

4 Stories from Ken Rundall

OK a bit of 2/4 RAR Trivia! This is just a 'reflection' on how good and fantastic the Immigrants were who arrived in Australia for a 'Better' life after WW2 compared to the 'fuckers' we get arriving here lately, with a 2/4 RAR 'slant' on the Story? As you Blokes know, we didn't worry or know anyones Surname back then,(we didn't have our names on our uniform so usually only the Platoon knew your last name and we definitely didn't know anyones Middle name); so basically everyone worked on a Blokes Christian or Nickname! Our life was controlled by numerous Forms we were always filling out (Mainly to be DP1)? So this day I get the Digs to fill out some Pers Particulars Form or other, when I collect them, I get the Form from Frank Poli and I notice his Middle Name is Galli? So I says to him "Hey Frank I know this might sound weird but do you know when you put your Middle and Surname together they spell 'GALLIPOLI!'". He says "Yes my Dad was an Italian Immigrant after WW2 and he came here and had to work on the Snowy Hydro Scheme and he learned all about his new home Australia and Anzac Day; so when I was born he made my Middle Name be Galli so it spelt 'Gallipoli' because he was so Proud that Australia gave him a home and a life"! Bit different than the 'fuckers' we get now right? hahaha! Anyway wherever you are Frank all the Best to you and your Family!

Ken Rundell

August 6 at 8:21pm

A yarn for 2/4 RAR blokes because being down South and it's winter, I am just reminded of an incident? Bruce Golledge exSig Pl 2/4 RAR! When we were (most of us anyway) were cleared out of 2/4 (and posted South) because before the 80's Townsville was a 'shit-hole' and the Army couldn't get anyone to be Posted there except 'IET's'; so from the 80's on it became trendy to accept a Posting to Townsville, so all the Old and Bolds got kicked out of 2/4 RAR and Townsville! So many of us ended up in the School of Inf; Bruce Golledge, Joe pepe Turra, Barry McCosker, Spiersy, Jethro, Marty Harvey, JPA, Cliff Savage, Kenny Stevens, Wally Sebenik, Jock Gall, Jock Kaminski, Brian Boughton and I know there was more so if I left anyone out sorry that's a long time ago haha! Anyway it is winter in Singleton, RSM SOI is Lofty Wendt, Bruce is in the 'Important Position' of "Fish member" in the SOI Sergeants Mess (the Fish are expensive Tropical fish as becomes the SOI Sgt's mess), he's getting in the shit because the Fish Tank is going greenish and it's Friday Happy Hour and we are all making sure that the RSM is hearing about that, so as his 'Mates' we can get him 'extras' as BOS hahaha! So at this Friday Night Happy Hour Lofty is into Bruce about the Fish tank and wants it cleaned TONIGHT before Bruce goes home! So while we are all hitting the Piss Bruce is cleaning the Fish Tank, he puts all the fish into a metal fire bucket (you know the red tin ones) and puts them outside the back of the Mess! Once he cleans the tank he gets on the piss with us and says "There the Tanks clean Sir, I'll put the water and fish back in tomorrow" and gets on the piss with us and then we all go home! Well its fucking freezing in Winter in Singleton, anyway Bruce gets a phone call at home early Saturday morning to come into the SOI Sgt's Mess 'immediately' (if not sooner)! Bruce goes to the Mess and here is Lofty and the Mess Sec standing by the empty fish tank, they ask Bruce "Sgt Golledge can you tell us where the fish are", Bruce goes "There out the back Sir, hang on I'll just get them" so he rces out the back and comes back with his 'red fire bucket' and says "here they are Sir"? Well , Lofty and Mess Sec look into the Fire Bucket and it's Frozen 'solid' with the 'expensive 'Tropical Fish' now encased in ice isn't it!!! hahaha! What a fucking 'hoot', we are laughing over this for months, especially while Bruce is doing his extras and getting the 'ultimate' Punishment, being sacked as "Fish Member" by a vote of the Mess Committee at an extraordinary General Meeting hahaha! Well I thought it was funny 'as fuck', I guess you just had to have been there, haha

Ken Rundell

August 7 at 2:49pm

SORRY Fellas, got another Yarn because Peter Vesely just 'jogged' my memory so it's not my fault! When C Coy went to Singapore 1975 for Ex Three Bridges, we lived in Singapore at Sembawang Barracks near the Causeway but actually Exercised in Malaysia near Johore Bahru! We were also 'Ready Reaction' to reinforce A Coy up at Butterworth if they went to Saigon (that time)! Anyway Dutchy Hemerik was the CSM (Yes I know "fuck me" how 'lucky' can C Coy be hahaha)! We had many Viet Vets still within the Sections then so we were 'fairly' Hard core how we did things back then at that time! Anyway we used to go into this little village of Sembawang which had about 3 Bars (like the Hong Kong Bar) and get on the piss, as Diggers overseas do! Anyway it was at this time that we got the News that Saigon was falling and us Oldish Vets were very upset as you can imagine, so with a weekend off we are in Sembawang in a large Group on the Piss and talking about how we could have a 'Secret Group' where we got together to remember Vietnam Service! (Remember we are on the Piss and there is no such thing as 'Light Beer' and we have just come back from a week in the 'weeds' so we're putting them away haha)! Anyway so 'Yours Truly' gets up and says "I think we should have a Secret Society that only us Blokes know about, like the German SS they used to have an Eagle tattooed under their armpit; I suggest we get tattooed the Vietnamese words 'Giet Cong San' under our armpit so when we meet we can show each other the 'Secret sign' of our anti Communist Viet Club"!!! So all the Boys yell out "Yes fucking Bonzer idea"! So anyway we proceed to continue on with the Piss and I (Chairman of the Secret Society) forget all about it because I think we are just 'waffling shit' on the piss like normal hahaha! Anyway back in Townsville we are having a Platoon Party at my Flat and Big Johno (Cpl P. Johnstone) jumps up, whips his shirt off, lifts his arm and yells "Giet Cong San" and a couple of the other Digs do the same (they all got Tattoos under their armpits back at Sembawang when they were pissed that night)! They all standing there looking at me and Big Johno says "Hey Rocket where's your Tattoo"? I haven't got any 'stupid' fucking tattoo, so I better think quick? So I say "Listen Boys you know all the SS had this Eagle tattoo but Heinrich Himmler their Boss didn't have one, WHY? In case after they are captured they don't know he is also SS, so later he gets released he can start up another Secret Society! Well that's why I haven't got one Boys" and they think about that and go "Oh yeah that makes sense"!!!! hahaha

Ken Rundell

August 6 at 10:03pm

While I'm 'on a roll' another yarn? When we were the ODF and JPA was our Boss, we used to have many Dignatories (Senior Officers visit the North because that was the only place with full Bn's and far enough away to get 'Incidentals' for a Visit I'm guessing haha; Oh you fucking cynic haha)! Anyway every time one of these Senior Officers would visit the Bn 2/4 RAR, we were required to put on Weapons displays (If you remember all the Companies had different stands around the Company Parade Grounds under cam nets)! We also had JPA who used to ask your Diggers Infantry type questions and if they didn't know the answers would be on your case/arse! Anyway I briefed my Digs before these displays always, "These Senior Officers will probably ask you a 'curly' question that THEY know the answer of, so IF you say "I don't know" they can impress their Staff by knowing the answer and that also saying "I don't know" makes the Bn look inefficient and not Professional"! So NEVER EVER say "I don't know", so if Senior Offr asks you a question 'for example' like how much does the GPMG M60 weigh (and you say 25lb instead of 23lb) and he says "Ha! you are wrong Soldier its 23 lb", you say "Oh Sir 'yes you are correct', I thought you meant with 100 round link belt attached, sorry"! So he looks good because he was right, BUT you (Bn) also looks good because YOU/Dig had an answer for why you were 'mistaken' and he doesn't know that answer because he never looked that up!!! Got it Men? haha! So anyway JPA is going around with the General (and his entourage) this day and he goes over to our

display and asks one of my Digs a dumb question (you know a fucking War winner) like what's the weight of the SLR with a fully loaded Magazine, so Dig give his answer and General (whose looked it up) says "oh your wrong its X" so digger says "Oh you must mean with a 20 round magazine Sir, yes you are correct but we carry 30 round magazines in this Battalion so I thought that's what you meant!!! haha I'm thinking 'fucking brilliant'answer!!! Anyway the General smiles and is happy with that answer, his entourage is fucking happy, everybody is happy BUT when they move on JPA comes over to me and says "whats with that Digs answer that was complete bullshit wasn't it"? So I say "Yes Sir" and I proceed to tell Him my philosophy of how to answer generals at Displays and then say "see Sir the general was happy, his entourage is happy and they think the Bn is efficient and professional and you're a good CO"! JPA says "Oh my fucking God you mean you've told your Soldiers to lie to the Generals", I say "Not lie Sir just 'bend the truth'" haha! JPA says "you don't get them to do that when I ask them a question do you Rocket"? Me with fingers crossed says, "Of course not Sir your too knowledgeable for my Diggers to put one over on you sir" hahaha! That's my story and I'm sticking to it! ha