

2 Troop Nominal Roll

Name	Reg No.	Rank	Posting	Arrived Malaya	RTA
Abberfield T L	24649	Spr/LCpl	Cook	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Aitken M J	61450	Spr	Carpenter	Ex 4 Troop	3/1965
Armitage J E	15938	L/Cpl	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Arnold G A	16681	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Atkinson H W	16312	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Avery M R	5411164	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Barnett J W	14411	L/Cpl	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Bending J	51051	Cpl	Plant Operator	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Benson I	311397	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Brown J O	311393	Sgt/Cpl	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Butler N M	13706	L/Cpl	Plant Operator	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Canning D A	53894	Spr	Driver	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Cannon D L	16695	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Cribbs B W	214375	L/Cpl	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Crosby A D	64267	S/Sgt	FE/Clerk of Works	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Dodd H G	42921	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Farrell A J	61433	Spr/LCpl	Carpenter	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Finlay C J	214336	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Fitzhenry D G	5411092	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Glasson P D	5411162	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Greenslade A G	37783	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Hands D H	48614	Spr	Clerk	2/1965	1967
Hanrahan T J	14563	Spr	FE/Fitter	5/04/1965	1967
Hess D F	15159	Spr	Plumber	Ex 4 Troop	3/1965
Hodges A H	335128	Capt	Troop OC	30/6/1964	5/12/1966
Holloway M G	61188	Spr	FE	5/04/1965	1967
Johnson K		Pte	Cook	1964	Not known
Jolley K J	16733	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Jones L W	243081	Spr	Vehicle Mechanic	Ex 4 Troop	14/01/1965
Kimberley J F	5410989	Spr	Driver	Ex 4 Troop	27/03/1965

Name	Reg No.	Rank	Posting	Arrived Malaya	RTA
Leach G E	242773	Cpl	Carpenter	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Lennon B B	15871	Lt	Troop Officer	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Limb S	61357	Cpl	Stores	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Logan H R	16736	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Looby N	3411116	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Macklin P J	16692	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	7/4/1965
Maddison D R	243145	Spr	Vehicle Mechanic	8/2/1965	5/10/1965
Matthews P J	61432	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
McDonald R M	42742	Spr	Driver	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
McNamara L C	15863	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Morris A	2411338	Spr	Plant Operator	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Oliver W M	5411225	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Parsons B W	214121	Cpl/Sgt	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Plumb G C	15712	Spr	Driver	17/11/1963	May 1966
Pullen A R	61592	Spr	Electrician	5/04/1965	12/1965
Rawson R E	214457	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Reece T W	16394	Spr	Carpenter	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Reed R W	342790	Spr	Carpenter	Ex 4 Troop	Mid-1964
Richardson A T	48572	Spr	Bricklayer	Ex 4 Troop	5/10/1965
Sexton F J	37481	Spr	Driver	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Simpson L E	37833	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Sinclair A	311261	Spr	Clerk	Ex 4 Troop	3/1965
Stokes P J	36907	Cpl	Clerk	17/11/1963	Mid-1966
Sutton W M	37448	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Tibbles I E	214667	Spr	Driver	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Tomczak J W	58737	Spr	Plumber	6/1964	8/1967
van Gelder M M	17021	Capt	Troop OC	Ex 4 Troop	1/07/1965
White K J	16584	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Whitfield W A	29959	Spr	Plumber	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Wicks D C	16722	Spr	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Wilson J S	53599	Cpl	FE	17/11/1963	5/10/1965
Wood D F	15389	Spr	Plant Operator	17/11/1963	5/10/1965

Accompanied Family Details

Name	Children/Comments
Mercia Armitage	Lisa and Jamie
Joan Barnett	2 children
Betty Bending	Michael born Malaya May 1964
Lily Butler	
– Cribbs	Married in Malaya September 1965
Judy Crosby	Twins, Craig and Sue
Trish Farrell	Married in Malaya 25 May 1964. Christopher born Malaya 18 August 1965
Margaret Hands	
June Hanrahan	Lee; Kim born Malaya June 1965
Beryl Hodges	Lisa born Malaya 10 September 1964
Lorraine Jones	Sharon born Malaya 9 July 1963
Jan Leach	
Trish Lennon	Steele; Jenni-Lee born Malaya 13 March 1964
Ahlan (Ann) Logan	Married in Malaya 16 August 1965
Beverly Morris	Stephen; Shane born Malaya 1964
Judy Parsons	Jeffrey born Malaya 1965
Val Plumb	Kevin born Malaya March 1964, Janelle born Malaya November 1965
Mary Reece	David, Michael and Lynette
Marilyn Reed	Donna born Malaya 12 December 1963
Yvonne Richardson	Anais Marie born Malaya 3 July 1965
Margaret Stokes	Peter, Debra, Michael and Janelle
Helen van Gelder	James and Timothy
Kath Whitfield	1 girl and 3 boys
Judy Wood	David and Kate, Roslyn deceased Malaya 24 July 1964

2 Field Troop RAE

Roll of Honour

**With great affection we remember our colleagues who have died since we served together in
2 Field Troop RAE.**

24649 Tom L Abberfield

311397 Ian Benson

13706 Noel M Butler

214375 Brian W Cribbs

5411092 Dennis G Fitzhenry

214121 Bruce W Parsons

36907 Peter J Stokes

214667 Ian E Tibbles

Our Comrades at arms

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

We will remember them

Lest We Forget

In 2002 a limited-edition paving brick was commissioned by the Troop in memory of those members who had died. It is to be laid on the Heritage Walk adjacent to the Royal Australian Engineers' Vietnam Memorial at the School of Military Engineering.

2 Field Troop RAE

In Memoriam

With great affection we remember family members
of
2 Field Troop RAE (1963-65) who have died.

Joan Barnett

Lily Butler

Judy Crosby

Val Plumb

Roslyn Wood

May they rest in eternal peace

Service Medals

In 1994 a Committee of Inquiry into Defence and Defence Related Awards, headed by General Peter Gratton AC, OBE Ret'd, was established to examine service from 1945 until 1975 when the present Australian system of honours and awards came into being. (As mentioned in Chapter 1, General Gratton was the troop officer of 4 Troop, the inaugural Australian troop to join 11 Indep Fd Sqn, RE.)

At the time of the inquiry, Alan Hodges was Director General Service Personnel Policy in Headquarters Australian Defence Force. In this capacity, he was responsible for appearing before the Committee to put forward the Defence position on a range of issues relating to awards. During such an appearance, the matter of an award for RAAF personnel serving at Ubon was discussed. This led to discussion of 2 Troop's service on Operation Crown. General Gratton suggested that a submission be prepared on behalf of 2 Troop for the Committee to consider. This offer was accepted and the case was supported by reports on Operation Crown by both Malcolm van Gelder and Alan Hodges (in relation to his service on Operation Crown in 1966 with the replacement 2 Troop).

The reports were referred to the Official History Unit at the Australian War Memorial, which examined the reports and provided additional advice to the Committee. A letter from the Official History Unit covering the return of the report to Alan Hodges stated:

It was indeed most fortuitous that both you and Malcolm van Gelder still retained your reports. I think this must say something about the thoroughness of Australian engineers.

As a result of the Committee's findings and recommendations, the Minister for Defence announced, on 19 April 1994, the introduction of a number of new Defence Related Awards to recognise service to Australia, including the Australian Service Medal with bar 'Thailand' for service on Operation Crown. This reflected acceptance of the Report of Committee of Inquiry into Defence and Defence/Related Awards, which stated:

The Committee also received a submission on behalf of 2 Field Troop, Royal Australian Engineers (RAE), who served at Ban Kok Talat 110 kilometres north of Ubon for five months in 1964 and six months in 1965-1966. On both occasions the troop's employment was associated with construction of an airfield at Leong Nok Tha (Operation Crown) as part of Australia's commitment to SEATO. During both deployments there was a continuing low level of insurgent activity in the general Operation Crown area, probably comparable to that pertaining 110 kilometres to the south around the Ubon air base. For example, in the period from January to April 1966, in six separate insurgent incidents in the Crown area, eighteen Thai dead and five wounded were reported including police and government officials. There is no suggestion that 2 Field Troop was engaged in any action and insurgents, but the deployment clearly took place in a situation of low security. The unit also advises that a few other Australian personnel (signals and medical) may have been involved with Operation Crown.

Guided by Principles number 1, number 3 and number 8, the Committee recommends that members of 2 Field Troop RAE and other Australian personnel who participated in Operation Crown and served at Ban Kok Talat between

January 1964 and May 1966 should also be awarded the Australian Service Medal 1945-1975 with clasp Ubon, with the relevant qualifying period of 30 days.

(The clasp eventually issued was 'Thailand' rather than 'Ubon'.)

The Committee developed 10 principles to guide its consideration of the many submissions placed before it. Those applicable to 2 Troop were:

Principle 1: Recognition of service by medals (other than medals for long service or special occasions such as coronations) should only occur when that service has been rendered beyond the normal requirements of peacetime. Normal duties such as training and garrison duties should not be recognised by the award of a medal, even though they may be demanding, hazardous and uncomfortable, and may be undertaken in countries other than Australia. As a general rule, medals should be reserved for the recognition of service in military campaigns, peacekeeping or other military activities clearly and markedly more demanding than normal peacetime service.

Principle 3: To maintain the inherent fairness and integrity of the Australian system of honours and awards, care must be taken that, in recognising service by some, the comparable service of others is not overlooked or degraded.

Principle 8: Recognising that its work requires viewing past service through the eyes of 1994, the Committee believes that appropriate benchmarks in considering hitherto unrecognised service between 1945 and 1975 are the terms and conditions currently attached to an award of the Australian Active Service and Australian Service Medals. Service rendered during this period which generally meets those terms and conditions should receive retrospective and comparable recognition.

Depending on actual areas and times of service, members of 2 Field Troop (1963-64) are entitled to the award of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM), the Australian Service Medal (ASM) and the British General Service Medal (GSM).



Australian Active Service Medal.

Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975

Prime Minister John Howard announced the establishment of the AASM in December 1997 to recognise the service of veterans who served in the Korean War, the Malayan Emergency, the Indonesian Confrontation and the Vietnam War. The establishment of this new medal followed on from the Government's 1996 election commitment to the veterans' community to create a distinctly Australian award to recognise warlike service between 1945 and 1975.

The AASM with clasp MALAYSIA is awarded to members of the Australian Defence Force who were allotted and posted for one day's service in warlike operations during Indonesian Confrontation in Sarawak for service between 24 December 1962 and 11 August 1966 and in the Malay Peninsula between 17 August 1964 and 11 August 1966. The AASM is also awarded for those who had been awarded the GSM with clasp BORNEO or clasp MALAY PENINSULA.

Australian Service Medal 1945-1975

The ASM is awarded to members of the Australian Defence force serving with the Australian Defence Force for non-warlike service in certain specified areas overseas. Two clasps apply to the service of 2 Field Troop during 1963-65.

The conditions for the clasp THAILAND specifically list the service of 2 Field Troop RAE at Ban Kok Talat in Operation Crown between 1 May 1962 and 24 June 1965.

The clasp SE ASIA applies for non-warlike Defence Force activities on land in Malaysia between 1 August 1960 and 16 August 1964.

Some of the troop, who stayed on with the replacement 2 Troop in 1964 and served in Operation Crown in 1966, are entitled to the AASM with clasp THAILAND for that service rather than the ASM.



Australian Service Medal.

British General Service Medal 1962

The GSM with clasp BORNEO was awarded for 30 days or more service in Borneo, not necessarily continuous, between 24 December 1962 and 11 August 1966.

The GSM with clasp MALAY PENINSULA was awarded for 30 days or more service, not necessarily continuous, on land in the Malay Peninsular and Singapore between 17 August 1964 and 12 June 1965 inclusive while on the posted or attached strength of any unit or formation serving in these areas

An interesting flow-on of the award for service on Operation Crown relates to New Zealand Army detachments. A 33-strong New Zealand Army engineering team was deployed at Operation Crown, and another group worked on a separate road project in northeast Thailand. In 2002, Alan Hodges was contacted by a NZ Engineer about the justification he put forward for the award to Australians for service on Operation Crown. He provided his report on Operation Crown and this was used to assist in the justification for a new New Zealand General Service Medal with clasp 'Thailand', which was announced by the NZ Minister for Defence on 15 January 2003.



British General Service Medal.

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