

ANNEX G TO
CHAPTER 6

7TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

A BRIEF HISTORY

7 RAR was raised at Puckapunyal, in Victoria on 1 Sep 65, the first members of the Battalion coming mainly from 3 RAR and the second intake of National Servicemen in 1965.

After an intensive period of individual company and battalion training, the unit was ready for war by Jun 66. At this time the battalion provided 100 reinforcements for units in Vietnam and a fresh training cycle began.

During the winter of 1966, companies phased through JTC, Canungra, and the Battalion took part in 'Barra Winga', Australia's largest peace-time exercise to that time, at Shoalwater Bay in Queensland.

Feb 67 saw Exercise 'Nilla Qua' completed and final administrative preparations for active service in full swing.

Vietnam - First Tour

In Apr 67, the Battalion moved to Vietnam on board HMAS SYDNEY and relieved 5 RAR at Ap An Phu on the morning of 26 Apr 67. During the following 12 months the unit was engaged in 30 Battalion sized or larger operations, had many contacts with the enemy and fought six major engagements.

The Battalion's first operational tour culminated with Operation Coburg in Feb/Mar 68 when the enemy Tet Offensive threatened the Bien Hoa complex.

Immediately before leaving Vietnam in Apr 68 a combined church service was held on the task force air strip to commemorate the memory of the 16 members killed on active service.

Presentation of Colours

7 RAR was presented with the Queen's and Regimental Colours by His Excellency The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler, VC, KCMG, CBE at Finschhafen Lines on Sunday 6 Oct 68.

Vietnam - Second Tour

During Feb 70 the Battalion returned to Vietnam for its second tour of duty; the advance party departed by air on 10 Feb 70 followed by the main body on 16 Feb 70. From time of arrival until relieved by 3 RAR 12 months later the Battalion was

engaged almost continuously on operations. During the tour of duty, 16 of the Battalion's soldiers were killed in action. It is estimated that the Battalion accounted for 150 enemy. The Battalion returned to its home base in Finschhafen Lines, Holsworthy during Mar 71.

Post-Vietnam

After leave and reorganization the Battalion started a training cycle culminating in battalion exercises in Mar and Apr 72. A period of support to other units was followed by limited warfare training leading into a 1 TF Exercise 'Sky Call' in Sep 72.

The year 1973 began with a cut-back in strength in preparation for the establishment of the NCO academy. From 19 Apr 73 to 20 Nov 73 the Battalion was under the direct command of 1 Div in order to conduct All Arms NCO Qualifying Courses.

The final parade for 7 RAR prior to linking with 5 RAR was held on 24 Nov 73 at Finschhafen Lines, Holsworthy. The reviewing officer was COL E.H. Smith, DSO, the first Commanding Officer of 7 RAR.

7 RAR was linked with 5 RAR at Tobruk Lines, Holsworthy on 3 Dec 73.

Appendixes:

1. 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Theatres of Service
2. 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Commanding Officers
3. 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Regimental Sergeant Majors
4. 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, Allied Regiment - The Gordon Highlanders
5. 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Miscellaneous Information.

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THEATRES OF SERVICE

FROM	TO	COUNTRY	BASE	BDE/DIV/TF
Sep 65	Apr 67	Australia	Puckapunyal	1 Div
Apr 67	Apr 68	Vietnam	Nui Dat	1 ATF
Apr 68	Feb 70	Australia	Holsworthy	10 TF/1 Div
Feb 70	Feb 71	Vietnam	Nui Dat	1 ATF
Mar 71	Apr 72	Australia	Holsworthy	10 TF/1 Div
Apr 72	Dec 73	Australia	Holsworthy	HQ 1 TF/1 Div

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COMMANDING OFFICERS

1 Sep 65 - 24 Nov 68	LTCOL E.H. Smith, DSO
25 Nov 68 - 14 May 71	LTCOL R.A. Grey, DSO
15 May - 18 Jul 71	MAJ J.J. Farry (Admin Comd)
19 Jul 71 - 18 Mar 73	LTCOL I.B. Mackay
19 Mar 73 - 2 Dec 73	LTCOL P.N. Greenhalgh

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REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJORS

10 Sept 65 - 21 Aug 66	WO1 D. Clively
22 Aug 66 - 21 Jul 68	WO1 A.P. Thomsom, MBE
22 Jul 68 - 27 May 71	WO1 R.Bandy, MBE
28 May 71 - 21 Sep 73	WO1 D.C. Muir
22 Sep 73 - 2 Dec 73	WO2 B.M. Cox

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ALLIED REGIMENT - THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

The history of the Gordon Highlanders can be summed up briefly as follows: 'A romantic beginning followed by a great fighting reputation earned on battlefields all over the world'.

In 1787 the 75th Highland Regiment of Foot was raised by Sir Robert Abercromby. It fought its first actions in India, gaining battle honours for Mysore and Seringapatam. As a result of these wars the Royal Tiger and the word 'INDIA' was taken as their crest. In 1832 the 75th fought the Kaffu wars in South Africa with battle honours being awarded to the Regiment. From 1849 to 1858 the 75th Regiment fought through the Indian Mutiny with battle honours at Badli-ki-Sarai, Delhi and Lucknow.

In 1794 the Duke of Gordon raised a Highland Regiment assisted by his beautiful Duchess, from whose lips the recruits are said to have taken a shilling with a kiss. The Regiment was known in June 1794 as the 100th Regiment, this number was then changed to the 92nd and came to be known as the Gordon Highlanders. The 92nd's first active service was in Holland where the battle honour of Egmont-op-Zee was gained. This Regiment served under two of Britain's famous commanders, Sir John Moore and Sir Ralph Abercromby. In 1801 the 92nd faced a French Army in Alexandria, Egypt under Sir Ralph Abercromby. This resulted in a victorious campaign and the receiving of the battle honour Mandora. As a result of this campaign in Egypt the SPHINX and the word 'EGYPT' was taken as their crest. Between 1802-08 the Regiment saw service at home and in Denmark and Sweden. In 1808-09 the 92nd fought active campaigns in the Spanish Peninsula at Corunna under Sir John Moore, who was killed. Further battle honours were gained against the French from 1810-14 in the French Peninsula wars. Finally in 1815 the 92nd took part in the battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo. It was at Waterloo that the Gordons and Royal Scots Greys charged the French columns and earned their famous battle honour of Waterloo. Between 1815 and 1854 the 92nd saw peaceful years. In 1854 the Regiment partook in the Crimean War and in 1857 saw some service in India during the Indian Mutiny. Battle honours were once again won in 1878

during the Afghan Wars and two VCs were awarded. On the way home from India the 92nd took part in the First Boer War in 1881 and the battle honour of Majuba Hill was added.

The Amalgamation

In 1881 the amalgamation of the 75th Highland Regiment of Foot and the 92nd Regiment the Gordon Highlanders took place. The 75th became the 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders and the 92nd became the 2nd Bn The Gordon Highlanders. Because of this the crest of the Regiment became the Stag's head with the motto 'BYDAND'.

After amalgamation the 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders fought in the Egyptian war of 1882 with battle honours at Tel-el-Kabu. Between 1883-84 the 1st Bn was engaged in the battle of Khartoum. Ten years later in 1895 the 1st Bn saw active service on the North-West Frontier in India. It was here that the famous battle for the Dargai Heights was fought with two VCs being won. The South African Boer Wars of 1898-1902 saw the 1st Bn fighting as part of the Highland Brigade. It was in this war that battle honours were awarded for Magersfontein and Paardebury; and during which three VCs were won.

The 2nd Bn The Gordon Highlanders saw home service after amalgamation. From 1899-1902 the 2nd Bn was also involved in the South African Boer Wars. Here the battle of Elandsplaagte was fought with battle honours and two VCs being won. The 2nd Bn also became noted for its defence at Ladysmith for 120 days of siege before being relieved.

During the two World Wars The Gordon Highlanders fought with eleven battalions and nine battalions respectively. Battle honours were awarded for many of the major campaigns fought.

The history of the Highlanders after World War 11 is as follows:

- 1945 - Occupational duties as part of BAOR.
- 1945 - Overseas duties in Tripoli.
- 1948 - Amalgamated to one battalion after demobilization.
- 1949 - 50 - Berlin.
- 1950 - Korea.
- 1951 - Malayan Emergency (three years of Jungle Warfare).
- 1954 - Home in Edinburgh.
- 1955 - Cyprus as Peace Keeping Force.
- 1958 - Duties in Germany.
- 1961-64 - Took on a new role as Armoured Infantry. Saw Service in Kenya, Zanzibar, Swaziland, Uganda, Tanganyika.

- 1965 - North Borneo during the Confrontation with Indonesia.
- 1965 - (Dec) - Returned to Scotland.
- 1967 - Service as part of BAOR.
- 1971 - Cyprus as UN Force.
- 1972 - Northern Ireland in ARMAGH.

Battle Honours

Regimental Colour - MYSONE, SERINGAPATAM, EGMONT-OP-ZEE, MANDORO, CORUNNA, FUENTES
O'ALMARAZ, WATERLOO, STH AFRICA 1835,
DEHLI 1851, LUCKNOW, CHARASIA, KABUL
1879, KANDAHAR 1880, AFGHAN 1878-80,
TEL-EL-KEBIR, EGYPT 1882, 1884, NILE
1884-5 CHITRAL, TIRAH, LADYSMITH,
PAARDEBERG, SOUTH AFRICA 1899,1902.

Queen's Colour - MONS, LE CATEAU, MARNE 1914-
1918, YPRES 1914, LOOS, SOMME 1916-
1918, ANCRE 1916, ARRAS 1917, 1918
CAMBRAI, VITTERIO, VENETO, ODON,
REICHSWALD, GOCH, RHINE, NTH AFRICA,
NTH WST EUROPE 1940-45, EL ALAMEIN,
MARETH NTH AFRICA 1942, SFERRO, ANZIO.

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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Battalion Association. Strong ties have been built up with the Battalion's famous namesakes of the First and Second World Wars; 7th Battalion 1st AIF and 2/7th Battalion 2nd AIF. The 2/7 Battalion Association presented 7 RAR with a large bronze Regimental Badge on the occasion of the farewell parade in 1967.

Toast - 'The Australian Infantryman'. CPL Hayes of 7 RAR was killed in action in Vietnam 6 Aug 67. In his Will he left money to the Battalion Sergeants' Mess for the drinking of a toast each year on the Battalion's birthday. CPL Hayes also set aside money to buy a trophy for competition at indoor sports between the sergeants and corporals of 7 RAR.

CPL Hayes had served in Vietnam with 1 RAR (1965-66) and shortly after his return, travelled to Puckapunyal to press the CO 7 RAR to arrange a transfer for him so that he could return to Vietnam. Later LTCOL Smith said of him, 'He died leading his men into action. He was a very fine soldier who was an inspiration to his men'.

Battalion and Company Pipe Tunes

Battalion Quick March	- 'Cock O' The North'
Battalion Slow March	- 'My Home'
Bn HQ	- 'Steamboat'
A Coy	- 'The Black Bear'
B Coy	- 'Nut Brown Maiden'
C Coy	- 'The Glendarvel Highlanders'
D Coy	- 'The Barren Rocks of Aden'
Spt Coy	- 'Bonnie Dundee'
Admin Coy	- 'The Muckin' O' Geordie's Byre'