

ANNEX B TOCHAPTER 62ND BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENTA BRIEF HISTORYSouth West Pacific 1945

2 RAR had its origins as 66 Aust Inf Bn, which was raised on 16 Oct 45 at Labuan in Borneo before joining 34 Aust Inf Bde on the island of Morotai in the Molluccas archipelago of Indonesia. Volunteers for the Battalion came mostly from men of the 9th Division, 2nd AIF.

Japan 1946-1948

The Battalion participated in the occupation of Japan as part of 34 Aust Inf Bde from Feb 46 to Dec 48. The 66th Battalion was stationed at Hiro during this time but was also temporarily garrisoned at Tokyo and Ebisu as part of its occupation duties. On 23 Nov 48 the 66th Battalion became the 2nd Battalion, The Australian Regiment.

Australia 1948-1953

In Dec 48 the unit returned to Australia and was located at Puckapunyal in Victoria. The Battalion became the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on 10 Mar 49 with approval being given to add the prefix 'Royal' to the existing title. 2 RAR remained at Puckapunyal until Mar 53 as part of 1 Indep Inf Bde Gp. It was responsible for the training of recruits from the Southern States; and later, recruits for the Battalions fighting in Korea.

Korea 1953-1954

On 5 Mar 53 the Battalion embarked for Pusan, Korea on MV 'New Australia' and arrived on 17 Mar 53. A soldier named Private G. Belville stowed away on board because he had been posted out of the unit a few days before. He was fined five pounds and taken back on strength. In 1957, on graduating from OCS, he served as an officer in the Battalion for a short period. He was killed in action in 1966 as a Captain serving with the Army Training Team in South Vietnam.

On 21 Mar 53 detachments from 1 RAR, 2 RAR and 3 RAR paraded together on the 1 RAR parade ground at Camp Casey. This was the first occasion in which all the Battalions of The Royal Australian Regiment had paraded together and on this occasion all were on war service.

In Apr 53 the Battalion moved into the line, as part of 28 BRITCOM Bde/1 COMWEL Div, relieving a French Battalion. It was

noted that artillery and mortar reports became more timely and accurate from the rifle companies after mortar fire had damaged C Company's beer ration in early May 53.

The Hook

On 9 Jul 53 2 RAR relieved the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment around 'The Hook' feature, the left flank of 1 COMWEL Div. The Battalion was subjected to intermittent artillery, mortar and infantry attacks leading up to the battle of 'The Hook' on 24, 25 and 26 Jul 53.

Coinciding with attacks on 7 US Marine Regt, on the Battalions left, 2 RAR was heavily attacked with artillery concentrations and infantry during the night of the 24th and the early hours of the 25th. The reserve company from 1 Durham Light Infantry (DLI) came under command 2 RAR at midnight. The enemy objectives were the features 'Boulder City' in the US Marine Sector and 'POINT 121' in the 2 RAR Sector. All attacks were repulsed with heavy enemy casualties by the morning of the 25th and the reserve company from 1 DLI was withdrawn.

The enemy resumed heavy attacks on the Marines and the 2 RAR sector during the night of the 25th. D Company, 3 RAR came under command at 0100 hours and again a company from 1 DLI was warned but did not move up. These attacks were again beaten back with severe enemy casualties and major attacks ceased by the morning of the 26th. For its performance under these attacks 2 RAR won the battle honour 'SAMICHON'.

Australian 1954-1955

The Battalion sailed for home on 6 Apr 54 on MV 'New Australia', arriving at Brisbane on 16 Apr 54 and moved into Enoggera Barracks.

The Jungle Training Centre had recently been re-established at Canungra near Brisbane and 2 RAR was the first unit to pass through this reactivated centre.

Colours were presented to the Battalion at Victoria Park, Brisbane on 28 Sep 55 by the Governor-General Field Marshal Sir William Slim, GCB, GMG, GCVO, GBE, DSO, MC, KStJ. The Battalion then became the first regular unit in Australia to receive the Queens' and Regimental Colours. After receiving the Colours the Battalion marched through Brisbane, its last public appearance before proceeding overseas again.

Malaya - First Tour

The Battalion was the first Australian unit to serve in Malaya since World War II. It was also the first time for Australian troops to become members of an overseas, operational part of the British Commonwealth Far Eastern Strategic Reserve.

2 RAR embarked in Brisbane in Oct 55 and moved to Penang as part of 28 COMWEL Ind Inf Bde. It is noteworthy that the formation in which the Battalion served had the longest title in any Commonwealth Army:

'28 British Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group' (North Malaya Sub-District).

The Battalion entered operations on 3 Jan 56 in the Kulim area. B Company had the first successful contact with the Communist Terrorist (CT) enemy during 'Operation Deuce'. During this operation a party of Sarawak Rangers were attached as scouts and proved very valuable. This operation concluded for the Battalion on 30 Apr 56 when it was relieved by a Battalion of the Malay Regiment.

2 RAR immediately participated in a 28 COMWEL Indep Inf Bde operation called 'North Shark' at Kuala Kangsar in the state of Perak. Extensive use was made of Auster Aircraft from 1907 LL/AOP FLT dropping supplies and mail, recon and liaison. Operations were continued at Sungei Siput from 27 Oct to 2 Dec 56.

The unit was withdrawn from 'Operation North Shark' for rest and retraining at Minden Barracks and was based at Penang. On 4 Feb 57 the unit returned to 'Operation North Shark' relieving the 1st Battalion, Royal Lincolns. Again Auster aircraft provided support against 13/15 Indep Pl (CT). The unit also participated in 'Operation Rubberlegs' from 7 Mar to 17 Mar 57. On 1 Aug 57 2 RAR moved back to Butterworth for rest and retraining and remained at Butterworth/Penang until late Oct 57.

During this tour official approval was received for the 2 RAR flag to be black, with the numbers to be in the upper hoist canton and The Regimental Crest in the centre.

On 31 Oct 57 the Battalion returned to Australia and marched through Sydney to a ticker - tape welcome from 100,000 spectators. 2 RAR returned to barrack life at Holsworthy, again as part of 1 Indep Inf Bde Gp.

In mid - 1960, after a major reorganisation of the Army, the Battalion became a Pentropic unit. It was reorganised on tropical establishment again in Jun 61 to prepare for its second tour of Malaya.

Malay - Second Tour

The Battalion was the first to serve two tours of Malaya. It joined 28 COMWEL Indep Inf Bde Gp at Terendak Camp near Malacca in Oct 61. During this tour it hunted the remnants of the communist terrorists on the Thailand/Malaysia border. The Battalion returned to Brisbane and Enoggera Barracks in August 1963 without suffering any loss of life. The unit then served as part of the 6th Task Force, 1 Div.

Vietnam - First Tour

2 RAR remained at Enoggera until it embarked for operational service in South Vietnam on 19 May 67. On that day the unit sailed on the troop carrier HMAS Sydney to relieve the 6th Battalion serving with the 1st Australian Task Force at Nui Dat

in Phuoc Tuy Province.

During this tour two companies of New Zealand Infantry were placed under command and 2 RAR became an ANZAC Battalion. Soldiers of 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) took part in 23 operations in Phuoc Tuy and Bien Hoa Provinces and maintained constant patrols and ambushes throughout their area of operations. Nine of these operations were conducted wholly by the ANZAC Battalion. Others were staged with 3 RAR, 7 RAR with armour, artillery, engineer, aviation and SASR support.

The Battalion's most successful operation was Operation 'Coburg' that took place in the area of the border between Bien Hoa Province and Long Khanh Province north west of Phuoc Tuy Province. This was a Task Force operation, the first in strength outside Phuoc Tuy Province. This Task Force relieved the 199th Inf Bde (US) with the aim of denying the Viet Cong (VC) access to the area and sites from which they could direct rocket fire into the huge American bases at Long Binh and Bien Hoa.

During the operation the enemy launched the Tet Offensive. The number of contacts with the enemy rose sharply and instead of local force VC the unit began to meet well trained main force troops of 274th VC Regiment. 91 VC or North Vietnamese were killed and over 80 weapons captured.

In this first tour the ANZAC Battalion killed 187 enemy, inflicted a further 60 confirmed WIA casualties, captured 12 prisoners and 190 weapons. The Australians and New Zealanders had 28 soldiers killed during the tour.

4 RAR relieved the Battalion 1 Jun 68. On its return from Vietnam on 13 Jun 68 the Battalion again occupied an area of Enoggera Barracks prior to establishing itself at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville in Jun 69.

Vietnam - Second Tour

On 15 May 70, 2 RAR officially relieved 6 RAR and resumed the title of ANZAC Battalion with New Zealanders again under command. In a successful twelve months of operations against the enemy, including D440 and D445 VC Battalions, the unit killed 110 enemy troops and captured 23 for the loss of 13 soldiers killed.

4 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) took over operational responsibility from 2 RAR in May 71. The Battalion returned to Lavarack Barracks where it linked with 4 RAR on 15 Aug 73.

Re-Raising of 2 RAR

As a result of the 1994 Defence White paper 2/4 RAR was unlinked on 1 Feb 95 to form 2 RAR and 4 RAR. The officers and soldiers of 2/4 RAR formed 2 RAR and remained part of 3 Brigade in Samichon Lines.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR)

In 1994 the Australian Government approved the commitment of Australian troops to provide humanitarian support to the UN forces deployed in Rwanda. A Company were deployed to protect the Australian Medical Support Force and the Commanding Officer, Operations Officer and other key personnel were attached to the UN mission Headquarters. This deployment also drew on elements of Support Company, and Administration Company and the Battalion Headquarters.

A Company returned in Feb 95 and was replaced by B Company. During the second deployment there was serious unrest at the Kibeho Displaced Persons camp during Apr 95. Action by the Rwandan Peoples Army caused considerable loss of life amongst the local Rwandan population but fortunately no casualties to B Company.

B Company returned to Australia when the Australian commitment ended in Aug 95.

- Appendixes:
1. 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment
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- Commanding Officers
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- Regimental Sergeant Majors
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- Allied Regiment - The Coldstream Guards
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- Miscellaneous Information

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2ND BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

THEATRES OF SERVICE

FROM	TO	COUNTRY	BASE	BDE/DIV/TF
Oct 45	Feb 46	Dutch East Indies	Morotai	34 Aust Inf Bde
Feb 46	Dec 48	Japan	Hiro	34 Aust Inf Bde
Dec 48	Mar 53	Australia	Puckapunyal	1 Indep Inf Bde Gp
Mar 53	Apr 54	Korea		28 BRITCOM Bde/1 COMWEL Div
Apr 54	Oct 55	Australia	Enoggera	1 Indep Inf Bde Gp
Oct 55	Oct 57	Malaya	Perak State	28 COMWEL Indep Inf Bde Gp
Oct 57	Apr 60	Australia	Holsworthy	1 Indep Inf Bde Gp
Apr 60	Oct 61	Australia	Holsworthy	1 Div (Pentropic)
Oct 61	Aug 63	Malaya	Perak State and Terendak	28 COMWEL Indep Inf Bde Gp
Aug 63	May 65	Australia	Enoggera	1 Div (Pentropic)
Jun 65	May 67	Australia	Enoggera	6 TF/1 Div
May 67	Jun 68	Vietnam	Nui Dat	1 ATF
(2 RAR/NZ ANZAC)				
Jun 68	Jan 69	Australia	Enoggera	6 TF/1 Div
Jan 69	May 70	Australia	Townsville	3 TF/1 Div
May 70	May 71	Vietnam	Nui Dat	1 ATF
(2 RAR/NZ ANZAC)				
May 71	Aug 73	Australia	Townsville	3 TF/1 Div
Feb 95	Aug 95	Rwanda	Kigali	B Coy
Feb 95		Australia	Townsville	3 Bde

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2ND BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

COMMANDING OFFICERS

66 Aust Inf Bn

16 Oct 45 - Jun 47	LTCOL G.E. Colvin, DSO, ED
Jun 47 -22 Nov 48	LTCOL M.H. McArthur

2 AR

23 Nov 48 - 10 Jan 49	LTCOL S.C. Graham, MC
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2 RAR (from 10 Mar 49)

11 Jan 49 - 12 Dec 50	LTCOL C.A.E. Fraser, MBE
08 Jan 51 - 12 Jun 52	LTCOL R.L. Hughes
13 Jun 52 - 30 Sep 52	LTCOL M.A. Austin, DSO
01 Oct 52 - 12 Sep 54	LTCOL G.F. Larkin, OBE
22 Oct 54 - 04 Nov 57	LTCOL J.G. Ochiltree, OBE
05 Nov 57 - 14 Nov 58	LTCOL W.G. Henderson, OBE
15 Jan 59 - 17 Apr 60	LTCOL A.S. Mann, DSO
18 Apr 60 - 31 May 61	COL K.R.G. Coleman, MC
01 Jun 61 - 19 Aug 63	LTCOL A.B. Stretton, MBE
30 Aug 63 - 13 Dec 64	COL O.D. Jackson, OBE
14 Dec 64 - 31 May 65	COL K.A. Peddle
01 Jun 65 - 26 Jan 67	LTCOL A.W.F. Rofe
27 Jan 67 - 05 Sep 68	LTCOL N.R. Charlesworth, DSO
06 Sep 68 - 10 Jan 72	LTCOL J.M. Church, DSO
11 Jan 72 - 14 Aug 73	LTCOL J.A. Sheldrick
1 Feb 95 - 14 Jan 96	LTCOL R.G. Wilson
Jan 96 - Dec 98	LTCOL D.I Morrison
Jan 99 - Dec 00	LTCOL M.Slater, CSC
Jan 01 -	LTCOL A.Campbell

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2ND BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJORS

Oct 45 - Mar 46	WO1 W. Seymour
Mar 46 - Dec 46	WO1 C. Carne
Dec 46 - Dec 47	WO1 J. Holland
Dec 47 - Dec 48	WO1 E. Sydes
Feb 49 - Mar 49	WO1 J.P.B. O'Sullivan
Mar 49 - Nov 49	WO1 J. Jones
Nov 49 - Jul 50	WO2 D.L. Burzacott
Jul 50 - Mar 51	WO2 H.J. Silk
Mar 51 - Sep 52	WO1 L.D. McCombe
Nov 52 - Oct 53	WO1 P.G. Steer
Nov 53 - Mar 54	WO1 D. Medson
Mar 54 - Feb 58	WO1 W. Mills
Feb 58 - Jul 58	WO1 J. Ord
Jul 58 - Aug 60	WO1 H.W. Bills
Aug 60 - Aug 62	WO1 D. Medson
Aug 62 - Feb 67	WO1 I.W. Turley
Feb 67 - Oct 68	WO1 L.J. Moon
Oct 68 - Dec 71	WO1 L.A. Williams
Dec 71 - Aug 73	WO1 C.H. Swinbourn
Feb 95 - Dec 95	WO1 G.L. Hughes
Jan 96 - Dec 97	WO1 I. Pressley, OAM
Jan 98 - Dec 99	WO1 F. Cowell
Jan 00 - Dec 01	WO1 G. Smith
Jan 02-	WO1 S. Doyle

2ND BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

ALLIED REGIMENT - THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS

Origin

'Monck's Regiment of Foot' was raised by Cromwell as part of his 'New Model Army' in 1650. It took part in the defeat of the Royalists at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650. After the battle, Monck and his Regiment, together with 5,000 other troops, remained to subjugate Scotland.

Upon Cromwell's death, General Monck and his troops marched south from the little border town of Coldstream, took up quarters in London and were employed in keeping order in the town. The intervention of Monck and his Coldstreamers was largely responsible for securing the free election of the Parliament which restored Charles II to the throne.

When the Cromwellian Army was being disbanded serious civil disturbances were taking place, so the King decided to retain the Regiment. In order to comply with the disbandment order the Regiment was paraded at the Tower of London on 14th February 1661, and having laid down their arms in token of disbandment, they immediately took them up again as soldiers of the King and 'an extraordinary Guard to his Royal person'. The Regiment was called the 'Lord General's Regiment of Foot Guards', until the death of Monck (the Lord General) in 1670, when it gradually became officially styled by the name it had already borne unofficially for a decade - The Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards.

Battle Honours

The following Battle Honours are those carried on the Queen's and Regimental Colours:

Tangier 1680, Namur 1695, Gibraltar 1704-5,
Oudenarde, Malplaquet, Dettingen, Lincelles, Talavera,
Barrosa, Fuentes d'Onor, Salamanca, Nive, Peninsula,
Waterloo, Alma, Inkerman, Sevastopol, Tel-el-Kebir,
Egypt 1882, Suakin 1885, Modder River, South Africa
1899-1902.

Retreat from Mons, Marne 1914, Aisne 1914, Ypres
1914 and 1917, Loos, Somme 1916 and 1918, Cambrai 1917

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and 1918, Arras 1918, Hazebrouck, Hindenburg Line.

Dunkirk 1940, Mont Pincon, Rhineland, North West Europe 1940 and 1944-45, Sidi Barrani, Tobruk 1941 and 1942, Tunis, Salerno Monte Ornito, Italy 1943-45.

2ND BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Battalion 'Firsts'. 2 RAR has the honour of being the:

first to be presented with Queen's and Regimental Colours, 23 Sep 55;

first Australian troops into Malaya since World War II (Oct 55 during The Emergency); and

first to be amalgamated with two companies from 1 RNZIR for service in Vietnam-2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC), see Chapter 1, Annex A.

Battalion Colour. The original battalion identifying colour was scarlet. 2 RAR took delivery of a set of drums on 6 Feb 52, the day of the death of HM King George VI, and in his memory the original black colour of the drums was retained instead of painting them scarlet. Later in 1952 it had become the custom with 2 RAR to blacken gaiters (as opposed to scrubbing or blanching adopted by the two other battalions at the time). It was requested that the Battalion's colour be changed and during the tour in Malaya (1955-57), approval was received for the Battalion's flag to be black. Since that time the colour for all 'second' battalions in RAInf has been designated 'black'.

Battalion Music. Company marches are:

- A Coy 'Mickey Mouse'.
- B Coy 'When the Saints Come Marching In'.
- C Coy 'Lost Patrol'.
- D Coy 'Hoope De Doo', Spt Coy.
- Admin Coy 'The Old Contemptible'.

Battalion Association. 2 RAR has been 'taken on strength' as a life member of the Old Coldstreamer's Association in Australia.

Freedom of the City of Townsville. On 15 Oct 71, 2 RAR was granted the Freedom of the City of Townsville as a result of the close association between the citizens of Townsville and members of the Battalion.

On 15 Aug 73, 2 RAR was linked with 4 RAR to form 2/4 RAR. It was subsequently unlinked on 1 Feb 95.