

8TH/9TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

A BRIEF HISTORY

8/9 RAR was formed at Enoggera on 31 Oct 73 when the 9 RAR Colour Party, escorted by men of the Battalion, marched with 1 MD Band from their barracks at Enoggera to the barracks of 8 RAR. There they joined the Colour Party and men of 8 RAR for an inauguration ceremony. The first CO of the new Battalion was LTCOL A. Clunies-Ross, MBE. The Battalion was incomplete on the linking parade with A Coy, 8 RAR on detachment to Butterworth, Malaysia. A separate ceremony was held by this company, changing lanyards and breaking the new battalion flag on foreign soil.

8/9 RAR carries the Queen's and Regimental Colours of both 8 RAR and 9 RAR. The 'Minh Dam' streamer of the award of the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is permitted to be carried on the pike of 8 RAR's Regimental Colour on the birthday of that Battalion. The emblem of this award is presently worn by all members of 8/9 RAR.

An alliance, approved by Her Majesty, between 8 RAR and the Parachute Regiment of the British Army is continued to be enjoyed by 8/9 RAR. In addition to this alliance 8/9 RAR enjoys a very close association with the Battalion AIF Association, the 2nd/8th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF Association, and the 9th Battalion Association.

During floods in Jan 74, the Battalion was involved in the tasks of building levee banks in the City of Brisbane and in the subsequent 'mopping up' operations.

On 22 Nov 81 8/9 RAR moved into new lines at Enoggera. These new lines were officially opened and named 'Gallipoli Lines' by General Sir Arthur MacDonald, KBE, CB, Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Regiment.

In Jul 89 the Battalion deployed to Kununurra, in the East Kimberley region of WA, as part of Exercise Kangaroo 89.

On 31 Oct 89, The Governor General, The Honourable Bill Hayden, AC, presented new Queen's and Regimental Colours to the Battalion on behalf of, and in trust for, 8 RAR and 9 RAR.

In the Early 1990s the battalion took the role of training ready reservists and maintained that role until being removed off the ORBAT in 97. The battalion sent a training team to PNG in 1990 for a period of 6 months to train recruits for the PNGDF. The Colours were laid-up at the museum of the School of Infantry on the 18th Jun 1997 and was removed off the ORBAT on the 30th Jun 1997.

Appendixes:

1. 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Theatres of Service
2. 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Commanding Officers
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THEATRES OF SERVICE

From	To	Country	Base	Bde/Div/TF
Oct 73		Australia	Enoggera	6 TF/1 Div 6 BDE/1 Div (from Feb 81)

APPENDIX 2 TO
ANNEX L TO
CHAPTER 6

8TH/9TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

COMMANDING OFFICERS

31 Oct 73 - 27 Nov 74	LTCOL A. Clunies-Ross, MBE
28 Nov 74 - 16 Jan 77	LTCOL E.A. Chitham, MC
17 Jan 77 - 13 Dec 78	LTCOL T.H. Holland
14 Dec 78 - 7 Aug 80	LTCOL E.F. Pfitzner
8 Aug 80 - 17 Dec 82	LTCOL J.R. Brett
18 Dec 82 - 20 Dec 84	LTCOL R.E. Thornley
21 Dec 84 - 9 Dec 86	LTCOL G.W. Hurford
10 Dec 86 - 15 Dec 88	LTCOL M.J. Edwards
16 Dec 88 - 14 Dec 90	LTCOL G.J. McKay, MC
15 Dec 90 - Dec 92	LTCOL P.F. Leahy
Jan 93 - Dec 94	LTCOL D.S.M. Roche
Jan 95 – Dec 97	LTCOL J.A. Robbs
Dec 97 – Jun 98	LTCOL J.F. Edwards

**APPENDIX 3 TO
ANNEX L TO
CHAPTER 6**

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REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJORS

31 Oct 73 - 13 Sep 75	WO1 J.S. Allan
14 Sep 75 - 17 May 76	WO1 G.J. Sutherland
18 May 76 - 28 Mar 79	WO1 P.G. Cowan, MBE
29 Mar 79 - 13 Apr 80	WO1 J.C. Henderson
14 Apr 80 - 18 Dec 81	WO1 K.S. Wendt, BEM
19 Dec 81 - 20 Dec 83	WO1 W.J. Burns
21 Dec 83 - 12 Dec 85	WO1 G.K. Willman
13 Dec 85 - 16 Jan 88	WO1 R.G. George
17 Jan 88 - Dec 89	WO1 R.E. Briaïs
Dec 89 - Dec 91	WO1 R. Slater
Dec 91-Dec 94	WO1 S.Paulson
Dec 94 – Dec 96	WO1 E.O. Hutchinson
Dec 96 – Jun 97	WO1 M.Levine

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MASCOT HISTORY

In the middle of 1970 it was decided that 9 RAR required a unit Mascot. A Merino Ram was chosen because of the important role that the animal had played in Australia's history and prosperity. Soon after the Ram was chosen Mr W.A. Collison, the owner of 'Trevallyn' Stud, donated the unit's first Mascot.

The Ram was named after John Macarthur who purchased and ran many of the first Spanish Merino sheep to arrive in Australia. John Macarthur was a colourful figure in the Australian Merino sheep industry and he was somewhat of a scoundrel. Like their namesake, the mascots have proved to be more than colourful and there have been many scoundrels among them.

Private John Macarthur I was presented to the Battalion on 12th March 1971 by the nephew of Mr Collison, PTE McPhee, a member of the Battalion. The Ram was immediately accepted into the ranks and acquired the nickname of 'Stan'.

John Macarthur I was by all accounts a scoundrel with a long list of charges, including striking a superior, conduct to the prejudice, resisting an escort, etc. He also developed a liking for tobacco which he preferred to chew than smoke and he formed an intimate relationship with a fire hydrant within the Battalion area.

Stan I reached the rank of Corporal before he was retired on 8th August 1978 after 9 years of solid service.

Stan II was presented to the Battalion by Major General Sir Denzil and Lady Dorothy Macarthur-Onslow on 6th February 1980. He was soon promoted to Lance Corporal but later reduced in rank to Private for wilful damage to his barracks. Stan II was tragically murdered by a pack of cowardly dogs on the night of 24th June 1984.

Stan III was donated by Mr and Mrs Lionel Roberts of Victoria Downs and Mr Bruce Scott, Chairman of the Queensland Merino Stud Sheep Breeders' Association. His reign was short and he died of injuries received during a duel with another Ram over a Lady's affection.

Mr and Mrs Roberts again showed their generosity and donated Stan IV who turned out to be a fine specimen. He is by far the biggest mascot yet and should perform admirably in any 'scrap' that comes along. Stan IV was promoted to Lance Corporal on 31st October 1988 and has performed the duties of a junior NCO admirably.

Some interesting traditions have grown up and around the mascot. There are numerous Rams' Heads in former homes of the Battalion, eg. the bar at HQ 1st Division Officers' Mess. All Officers are required to carry a shilling and woe betide the Officer who can't produce his 'Rams Head' shilling when called

for.

The four Macarthurs have typified the qualities of the soldiers required by the Battalion. They have been aggressive, steadfast, brave and resolute in the face of danger. Two have died fighting and one has retired honourably. They all, at times have shown the considerable courage of conviction needed to refuse orders which have appeared unjust and when punished have endured the punishment without complaining. Stan I to IV have proven to be excellent Mascots for the past 18 years.

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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

8/9 RAR received approval to maintain the parachute Regiment as its Allied Regiment. See Appendix 6 to Annex H to Chapter 6 for a history of the Parachute Regiment.

Battalion Music. The following march is used by the Battalion:

Bn Quick March - 8/9 RAR: The Brown and Grey Lanyard (a tune composed especially for the linked Battalion by Pipe Corporal Gorrei of 6 RAR in 1973),

BHQ March: Steamboat,

Company March - A Coy: John D. Burgess,

- B Coy: 10th Highland Light Infantry Crossing the Rhine

- C Coy: Glendarvel Highlanders

- D Coy: Tug Argan Gap

- Spt Coy: Hot Punch

- Admin Coy: Leaving Port Askaig

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Unit Citations 8 RAR

The streamer award to 8 RAR as recognition of their involvement in the Minh Dau operations (as per Appendix 4 to Annex H, Chapter 6) is to be attached to the Regimental Colour of 8 RAR whenever it is paraded.