

## VALE:

### Max Almond, RSM

Leslie Maxwell 'Max' Almond was born on 16 Mar 1926 in Newcastle. He first joined the Army (CMF Full Time Service) at 16 years of age, but was discharged when it was found that he was under-age. He rejoined in 1944 and served with the CMF, again on Full Time Service, and in the AIF during WW2. In 1952 Max joined the ARA. He transferred into 4 Field Regiment RAA on 24 June 1966 and served in Vietnam as a Temporary WO1 from 2 May 1967 – 16 April 1968. Max was posted to OTU on 16 July 1968. He served at OTU for three years before being posted to Headquarters Eastern Command on 4 November 1971.



Max discharged from the Army in 15 May 1975 with the rank of Captain. He died peacefully in WA on 8 August 2017. Max was pre-deceased by his wife Yvonne on 26 May 2016. They were

married for almost 70 years. Their children were Cheryl, Vicki and Ross. They had 6 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Above: Yvonne and Max Almond as seen on 'The Scheyville Interviews' DVD.



Left: Max Almond at the 4 Field Regiment final parade at Nui Dat, South Vietnam.

#### Service & Service Numbers:

CMF (FTS – twice), AIF, CMF Twice, ARA 23 years.  
N284029, N479217, NX178458, 2133940, 352243, 34284

#### Operational Service:

Borneo (3 tours), Ambon, Rabaul, Malaysia (3 tours) & Vietnam

#### Honours and Awards:

WW2: 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, War Medal 1939-45, Australia Service Medal 1939-45

Post WW2: Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasps Malaysia and Vietnam

General Service Medal 1962 with Clasps Borneo and Malay

Peninsula, Vietnam Medal

Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasps SW Pacific and PNG

Defence Force Service Medal, Australian Defence Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

Vietnamese Campaign Medal, Pingat Jasa Malaysia

#### Comments by some West Australian Scheyvillians:

*Frank LeFaucheur (1/71):* I do know that WO1 Almond became Lt Almond as I bumped into him at Enoggera in early 1972. RIP a man who had 'influence' on many of us. Some of

his putdowns were classic! Class 1/71 had Max ("Sir, to me!!" ) and Yvonne as our guests (courtesy of Peter Williams 845) at the 1/71 Reunion in Devonport, Tasmania - he spoke eloquently and 'reflected well' on "all of us" in the 'Scheyville days'. They both were quite touched to be remembered and held in such esteem - you may all recall that Yvonne worked in the "canteen shop" and I can recall her agreeing to buy me some undies when she next went shopping - us WA guys were a bit 'isolated' in the early days pre-leave at Scheyville!  
*Greg Elliott (4/70):* He did have an influence! Always found him to be very fair and with a good sense of humour, always up for a laugh!!

*Alan Robson (1/70):* He was a very fair man. I recall him shouting out one day when I was marching the class onto the Parade Ground "Robson, I am beginning to have bad dreams of you!" As someone hopeless at drill he was still very complimentary when I graduated with the Commandants Prize for the Cadet most determined to graduate.

*Steve McDonald (2/70):* I'm sorry to hear about RSM Almond's death – even now I wouldn't be bold enough to call him Max! He had a very deep understanding of how to manage men & I learned from his sound advice.

*Frank Shellabear (2/66) – the other Frank.* On the DVD Set "The Scheyville Interviews" there is a great interview with Max Almond & his wife Yvonne. In it, he references a 1968 meeting, in Vietnam, with Larry Moon (first OTU RSM). Within a few months Almond was the OTU RSM.

Note: Moon served in Vietnam with 2 RAR from 19 May 1967 – 13 Jun 1968. He had also served in Korea with 3 RAR from 28 September 1950 to 23 March 1951 – Ed.

*And from Merv Michell (1/66):* We had some exciting crosses, beginning when I was a newly graduated 2Lt doing the Basic Field Artillery course at North Head School of Artillery where he was RSM. Then following on to when he was RSM of 4 Field Regiment in Oz readying for SVN and to our time in SVN where we were in close contact in HQ Battery and I was Assistant Adjutant. We did have our differences but it was always in the best of spirit. I regret not finding the occasion for us to meet again and to relive those experiences. I think we would both have enjoyed a laugh.

*Also from David Bradford, Former RMO 4 Field Regiment:* He was always very good and helpful to me, a very raw and inexperienced RMO in the Regiment.