

Alexander Richard (Rick) Main (Peter Bruce, RAA Historical Company)

Rick was a Port Kembla boy born on 19 April 1946 and in his own words was 'a true baby boomer'. His early education included completing his secondary education at Wollongong High School. On leaving school, Rick was employed as a clerk with Australian Mercantile Land and Finance until his call up for National Service. Rick arrived at 1RTB Kapooka on 12 July 1967. He undertook the requisite tests and was selected to attend OTU, commencing with Class 3/67 on 28 July. In his Senior Term, Rick was appointed Sergeant. He graduated on 22 December 1967, was allocated to the RAA and posted to the School of Artillery in Manly, NSW, for Corps Training. His class did not have a Graduation Ball as it was the time of the disappearance of Prime Minister Harold Holt and the nation was not sure what had happened to him or the consequences of his disappearance.



On 22 March 1968 Rick commenced as a Platoon Commander at 1 RTB Kapooka. On 4 November that year he moved to Headquarters 2nd Cadet Brigade as a Staff Officer. By this stage, Rick had decided to stay in the Army and transferred to the ARA. He remained with the Cadet HQ until 27 June 1969 where he transferred to ASC. In September 1969 Rick was posted to 12 Fd Regt at Holsworthy in Sydney. This regiment had been warned out for service in Vietnam and was scheduled to replace 4 Fd Regt early in the following year.

Rick deployed to South Vietnam with the Regiment on 4 February 1971 and was initially employed as a Duty Officer in the Artillery Tactical Headquarters (Arty Tac). He would occasionally join a patrol from Defence and Employment Platoon (D and E Platoon) as their Forward Observer (FO). On 7 June 1971, during Operation Overlord, 2Lt Ian Mathers was KIA while the FO with B Coy, 3 RAR. Rick was transferred to replace him and stayed as an FO with the company until his return to Australia on 11 November 1971. He had been promoted to Temporary Captain in July of that year and after his return to Australia he stayed with 12 Fd Regiment, which had returned to their home barracks at Holsworthy.

In March 1973, Rick was appointed Adjutant of 6 Fd Regt in Hobart Tasmania. He was there at the time of the infamous Hobart Bridge disaster and was involved in the military cooperation in assisting civilian authorities during the replacement phase. Rick remained in Tasmania until March 1975 when he was posted to Canberra and took up a position as the Staff Officer Grade 3 at the Directorate of Artillery. The following year he moved to the Royal Military College, Duntroon, as an Instructor. Obviously, his performance at RMC was noted and in January 1977 he was posted as an Exchange Instructor to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the UK.

Completing his two years in the UK, Rick returned to Australia in early 1979, Rick was appointed Battery Commander of 107 Fd Bty in Townsville. During his time with the Battery, 4 Fd Regt had become part of the Operational Deployment Force, which required light scales. The Battery changed guns from the M2A2 back to the lighter and more mobile L5 Pack Howitzer. Following a successful two years with 107, Rick move to Canungra and became the Artillery Instructor there. He stayed at Canungra for four years before moving to the School of Artillery at North Head in Sydney as the Training Major where he stayed until the end of the year. In January 1985 he moved on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel as Staff Officer Grade One (SO1) with Training Systems at Headquarters Training Command at Middle Head.

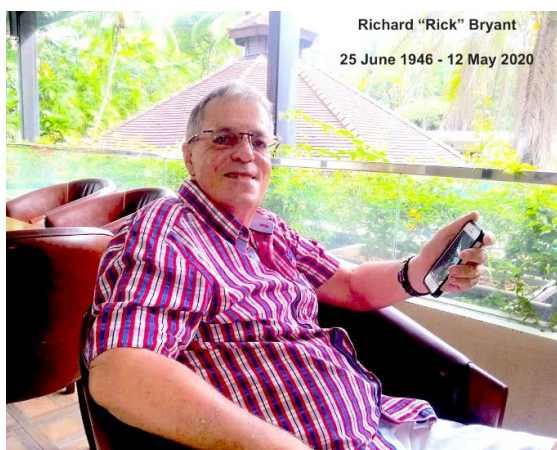
Rick's final posting was as Commanding Officer of the Army Reserve's 7 Fd Regt at Willoughby in Sydney. Rick assumed command of the Regiment in May 1988 and remained there until he discharged from the Army on 28 November 1990. His National Service and subsequent transfer to the Regular Army saw him accrue 23 years of service.

Rick took on a position with Residential Property Management but maintained his ties with the military and became involved in the RSL with Pension and Welfare claims for Veterans. He eventually became an Advocate for the Queensland State Branch of the RSL in 1999 and continued until 2006. He then became the Services Member on the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) in Brisbane and was able to assist many veterans with their claims for compensation from DVA.

Rick died on 12 June 2020 after a long battle with cancer. He will be remembered as a thoroughly professional officer and a gentleman. He will also be remembered for his advocacy work for the Veteran community.

The Scheyvillian 2 of 2020: Richard Austen Bryant (2/70) was born in London, England, on 25 June 1946. He came to Australia and completed his secondary education at North Sydney Technical High School. He attended the University of NSW and gained a Bachelor of Science (Technology) in 1969. Rick then worked as an Assistant Maintenance Engineer with the Colonial Sugar Refineries. Following his deferment to complete his degree he entered the Army on 22 April 1970 and joined OTU Class 2/70 on 8 May. Graduating on 2 October Rick was allocated to RAEME and posted to the RAEME Training Centre where he saw out his National Service as an instructor.

His 'mates from Singapore' reported that following fourteen years of working in Australia, Richard ventured out to S. E. Asia in 1986 with his family, spending time in Bali and Jakarta in Indonesia, but mostly in Singapore, holding various positions in high management, in the field of water technology.



Richard moved back to Jakarta four years ago. He fought a long battle with cancer but never let it interfere with living his life to its fullest. In 2019 he married a lovely Indonesian woman, Siti. Even though they were together for some time, most unfortunately, he passed away on 12 May 2020 less than a year after their marriage. Richard was a very joyful mate and never complained about his condition. We will all dearly miss him. Lest We Forget.