



BRAVO COMPANY
6TH BATTALION



PHANTOM NOTES

eDITION 23

November 2011



We need you –attention !

On parade !

Fall in – BY THE Right !

MEMORIES !

BY ORDER -- THE PHANTOM

The Skippy Badge



LEFT-RIGHT: The original Royal Australian Infantry badge designed when the Corps was formed in 1948 with the motto "Duty and Honour", the original circa 1954 Royal Australian Regiment badge with the Edwardian "Kings" Crown, a Vietnam era brass Skippy Badge, which is adorned by the "Queen's" Crown and the current Royal Australian Infantry Corps badge, which has obvious lineage from the RAR badge.

IN early 1949 the Director of Infantry, Brigadier I.R. Campbell, CBE, DSO, wrote to the Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment asking for suggested designs for a Regimental Badge.

Several designs were submitted and the one eventually accepted was by 1RAR, then based at Ingleburn in NSW.

The design of what would become the "Skippy Badge" was intended as a badge for the First Battalion only, but subsequently it was decided that all the Battalions of the Regiment would wear it.

On 10 March 1949 it was announced: 'His Majesty King George the Sixth had been graciously pleased to give his approval to the prefix 'Royal' being appended to the title of The Australian Regiment'.

In final form the badge was the combination of many suggestions put forwards by several officers and soldiers. Those involved in 1RAR's design were the Commanding Officer LTCOL J.L.A. Kelly DSO, Major T.E. Archer, Major K.B. Thomas MC and the Intelligence Sergeant E.J. "Ted" O'Sullivan.

1RAR's Intelligence Section prepared sketches and assisted in the design.

At this stage it became clear the design was for a Regimental rather than a Battalion badge, so it was decided to adopt an animal that was typically Australian - the kangaroo was the natural choice and the heraldic posture of the beast was to be standing.

The original sketch showed the animal with its forepaws relaxed but in the badge they are outstretched because the diecasters could not achieve the proper definition with them hanging.

The boomerang is a weapon immediately associated with Australian Aborigines and it also related to the

distinctive tactical signs of the 2nd AIF from which the 34th Australian Infantry Brigade was formed.

The crossed rifles are the type in use at the time the Regiment was formed - the "Rifle, .303 inch, Short, Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE), No1, MkIII.

The original design and the first badges struck sometime in 1954 featured a "King's" Crown because George the Sixth was the monarch in 1949 but the design was altered to a "Queen's" Crown after the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 1953.

The Wattle Wreath was symbolic of Australian flora and a variation of the laurel wreath which is part of many Commonwealth badges.

The motto of the Regiment needed to be original, short and in English - "Duty First" was selected because "The unhesitating and unquestioning performance of his duty is the fundamental requirement of a soldier".

The Regimental Badge was reproduced on Christmas cards in 1949 but was not issued as a hat badge until 1954, when 2RAR in Korea replaced their Rising Sun badges with them.

The original badges until the end of the Vietnam era were cast in brass by various makers and plated in gold.

Original King's Crown badges with intact gold plating are eagerly sought by collectors and are exceedingly rare in any condition.

In June 1950, 3RAR - then in Japan - had four large badges cast out of spent brass shell cases by members of the Assault Pioneer Platoon. Each of the three Battalions were given a badge and the other went to 1 Infantry Brigade Headquarters.

When the Brigade at Holsworthy

was disbanded to form Headquarters 1st Division at Moore Park the badge was handed to 2RAR - then based at Holsworthy - for safekeeping and it was presented to 4RAR when it was formed at Woodside SA in 1964.

All Battalions of the Regiment now have large badges - 5RAR was presented with theirs by the 2/5th Infantry Battalion Association in November 1967 and 7RAR's was donated by the 2/7th Infantry Battalion Association in September 1966.

The crest displayed by 6RAR was partially cast using artillery and small arms shells fired at the Battle of Long Tan at the Stuart Copper Refinery in Townsville in 1968.

One 8/9RAR Badge was presented to 8RAR on the Battalion's first birthday by 4RAR on 8 August 1967. This badge was cast from shells fired by "V" Battery and Dragon Battery, Royal Artillery, in support of 4RAR operations in Sarawak April-September, 1966.

The 9RAR badge was cast by the Naval Dockyard Foundry in Singapore in 1970 using 1RAR's badge as a diecast, although the crown was changed.

The badge probably started to be referred to as the "Skippy" during the Vietnam era, which was when the television show *Skippy the Bush Kangaroo* was popular.

Article by WO2 R.W. "Spike" Jones, MM, originally published in Australian Infantry Magazine in 1981 sourced from Ian Kuring. Badges Courtesy of Mr Paddy O'Brien of IS Wright Militaria, 262 Castlereagh St Sydney, phone (02) 9264 7555 and Mr Brad Manera.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for YOUR ATTENTION

You know that the only public record of your military service is your Certificate of Service that would have been supplied on discharge or maybe sent to your home address to replace your discharge certificate.

The document shows your dates of service and a list of your Honours and Awards and Service Medals, this of course needs updating as additional awards are given, in the case of Australian Defence Medal (ADM).

There was a recent funeral of a veteran in which his Honours and Awards and Service was incorrect, a situation that could have been avoided if his NOK had an updated record of service.

I would strongly recommend you contact CARO with an email to caro.hq@defence.gov.au to have your record updated. They will then send you the updated certificate.

Include your regimental number and dates of your service and the unit/s you served with.

Please advise all veterans you have on your mailing list.

Cheers Henry

From: [Henry Chisholm](#)
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 10:38 AM
To: [Dave Thomas](#)
Subject: Certificate of Service

Dave, maybe in the next Phantom news this could be included to those you post out by snail mail.

Those who do not have a computer they could write to:

DIRECTORATE OF HONOURS AND AWARDS

DEPT OF DEFENCE

T-4 PO BOX 7952

CANBERRA.ACT. 2610

Cheers Henry

UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr Chisholm,

Prior to the release of any information, regulations require the Central Army Records Office (CARO) obtain your signed authorisation.

Please forward your signed request to the following office:

Central Army Records Office
GPO Box 393
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Or Fax to: (03) 9282 5434

Alternately, you may email a scanned image of your signed request to: caro.hq@defence.gov.au

Please include all the information contained in your Email, including your postal address.

Regards

Wenlock Burton
CARO Registry Clerk
wenlock.burton@defence.gov.au

AS WE APPROACH OUR FORTY-FIFTH
OUR MAKE BELIEVE "PATRON " CELEBRATES A MILESTONE

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THE PHANTOM

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trusted name in fine art collectables
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REMEMBRANCE DAY
at the 11th hour
on 11-11-11

We can only hope that the tradition lives on and endures long past when that sequence of timing next appears on the calendar.

On my way to the Service at the Memorial Walk, Enoggera I was reading an article by a WW2 ex digger who resides in Western Queensland and I quote his few words.

“Your army mates are the best mates you will ever have,” he says. “You will have other mates during your life but none will be as strong as the mateship with the men you were in the army with” “Getting together with them years later and finding out what they’ve been up to and talking about old times—for me, that was the best part of being in the army”.

These few words reinforce the effort all who were in B Company should have to attend next February—time marches on and much planning is proceeding to make the few days memorable.

PLANNING TO ATTEND, FILL IN THE BOOKING FORM

Acceptance deadline date is December 25th (Christmas Day)

The Function Room at the RSL, Bribie Island will require a definite number of attendees and a deposit by that date. If we fail to have adequate numbers by that date alternative arrangements may have to be investigated.

The committee can only organize the few days according to the early acceptance and indication of your presence, **BOOK NOW!**

MEMORIAL GARDEN AND PLAQUE

A few months ago the present day soldiers of B Company conducted an exercise on Bribie Island.

One of their tasks was to render as much help to the community as possible in return for food.

(right up the alley for THE PHANTOM) !!

Many locals quickly warmed to the idea, no pay other than food and drink(no grog), the local VVA requested a working party to attend to the Park where we hold our Memorial Service.

A new garden of some size was added to the overall park and Paul Boyns quickly put in a word that B Company should have this garden, subsequently confirmed a done deal!

A stone (rock) of some size was sourced (not quite fall of truck) and placed in the garden on which we will be able to place a plaque commemorating “Operation Bribie”

We will not be allowed to place the names of the fallen but an appropriate plaque will be designed to acknowledge their sacrifice. Their names are on the main wall in the garden.

Before the main service we will hold a quick dedication of this garden.

LATE AND BREAKING NEWS

Once again, B Company of the present day 6RAR is to be absorbed into A and D Companies sometime early December.

Don't tell me the present day Phantom has got to the higher echelon! Maybe the old Phantom could register a protest vote—
everyone protests these days!

VALE

Ronald Douglas (Clika) Cleary passed away 21/9/2011

Clika was a commander of one of callsign 21 APC's that came to transport B Company out of the contact area of Operation Bribie.

We as a Company owe a great deal to their effort in enabling us to break contact late on the afternoon ,17th February 1967.

Many thanks—REST IN PEACE

Format for Events 16/17th February 2012 Bribie Island Qld

Thursday 16th

MEET & GREET.....Bribie Sports Club1700hrs (5.00pm)

B Company Members Draw during evening. Donated raffles also.

All former 6 RAR soldiers, other Corps, relatives and friends welcome

Friday 17th

If enough people are interested a 2 hour (morning) boat trip on Puminstone Passage **OR** Bowls/Golf.

Short dedication of garden and plaque before Memorial Service

MEMORIAL SERVICE...Vietnam Veteran's Park

1600hrs (4.00pm) precisely

Bribie Address.... John O'Halloran

General public, family ,friends and all ex soldiers welcome

Medals to be worn

On completion of Service retire to Korea Place (adjacent to RSL)

pre dinner drinks and savouries served

RSL Dining Room for Banquet Dinner

1830hrs (6.30pm)

Great company and free drinks with dinner

Bookings essential

Guest Speaker... Lt Col Mark Jennings

Commanding Officer 6RAR

Dress Code...RSL and Bribie Sports Club (owned by RSL)

NO Thongs

Shirt with collar

No offensive logo's

Basically... Clean,tidy,smart attire

Courtesy Busto and from all areas of the Island

Can be pre booked for your trip to the RSL



BRIBIE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
45th Anniversary of "Operation Bribie"
 and
MEET & GREET /BANQUET DINNER
16th/17th FEBRUARY 2012

BOOKING FORM

To enable some early planning
please return this page with your details.

NAME.....Platoon/Coy/Corp.....
 Wife/Partners name.....
 Address.....
 Postcode.....Telephone no.....Mobile.....
 MEET & GREET...16th Feb...YES.....NO.....Please circle intention
 BANQUET DINNER ...17th Feb...YES.....NO.....circle your intention
 Please indicate if you need a special diet, Vegetarian?.....

COST OF DINNER ...\$65.00 per head.....\$130.00 per double
 (kept at cost of 2007 dinner —drinks included)

+++++
 If interested in a Puminstone Passage cruise on Friday morning,
 Please indicate number.....OR ..Golf/Bowls.....

PAYMENT for Dinner.....\$.....
 I also wish to donate \$.....to help defray general expenses.
POST ...DA Thomas, PO Box 3270 Victoria Point West Q 4165
 Our bank account nameBRIBIE REUNION.
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 BSB no 638 010
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*MERRY CHRISTMAS and
 HAPPY NEW YEAR*

Good Health !

See you all in February 2012

