



12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association
(A Branch of the NSW RAA Association)

**12 Field Regiment
(Vietnam) Association**

In This Issue:

• **Presidents Letter.**
Page 1

• **Vale - Maj. Maurice
Stanley (Rtd.)**
Page 2

• **Proposed ACB List
Applications for
Members.**
Page 3

• **Non-Financial
Members.**
Page 4

• **ACB Application.**
Page 4

***Don't forget your
MEMBERSHIP***

***Multiples of \$10.00
Annually or better still
\$100.00 Perpetual
(10 years)***

**Direct Credit:- NAB
BSB 082 225
A/C. No. 83 654 6425**

***Please ensure you
include your name.***

President's Letter

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Spring is upon us and we look forward to longer days, good sunshine and barbeques cooked by Dad for dinner, as long as they aren't burnt!!

Your executive has not been idle through the long winter period. Most of our Members will attest to the fact that they have had a phone call or two from our Secretary, Ian Ryan checking on how they are travelling and seeing if they are being looked after by D.V.A.

Ian has done a great job since he became Secretary of our organisation and has taken on the task in a boots and all fashion; it has been well past the point of carrying out a good Secretary or even a Welfare officer's role. Well done Ian and thank you.

Many of you have applied and received the Australian Combat Badge though the Association for which you are rightfully entitled. However, there are many who had not filled out documentation and forwarded it to us. Ian, our Secretary, has taken it upon himself to apply en block to the Department of Army for all of our members who have not yet applied nor received their badges. There are well over 100 of our members who are as yet to receive their badge because they have not applied for it through the Association. So if one day in the future you receive your Army combat badge without your personal application for it you can thank Ian and the Association

applying for it on your behalf.

We will let you know in future newsletters if the Department of Defence requires individual applications through us or if they will accept the block application that Ian is doing at the moment on your behalf,

As you can see by just the two items above we are here for the benefit of the whole of the membership and not just that of one Battery. I grow tired of hearing stories that our Association is seen by some as favouring one Battery. Our Association was formed in February 2006 for all Batteries, for both tours of Vietnam. We even went through the process of trying to balance the committee so it would be graced with representatives from all Batteries. Sadly two former Committee members never ran this year and we now have a committee that is again largely weighted with 102 Battery members. This situation has arisen due to the fact that it is ***near impossible to get anyone from another Battery to stand for a position, let alone attend an A.G.M.!*** We would welcome any new faces on the committee with open arms, especially if they were from any Battery other than 102.

As I mentioned in our Winter Newsletter, we will be holding a reunion in Glenelg South Australia in April, 2012. The reunion will be heavily subsidised by your Association as we have around \$26,000.00 tucked away for a rainy day.

Spring 2010

It would be foolish to expend the bulk of our savings on one reunion so we should create a budget of what the Association will spend and perhaps have a \$50.00 per head ticketed price for the full weekend which would cover two full meals and beer and wines together with the Association subsidy for the weekend. Doing it that way would allow us another subsidised reunion by the Association in 2014 without depleting our Association funds by too much. I think a fifty dollar weekend in Adelaide would not be too much for all of us to bear.

Your Association has been frugal with every dollar we have spent over the years and that combined with some kind donations by some of you we have been able to keep our head well and truly above water. We are asking that any member who wishes to donate any amount what so ever to your Association especially those 2/3rds of our membership who are perpetual members it would be appreciated.

If you feel that you are able to donate anything please feel free to cut off or print the coupon on the last page of the Newsletter and forward it and your money to the address shown. There is no obligation at all to comply with this request. It would be, however, be greatly received.

Well that's my lot for now. Our summer news letter will not arrive to you until next year as our next committee meeting will not be until January and there will be no news to relate until then. Cossie.

Vale - Major Maurice (Morrie) Stanley 22/03/1931 - 16/09/2010



Photo: Andrew Taylor



Captain Morrie Stanley – The day after the battle. Photo: Reuters

Morrie Stanley was one of the heroes of the bloody Battle of Long Tan, one of Australia's most intense encounters of the Vietnam War. The New Zealand Army Captain attached to Delta Company of 6RAR is widely acknowledged as having played a huge role in saving most of the 108 besieged Australian Army soldiers during the three-hour battle on 18/08/1966.

He was the forward artillery officer (F.O.) with D. Coy. when they were attacked in a rubber plantation by a force of about 2500 Viet Cong who outnumbered them 23 to one. He stayed by the side of the company commander, Major Harry Smith, calling in some 3500 artillery rounds from the 18, 105mm L1A1 howitzers from 161 Field Battery (New Zealand), 103 Field Battery (Australia), 105 Field Battery (Australia) and the six 155mm M109 self-propelled howitzers from 2/35th Battalion (US Army) at Nui Dat some five kilometres away. He radioed in more than 61 artillery fire missions and corrections. The enemy force attacked in waves during a torrential downpour, almost overrunning the Australians.

Maintaining his calm amid the mayhem - "I had to overcome my dread that I would make a mistake" he recalled. Unable to see through the rain and mud exactly where the rounds of high explosive were falling, working entirely by radio communication with the forward platoons and the artillery units back at Nui Dat from a folded map, held in his hand, constantly wiping off the mud and running rainwater. This New Zealand officer was calling in every ounce of his experience and training. His rifle lay unattended beside him in the water despite the repeated reminders of his radio operator fellow New Zealander, Willy Walker, to keep it in his hand, as the Australian soldiers fought against overwhelming odds with limited ammunition. At times he ordered salvos from the batteries to within 30 metres of the D. Coy. lines. He also disregarded requests from Sergeant Bob Buick, who took command of 11 Platoon after his commander was killed, to bring down fire onto his position. The platoon had only 10 men left out of 28 and Buick was prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice because he thought they were about to be overrun. By the time the enemy disengaged they left 245 dead in the rubber plantation. The Australians lost 18 dead and 23 wounded. The toll would have been much higher had it not been for Captain Stanley's guns.

Maurice David Stanley was born on March 22, 1931 in Christchurch and grew up in Napier. His father was a drill master and Morrie became a prefect and regimental sergeant major in the school cadets. In 1949 he joined a special cadet unit in Wellington to complete his final two years at school and while there won a place at the Royal Military Academy, Duntroon. He was 19 when he sailed for Sydney for the four-year cadetship.

As a New Zealander, he had more to overcome than the average Australian cadet. It was demanded of him, as part of the tough initiation, that he sing *Waltzing Matilda*. But his Kiwi spirit would kick in and instead he would sing the New Zealand marching song *Maori Battalion*. "I received some attention for my impudence" he recalled, of what must have been stern punishment. But there was a silver. He met a young lady from Canberra, Alva, at a church function and they were engaged the day he graduated as a lieutenant in December 1953. They married six months later.

His army career progressed. He was among 150 soldiers sent to England for ceremonial duties (including guard duties at Buckingham Palace) and trained with the British Army.

Back home, in January 1966, he was ordered to prepare for a posting to South Vietnam as a replacement battery captain with 161 Battery Royal New Zealand Artillery, which was providing direct artillery support for the Australian's 1RAR. The unit was attached to the US Army's 173rd Brigade. After a relatively quiet start to his posting with 1RAR at the end of April 1966, the Battery moved to Vung Tau and then to Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province where he joined 6RAR as its F.O.

The events in the plantation at Long Tan erupted less than four months later. Stanley's actions that day earned him the military MBE for Valour and a U.S. Citation. Many consider he deserved a higher award.

After Vietnam, his postings included a four-year stint as a defence liaison officer in Melbourne. In all, he spent eight years in Australia. After he retired from the army with the rank of major in 1976 he worked in hospital administration in Auckland.

In May 2010, Morrie Stanley along with his former radio operator at Long Tan, fellow New Zealander Willy Walker, were presented with the Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) at a surprise service in New Zealand attended by his former Long Tan comrades Harry Smith, Bob Buick and Dave Sabben. In an unprecedented move, both the Australian Government and New Zealand governments fast tracked the offer from Australia of the Australian UCG to Morrie and Willy and within a few hours of receiving the offer, the New Zealand Prime Minister approved the presentation on Saturday 29th May 2010.

Long Tan veteran Major Morrie Stanley (RTD), MBE passed away peacefully at his home in Campbells Bay, New Zealand.

Morrie is survived by his wife, Alva, and sons Peter and Andrew. A third son, Donald, predeceased him.

A true Hero. Rest in Peace old Warrior.

This item is a compilation from various sources including:- SMH, Gerry Carman; Courier Mail.

Below is the list of 132 Members the Association is making application for ACBs'. *Is your name there?*

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	Easton	James	McGrath	Ian
Ahearn	Ian	Ericsson	John	McKeown	Stuart
Aitchison	Dave	Feint	John	Moore	Kenneth
Alsbury	Victor	Fisher	Lawrence	Morris	Bruce
Angelopoulos	(Sotiris) Sid	Fletcher	Stephen	Murry	Robert
Armstrong	Brian	Floyd	Graham	Olejniczak	Victor
Ayson	Greg	Floyd	Alan	Olsen	Peter
Backhouse	Kenneth	Foster	Keith	O'Neill	Terence
Bailey	Derek	George	Rodney	Orford	Rodney
Barry	Val	Glover	Raymond	Parkinson	Robin
Basham	Barry	Gordon (Dec'd)	Colin	Perkin	Robert
Bird (Dec'd)	John	Gorrick	Dennis	Perrin	Timothy
Black	Ian	Graham	Neil	Petersen	Greg
Bloom	Alan	Gray	(Rich.) Dick	Power	Doug
Bowden	Fred	Greening	Alan	Pullen	Russell
Bright	Gordon	Hampson	Eric (Rick)	Ragg	Tony
Browne	Thomas	Hannon	John	Rayner	Robert
Burford	Brian	Haw	Paul	Redding	Ronald
Burke	Brian	Hayden	Charles	Reid (Dec'd)	Graham
Burls	Peter	Herbert	Les	Robertson	Rodney
Burns	John	Hermann	John	Ruygrok	(Russ.) Joe
Bushby	Robert	Hicks	(Ray.) Bruce	Ryan	Ian
Carmody	Tom	Hockam	Greg	Ryland	Graham
Cleland	Matt	Hodge	Graham	Saunders	Wayne
Clothier	Max	Hogan	Russell	Sawtell (KIA)	Chris
Coape-Smith	Chris	Hood	Owen	Scott (KIA)	Ian
Cooper	John	Hundt	Malcolm	Stark	Mervyn
Crawford MBE	Michael	Inman	Phillip	Stein	Jeffrey
Creek	Dick	Ivers	Michael	Stelling	Robert
Cudmore	Dan	Jans	Nick	Stephens (MM)	John
Daff	Peter	Johnson	(Wm.) Bill	Stevens	Bryan
Dalton	David	Johnston	Phillip	Thomas	Geoffrey
Darragh	Raymond	Kendall	Wayne	Tinkler	John
Davis	Raymond	Knight	Alan	Towning (MID)	Keith
Delzoppo	Douglas	Lackey	Peter	Townsend	Tony
Dimond	Ian	Laing	James	Ward	Rex
Donald	Lachlan	Leaf	(Rob.) Stewart	Weismantel	Geoffrey
Dotter	Roy	Lee	(Wm.) Bill	Weston	Norman
Dougall	Mark	Lewis	Stephen	Whitehead	Peter
Downes (Dec'd)	John	Lloyd - Jones	Neil	Wilkinson	Kenneth
Draper	Colin	Macauley	Ian	Williams	Gordon
Duldig	Richard	Mathers	David	Williams	Victor
Dwyer	Jeffrey	Mauger	Geoffrey	Wilson	Alan
Earle	Terry	McArthur	Stuart	Winterbotham	Doug
				Wood (Dec'd)	Peter

Alert!!!!!!!

Change of Address???

It appears some members are changing email addresses and not notifying us of the change as we are getting many bounces on the newsletter when we send it out on email.

If you are getting your newsletter via snail mail and you used to get it by email, **we must not have your current email address.**

If you have an email and you are still receiving your newsletter by mail could you please notify your Secretary, Ian Ryan by email at the following email address:-

ianryan@hotmail.com

Postage has gone up and it is wasteful to send them by post if you have email facilities.

I would like to have a relative or friend's e-mail to forward urgent alerts.

Ian Ryan
Secretary

IMPORTANT:

Non-Financial

Members

Are You an MIA?

Also

If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a member of our Association or perhaps have lapsed their membership, please encourage them to join.

Army Combat Badge .

There may be some Gunners who are not the list on Page 3 but are entitled to apply for the ACB, so please contact me immediately.

Equally, if you have applied for an ACB through this Association and have not received your ACB, ***please contact*** the Secretary, Ian Ryan, on

ianryan@hotmail.com

Postal address:-

2 Pine Crescent, RINGWOOD, VIC., 3134.

Or Phone:- **(03) 9018 8991**

0411 650 077

APPLY NOW!



Donation:

**The Treasurer,
12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association,
81 Fawcett Street, Glenfield, N.S.W. 2167.**

I / We.....

would like to donate \$.....

Signed

Account Name: 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association.

Direct Credit: N.A.B. – B.S.B. 082 225 A/c. No. 83 654 625

Cheque / Money Order enclosed:

