



HISTORY OF 4 RAR

Including

4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - New Zealand (ANZAC)

4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (4RAR) was raised at Woodside on 1 February 1964. The first regular infantry battalion to be raised in Australia, 4RAR served in Malaysia as part of the Far East Strategic Reserve from August 1965 to September 1967. Upon its return the battalion began training for service in Vietnam.

4RAR relieved 2RAR on 1 June 1968. It was based at Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy province. V3 and W1 Companies from the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR) joined the battalion and on 2 June it was formally renamed 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion.

On 23 June the battalion joined Operation Toan Thang II (13 June–18 July) on the Bien Hoa–Long Binh border. It then operated patrols through Phuoc Tuy. 4RAR/NZ was deployed to the Long Khanh–Bien Hoa border on 15 September, as part of Operation Hawkesbury (12–24 September). Through patrols, ambushes, and searches, the battalion was able to disrupt Viet Cong activity in the area and deny them access to supplies. The battalion returned to Nui Dat on 24 September.

4RAR/NZ returned to the Long Khanh–Bien Hoa border for Operation Goodwood (3 December–19 February) on 27 December. Goodwood was a reaction to an increase in Viet Cong activity that suggested an offensive was being planned. The battalion carried out patrols and reconnaissance. It was engaged in this operation until 19 February, having a brief respite at Nui Dat from 13 January to 7 February. On 19 February the battalion joined Operation Federal (17 February–2 April) in the Bien Hoa province, leaving the operation on 24 March. On 8 April the battalion began Operation Overlander (8–17 April) in the Bien Hoa province. It returned to Phuoc Tuy on 17 April.

The battalion was replaced by 6RAR on 1 May and departed for Australia on 19 May. In between operations, the battalion underwent training exercises. It returned to Vietnam in May of 1971, relieving 2RAR.

4RAR/NZ continued with pacification operations in Phuoc Tuy. The 1st Australian Task Force had adopted a “pacification programme” as its first priority in April 1969. This involved seeking out and destroying the enemy in its base areas, preventing enemy access to the civilian population, and helping to create a secure climate for South Vietnamese social, political, and military life. This work was demanding, dangerous, and monotonous for the troops. It was the primary task carried out by the battalion during its second tour.

The last battles fought by Australians in Vietnam occurred during Operation Ivanhoe (18 September–2 October 1971). Intelligence reports had alerted 4RAR/NZ to the presence of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops in northern Phuoc Tuy. The battalion engaged the troops and became involved in heavy fighting. Although it sustained comparatively high casualties during these engagements, 4RAR/NZ was successful in hindering NVA attempts to move further south.

The withdrawal of Australian forces from the area cut short 4RAR/NZ’s tour. It completed eight of its twelve-month tour and was the last Australian battalion to leave Vietnam. On 7 November 1971 it withdrew from Nui Dat to Vung Tau, before departing for Australia on 8 December.

Battle Honours

- nil

Casualties

- First tour (1968-69): 19 killed, including 4 New Zealanders, 97 wounded
- Second tour (1970-71): 9 killed, including 1 New Zealander, 46 wounded.

Commanding Officers

- **Greville, Leon Roderic**
- **Hughes, James Cumow**

Decorations

- First tour
 - 1 DSO
 - 1 MBE
 - 6 MC (3MC)
 - 1 DSM
 - 5 DCM (2 NZ)
 - 1 MM
- 15 MID (2 NZ). Second tour
 - 1 DSO

- 2 MC
- 2 MM
- 7 MID.





C Company, 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) during Operation Federal, 16 February 1969



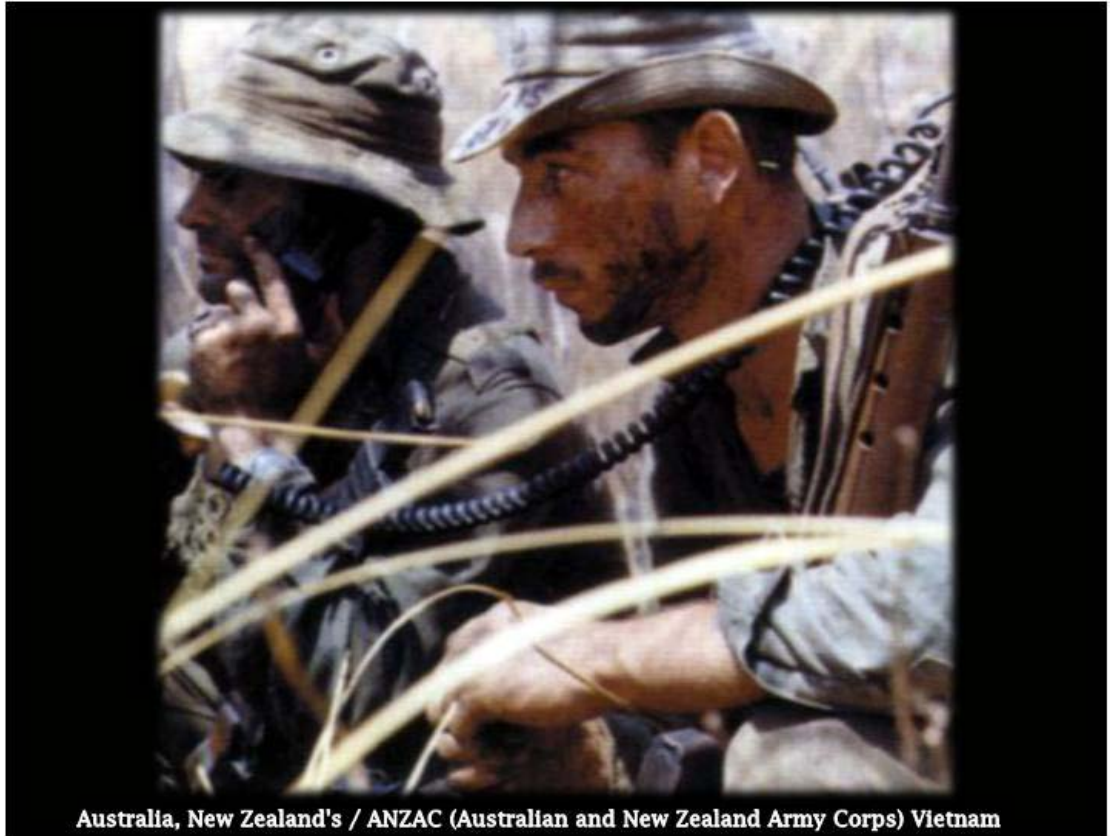
Typical bunker system hard to see until you are right on top of them...



Vehicle Gunships ready to escort vehicles around the province or to Vung Tau

4RAR/NZ (ANZAC)

4 RAR / NZ (ANZAC) Battalion, after a week settling in and "in theatre training", moved to the bush for the remaining seven and a half months of its tour. This meant the soldiers spent their tour entirely on operations during the monsoon season



Australia, New Zealand's / ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Vietnam



4RAR /NZ (ANZAC) (THE ANZAC BATTALION COMPRISING 4TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT AND A COMPONENT FROM THE 1ST BATTALION, ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INFANTRY REGIMENT) V COMPANY LINES. Vietnam; Vietnam: Phuoc Tuy Province, Nui Dat



South Vietnam. December 1971. Troops of 4RAR /NZ (ANZAC) (The ANZAC Battalion comprising 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and a component from the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment), move towards a RAAF Iroquois helicopter for their last helicopter flight in Vietnam. The flight took them aboard HMAS Sydney which is now on its way to Australia. The departure of 4RAR /NZ (ANZAC) left behind at Vung Tau logistic elements of the Australian Force to complete the cleaning and packing of stores and equipment for their return to Australia during the next few months.



Nui Dat, South Vietnam, 10 November 1971. Returning to Nui Dat from their final patrol in Vietnam, these men of B Company, 4RAR /NZ (ANZAC) (The ANZAC Battalion comprising 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and a component from the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment), were to move with their Battalion to Vung Tau prior to embarkation for Australia. The soldier leading is carrying a 7.62mm GMPG M60 machine gun and two belts of ammunition.



Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam. 1968-06. Members of 4RAR /NZ (ANZAC) (The ANZAC Battalion comprising 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and a component from the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment), sweep through the Binh Ba rubber plantation a few miles north of the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) Base at Nui Dat. The battalion was on its first operation after arriving in South Vietnam.



Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam. 1968-07. A welcome resupply for members of 4RAR /NZ (ANZAC) (The ANZAC Battalion comprising 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and a component from the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment), while on operations in Bien Hoa Province, as they unload their first hot meal for several days from a RAAF Iroquois helicopter. The battalion was operating near Long Binh during Operation Toan Thang. The resupply came to D Company while patrolling out of Fire Support Base (FSB) Kiama



Three Bell UH-1 Iroquois helicopters approaching a landing zone during Operation Hawkesbury, a reconnaissance in force operation that was conducted about twelve miles to the north and northwest of the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) base at Nui Dat. The operation was conducted by 1 Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) and 4RAR /NZ (ANZAC) (the ANZAC Battalion comprising 4 Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and a component from 1 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment).



BIEN HOA PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM, 1968-06. A RESUPPLY HELICOPTER IS BEING UNLOADED AT FIRE SUPPORT BASE (FSB) CONCORD IN NORTHERN BIEN HOA PROVINCE SHORTLY AFTER THE BASE HAD BEEN SET UP BY 4RAR /NZ (ANZAC) (THE ANZAC BATTALION COMPRISING 4TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT AND A COMPONENT FROM THE 1ST BATTALION, ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INFANTRY REGIMENT). AT THE BASE WITH THE ANZAC BATTALION ARE ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS OF A SQUADRON, 3RD CAVALRY REGIMENT, HOWITZERS OF 104TH FIELD BATTERY, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY (RAA), AND SELF PROPELLED GUNS OF AN AMERICAN BATTERY.

