

2ND/4TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT**A BRIEF HISTORY**

With the reorganisation of the Army during 1973 due to the cessation of National Service, 2 RAR and 4 RAR were linked on 15 Aug 73 to form the 2nd/4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (2/4 RAR).

The new Battalion was charged with the task of preserving the traditions, associations and museums of the two Battalions from which it was formed.

Between 1977 and 1979 the Battalion concentrated on conventional warfare including night and mechanised operations. In 1980 the unit was reorganised on light scales and trained as part of the Operational Deployment Force (ODF) in close country and conventional warfare operations.

The Battalion was placed on operational readiness, though not deployed, in 1987 and 1990. On each occasion the Battalion was prepared to evacuate Australian citizens from Pacific regional countries experiencing civil disturbance.

From 1990 to 1993 many individual soldiers from the Battalion served with the United Nations in Cambodia. In 1993, 54 soldiers from the Battalion were detached to 1 RAR for operational service in Somalia as part of Operation Solace.

In May 1993, 2/4 RAR was tasked to provide a Rifle Platoon for Operation Gemini in Cambodia. 12 Platoon Delta Company, deployed to Cambodia tasked with providing local security for Australian Army Aviation Assets.

In August 1994, 114 members of the Battalion deployed to Rwanda as part of the Australian Medical Support Force. The United Nation mission, UNAMIR II, was named Operation Tamar. The nucleus of the 2/4 RAR contingent was from A Company, tasked to provide security for the Australian Medical Support Force. Other 2/4 RAR personnel were employed in the Contingent Headquarters, as medical assistants and in logistical support functions.

The 1994 Defence White Paper directed the raising of an additional Infantry battalion to redress a perceived shortfall in the Army's capability to conduct land operations in accordance with strategic guidance. This additional battalion was formed on 1 February 1995 (the birthday of 4 RAR) by unlinking 2/4 RAR to reform 2 RAR and 4 RAR. The existing 2/4 RAR, complete, was retitled 2 RAR while 4 RAR will be formed incrementally over the period to 1998.

- Appendixes:
1. 2nd/4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment – Commanding Officers
 2. 2nd/4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Regimental Sergeant Majors
 3. 2nd/4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Miscellaneous Information

2ND/4TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

COMMANDING OFFICERS

15 Aug 73 - 15 Aug 74	LTCOL L.D. Johnson
16 Aug 74 - 9 Jan 77	LTCOL J.P.A. Deighton, MC
10 Jan 77 - 31 Oct 78	LTCOL K.R. Schlyder
1 Nov 78 - 9 Nov 80	LTCOL R.B. Bishop
10 Nov 80 - 20 Aug 82	LTCOL D.J.F. Rowe
21 Aug 82 - 16 Dec 84	LTCOL M.J. Keating
17 Dec 84 - 15 Nov 86	LTCOL P.S. O'Sullivan, MBE
16 Nov 86 - 08 Dec 88	LTCOL I.J. Ballantyne
09 Dec 88 - 03 Dec 90	LTCOL M.G. Smith, AM
04 Dec 90 - 04 Dec 92	LTCOL P.L. Pursey
05 Dec 92 - 28 Jul 94	LTCOL P.F. McIntosh
16 Sep 94 - 1 Feb 95	LTCOL R.G. Wilson

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REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJORS

15 Aug 73 - 31 Aug 75	WO1 K.A. Hall
1 Sep 75 - 20 Nov 77	WO1 C.G. Evans
21 Nov 77 - 11 Dec 79	WO1 J.N. Hemerik
12 Dec 79 - 1 Dec 81	WO1 B.L. LeSueur, OAM, MM
2 Dec 81 - 12 Dec 83	WO1 T.R. Curtis
13 Dec 83 - 29 Dec 85	WO1 J.H. Dunshea
30 Dec 85 - Dec 87	WO1 R.W. Thompson
Dec 87 - Dec 89	WO1 G.R. Hansen
Dec 89 - Dec 91	WO1 C.W. Russell, OAM
Dec 91 - Dec 93	WO1 D. Bennett
Dec 93 - 1 Feb 95	WO1 G.L. Hughes

APPENDIX 3 TO
ANNEX J TO
CHAPTER 6

2ND/4TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

The linking of 2 RAR and 4 RAR to form 2/4 RAR was the first such linking in The Royal Australian Regiment. Since then 5/7 RAR and 8/9 RAR have linked. Consequently 2/4 RAR was, on linking the first RAR Battalion to possess two sets of Colours. It was also the first RAR Battalion to have two sets of Colours on parade. The parade was held on 15 Aug 73 - the day of the linking of 2 RAR and 4 RAR.

2/4 RAR holds in trust the Freedom of the City of Townsville for 2 RAR granted to 2 RAR on 15 Oct 71. This Freedom was exercised on 15 Aug 74, the linked Battalion's first birthday.

2/4 RAR also holds in trust and maintains the alliances of 2 RAR and 4 RAR. The Allied Regiment of 2 RAR is the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, and the Allied Regiment of 4 RAR is the Irish Regiment of Foot Guards. 2 RAR is also a life member of the Old Coldstream Association in Australia, and 4 RAR maintains a close liaison with the Association of the 4th Infantry Battalions.