

Sit Rep



**Sit Rep is the official
Newsletter of the
National Vietnam
Veterans Museum**

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Patron for the Museum is:

General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, CVO, MC

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1ST AUSTRALIAN FIELD HOSPITAL DISPLAY

VALE—ALAN REED AO DFC

A WORD FROM NEVILLE GOODWIN OAM NNVM CHAIRMAN



Coronavirus (COVID 19) and its many variants have impacted upon us all in one way or another. For some, an inconvenience, for others, life changing imposts, tangible and not so apparent.

In the case of our previous Chair, Kingsley Munday, the latter applied.

Kingsley's global business operations are being COVID disrupted to the extent where it needs his undivided attention and focus.

So much so that Kingsley has resigned from our Board and with it, his position as Chair.

However, Kingsley has committed to remaining strongly connected to our Museum and will be so through our Fundraising Campaign Committee.

At its last meeting our Board elected me to the position of Chair, for which I am humbled and recognise the work required. I'll not shirk from the enormous tasks ahead.

We are at a moment in time of our Museum's life that is somewhat critical toward building an iconic National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

Our Museum's four areas of focus will always be Vietnam Veteran Legacy; Education; Cultural Institutional Enhancement, and Tourism. To enable us to maximise and reach the full potential of these areas, we need a purpose built facility.

Our Federal Government has demonstrated its support through a generous \$5 million funding commitment. We have purchased enough land to cater for the long term future of our Museum. We have appointed town planners and architects to plan a very modern, iconic structure in which to display, protect and conserve a globally unique Vietnam War Era collection.

I would take this opportunity to thank Board Member, Marcus Fielding, for his considerable efforts in crystalizing our New Museum Vision. Marcus has

attracted a brilliant team of people who have worked tirelessly to translate our Vision into a clear pathway to fruition. Made all the more commendable in a COVID environment.

Bass Coast Shire Council has received a full briefing on our New Museum Project and has advised us of their support. The next step to receiving an Application Permit is Community Engagement planned to be undertaken later this month.

Running parallel with this activity is the formulation of a fundraising campaign. To that end we have hosted, at our Museum, a number of "connected" people to assist. Only last week we entertained Victorian Tourism Industry Council's CEO, Felicia Mariani, Regional Development Victoria's Shalene Wicock and Destination Phillip Island's CEO, Kim Storey. They gave us guidance on how we can apply for funding from a variety of sources.

A great thank you to our wonderful volunteers and staff who make the Museum what it is and why it is here, and thank you to our General Manager and colleague Phil Dressing who after five outstanding years has decided to retire. Fortunately, Phil is not cutting his ties with us and is going to continue to assist in raising the funds for the new Museum and in any other capacity he can.

Finally, I would also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our Board for their uncompromising support and in particular, Kingsley Munday. His contribution to our Museum will not be forgotten. He has embraced this "holy work" and brought us into the fold to join with him in an amazing journey.

I invite you all to join us.

Neville Goodwin OAM



BOB ELWORTHY AM PRESIDENT OF FRIENDS



I join with all of our museum folk and the wider RAAF community in mourning the passing of AVM Alan Reed AO, Vietnam Veteran and former patron of the Museum. Alan flew a USAF F4 Phantom Reconnaissance plane in Vietnam, named the 'Carolina Kangaroo' and the pic shows Alan celebrating the end of his tour. So, Vale Alan, and to use some licence with the Air Force Motto of 'Per Ardua Astra' fly Carolina Kangaroo, to the stars and beyond.



As you know by now, our long serving Board Charman Kingsley Munday AM has stood down from the board, but not from his interest in and drive for the Museum. Kingsley did much for the Museum personally and through his myriad of business contacts, and used his business acumen and experience to guide the Board and to drive significant decisions on the way ahead for the Museum. Kingsley embraced the Museum and the Vietnam Veteran credo with great passion and became a friend to us all; I will miss the regular contact with him and his mate Jack Daniels. In recognition of his extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Museum, the Victorian Branch VVAA awarded Kingsley Honorary Life Membership. Kingsley has been succeeded as Board Charman by Neville Goodwin OAM.

What is it with this COVID! It seems that every time we get a roll on, it pops up its head again and we close down! Given the history of Vietnam Veterans and their

constant battles, perhaps some of that has rubbed off on the Museum! Given the Vietnam Veteran's ability to overcome, I am confident that so too will the Museum overcome and surge onwards.

I was looking forward to hosting the Museum Board members at the Vietnam Veterans Day commemorations at the Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance on Wednesday 18 August, but alas restrictions on gatherings due to COVID has meant the commemorations have had to be postponed.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the cessation of Australian combat operations in Vietnam and the start of the withdrawal of Australia's fighting forces. The only Australian units remaining in Vietnam after the evacuation of the Nui Dat and Vung Tau bases were AATTV and the Embassy Guard, with the latter leaving when the embassy closed in 1975. Fifty years ago our Vietnam War ended, so with the passage of half a century it is even more critical that we get the new Museum up and away and renew our efforts to



ensure all aspects of the Australian involvement in what was Australia's longest war are faithfully recorded and told to the Australian people.

I hope all of the Museum family are staying safe, we need our valuable folk firing on all cylinders when we get back into business.

Cheers....Bob Elworthy

PHIL DRESSING GM REPORT



Coronavirus (COVID 19): Our Museum reopened on Wednesday 28th July, 2021 following a brief but hard lockdown. We were trading very well coming out of this lockdown, then, whack, another lockdown. We closed again at 8.00pm Wednesday 5th August and remain closed as I pen this contribution. I fear that we have not seen the last of it. We have already received funding assistance from the State Government but insufficient to make up our losses incurred.

Finances: Our Museum had performed really well in the first part of 2021 but not so well in the middle part—due, of course, to the July lockdown. Museum finances remain in a strong position.

Appointment of a new General Manager: Mr Braxton Laine, a Ventnor resident, has been appointed as our new General Manager. Braxton will formally commence on Monday 27th September, 2021. Prior to joining us, Braxton was the General Manager of the State Coal Mine, a position he had held for thirteen years.

2021 Budget: The Board accepted a 2021 budget. The position as at 30th June, 2021 is an operating surplus of \$31,190. An excellent result all things considered.

Staff and Volunteers: A small number of volunteers have had health issues recently. Peter Emmett had complications following surgery requiring hospitalization. Graeme Mounsey recently spent time in hospital.

Steve Barber returns to the Alfred Hospital for another operation following which he'll be back in Caulfield Rehabilitation for another period of time

before entering assisted accommodation. We're working with CYC The Island and EcoLiv to construct a suitable accommodation facility at their Koala Street property. Building material access is the obstacle at this time.

New Museum Building Project: Our New Museum project Team delivered a presentation to all Bass Coast Shire Councilors and their Executive Officers on Wednesday 14th July, 2021. Councilors asked a number of questions but none giving us discomfort. Our next step is Community Engagement and we're developing a strategy to cater.

HMAS Sydney – Vietnam Collection: Has now been catalogued. Consideration will now be given to integrating into our existing Navy display.

Caribou 204: Our Museum purchased two caribou aircraft from the RAAF Heritage Group back in 2016. Caribou 231 has been restored, almost to her former glory and through a Victorian State Government Grant became a "Caribou Classroom" Our Museum had been approached by an individual keen to procure Caribou 204 if we did not want it. A Deed of Transfer between our Museum and the Commonwealth (Department of Defence) exists. It details the circumstances by which we can dispose of the asset including their



MORE FROM PHIL

prior permission to de-accession. As we do not have all 204 parts and have no plans to use the aircraft, disposal for a fee is the suggested best option. Our Museum paid \$10,000 for both 204 and 231 and paid a similar amount of money to have a crew of our Restoration Volunteers travel and accommodate to Oakey and Brisbane to dismantle and ship both aircraft to our Museum.

F4 Phantom: Enquiries with the US Airforce in regard to procuring one of the F4's out of Davis Monthan Airforce Base drew a blank. The global search continues.

2021 Avalon Air Show: Still scheduled to take place from Tuesday 30th November to Sunday 5th December, 2021. Dave Gardner, Director of the RAAF Museum has been given the task of organizing the Event. We have expressed an interest in participating.

Museum Visitation: CEO of the Victorian Tourism Industry Council, Felicia Mariani, Shalene Wilcock from Regional Development Victoria and Kim Storey visited our Museum on Wednesday 4th August, 2021. They gave us considerable insight as to how we can maximize our efforts toward fundraising for our New Museum.

History Teachers Association of Victoria (HTAV) Annual Conference: This conference was changed to a "virtual" conference due to Coronavirus (COVID 19) issues.

OAM Aviation Museum: A motion has been accepted to apply to have OAM Aviation Museum formally wound up.

VTIC Quality Tourism

Framework: Our application to renew was recently processed



and approved. This enables us to display the logo below on all Museum advertising and communications.

Trial Emergency Evacuation Drill: Conducted Tuesday 13th July at 9.30am. Some issues revealed and remedied. Another drill will be arranged for September, 2021.

Water metre: Westernport Water determining our Museum has no water metre thus paying nothing for potable water since moving to this site, is now installing metres to reverse this situation. Our Museum has been collecting roof sourced water for many years and there is infrastructure installed to enable our Museum to run the majority of our operations on recycled water. The only operation that may require potable water is Nui Dat Café.



Alan Reed: It was with great sadness that I was informed Alan Reed, our former patron, had passed away after a short illness. Alan was a wonderful ambassador for our Museum. He will be sadly missed.

Bob Williams: Long time Museum volunteer, Bob Williams, passed away on Wednesday 19th May, 2021. Our condolences were conveyed to Patsy. Bob and Patsy had been volunteering at our Museum for over fifteen years only retiring in December, 2020. He too will be sadly missed.

Phil Dressing,

1ST AUSTRALIAN FIELD HOSPITAL DISPLAY



A very interesting display at the rear of the Museum's first hangar, shows an aerial photograph of the 1st Australian Field Hospital at Vung Tau, South Vietnam— which was opened on 1 April 1968 and withdrawn from Vietnam on 21 November 1971. Lt Col W J (Bill) Watson was the first commanding officer of the hospital, taking over from 8 Field Ambulance, a 60-bed facility.



The hospital site was first occupied by 2 Field Ambulance (1966-67), followed by 8 Field Ambulance (1968-68). When the hospital was raised in 1968, 8Fd Ambulance moved to Nui Dat where it remained until 1972.

In October 1969 the American 36 Evacuation Hospital closed, requiring the surgical facilities of 1 Aust Field Hospital to cope with all casualties, including severe injuries previously treated by the U S facility. The high standard of para-medical services provided by 1 Aust Field Hospital led to a remarkable statistic:

98.5% of Australian soldiers who reached the hospital alive, survived their injury or illness.

There are many stories of patients from the 1AFH at Vung Tau, and many Aussie soldiers owe their

lives to the efforts of the medical teams and nurses there. However, one that is recorded at our Museum is about a Vietnamese woman, involved in a vehicle accident, she is Dao Thi Minh, and this report is from Diane Badcock, nee Lawrence.

"Minh had very severe abdominal injuries requiring urgent surgery. Local hospitals were closed for night security, and she was in a life threatening situation. I am unsure of the negotiations involved, but Minh was operated on in our theatres and came through to Intensive Care where I was on night duty. She was a very ill young woman requiring ventilation as well as post-operative routine care. The other ICU nurse and myself were told that Minh could stay in the unit unless the bed was required by a wounded Australian.

During her critical time there, she must have felt very alone and frightened, totally in a foreign environment. When time permitted I would sit and ask about her family, using much sign language. She was married with one child. This is a story with a happy ending and Minh went home to her family after about ten days.

A couple of weeks later Minh came to the unit as I was coming off duty, accompanied by her brother with a gift for me. I have treasured this jewellery box since that day, but now feel it is time for Minh's story to be told."



MORE ABOUT 1AFH IN VIETNAM



There is a flag above the 1AFH display which was the last one flown on the flag station at the entrance to the Australian Army medical facility at Vung Tau in South Vietnam. The flag station was continually maintained by 2 Field Ambulance from May 1966–1967; 8 Field Ambulance from April 1967–April 1968; 1 Australian Field Hospital April 1968–November 1971 and 8 Field Ambulance again from November 1971–March 1972.

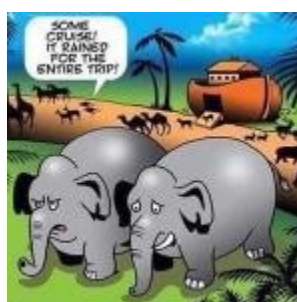


Lt Colin Carling was the last Administrative Officer at 8 Field Ambulance and he secured the flag in March 1972. The flag was passed to Richard Turnbull for safe keeping and in April 2011 the flag was presented to the 1st Australian Field Hospital Association by Colin Carling and Richard Turnbull at the national reunion in Canberra. The flag was subsequently presented to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum as a significant item from the hospital.

In one of the cabinets is a flight-medical bag which is typical of those carried in helicopters by Dustoff medics. It contains: limb splints, field dressings of various sizes, rubber tourniquets, saline drip bags (plastic), intravenous driplines and associated needles, slings, plasters and assorted roller bandages, and a field surgical instrument kit. The surgical instrument kit was used for minor surgery at the site or on the helicopter.



This kit together with a flight suit was owned by Bruce C Starkey of the 8th Field Ambulance, RAR Medical Corps in 1971. The flight suit was issued during training with 283rd Dustoff US Army and worn in Dustoff missions.



*Marriages are
made in heaven, so
is thunder and
lightning!*

Clint Eastwood



REMEMBRANCE PAGE



Ralph J Niblett, 22, Melbourne, Victoria. His family



said that conscript Niblett went willingly to Vietnam as a rifleman private when 4RAR/NZ sailed from Townsville to Vung Tau on May 13 1971. He had a number of jobs to do

before being drafted on 28 January 1970. Niblett, who was engaged to be married, was shot dead by VC soldiers during the first battle of Operation Ivanhoe on 21 September 1971, near the border of Phuoc Tuy Province.

Douglas B Plain, 22, Carlton, Victoria. Douglas was one of eleven children from a close family of eight



boys and three girls. Doug worked as a gardener at the Repatriation General Hospital, Heidelberg until drafted on 13 July 1966. Posted to Vietnam with Headquarters 1 Australian Task Force, he died when his APC

collided with a South Vietnamese army truck in Bien Hoa in March 1968.

Kerry M Rooney, 23, Brisbane, Queensland. His mother said that her son's sole ambition since childhood was to be a soldier. "The only time I had any reason to cry over Kerry was when I received the news of his death," she writes. The lance corporal rifleman, who enlisted in the army in February 1960, at 17, with 3RAR transferred



to 6RAR to go to Vietnam, although feared he might not come back alive. He died in an enemy contact on 17 February 1967 in Dat Do, Phuoc Tuy Province.



OPERATION MARAUDER—1 JANUARY 1966

The Plain of Reeds had long been used as a base by the Viet Cong. Operation Marauder marked the first time that US and Aussie forces had operated in this area.



Plain of Reeds area

On 1 January 1966, 1st Battalion, 503rd Regiment, 2nd Battalion Regiment, 1RAR and C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 319th Artillery Regiment which included 161 Battery, Royal New Zealand Artillery, were deployed by air into Ba Tri airfield from Hoa Nghia Province.



Operation Marauder

On 2 January 2/503rd landed at Landing Zone Wine, where they were engaged by an entrenched Viet Cong force. After a daylong battle, supported by artillery fire and air support, the 2/503rd overran the VC position, finding 111 dead. The

remainder of the operation saw only sporadic contact with the VC.

On 3 January 1966, two rounds fired by 161 Battery accidentally landed on C Company, 2/503rd killing three paratroopers and wounding seven. The short rounds were found to have happened due to damp powder.

The Australians from 1 RAR also were engaged in extensive patrolling activity during the 2–6 January period. They made small sporadic contact with the enemy in their sector, killing two VC; however, they



also found an ammunition cache and several large rice caches. On 5 January, one patrol made contact with a VC platoon in the vicinity of Hoa Khanh, but the enemy broke contact and fled.

On 6 January 2/503rd located the abandoned headquarters of the 506th VC Battalion, recovering arms, ammunition, maps and personnel rosters.

Operation Marauder officially concluded on 8 January with claims of heavy losses been inflicted on the VC 267th Main Force Battalion and the headquarters of the 506th Battalion.

VIET CONG WEAPONS

K50 MACHINE GUN



Vietnamese K-50M submachine gun is a conversion of a Chinese made Type 50, a license-built version of the Soviet Shpagin PPSH-41.

During the 1960s, China supplied many small arms to North Vietnam, including Type 50 submachine guns, many of which were converted into more compact and manoeuvrable K-50M versions by local Vietnamese workshops. Conversion included shortening of the barrel jacket, installation of a new front sight, removal of the wooden stock and installation of the pistol grip and telescoped buttstock made of steel wire. All internal components remained the same as in Type 50.



K-50M submachine gun is a blowback-operated weapon that fires from an open bolt, in single shot and full automatic. Fire mode selector is located in front of the trigger, safety is built into the bolt handle. Receiver of the weapon is stamped from steel. Gun uses PPSH-41 type 35-round curved box magazines, use of 71-round PPSH-41 drums is possible only if the telescopic butt is retracted. Open sights feature flip-up L-shaped rear blade, set up for 100 and 200 metres range.

It is a handy little machine gun, well suited to the needs of a Viet Cong guerrilla.

Captain Dale Dye USMC (Ret), who did three tours

during the conflict in Vietnam, says, "The first time I saw a K-50M was the morning after a fight we had north of Quang Tri in late 1967. Moving through relatively heavy bush, we stumbled into an enemy unit moving in the opposite direction. It was what the books call a 'meeting engagement'. But it rapidly turned into both sides burning a lot of ammunition, and one of the weapons we heard sounded different to our ears that were attuned to the sharp crack of standard AK47's. The K-50M had more of a 'pop' or 'zip'. And fired and a very high rate.

Specification:

Calibre cartridge 7.62x25

Overall length 756mm

Weight 4.4kg

Magazine capacity 35

Cyclic fire rate per min 700

There are some for sale in America at the moment, asking price \$US 14,000-22,000, specifying that they are the North Vietnamese modification.



I can let you have the phone number if you like...Ed

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE DUNTROON



In 1902, the first Commander of the Australian Military Forces, Major General Sir Edward Hutton, recommended that a military college be established. The government instructed Colonel William Throsby Bridges to visit and report on military colleges in England, Canada and the United States. As its first



Commandant, with a rank of Brigadier General, Bridges chose the sheep station at Duntroon, then owned by the Campbell family, as the site for the Military College. By June 1911, the Governor General, Lord Dudley, opened the college and announced that it would be called the Royal Military College of Australia (RMC).

The curriculum at RMC was designed as a four-year course— half military and half academic subjects. Due to the outbreak of the First World War, the first intake was specially graduated for overseas service. The next three intakes were also shortened and the majority of cadets in the first four intakes served with either the Australian Imperial Force or the New Zealand Army.

At the start of the First World War, Major General Bridges was given command of the 1st AIF Division. He died at Gallipoli. His body was returned to Australia and is buried on the slopes of Mount Pleasant, overlooking the college. In total, 40 of the 117 Australian graduates died in the First World War.

On the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the four-year course was reduced to two years. Additional special entry classes were admitted for six, nine and twelve months. By 1943, the improved military situation made it possible to extend the course length

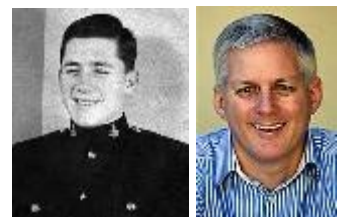
and a three-year curriculum was introduced. In 1947, a revised four-year course was introduced which included alternative academic course in Arts or Science, and later, in Engineering. These courses enabled graduates to receive exemptions for up to half a degree, on civilian courses conducted at universities. The military curriculum aimed to achieve a balance between the short-term requirements of a junior regimental officer and the broader foundation necessary for senior ranks in the Army.

Commencing in the 1968 academic year, RMC affiliated with the University of New South Wales to deliver its Bachelor courses. In order to graduate, cadets had to achieve passes in both military and academic studies, as well as leadership. In 1974, the decision was made that all initial Army officer training would be centralised at RMC. Accordingly, in 1986, RMC took over the training responsibilities from all other full-time Army officer training establishments including Officer Cadet School at Portsea, Victoria, the Women's Officer Training at Georges Heights Sydney and the Specialist Officer training wing at Canungra in Queensland. It was at this time that responsibility for providing degrees transferred to the newly established Australian Defence Force Academy and the curriculum was condensed to eighteen months of pure military studies. ADFA Army graduates were granted six months advanced standing because of training conducted during study breaks. This practice continues today.

Two people closely associated with the Museum attended Officer Training at Duntroon.

1, Our Patron —General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK COV MC

2. Board Member
Marcus Fielding

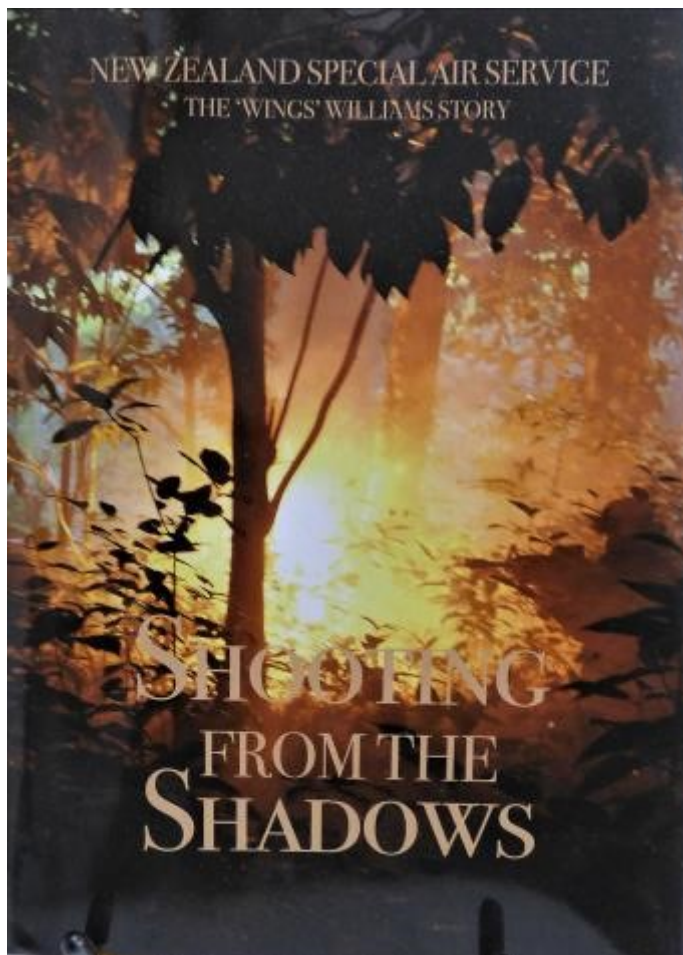


BOOK REVIEW

SHOOTING FROM THE SHADOWS

By Michael Thomas “Wings” Williams

Michael Thomas “Wings” Williams, was born on 16 June 1944 in a small farming community of Tuatupere, Southland, New Zealand. He was born into a large family, having seven brothers and sisters.



In 1963 he joined the New Zealand Army and selected the Infantry as his Corps; however, his desire was to be in the New Zealand Special Air Service. He was selected for and joined this elite group of men and fought in Borneo and Vietnam. He attained the rank of Warrant Officer class 2 (Sergeant Major) and served for 30 years in various units in the New Zealand Army.

He is now retired. He enjoys jazz music and plays the drums. He lives with his wife Rosa, and their son Michael in Dakabin Brisbane.

Nick-Name for life:

“It was somewhere about after completing all the SAS badge courses, but before going to Borneo, that I acquired the nick-

name ‘Wings’, which subsequently stuck with me throughout my Army career and into civilian life afterwards. WO1 Brian ‘Ugly’ Martin had come looking for me at the Barracks and asked another trooper Dick racy, ‘Where’s Williams?’ Dick said ‘Which of them do you mean Sir? There’s a few of them’.

To which WO1 Martin replied, ‘That little short-arsed bastard with the wings!’ Ugly always spoke like that, with some coarse language mixed into his vocabulary, he didn’t mean anything by it’.



I was the only Williams in the unit at that time qualified as a parachutist and wearing the blue SAS wings. Dick went running around the camp looking for me and kept saying to himself ‘Wings Williams’, so he would remember which Williams it was, (the short guy with the wings). He later told me and the rest of the guys and the name ‘Wings ‘ stuck forever.”

14 FACTS ABOUT VIETNAM



Whet your appetite for this amazing country with these 14 facts about Vietnam.

1. Vietnam was originally written as two words—Viet Nam— a name which dates as far back as the 16th century. Although the name became known as Vietnam— particularly in English writing— the Vietnamese Government and the United Nations still refer to the country as Viet Nam

2. Vietnam is the world's largest exporter of black pepper, producing about a third of the world's total.



3. According to ancient Vietnamese folklore, Vietnamese people are descendants of dragons. The dragon is therefore a mythical figure the Vietnamese worship. It is also believed that the dragon brings rain, which is needed for the large areas of agricultural land in the country.

4. The length of Vietnam's coastline is more than 2,000 miles, 3218 kilometres.

5. Fansipan is the highest mountain in Vietnam, and in fact in the whole of Indochina. At 3,143m tall, it's nickname is 'the roof of Indochina'.

6. 10–16% of the world's species can be found in Vietnam, reflecting a high biodiversity.

7. Vietnam's food philosophy is based on five elements: spicy (metal), sour (wood), bitter (fire), salty (water) and sweet (earth). The ideal dish of food should find the perfect balance of all these elements—which perhaps explains why Vietnamese food has become a global trend.

8. Vietnam is the world's largest exporter of cashew nuts—which equates to 353,000 tonnes sold each year.



9. The turtle is an important symbol in Vietnamese society. Said to symbolise intelligence, strength and

longevity, Vietnamese people relate the turtle to victories and gaining independence after the influx of invaders at various stages in history.

10. Vietnamese people have a distinctive value system based on four areas. These are: allegiance to family, the desire of a good name as recognised by others, a love of learning and respect for other people.

11. Vietnam is the second largest exporter of coffee in the world, second only to Brazil. Although the Vietnamese export a lot of their product, coffee production has made them a nation of coffee drinkers too. A typical way of taking coffee in Vietnam is either hot or cold with sweetened condensed milk—as fresh milk was traditionally more difficult to store in the tropical climate.

12. Tet— the Vietnamese New Year— is the largest celebration of the year. It is celebrated by 92 million people in Vietnam and 3 million Vietnamese people living overseas.

13. The hot springs at Binh Chau are hot enough to boil eggs. Many vendors sell eggs at this location to prove it.



14. Vietnam is a nation of football fans. In a survey, 80% of Vietnamese people said they would choose to watch the World Cup instead of going to work.



AROUND THE MUSEUM



MEET VOLUNTEER BOB WOODS



I was born 8 September 1954 in Bega NSW and moved from Bega to Nowra NSW in 1956.

Educated at Bomaderry Primary and Nowra High, my first contact with aircraft was thanks to the Fleet Air Arm at HMAS Albatross (first aircraft flight, De Havilland Beaver, 1960 from Merimbula NSW).



Qualified as Automotive Engineer 1974, Technical College Teacher at Nowra TAFE, Mechanic and Race and Rally car preparation.

I married Christine in February 1975 and joined RAAF in 1980, Ground Engineering and Maintenance — discharged 1991.

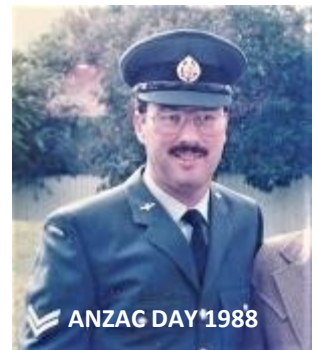
I worked in a variety of engineering and consultant maintenance and asset engineering tasks to 2017.

Following discharge from the RAAF and continuing on the engineering path, I was the Australian Aerospace and Defence manager for a global fire detection and suppression company. My two largest accounts were Qantas and the Department of Defence.

Our primary role was supply, component overhaul and engineering support to the aviation industries for fire detection and suppression on major private and commercial aircraft and all Australian Defence aircraft for the Navy, Army and Airforce and support to New Zealand. This included the engine and crew (fuselage) protection on all the Caribou fleet including A4-231, which now resides at the Museum.

This work also included design and input to the F-22 (Raptor), F35 (Joint Strike Fighter aircraft) and

the Eurocopter A-38 Tiger ARH (Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter). Projects for the Army (Land) included the change out of greenhouse gas suppression on the Leopard tanks and the project design of crew, (explosion protection) of the Bushmaster vehicles. This project was both frustrating dealing with bureaucrats at the time and very rewarding knowing that it saved many crew lives in Afghanistan.



There is a wreck of a blown-up unit by improvised explosive device (IED) at the Australian War Museum that shows the results of an explosion. I will try to get a photo of it for the Museum.

We moved to Philip Island in 2019 and became immersed in my hobbies— motorbikes, historic race and rally cars, car restoration, aircraft / aviation, NVVM, and Men's Shed. I am also a member of the RAAF Association and the RSL.



In November 2020, the Museum held a remembrance event for the 50-year anniversary of the loss of Robert Carver and Michael Herbert in Canberra 'Magpie 91' in Vietnam. I was asked to read a poem about them while relevant photos were being shown on the screen in the Nui Dat Café.

I enjoy being part of the Museum where I have made friends with many of the other volunteers.

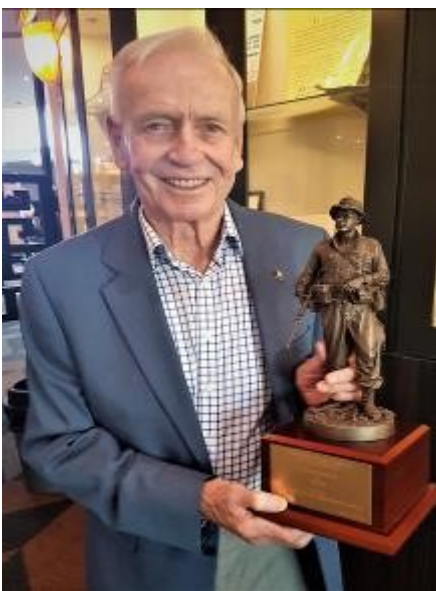
VALE—ALAN REED AO DFC

Some words from Kingsley



I had the pleasure, privilege and honour of knowing AVM Alan Reed AO, DFC, in his role as Patron of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, an organisation to which he was committed to the last.

conversation recently, he asked me to not give up the chase—a commitment I hope to fulfil when we deliver an F4 to Phillip Island.



Alan was quietly spoken and understanding and didn't boast his many achievements, but there were many.

I commend his book *Invited to a War* to you

Like most of his era, he

completed pilot training as a sergeant pilot but later flew the Lancaster Mark IV (Lincoln), the Canberra, F4 Phantom and the F111C and rose to the rank of Air Vice Marshall with 12,000 personnel under his command.

Alan was well respected and I saw this first hand from the current senior ranking RAAF personnel who treated him as one of their own and not just with the respect of his rank.

Alan loved his time flying the Canberra bomber and he was very proud of our Canberra in the Museum, but he loved his time flying the F4 Phantom, which he flew after being invited into the Vietnam War by the USAF.

He and I had been trying this past few years to obtain an F4 for the Museum and in our last



ALAN ON THE LEFT WHEN WE GOT THE \$5million

Alan's passing is another reminder that our job at the NVVM is becoming even more urgent as our Vietnam Veterans reduce in numbers as the years go by.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Alan's family in their time of grief and our heartfelt thanks go to Alan for his service to the Museum and to the Nation.





HMAS CERBERUS MUSEUM FLINDERS NAVAL DEPOT



The Museum at HMAS Cerberus is located within the Flinders Naval Depot. The depot was established on 1 September 1920 and commissioned on 1 April 1921. Located on 4,000 acres at the head of Hanns Inlet, HMAS Cerberus is regarded as the Premier Training establishment for the Royal Australian Navy.



The Museum was first designed by Commander L G Wilson RAN in 1980. The building was built in 1925 as the New Entry's study block. In 1930, when the Royal Australian Naval College was relocated from Jervis Bay, the building then became the Cadet's Academic block. During WW11, the facility was used as the Drafting Office and then later as the Supply School.

Along with the Museum, which you can visit, you can also walk around the Memorial Gardens. There is also a Navy Vietnam Room and Art Gallery where you can sit and have a cuppa and a light snack.

The Museum contains a collection of artifacts,



photographs, maps, prints, paintings, models, ships badges, and assorted memorabilia within the history of the training depot at HMAS Cerberus and the Royal Australian Navy.

One of the items of particular interest on display is the story of the Battle of Bita Paka and the capture of a German Wireless Station on 11 September 1914 by the Australian Naval and Military Expedition Force, and it includes the captured German Flag from that event.

The Museum grew through the dedication of ex-naval personnel giving their time and various skills. In 2005, the collection came under the umbrella of the Naval Heritage Centre, and in a short time has seen many changes. It still, however, has managed to keep its old world charm that has made the 'Cradle of the Navy' collection unique.



Just for those who did not

know, the name for Cerberus came from a dreadnaught class ship that was purchased by the Royal Victorian Navy Service during the possible threats to Victoria by the Russians in the late 1800's. HMVS Cerberus. The remains of this ship can be seen just offshore at Black Rock.





DID THE BRITISH FIGHT IN VIETNAM?

The Battle of Bien Hoa 3 Jan 1946

A forgotten battle fought against extreme odds, during the British Vietnam War, which took place in the chaotic aftermath of WW11, when the Brits had to step in to bring stability to French Indochina, aka Vietnam.

The Communist Viet-Minh had become fed up with western powers meddling in their homeland and had started butchering anyone seen as a western collaborator —thousands of civilians were dying.

A 20,000-strong force of British Empire veterans from the mid 1945s, including British, Indian and Gurkha troop who had been involved in the clean up after the Japanese surrender, rocked up in Vietnam. This force had trouble with jungle warfare; however, they did push back the Viet Minh, trouncing them in many engagements. With losses mounting, the Communist guerrillas requested a cease fire.

Towards the end of the British campaign, an isolated outpost manned by a small force of British, Indian and Gurkha troops became totally surrounded by an organised force of about 1000 enemy. They had the tiny allied force outrageously outnumbered.

The Viet Minh, clearly never having heard of Rorke's Drift, figured their vastly superior numbers would easily overwhelm the Brits. As dusk was approaching, the



RORKE'S DRIFT 22 JAN 1879

Communists sent in the first waves of troops, which were met by scarily accurate Lee Enfield rifle fire and Bren guns that mowed down the massed attackers. Throughout the night, the small allied force, with no hope of reinforcements and no option of retreat, desperately kept throwing back waves of the enemy deep into the night. With plenty of ammunition, they even sent up flares into the night skies to illuminate the hills that looked like a carpet of human movement.



BIEN HOA 3 JAN 1946

As dawn approached, the Viet Minh ordered a retreat, taking most of their wounded as they fled back into the jungle, leaving hundreds of dead littering the battlefield.

The small ragtag detachment of veterans who defended this outpost, while being ludicrously outnumbered, didn't lose a single man. Just two soldiers suffered minor wounds and were both returned to active service.

Subsequently, the British left Vietnam while the fight against communism was continued by the French and later the Americans and Australians.

**GURKHA
SOLDIERS
WITH THEIR
KHUKURIS**



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