

RAY SIMPSON, VC, DCM. BOOK PROJECT

Ray Simpson, VC, DCM, was one of Australia's most highly decorated soldiers since Harry Murray (VC, DSO & BAR, DCM) and Albert Jacka (VC, MC & BAR) in WW1. He was better known as "Simmo" or "Chudda" Simpson.

He was a member of the initial training team (Australian Army Training Team Vietnam {AATTV}, the "Team") in South Vietnam in '62-'63. Prior to Vietnam he served in late WW11, Korea (3RAR), Malaya (2RAR) and the SAS Company.

On return to Australia he served another year in the SAS Company from mid '63 to mid '64 then departed for yet another year with the Team. He of course continued his career being awarded a DCM with the Team in September '64 in an action in which he was severely wounded. He was awarded the VC for gallant deeds whilst again serving with the AATTV in May 1969.

A long-overdue book on his life story is being compiled by **Mick Malone and Peter Lutley** (both ex SAS Regt & Peter also ex 7 RAR).

They wish to interview, chat or correspond with anyone who served or associated with Simmo who can add something to his story. This covers his service in WW11, Korea, Malaya, the SAS Company, 1 Commando Company, the AATTV or elsewhere.

Even your opinion of the bloke can help. He was a unique individual and they are keen to put on paper the life of Simmo with anecdotes and all, including his professionalism towards the art of soldiering.

Stories like the times he visited the "Hill" in Vietnam and went on SAS Patrols when he should have been taking "Rest in Country". Visiting 7RAR at Nui Dat and talking to the troops (did he have contact with any other RAR Battalion in any way in Vietnam?). His unarmed combat lessons. Routine orders stating it was okay for WO2 Simpson to use profane language as that's the only way he can converse. These stories need confirmation, how, when and where. Were you there, let them know.

Also they are after insights into his private family life including his Japanese wife, especially when she was living in Malaya or in Australia with him.

Obviously any documentation and especially PHOTO's are much sought after. (All photos will be copied and returned).

He was one of Australia's most decorated soldiers; his story is long overdue to be told.

Please contact **Mick and Pete** by email or phone and they can take it from there.

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