@gmail.com	0422-429-745
Welfare Officer	Trevor Murdoch	(as above)	(as above)
Members	Peter Nummy	panddnummy@bigpond.com	0418-292-788
	Colin Schofield	cschofield1@optusnet.com.au	0409-789-336
	Ross Coughran	cullychristine@gmail.com	0407-467-175
	Warren Stickens	w_stickens@hotmail.com	0409-151-614
	Phil Barry	philbarry@exemail.com	0409-313-410
	Jeremy Ferguson	annel@bigpond.com	02-9999-6969
	Tony Mullavey	tmullavey@optusnet.com.au	0416-231-993
	Gregg & Kelly Barr-Jones	gbybuild@bigpond.net.au	0414-945-024

RECOGNITION OF RCB SERVICE

“Welcome to the Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB)’s Operation “Exposure” site

OUR PURPOSE: We exist simply to have the Australian Government give rightful recognition of the true nature of Australian Army Rifle Company’s (RCB) service – 1970 - 1989 at Butterworth, Malaysia. This was military service to protect Australia’s strategically deployed RAAF Force at Air Base Butterworth (ABB), being warlike in nature and not classified as peacetime service.

Successive Governments failure to accept the substantial new evidence discovered by the RCB Research Group (RCBRG) from national and international documents and provided to the Government leads us to seek an independent of government public inquiry.”

The above is taken directly from the Recognition of RCB Service. For more details head to their website:

<https://recognitionofrcbservice.com/>



The Obscenity of Conscription

contemn: old French contemner - to despise.

For us to go to war, they lied,
And that is why we went and died,
To add our flag with theirs to fly,
And no one thought to reason why.
Conscripted, and we trusted them,
Never thinking they'd contemn their very own.
Those then, who blindly cast their votes
Slaughtered us. We then, their sacrificial goats.

By Mick Shave

Vikings actor Travis Fimmel starring in Long Tan movie to be filmed in Queensland

By [Chris O'Brien](#)

Updated 28 Feb 2018,

A movie about the Vietnam War Battle of Long Tan will be made in southern Queensland, featuring Australian actor and Vikings star Travis Fimmel.

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk made the announcement in Los Angeles at the end of her trade mission to the US.

Ms Palaszczuk said the movie, provisionally titled Danger Close, would be filmed from the end of April in Nerang and Kingaroy.

"So that's great news for regional Queensland, but also sends a really strong message that you don't have to be in the Gold Coast or Brisbane to film a great movie," she said.

"It's probably a medium-range film. This is one of many that will be filmed in Queensland over the next few years.

"I think many people will know Travis Fimmel from his work in Vikings, and can I tell you he's not scary in real life."

Ms Palaszczuk said the movie's producer Martin Walsh told her he would like to employ 100-200 Australian veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns as extras for the project.

"So we're going to put a call out to those veterans to see if they would be interested in participating," she said.

"I was moved to hear that Martin, himself a former Australian Special Forces commando, is planning a major Anzac Day event during the shoot — bringing Long Tan veterans, cast, crew and locals together for a special memorial service," Ms Palaszczuk said.

The Premier said production would employ an estimated 120 full-time Queensland crew members.

PHOTO: [Australian actor Travis Fimmel with Annastacia Palaszczuk in Hollywood.](#) (Supplied: Premier's Department)

This article is reprinted from ABC News and can be found in its entirety at the link below.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-28/vikings-travis-fimmel-to-star-in-battle-of-long-tan-movie-qld/9492978>



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



FROM BILLY REEDS, VIA BARNEY

I was chatting on the phone to my partner in crime, Bill Reeds, Bill lives at Tweed Heads in northern NSW, he told me he had recently attended a reunion for the 11th National Service intake held near him. He said he had a great time. Brian Vickery was in attendance as a guest speaker. Photos below.

11TH INTAKE NATIONAL SERVICE REUNION 7-9TH FEB 2018

The reunion will take place on Wednesday commencing with a 'meet and greet' at the Kingscliff Sport and Bowls Club. Thursday will see a short tour of the Cudgen Surf Club with commentary and Tweed Shire Council spokesman Stewart Brawley will provide a brief history of the new central park - this will end up at the Kingscliff cenotaph where a memorial service will be conducted set up by the Kingscliff RSL.

Lunch will be at the Bowls Club with an afternoon walk through the Murphy's Road memorial walkway with commentary. A memorial dinner will then be held at the Cudgen Leagues Club in Wommin Bay Road (upstairs).

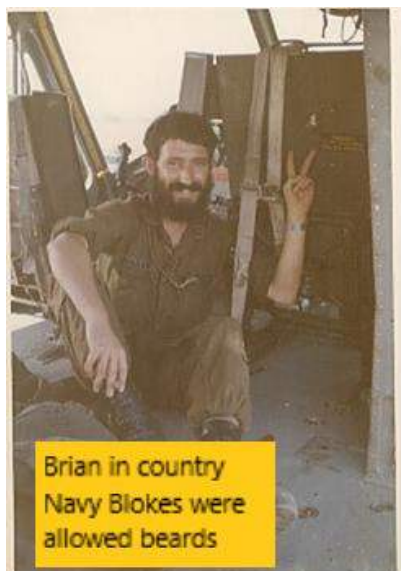
For all information :<https://eleventhintake.weebly.com>



EMAIL FROM BRIAN ABRAHAM (Brother to Rick 10 Plt, KIA July 1969)

Brian served in EMU Flight (Experimental Military Unit) a composite US and Australian Helicopter company.

The only guys in 9 RAR that I know who were friends of Ricks are John Retschlag and Jim Connolly. Did a cruise on a ship up the coast of Norway last October, and bugger me, the couple in the cabin next door was Tony Creswick-Jackson and wife. Didn't know him previously, and didn't talk about his Army time as his wife said he would have nightmares afterwards. Pity. Did meet a chap by the name of Powers from Brisbane staying in the same hotel as I in Saigon back at the turn of the century. I see the unit had two Powers, not sure which one, other than he came from Brisbane. Most upset on meeting me in the foyer and ran off to his room in tears. Went to his room with his wife and got to have a talk, though forget what about now. Have had contact with Graham Cousins years ago, and stayed at his place near Newcastle one night during a trip up the east coast, you wouldn't have his email would you? Did another trip to Vietnam two years ago with two fellow Navy guys, who I flew with in country, and wives. Went to where Rick was killed (to scratch an itch, I'm sure you'll understand) but somewhat confused as previous research had given two different grid references about one click apart (after action report and 9 RAR diary). Country has been all cleared and now just short grass. Snaps below.



MERCHANDISE SALE: EVERYTHING REDUCED

Caps \$15

Polo shirts \$20

T-shirts \$15

Key rings and badges \$15

Ladies scarves \$20

Hats \$50*

*complete with badges and pugaree

P&H not included



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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