

## The Royal Australian Regiment

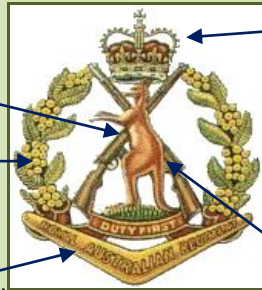
The Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) was raised on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1948 as Australia's first regular regiment of infantry from battalions of the 34<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade which had been sent to Japan after World War II as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF). Three battalions were raised as the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions of the Australian Regiment from the 65<sup>th</sup>, 66<sup>th</sup> and 67<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalions respectively. The prefix "Royal" was formally granted by HM King George VI on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1949. As a new regiment, it did not adopt any existing battle honours.

### The Regimental Badge (Based on a design submitted by 1RAR in 1949)

The **Kangaroo** is uniquely Australian fauna and universally accepted as an Australian symbol.

The **Wattle Wreath** is a symbolic Australian flora in bloom and a variation of the laurel wreath, which is part of many British and Australian badges.

The **Boomerang** is closely associated with the Aboriginal people and also to the tactical signs of the Second AIF from which the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade was formed.



The **Crown** was included because the regiment bears the title, "Royal". Originally it was a Tudor (King's) Crown but is now a St Edwards (Queen's) Crown.

The **Crossed Rifles** signify the personal weapon of the Infantryman and is the weapon on issue in 1948, ie the .303 inch, Short Magazine, Lee Enfield, Mk 3.

### The Regimental Motto "Duty First"

A motto for the Regiment was needed which was original, short and in English. "Duty First" seemed appropriate and was selected because, "the unhesitating and unquestioning performance of his duty is the fundamental requirement of a soldier".

The Regiment first saw operational service in **Korea (1950-56)** when 3RAR deployed from Japan in September 1950 to join the 27<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Brigade near Pusan. 3RAR was to remain in Korea until November 1954 and from April 1952, was joined variously by 1RAR and 2RAR with 4RAR being raised as a Depot Company in Australia. After Korea the Regiment served in the **Malayan Emergency (1955-60)** and in **Borneo (1965-66)** alongside other Commonwealth forces with 4RAR being raised as a full Battalion in 1964. In 1965, 1RAR was deployed to **Vietnam (1965-72)** to join US Forces and 5RAR and 6RAR were raised and in 1966 deployed to Vietnam with the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force. The Regiment expanded to nine Battalions during the Vietnam War with all Battalions completing two, twelve months tours of duty with the exception of 8RAR and 9RAR which had one twelve month tour of duty. The Regiment's involvement in the Vietnam War ended in 1972; subsequent operational involvement: **Defence of RAAF Base Butterworth (1968-1989); Somalia (1993); Rwanda (1994); East Timor (1999-2010); Solomon Islands (2003-2007); Iraq (2003- ); and, Afghanistan (2006- )**.

As at June 2018, there are seven active battalions in the Regiment with 4RAR having been re-designated as a Commando Regiment and 8RAR and 9RAR linked to form 8/9RAR.

### Unit Citations

Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry		<b>Vietnam:</b> D Company 6RAR for the Battle of Long Tan. <b>Vietnam:</b> 1RAR and 3RAR for Coral and Balmoral. <b>Afghanistan:</b> 4RAR for operations in 2005/2006.
Australian Meritorious Unit Citation		<b>Afghanistan:</b> 4RAR (Cdo) for operations with SOTG. <b>Afghanistan:</b> 6RAR for operations in 2010.
US Presidential Unit Citation		<b>Korea:</b> 3RAR for the Battle of Kapyong. <b>Vietnam:</b> D Company 6RAR for the Battle of Long Tan.
US Meritorious Unit Commendation		<b>Vietnam:</b> 1RAR for service with the US 173 <sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade in 1965/66.
Vietnamese Unit Citation		<b>Vietnam:</b> 8RAR for the Battle of the Long Hai Hills 1969/70. <b>Vietnam:</b> D Company 6RAR for the Battle of Long Tan. <b>Vietnam:</b> 1RAR for service in 1965/66