

Time passes swiftly!

On 6th August a joint 7th Battalions commemorative service was held at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. Representatives of the 7th Battalion AIF, 2/7th Battalion, 7 RAR and 106th Field Battery Associations attended. Well over 100 men, women and children were there. The ceremony included summaries of the service and casualties of each of the 7ths and particularly emphasised 7th Battalion AIF's tough hand-to-hand engagement at Lone Pine 102 years ago and the day 50 years ago when 7 RAR sustained its greatest loss of life in the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha. Our Victorian Association played a key role in organising this important event .

The ceremony was followed by a lunch nearby. Jake O'Donnell, AM, MC (former OC A Company) and 'Nobby' Clark, MC, OAM (Forward Observer from 106th Field Battery attached to A Company) gave stirring accounts of this encounter battle between roughly numerically similar forces, and how the availability of US Air Force and 106 Battery firepower assisted in tipping the balance. The memory of those six 7 RAR soldiers killed and those wounded in the battle was commemorated, with the presence of some of the relatives of those who perished. The unknown number of those who were killed and wounded in 274 VC Regiment was also remembered. Lest we forget.

It is very encouraging that the history of our battalion and its supporting arms continues to be added to. I'd like to mention two books of interest that are now available. Adrian Taylor has published *From Nui Dat to Discharge: Honouring Their Service: 4 Platoon B Company 7 RAR Vietnam 1970- 1971* (it contains many photos and biographies of all 4 Platoon soldiers) and John Godfrey and Bruce Burrow have edited *Gunners in Vietnam 67-68* (a richly illustrated account of 106 Field Battery). Dr google will help you find copies for sale.

I would also ask you to consider joining the 2018 Reunion in March aboard P&O's *Pacific Dawn*. Details are available on our web page

Best wishes to all

Mike O'Brien

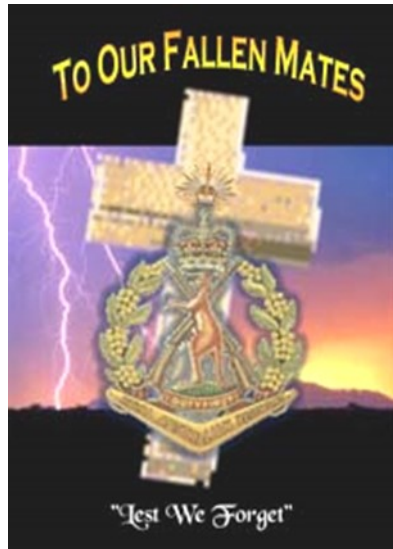
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SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER CALENDER

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 Sep 2017 | 52nd Birthday 7RAR. |
| 08 Sep 2017 | Freedom of City Adelaide 7RAR. |
| 11 Nov 2017 | Remembrance Day all States. |
| 01 Dec 2017 | Cut-Off for 3/2016 Seven News. |
| 11 Dec 2017 | Post/Transmit 3/2016 Seven News. |



Rest ye oh Warrior, You will battle no more,

No longer to live the horrors of war,

Your duty was done with honor and pride,

Farewell oh brother, until we march by your side.

**It is with deep and sincere sympathy that I report the death of former friends
and comrades in arms.**

**Colonel Nellie Jane Espie, AM, RRC, FRCNA, 1 Aust Field Hospital, passed
away Monday 15 August 2016.**

**39751 James (Jim) Burrows Ellis, Admin Coy 1st tour, passed away
Wednesday 5 April, 2017.**

**3789514 Michael (Mick) Harding Straker, C9 1st tour, passed away
Tuesday 25 April 2017.**

**2412949 William (Billy) Raymond Davis, 1st tour, passed away
Tuesday 25 April 2017.**

**5288 Reginald Amos Bandy, MBE, RSM 2nd tour, passed away
Saturday 6 May 2017.**

3787346 Robert Lacey Brooks, 1st tour, passed away Friday 12 May 2017.

**Mrs Mona Wilkins, Mother of Peter 1st tour, passed away
Sunday 2 July 2017.**

2793072 Barry John Gissell, C9 2nd tour, passed away Tuesday 1 August 2017.



From the **EDITOR'S DESK**

Members, please note, as we have now shifted to delivering the Seven News to those members who have an email address please keep me and Kevin informed if you change your email address. It makes things much easier for Kevin when he sends you the current newsletter. Also for my side of keeping me informed as to when you renew your membership by using the Association's bank details, if you have an email address kindly let me know you have paid by transferring or depositing your fees into the account.

Also keep me informed about any changes to your contact details, when you fill in your membership form for renewal please do not cut the bottom half off from the form because I use that to complete the renewal details to update all my records of your renewal activity. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE MAIL.**

I am sure we are all saddened by the news of the loss of two of the most well respected soldiers of this our modern era of the Australian Defence Force. See pages 18 to 27 for our remembrance of these two members. Notice for all members the Battalion is going to be handed the **FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF ADELAIDE** on Sunday 8 September so if you are in ADELAIDE on that day I am sure the members would only be too pleased to see any of the past members.

As we draw close to the end of another year please keep in touch with all your mates, time is slipping away from us and we need to make sure all the mates and their families are keeping up with their friends as time passes on. If you have planned to go on the reunion cruise next year keep in touch with your mates and ensure you all have a great time. All the best for now.

Tony Keech XO/ED

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Medal (OAM) in the Military Division to Lt Col Ian John Robinson, ACT For exceptional services to deployed Australian Defence Force personnel through Forces Entertainment from 2008 to 2016.

Ian was a corporal on the 2nd Tour of South Vietnam with 7RAR and yes, he served in the Army for all those intervening years

Well done that man.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST



THE DIFFERENT MODES IN TRANSPORT ONE FOR US THE OTHER FOR THEM





Peter Cheshtre and Graeme Haywood
Relaxing on operations - 1970

Above: 7RAR in Vietnam.
Below: 7RAR in Afghanistan.





Getting ready for the ANZAC march in Sydney 2017, left is John Sutherland warming up the pipes for the parade, below Rod Lyons have a chat before the step off.





Anzac day in Sydney: Above: Regimental Square and below The Garrison church service, up front John Paget and Ted Lewis.





Above: Some of our finest!! and below, formed up for the march.





Above and below: a finer body of troops you would not see anywhere else but on parade for ANZAC Day, Eric and Reg would have been most proud of all who represented one of the finest Battalions of the Regiment.



PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

Anzac Day 2017

We had our usual good roll-up this year although the step off was a bit chaotic at the start. As we mentioned in the last newsletter, descendants were asked to march at the rear if there were no living Unit members. This had the effect of tightening up the Order of March and timings were somewhat awry, this had the result of timings



actually occurring earlier than published instead of the delays we normally experience. I heard of some reports that marchers, expecting the usual delays virtually had to run down St Kilda Rd to catch up to their units – a bit hard for some of our vintage. We also took advantage of having a couple of cadets take our banner and nice to see how well they and their fellow cadets were turned out.

Arrangements for Anzac2018 look as if they are going to be fine-tuned as far as timings are concerned and we'll get that information to you in the first 2018 newsletter.

Anzac Day Post –March (Bell's Hotel)

A feature of this year's activities was the family atmosphere with quite a few kids coming along as well as spouses and friends. Due to the extensive renovations being



undertaken by Bell's we had slightly less elbow room than previously but there was still enough room to get around and talk to old friends. We were able to call our Roll of Honour this year without having to compete with the AFL Collingwood- Bell's certainly looks after us and we'll probably continue to go there for as long as they keep their standard of service.

L.toR: Ian Dunn, Roo Dowley and Tom Bourke

Shrine Pilgrimage – All the 7's (6th August)

Every year, on the closest Sunday to the 6th, we have been conducting a simple ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance to remember 7thAIF, 2nd/7th and 7RAR. This year had an added poignancy as it was 50 years to the day that 'A' Company was engaged in Suoi Chau Pha. Normally we conduct this ceremony centred on the Eternal



Wreath laying in the Sanctuary-'Nobby' Clark

Courtesy of Mrs Kristine Krzywokulski (106)

Flame but it was moved into the Shrine's Sanctuary due to Melbourne's wet and windy weather. It was a large crowd of us there as we had nearly 100 people attending representing 7RAR and 106 Bty. We were particularly honoured to have David Milford's

surviving siblings and their families attend both the ceremony and lunch afterwards. We invited George Milford to lead us in the Ode as a reminder that families are just as affected as comrades of the fallen. It was a strong rendition of

the last two verses of the Ode,

50th Anniversary of Suoi Chau Pha Luncheon

After the Ceremony at the Shrine about 90 of us from 7RAR and 106 Bty made our way to Bell's Hotel for specific commemoration of Suoi Chau Pha. We were particularly



Nobby demonstrating the factors behind the fire mission

honoured to have Jake O'Donnell and 'Nobby' Clark give us their personal memories of Suoi Chau Pha – which we all found enthralling. 'Nobby's' explanation of the calculations behind 106's fire support and extreme range at which they dropped their rounds at extreme rate of fire (some 5 seconds between rounds) was probably something most infantry wouldn't realise. Both Jake and Nobby seemed to enjoy everything. Jake's wife, Suwanee, was with him and very obviously enjoyed seeing Jake with his old comrades. Their affection for Jake and for

Nobby was very clear, as was the interaction between members of 7 and 106. us down a couple of times but the talks were video-taped and we are hopeful of being able to produce a transcript for general distribution. We'd also like to thank Mike O'Brien for his opening comments as the introduction to Jake and Nobby.



LtoR: Jake O'Donnell, Mike O'Brien, Nobby Clark and Allan McGuinness (Vic. President)

Courtesy of Mrs Kristine Krzywowski

Parting Shot

Army: A body of men assembled to rectify the mistakes of diplomats.

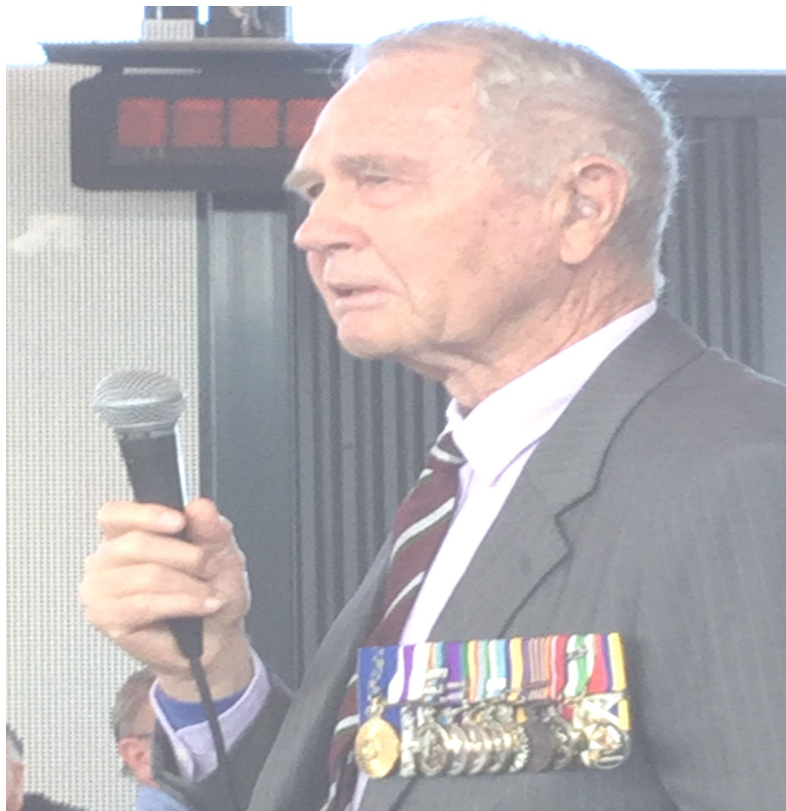
Josephus Daniels

Courtesy of Mrs Kristine Krzywowski (106)

Bill Anderson

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Top Photo: Nobby Clark, MC, OAM at the Suoi Chau Phablets lunch on Sunday. Over 100 from 7 RAR (both tours) and 106 Battery attended and both Nobby and Jake O'Donnell, AM, MC (other photo) spoke.



On behalf of all the 106 Field Battery Veterans I must pass on to you that we were most humbled to be asked to be part of 7RAR's Commemoration Ceremony which was so expertly presented and so meaningful for all present

As one of the 106 Veterans John Godfrey said after we left the lunch, we were in the company of 7RAR hero's one and all today. Les Winton who was one of the two Command Post Surveyors plotting and double checking the co-ordinates that Neville Clark radioed in on the 6th of August 1967. Les was named after 2nd Lieutenant Leslie Burley, his great uncle, who was KIA in an attack at Lone Pine. Being a Sydney-sider Les had never been inside the Shrine and he said he was in awe and most moved in the inner sanctum when the spit polished Shrine Guardsman appeared dressed like a WW1 soldier and seemingly marched ghost-like out of the stone work of WW1 history to present arms while the Last Post and Rouse was played. The sound of the Bugle always brings a tear to my eyes as my Grandfather was a Bugler at the Battle of 'Tel el Kebir' in Egypt in 1882 with the Grenadier Guards. This was coupled with the fact that with us was our fellow 106 Veteran Bob Winnett who had flown in from WA with his Daughter Jenelle. Bob was a Signaler at the 106 Command post with me on the 6th of August 1967 along with 106 Veteran John Godfrey who was a Gun Layer on the ranging gun on the day of the Battle and had flown in from Tasmania all compounded for us old 106 comrades a most memorable day.

We also had with us the Widow of Gunner Michael Williams MM, Mrs Ross Williams who had flown down from Qld along with Katie Robinson and Michael Williams who are the children of Captain John Phillips (decd) a fellow Forward Observer with Neville Clark. John led the Gunners in the FO troop working with Major Chapman at the 'Battle of the Bunkers' and it was John who designed the Fire Mission that Michael Williams passed on down the airwaves during that battle. For all the 106 Veterans and their wives who have to put up with our military mysteries to hear Jake O'Donnell give 106 Field Battery such praise was a fillip to their souls as we were all sad having buried one of our most morale lifting Gunners on the 3rd of August 2017. This was Ross Gibbins who was one of Neville Clark's Signalers at the 'Soui Chau Pha' along with Gunner Bruce Patterson who was also with us along with his mate Roger Boness the Mt Evelyn RSL President and Neville Clark's FO Surveyor.

We were also most flattered to be asked to join the 7th Bn RAR Association. How can we go about that? as we would like to provide that information to the 106 Veterans in our next newsletter of the 'Turtle Times'.

Regards from Ben Burrow and John Godfrey joint Editors of the Turtle Times.

FROM NUI DAT TO DISCHARGE



**Honouring Their Service
4 Platoon B Company 7 RAR
Vietnam 1970-1971**

ADRIAN TAYLOR

A4, Soft Cover, 416 Pages of Full Colour

*Copies available from
Adrian Taylor at
(08) 8251 4885 or
adrian01@iprimus.com.au*

This book is a unique collection of personal stories of the fifty men (and one tracker dog) who served at various times with 4 Platoon, B Company, 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (7 RAR), in Vietnam during 1970 and 1971. Over a period of twenty years the author, himself a former member of the platoon, contacted nearly every living former member of the platoon and invited them to recount, in their own words, their story. Many contributed, telling us of their backgrounds before they joined the Army (voluntarily or conscripted), experiences in Vietnam, and how they tried to return to a normal life when they came back to Australia.

Some could not contribute because they are no longer alive. Three members who served with the platoon were killed in action in Vietnam, and a number have died since returning. The author has obtained personal accounts from their relatives, many revealing the devastating effect these deaths have had on their grieving families.

In addition, the book provides background information on the history of the battalion, daily life, living conditions, operations, recreation, the local people, and the environment. This information is supplemented with over 550 photographs (many in colour) and copies of documents.

Importantly the book ends with an epilogue by a clinical psychologist about the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder amongst Vietnam Veterans.

Those interested in the personal stories of members of an Australian infantry rifle platoon (before, during, and after their tour of duty) as well as those interested in the history of 7 RAR will find this book very informative.

Adrian Taylor



March out of Bien Hoa Platoon, (7Platoon) Infantry Centre Singleton on Friday 28 July 2017. Photo above is Victoria Hopkins widow of Matty with the Section Commander of the Champion Section CPL Joshua Howlett with the trophy sponsored by the Association in memory of Cpl Matty Hopkins, KIA in Afghanistan in March 2009.

IN MEMORIAM COLONEL ERIC SMITH DSO

I am certain that it was not lost on Colonel Eric Smith when asked to raise the Seventh Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment in 1965 that he was following in the footsteps of some superb leaders of the Seventh and Second Seventh Battalions, Pompey Elliott and Henry Guinn to name but two, and I know he would have inhaled the folklore surrounding them to further strengthen his resolve to make 7 RAR the best battalion in the Army.

But what background did this man have for the command of a battalion preparing for war? What qualities did he bring to the table?

Well first, he had a stick-to-it pedigree. He was the son of a man blinded totally after four days into the battle at Gallipoli during the Great War and who, after his repatriation, continued with his career as a piano tuner, would you believe, until such time as his hearing failed. Eric held a close bond with his father who dished out love and discipline in equal quantities and he benefitted markedly from the high standards expected of him. It was a loving family and Eric maintained a close relationship with his younger sister Ilva who survives him. This was the time of the great depression and money was in short supply. But it seems that this didn't limit his development as a confident happy young lad. Very early on he became a fine swimmer who enjoyed much success in competitions in the Sydney area, and this accomplishment helped him greatly in his schooling as he progressed from Clovelly Primary to Randwick Boys High and finally Sydney Boys High. In fact, he won all six events that he entered in his first year at Randwick Boys High and thus became the School Champion!

Early on in his life, Eric became studious through the determination of his dad. At one stage his results were not good enough to elevate him into Randwick Boys High and so his dad put his bed in Eric's room so that he was there in the morning to check that homework had been completed satisfactorily. This quality then helped him succeed in the Leaving examination and at the Royal Military College Duntroon, from where he graduated at the age of 19 in 1944. Eric had thrived in the busy college life and the physicality of the course which now had a 4-year syllabus crammed into two.

Posted to the 2/3 Infantry Battalion AIF in Wewak, New Guinea, towards the end of the Second World War, he gained brief but valuable combat experience as a rifle platoon commander fighting the Japanese in that difficult war theatre.

This was a tough initiation, having to break into a battle-weary unit, but his calm, determined attitude saw him quickly fit in. Further experience as a platoon commander came with his selection to join the 67th Australian Infantry Battalion heading directly to BCOF in Japan, where directly meant first cooling his heels in Morotai, Indonesia because the priority for shipping at the end of the war was to return soldiers to their homelands.

Stationed in the hinterland of the busy port of Hiroshima, his main activity centred on utilising ships returning Japanese soldiers to Japan, to repatriate the forced slave labourers there back to their countries of origin. Keeping his soldiers out of trouble was also a big task, e.g., on one occasion one of his sections stole a whole train...passengers included! He was also required to adjudicate where necessary in affairs of the slaves waiting to go home, as at that time neither a civil nor military criminal justice system had been settled. Eric's common sense and idea of fair play were always evident, but never more needed than at this time. I might add that his status as a swimming celebrity was further enhanced in Japan.

So his experience was mounting.

Eighteen months later he returned from Japan and set about establishing a serious relationship with another fine swimmer, Elizabeth, whom he married at St Phillips Anglican Church in York Street, the sister church to this one, on 10 December 1948. He was by then a captain and Adjutant of the 41st Battalion, The Byron Scottish Regiment, in Lismore, and this militia posting was instructive, not only because it encompassed just about all facets of his profession, but also because the man management aspects added a new dimension to his book of tricks.

Then as Adjutant of 1 RAR, he embarked for Korea in March 1952 leaving Elizabeth and his new daughter Jo in Sydney. Eventually he was promoted and became Admin Company Commander and then a rifle company commander. Here he developed a healthy respect for several Australian commanders whose common sense tactical decision-making outshone that of other Commonwealth Army leaders. It was a difficult war, and Eric recognized the quality of his enemy too, and his generous and playful spirit at times. He explained this by revealing that about a week before Christmas 1952 the Chinese left several notes on the wire saying they would send us cards on Christmas Eve. When Christmas Eve arrived, we had 350 soldiers forward of our position, but in the morning, there were the cards. Hundreds of them! And nobody had a clue as to how they had been placed there.

And yes, he did send one casualty to a MASH unit by helicopter.

For his brave service in Korea, Eric was Mentioned in Despatches.

Home from Korea, Eric revelled in his busy new appointment as Senior Instructor at the Officer Cadet School in Portsea, where he rewrote the syllabus to extend the course to 12 months, where he felt that producing platoon commanders was professionally exciting, and where he befriended many on the staff and locals too, including Harold Holt, who incidentally, he felt was not very competent in the water!

Chosen to attend Staff College at Camberley in England with a following year on the Australian Army Staff in London, the Smiths, including their new baby son Peter, managed to have two wonderful years in the UK and Europe. His class by the way was the first to return to France to discuss the tactics of World War Two, and he said that several arguments ensued between the Brits and foreign students, many of whom said, "But I did it this way."

It was then back to a regimental posting in a pentropic battalion as second-in-command of 1 RAR in Malaya, which was part of the Commonwealth brigade tasked with removing the communist terrorists from the country, and having to negotiate a heavy load of administration in an overseas theatre proved to be a serendipitous bonus when he began his next regimental job in 1965 - to raise 7 RAR for its tour in Vietnam.

From the outset, Eric demanded the best of his men, while recognizing the limited resources and facilities available to accomplish the task of preparing the unit for war. He asked for excellence and rewarded it. He arranged for as many basic courses as possible to be conducted in the unit, and those attending specialty courses were required to be debriefed in front of as many of the battalion as possible so that the expertise gained could be shared for the benefit of the whole unit.

This culminated in Exercises BARRA WINGA and NILLA QUA, which put the finishing touches to the training for the year-long tour of duty starting on 1 April 1967.

The camp at Nui Dat was soon festooned with 7 RAR signs, many of which contained the Pig mascot, the well-known provenance of which is now part of the unit folklore. By then Eric had accepted the Pig, having had to defend it to many a general.

With the war footing, support services for the battalion were of necessity much higher than during training, e.g., Eric had the exclusive use of a light observation Bell helicopter to use for command and control of 7 RAR on operations. Invariably he would arrive at sub-units as soon after pitched battles as possible, and this provided a very welcome morale booster for the sub units concerned.

What is perhaps not generally known is the fact that Eric, along with the other Infantry Commanders in Nui Dat at the time, advised the Task Force Commander, not to proceed with the minefield, and failure to accept this advice led to many unnecessary casualties.

During the Tét Offensive in January and February 1968, Eric was relieved that the mobile nature of that campaign was negotiated by the battalion with fewer casualties than might well have eventuated. While Eric was proud of the professionalism of 7 RAR and its achievements in Vietnam, the loss of sixteen soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice weighed heavily on his heart, thereafter.

For his meritorious service in Vietnam, Eric was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Returning from Vietnam, Eric was sent to Command the Australian and New Zealand Contingents to France for the 50th Anniversary of the conclusion of the First World War. However, in refusing to agree to dip the Australian colours onto the ground as he passed General De Gaulle at the saluting dais, he hit severe turbulence, from Ambassadors and Military Attachés alike. Eventually Eric's point that this was disrespectful to our Queen, was eventually accepted, and the whole parade followed suit.

The story of Eric's next posting as Defence Adviser in Pakistan, which also included Afghanistan, reads like a mix of Graham Greene and Rudyard Kipling novels. His success there depended on his common sense and forthright execution, both of which were resented by some in the Australian High Commission. He worked hard to ensure that his Pakistani hosts and his Russian counterpart trusted him, and the intelligence he gained as a result was no doubt invaluable to our country. But, let there be no doubt, this was a team Smith effort, as Elizabeth played her vital part too.

Eric's final posting in the Australian Army was as Commandant of the Infantry Centre which he moved from Ingleburn to Singleton. I shall not mention his cunning use of a fire hose in recalibrating the disciplinary standards there when he first arrived!

On retiring from the Army in 1978, Eric became the General Manager of Randwick race course, and when he retired from that appointment, he took up sheep farming in the Canberra area.

Eric's was a military career jam packed with combat experience. He was the only Army Officer to serve in the Second World War II, the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan, the Korean War, the Malayan Emergency and Vietnam.

Today, we who are left want to express our gratitude for a man who continued the tradition of the commanders of the Seven Battalions by raising a splendid fighting force and then leading it into battle with marked success. Our lives depended on it!

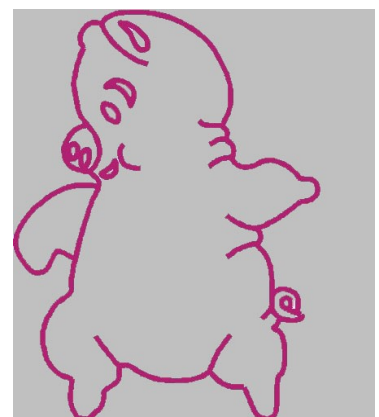
I know it will not surprise you to learn that as Eric's health began to fail over the last couple of years, not a word of complaint would he utter, as he preferred to enquire after the health of others rather than wallow in self-pity. He was a humble man and this was one of the enduring forces in his life.

I have surmised that in recent times, as he sat in his chair overlooking Narrabeen Lake and the Pacific Ocean, he would often muse over the ironic predicament in which he had once found himself when his new battalion decided for him that a pig would be their mascot! Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised at his forbearance, as he had demonstrated time and again throughout his life that he supported to the hilt those who would put their lives on the line for this wonderful country.

I know that I speak for the 7 RAR family in expressing our deepest sympathy to Elizabeth, Peter and Jo, as we remember so fondly their husband and father.

Ross Ellis, the Garrison Church ,The Rocks, Sydney, April 2017.

REST IN PEACE OLD FRIEND --LEST WE FORGET!!



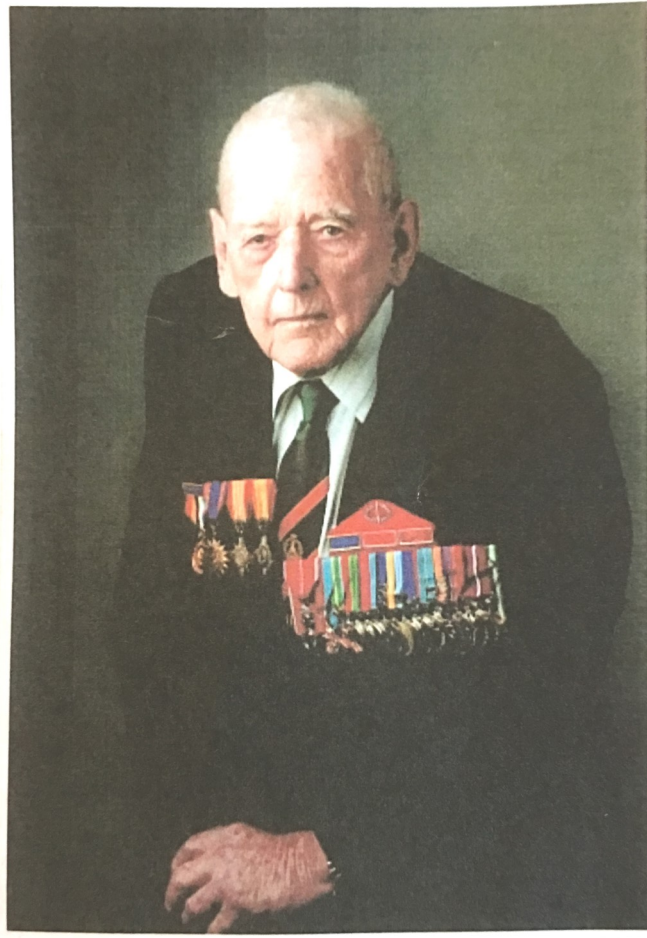


Porky Seven Vale Notice



Reginald Amos Bandy

14 July 1922 – 6 May 2017



St Joseph's Priory Church
Queens Park
16 May 2017

It is with regret that I inform you of the recent death of WO1 Reg Bandy, RSM 7RAR 2nd Tour in Sth Vietnam.

WO1 Reg Bandy was born in Subiaco, Perth Western Australia on 14 July, 1922 and joined the Army in 1940. He trained with 11,000 other men in 1941 and was subsequently posted to an Armoured Reconnaissance Unit on the Australian mainland.

In 1943 all units were converted to Infantry to oppose the Japanese in New Guinea and WO Bandy was posted to a US Army Landing Unit in Finschaffen, New Guinea. By 1943 he was posted to an Australian Landing Craft Unit and served up and down the New Guinea coast servicing other Army units for the remainder of the war. After World War 2 ended he was posted to Moratai with the 67th Battalion which then became the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

The Battalion trained for British and Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF) duties in Japan where subsequently WO Bandy patrolled and helped clean up Hiroshima after the Atom bomb. Early 1950 rumours of war in Korea initiated training for another war and by February of that year WO Bandy was at war again with 3RAR who had joined the UN Force attached to the British 27th Brigade along side the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Middlesex Regiment.

In 3RAR's first 6 months in Korea they fought 7 battles, lost 100 KIA and 50 wounded. Warrant Officer Bandy was acting as platoon commander at the Battle of Kapyong and in his own words described it as "Not a nice place to be". In 1951 his tour of duty finished, he went back to Japan and then later, in December, to Australia where he was posted to 6 Recruit Training Company training reinforcements for Korea.

From 1953 to 1959 Warrant Officer Bandy trained National Servicemen and CMF Officers and NCOs and then in 1960 was posted to Battle Wing Canungra as an instructor. In 1963 he was posted to South Vietnam with the Australian Army Training Team where he worked with the South Vietnamese Rangers. He is one of the very few Australians who were awarded the General Service Medal with Vietnam Clasp, the predecessor to the Australian Vietnam Medal.

On RTA Warrant Officer Bandy served as a Senior Instructor at the Infantry Centre and was then promoted and posted as RSM, 11th Battalion, CMF in Western Australia. In 1968 he was posted as RSM of 7RAR and took the Battalion back to South Vietnam in 1970 for both his and the Battalion's second tour.

On RTA Warrant Officer Bandy was posted as RSM Infantry Centre and then from 1972 to 1975 was RSM of Australia House, London. On RTA he was posted as RSM Western Command and his last task as an RSM was to train the Royal Guard of Honour for the departure of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip from Perth Airport.

Warrant Officer Bandy retired from the Army in July, 1977 having completed 37 years service. He saw active service in three wars over multiple tours and beside the MBE was also awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and Conspicuous Service and Good Conduct Medal. He was also awarded five foreign awards and three citations giving him a grand total of 25 medals, citations and awards.

To members of THE SEVENTH BATTALION, we must all remember that we now have the Commanding Officer first tour and the Regimental Sergeant Major second tour of Vietnam conducting the 7TH Battalion traditions in Heaven.

THEY WILL NEVER BE FORGOTEN
BECAUSE
WE WILL NEVER FORGET THEM.

Service Details for Reginald Bandy 1940-1977

1940 Joined the Army as Manpower was sent back to the Farm at Gillingarra for harvest and seeding until May 1941

1941 June was moved into camp at Melville 6 to start Corp training with 25th Machine Gunners, and guarded the Canning Dam until November 1941. December 1941 was moved to Northam Camp to complete Corp Training with 11,000 other Infantry men.

1942 February as only night leave was granted the whole camp went on strike. After meetings with the powers to be, the Army was to get 1 ½ days leave a month to be taken at Christmas.

1942 Coastal patrolling from Guilderton to Northampton in Western Australia. 10 foreigners were caught sending messages to German and Japanese Submarines. Posted to a Reconnaissance Regiment attached to the 1st Armoured Division at Mingenew WA to train for the Middle East.

1943 All units were converted to Infantry for service in New Guinea. Sent to Jungle Training School at Canungra for one month. Sent to Finchaven New Guinea joined the US Army Landing Unit, landing and supplies.

1944 Posted to Australian Landing Craft Unit. Serving up and down the New Guinea coast.

1945 WWII ended and sent to Morati, joined the 67 Battalion later becoming 3 Battalion RAR. Trained for British and Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF).

1946 Moved to barracks just outside of Hiroshima Japan. Patrolled our A.O. and helped clean up and control Hiroshima.

1950 February rumours of war in Korea. Started training for Korean War September 3 RAR joined UN Force in Korea attached to British 27th Brigade with Argil and Southern Highlanders and the Middlesex Regiments. The first six weeks in Korea we fought 7 battles, lost 100 KIA and 50 wounded.

1951 April the Battle of Kapyong. Not a nice place to be. September tour of Duty finished and moved back to Japan to train soldiers for Korea. December I was returned to Western Australia, after some leave I was posted to 6 Recruit Training Company to train soldiers for Korea.

1953 Training reinforcements finished was posted to 17 National Service Training Battalion as a Platoon Commander.

1957 Posted to CMF Brigade to instruct NCO's and officers in CMF courses. 1960 Posted to the Battle Wing at Canungra as an instructor.

1963 Posted to AATTV in Vietnam to train Officers and NCO's for the Ranger Units

1964 Posted as RSM to 11 Battalion CMF Unit WA.

1965 Posted to General Wing the School of Infantry as Senior Instructor

1968 Posted as RSM of 7 Battalion, including the second Tour of Duty with the Battalion.

1971 RSM Infantry Centre, Ingleburn N.S.W 1972-1975 RSM of Australia House, London UK 1975-1977 RSM Western Command, HQ Perth WA

1977 June RSM Royal Guard of Honour for the Departure of the Queen and Prince Philip from Perth Airport.

1977 July Retired from Service

Medals

Australian Medals:

M.B.E

39/45 Star Pacific Star Defence Medal

War Medal

A.S.M 39/45 Korea Medal

U.N. Service Medal

A.A.S.M. 1945/75 Korea, Japan, Vietnam Clasp

G.S.M. Vietnam, Vietnam Medal Vietnam Star

A.S.M. 45/75 Japan Clasp

M.S.M. Medal

C.S and G.C.M Medal D.F.S.M.

Combat Badge

Foreign Medals:

Peace Medal Korea

Air Medal U.S.A.

Honour Medal 1st Class

Vietnam Honour Medal and Clasp Vietnam Service Medal.

Citations:

U.S. Presidential Unit Citation

U.S. Meritorious Unit Citation

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF 7RAR ASSOCIATION
HELD AT LEGACY HOUSE CANBERRA
SATURDAY 3 JUNE 2017

1. The President declared the meeting open at 1605hrs, there were 9 members present and the XO held 17 Proxy votes.
2. The following apologies were notified: Jack Doulis, Ian Mackay, John Lawson, Bob Murdoch, David Webster, David Kibbey and Ron Grey.
3. The XO read a synopsis of the minutes of the 2016 AGM.
4. The President proposed that any matters arising from these minutes be raised during general business.
5. ANNUAL REPORTS:-
 - (a) PRESIDENT:

The President made comment of the passing of Eric Smith the first Commanding Officer of 7RAR with a brief history of his service to the nation through the period of the second World War in the New Guinea campaign of that conflict. Following this he saw service in Korea then returned home and married Elizabeth. A number of posting within Australia and overseas where he gained a great deal of experience saw him posted to second-in command of 1RAR and served in Malaya. As we all know he was posted to command 7RAR on their raising in 1965 due to the commitment of Australian troops in Vietnam. On his return to Australia he was posted as Commandant Infantry Centre which he moved from Ingleburn to Singleton. On his retirement from the Army Eric saw service the general manager of Randwick Race Course and maintained his close association with the 7RAR Association until his passing in February this year, he will be missed by all who knew and served with him.

We also saw the passing of Reg Bandy, RSM 7RAR on their second tour of duty in Vietnam. Reg born July 1922 a member of 6 children. Reg left the farm with a couple of mates and headed to Perth where they attempted to join firstly the Navy and then the Airforce where they were knocked back for reasons of those force were full so Reg decided to join the Army and in 1941 patrolled the WA coast. In 1943 all units in the army were converted to the AIF. After WW11 he was posted to the 67th Infantry Battalion which on 1947 became 3RAR and was posted to Japan and then onto Korea where he saw service at the Battle of Kapyong in April 1951.

On return to Australia he saw service in many postings, one was a posting in 1963 to SVN as a member of the training team and in 1968 he was posted as RSM 7RAR.

In 1977 Reg retired from the Army after 37 years of meritorious service, as time passed by Reg was a great supporter of the 7RAR reunions and attended all, as with Eric he will be missed by all who knew and served with him.

Mike also mentioned the need for the passing of the baton of leadership to the next generation as those currently holding down positions in the Committee of Management are getting older and the need for new blood is important to keep the Association going.

(b) SECRETARY/WEBMASTER:

The website continues to act as a repository of data. It has been my contention that the website acts as such while Facebook represents the daily goings on in the battalion and amongst us older veterans. I am still somewhat frustrated that no one has held up their hand to take over or assist me in running the website. I think it incongruous that a 70 year old should be in control of a media outlook that is very much a 21st century. Someone needs to answer the call before I answer the last bugle call!

In reference to "a repository of data I would like to investigate nominal rolls of overseas excursions since Vietnam. Soldiers like to see themselves registered as having deployed with the battalion and indeed I get a lot of emails about the nominal roll and a vast majority of the page visits are to the roll. I realize that the secrecy is still abound re Afghanistan and Iraq but surely East Timor and/or Timor Leste deployments could be noted. 4RAR have these on their website.

The info on Timor should be available within the system. If they went there and got a medal then it is registered. All it needs is someone with more influence than me to ask. The website is also useful as a citing tool to give authority to the history of the battalion. I go to great lengths to ensure anything posted as fact is in fact, fact.

I am more than happy to respond to any suggestions that may come from the newer generation of veterans and would welcome any input whatsoever.

(c) TREASURER:

The Treasurer presented the following financial status of the Association as at the time of this AGM.

7TH BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

ASSOCIATION INC.

Balance Sheet at 28th February 2017

Current Assets	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalent	67,298	69,769
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>67,298</u>	<u>69,769</u>
Current Liabilities		
Members Prepaid fees	10,657	10,907
Non Current Liabilities		
Members Prepaid fees	37,386	38,669
<u>Total Liabilities</u>	<u>48,444</u>	<u>49,576</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>	<u>18,854</u>	<u>20,193</u>
Equity		
Retained Profits	18,854	20,193
<u>Total Equity</u>	<u>18,854</u>	<u>20,193</u>

7TH BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

ASSOCIATION INC.

Profit and Loss Statement

For the Year Ended 28th February 2017

Income	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Members Receipts	12,632	11,038
Interest Received	1,625	1,905
Other Revenue	2,968	2,160
Gross Loss from Trading	-	(17,421)
	17,225	(2,273)
Awards Infantry Centre	373	324
Computer Expenses	2,732	1,195
Depreciation	-	2,702
Donations	3,532	1,500
General Expenses	1,412	110
Honorarium	-	1,000

Postage	1,032	3,632
Printing & Stationery	3,966	13,068
Subscriptions	-	100
Telephone	5,394	4,818
Travelling Expenses	<u>125</u>	<u>802</u>
	<u>18,566</u>	<u>29,251</u>

Loss for Year (1,339) (31,524)

Any member requiring further information on the financial status please direct your request to the XO/ED who will get the info requested and forward to the member.

(d) EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

The current membership of the Association stands at 1026, (about 135 serving members from 7RAR NOT all are financial to this year), there are still 238 other members un-financial only since 2015-16. Members can check their financial status by checking the first set of figures at the top left corner of their address label or if receiving via email click on tab at the top of the email.

We are now into 12 months sending Seven News using the Electronic System, this allowed 750 odd copies to be electronically sent to members and only 271 via the post which meant the total cost for the April news letter was \$1,677.13, down from our average cost of between \$4,000 and \$6,000 depending on the size of the publication.

Please remember that the newsletter is only as good as the articles I receive from the members. Also as indicated in the newsletter we are looking for assistants to the three positions that are mostly exposed to the membership, i.e. Executive Officer/Editor, Treasurer and the Secretary/Webmaster.

That's all I have for this and I look forward to serving you for as long as I am able.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE REPORTS:

Much discussion preceded these reports and the President decided that these points will be handled in general business.

7. COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT ELECTION:

The President declared all positions on the vacant and said that there were no new nominations for positions on the Committee of Management and the current members have indicated they wish be re-elected them the members present were asked to vote on these members being re-elected.

MOVED Mike O'Brien - SECONDED Kevin Gillett
that the current members of the Committee of Management be
re-elected. CARRIED.

The current Committee of Management is as follows.

PATRONS

Major General R. A. Grey, AO, DSO (Retd), (CO 7RAR 2nd tour);

Colonel E. H. Smith, DSO (Retd), (CO 7RAR 1st tour) and

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Graham, (Current CO 7RAR).

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR 2015-2016

PRES/HISTORIAN: MAJGEN MIKE O'BRIEN, CSC;

VICE PRESIDENTS: BRIG SHANE GABRIEL, DSC;

COL MICK GARRAWAY, AM;

SEC/WEBMASTER: MR KEVIN GILLETT;

TREASURER: MR BERNIE COX;

EXECOFFR/ED: MR TONY KEECH, OAM;

COMMITTEE : MR ROBERT MURDOCH;

MR BRICE STOKES; and

MR JOHN LAWSON.

HON AUDITOR: MR BERNARD WORSLEY; and

HON LEGAL OFFICER: LTCOL LACHLAN MEAD.

The President addressed the meeting and thanked all members of the
committee being re-elected.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Don Cruden raised the point that the Association should become a Life Governor of the Royal Australian Regiment Foundation, a sum of \$500 is the joining fee.

- MOVED Tony Keech, SECONDED Bernie Cox that the Association pay the \$500 to become Life Governor of the Royal Australian Regiment Foundation. CARRIED.
 - Rod Lyons raised the points about a formal letter from the Association regarding the donation to the Gurkhas dealing with the funds raised by the Association from the Gurkha Raffle. The President advised he would formally write to the Gurkha Welfare Trust.
 - Rod also mentioned that the Gurkhas have a website, "Gurkhas Australia" and added the recent visit to Australia by G Challenge for the ANZAC Day march.
 - Mick Garraway and Dave McCammon discussed the following points dealing with generational change to the Committee.
 - There is a need for the current generation of 7 RAR men to assume key positions on the committee, and for there to be a respectful transition in the association which honours the nature of membership of the Vietnam veterans and meets the needs of the Vietnam veterans but also takes into account the changing nature of association membership.
 - Current serving and contemporary ex serving soldiers are Generation X and Y. Like their Generation X and Y peers they are not inclined towards permanent financial membership of standing associations.
 - Fortunately there has been some studies into the nature of contemporary associations. In the coming months a small group of us will draft a plan for how the association could transition into a more contemporary model.
 - The plan will include options for types of membership, how we can continue to achieve the objects of the Association, how we can continue to communicate electronically, and how we can generate income.
 - The 2018 reunion cruise is likely to be the last reunion in the current format. The reunions have catered very well for the senior members of the Association, but the age and health of the senior members is likely to work against the possibility of similar reunions into the future. That style of re-union is not sought by contemporary ex-soldiers.
10. The Battalion is now well established in Adelaide and has Battalion birthday week activities embedded into their annual calendar including sports events and a ceremonial activity. Therefore Battalion birthday weeks are likely to give the Association an alternative which would see more frequent opportunities to attend informal reunions. As an example, members could attend a sports event and a parade and have informal reunions, without the need to arrange formal dinners and have set itineraries; all of which require considerable planning and financial commitment.
 11. The XO recited the Honour Roll.
 12. The President recited the ODE.
 13. The Meeting was closed at 1725hrs.

Pigs in Paradise

We are planning a mini reunion to be held at the Bribie Island RSL on Friday, 1st September to celebrate the Battalion's 52nd birthday. It is informal and no money required up front. Drinks and food are pay as you go. Just turn up at the RSL at about 4:30 pm and gather at the Sportsman Bar for pre-dinner drinks.

There is ample caravan park sites and other accommodation close by so book if you haven't already

I would suggest you wear a name tag

The following have indicated they will be attending.

Kev and Joan Gillett

Stoney and Robin Bourke

Ted and Julie Lewis

Sam and Adrianne Giacomantonio

Peter and Penny Upton

Richard and Jeanette Hylard

Peter and Sandra Gates

Darby Munro

Brian and Sheryl Maguire

Brian and Judy Lorback

Arthur and Beverly Holzhauser

Bob and Trish Goodger

Peter and Sandra Gates

Ron and Lorraine Osler

Phil and Sandra McLean

Father O'Leary

There will be others there who haven't told me they are coming. If you aren't on the list and intend coming could you email me on kev@7rar.asn.au or phone 0429 054 805

Gabby Hayes Remembered

Mrs Helen Kennett had listed herself as the next of kin of James Hayes out of regard to her father, who had lost his wife in late 1966.

Memories of the day of his death and of a loved brother to four siblings came flooding back on Sunday. Seven men who served with James either before or during the war initiated a special ceremony, assisted by the Goulburn RSL Sub Branch, at the Belmore Park honour roll. Mayor Bob Kirk also attended.

The veterans who travelled from around NSW, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania included Sam Giacomantonio, Jack Ezzy, Jack Lake, Keith Truin, Bill Charlton, Colin Stoy and Keith Truin.

"You might wonder why a group of ex-diggers made this journey," Mr Charlton told a 50-strong crowd on Sunday.

"Two words – mateship and respect."

He described James and the late John Connor, both killed in the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha on August 6, 1967 as two very special mates.

They were both attached to A Company of the 7th Royal Australian Regiment when they were taking part in Operation Ballarat, north-west of Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy province. Corporal Hayes, who commanded his section, was patrolling forward when the Company was caught unaware by the Viet Cong. The "classic encounter" that followed pitched forces of equal size against each other but the Australians emerged victorious.

But it was not without loss. Six Australians were killed, including 'Jimmy' Hayes, and 19 wounded. James's brother Terry said James, a signaller, was initially shot in the leg and managed to drag himself back to safety when the Viet Cong swept the ground with machine gun fire. He was one of the first Goulburn men to be killed in the Vietnam War, leaving a bereft family and community.

Ten days later he was given a full military funeral at Saints Peter and Paul's Cathedral.

"The cathedral was crammed," Mrs Kennett said.

"It was a terribly hard day. They sent a busload of Army men as a guard of honour. It was a heavy, heavy day and awful for our father, who'd only just lost Mum. Dad was 70 when Jim died and it knocked the hell out him."

James was buried at Goulburn's Saint Patrick Cemetery.

Three weeks earlier, Mrs Kennett had given birth to the youngest of her five children, who she named Jim.

James Hayes' best mate, Hobart man Bill Charlton also named his son after him.

"He was a fun-loving guy, very mischievous and we had some great times together," Mr Charlton said.

He left the Army before the Vietnam War but served with James in the 3rd RAR in the early 1960s.

James was educated at Inverloch Agricultural College near Lake Bathurst and afterwards spent five years back on the farm before joining the Army. He had bought his first gun at age 10 from Reg Mayo's shop and was destined to join up.

Mr Hayes said his brother loved Army life and cherished the friendships he made.

His death at age 27 was a huge loss.

"But our loss is no different to hundreds of other families who lose a loved one. No one expected such a tragedy but our family ethos is to accept the highs of life with graciousness and the lows with vigour and determination," he said.

Mr Hayes said the family took comfort that James joined up of his own free will and that his mates paid him a mark of such high respect on Sunday.

"I'd pose the question – how many of us, after being dead for 50 years, would have men come from every part of Australia to pay tribute...That tells you they are very loyal friends," Mr Hayes told *The Post*.

"...We take comfort that he joined (the Army) of his own free will and enjoyed what he was doing. He was very proud of Australia and had great confidence in his training and equipment."

Today he would have had 12 nieces and nephews, 27 great nieces and nephews, two great-great nephews and one great-great niece.

Mr Hayes said James's advice to his large surviving family would have been 'Don't worry, she'll be apples.'

"And if he'd been walking down Market Street today and saw this happening he'd say 'well, ain't that just the ducks guts!'" Mr Hayes said.



Jim Hayes at Kapooka in the early 60s



Bill Charlton and Jack Ezzy



Sam and Adriana Giacomantonio



l-r) Malcolm Spendelove, Colin Stoy, Keith Truin, Bill Charlton, Jack Lake, Sam Giacomantonio and Jack Ezzy.

Text and photos from the Gouldburn Post Thursday August 10, 2017



The framed flag

The association at the end of the 50th Reunion presented the Australian Flags that represented the BN's KIA back to the BN.

The BN took six of these flags to Iraq last year and flew them on Important BN days. 3 Were flown on the BN Birthday and then 3 on the anniversary Suoi Cha Pha.

On return to Australia these flags were presented to supporters of the Battalion as follows;

- 1. COL Andrew Lowe (Commander of Australian Forces in Iraq)**
- 2. 7RAR SGTs Mess (Gabby Hayes Flag)**
- 3. 3RAR (one of the Flags flown on the Birthday) currently in BHQ 3RAR, 2nd Photo**
- 4. SA Parliament (last photo being presented by LTCOL Paul Graham, DSM and WO1 Matt Bold)**
- 5. Federal Government (first photo presented to the member for Port Wakefield Nick Champion)**
- 6. RAR Club rooms Adelaide. <http://rarasa.org.au/?p=3816>**



One of the framed flags being presented to the Member for Port Wakefield by Col David McCammon



Another being presented to the South Australian Parliament by LTCOL Paul Graham, DSM and WO1 Matt Bold

KevGillett



Above and below: Don Cruden's Grandson and wife at Villers Bretonneux the weekend before ANZAC Day



Best from the West

Bit of a "pigs-muddle" this edition - I handed over editorship to Geoff way back late 1999 when I went on an overseas trip and he has held this task all these years and for this edition he goes and gets his eyes FIXED - well he is aiming to stop wearing glasses - it is like Clark Kent getting out of a phone booth without his SUPERMAN COSTUME - we lub ya! Like you are Geoff - no cosmetic surgery needed.

At the time of writing we will be attending Vietnam Veterans day in Kings park on Sunday 13 Aug and then the banner will go with Alan West for the Mandurah service on 18 Aug. We would hope to get a good attendance at both services. Regretfully Steve Chamarette will be in Esperance and I know Ric Brown will be in the Townsville area on these dates.

All WA members remember our annual Xmas function is to be held on Fri 23 Nov the location is still being discussed. Cost \$30 per head incl 5 raffle tickets and we need payment upfront and preferably bank direct (Commonwealth 06 613200913220) and ensure you mention your name so we can record this payment.

I visited Kapooka end of June for my grandsons graduation from Recruit training (he was posted to School of Arty for Corps training) (see photo bottom last page)- it was 61 years since I was last there and very noticeable changes. I was fortunate to speak with the Commandant Col Garraway and we had an informal discussion on the future for the Association. Us SVN veterans had snail mail, no mobile phones, no computers. 30 years later our current serving members have all these and more such as twitter, facebook and many other choices so this all adds up to a CHALLENGE for the future of 7 RAR and our association I believe with current office bearers all this is being seriously looked at. It is a challenge.

Perth held its Vietnam Veterans Day in Kings park today and it appears that numbers are falling - no representation from 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, RAR or even the Royal Australian Regiment Association. It was left to 4 & 7 RAR to show their banner.

Part of the service was a reflection on the battle of Suoi Chau Pha With Alan WEST SHORT RELECTION ON THIS EVENT (Alan served with C Coy on this occasion) We had hope to have Pud ROSS, MC, give the speech but he had departed the day earlier on a tour of Sth Africa. We had threatening weather but as luck would have it we ended up with a cloudy but cool day and thankfully no rain.

Our Banner was carried by Noel BELL and Johann VAN DER WALL and marching was Geoff MURRAY, Ian McNee, Don CRUDEN, Geoff BROPHY, Kanga BATTERSBY, Bob DARE, Alan WEST. At LEAST THESE NUMBERS ARE BETTER THAN WE HAVE HAD OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. Our Vietnamese residents continue to do us proud with a large turn out many in military attire and their woman folk ever so colourful in the country costumes. WE can only hope that we give support to this event otherwise it will fade away and never return.

XMAS FUNCTION

OUR XMAS FUNCTION IS TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 23 NOV FROM 1200 HRS AT THE GLOBE HOTEL WELLINGTON STREET PERTH. COST \$35 INCLUDES 5 RAFFLE TICKETS. THE HOTEL IS WELL LOCATED FOR ALL BUS AND TRAIN SERVICES . WE WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT PAYMENT AS WE ARE RESTRICTED TO A TOTAL OF 60 PERSONS IN THE ALLOCATED ROOM – FIRST IN FIRST SERVED.

PLEASE MAKE DIRECT PAYMENT TO OUR BANK ACCOUNT COMMONWEALTH BANK
ACCOUNT NO. 066 132 0091 3220 OR PAY BY

CHEQUES MADE OUT TO 7 RAR ASSOCIATION (WA) AND POSTED TO DON AT 26 LITTLE RIVER COVE JANE BROOK 6056.

1RTB MARCH OUT

A moment of pride for Don Cruden as he attended his Grandson completing his recruit training at Kapooka recently.



All the Best Don Cruden.