



**THE BATTLE OF
CORAL/BALMORAL**

40th Anniversary COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

**AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM FORCES
NATIONAL MEMORIAL**

**TUESDAY, 13 MAY 2008
Anzac Parade Canberra**





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Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial

The Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial is dedicated to those Australians who served in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War (1962-73) and honours those who made the supreme sacrifice.

The Memorial is made-up of three forms or walls, in a shape inspired by the classical ancient Greek Stelae (pillars of stone – symbolising commemoration and contemplation), standing in a shallow moat that is a symbolic cordon against the outside world. The inside of one wall displays a photograph of Australian troops being operationally re-deployed during the War by helicopters, whilst a second wall records official and colloquial quotations of the time (although not all the expressions listed were used by Australian servicemen).

The third inside wall is blank, to receive the thoughts and emotions of visitors, and in front of it is a plinth bearing the badges of the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Military Forces and the Royal Australian Air Force.

Suspended from the top of the pillars is a halo of stones; one of which, marked with a gold Cross, contains a scroll listing the names of those Australian servicemen who died in the War.

Arrivals

The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP

Prime Minister of Australia

**Their Excellencies Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd),
Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia and
Mrs Marlena Jeffery**

*(all are requested to stand upon the arrival of
the Governor General)*

Royal Salute and Inspection of the Guard and Band by His Excellency

March off of the Guard

The Catafalque Party is Mounted

Welcome Address

The Honourable Alan Griffin MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Prayer

Father John Tinkler

We who survived Coral/Balmoral have had our hard times, but let us direct our thoughts and prayers today to the memory of those who died for us and our great Country.

Let us pray, Father, you advised us to love You and to love our neighbour. Nobody qualified as our neighbour as fully as the mates we lost at Coral/Balmoral. They died in a sacrifice that was made for their mates - us, for all Australians and South Vietnamese. We pray that You have rewarded them with a special place in Your Kingdom in heaven. We offer this prayer through Jesus Christ, who also died for others.

Amen.

Commemorative Address

The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP

Prime Minister of Australia

Prayer of Peace

Father Greg Flynn

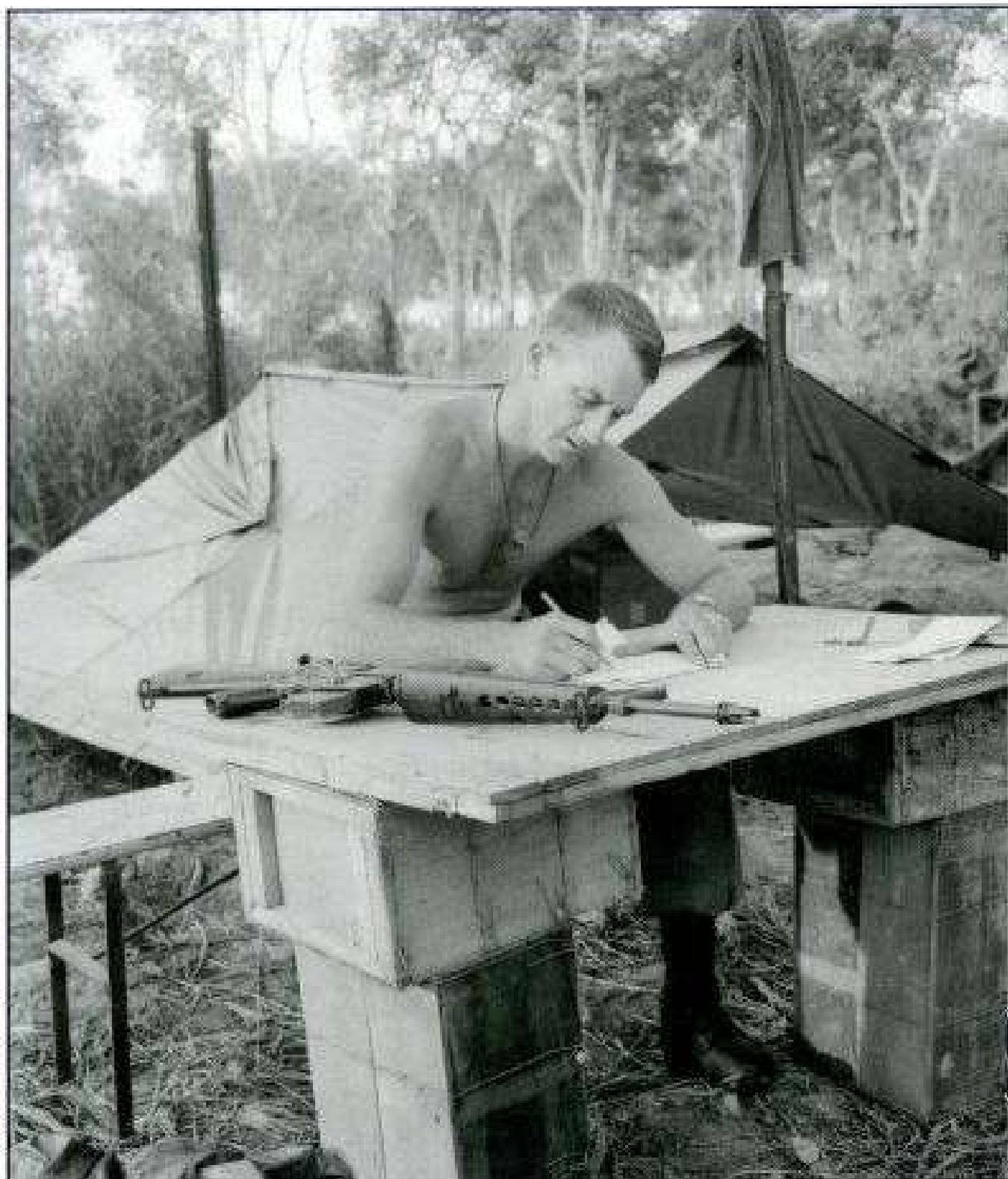
Almighty Father, we humbly ask you to look at the sacrifice our mates made in the name of peace. Do not let their sacrifice be in vain and grant to the leaders of our world the desire to live in peace with each other and with all their neighbours. May the peace we seek be a sign of our acceptance of all people as our friends; then we will treat them with respect and love. Please grant our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Veterans Address

Lieutenant General Sir Donald Dunstan AC KBE CB (Retd)







Prayer of Remembrance

Father John Tinkler

Lord our God we thank You for the service and sacrifice of all who have made possible the freedom we enjoy. May we remember them, our mates, as the Last Post sounds today. Hence:

There's a mournful sound
in these beautiful surrounds
as the bugler plays the Last Post.
We're paying respect to mates who are Vets
and now they're the Great Lord's hosts.
As we all gather here
shedding many a tear
and remembering mates who have now gone,
if they were here today
we know what they'd say,
'Don't weep, stand straight and be strong'

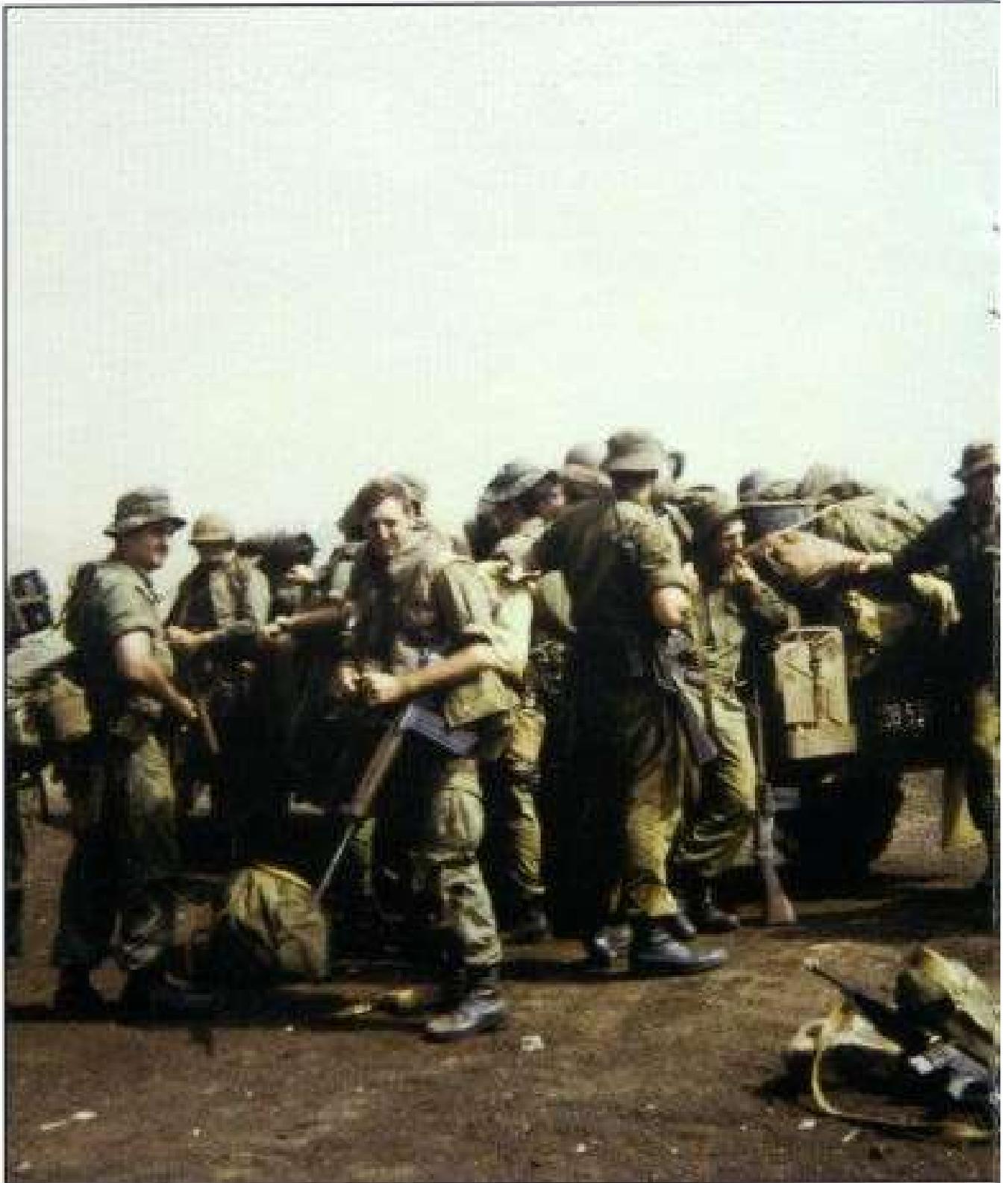
Now they did their time
on the firing line
to make sure our Country remained free.
They fought a war
and they made sure
of our freedom for You and me.

Some may say they lost the battle
and now their battle's ceased.
They have only lost the battle of life,
but they have won Eternal Peace.

They say to us 'Weep no more my friends,
though we know your thoughts are kind,
remember us for who we were,
weep for those that are left behind'.

May we remember them in the way we respect, love and support
their families.

Amen.





Reading of the Honour Roll

The names of those who made the supreme sacrifice at Coral/Balmoral will be read by
Major Robert Morrison

They shall grow not old

12th Field Regiment Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

Gunner C.J. Sawtell

Gunner I.J. Scott

104th Signals Squadron Royal Australian Corps of Signals

Signaller A.H. Young

1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

Private D.E. Abbott

Corporal J.H. Whitton

Private E.J. Bailey

Corporal I.K. Dawson

Corporal R.B. Hickey

Private R.L. McNab

Lance Corporal W.H. Martin

Private J.A. O'Brien

Private C.R. Nisbet

Private L.R. Sheppard

Corporal J.G. Pearce

Private A.J. Walls

Private B.M. Trimble

Private H.W. White

Private R.C. Watson

Private B.T. Young

3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

Private L.N. Brown

Private A.J. Cooper

Private J.W. Desnoy

Sergeant P.E. Lewis

Private W.M. Thomas

Private J.T. Worle

161st Independent Reconnaissance Flight

Major G.A. Constable

All: We will remember them

Laying of Official Tributes

The Ode

Mr Ian Ahearn

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn:
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

All: We will remember them.

The Last Post

One Minute's Silence

The Rouse

The Benediction

Father Greg Flynn

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

March Past

Current serving troops from the corps and units that took part in the Battle of Coral/Balmoral.

The march will be reviewed by His Excellency.

National Anthem

Australians all let us rejoice,
 For we are young and free,
 We've golden soil and wealth for toil,
 Our home is girt by sea,
 Our land abounds in nature's gifts
 Of beauty rich and rare,
 In history's page, let every stage
 Advance Australia Fair,
 In joyful strains then let us sing,
 Advance Australia Fair.

The Catafalque Party Dismounts

Their Excellencies, Prime Minister and Minister for Veterans' Affairs will meet with the veterans and their families.

Individual members are invited to lay their wreaths at the memorial should they wish to do so.





The National 40th Coral/Balmoral Anniversary Committee would like to express its thanks to the following organisations for their support and assistance:

Navy Headquarters
Army Headquarters
Royal Military College
8th/12th Medium Regiment RAA
23rd Field Regiment RAA
National Capital Authority
Qantas
School of Artillery
Parramatta Lancers Museum
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Australian Federal Police
NSW Lancers Memorial Museum
ACT Government

IMAGE CAPTIONS:

INSIDE COVER. A helicopter, with a load of supplies, hovers as it is unloaded at FSB Coral, Australian War Memorial. (AWM/CRO/68/0553/VN) **TITLE PAGE.** The central and south-eastern areas of FSB Coral, on the afternoon of 13 May 1968. (AWMP01002-008) **PAGE TWO.** Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial, pictured at night, Anzac Parade, Canberra, 2002. (National Library of Australia nla.pic-an2385802), photographer Damian McDonald) **PAGE FIVE.** A Centurion tank of the 1st Australian Armoured Regiment passing through a Vietnamese village enroute to FSB Coral. (AWMERR/68/0543/VN) **PAGE SIX.** A member of 1RAR writing a letter during a lull in fighting. (AWMERR/68/0549/VN) **PAGE EIGHT.** Members of 1st Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, waiting to be taken by air to FSB Coral. (AWMP01706-002) **PAGE ELEVEN.** 3RAR soldiers treat a captured North Vietnamese soldier's leg wounds after a fierce battle. (AWM/CRO/68/0573/VN) **PAGE TWELVE TOP.** Two Australian soldiers sitting in the 102 Battery Q store. (AWMP01765-001) **PAGE TWELVE MIDDLE.** An armoured personnel carrier (APC) of W Squadron, 3 Cavalry Regiment, in the bush near FSB Balmoral, May 1968. (AWM P00322-003, photographer: G Murray) **PAGE TWELVE BOTTOM.** The gun crew of No.6 gun, 102 Field Battery, 12th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. (AWMP01769-000) **BACK COVER.** Radio relay antenna of 110 Signal Squadron Detachment at FSB Coral. Photo taken by John MacDonald - Radio Relay Detachment.

