

1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment – Infantry Soldiers and Teams prepared for War

The man or woman who will go where their Colours go, without asking, who will fight a phantom foe in the jungle and mountain ranges, without counting, and who will suffer and die in the midst of incredible hardship, without complaint, is still what they have always been, from Imperial Rome to sceptred Britain to democratic America [to modern Australia]. They are the stuff of which legions are made. TR Fehrenbach

What is the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR)?

1 RAR is an Infantry Battalion. This means it trains Soldiers and Teams to *'close with the enemy, to kill or capture him, to seize and hold ground add to repel attack by day or night, regardless of season, weather or terrain.'*

What is 1 RAR's Mission?

To prepare Infantry Soldiers and Teams for War.

This Mission is enduring. It applied in 1945; it applies today; it will apply in 2045 and beyond.

How does 1 RAR achieve its Mission?

- **Trains, lives and fights according to Army's Values of Courage, Initiative, Respect and Teamwork.**

Teamwork is the ability to work towards a common vision [mission]. It is the fuel that allows common people attain uncommon results. Andrew Carnegie

- **Trains, lives and fights by its Convictions:**

- Battalions that are better led, better disciplined, better trained and better equipped than any potential adversary are best prepared for War.
- Combined arms teams, incorporating expert Infantry, seal the fate of Armies.
- *The past is prologue.* We respectfully heed the lessons learned by our forebears.

- **Trains, lives and fights for its Centre of Gravity (COG).**

- 1 RAR's COG is TRUST. The people of Australia, and our Army, have entrusted 1 RAR with the awesome responsibility of being ready to defend our great nation and its national interests.
- Accordingly, 1 RAR must be trustworthy, in every respect, all of the time.



What is the History of 1 RAR?

1 RAR was formed as the 65th Australian Infantry Battalion on 12th October 1945. It was renamed the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, in March 1949.

The Battalion's nickname is 'Big Blue One.' Its motto is 'Duty First.' It is about to receive its fourth set of Colours. The Battalion marches to 'Waltzing Matilda' and it maintains a pugnacious Shetland Pony as its Mascot (named 'Septimus' to honour 1 RAR's origins in the 7th Division, 2nd Australian Imperial Force).

1 RAR's operational service includes Japan, Korea, the Malayan Emergency, South Vietnam (two tours), Somalia, Timor Lesté, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Iraq, Afghanistan, Vanuatu and the Philippines.

139 of the Battalion's finest paid the ultimate sacrifice on the field of battle. 83 died in Korea, 54 in Vietnam, one in Somalia, one in Afghanistan.

They responded to our nation's call. They went where the Battalion's Colours were sent. They died with their faces towards our nation's foes.



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What is 'Coral 50th 2018'?

From Tuesday 15th May to Friday 19th May, 2018, 1 RAR, in cooperation with the 1 RAR Association, with the support of the Department of Veteran Affairs, the Australian Army and Townsville City Council, will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Fire Support Patrol Base Coral.

The Battle of Fire Support Patrol Base Coral was the first occasion Australians had met the North Vietnamese Army in regimental strength. Ultimately, it proved to be the largest, most hazardous and most sustained battle of the Vietnam War.

The Battalion's success at Coral, as part of a broader combined-arms and coalition team, is emblazoned as a Battle Honour on its Regimental Colour.

For 1 RAR and the 1 RAR Association, 'Coral 50th 2018' represents a very significant gathering of current serving and Veteran members. Accordingly, the Battalion will be presented with new Colours during the Coral Parade. In addition, during 'Coral 50th 2018,' the Battalion and Association will recognise the 25th Anniversary of the return of the 1st Battalion Group from Somalia. Finally, it will warmly welcome Veterans from all eras.

The key events during 'Coral 50th 2018' include:

- **Mayor of Townsville Coral Veterans Reception:** 14th May 2018 at the Jezzine Military Museum.
- **Coral Parade – including the presentation of New Colours and Unit Citation for Gallantry:** 16th May 2018 at Coral Lines, Lavarack Barracks. A Morning Tea for Coral Veterans will follow the Parade.
- **Coral Regimental Dinner:** 16th May 2018 at Coral Lines, Lavarack Barracks.
- **Coral Service:** 17th May 2018 at the Cenotaph, Anzac Park, The Strand.
- **Coral Group 50th Anniversary Reunion Dinner:** 17th May 2018 at the Townsville RSL Sub Branch.
- **Somalia 25th (plus everyone else) Reunion Dinner:** 17th May 2018 at The Ville.
- **1 RAR Open Day for Families and Veterans:** 18th May at Coral Lines, Lavarack Barracks.


An effective battalion in being, ready to fight, implies a state of mind – **I am not sure it is not a state of grace. It implies a giving and a taking, a sharing of almost everything – possessions, comfort, affection, trust, confidence, interest. It implies a certain restriction, and at the same time a certain enriching and widening of the human spirit.** It implies doing a hundred things together – marching to the band, marching all night long, being hungry, thirsty, exhausted, filthy...**It involves not the weakening but the deferment of other bonds and interests; the acceptance that life and home are now within the battalion.** Henry 'Jo' Gullett

Operation Compass

1RAR and the 1 RAR Association are proud to be associated with Operation COMPASS, which is the only one of the designated National Suicide Prevention Trials specifically addressing how we can most effectively reduce the incidence of suicide in the Ex-ADF Community.

<https://www.facebook.com/OpCOMPASS/>

For more information on 1 RAR/1 RAR Association:

-  <https://www.facebook.com/1stBattalion>
- 1 RAR Association: <http://www.1rar.asn.au>

Our Contract with Australia

I am an Australian Soldier who is an expert in close combat. I am physically and mentally tough, compassionate and courageous. I lead by example. I strive to take the initiative. I am committed to learning and working for the team. I believe in trust, loyalty and respect for my country, my mates and the Army. The Rising Sun is my badge of honour. I am an Australian Soldier, always.