



Respect, Gratitude, Admiration

TRIBUTE

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Historical Society Australia,
Queensland Division

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ANZAC Day 2023

President Report

Hi everyone, I'm not often needed to fill the role of President but, with Neil away on his well-deserved overseas trip, it's time for me to take up the pen for a President's report.

The 14 May meeting at Fort Lytton was an interesting and educational visit and we were treated as VIPs by the Queensland Military Historical Society (QMHS). Many thanks to Ian for arranging all aspects of the visit and for Benjamin for so ably working the barbeque. QMHS arranged a very comprehensive tour around the fort and gave a complete history and description of it. Each time I see the fort, I'm amazed by the (at the time) state-of-the-art technology that was employed.

Disappearing guns, electronically detonated mines, and light beam alarm system to warn of vessels approaching in the dark, all electrically powered. This was one of only two sites in Queensland in the 1880s that had electricity – an awesome achievement for the time. It was as modern in 1880 when it was built as drones, cruise missiles and hypersonic weaponry are today.

It was great to see some of our Brisbane and Gold Coast based members at the meeting. It's important that we keep up regular meetings in other areas to allow this to happen. Of particular note is the attendance of Jim Nuttal and his wife who had travelled down from Mt Isa. Quite an effort.

The next meeting is our AGM at the Maryborough RSL on 15 th July. Please, please consider if you can participate in committee activities for next year. One specific need is the position of Secretary. We need someone to replace Ian while he heads off to see Australia.

For now though, sit back and have a look at the superb collection of articles that Ian has put together for us in this version of Tribute.

From the Editor

The June edition of *TRIBUTE* feature article is the Battle of Bihn Ba which took place in June 1969, thanks to the DVA Anzac Portal as we get closer to Vietnam Veterans Day in August this year. There is also a short article from Heston Russell's as he reflect on Anzac Day and what it means to him.

Defence News is growing as we see the introduction of its next chapter with the recently released Defence Strategic Review (DSR). For those who may not be up to date on the key recommendations of the review there is a short article outlining them plus a number of article that indicate some of the changes that will take place.

As always, enjoy the read.

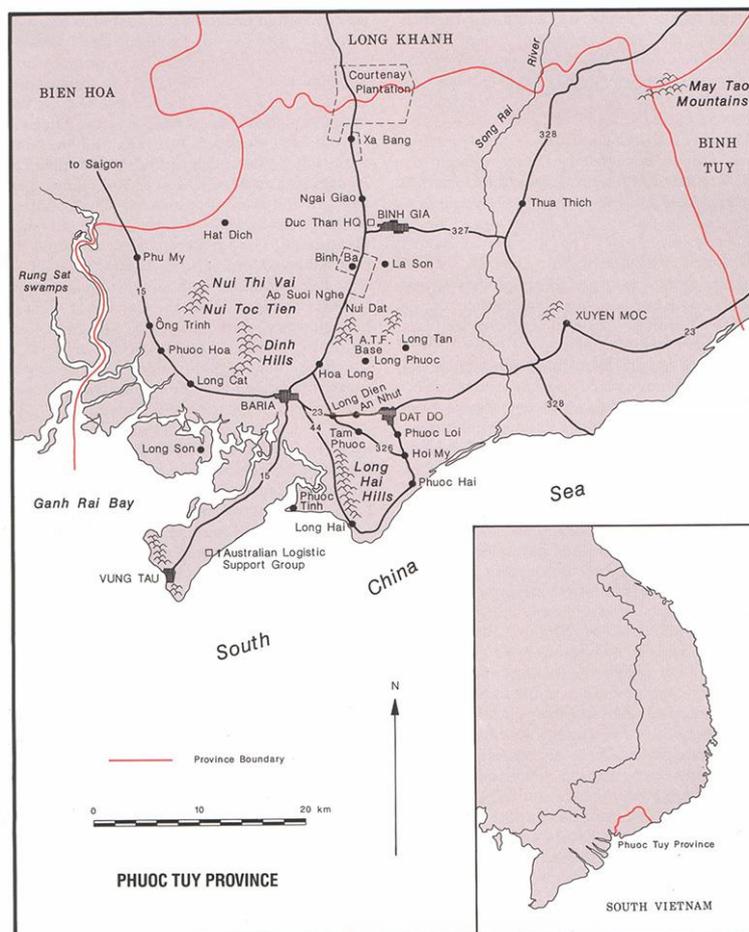
Battle of Binh Ba

DVA (Department of Veterans' Affairs) (2023), Australians in the Battle of Binh Ba 6 to 7 June 1969, DVA Anzac Portal, accessed 20 May 2023, <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/vietnam-war-1962-1975/events/combat/battle-binh-ba-1969>

The Battle of Binh Ba took place during the Vietnam War in June 1969. The Australian Army played a significant role in the battle, officially known as Operation Hammer. Australian forces, including infantry, armour, and artillery, were part of a joint operation with South Vietnamese troops to retake Binh Ba. The village was occupied by North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Viet Cong (VC) forces.

The Australian forces encountered fierce resistance from the NVA and VC, who had heavily fortified the village. However, the Australians used their superior firepower and tactics to push the enemy out of the village.

During the battle, the Australians suffered 4 soldiers killed and 17 wounded. The NVA and VC suffered heavy losses. The Battle of Binh Ba was considered a significant victory for the Australian forces. They were able to disrupt NVA and VC operations in the area and secure the village.



Map showing the location of Binh Ba relative to Nui Dat and the major centres in Phuoc Tuy Province.

How it happened

Early on the morning of 6 June 1969, a Centurion tank and an armoured recovery vehicle were making their way along Route 2 towards the village of Binh Ba. Classified as 'amber', the route was considered one on which enemy contact was possible but unlikely. The unlikely happened when a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) fired from a nearby house struck the Centurion's turret, wounding the operator and inviting retaliatory machine-gun fire from both vehicles before they left the scene. This provocative shot heralded a battle that raged for 2 days, left much of Binh Ba in ruins and resulted in the Australian Task Force winning one of its most comprehensive victories of the Vietnam War.

Less than 10 km from Nui Dat, the village of Binh Ba and its hamlets - Duc Trung and Duc My - had been familiar to the Australians since the Task Force base was established in 1966. In August of that year, the village was the target of a cordon and search operation, Operation Holsworthy, in which the Australians apprehended a number of Viet Cong (VC) guerrillas and sympathisers. But Binh Ba's proximity to Nui Dat did not ensure its continuing freedom from insurgents. Within 2 months, a VC cadre and guerrillas were once again in residence, collecting taxes and recruiting.

In early 1967, cordon and search operations, such as Holsworthy and Operation Caloundra, were fleeting. When they were over, the insurgents returned.

In late 1967, the VC ambushed and killed 2 Australian Army Training Team Vietnam members just outside the village of Binh Ba. Their activities were mostly covert, though. One VC soldier recalled his unit being divided into cells of a few men each and sent on a 'proselytising mission' to Binh Ba, during which they met their local counterparts in various village houses.

The situation persisted into the middle of 1969, by which time Binh Ba's security had been placed in the hands of local Regional Force soldiers. Neither the Task Force nor the South Vietnamese forces, which had day-to-day responsibility for the village's security, had been able to rid the area of insurgents.

That morning on 6 June, with one RPG round, the Regional Force compelled the Australians to fight for Binh Ba.

The battle might have been initiated for several reasons:

- an attempt to relieve the pressure on the North Vietnamese Army's (NVA) 33 Regiment headquarters in the area to the north where 6RAR was operating
- part of a nationwide offensive aimed at influencing the peace negotiations taking place in Paris
- an attempt to gain credit for the soon-to-be-announced withdrawal of some 25,000 United States troops from Vietnam.

5RAR's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Colin Khan, who commanded the Australian force for much of the battle, believed then and continued to believe more than 30 years later that the attack on the Centurion was nothing more than the result of poor fire discipline by a 'wayward soldier'.

After the Centurion was hit, 2 Regional Force platoons were sent to investigate but were stopped by heavy fire from the village.

The district chief requested support from provincial headquarters in Ba Ria, which in turn requested Australian assistance. Less than an hour later, Major Murray Blake attended a briefing at the Task Force headquarters. Blake was the officer commanding the Task Force's ready reaction force, D Company, 5RAR. His orders were to mount an operation to clear the village.

Expecting to meet a couple of Viet Cong platoons, Blake told his company sergeant major that 'there didn't seem to be too much in this'. He elected to bring 6 newly arrived reinforcements along for the experience.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

BEL/69/0386/VN

Two Australian armoured personnel carriers (APCs) of B Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, Royal Australian Armoured Corps, moving through a banana plantation near Binh Ba in June 1969, shortly before the battle on 6 to 7 June 1969. The APBC at the front has the call sign 86A. The commander of B Squadron is visible in the second APC. AWM BEL/69/0386/VN

The battle begins

Clearance operation

At 10 am, Blake's company left Nui Dat in armoured personnel carriers (APCs) commanded by Captain Ray De Vere of B Squadron, 3 Cavalry Regiment. With them was a composite

troop of tanks from B Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment, under the command of Second Lieutenant Brian Sullivan.

While the Australians travelled the short distance between Nui Dat and Binh Ba, the local District Chief tried to evacuate the civilian population. He also deployed his own troops, members of the Regional Force, into blocking positions to cut off the enemy's escape.



4 Troop, 1st Armoured Regiment, moving through Binh Ba. Image courtesy of Roger Foote, 1st Armoured Regiment Association

Waiting to move in

Half an hour after leaving Nui Dat, Blake's force deployed about 300 m to the south-east of Binh Ba and awaited clearance to move in.

Sergeant Brian London, 10 Platoon's acting commander, remembered pulling up on open ground before the village. Looking through the APC's open hatch, he saw 30 or 40 people running 'as if to make up a defensive position'. Seconds later, RPG smoke trails headed towards him. Instinct demanded that he exit the APC. A hit from an RPG could have killed or wounded everyone on board. But he fought the urge and stayed.

The armoured vehicles were just outside effective RPG range, and their crews were already returning fire. The Battle of Binh Ba was underway.

Planning the attack

Blake, meanwhile, was concentrating on the flurry of radio traffic coming through on about 8 networks.

The airwaves were busy with talk about who was in the village. Civilians, it turned out, had remained in the village. Blake instructed his men to take care and make sure their fire was aimed only at the enemy. It was, he said, a 'big ask' in a combat situation.

Blake also had to consider how best to carry out the attack. Numbers were limited. D Company was badly depleted, with only 70 men from a normally full complement of 120 available.

Between them, Blake, De Vere and Sullivan decided on an armoured assault, believing that dismounted infantry would be too vulnerable to enemy fire. De Vere, the senior armoured officer, took command during this phase of the operation.

By 11:20 am, the Australians were cleared to move in. The District Chief, wrongly believing the village to be free of civilians, told Blake to 'go in and do what you have to do.'

Blake knew that Binh Ba, a picturesque village with well-ordered streets, solidly constructed houses and lush productive gardens, would soon become a battleground.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05764.001

Aerial view of the well-ordered village of Binh Ba, Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, 1 September 1969. Photographed from the south-eastern corner of the village towards the north-west shortly after the Battle of Binh Ba on 6 to 7 June 1969. AWM P05764.001

Oblique aerial view of Binh Ba, looking northwest from the southeastern corner of the village (bottom right). After the heavy fighting in the village during Operation Hammer, reconstruction work is underway, coordinated by 1 Australian Civil Affairs Unit (1ACAU). A number of damaged houses have been repaired with iron roofs, and areas have been cleared between the banana trees and gardens. The village schoolhouse with its distinctive white

gable is in the centre near a large tree, while the village church stands at the right. The initial assault by the D Company, 5RAR group, during the operation was along the roads running diagonally from bottom right to top left.

Moving into the village

Approaching from the east, the Australians advanced with tanks in the centre of the formation and the APCs on either side and to the rear. As they entered Binh Ba, it became clear that not all the civilians had been evacuated, so 11 Platoon was ordered to dismount and help the villagers to safety.

Ahead of them, the tanks advanced slowly, moving cautiously between the rows of houses.

Diverting to a rubber plantation

Two tanks left in pursuit of enemy troops moving through the nearby rubber, reported by the pilot of an observation plane. One was hit by 2 RPG rounds, wounding 3 of the crew. The gunner, unable to traverse his turret, kept up a steady fire against the enemy whenever they crossed his line of sight.

Attracting gunfire in the village

Still believing that they were facing just 2 Viet Cong platoons, the rest of the Australians continued into the middle of Binh Ba, now with just 2 tanks in support. In the village centre, the Australians came under a storm of fire.

Murray Blake remembered seeing enemy everywhere, among them a heavy machine-gun crew wheeling their weapon into position before they were killed by fire from De Vere's APC.

This was no pair of Viet Cong platoons. The Australians had come up against NVA troops, a far stronger force than they had expected to meet.

Blake said the noise of RPGs, small arms and machine guns was deafening, and the scene was completely chaotic. Amidst the din, messages could only be reliably sent by hand signals or runner. The tanks, meanwhile, were running low on ammunition. The Australians needed to extricate themselves from the village.

Withdrawing ground forces

Overhead a helicopter gunship fired rockets into an enemy-occupied house. From above, the pilots saw tanks and APCs firing into the buildings while enemy troops ran between dwellings, some having escaped observation until they were seen from the air.

A light fire team of 2 bushrangers flew in, guided by De Vere's directions to attack positions on Binh Ba's southern side. Coming in low over the tanks, they fired rockets and miniguns into the enemy, clearing the way for the armour and D Company to make their way out.

Every tank had been damaged by enemy fire. One was so severely damaged it was useless for further action. Sullivan, like the others, had been so heavily engaged that his tank left Binh Ba with its last round of canister loaded.

Assessing the damage

The Australians had come through the chaotic fight without losing a man.

Tanks and helicopters gave them fire supremacy, keeping the enemy from bringing the troop-laden APCs under effective fire. But the APCs were heavily armed, and the armoured vehicles' combined firepower proved decisive. The After Action Report described the Centurions in particular as a 'battle winning factor'.

For some, however, it was a close call nonetheless. At one point during the fighting in the village square, Sullivan saw the shock wave when an RPG round struck the neighbouring vehicle, wounding a crewman in the neck. An instant later, he glimpsed the round of an RPG being fired at his own tank. He ducked but felt the sting of its tail fins grazing his back before it exploded against a nearby wall, peppering him with shrapnel.

Fortune and fine margins sometimes meant the difference between life and death.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00180.040

A No 9 Squadron, RAAF, UH-1D Iroquois helicopter flying over the village and rubber plantation of Binh Ba, Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam in 1970. The photograph was taken looking north-north-west. The village of Binh Ba and the hamlet of Duc Trung were the sites of a fierce battle from 6 to 7 June 1969. AWM P00180.040

The second assault

Once the tanks were safely on open ground away from the village, 9 Squadron RAAF helicopters flew in replacement crewmen, evacuated the wounded, including Sullivan, and delivered fresh ammunition.

D Company, having broken out of the village, lined up for a second assault, this time from the west and supported by fresh tanks from 4 Troop, B Squadron.

As 12 noon approached, B Company, 5RAR, was dispatched to help D Company, at which point Lieutenant Colonel Khan took command of Operation Hammer, relieving 6RAR's Lieutenant Colonel David Butler.

Moving into blocking positions

When they reached Binh Ba, B Company established blocking positions to the south and watched as flames rose from some buildings, marking the most intense combat scene. They then moved through the rubber to block from the east. One group, moving along the plantation's fringe, was seen by the tank crews, who were still being resupplied, and brought under machine-gun fire. Then an officer ran over and identified the figures in the rubber as Australians. The firing stopped before anyone was hit.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00510.032

The rubber plantation at Binh Ba, Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, in 1971. This was part of the Battle of Binh Ba from 6 to 7 June 1969. AWM P00510.032

Clearing the village on foot

Supported by APCs and tanks, the dismounted assault force, now back under Blake's command, divided into house-clearing teams of 2 to 3 men and advanced on the village.

Fire from the first row of buildings in the village hit Private Wayne Teeling in the neck. Teeling was a reinforcement who had been flown in that morning. Two men dragged his body from the line of fire, but nothing more could be done for the 21-year-old, killed in his first action.

Climbing up to the hatch of a nearby tank, Brian London had the crew commander fire a high explosive round into the building from which the fatal shot had come. Inside the ruins, the Australians found the bodies of 6 enemy soldiers.

Similar actions, localised fights involving small groups moving from house to house, were being fought all along the closest rows of dwellings. Fire came at the Australians from the doors and windows, from any vantage point that offered the enemy cover. By now, it was clear from the uniforms that some of the dead included NVA soldiers and VC. That explained the heavy weapons seen that morning and the surprising intensity of the fighting in Binh Ba.

To dislodge the enemy, D Company's house-clearing teams would fire until a tank could get into position. Once the door had been blasted in or a hole put through a wall with high explosive, the tank crews fired canisters through the hole, sweeping the inside with hundreds of steel projectiles. Then the infantrymen went in, clearing the houses room-by-room and throwing grenades into the bunkers dug by the villagers for shelter and now being used as cover by enemy troops. Sometimes there were terrifying close-quarter fights inside the shattered buildings.

For most of the Australians, the fighting in Binh Ba was unlike any that they had yet encountered.

An ungainly acronym, MOUT (military operations in urban terrain), described the experience. They were fighting in a populated area, people's homes were destroyed, and civilian lives were lost. But for the Australians' bravery and discipline, many more of Binh Ba's inhabitants might have been killed or injured.

More than once, when there was doubt about whether those in their sights were enemy combatants or civilians trying to flee the maelstrom, the assaulting troops held their fire, exposing themselves to mortal risk. The company's youngest soldiers often made these life-and-death decisions. Soldiers with the rank of private were leading 12 of the 21 rifle sections sent into the action.

Capturing prisoners of war

Many of the NVA soldiers fought to the death. Others removed their uniforms, discarded their weapons and tried to escape alongside the civilians still seeking to flee the battlefield.

After about an hour of fighting, B Company dispatched a platoon to screen the civilians escaping to Binh Ba's north. Among them were two VC passing themselves off as non-combatants and another, nursing a head wound, who surrendered under the Chieu Hoi

program, whereby the VC who gave themselves up were promised safety and good treatment. All 3 were taken prisoner along with another VC captured to the east of Binh Ba.

At one point, Ray De Vere watched as a man came out of the village, his raised hands exposing the webbing under his shirt. De Vere pointed at the incriminating piece of kit. The would-be escapee shrugged and smiled before surrendering.

The battle winds down

Taking a defensive position overnight

By the evening of 6 June, the fighting had died down.

An exhausted D Company and armoured corps personnel took up a defensive position for the night. Binh Ba, however, was still not secure.

Late in the afternoon, while the fighting in the village continued, B Company set up a harbour on the edge of the nearby rubber plantation. A gentle rain began to fall, just enough to make the night uncomfortable.

All was quiet until 3:20 am on 7 June, when an Australian platoon killed 2 enemy troops as they tried to escape to the south.

B Company's Bill O'Mara, from 6 Platoon, spent the night taking his turn on sentry duty and then sleeping. Early the following morning, he woke to the sound of shooting. The sentries had noticed troops moving through the rubber in assault formation. Thinking at first that the approaching figures were from D Company, they soon recognised them as enemy and let fly with fire.

O'Mara recalled seeing the flash from incoming RPGs and the sound of shrapnel hitting the rubber trees above his head. No Australian was hit, and when some of the platoon went over to where the NVA had been, there was no trace, not a single blood trail. O'Mara thought that everyone had fired too high.

At 7 am, a company of NVA was seen heading towards Binh Ba. B Company opened fire, and the enemy fled. When the Australians swept the area, they found a body and some blood trails, indicating that 6 others had been wounded.

An hour later, a section of APCs travelling north towards Duc Trung came under RPG fire, and a large group of enemy troops were seen moving between houses. The 5RAR Assault Pioneer Platoon, although readied for action, were not needed in the hamlet and moved to form a blocking force to Binh Ba's north-east. Local Regional Force troops went into Duc Trung and found the NVA had gone.

Just before 10 am, the Australians - D Company; 5 Platoon from B Company; 2 combat engineer teams from 1st Field Squadron, along with the tanks and APCs - lined up for another sweep of Binh Ba. They had to ensure that no more NVA or Viet Cong had infiltrated the village during the night and flush out any remaining from the previous day.

By 12 noon, the western half of the village was clear. The enemy was gone. The search was then handed over to Popular Force troops, who swept the eastern half of the village.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

BEL/69/0382/VN

Soldiers of 6 Platoon, B Company, 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR), commanded by 29466 Major Rein Eelmaa Haring and supported by Centurion tanks of No 4 Troop, B Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment (1AR) RAAC, sweep towards the edge of a rubber plantation at Duc Trung on 7 June 1969. Identified from the APC are: 2790338 Private (Pte) Raymond William (Ray) Frauenfelder (with radio); 5715984 Pte Peter Giles Wardrope; 217419 Corporal (Cpl) Peter Pezet, Section Commander; 1733741 2nd Lieutenant Robert Allen (Bob) Hutchison, Platoon Commander; 4720117 Pte Gregory Charles 'Spike' Dwiar; 44537 Pte William (Bill) Errington; two unidentified; 1201639 Pte Douglas George Mckellar; 217931 Pte Michael Martin (Mick) Cox; one unidentified. AWM BEL/69/0382/VN

Fighting in Duc Trung

Binh Ba was quiet, but shortly afterwards, fighting flared again in Duc Trung. The Regional Force company, having earlier found the hamlet empty, was being overrun.

Artillery fire from 105 Battery began falling among the enemy troops, a light fire team flew in support, and B Company prepared to go in with the APCs. They lay in a line amidst the trees, every man facing the village, weapons at the ready.

On command, the line of infantry rose and spread out between the APCs, moved in from the south, covering the 100 m or so of open ground before the hamlet without incident. In front of them, the tanks approached Duc Trung in an extended line, but not a living soul remained

in the southern part of the hamlet. The damage, wrote Bill O'Mara 'had been well and truly done'.

In the north, enemy troops were mingling with civilians. Wanting to avoid casualties among the villagers, the Australians left the task to local Popular Force troops.

Pursued by shell fire and helicopters, the enemy withdrew to the north-west. They left behind 6 dead and a series of tell-tale blood trails. Perhaps these unfortunate men were those buried later in the day by O'Mara and another soldier. He recalled being detailed to bury 6 enemy dead, a 'grisly task' during which he noticed that they were wearing the black clothes of the VC rather than the NVA khaki.

The night of 7 June also passed without contact, and a final sweep the following morning confirmed that the enemy had gone.

Returning to Nui Dat base

A few hours later, the men who had fought the battle returned to Nui Dat.

Australian Civil Affairs personnel were already in Binh Ba when they left. Hours of heavy fighting, from street to street, house to house, and finally even room to room, had destroyed much of the village.

The villagers returned to find that large holes had been blown through the walls of many houses, and in others, the door was gone. The wreckage told of violent combat and the weight of firepower directed against those inside.

Aftermath of the battle

The Australians in Binh Ba had been lucky.

Teeling was the only Australian killed. Many years later, Teeling's niece, Sandy, visited Vietnam. She dropped a rose quartz crystal, given to her by his widow, Carolyn, in Halong Bay as a gesture of respect to an uncle she probably never knew.

One loss in a battle of such ferocity must be considered fortunate, but for those who knew and loved that individual, the death remains a tragedy.

The same tragedy befell many Vietnamese in Binh Ba.

Casualty figures vary, but it seems that more than 100 VC and NVA, possibly many more, lost their lives in the battle. Several South Vietnamese soldiers were also killed in the fighting.

The engineers, plant operators from 1 Field Squadron and 21 Engineer Support Troop, had the unpleasant task of digging a mass grave in which to bury the enemy dead. Sadly, a number of villagers also lost their lives during the battle.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

BEL/69/0396/VN

Six men from 5RAR inspecting enemy weapons at Binh Ba, Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, 1969. The weapons were recovered after the Battle of Binh Ba from 6 to 7 June 1969. AWM BEL/69/0396/VN

In such a confused, intense fight in an urban area, no amount of care could have prevented civilian casualties. Houses and vegetation limited the field of vision, and some of the enemy, members of a VC guerrilla unit rather than the NVA, were hard to distinguish from Binh Ba's residents.

During the latter part of the first day's fighting, some NVA troops discarded their uniforms for civilian clothes making it more difficult for the Australians to make the distinction. However much they lamented the loss of civilian lives, it is clear from veterans' writings and interviews that this has weighed heavily on some.

Those who fought at Binh Ba should also be proud that their efforts, often at great personal risk, prevented a far greater loss.

The 1st Armoured Regiment, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment and The Royal Australian Regiment were all awarded a battle honour for Binh Ba. A number of individuals were also recognised for their bravery.

The village, left in ruins, was rebuilt. Today Binh Ba stands, as it did 40 years ago, beside the rubber plantation from which many residents still derive their income.

The old marketplace in the village centre at Binh Ba now hosts a memorial complex dedicated to the 33rd NVA Regiment, many of whose soldiers died in the battle. The village has grown, and newer buildings adjoin Route 2, obscuring the old and making Binh Ba

appear very different to the place that, for 2 days in June 1969, was the scene of a fierce battle.

Almost as soon as the fighting in Binh Ba came to an end, Australian civil affairs workers and engineers moved in to begin rebuilding the shattered village. Members of the 17th Construction Squadron are shown repairing some buildings while others knock down those that were beyond fixing.



2790880 Private Wayne Edward Teeling

21, Clovelly NSW

He was an Assistant Engineer when conscripted 24 July 1968

LEST WE FORGET

REFLECTING ON THE ANZACS, IN THE AUSTRALIA OF TODAY

Heston Russell

Anzac Day and Remembrance Day hold special places in the hearts of most Australians, as we pause to remember the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

While both days hold equally great importance, Anzac Day has a unique significance that harks back to the birthplace of the ANZAC spirit at Gallipoli. It was the actions of young Australians on those shores that not only earned the respect of our allies but instilled a deep sense of reverence in our former enemies that day, and forever more.

We live in times where entitlement is readily replacing meritocracy in Australia and the culture of earning one's achievement is slipping away. To me, as a fifth-generation Australian Veteran, this is the day to honour the legacy of our ANZACs who prioritised service and responsibility over self-entitlement. Anzac Day reminds us of the courage and commitment that nearly half a million young Australians showed when they willingly departed to fight on the other side of the globe in a country they had likely never known before reading about the war, now over 100 years ago.

This is the legacy that we must carry forward as custodians of the ANZAC spirit today. We must maintain the standards and values that our forefathers held so dear - to put service to our nation and all its people before oneself. It is through their personal example and the strength of their character that the ANZACs showed us how pure and authentic the inspiration of our nation could be.



As Veterans alive today, we must remember the perspective that our service and experiences provide. We must encourage all Australians to realise the common values we share - to aspire to be like the ANZACs who set the standard of what it means to be Australian.

While some speak to dismiss the ANZAC spirit as mere propaganda, those of us who have served in combat know the true inspiration that comes from putting others and purpose before yourself. Fighting with those you would choose to call family with a love that is still hard to explain. It is this sense of duty to our country and all our Australian people, regardless of any

labels that can be applied, that still drives us forward today, especially in the face of adversity.



That is why it is up to us, the Veterans of today, to carry forward the flame forged by our ANZACs. To set the example of strength and resilience where and when it is needed. For it is only through personal example and actions, not simply raised voices and words, that we can uphold the values and standards that define us as a nation.

So, as we pause to reflect on Anzac Day, let us dip our cups back into the cauldron that holds the eternal ANZAC flame. Let us be reminded of the sacrifices made by those who came before us, and the standards they set for what it means to be Australian. Let us renew our pledge today, to carry forward this legacy, serving as custodians of the lessons and values that can inspire us all again.

From the News

DEFENCE STRATEGIC REVIEW

CONTACT's quick read of the Defence Strategic Review pulled out the following key points [with paraphrased extracts contained in square brackets]

The ADF's current force structure is not fit for purpose for our current strategic circumstances.

The current joint force, namely the combined effect of Navy, Army and Air Force working together, does not appropriately reflect the growth of domains.

The evolution to five domains – maritime, land, air, space and cyber – demands a new approach.

Given the strategic circumstances and limited resource base we face, investing in the critical capabilities will require divesting, delaying, or re-scoping other activities that do not advance the attributes of the Integrated Force.

[Big expansion slated for Navy – “An enhanced lethality surface combatant fleet, that complements a conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine fleet, is now essential” – but, a further “independent analysis of Navy’s surface combatant fleet capability should be conducted to ensure its size, structure and composition” compliment the new subs.]
The Government should confirm its commitment to continuous naval shipbuilding through an updated National Naval Shipbuilding Enterprise Strategy and updated supporting Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Plan.

Land-domain force structure design priorities must result in significant changes to Army force posture and structure.

Australia’s Army must be transformed and optimised for littoral manoeuvre operations by sea, land and air from Australia, with enhanced long-range fires.

As a priority it must be able to provide:

- littoral manoeuvre capability by sea, land and air;
- long-range fires, including land-based maritime strike;
- air and missile defence; and
- close-combat capabilities, including a single armoured combined-arms brigade, able to meet the most demanding land challenges in our region.

Army’s combat brigades must be re-rolled and select capabilities postured in northern Australia.

We strongly support the decision to acquire the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) and its associated missiles.

We further recommend the acquisition of additional HIMARS and strongly support the ongoing co-development and rapid acquisition of the Precision Strike Missile in all its forms.

Our assessment is that the LAND 400 Phase 3 – Land Combat Vehicle System (Infantry Fighting Vehicle) acquisition must be reduced from 450 to 129 vehicles.

Army must cancel LAND 8116 Phase 2 – Protected Mobile Fires (the second regiment of self-propelled howitzers).

[The MQ-28A Ghost Bat program should be a priority for development.]

We do not consider the B-21 Raider to be a suitable option for acquisition.

At this stage there is no need to generate a separate Space Force.

A comprehensive framework should be developed for managing operations in the cyber domain that is consistent with the other domains.

It is our strong recommendation that a senior officer or official be appointed whose sole responsibility is to lead the GWEO (guided weapons and explosive ordnance) Enterprise with an appropriate underpinning organisational structure.

While we are supportive of Defence’s approach to developing an ADF common IAMD (integrated air and missile defence) capability, we are not supportive of the relative priority that the program was given. The program is not structured to deliver a minimum viable capability in the shortest period, but is pursuing a long-term, near-perfect solution at an unaffordable cost. In-service, off-the-shelf options must be explored.

(Source: Contact)

Australian defence-industry reps disappointed with DSR

Australia's peak industry body representing small and medium defence-industry companies – Australian Industry and Defence Network (AIDN) – says it is concerned about an apparent emphasis on speed over sovereignty in today's Defence Strategic Review.

A spokesperson for AIDN said the representative body welcomed the release of the review and acknowledged the hard work of Dr Stephen Smith and Sir Angus Houston – but, go on to say that references to sovereign defence industry appeared cursory at best in the report.

“AIDN is calling for the Albanese Government and the Department of Defence to work closely with the 61,000+ workers employed by Australian defence industry to ensure that a comprehensive policy-and-procurement framework are put in place to achieve this intent,” the spokesperson said. “However, the DSR does not affirm this position. “The references to defence industry [in the DSR] appear cursory at best. “Of concern is the statement that Australian industry content and domestic production should be balanced against timely capability acquisition. “The Albanese Government needs to clearly articulate what they believe ‘timely acquisition’ is – and it needs to articulate what the industrial plan for Australian industry is to be.

AIDN can accept that the requirement for a capability may mean Defence proceeds offshore to purchase that capability, but, there must be a plan to ensure that the ability to produce the capability locally is developed at the same time – and it must be mandatory. “Without the proper guidance from government, Defence will be able to use the argument of speed to capability to avoid the use of Australian industry. “The future of Australian defence industry depends on a framework where their role in delivering capability requirements is clear, and the procurement process is efficient and accessible to local industry, especially SMEs.

Allowing internationally owned large Defence contractors the ability to provide advice to Defence on ‘speed to capability’ without due regard or requirement for work to be transferred to Australian industry, means that these overseas companies will simply use the ‘speed to capability’ mantra to employ their existing overseas supply chains – and thus there will be no development, enhancement or creation of an Australian indigenous sovereign industrial capability, a capability our nation requires in order to achieve national strategic resilience.

AIDN said the creation of Australian capability would allow us as a nation to be independent, sovereign and resilient, and could and should provide a secondary manufacturing and supply capability for our strategic partners. “If Australia is to achieve a truly sovereign industrial base, then Australian defence industry must be designed into every aspect of these programs. “If the intent is simply to acquire capability from foreign-owned industries, then our nation will have fallen short of what we need to create with our own industry. “Australian industry is simply too important to be left to the whims of foreign-owned multinationals. “AIDN would argue that now is the time for our government to mandate requirements into all of these programs so that foreign entities understand what they must do in order to secure these opportunities. “This is not an isolated requirement – most nations have exacting requirements for the inclusion of local defence industry into their programs.”

(Source: Contact)

Meritorious Recognition for Somalia Veterans

In this 30th anniversary year of ADF operations in Somalia, the Australian Government has accepted the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal recommendations for unit recognition for the Australian Defence Force (ADF) service in Somalia. The Tribunal recommended the award of a Meritorious Unit Citation for the following ADF units that served in Somalia between 1992 and 1995:

- The four United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNISOM) Australian Service Contingents (ASC) - ASC I, ASC II, ASC III, and ASC IV
- 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Group (1RAR)
- HMAS Tobruk

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, Matt Keogh, said it is fitting these individuals receive the recognition they have long advocated for. "The Meritorious Unit Citation will recognise the service, contribution, and sacrifice made by those ADF members that were deployed in Somalia. I express my deepest gratitude to all those who served. Service in Somalia represented the ADF's largest land and sea operation since Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War."

In 1992, Somalia faced a civil war and famine crisis, prompting the international community to launch an aid campaign. Australia sent a thirty-person Movement Control Unit (MCU), and the RAN deployed an infantry battalion group to Somalia. The 1RAR Battalion Group was later transferred to UNOSOM II to rebuild the Somali state. Australians who served or supported operations in Somalia were part of various organisations and remained in Somalia until November 1993. However, the last UN troops were withdrawn from Somalia in March 1995 after facing significant casualties and failing to restore order or peace.

The Meritorious Unit Citation is awarded to a unit for sustained outstanding service in warlike operations. It is not an individual honour or award. This recognition will be a significant honour for the veterans who served in Somalia, as it acknowledges their exceptional work and dedication under challenging conditions.

The Somalia Figurine was created to commemorate the men and women who served in Somalia. It depicts a soldier helping a young girl and is a tangible representation of the spirit of service and humanity. It comes with a Certificate of Authenticity, making it an ideal gift or collectible. The figurine is a Limited Edition of 2,500 Units.

"As we approach ANZAC Day, we must acknowledge and pay tribute to all service personnel engaged in conflict, peacekeeping, or humanitarian operations. They each embody the Spirit of the ANZAC." Minister Keogh said. The Government will announce later this year how current and former ADF members can receive the insignia of the Meritorious Unit Citation.

Recognising the Australian Defence Force personnel who served in Somalia in the 1990s is long overdue. Their extraordinary work in challenging conditions deserves to be celebrated and honoured. The Meritorious Unit Citation and Somalia Figurine are just some ways to pay tribute to these brave individuals and their contributions to the global community.

(Source: Military Voice)

Navy



The Australian government has committed \$180million over the next five years to modernise the anti-ship missile defence capabilities on Royal Australian Navy ships.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia signed a contract to build Multi-Ammunition Softkill System (MASS) to equip Anzac-class frigates and Hobart-class destroyers with anti-ship missile protection.

Minister for Defence Industry Pat Conroy said it was great to visit the Brisbane facility where this exciting new system will be developed with support from a number of local companies. “This investment will not only keep our sailors safe, but also lead to a smarter, stealthier navy, able to protect Australia’s interests in our current strategic environment,” Minister Conroy said. “We are investing in sovereign capabilities and working with local industry to ensure our Defence personnel have the capability they need to keep Australians safe.”

Produced by Rheinmetall of Germany, MASS is connected to the ship’s sensors and protects ships by launching decoys that operate in all relevant electromagnetic wavelengths – ultraviolet, electro-optical, laser, infrared and radar.

Anti-torpedo ammunitions can also be used without modification to the system.

(Source: Contact)



Digital composite image by CONTACT

The government will establish a new agency and a new regulator as part of its commitment to delivering Australia's conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines.

The Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) will be established by Executive Order and be responsible and accountable for the management and oversight of Australia's nuclear powered submarine program. Work to deliver the pathway is already underway and remains a key priority for the government, in line with the recommendations of the Defence Strategic Review.

In leading the delivery of Australia's nuclear-powered submarines, the ASA will be responsible for cradle-to-grave management, including:

- acquisition
- delivery
- construction
- technical governance
- sustainment, and
- disposal

ASA will also enable the necessary policy, legal, non-proliferation, workforce, security and safety arrangements.

Royal Australian Navy, led by the Chief of Navy, will continue to be responsible for training submariners and operating Australia's submarines. The Nuclear-Powered Submarine Taskforce, which currently operates as part of Defence, will transition to the ASA on 1 July 2023. It will be headed by a Director General, the appointment of whom will be announced by the government at the appropriate time.

The government will also establish a new independent statutory regulator, the Australian Nuclear-Powered Submarine Safety Regulator. The new regulator will have the functions and

powers necessary to regulate the unique circumstances associated with nuclear safety and radiological protection across the lifecycle of Australia’s nuclear-powered submarine enterprise. This includes associated infrastructure and facilities.

The regulator will be independent of the Australian Defence Force’s chain of command and directions from the Department of Defence. This will be a fundamental part of a system of regulation, which will work with existing Australian regulators to support the safety of our submariners, Australian and international communities, and the environment.

Both the ASA and the Australian Nuclear-Powered Submarine Safety Regulator will be non-corporate Commonwealth entities within the Defence portfolio and report directly to the Minister for Defence.

Minister for Defence Richard Marles said the government was delivering on its commitment to the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines, which is the single biggest investment in our defence capability in our history. “The establishment of the Australian Submarine Agency and the Australian Nuclear-Powered Submarine Safety Regulator are critical elements of delivering this game-changing capability and will ensure the safe and successful implementation of the pathway for Australia’s acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines,” Mr Marles said. “The ASA will be responsible and accountable for delivering the ambitious program to acquire Australia’s nuclear-powered submarines. “A specialised and dedicated regulator – which will be independent of Defence and the Australian Defence Force – will ensure we have the highest standards of nuclear safety and radiological protection across the lifecycle of Australia’s nuclear-powered submarines.”

Army



Victoria Cross Recipients Corporal Daniel Keighran, Corporal Mark Donaldson and Keith Payne in front of the home of the Victoria Cross Roll of Honour, the Union Jack Club, London.

Victoria Cross recipients Corporal Mark Donaldson and Corporal Daniel Keighran, in London for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, took time out to visit Australian troops involved in Operation Kudu. The pair made an impromptu visit to southern England where Australian Army soldiers were training Ukrainian recruits to defend their country from Russia's invasion. "It is remarkable what our troops are doing here – they are helping these recruits develop critical skills and techniques that will make a huge difference on the battlefield," Corporal Donaldson VC said. "I'm deeply impressed – the standard of training is exceptionally high," Corporal Keighran VC said.



Corporal Daniel Keighran VC and Corporal Mark Donaldson VC talk with Australian Army soldiers deployed on Operation Kudu in the UK.

Corporal Donaldson, Corporal Keighran and Keith Payne VC were invited to take part in Coronation of King Charles III.

Corporal Keighran will take part in the Order of Chivalry, walking into Westminster Abbey behind Keith Payne. "It is an extraordinary opportunity – I'll be representing the Commonwealth proudly and I'll be wearing that slouch hat with pride," Corporal Keighran said.

Corporal Donaldson said it meant a huge amount to be invited to the Coronation. "During the service I'll be reflecting on my mates and all the young men and women who are serving right now – the next generation who are taking that legacy forward, and the tough conditions they may have to face," Corporal Donaldson said.

(Source: Contact)

Air Force



A Defence report said the ADF had assisted with evacuating 67 Australian and foreign nationals from war-torn Sudan under Operation Carnelian, in which the ADF deployed two Royal Australian Air Force C-130J Hercules from RAAF Base Richmond with a small contingent of flight, security and maintenance personnel on board. “The aircraft conducted operational planning tasks in Cypress before deploying to Port Sudan. “The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) led a whole-of-government response to the conflict in Sudan that required meticulous planning.”

Squadron Leader Jamie Minor said the ADF contingent deployed on short notice to establish a staging area in Cyprus, where they met with government officials and assisted with planning the operation. “Key considerations included the movements of displaced Australians and foreign nationals out of a conflict area while providing them safety and support,” Squadron Leader Minor said. “The ADF was able to provide rapid planning, deployment and execution in support of DFAT.”

The Defence report said that when the C-130J Hercules arrived in Port Sudan on 2 May, a team of DFAT and ADF personnel promptly processed and evacuated the 67 people.

Assistant Secretary DFAT Jenny Da Rin said the mission was a success thanks to strong cooperation between Australia and partners.

Among the group evacuated in the RAAF aircraft were 36 Australians plus citizens of the UK, US, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden and Ireland.

(Source: Contact)



A Royal Australian Air Force officer trainee takes part in the field phase of the officer training course at Dutson Air Weapons Rangel, East Sale

As an air-raid siren rings out and a simulated grenade explodes, officer trainees open fire to defend an imitation air base.

Five hundred kilometres north, recruits climb ropes, mount walls and crawl through tunnels as they navigate a confidence course.

Having been gassed, fatigued and kept up at night by ‘enemy’ attacks, graduation is in sight for the first groups of officers and recruits undertaking their respective consolidated initial training courses.

This is part of a less-is-more approach to initial training that has seen 1 Recruit Training Unit (1RTU) reduce their course from 11 weeks to nine and Officer Training School from 17 to 14 and eventually 12 weeks.

It follows Air Commander Australia identifying a need to grow the Royal Australian Air Force faster, by graduating trainees quicker and more efficiently. One big change at 1RTU is tightening training blocks to make the ‘green phase’ a three-week continuous period.

Airfield defence guard Corporal Ricky Watson said compression of the course allowed the ground defence element to have more time with trainees, instead of splitting their time into different blocks. “We used to waste time signing weapons in and out and going through revision of topics we covered in previous weeks,” Corporal Watson said. “Now it’s weapons, range, CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) and ground defence. “We’re able to get a lot more out of it knowing we don’t have to revisit things later on course, and they are more focused.”

Corporal Watson said this year’s introduction of range practices was also improving their skills in combat shooting.

Flight Sergeant Sean Seery, of OTS, said aviators now have a better understanding of operating in difficult environments with the inclusion of the combat marksmanship continuum. “When it comes to ground combat, aviators generally operate in a close-defence area,” Flight Sergeant Seery said. “Previously, we would take trainees to the range, they would lie down, get comfortable and shoot. “Now they are shown how to run their weapon in many different positions, employing it using combat behaviours and new shooting techniques.”

Officer trainees are also temporarily issued Australian multicam camouflage uniforms to help instil a warfighter attitude during their field phase.

Executive Officer 1RTU Squadron Leader Matt Kelly said the new training approach removed inefficiency while consolidating blue and green phases. “We introduce them to the fundamentals and gradually increase the tempo to the point where they have the skills they need to enter our workforce,” Squadron Leader Kelly said. “We’re now thinking very clearly about what training outcomes the Royal Australian Air Force needs in preparing for operations in our region and are designing a product to align with that.”

The shortened course means 1RTU can run additional sessions throughout the year with less overlap, expanding the capacity of each individual session. This increased 1RTU capacity by 85 per cent compared to the number of recruits trained in 2022.

Commanding Officer OTS Wing Commander Garth Herriot said the content hadn’t significantly changed, but had been refined and distilled. “We have cut out the bits of fat within the program,” Wing Commander Herriot said. “The learning outcomes that we deliver largely remain the same and, if not, we have modified them to meet contemporary requirements. “We used to hop on a bus and drive for a few hours for adventure training, whereas now we now have a brand new abseiling tower on site.”

He said there were always going to be risk with such changes, but it was about accepting that risk and training to deliver an outcome. “We might have to do less physical training, but we are able to graduate someone faster for the Royal Australian Air Force,” Wing Commander Herriot said. “We identified training duplication within the course and removed the inefficiencies, but we are still graduating our trainees at a high level.”

(Source: Contact)



RAAF recruits take part in the confidence course at 1st Recruit Training Unit

Underneath the words Fit to Fight, a flight of recruits are marched into the 1 Recruit Training Unit (IRTU) gymnasium to conduct their initial fitness test.

With padded mats laid out, the push up test begins. Despite a move to a nine-week course, recruits are receiving more physical training than before with a strong focus on strength and conditioning. Physical training instructor Corporal Mark Theron sees only positive changes in the recent overhaul of the physical component at IRTU. “The goalposts are always shifting. Towards the end of 2021, the baseline marker was just physical fitness test passing,” Corporal Theron said. “That’s still one of our main objectives, but we’re now trying to instil longevity in our recruits. “As opposed to getting them really good at push-ups and sit-ups, we are actually teaching them basic movement methods that they can take on operations and through their whole career.”

Civilian physiotherapists have also been brought in to minimise recruits’ time in medical. “Previously, if someone presented to us with an injury we’d send them to medical and you would lose them for that session,” Corporal Theron said. “There are always going to be injuries out field, some preventable and some not – that’s the nature of the beast. “We are trying to make everyone better through individualisation.”

Introducing the isometric mid-thigh pull has allowed staff to measure strength and power of incoming recruits. In the form of a deadlift, recruits pull on a fixed barbell while generating downward pressure on a force plate which tests the immediate peak force they generate.

Physical training instructor Corporal Steven Baker said that before this, there wasn’t a way of testing overall body strength. “You can literally put anyone on it. It’s safe because they’re not moving,” Corporal Baker said. “There is zero skill to it, it’s purely looking at your strength ability rather than your skill ability.”

Results are instantaneous and recorded on a digital profile so a comparison can be drawn from the first day a recruit arrives at IRTU to their graduation.

A 2021 survey showed recruits were walking up to 10km a day which correlated to a high rate of musculoskeletal injury. A ‘shoes to boots’ program was devised by the physios to mitigate these injuries and allowed recruits to acclimatise to new footwear.

Introduction of accelerometers has helped balance load during drill lessons, while an app tracks their mental-health fitness. “We’re looking at mental health, nutrition and wellness feedback,” Corporal Theron said. “It’s not all just physical – we are looking at how to create a better person and then aviators overall.”



Show and Tell

ORDNANCE ELEMENT 1 AUSTRALIAN LOGISTICS SUPPORT COMPANY

The Ordnance Element, 1 Australian Logistics Support Company was raised from 1 Composite Ordnance Company at Bandiana in May 1965, with a strength of 1 officer and 20 other ranks, following the decision of the Australian Government to commit an infantry battalion and supporting troops to active service in South Vietnam. Although RAAOC officers and men had served on active duty individually or as part of Commonwealth and other units, the Ordnance Element, 1ALSC was the first RAAOC unit deployed on active service since World War 2. As such it occupies a unique place in the Corps history.

The element moved to South Vietnam in May-June 1965 and was located at Bien Hoa adjacent to the air base. The Australian units were attached to and under command of the US Army 173rd Airborne Brigade. The role of the element was to provide the full range of ordnance supply support to the infantry battalion (1RAR) and supporting units. An initial scaling of approximately 9,000 items was sent from Australia in June 1965. The element was allocated a stores and living area adjacent to the brigade supply battalion and tank shelters and tents were hastily erected for storage, with the control office located in an extended light weight tent. Re-supply from Australia was by ship on a periodic basis and by RAAF C130 aircraft every two weeks. In addition, a system of supply from the US Army and from local procurement was established.

Additional support units were added to the battalion group in September 1965 increasing the Australian commitment. As part of this expansion an increment of 1 officer and 6 other ranks was added to the element to handle the increase in inventory. The Ordnance Element remained in tented accommodation, both living and storage, in its original location at Bien Hoa until April 1966. In 1966 the Australian commitment was increased to a task force to be located at Nui Dat with logistic support units located at Vung Tau. 1ALSC was disbanded and those members of the Ordnance Element who had not completed their tour of duty were sent to Vung Tau as part of the advance party of 2 Composite Ordnance Depot.

The Ordnance Element, 1ALSC was the first element of what was to be a seven year commitment by the RAAOC in South Vietnam. In 1965 Vietnam was very much an unknown environment and the element performed well in trying conditions and with the distinction of not having a medical evacuation during its period of service. In recognition of its performance during 1965-66 the 173rd Airborne Brigade and its attached units (including 1ALSC) were awarded the US Meritorious Unit Commendation. Those who served with the Ordnance Element are eligible to wear this award.

On the 18 August 2023 the work of Ordnance during the Vietnam War will be recalled for Vietnam Veterans Day at Wondai. Often overlooked Ordnance played a significant role in the war capacity of the Task Force and its support elements.

Within 12 years of the first train arriving at Wondai district went from a population of around 40 to over 1600 men and women of whom nearly 300 men enlisted and 94 were either killed or died of wounds in WW1. A pretty high percentage for a country district.

(Source: Noel Selway)

Poetry and Humour

Deployment

By Clive Sanders

He sat with the other ten soldiers,
As friends climbed on the truck.
He nodded to each of his comrades,
And mentally wished each one good luck.
They would soon be boarding the aircraft,
That would be transporting them all into war,
And all of the soldiers were silent,
For each one had been before.

Each soldier wondered what lay before them,
For they'd all knew the horrors ahead.
Every one had lost a close comrade,
And those memories burned deep in each head.
They sat peering into the future,
With worries and stress bearing down.
Their faces were blank of expression,
As they fought off the urge for a frown.

The truck engine roared into existence,
Then the driver steered towards the camp gates.
The soldiers sought God's help for the future,
And his guidance to deal with their fates.
Then one soldier heard something familiar,

And his eyes filled with tears through of glad,
For he'd heard the sweet voice of his first born,
Saying. "I'll miss you each day darling Dad."

Important Date – June

- 1 June 1918 – RAN aircraft first used in combat
- 1 June 1941 – Evacuation for Crete completed
- 2 June 1967 – 2 RAR arrive in Vietnam
- 2 June 2001 – Commissioning of HMAS Gascoyne (11)
- 3 – 6 June 1942 – Battle of Midway
- 3 June 1944 – Last major air combat by RAAF in the Second World War
- 5 June 1941 – Cyprus reinforced by Australian troops
- 6 June 1944 – D-Day Allied land in Normandy
- 6 June 1969 – Battle of Binh Ba, South Vietnam
- 6 June 2011 – Sapper Rowan Jaie Robinson Incident Response Regt RAE – died from small arms fire during Operation Slipper, Afghanistan
- 7 June 1917 – Captain R C Grieve 37th Battalion awarded the Victoria Cross at Messines
- 7 June 1951 – 3 RAR patrols sent across the Imjin River and they begin to control of the north bank
- 7 June 1968 – Australian Prime minister John Gorton begins a two day visit to Vietnam
- 7 June 2010 – Sapper Jacob Daniel Moerland and Sapper Darren James Smith 2 CER died from an IED explosion during Operation Slipper, Afghanistan
- 7 June 2010 – Explosive Detection dog HERBIE – whilst on foot patrol died from an IED explosion during Operation slipper, Afghanistan
- 7 – 10 June 1917 – Private J Carroll 33rd Battalion was awarded the Victoria Cross at St Yves
- 8 June 1941 – Australians 7th Division and imperial forces attack Vichy French in Syria
- 8 June 1942 – Sydney and Newcastle shelled
- 8 June 1950 – General Sir Thomas Blamey appointed Field Marshal
- 9 June 1941 – Having seen the bridge over the river destroyed by Vichy French troops, two platoons of the 7th Division cross the Litani River in canvas boats and capture several French positions on the far shore
- 10 June 1940 – Italy declares war on the Allies

- 10 June 1941 – Recruiting begins for Torres Strait Defence Force
- 10 June 1944 – Last Japanese aircraft shot down in New Guinea campaign
- 10 June 1945 – Landings at Brunei, Labuan and Muar, Borneo
- 10 – 15 June 2010 – Battle of Shah Wali Kot
- 11 June 1900 – Members of the 1st Australian Horse and the NSW Lancers participate in the battle of Diamond Hill, South Africa
- 11 June 2010 – Ben Roberts Smith actions resulted in him being awarded the Victoria Cross
- 12 June 1901 – Victorians trapped in a surprise attack at Wilmansrust, Cape Colony South Africa; 18 were killed and 42 wounded in a five-minute long engagement
- 12 June 1996 – Black Hawk disaster Townsville
- 13 June 1941 – Battle for Jezzine, Lebanon
- 13 June 1945 – Australians capture Brunei
- 14 June 1966 – 6 RAR arrives on South Vietnam
- 15 June 1901 – Sergeant J Rogers, South African Constabulary was awarded the Victoria Cross near Thaba ‘Nichu, Orange Free State (NSW by birth)
- 15 June 1951 – HMAS Bataan bombards Chongjin, Korea
- Mid June 2021 – All Military personnel withdrawn from Afghanistan
- 16 June 1942 – HMAS Nestor sunk
- 16 June 1948 – Malayan Emergency declared
- 17 June 1945 – Australians land at Weston, North Borneo
- 18 June 1943 – Australian government announces that Australia is no longer threatened with invasion
- 18 June 1953 – Australian Prisoner of War of the Korean War released at Panmunjon
- 19 June 1952 – 1 RAR relieved the 1st Battalion, the Leicestershire Regiment, on the Jamestown line, Korea
- 19 June – 6 July 1941 – Lieutenant A R Cutler 2/5th Field Regiment, 7th Division awarded the Victoria Cross for a series of actions at Merdjayoun and in the Damour area, Lebanon
- 19 June 2009 – 4 RAR Commando re named 2nd Commando Regiment.
- 21 June 1864 – Australians in action at Te Ranga, New Zealand
- 20 June 1943 – Darwin bombed
- 21 June 1941 – Damascus occupied
- 21 June 1951 – 3 RAR awarded United States Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation

- 21 June 2010 – Private Benjamin Adam Chuck, Private Scott Travis Palmer and Private Timothy James Aplin 2 Cdo Regt – died in a helicopter crash during Operation Slipper in Afghanistan.
- 21 June 1984 – Defence Force School of Music
- 21 June 1993 – Major Susan Felsche RAAMC died in an aircraft crash in Western Sahara
- 22 June 1941 – Operation Barbarossa launched
- 22 June 1945 – Beaufort Borneo occupied
- 22 June 1945 – Japanese resistance on Tarakan ends
- 23 June 1885 – Sudan – NSW contingent disembarks
- 22 June 2013 – Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird VC, MG 2 Cdo Regt – Died from small arms fire during Operation Slipper, Afghanistan
- 23 June 2007 – Commissioning of HMAS Wollongong (111)
- 24 June 1942 – Rommel's Panzerarmee Afrika attack Egypt forcing Allied forces back to El Alamein
- 24 June 2005 – Commissioning of HMAS Armidale (11)
- 25 June 1917 US troops in France
- 25 June 1950 – North Korea invades South Korea – beginning a three year long Korean War
- 25 June 2012 – Explosive Detection Dog QUAKE – died from a gunshot wound during Operation Slipper, Afghanistan
- 25 – 26 June 1916 – Private J W A Jackson, 17th Battalion awarded Victoria Cross south-east of Bois Grenier, near Armentieres, France
- 26 June 1956 – 3 RAR attacked a Communist camp near Sungei Siput in Perak, Malaya. Three Communists were killed in the fight.
- 26 June 2004 – Commissioning of HMAS Ballarat (11)
- 27 June 1911 – Royal Military College, Duntroon opens
- 27 June 1950 – UN recommends assistance to South Korea
- 27 June 1950 – RAAF bomber Squadron to Malaya
- 28 June 1918 – Corporal P Davey 10th Battalion awarded the Victoria Cross at Merris, France
- 28 June 1919 – Treaty of Versailles signed
- 28 June 1945 – Private L T Starceвич 2/43rd Battalion awarded Victoria Cross at Beaufort, North Borneo
- 28 June 1950 – Seoul captured
- 29 June 1950 – Australia commits military units to the United Nations Force in Korea

30 June 1941 – HMAS Waterhen sunk

30 June 1942 – Australian troops raid Salamaua

30 June 1950 – No 77 Squadron RAAF committed to Korea

30 June 1971 – Final anti-war demonstration against the war in Vietnam

30 June 1975 – 109th Signal Squadron

30 June 1996 – 5th Field Engineer Regiment

June 2013 – Corporal Cameron Baird actions resulted in him being awarded the Victoria Cross

Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division Committee 2022 – 23

President	Neil Dearberg
Vice President	Russell Paton
Honorary Secretary	Ian Curtis
Honorary Treasurer	Ian Curtis
Committee Member	Scott Meares
Committee Member	

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 July – AGM • 9 September – Bi-Monthly Meeting • 11 November – Remembrance Day • 18 November – Bi-Monthly Meeting 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FELLOWS of MHPA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Meyers (Deceased) • Anthony Staunton • Donald Wright <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>VALE</u></p>
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MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Business Number (ABN) 97 764 781 363

Membership Application

Queensland Division

Membership Fee Ordinary Member \$50, Family Member \$55 (ie 2 or more domiciled at the one address)

Name/s

Postal Address

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Telephone

E-mail

Date/year joined the Society.....

Military Interests

I understand the above details will only be used by the Qld Division and the Federal Secretary of the Military Historical Society of Australia to maintain correct records of my membership and for general branch or administrative business, and by the Journal editor to assist with editorial planning. I understand that the Society's Constitution requires the Federal Secretary to maintain a membership register (including the Journal mailing list).

In addition to information kept for these purposes:

OPT IN I agree to my email details being included on the Federal Secretary's contact list which will be used solely to distribute Society business and convey items of interest to members (including members' notices) YES/NO (cross out whichever does not apply)

OPT IN I wish to be included on the members' interests register and give permission for my military interests and my phone/email/address contact details to be included on it (cross out whichever does not apply). YES/NO (cross out whichever does not apply)

I understand that I can revoke permission for inclusion on register and contact lists at any time

As part of your membership you will receive a quarterly edition of Sabretache, the journal of the MHS. I require a hard copy (mail) / electronic (via email) version. (circle your option)

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