

ILLAWARRA VIETNAM VETERANS REMEMBRANCE VIGIL

On the 50th Anniversary of Combat troops withdrawal from South Vietnam
3rd August 1972



2796378	Pte Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes	19 th September 1971
2794350	Pte Donald Cameron Hill	2 th June 1971
2786038	Pte Ian James Thomson- Thirlmere	19 th October 1968



215989	Pte Russell James Copeman	10 th April 1967
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2782779	Sapper John Laurence O'Hara	20 th May 1967
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Supported By:



*Vietnam Veteran's Association of
Australia Illawarra Sub-Branch (NSW)*



**Returned Services League Dapto /
Port Kembla & Corrimal RSL
Sub-Branch**



VCWOL



Legacy



Royal Australian Regiment



3rd Squadron, Special Air Service
Regiment



1 Field Squadron (Engineers)

ILLAWARRA VIETNAM VETERANS REMEMBRANCE VIGIL

On the 50th Anniversary of Combat troops withdrawal from South Vietnam

3rd August 1972

MC: Tony Cox - Assisted by John Stead

- 1000 Hrs Morning Tea
- 1050 Hrs Vietnamese Community Wollongong Grave Ceremony Area 1 Gardens
 - Vigil Welcome
 - Apologies & Thankyou
 - Vietnamese Community Wollongong Address: Mrs Teresa Tran
 - Anniversary Mention
- 1100 Hrs HARS Caribou Fly-over Salute
- Vigil Address Tony Cox
- Welcome the Spirit of soldiers and loved ones.:
- The Lord's Prayer
- We Remember Today:

2796378	Pte Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes
2794350	Pte Donald Cameron Hill
- Prayer of Remembrance. Area 2 Chapel Wall
- Video & Recording: ANZAC DAY SONG - Hype Duo
- Prayer Let Us Prayer
- We Remember Today:

2782779	Sapper John Laurence O'Hara
215989	Pte Russell James Copeman
- The Ode – Last Post – One Minute Silence - Rouse
- Farewell Prayers:
- Announcement: Collegians Figtree Helicopter Landing 1315Hrs
- Conclude Remembrance Service
- Spirits of the Anzacs by Lee Kernaghan. (With others) Video & Audio
- We Remember Today:

2786038	Pte Ian James Thomson- Thirlmere
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- Conclude

Remembrance Vigil



Royal Australian Regiment



3rd Squadron, Special Air Service
Regiment



1 Field Squadron (Engineers)



ILLAWARRA VIETNAM VETERANS REMEMBRANCE VIGIL

On the 50th Anniversary of Combat troops withdrawal from South Vietnam

3rd August 1971

1100 Hours

MC: Tony Cox

Assisted by: John Stead

Part 1

1045Hrs

Vietnamese Community Ceremony at Grave Site One

1050Hrs

INTRODUCE: Good Morning & Welcome

- Tony Cox Organiser and Coordinator
- John Stead Assist

VIGIL WELCOME:

Reader: MC Tony Cox

The Vietnam Veterans Vigil will occur throughout Australia and overseas where-ever an Australian soldier is interned.

The Illawarra Vietnam Veterans Remembrance VIGIL is part of that national salute to our fallen.

I thank the original VIGIL nominees for combining to allow a more formal ceremony.

The ILLAWARRA VIGIL is loosely based on the Australian War Memorial Last Post Ceremony

WELCOME:

Reader: MC Tony Cox

- Mr Hector Frigo, family friend for Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes and those remembering Maxwell.
- Mrs Heather Hill, wife of Donald Cameron Hill and those remembering Donald. Apologies from son Anthony.
- Mr Kevin O'Hara, brother of John Laurence O'Hara and those remembering John.
- Ann and Less Honess, Russell James Copeman's sister, family, and friends, and all those remembering Russell.
- Special welcome to John Matten and wife Eileen from Western Australia.
- Welcome to everyone, you have taken time out of your busy lives to be here today and to remember our fallen friends.

Remembrance Vigil

APOLOGIES:

Reader: Tony Cox

- John Ellis and members of the D & E Platoon 1 ATF members because of the distances involved.
- Hori Howard – who is at Thirlmere. Ian James Thomson is one of his men.
- Ray James – Thirlmere as family friend.

THANKYOU:

Reader: Tony Cox

- Vietnam Veterans Association Wollongong
- RSL Sub-branch's Dapto Port Kembla and Corrimal.
- Honour our Fallen
- The Red Cross
- Vietnamese Community of Wollongong
- HARS Aviation Museum, Albion Park and Nowra for today's aircraft flyover and Heli landing at 1:30pm.
- Legacy – for always being there...

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Reader: Tony Cox

- Collegians Figtree IS THE LOCATION FOR lunch
- Helicopter landing 1330 Hrs
- Vietnam vets to line up on football oval at 1:15pm

VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY OF WOLLONGONG:

Reader: Tony Cox

- We did not experience war on our soil to the degree of the Vietnamese experience.
- All Vietnamese suffered both at home and then difficulties enroute including the high seas to safety.
- I invite Mrs Teresa Tran, President of the Vietnamese Community Wollongong who wishes to address you.

VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY OF WOLLONGONG ADDRESS:

Reader: Teresa Tran



ANNIVERSARY TODAY:

Reader: MC John Stead

- Today (3rd August) is the Anniversary of the death in Vietnam of - Pte John Alexander Campbell – 21 Years from Leeton NSW - 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment.
- We honour his memory.

HOLD SERVICE FOR FLY OVER -----

1100Hrs

Remembrance Vigil
Caribou (HARS Aviation Museum) – Commentary John Stead

Caribou A4—234

Commentary: John Stead



Pilot: RAAF Squadron Leader (Retired) Richard Elliott

Richard served for 20 years flying Caribou, C 47 Dakota aircraft and eventually the Boeing 707 jet aircraft with the RAAF VIP Transport Squadron.

Richard piloted the Queen & Prince Phillip back to the UK in 1988 and in 1989 flew PM Bob Hawke to the UK and USA.

Richard resigned from the RAAF in 1989 and joined Qantas, flying Boeing 747 aircraft.

The Aircraft—Caribou A4—234

This aircraft served in Vietnam from May 1970 to Feb 1972 with 38 Squadron RAAF

It was retired to storage in Oakey Qld in Sep 2009.

Acquired by HARS in Sept 2011 along with A4 210.

HARS Caribou are 2 of only 3 flying Caribou aircraft in the world.

Both are owned & flown by HARS at Albion Park Rail.

**Caribou Flyover
Wollongong
Memorial
Gardens**

3rd August 2023

Site 1



Remembrance Vigil

1105 Hrs **INTRODUCTION ADDRESS:**

Reader: MC: Tony Cox



In the early 60's it was an exciting time to be alive.

- There was Spaceflight.
- Television shows.
- Rock & Pop music.
- Computers the size of LARGE trucks

We had left school, started jobs and careers, and started to find our place in the world influenced by the media of the time. Possibly our first purchase was a transistor radio.

Vietnam may have been observed on radio and TV but it wasn't until 1965 when the Australian Government announced National Service that a frown appeared on our parents foreheads.

Australians called up for National Service were quickly transformed into soldiers, barely recognisable by parents and family, so much so that there was no contest between Regular Soldiers and National Servicemen. Nobody could tell the difference.

In Vietnam, soldiers had few luxuries. A note pad with a few envelopes, a biro, possibly a photograph or two and an old letter to be read again later before destroying it.

Essentials carried on his back included:

- A Hutchie the size of a double bed, rain protection,
- a rubber mac the size of a single bed to sleep on.
- 5 days rations, 6 water bottles,
- spade,
- hexi stove,
- 1 or 2 Claymore mines,
- 1 to 200 rounds M60 Gun ammunition,
- 200 to 300 rounds rifle ammo in Bren Pouches or bandoleers across your chest.
- 6 grenades and possibly
- up to 6 smoke grenades and other specialist munitions.
- If you were really lucky, a 25-radio set with spare batteries and associated antennas, codes and paperwork.
- and A weapon – Armalite, SLR or the M60 machine gun.

Your workday was simple. **SEARCH – LOCATE – CLOSE WITH THE ENEMY.**

Mateship spread across the platoon.

The mateship **CONTINUED ON A** day off in Vung Tau. Some were more mate than others, but friendship all the same.

In contacts you watched out for **YOURSELF** first , and **EACH OTHER.**

YOU RISKED YOUR life if someone was injured to extend their life.

If the pain was too severe and the wounds significant you might have helped them as best you could until they went quiet.

Remembrance Vigil

Later - When possible, you along with 4 or 5 platoon members would reverently gather him and his humble possessions and load him to a helicopter, probably telling the crew to look after him, he is my mate. You might have STOOD there watching the helicopter lift and vanish from sight and sound.

There was no service for you to attend. No ceremony.

It might be weeks before you returned to Nui Dat.

By then so much had happened that it is was all too difficult to comprehend and process.

Years will pass before the OPPORTUNITY occurs to visit a grave, meet the family and talk about your friend.

He had been with you all the time but being there helped.

So here you are. Today we visit a grave, hold ceremony and seek closure.

For the families, the wives', mothers, fathers, children, siblings, the nightmare began the day they were told of their loved one's death.

Families had FEARED it all along. Why US?

The grief has not dissipated, it probably remains just as raw as the day it happened MIXED WITH ANGER.

For those of us who did not know our Wollongong soldiers personally we thank THE FAMILIES for sharing their lives with us today.

We hope that by us being here indicates to you the love and support that has always been there for you FROM THE SOLDIERS WHO SERVED WITH YOUR LOVED ONE'S.



Remembrance Vigil

CALLING THE SPIRIT:

Reader: John Stead

OUR SOLDIERS AND THEIR PARENTS are no longer with us. May we invite the spirit of our soldiers, and their parents to be with us TODAY as we honour their memory and sacrifice.

I NOW RECITE THE LORDS PRAYER:

Reader: John Stead

I NOW RECITE THE LORDS PRAYER:

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

HELICOPTER SOUND: Recorded – Optional

002 Helicopter flyby



Above: Plaques Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes and Donald Cameron Hill

Remembrance Vigil

WE REMEMBER TODAY



Reader: MC Tony Cox

Today we remember [Pte Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes](#)

- 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment
- Accidentally Killed in Action on 19th September 1971, aged 22 years.
- The ONLY son of Frank Lachlan and Claudia May (Mood) Rhodes, both formally Oberon, NSW.
- Maxwell's parents moved to the North Coast following retirement and are buried at Palmdale NSW

OPERATION NOTES:

Reader: MC Tony Cox

During [Operation IVANHOE in Phuoc Tuy Province](#) on 19 September 1971, in the prelude to the battle of Nui Le, D Company, 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment received intelligence which was interpreted as indicating that perhaps two battalions of North Vietnamese Army regulars were as close as 500 meters from the company.

This was later proven to be correct. Due to confusion over two radio messages from Battalion HQ (BHQ), D Company propped twice to decode the messages and shortly after, they set off again. The intelligence messages incidentally were very relevant.

Fearing potentially that 2 enemy battalions were in proximity the Commanding Officer of D Company, Major Jerry Taylor decided to keep platoons more concentrated, more closer together than usual reducing the gaps between them and response times when contact occurred.

Private Maxwell Rhodes had only joined Delta company 9 days earlier. 10 Platoon (of which Max was part) was advancing to engage the enemy with 11 Platoon.

Tension amongst the company was very high and unfortunately 11 Platoon and 10 Platoon of D Company, operating on different axis of advance, engaged each other and Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes, was accidentally shot and killed.

A misfortune such as this is bound to happen in war and although a tragic event, no blame was laid.

The investigation concluded that the terrible event had been caused by a series of adverse circumstances coming together at that time and place.

Maxwell had only been in-country (Vietnam) 39 days.

EULOGY FOR Pte Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes

Reader: Hector Frigo Pte Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes

Very little is known about Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes because there is no family remaining. It is believed that Maxwell was born in Oberon in 1948, the only son of Frank Lachlan and Claudia May (Mood) Rhodes. Frank Lachlan Rhodes was a World War 11 veteran.

Most of the Max's schooling was done in boarding schools. Max's parents had moved to Sydney where Max was born in late 1940's and then to the south coast in the early 60's with Franks fathers career postings in Australia Post Office.

The family settled in Balgownie and then East Corrimal. Maxwell applied for and achieved a cadetship with BHP as a metallurgist and began study at the University of NSW, graduating immediately prior to his enlistment into the Australian Army as a National Serviceman.



Maxwell was a keen sportsman loving soccer and cricket. There were no better times than when the teams were together and enjoying each other's company, just being good mates and having fun. A shy man, Max would keep to himself, but when they got together, he would come out of his shell. Maxwell represented Balgownie in both sports together with Donald Cameron Hill with whom he was good mates. Donald Hill was conscripted in the intake before Max and would die on the 12th June 1971 in a Vietcong ambush in Long Khanh Province, Vietnam.

It was normal for national servicemen to be posted to a reinforcement wing once graduating from infantry and jungle training and it was from there that Max was posted to the 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment on the 10 September 1971, just 9 days before his death. He was employed at BHP Wollongong during his University studies and as law would have it, Max would have returned to his employment upon his return from his National Service, however it was not to be.

Maxwell's mother Claudia was naturally devastated at her son's death. Her grief and anger were directed at the Australian Army and possibly the government whom she blamed for taking her only child from her.

Maxwell was Frank and Claudia's precious son and the loss that she experienced was difficult to observe by the relatives and friends who stood by them at this time. Essentially the family lineage ended with their passing. Frank and Claudia moved to the central coast after Frank's retirement and are interred in the Palmdale Cemetery, NSW.

Pte Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes was awarded the Vietnam Medal, The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and his National Service Medals which will be mounted and displayed in the Corrimal RSL Memorial Club Museum along with his Australian flag issued at the Commemoration of the Australian National Vietnam Memorial dedication on 3rd October 1992

PRESENTATION:

The original plaque installed on Maxwell's plinth was small and corroded. It has been replaced with a standardised plaque matching all 4 soldiers. I present the original plaque to Hector Frigo for safe keeping/

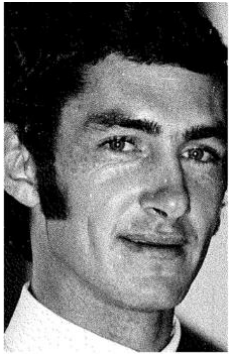
WREATHS:

- Hector will now lay his tribute to Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes
- Hector Frigo - Poppie

Remembrance Vigil

WE REMEMBER TODAY:

Reader: Tony Cox



Today we remember [Pte Donald Cameron Hill](#)

- 1 Australian Task Force. Defence & Employment (D&E) Platoon
- Killed in Action on 12th June 1971 aged 22 years.
- Loved husband of Heather. Deeply missed by son Anthony.
- Beloved son of William (Bill) and Mabel Hill who are interred just up near the chapel.
- Loved brother of Ian.

OPERATIONS NOTES:

Reader: Tony Cox

[Operation Overlord](#), under command of [Brigadier Bruce Alexander McDonald MC](#) was a massive simultaneous deployment which occurred on the 6th June 1971 involved all three Australian infantry battalions.

Also included were Centurion tanks, Armoured Personnel Carriers two Field Artillery Regiments, US Army Battery C, Engineers, 161 Reconnaissance Flight, 9 Squadron RAAF and Army Assault Helicopter Company flying Cobras.

B Company 3 RAR made lengthy contact with the enemy on the morning of the 7th June 1971 and the savage contact lasted the entire day. The enemy included D445 Battalion and 3/33rd Regiment.

Killed in action on that day were [2Lt Ian George Mathers](#), Royal Australian Artillery, 9 Sqn RAAF crew [Flight Officer Everitt Lance](#) and [Cpl David John Dubber](#) who perished during a mid-contact helicopter munitions resupply. 6 soldiers and two helicopter crew were wounded.

On the 12th June 1 ATF Defence and Employment Platoon of which Donald Hill was a member, had boarded an armoured personnel carrier [APC \(M113\)](#), and were proceeding back to an area by the same route they travelled earlier in the day.

During the return journey, a box of 6 Claymore Mines fell from the leading APC. [Claymore Mines](#) were used for protection at Halts and night Harbours. The second APC stopped, and a soldier retrieved the BOX of claymores, and stowed them next to this APC's own box of claymores. At the same time, the last APC had slowed to a stop to maintain his tactical distance from the second APC.

In the meantime, the leading APC, which had continued, rounded a slight bend in the track was struck by a [Vietcong RPG \(Rocket Propelled Grenade\)-grenade](#), severely wounding both the Driver and Crew Commander and disabling the APC. All three APC's were immediately engaged by enemy fire.

Initial enemy response included an enemy rocket propelled grenade which secured a direct hit on the external storage bin of the middle APC which now contained two boxes of Claymore Mines, causing a massive explosion that killed all on board that APC.

Also killed with Donald (Hilly) Hill were:

Pte Kenneth James "Kenny" Boardman	<i>A Sqn 3 Cav Regt</i>	Sutherland, Syd
L/Cpl John Noel McCarthy	<i>A Sqn 3 Cav Regt</i>	Springvale Victoria
Pte Trevor James (Atty) Attwood	<i>1 ATF D&E platoon</i>	Uralla, Victoria
Pte Roger William Driscoll	<i>1 ATF D&E platoon</i>	Coonamble, NSW
Pte Peter (To Be) Tebb	<i>1 ATF D&E platoon.</i>	St George, Queensland
Pte Michael (Mick or Tommy) Towler	<i>1 ATF D&E Platoon</i>	Rookwood, NSW

This one single encounter with the enemy shocked and saddened every soldier on the operation.

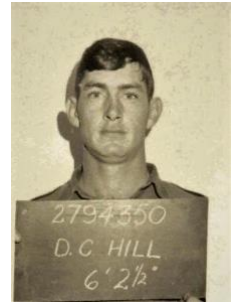
Remembrance Vigil

EULOGY:

Pte Donald Cameron Hill

Reader: John Stead

[Donald Cameron Hill \(Don\)](#) was born on the 21st of December 1948 and lived in Hamilton Street, Fairy Meadow, from the age of two when his parents moved down to Wollongong from Sydney. Don has an older brother, Ian. Don attended Mount Ousley Primary School and then Keira Boys High. He was an accomplished sportsman, having played soccer for Tarrawanna and cricket for Balgownie from a very early age.



It was through these sports that Don met and became very close friends with Maxwell Rhodes, who was also conscripted and subsequently killed in Vietnam approximately six weeks after the conflict that took Don's life.

After Donald finished school, he began work in the Technical Department of Lysaghts at Port Kembla and remained there until conscripted into the army. After he completed his national service and jungle training, Don was sent to Vietnam in August 1970 with the 7th Battalion, whose members had been serving in Vietnam for six months and were returning to Vietnam from their R&R in Australia.

When the 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment returned to Australia at the end of their tour in March 1971, Don came home on his [R&R](#) (Rest & Recuperation). He then returned to Vietnam as part of the 1st Australian Task Force.

Don was one of the seven Australians killed and five others wounded when a Vietcong charge exploded on a personnel carrier in the northern border area of Phuoc Tuy Province on June 12, 1971.

Four of the 7 soldiers killed, and three of the wounded were National Servicemen. Don was 22 years of age at the time of his death.

Don left behind his seven-month-old son, Anthony Cameron Hill, and his wife, Heather. Donald's son Anthony had been born while his father was overseas, however, Don was able to be with his son during his five days of R&R in March 1971, during which time the extended family came together for Anthony's christening. The christening was conducted by close family friend Reverend Joe Dyer at the Congregational Church in Wollongong where Don and Heather had been married.

Anthony has followed in his father's footsteps, having grown up and been educated in the same local area and having played soccer, baseball, and representative cricket for local Illawarra clubs.

Anthony joined the NSW Police Force in 1989 and has risen to the rank of Chief Inspector. Anthony is married and lives in Jindabyne.

Don's wife, Heather, has continued to live and work in Wollongong. Before her retirement, Heather worked as a secondary school teacher.

WREATHS:

We Invite Heather, wife of Donald to lay her flowers from her garden for Donald.

- Heather Hill – Flowers from her garden.

Remembrance Vigil

THE ODE: RECORDED - 003 ODE SILENCE AND HELICOPTER RECORDING - Jack Thomson

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning.
We will remember them.*

ALL: Lest We Forget

LAST POST

ONE MINUTE SILENCE:

- At end of one minute: NO ROUSE – FLAGS STAY AT HALF MAST

I NOW RECITE THE PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE:

Reader: John Stead

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we remember with thanks-giving those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in time of war. We pray that the offering of their lives may not have been in vain.
By your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice, freedom, and peace;
and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world, for the honour and the glory of your name.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Reader: MC Tony Cox

- We NOW PAUSE the service so that we may move to John O'Hara and Russell Copeman's location just near the chapel.
- Please move to the area near the chapel.



Remembrance Vigil



PART 2

CHAPEL

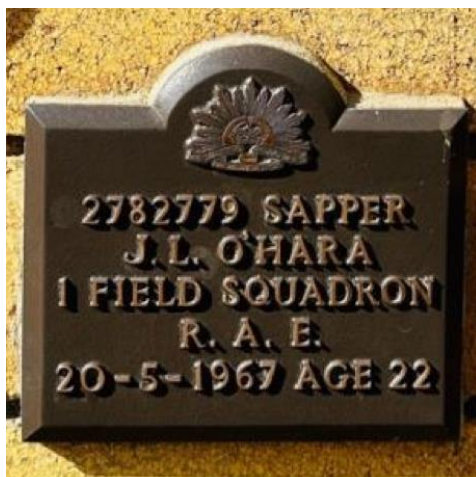
VIDEO AND RECORDING: ANZAC DAY SONG - Hype Duo

Activate: MC Tony Cox

LET'S US COMMENCE WITH A LITTLE PRAYER:

Reader: John Stead

Let us pray for all who have suffered because of war:
We pray for all who have been broken in battle.
For those who weep.
For those who feel anguish and for those who have lost the capacity to feel.
For those who carry the pain of past conflicts. Lord, in your mercy



Remembrance Vigil

WE REMEMBER TODAY:

Reader: MC Tony Cox



Today we remember [Sapper John Laurence O'Hara](#)

- 1 Field Squadron (Engineers)
- Died Accidentally on 20th May 1967 aged 22 years.
- Beloved son of Ernest Percival and Phyllis May O'Hara who are interred in section 70 of this cemetery.
- Loved Brother of Kevin, Dianne and Philip.

ALSO KILLED IN THIS EVENT was John's Friend:

Reader: MC Tony Cox

Also Killed in this event was John's good friend.

- [Sapper Gregory Vincent Brady](#), 1st Field Company Engineers. 22 Years from Orange NSW



EULOGY:

Reader: Tony Cox

Invite Kevin O'Hara to the microphone for the eulogy of his brother John O'Hara

Reader: Mr Kevin O'Hara

My brother, [John Laurence O'Hara](#) was killed in action in South Vietnam on 20 May 1967. He had just turned 22 the month before. He died that day alongside his best friend Greg Brady from Ipswich in Queensland. He was also 22.

John was my eldest brother and was born in Wollongong on 11 April 1945. Our parents, Ernest Percival and Phyllis May O'Hara were living in Coniston at the time. Ern had returned from New Guinea in 1942. He had been working on gold dredges in [Bololo](#). After the war, he returned to New Guinea to help resume operations at the gold mine. Phyllis followed soon after with John and his new sister Dianne. John and Dianne lived in Bololo for 3 years, welcomed another brother Philip and were watched over and taught by the native girls who were called "Marys".

On return to Australia, John went to school at Coniston where his grandfather was Headmaster. He then went to Port Kembla Primary School followed by Berkeley High School. He attended church at St Stephen's Church of England at Port Kembla. His Minister, Reverend Leaske remembered John as a bright and fun-loving boy but very shy. He joined the church scout group at 11 years old and later the church youth group. He joined the Port Kembla Surf Club as soon as he was old enough and stayed in the club until he was conscripted. His nickname at the club was "Scarlett". In all the years he was there, John never missed a patrol, one of their only members to ever achieve this.

After leaving school, John worked at Farquhar's Jewellery Shop and then at Metal Manufacturers (MM) as a labourer until he was conscripted in 1965. John had many friends in Port Kembla, was good looking and was always very popular, especially with the young ladies. I recall one time when he was sent in to buy a quick box of chocolates as we were on the way to a family function. We all waited in the car, but after about 15 frustrating minutes of waiting, we went into the shop only to see John chatting up the salesgirl and arranging to take her out on a date.

Remembrance Vigil

When John turned 20 in 1965, his birthdate was drawn as part of the compulsory conscription system in place at the time. He reported for duty on 5 October 1965, exactly one week after his sister's wedding on 28 September. John's initial training was at Kapooka after which he transferred to Holsworthy to train as an Army Engineer (known as Sappers). We all went to his passing out day, where the new sappers demonstrated building a bridge across a creek in record time.

John left for Vietnam in August 1966. When he arrived in Saigon, the temperature was 120 degrees and they had to wait in the sun for over 3 hours until a plane took them to their camp in a rubber plantation at Vung Tau. There was machine gun and rifle fire on their arrival as the 6 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment was trying to take a VC stronghold. That night he said the Yanks' B52 bombers were dropping 500lb and 1000lb bombs on a mountain about 5 km away, so the trees, tents and ground were all shaking until 4am.

While in Vietnam, John was with 2 Troop, part of 1 Field Squadron, which was led by Captain Sandy MacGregor. He was the first to have the sappers enter the Vietcong tunnels to disable the booby traps and retrieve valuable intelligence. Prior to that, any tunnels found were either just sealed and/or had grenades thrown in. Sandy's sappers would enter with a pistol and a torch and would find and disarm the many bombs and other traps planted so the infantry could then enter. They also used a compass to map out the tunnels. 1 Field Squadron then became known as the "Tunnel Rats" and Captain MacGregor became quite famous for this. John said he had been down so many tunnels; he now actually enjoyed it. Also, while he was in Vietnam, John was made an Honorary Member of the Port Kembla Surf Club, the only young person to ever receive this as this was normally reserved for those much older.

In early 1967, the Australian Task Force Commander [Brigadier Stuart Clarence Graham](#) enacted a plan, against advice from many, to construct an 11 km [barrier fence minefield](#), containing over 20,000 M-16 "jumping-jack" landmines. These would jump about 1 metre out of the ground when detonated and then spread lethal shrapnel for about 20 metres all around. Each mine was positioned in the ground above an anti-lifting device (hand-grenade) which was meant to stop the mine from being stolen. The [Barrier minefield](#) was located in the southern Phuoc Tuy province and was built with the aim of shielding the population in the south-west from the enemy in the north and east. This whole endeavour was very badly planned and poorly executed, resulting in 7 sappers being killed and another 11 terribly wounded laying the minefield. More Australian sappers were killed and injured when the minefield was later removed. Worse still, the minefield became a major source of strike weapons for the enemy, who became quite adept at removing the mines. This was estimated to have caused close to 50% of all Australian casualties in Vietnam.

Laying the minefield was done in 3 steps. First the holes were dug, then the mines were precisely positioned and finally the mines were armed. Arming involved 2 sappers working directly above the mine, one holding the soil down firmly around the mine and the second removing the pin from the grenade beneath. The arming step was extremely dangerous and very stressful for the sappers involved. There were several teams of sappers laying the minefield each day and they rotated the duties for each step. When on the Arming duty, each sapper was given only a helmet and a thin flak-jacket for protection, which was very uncomfortable due to the severe heat and high humidity. No Australian sappers had worked with the M-16 mines before and they were only given minimal training, which consisted of a quick initial demonstration by a NCO of how the mine and the grenade were to be positioned and armed before they started work laying the minefield. Initially the teams of sappers were to lay 400 mines per day, but Brigadier Graham then ordered the sappers to increase minelaying to 1000 per day. The minelaying operations continued for up to 12 hours each day for the sapper teams. On 20 May, 1967, John was doing the arming duty alongside his best friend [Sapper Gregory Vincent Brady](#) when something slipped and they were both killed instantly. Two other sappers from another team working close by ([Corporal Lionel Rendalls and Sapper Brian Roberts](#)) received shocking injuries from the blast but survived.

John had been set to return to Australia in April 1967, but was kept back for an extra 2 months due to his specialist skills. He intended to re-enlist in the Army for 6 years once his national service was completed and, in his letters, discussed an opportunity to go to London for some further training.

Remembrance Vigil

John's remains were brought back to Australia, and three weeks after his death, there was a full military funeral for him at St Stephen's Church in Port Kembla. Reverend Leaske came back to the church to conduct the funeral. He also led the funeral procession down the main street of Port Kembla in the rain. John's coffin was carried on a gun carriage. The Surf Life Saving Association and several of his workmates formed a guard of honour for the march. All the Port Kembla shops closed as a mark of respect. He was cremated and his ashes are at Wollongong Memorial Gardens. John was the first national serviceman from the south coast to die in Vietnam.

There were many news articles about his death and the circumstances surrounding. His parents received condolence telegrams from many, including his Commanding Officer Brigadier Graham, General Westmoreland from the US Army and [Malcolm Fraser](#), Minister for Army who later became Prime Minister. The Port Kembla Surf Club named their next surf boat after him, [the "John "Scarlett" O'Hara"](#) with the O'Hara family as honoured guests at the launch. John's mother, Phyllis O'Hara also received special honour as a mother who lost a son in the war.

In October 1987 there was a special "[Welcome Home" parade in Sydney](#), led by a relative of each of the 469 Vietnam Veterans who did not return from the war carrying a flag with an engraved name plaque in their honour. John's flag is here today. Prior to this parade, the Vietnam Veterans were not recognised by the RSL as most were conscripts. I proudly carried his flag at the march. Since then, I have marched for John on many Anzac Days both in Port Kembla and Sydney. On Anzac Day in 2001, the remaining members of John's unit, 2 Troop, came to my house in Sydney for a remembrance service and barbeque in my back yard. [Sandy MacGregor, who retired a Colonel](#), attended and made a speech. Many of the 2 Troop veterans became very emotional. This group has kept in touch over the years since then, sending out newsletters and going on vacations together, but there are not many of that group left now.

Rest in peace my brother, John Laurence O'Hara **WREATHS:**

Kevin O'Hara

WREATHS: Kevin O'Hara. Brother of John



Site 2 - MC Tony Cox & Assisted by John Stead

Remembrance Vigil

WE REMEMBER TODAY:

Reader: MC Tony Cox



Today we remember [Trooper Russell James Copeman](#)

- 3rd Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment
- WIA: 18th January 1967 aged 19
- DOW 10th April 1967 ([Ingleburn Camp Hosp](#))
- 19yrs at time of injury and 20 yrs at time of his death.
- Beloved son of Major James (MC, MM) and Pearl Copeman - Formally Corrimal then King Island Tasmania.
- Loved brother to Ann and Darrell.

OPERATIONS:

Reader: Tony Cox

Russell James Copeman commenced his tour of duty of Vietnam with the 3rd Squadron Special Air Services on 15 June 1966. and was deployed to Nui Dat with the rest of the operational units of the Task Force.

SAS worked totally independently and were often in no man's land doing close reconnaissance work. Their tasks were to locate enemy movement, enemy camps and anything along these lines and report.

During a difficult four-man patrol in a well-established enemy location on 18 January 1967, Trooper Russell Copeman, serving as a medic, was seriously injured by enemy fire. [Trooper John Wesley 'Juvy' Matten](#) went back into the contact area under enemy fire, retaliating as he went, located, and rescued Russell, carrying him to relative safety and attended to his wounds as best he could.

John Matten keyed in code for helicopter extraction. The helicopter lowered cable and Russell was belted in a harness and winched to the helicopter under enemy fire and evacuated with the others direct flight to 2 Field Hospital at Vung Tau.

Because of the critical nature of his wounds, Russell's mother was flown to Vietnam to visit her son under the Australians Dangerously Ill scheme operated by the Department of Defence. John's father, Major James Copeman, also received permission to fly to Vietnam to visit.

Russell was highly thought of by all members of SAS. Six days following the wounding the Squadron cook made a birthday cake for Russell and as many members possible visited Russell in hospital. Russell was aware of the visit and glad to see them, but he was not well and destined for additional medical operations.

The wounds were debilitating, severe, life threatening and ultimately fatal. Little or no improvement was made medically so Russell was evacuated to RAAF Base hospital in Butterworth and then to Australia, 2 Military Hospital Ingleburn in late February 1967.

Sadly, Russell James Copeman succumbed to the severe wounds after a grim struggle and died approximately three months after being wounded on 10 April 1967.

Russell is sadly missed by all and John Matten never was officially recognised for his heroic actions in rescuing Russell, however he has been recognised by his peers in the SAS Associate in 2001. We recognise you today John for your bravery in what you did for Russell.

Remembrance Vigil

EULOGY:

I now invite Mrs Ann Honess, sister of Russell for her Eulogy

Reader: Mrs Ann Honess (Sister of Russell)

Russell James Copeman was born at Lyndon Private Hospital, Narellan, NSW on 24 January 1947. He was the first child of [James](#) (Jim) and Pearl Copeman.

Left: James (Jim) Copeman MC MM and Pearl Copeman

Russell's first 6 years were spent in Picton, NSW, while his father, James, completed his post war training as a Carpenter. In 1953 the family, now of 5 with sister Ann and brother Darrell moved to Towradgi on the South Coast of NSW. James had qualified for a War Service home and took up a position with the Housing Commission of NSW.



Russell's schooling commenced at Towradgi Primary School until Grade 6. At a very young age Russ had a dream of owning his own farm, so to help achieve his goal he was sent to Hurlstone Agricultural College as a boarder for the first three years of high school. Unfortunately, boarding school was not "his cup of tea", so he returned to Towradgi and the family home to attend Corrimal High School with the aim of completing to Year 5. Once again things did not work out and he left school early in Year 5 to take up an Apprenticeship as a Greenskeeper at Figtree Bowling Club. A job he enjoyed but he was just filling in time until he could join the Army.

During his school years Russ was a competitive sportsman and was involved in athletics, rugby and swimming. He was always outdoors and spent many hours surfing during the summer months. Unfortunately, these activities also meant he was prone to injuries. Sliding down sandhills on a sheet of tin saw a badly gashed leg; chasing kids around the house ended up with him running through a glass door, resulting in 15 stitches in his forearm; playing rugby for Hurlstone Ag College sent him to hospital with a broken leg for a month; and finally a close call in a car accident which transformed a Falcon sedan into the size of a Cortina (luckily this one only left him with a few scratches on his forehead).



Russell wanted to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, Cecil Edward Copeman, who was an ANZAC at Gallipoli and also fought in France in WWI and his father, James, who fought with the 2/3rd Battalion in WWII, gaining a Military Cross and Military Medal for bravery in the process. Russ joined the CMF as soon as he was old enough and serviced with 3RNSW Regiment in Wollongong, alongside his father, until he was

Remembrance Vigil

able to join the regular army. Full time service began for Russell in 1964 where he did his basic training at 1RTB Kapooka, NSW then to C Company, 6RAR once basic training was completed. He was transferred to B Company, 6RAR in June 1965 as he was too young to be sent to Vietnam with C Company.

Army life was obviously what Russell wanted and in a letter to his Dad in June 1965, he wrote *"No worries about Vietnam. I'm too young & am being transferred to B Coy 6RAR on Monday. If they won't have me for overseas, I'll have a bit of adventure. Have filled in my application for SAS today. Here's hoping."* His application was accepted and SAS, Swanbourne WA was his next posting. Following intense training 3SAS was deployed to Vietnam in June 1966.



In his latter letters from Vietnam Russell seemed torn between life in the Army and following his childhood dream of owning a farm. It seemed that his experiences in Vietnam were playing on his mind, and he was tossing up whether to take up Officer Training or apply for a discharge once he returned from Vietnam. Officer Training finally won out but instead of taking up the course in 1966 he decided to remain with his mates & Squadron until their deployment was completed and take on Officer Training in the next intake. Unfortunately, this didn't happen as he was wounded in January 1967, which ended his military career & ultimately his life.

Our family owe so much to John "Juvi" Matten for his bravery following the incident where Russell was wounded. If it were not for John we would never have seen Russ again, all be it for a short few months.



During a four-man patrol Russell was "tail end Charlie" and John was the radio operator & Medic. A sniper shot and wounded Russell and once John realised Russ had been hit, he rushed back to his aid and carried him to safety, attended his wounds as best he could and sent morse code messages to get a helicopter to extract the patrol. The patrol was winched to the safety of the helicopter while still under enemy fire and flown back to base at Vung Tau. Russell was rushed to the operating theatre where he spent many hours having his wounds attended to. The marvellous medical team of Doctors & Nurses at Vung Tau worked tirelessly to save his life and eventually Russell was strong enough to be medevacked back to Australia. His last few months were spent at Ingleburn Army Hospital, where his family could visit him daily until his passing on 10th April, 1967.

Above: Ann Honess (sister to Russell) John Matten.

Thank You Ann

Remembrance Vigil

ANZAD DAY POEM for Russell Copeman

Introduce: Tony Cox

POEM RECITAL

Reader: Jakki May for her Poem ANZAC DAY

PTO



Above: Forming up at site one, Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes and Donald Cameron Hill



Above: Wollongong Vietnamese Community service offering.

Remembrance Vigil

POEM:

Reader

Jakki May

'Anzac Day'

(A True Story)

I once knew a boy who was wild at heart -
a tomboy, a larrikin, a bit of a lark.
He was tall and handsome; his father's son.
He was loved by all, especially his Mum.

He had cheeky eyes and feral hair,
a killer smile and he knew how to swear.
He could charm the birds right out of the trees
and torment his mates; he was such a tease.

He had dreams of one day owning a farm -
a place where his family would see no harm.
He loved the country; he loved the sea;
he wanted a place where he knew he'd be free.

But fate took a hand in his life to be
and fate can be cruel in our destiny.
He didn't know what the future might hold
as he pondered on dreams of how he'd grow old.

War soon broke out across the sea
and the army, he thought, was the place to be.
He spoke to his family; he spoke to his friends.
Despite all their protests he joined up in the end.

He was just 17 when he became a recruit -
something his family and friends found moot.
He was just a boy who was full of fun;
didn't know the first thing about handling a gun.

He left his family and friends behind.
He'd thought of the dangers, but didn't mind.
He knew what to do; he'd heard the call;
he'd soon be a soldier proud and tall.

Months of training; hair no longer a mess
he joined the elite SAS.
His family stood proud graduation day
when he was awarded the Fawn Beret.

Australia soon called to join the fray
and our brave young man was sent away.
He was soon shipped off to Vietnam.
where our innocent soldier became a man.

He was still a lad when he went to war
and saw things he'd never seen before.
I can't imagine the terrors he faced -
so much horror and so much waste.

The jungle steamy, wet and hot.
No time to sleep; no place for a cot.
Adrenaline pumping through every mate -
what did he think of his dreadful fate?

His troop moved slowly feeling the fear;
feeling the wretched enemy near.
Some alert; others half spent
through the steaming jungle, forward they went.

Dressed in black their adversary hidden.
To shoot on sight was never forbidden.
In tunnels and trees they lurked here and there.
The bloody enemy everywhere.

He was tail end Charlie that fateful day;
with each step forward he would silently pray.
Each one of his comrades doing their best
when they came upon an enemy nest.

They crept through the jungle steaming hot
when out of nowhere there rang a shot.
Little did they know what destiny held -
that one of their comrades would be brutally felled.

A sniper attacked them from the rear -
an enemy so cunning they didn't hear
until that fateful shot rang loud
slaying a mate - our soldier proud.

He was carried to safety by his comrades in arms
and died dreaming peacefully of family and farms.
What would the future have been for him
if he hadn't died on someone's whim?

War is such a terrible waste
of life and dreams they couldn't taste.
Where would we be without troops so brave
who fight for our freedom, our country to save?

This boy was special to family and friends.
His life ended suddenly at the enemy's hands.
But memories of him will never fade.
Lest we forget our soldier brave.

WREATHS:

- Anne Honess
- Family.....

Remembrance Vigil

WREATHS:

I invite Ann Honess and family members to place their tribute to Russell.

- An Honess & John Matten

THE ODE:

Reader John Stead

We now conduct a moment of reflection for John and Russell.

THE ODE: RECORDED - 005 ODE SILENCE AND ROUSE - Jack Thomson

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning.

We will remember them.

ALL: Lest We Forget

LAST POST - Recorded

ONE MINUTE SILENCE: - Recorded

ROUSE - Recorded

CLOSING PRAYERS:

Reader: Tony Cox

To Maxwell, Donald, John, and Russell our short time together is almost done.

We have missed you and continue to despair at your passing, so long ago. Your family, your comrades and your friends speak reverently about you and honour your name, your life and the sacrifice you made in the hope that the world would be a better place for those who remain.

We treasure your memory, and we wish you Peace for Eternity as we leave your resting place. May your spirit guide us so that we may joyfully greet you again when the love of Christ which conquers all things, destroys even death itself. We disperse in sorry but carry with us the joy of your spirit and the personal hope of eternal life for us all.

May you rest in peace. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENT: Conclude Remembrance Service

Reader: John Stead

We conclude our Remembrance Vigil with the sincere hope that you have found peace and serenity with our service and may there be some closure in the remembrance of our friends.

We part as friends but won't say goodbye, because you are always with us in memory and spirit.

May you rest in peace. Lest We Forget Amen

That concludes the service here today at the Wollongong Memorial Gardens

I Remind YOU that:

- Collegians Figtree is the VENUE for lunch – NOT THE SPORTS CLUB
- Helicopter landing will be FROM 1315 Hrs
- Vietnam veterans to form up on the oval about 1:10pm. A call will go out when its time.

RECORDING VIDEO Tony Cox

We conclude this vigil with a recording of **Spirits of the Anzacs** by Lee Kernaghan Guy Sebastian, Shannon Noll, Jessica Mauboy and others.

Remembrance Vigil
RAN UH-1B Huey Iroquois helicopter 898
HARS Navy Heritage Flight

Collegians Figtree Sports Oval



HARS Aviation Museum is an Australian based aircraft restoration group. The group has two museums, at Shellharbour Airport in New South Wales, Australia, and Parkes, New South Wales, Australia. [Wikipedia](#)

This flight from HMAS Albatross navy base dedicated to the Vietnam Veterans of the Illawarra in tribute for the Vietnam Veterans Vigil conducted in Wollongong 3rd August 2023.

Commentary supplied by LtCol Michael Hough on the history and activities of HARS and Tony Cox on the background for the Vietnam Veterans Vigil, expanding on 9 Sqn RAAF role and recalling the names of those KIA during 1971 in support of 3 RAR.



Remembrance Vigil

Vietnam Veterans Vigil Thirlmere Cemetery, Thirlmere NSW

Note:

Also arranged with HARS Aviation Museum was an extension of the flight path of the Vietnam era Caribou aircraft from the Wollongong Memorial Gardens for the Wollongong Vigil to Thirlmere Cemetery for Ian James Thomson's Vigil where the salute flyover occurred at approximately 1110Hrs.

TODAY WE REMEMBER

Today we remember [Private Ian James Thomson](#)

- 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment
- Killed in Action 19th October 1968 22 Years of Age
- Loved son of Ted and Nancy Thomson originally of Albury NSW, later Thirlmere, NSW
- Beloved brother of Wendy, Eddie, Harry and Nancy.

Service conducted by the RSL Picton, Thirlmere Bargo Sub-branch.

In Attendance:

- Rick McCarthy OAM Honour Our Fallen
- Tony Mulquiney
- Eulogy: Elizabeth Mobbs
- Address: Major General Brian Howard AO MC ESM
- Bible Reading: Army Deacon, Michael Flew
- Poem: In a Field Aleera Thomson
- 3 RAR Representative: Roderick David White

2786038 Private Ian James Thomson, 3RAR
KIA 19 October 1968

Today we remember and pay tribute to Private Ian Thomson.



[Ian James Thomson](#) was born in Albury, New South Wales, on 19 December 1945 to Ted and Nancy Thomson. The eldest of five siblings, he and Wendy, Eddie, Harry and Nancy were raised on a farm at Thirlmere in Wollondilly Shire, just to the south-west of Campbelltown in New South Wales.

Ian loved a game of cricket with his mates, and he also loved motor cars and steam engines, having his own number of model steam engines.

Ian's first car was a 2-tone blue FC Holden sedan and then after a few years saving sufficiently to purchase his first new car, a 1966 VW Beetle.

Ian often picked up hitch hikers and gave them a quick trip over Razorback Mountain north of Picton. Different days then and country towns. A contest of like-minded locals often tempted fate by doubling the recommended speed around the corners of Razorback Mountain in the day before the road was improved and redesigned. A larrikin at heart.

Remembrance Vigil

Ian attended nearby Tahmoor Primary School, and then Picton High, where his favourite subject was metalwork. After finishing school, he went into the fitting and machining trade, and continued training as a toolmaker. He was also an active member of the Citizen Military Forces but deferred his starting date for national service with the Australian Army, allowing him to complete his civilian trade. His skills meant that he was given the opportunity to transfer to the Engineer Corps –but he chose to remain with the mates he'd trained with in the infantry.

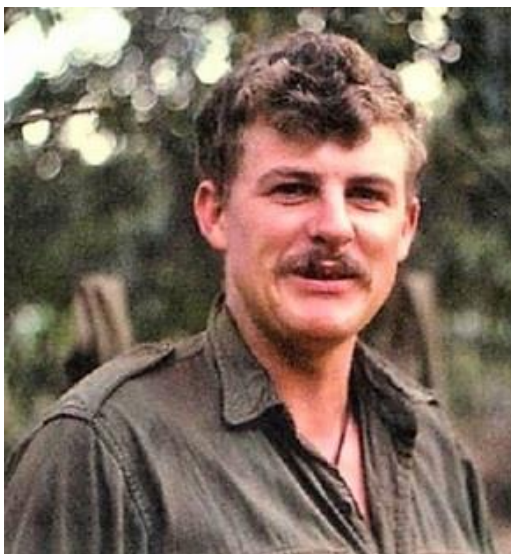
Nicknamed “Thommo” and “Stretch”, Thomson was a generous young man who had concern and empathy for all. But he was also a larrikin. He liked nothing better than to play a practical joke, and to be on the receiving end of one in return. He rolled Jaffa's down the aisle at the movies, would be the first to jump off the highest rock at the waterhole, and first to ask a girl for a dance.

After basic, infantry and Jungle training, Thomson was sent to South Vietnam. He was first assigned was to the 7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, and then from mid-November to mid-December 1967, headquarters, 1st Australian Task Force. In April 1968. Ian Thomson was then assigned to the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment becoming a member of 2 Platoon, A Company. Maj Hori Howard company commander.

Heavy fighting took place during in the Tet Offensive at the beginning of 1968, followed by a mini-Tet in May and June. During the second half of the year, the Australians were involved in a series of gruelling, lengthy operations aimed at destroying enemy units in Phuoc Tuy Province and driving them from their remote bases and sanctuaries. This was designed to give the Australians better control over the province through their planned security and pacification program.

Operation Capital commenced on 12 October 1968 in the north-eastern Thua Tich district of the province. It was a gruelling operation, patrolling daily through difficult terrain, including dense jungle, and in ceaseless rain. It was a multi-battalion operation of increasing intensity, supported by US infantry and armour. Most clashes with the Viet Cong were intermittent: fleeting contacts and occasional intense actions, usually involving attacks on enemy bunkers. Enemy parties ranged from small groups to an estimated full company. But when they sensed an advantage, the Viet Cong would stay and fight.

After one brief contact on the morning of 19 October, Thomson's 2 Platoon was attacked by a company-sized enemy force, using at least three machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades. Thomson was on the heavy M-60 machine-gun with his mate, Lance Corporal [Paul Richard Peter Van Rijsewijk](#). They quickly went to ground on the left flank and responded, pouring fire back at the Viet Cong, and keeping this larger enemy force from over-running the platoon.



But soon the enemy RPG rounds were directed into the trees above the pair, raining down shrapnel and splinters, seriously wounding both men. Despite this, Van Rijsewijk was able to indicate that both he and Thomson were still in the fight. With bravery and determination, they continued firing on the enemy. Platoon commander Second Lieutenant Peter Fraser called in artillery fire



on the Viet Cong positions, and soon shells were exploding just metres in front of the Australians.

Remembrance Vigil

Photograph previous page: Left Lance Corporal [Paul Richard Peter Van Rijsewijk](#). Right is [Ian James Thomson](#).

But then another volley of RPGs landed close by Thomson and Van Rijsewijk, and they were again hit. Two of their comrades, Privates Jessen and Bluzer, were able to crawl over to them, and between them managed to drag Ian Thomson and Paul Van Rijsewijk to a safer position. First aid was given, but L/Cpl Paul Van Rijsewijk died soon afterwards. With the help of two American helicopter gunships that put down suppressing fire, the platoon managed to withdraw to the relative safety of the company position. Ian Thomson, badly wounded but still alive and was carried out on a stretcher – but soon after arriving, he too died. After four hours the Viet Cong broke contact and withdrew, leaving behind seven dead. 6 other Australians were wounded in the action.

Private Kevin Booth, who took over as section commander, was awarded the Military Medal for his actions that day. He later said that the medal belongs to the whole section and paid particular tribute to his two machine-gunners, Ian Thomson and Paul Van Rijsewijk, who held their position under heavy fire despite being wounded. They had undoubtedly saved the platoon from being overrun by a superior force and had saved many of their mates' lives.

Ian Thomson's body was brought home and he was laid to rest in his hometown cemetery at Thirlmere. He was 22 years old when he was killed in action and with only 12 days remaining on his tour of duty.

This is but one of the many stories of service and sacrifice told here at the Australian War Memorial. We now remember Private Ian James Thomson, who gave his life for us, for our freedoms, and in the hope of a better world.



Eulogy story above researched by Tony Cox www.3rar.com.au with Last Post Ceremony notes and family comments. (*The above may not have been used for the Vigil as it appears.*)

Photographs: Rod White
Ian's parents grave is to the right of Ian's.



End

Remembrance Vigil
3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment
 1st Tour Vietnam 1967 -68

D Coy	Pte	Caston R. J.	4 February 1968
B Coy	2Lt	Taylor L. A.	8 February 1968
B Coy	Pte	Godden G. R.	8 February 1968
B Coy	Pte	Mathews G. F.	8 February 1968
Sp Coy	Pte	Doherty J. A.	18 February 1968
A Coy	Pte	De Vries Van Leeuwen T. J.	18 February 1968
B Coy	Pte	Rapp J. R.	20 March 1968
C Coy	Pte	Coles K. G.	24 March 1968
C Coy	2Lt	Fraser J.	24 March 1968
Sp Coy	Pte	Polglase G. R.	13 April 1968
A Coy	Lcpl	Fisher R. L.	26 April 1968
D Coy	Sgt	Lewis P. E.	13 May 1968
A Coy	Pte	Thomas W. M.	26 May 1968
D Coy	Pte	Desnoy J. W.	26 May 1968
A Coy	Pte	Cooper A. J.	26 May 1968
D Coy	Pte	Brown L. N.	26 May 1968
B Coy	Pte	Worle J. T.	28 May 1968
D Coy	Pte	Campbell J. A.	3 August 1968
D Coy	Sgt	Carroll R. T.	4 August 1968
D Coy	Pte	Davidson B. N.	1 October 1968
A Coy	Lcpl	Van Rijsewijk P. R.	19 October 1968
A Coy	Pte	Thomson I. T.	19 October 1968
C Coy	Pte	Houston K. R.	25 October 1968
B Coy	Lcpl	Quigley A. V.	5 November 1968

3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment
 2nd Tour Vietnam 1971

Admin	Pte	Ronald W Salzmann	14 April 1971
D Coy	Pte	Paul Manning	2 March 1971
D Coy	Pte	John William Wheeler	2 March 1971
C Coy	2Lt	David Paterson	20 March 1971

An Honour Roll for those who were Killed In Action in direct support of 3 RAR during 1971.

9 Sqn RAAF	Pilot Officer Ronald W Betts.	20 March 1971
9 Sqn RAAF	LAC A. C. Bloxsom.	31 March 1971
9 Sqn RAAF	Flt Lt E. M. Lance.	7 June 1971
9 Sqn RAAF	Cpl D J Dubber.	7 June 1971
12 Field Arti	2Lt I G Mathers	7 June 1971
2 RAR	Pte L W H Adams.	31 March 1971

All Enquiries:

Tony Cox

Illawarra Vietnam Veteran Remembrance Vigil
 3rd August 2023

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www.3rar.com.au

Remembrance Vigil