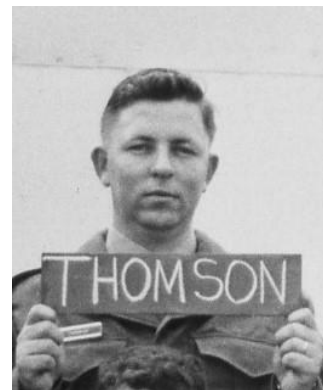


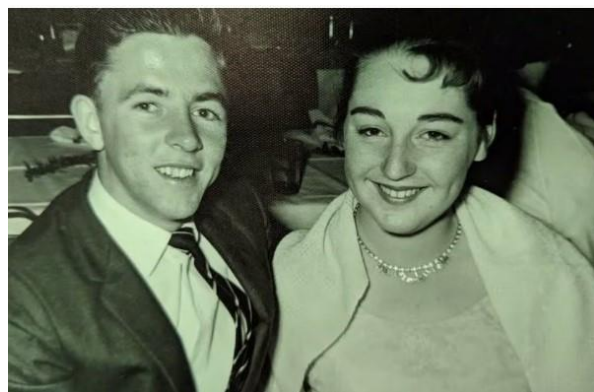
**Robert 'Bob' Wallace Thomson** was born in NSW on 3 Mar 1941. He joined the CMF on 3 March 1965 and served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment until 26 July 1966. The following day



he joined the Army on a Short Service Commission commencing with OTU Class 3/66. Graduating on 23 December Bob was allocated to the AAAvn Corps and posted to Southern Command commencing his Basic Flying Training at Point Cook with Course 64 on 9 January 1967. Passing his BFTS course Bob commenced his Advanced Flying Training at RAAF Amberley with Course 12/67 (Rotary Wing) on 28 August 1967. On graduation from AFT he was posted to 16 Aviation Squadron on 31 Jan 1968. Later that year Bob found himself in Vietnam with 161 Independent Recce Flight, serving from 10 December 1968 until 17 December 1969 and logging over 1,100 flying hours.



Returning to Australia, Bob was posted to 1 Aviation Regiment from where he spent a month in PNG from 28 March to 20 April 1970 followed by a detachment to Indonesia/Borneo on Survey Operations from 1 May to 12 August. Having been promoted to Lieutenant on 2 July 1970 Bob returned to 16 Aviation Squadron as a Section Commander on 12 October 1970.



Bob returned to 1 Aviation Regiment on 1 August 1973 as the Adjutant. Having converted to the Kiowa his next posting was to 171 Operational Support Squadron at Oakey where he was promoted to Captain on 2 July 1974. His next posting was a Non-Corps one as CO of 8 Cadet Battalion on 7 January 1975 where he spent many hours with Les Boag (4/68). From there Bob returned to 1

Aviation Regiment on 31 October 1977 then to the Army Aviation Centre Base Squadron on 29 January 1980. Bob's last posting was with Defence Facilities Division in Canberra on 17 January 1983. Bob retired from the Army with the rank of Major in Canberra on 18 August 1986.

Due to a range of health issues over the years Bob had been unable to attend many of the OTU functions. He had been battling kidney cancer for a number of years and died peacefully in his sleep in Canberra on 2 August 2020. Bob Thomson's funeral was held on Thursday 13 August 2020 at The Gold Creek Chapel at Nicholls in Canberra.



Above: Bob and Beverley and right the Thomson family.