

# The Last Post

## **VALE - FRANK PILKINGTON**

**1934 - 2015**

Sapper Francis Douglas Pilkington RA/RAAC/RAE died in March 2015 aged 81 years.

Frank was born in Sheerness, Kent, England and served seven years in the Royal Artillery.

He saw active service in Malaya before coming to Australia as a direct enlistee in the ARA in

1961. He also served in Singapore. Prior to his service in 32 Small Ship Squadron as a seaman he was a

Centurion tank driver.

## **VALE - DAVID MEE**

**1946 - 2015**

Second Lieutenant David Richard Mee RAE died earlier this year. David was a National Service officer. His postings during his two years of service were:

2 Recruit Training Battalion

Officer Training Unit

32 Small Ship Squadron

30 Terminal Squadron

David served in Papua New Guinea in 1967 with 32 Small Ship Squadron. It is believed he lived in Ireland for the last few years.

## **VALE - ALAN JONES**

**1945 - 2015**

Private Alan William Jones AACC died on 23 May 2015. Alan was a National Serviceman and served on *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam in 1969

## **VALE - BOB MADGWICK**

**1939 - 2015**

Warrant Officer Robert Edward Madgwick RAAOC died 14 April 2015. Bob was born in Sydney and was called up for National Service in 1958. After this he served in the CMF for 14 years before joining the ARA. His postings included:

National Service Training Battalion, 13 National Service Training Battalion, 1 Division Ordnance Company, 11 Base Ordnance Depot, 6 Ordnance Field Park, 2 Base Ordnance Depot, 32 Small Ship Squadron, 103 Field Workshop Stores Section, 21 Supply Battalion, Department of Defence Central Office, Australian Capital Territory Workshop Platoon, 3 Base Workshop Battalion and 31 Supply Battalion.

During his four years in 32 Small Ship Squadron he served in Vietnam in 1968 aboard *AV1356 Clive Steele* and in 1969 aboard *AS3051 John Monash*.

Bob was an active member of the Army Museum at Bandiana Victoria and he was also a welfare officer at the Hume Veterans' Information Centre at Albury. He was a popular identity in the Albury / Wodonga area and was well liked and respected.

His funeral was held at Albury on 22 April 2015 and was well attended by his many civilian and Army friends. Kevin and Lynne Morley represented our Association.

## **VALE - SID CHEESEMAN AM**

**1935 - 2015**

Major Sidney Harold Cheeseman AM RAEME died on 25 March 2015 after a long illness. Sid

was born at Crows Nest, Sydney on 7 March 1935. He grew up around Sydney and joined the Army in 1950 as a 4th intake apprentice vehicle mechanic at age 14 - possibly the youngest person to enter the Army Apprentices School.

Not long after graduating from AAS he was posted to Korea after the Korean War and served there, and also with the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan for two years. He also served in Antarctica not long after that. In Vietnam he was with the first commitment of troops, serving with the Australian Logistic Support Company at Bien Hoa - part of the 1 RAR Group which were with the US 173rd Airborne Brigade. After seven months there he continued his time in Vietnam with 101 Field Workshop.

He spent over three years on secondment in Thailand where he established the Trade Training Centre for Vehicle Mechanics. This was a major challenge for him, but also a great achievement, and gave him a lot of satisfaction for its success.

One of Sid's other achievements was his posting to the RAEME Training Centre, Bandiana where he trained adult tradesmen. His commitment, dedication and professionalism during his military career were recognised with the award of Member of the Order of Australia whilst at 1 Watercraft Workshop prior to his retirement. Sid was an author who wrote the history of Army Apprentices - "From Boy to Soldier". he wrote numerous article for Associations and his last was "An Overview and History of 1 Watercraft Workshop. He loved military history and was a prolific writer.

Sid's funeral was held at the Castlebrook Memorial Gardens Crematorium. There were over 120 people present of which about half were his family and friends and the remainder were either ex-Army Apprentices or RAEME members who served with Sid either in Australia or overseas. A wake was held at Castle Hill RSL Club. Our Association was represented by Graham Murray, Ken Duncan, Ian Johnston, Mal Campbell and his son, Kaye Shannon and Les Dennis.

Our condolences go to Sid's wife, Mishie, and sons Ken and David and wives, children and grandchildren. Sid's postings during his 35 years' service were: Army Apprentices School, Eastern Command Workshop, Australian Ancillary Unit Korea, 1 Commonwealth Division Infantry Workshop, British Commonwealth Base Workshop, 2 Base Workshop, 1 Field Regiment Light Aid Detachment, Headquarters Eastern Command, Australian Logistic Support Company, 101 Field Workshop, 1 Watercraft Workshop, Army Headquarters Melbourne, Motor Mechanics Training Centre Thailand, RAEME Training Centre, 35 Water Transport Squadron and HQ 2 EME Group.

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