

PADDY OUTRIDGE, the last Commandant

Over 200 people crowded the Cooloolo Coast Crematorium Chapel, Gympie, for the funeral of the last Commandant of OTU Scheyville Brigadier Keith Percival 'Paddy' Outridge AM (MID). A Bearer Party from 8/9 RAR carried his coffin into the Chapel through a Guard of about 80 serving and Ex-Service men and women. Padre Martin Johnson, the 8/9 RAR Chaplain, led the service. The Eulogy was given by OTU Graduate Vic Lampe (4/69) who served as Assistant QM at OTU when Paddy was the Commandant. Vic became good friends with the Outridge family.



After the R&SL Commemoration, the 8/9 RAR Bugler played the Last Post and the Rouse and a Guard from 8/9 RAR fired three volleys outside the Chapel. (Above right: 8/9 RAR Guard)

After the service, a 'wake' was held at the Gympie R&SL with Paddy's daughters Robyn and Stephanie and their families, Betty having passed away in early 1998.



Apart from Vic Lampe, other OTU attendees included Lt Col Peter Moody (2/67) (one of a number of OTU Graduates who volunteered for National Service – Peter served for 21 years), Lt Col Bob Sande (1/70) (who also served 21 years), Lt Col Steve Blinkhorn (1/72) (who served over 25 years), Maj Neil Leckie (3/68) (Editor, The Scheyvillian with 34 years NS, Fulltime Service and Reserve), and OTU Staff members Colonel Stan Maizey, Dick Flint and Win Fowles. (Left: Vic Lampe, Win Fowles, Neil Leckie, Stan Maizey and Peter Moody)

Keith Percival (Paddy) Outridge, born Wondai, Qld, 1 November 1926. He was the oldest of 3 boys, and with his family moved from Brisbane, where he attended Brisbane Boys College, to Toowoomba Grammar. He had an amazing service career. With two mates from Toowoomba Grammar School he commenced Duntroon in 1944 and Graduated as Regt No. 1/123 into the Interim Army on 9th December 1947, being posted into RAInf (Reinforcements), Australian Staff Corps. In 1948 he was posted to Japan with the occupying forces with the 65th Australian Infantry Battalion which became 1 RAR on 23 November 1948. He then joined 3 RAR in September 1950, being posted to Korea just a few days later. On return to Australia he transferred to 2 RAR, shortly afterwards being promoted to Captain. 1952 saw him posted as Adjutant RAR Depot, RAInf and the following year as Adjutant 2 Infantry Battalion (by then a part of the Australian Regular Army). 1956 saw a posting to the 13th NS Training Battalion and 1957 as a Staff Captain HQ 1 Infantry Brigade. Later that year he was promoted to Major. After spending 1958 at the Australian Staff College, Paddy was next posted to 1 RAR and saw service in Singapore and Malaya. 1962 saw a move north as a General Staff Officer (Operations Staff Duties & Training) at HQ Northern Command where he spent some months in New Guinea with the 1st Battalion, PIR.

Late in 1963, Paddy was posted to Adelaide where as 2IC he oversaw the raising of 4 RAR. There was a staff of 6, but nothing else, not even a desk! Late 1964 Paddy was a Temporary Lieutenant Colonel and Commanding Officer, 1 Recruit Training Battalion (RTB). With the changes to the Army with the re-

introduction of NS, in 1965, he became Executive Officer 1 RTB and was promoted Lieutenant Colonel. In 1966, Paddy became Commanding Officer 1 RAR and in mid 1967 he was posted to the Australian Army Staff - Washington (AAS) (W). Paddy undertook a tour of SVN in 1970/71 as the Commanding Officer of 1 Australian Civil Affairs Unit, SVN. Shortly after return to Australia, in mid 1971 he was promoted Colonel. In late 1971 he was awarded a Mentioned In Despatches (MID) for his service in SVN. After a short stint in AHQ (Canberra) Paddy was posted as Commandant OTU Scheyville on 6th March 1972. Paddy oversaw the closing of OTU and was posted to New Guinea as a part of the Australian Defence Assistance Group. Paddy completed his service in the Office of the Chief of the General Staff on 29th February 1980. Post Army Paddy and his wife Betty moved to Gympie where Paddy became heavily involved in community work which included the R&SL where he was President for almost 5 years from 1997, Legacy and being the Patron of the 5th Light Horse Association and the Tin Can Bay Coast Guard.

A few stories on Paddy:

Graduated into RAInf, met Betty in the early fifties. She was a CPL and he said he was the only Brigadier who was ordered around by a CPL!

Was on the Holsworthy Range with his PI in 1950 when he was ordered to the CO's office. He told his PI to wait for him there. He was given an immediate posting to 3 RAR and to Korea. As far as he knows his PI is still waiting for him on Holsworthy Range – he never saw them again.

Was the only Infantry Commandant at OTU and was immensely proud of his chosen profession.

Always tried to get a positive out of every negative occurrence.

Would not accept soldiers into the newly raised 4 RAR who were going to be married until after they were married – so that they would be entitled to a Married Quarter.

The instruction he wrote when raising 4 RAR became the template for raising the rest of the RAR battalions.

Always finished a message left on an answering machine with 'out'.

Was very patient at untangling fishing lines.

Always asked Vic Lampe how many runs he made when playing cricket for OTU, knowing very well that Vic was a bowler.