

Vale, The Scheyvillian 2 of 2020

Phillip Davies (DS) was born in Ryde, NSW, on 7 July 1940 and was educated at Lithgow High School where he joined the school's Cadet Unit in 1954, rising to the rank of Under Officer and School Prefect in his final year. Phil commenced the four-year course at RMC Duntroon in 1958, reaching the rank of Under Officer in his final year and winning the Minor Tactics Prize. He was commissioned on 13 December 1961 and posted to 1 RAR. In 1963 he was posted to 3 RAR and he first saw active service in Malaysia in 1964. On return to Australia Phil was posted to the newly raised OTU on 1 April 1965 as a Temporary Captain.



The now Captain Davies returned to 1 RAR on 25 September 1967 and served in Vietnam from 27 March 1968 until 28 February 1969 as the Adjutant/Assistant Operations Officer and was involved in the battle at FSB Coral. On return to Australia Phil was promoted to Major and posted to 3 TB Singleton, where he was again instructing National Servicemen. Phil was posted as 2IC of 5/7 RAR, the battalion which was deployed to Darwin to provide Civil Aid following Cyclone Tracy on Christmas Day 1974. The following year he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, and in late 1981 promoted to Colonel which saw him posted as the final Commandant of OCS Portsea. He retired from the Army in 1992 with the rank of Brigadier and found civilian employment until retirement in January 2005. He then immersed himself in many voluntary organisations and the Duntroon Society. In recent years Phil was an irregular attendee at the Victorian Monthly RACV Club Lunches. Phil wrote: 'How fortunate was I to be selected to the staff of the initial OTU intake. Colonel Geddes was just the right man to tackle this task, with his better than the British manner and his understanding of the intake's situation! Well done to all who helped the cause at that time and have proved their character over the ensuing difficult time in Army's history. Your history is still being told as so many of you still charge on helping those you commanded. It was my good fortune to know and work with so many of you during our Vietnam years and beyond. Regards, Phil Davies.'

Phil died on 21 April 2020 following a long illness attributed to SVN service that left him with communication problems towards the end. He left behind his wife Sandra, their two daughters and a son, along with seven grandchildren. Phil will be remembered as a true officer and gentleman, professional in every way, and a real soldier's soldier. He will be sorely missed by his family, RMC classmates and all who were privileged to know him!

Biography, Brig Phillip Davies AM jssc psc qtc, Commander 3MD, 1988

Brigadier Phil Davies was born in Sydney and educated at Lithgow High School. He entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1958 on graduation in 1961 he was allotted to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

Following service as a platoon commander in Australia and Malaysia, Brigadier Davies joined the initial group of instructors who established the National Service Officer Training Unit at Scheyville, in April 1965. He served in this unit until September 1967 and then joined the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment as Adjutant for service in South Vietnam (1968-69). Active service was followed by a posting to the 3rd Training Battalion at Singleton as a Company Commander. In August 1971, long term training in technical staff matters was undertaken at the Royal Military College of Science in the UK.

On returning to Australia in 1972 Brigadier Davies completed a technical staff appointment at the Army Design Establishment, Maribyrnong before attending the Australian Army Staff College (1974). Subsequent appointments included second in command of the 5th/7th Battalion (1975); senior Army planner for Exercise Kangaroo II (1976); and commander of the Infantry Development Wing at the Infantry Centre, Singleton (1977-78). He then attended the Joint Services Staff College before joining the staff as Chief Instructor of the Royal Military College, Duntroon in July 1979.

At the completion of this posting in December 1981 he was promoted to Colonel and was posted to Material Branch, Army Office. In 1983 he attended the Advanced Management Course at the Australian Administrative Staff College and in December he moved to the Officer Cadet School at Portsea. As the School's last Commandant he undertook the introduction of integrated training for female officer cadets and the school's closure in December 1985. He was promoted Brigadier in January 1986 to become the Director General of Army Quality Assurance. During this appointment he was detached for six months to oversee the Implementation of improved service conditions for Service Families as recommended by the Hamilton Report.

Brigadier Davies assumed his present appointment in Melbourne as Commander of the 3rd Military District on 6 February 1988.

Brigadier Davies was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 1979. The award was for service to the Infantry Corps and to the Singleton community.

Brigadier Davies is married and has three children, two daughters and a son aged 21, 17 and 11. His principal interests are the welfare of soldiers and their dependants. He is a casual jogger.