

**ANNEX I TO**  
**CHAPTER 6**

**9TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT**

**A BRIEF HISTORY**

9 RAR was raised at Keswick Barracks Adelaide on 13 Nov 67. On that day it consisted of the Commanding Officer, LTCOL A.L. Morrison, MBE, six other officers and three other ranks. It moved to Woodside about a week later. The Battalion reached full strength in Apr 68.

On 5 Nov 68, an advance party of 150 commanded by MAJ J.M. Stewart, OC Admin Coy, arrived in Vietnam. On 9 Nov 68 the main body left Adelaide in HMAS SYDNEY. Having departed the last Australian port, 9 RAR was officially on active service when it celebrated its first birthday at sea on 13 Nov 68. The main body arrived in Vietnam on 20 Nov 68.

9 RAR began major operations on 10 Dec 68. During its tour, the Battalion carried out 11 major operations each of about a month in duration as well as several other shorter operations. The operations were mounted in Phuoc Tuy, Long Khanh, Bien Hoa and Binh Tuy provinces. One DSO, two MCs, seven MMs and eight MIDs were awarded to members of the Battalion during this tour of duty in Vietnam.

On 28 Nov 69, the unit departed from South Vietnam to return to Adelaide where they received a rousing reception.

9 RAR re-formed at Enoggera in Jan 70 when LTCOL E.R. Phillip assumed command.

The Battalion remained at Enoggera under the command of LTCOL E.R. Phillip until Aug 71. LTCOL J. Essex-Clark assumed command from that date until the linking with 8 RAR on 31 Oct 73 to form the new Battalion, 8/9 RAR.

- Appendixes:
1. 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Theatres of Service
  2. 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Commanding Officers
  3. 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Regimental Sergeant Majors
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**9TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT**

**THEATRES OF SERVICE**

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From	To	Country	Base	Bde/Div/TF
Nov 67	Nov 68	Australia	Woodside	1 Div
Nov 68	Nov 69	Vietnam	Nui Dat	1 ATF
Nov 69	Oct 73	Australia	Enoggera	6 TF/1 Div

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**9TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT**

**COMMANDING OFFICERS**

13 Nov 67 - 14 Jan 70	LTCOL A.L. Morrison, DSO, MBE
15 Jan 70 - 24 Aug 71	LTCOL E.R. Philip
25 Aug 71 - 30 Oct 73	LTCOL J. Essex-Clark

APPENDIX 3 TO  
ANNEX I TO  
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**REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJORS**

Nov 67 - Nov 69	WO1 D. Cassidy
Nov 69 - Nov 72	WO1 J. Gordon
Nov 72 - Oct 73	WO1 J.S. Allan

**9TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT**

**BATTALION MASCOT**

In Feb 71, Mr W.W. Collinson, a grazier of Scone, NSW, donated a pure bred merino ram to 9 RAR as the Battalion Mascot. With the permission of the Macarthur-Onslow family he was named Private John Macarthur I. On 12 Mar 71 he was formally presented to the Battalion by Mr Collinson's nephew PTE D.J. McPhee on behalf of his uncle.

Corporal John Macarthur I remained as 9 RAR Mascot until 31 Oct 73 when the Battalion was linked with 8 RAR to form 8/9 RAR. The new Battalion adopted Corporal Macarthur as its Mascot

9TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Battalion Music. The following marches are used by the Battalion:

Quick March - 'Pass Me By'.

Slow March - Medley of 'My Home', 'Wild Colonial Boy' and 'Skye Boat Song'.

Battalion Firsts:

9 RAR was officially on active service when it celebrated its first birthday on board HMAS SYDNEY bound for South Vietnam.

9 RAR is the only Battalion of the Regiment to have deployed on active service without having first been presented with its colours.