

Warrant Officer Class One



Robert "Jock" Richardson, MM (Retired)

Major Keith Fraser assisted by family, friends and comrades-in-arms.

"Yes, it's Jock - Scotch Jock.

He's the fellow that can give or take a knock.

For he's hairy and he's hard,

And his feet are by the yard,

And his face is like the face what's on a clock.

But when the bullets fly you will mostly hear the cry "Send for Jock!"

From "JOCK" by Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson

It is an ill wind -

That blows no good!

Owing to the Australian Regular Army's operational deployment to Korea in 1950 and ongoing commitment in the following years, a young Scot named Robert Richardson joined the Australian Regular Army in 1951 to serve with the Royal Australian Regiment in Korea. He would deploy four times on operational service. Twice he was decorated for bravery and exemplary leadership when under enemy fire, once after being wounded in action, and then would rise to the senior rank of Warrant Officer Class One. Many who knew him stood in awe of his professionalism, dedication and loyalty. I had the pleasure of meeting Warrant Officer Class One Robert "Jock" Richardson, MM when, in 1974, he was the Regimental Sergeant Major and I, an Officer Cadet at the Army Officer Cadet School, Portsea in Victoria. He was an inspirational leader then and, from the many written and spoken tales of his exploits and achievements prior to 1974, the Australian Army can count it as a blessing that Robert Richardson responded to the Royal Australian Regiment's call-to-arms. Jock Richardson left Glasgow to join the Australian Army and by 1953 was a proven warrior.

From Japan to Korea

In October 1945, at the end of World War II, on Morotai Island in the North Moluccas, the 65th, 66th and 67th Battalions were formed into the British 34th Brigade Group. The Group, based on three Infantry battalions, an Artillery field battery and armoured car squadron, together with supporting units, was made up of volunteers from the 2nd Australian Imperial Force's (AIF) 6th, 7th and 9th Divisions as each was demobilized. Forming part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF) to assist with Japan's post World War Two rehabilitation, the Brigade Group set sail from Morotai Island arriving in Japan in February 1946. Other countries contributing units to the BCOF included Britain, Canada, India and New Zealand. The BCOF would remain in Japan until 1949.

In November 1948 whilst in Japan, the three Infantry battalions were designated as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Australian Regiment (AR). On 10th March 1949, after receiving King George VI's "Royal" assent, Australia's Permanent Military Force (PMF) became the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment (RAR).

As the BCOF commitment scaled down, by mid-1949, Australia had the last remaining military forces in Japan. But even so, and as a progressive operation, the RAR battalions had also commenced the voyage home to Australia. The majority of personnel of the 1st and 2nd Battalions had, by the end of 1948, returned to Australia. Some had elected discharge from the army when they arrived home. This left Australia's Permanent Military Force with one under-strength battalion (3 RAR) in Japan and the other two similarly under-strength and under-equipped battalions (1 RAR and 2 RAR) in Australia.

UN Seeks Australian Units with War-Time Experience

In response to the threat of invasion of South Korea by communist North Korea, the United Nations (UN) was called upon to provide a coalition force to assist South Korea. The UN support lasted from 1949 to 1956 and during that time, the United Nations constantly sought international assistance. As a result of ongoing discharges and less than effective recruiting, the Australian Army was collectively poorly equipped and undermanned when the Commander United Nations Forces in Korea, US General Douglas MacArthur, requested that Australia provide, to United Nations Command, units with wartime experience.

Recruiting in the UK

Acceding to the UN request, Australia committed the fledgling Royal Australian Regiment to Korea. As 3 RAR was still in Japan, preparations began in July 1950 to deploy 3 RAR to Korea, rather than bring the battalion home as was originally planned. On 28 September 1950, 3 RAR arrived at Pusan on the Korean Peninsula. As the Korean conflict continued Australia came under increasing pressure during the first half of 1951 from America to increase its commitment. The poor state of Australia's PMF had not improved as discharges at the end of the BCOF duties continued and such circumstance initially made it difficult for the Australian Government to comply with this request. But, in October 1951 it was agreed to send a second battalion. 1 RAR was prepared for deployment and to bring the battalion to full strength, officers and soldiers were taken from 2 RAR. Determining that the required numbers of soldiers, with wartime experience, could not be achieved from inter-battalion drafts, a campaign was instigated to enlist personnel from the United Kingdom.

Scotland Laments - Jock Immigrates to Australia

Australia's recruiting campaign in the United Kingdom, resulted in Robert "Jock" Richardson being recruited into the Australian Army in Glasgow, Scotland on 16 October 1951. Jock Richardson had completed two and half years National Service as a Royal Air Force electrician, which included 12 months in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Prior to his National Service he was an outstanding young football (soccer) player in Scotland. He was a junior (Under 18) playing for Glasgow Rangers with prospects for even greater football glory just around the corner, when to the shock of Scotland's football hierarchy, he enlisted into the fledgling Australian Regular Army. As he departed for London in October 1951 to be "sworn" into the Australian Army, folklore has it that the wails and howls lamenting Jock's departure could be heard as far south as North Africa!

"Follow me!"

In London prior to his embarkation for Australia, Jock's leadership potential was already coming to the fore. At this early stage in his military career his departure to Australia was held over in London and, on behalf of the Australian Government, he

toured with Australian Recruiters to such places as Belfast, Northern Ireland, assisting to recruit other British ex-servicemen, urging them, to "Follow Me!"

Embarking on the "Immigrant Ship" SS Ranchi, he sailed from London on 1 February 1952. It was on board the SS Ranchi that he met fellow passenger Margaret (Peggy) Hunter. They were to later marry in 1954.

"I wanted to be a real soldier"

Arriving in Melbourne, Australia he underwent the Army's employment categorization process and was allocated into the Signals Corps. He was posted to a Signals unit located at Balcolme south of Melbourne. Jock tells that he was not given a choice of employment and believed that his Signals Corps allocation was based on his previous experience as an electrician. He remained at Balcolme until 13 August 1952 when, in his words, "I wanted to be a real soldier" (so he) requested, and was granted, a transfer to the Infantry Corps.

Private Jock Richardson was posted to 2 RAR, at Puckapunyal, in country Victoria. As part of the Regiment's rotation plan, 2 RAR, with Private Jock Richardson, embarked for Korea in March 1953. Seventeen months after being recruited in Glasgow for operational service with the United Nations in Korea, he was to oblige the purpose for which he had enlisted. The 1953 tour to Korea was to be his first of four operational tours with the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Regiment.

In Korea, employed as a rifleman, Private Jock Richardson demonstrated exemplary bravery and leadership under fire for which he was recommended for the award of a Military Medal. By the time the recommendation was approved on 23rd November 1953, Jock had been promoted to Lance Corporal. His citation reads:



A young Private Jock Richardson at Puckapunyal Army camp.

Military Medal

Lance Corporal Robert Richardson.

Private Richardson has acted as rifle section commander and second in command of a section throughout the period, and during May and June, 1953, whilst his company was in the line, has taken part with exceptional courage and enthusiasm in many patrols of all types.

On the night of 23rd / 24th May, 1953, he particularly distinguished himself when commanding a section in an ambush patrol on Durham Ridge in front of Point 159. Shortly

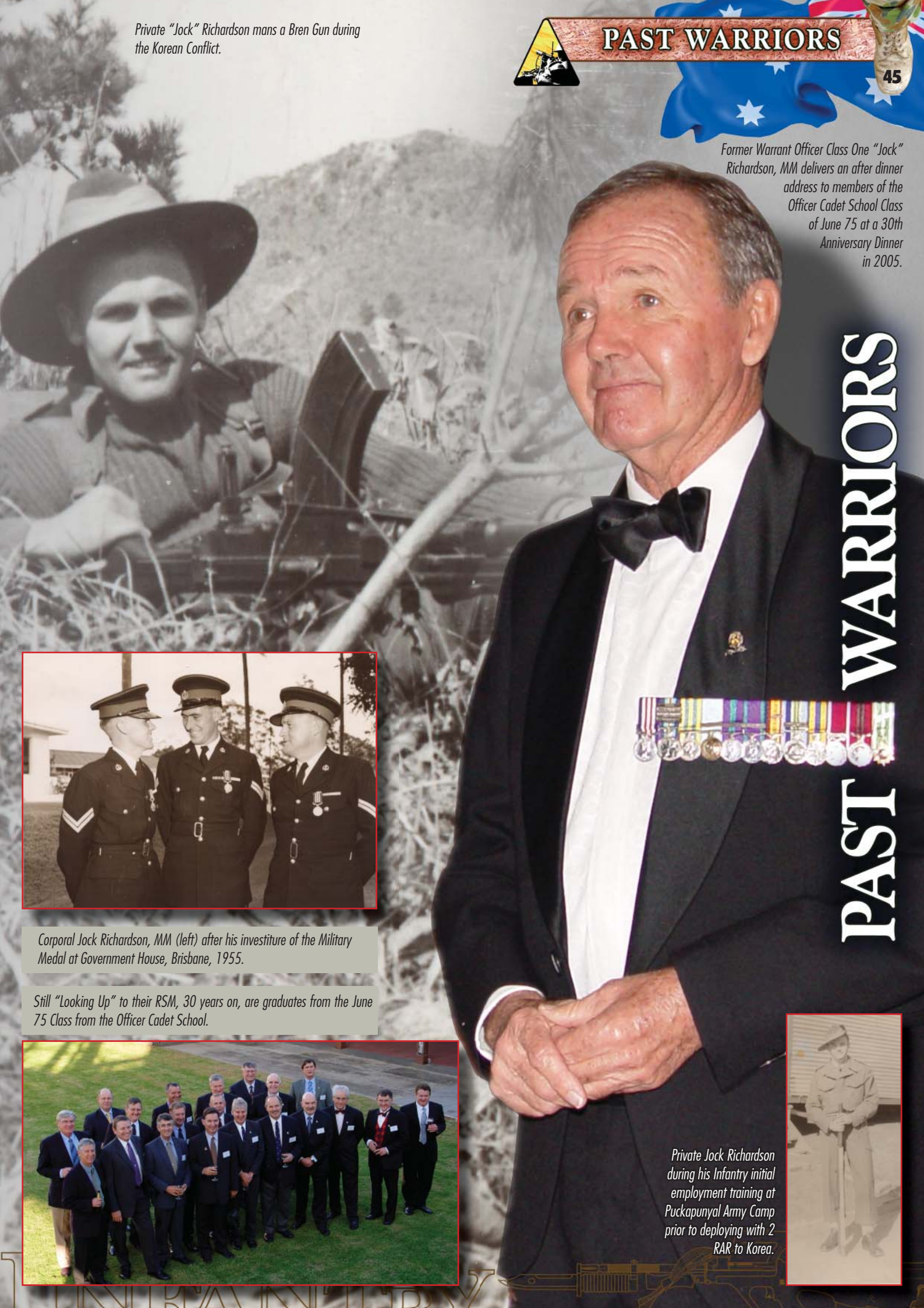


Private "Jock" Richardson mans a Bren Gun during the Korean Conflict.



Former Warrant Officer Class One "Jock" Richardson, MM delivers an after dinner address to members of the Officer Cadet School Class of June 75 at a 30th Anniversary Dinner in 2005.

PAST WARRIORS



Corporal Jock Richardson, MM (left) after his investiture of the Military Medal at Government House, Brisbane, 1955.

Still "Looking Up" to their RSM, 30 years on, are graduates from the June 75 Class from the Officer Cadet School.



Private Jock Richardson during his Infantry initial employment training at Puckapunyal Army Camp prior to deploying with 2 RAR to Korea.





after taking up its position, the patrol was engaged by an enemy force over twenty strong. During the close quarter fight that followed, the patrol leader and four members, out of a total of thirteen, were wounded. Realising the situation, Private Richardson without hesitation took command of the patrol and withdrew it, taking the wounded with him. Though the enemy closely followed up the withdrawal, Private Richardson so skillfully controlled the fire and movement of the few unwounded members of the patrol that the enemy were prevented from overrunning it. It was later definitely established that six enemy were killed in this engagement.

The high degree of leadership, initiative and determination that Private Richardson displayed throughout this action were typical of the qualities he has shown on many other occasions in contact with the enemy, qualities which have gained him the admiration and respect of all ranks who served with him.

Sergeant Jock Richardson on operations in Malaya.



Sergeant Jock Richardson the Senior Escort to the 2 RAR Colours



The Malayan Emergency

In April 1954 Lance Corporal Jock Richardson returned to Australia with 2 RAR, which took up residency at Enoggera Barracks in Brisbane, Queensland. In October 1955, 2 RAR, with (now) Sergeant Jock Richardson, MM, deployed on operations to the Malay Peninsula as part of the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group to assist with the Malayan Emergency.

2 RAR was the first of the three battalions of the Regiment to take part in the Malayan Emergency. This action in the jungles of Malaya was primarily counter insurgency operations against a communist revolutionary enemy. By 1961, each of the three RAR battalions had served in this theatre to assist Malaysia in gaining its independence.

A Scorpion's "Tale"

Fighting in the jungles of Malaya and Malaysia brings with it the dangers provided from other than the enemy. Anecdotes abound about Australian ambushes being compromised by tigers or elephants walking into the ambush site. Deadly scorpions and snakes were also unwelcome visitors to soldiers laying in ambush. Mr (later Captain) Roger Wickham who, as a Second Lieutenant Infantry Platoon Commander, was to serve with Jock Richardson

when both were posted to Malaya with 4 RAR, penned the following account about an incident involving Sergeant Richardson in the Malay jungle. Roger was not present when the alleged incident occurred, but it fits well with the folklore that surrounds this past warrior.

Legend has it, that as a platoon sergeant in Malaya, Jock's platoon was in a night ambush position to bag some of Chin Peng's Communist terrorists (CTs) when in the wee hours of the morning, Jock was stung by a scorpion. I've never known for sure but we were always led to believe that if a scorpion stings you, then it's Good Evening - hand in your gear at the Q store, as you won't need it anymore. So instantly realising that he was off to the Great Weapon Pit in the Sky, to which all Infantry soldiers eventually go, Jock quickly, but quietly, crawled along the ambush line, to inform his platoon commander. When he reached the platoon commander's position, he gently tugged at the platoon commander's trouser leg, an action which in an ambush position at night in the jungle, can trigger some interesting and not always intended results.

"Jesus!" exclaimed the platoon commander lashing out, thinking some animal had grabbed his leg.

"Not quite, sa! It's me, Jork!" whispered Jock. "I've been stung by a wee scorpion."

With expletives the platoon commander replied "We'll have to get you out of here, Jock."

"Shh!", replied Jock. "You'll compromise the ambush, sa. It's all over for me, whether you get me out of here or not, so you are going to need a platoon sergeant. Give that some thought while I just move back over here and lie quietly till morning."

Makes you want to throw up! Not absolutely panic-stricken, as most of us would have been, at the thought that death from a scorpion sting was imminent, and in the bloody jungle in an ambush position at night, an ignominious way for a warrior to die. Not our Jock. "Now I'm gone, but the skipper will need a platoon sergeant, so I better slip right along and let him know, then I'll quietly crawl over here and die, where I won't make things look untidy or compromise the ambush."

Who in his right mind would give a damn about the new platoon sergeant, except some daft bloody Scotsman. For most of us, it would be a case of "Let's keep the existing platoon sergeant and to hell with the stupid ambush and the terrorists. We can ambush them another day. Just get me the hell outta here to some place that carries buckets of scorpion anti-venene, if there's such a thing. Otherwise, I'm going to die, George! Hullo! Is anybody there?"

Fortunately for Jock, the platoon commander ignored the silly bugger, called off the ambush and radioed for a helicopter to evacuate his dying platoon sergeant, who as fate would have it, did not die. The fact that Jock didn't die, presumably meant that scorpion stings are not fatal, or that scorpion anti-venene did exist, or that Scotsmen are impervious to scorpion stings.

Jungle Warfare Expertise

2 RAR remained in Malaya until October 1957 when it was relieved by 3 RAR. When the battalion returned to Australia Sergeant Jock Richardson did not. Instead, he was selected to be an instructor at the Far East Land Forces (FALEF) Jungle Training Centre at Kota Tinggi in Eastern Johore. Under the training of experienced jungle fighting FARELF instructors, newly arrived battalions underwent preparatory jungle warfare training in patrolling, tracking, ambushing, cordon and search and search and destroy missions prior to conducting

operations against the communist terrorists. Sergeant Richardson remained at the Jungle Training Centre until October 1958 when he returned to Australia and was again posted as an instructor, this time to the Army Officer Cadet School at Portsea on the Mornington Peninsula south of Melbourne

A Shortage of Officers

As was the case with the Army's shortage of soldiers in its lead up to deploying Infantry battalions to Korea, there was also a shortage of officers to command the Infantry platoons. The Canberra-based Royal Military College at Duntroon, with its four-year degree course, was not able to graduate officers quickly enough to satisfy the surge created by Australia's rapid deployment to Korea, which began with 3 RAR in August 1950. So, in 1951 after an exhaustive search for a suitable training establishment, the Army's Officer Cadet School (OCS) commenced officer training at a functional but disused Australian Government Quarantine Station at Portsea, Victoria. The existing accommodation and make-do training facilities in place enabled training to commence immediately. The six-month course was initially designed to train serving soldiers, who, on promotion to Second Lieutenant (2LT), were competent to command an Infantry platoon on operations, and specifically in Korea. Over time, the course duration would be lengthened to 12 months and intakes include civilian applicants. Sergeant Jock Richardson was posted to OCS as an instructor in October 1958.

Promoted to Warrant Officer

Arriving at OCS as a sergeant instructor in October 1958, in less than two months he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2). "I had to first prove myself," he would say later. He was, again, called upon to pass on the benefit of his battle experiences from Korea and Malaya and prepare Infantry platoon commanders for deployment to Malaya. He remained at OCS until 1963, during which time, the Australian Government continued rotating battalions through Malaya.

Officer Training and the "Art" of Leadership

Testament to Jock's inspirational leadership of soldiers on operations was the award of the Military Medal in Korea. As a sergeant, his jungle warfare expertise in Malaya resulted in him being selected as an instructor at the Far East Land Forces Training Centre. It was at OCS from 1959 to 1963 that Jock distinguished himself assisting in the training and shaping Australia's future junior officers. His association with OCS would span 11 years over two postings, first as a Warrant Officer Class Two and, later, as a Warrant

The Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One Jock Richardson, MM, in Blues Ceremonial Dress worn at graduation parades.



A Scorpion's "Tale"

Damn Scorpion
That's it for me
then. I'm orf to the
great weapon pit in
the sky

Now I'm a
goner, but the
skipper will need
a new platoon
sergeant

I'd better slip
right along and
let the skipper
know

Jesus!

Not quite!
Sa! It's me Jork.
I've been Stung by
a wee Scorpion

We'll get you
out of here
Jock

Oh naw sa, I'll
quietly crawl over
here and die where I
won't make things look
untidy or compromise
the ambush.



Officer Class One as the School's Regimental Sergeant Major. With other OCS instructors, WO2 Jock Richardson, MM was not only responsible for training the cadets in battle craft, weapon proficiency, military law, drill and ceremonial procedures but also in the art of leadership at which he was very adept.



tiny flat lead "feet" at the other end. The cane protruded enough from the front of his left armpit, to allow his left forearm and hand, with the elbow tucked into the hip, to meet the rounded end, at an angle of 45 degrees.

This I was to learn, was a "pace stick" and it was used as its name implies, to measure the length of paces, rather like a greatly-over-sized (set of) compasses. One foot of the pacesstick was placed at the heel of the right boot and then swivelled forward, to show where the heel was to be placed next. The feet of the pace stick could be extended and locked at the distance required. When carried, it was secured in the vee of the left thumb and forefinger, with the other fingers outstretched along it, meeting the rounded end. The remainder of the pace stick ran straight back under the armpit, parallel to the ground.

One could have shaved on the creases of his tobacco-coloured worsted trousers, which showed under the hem of his greatcoat. They were bloused over his black gaiters and secured by elastic. Two highly polished horizontal black straps secured the gaiters. When I say highly polished, I mean really highly polished. Very-shiny brass buckles secured the straps and again I mean very shiny brass buckles on the outer side. Hell, everything was very shiny. A man needed heavy-duty sunglasses against the glare and it was an overcast day. But then almost every day in Melbourne is an overcast day. Another strap ran under the boot itself from the inside, to a buckle on the lower outside. The boots seemingly, were made of spotless black mirrors and along with the trouser creases, would have completed the shaving kit.

"Jock" Richardson spoke very precisely and being a Scot he added an "r" everywhere he could, so that Jock became "Jork" and officer became "oricer" and that became "thart" and sir became either "sa" or "soor" or "sewer", depending on the circumstances.

The memory of the boyish-faced Warrant Officer Class Two, (WO2), Robert Richardson, Military Medal, ("Gude things come in small packages, Wickham"), has been with me vividly these last 30 years, so I am more than likely to carry it to my grave. Not such a bad thing anyway. He ain't heavy.

"Right then, Gentlemen. We'll just be gathering over here then, in a wee semi-circle in front of me." We gathered in a gaggle. "Naw! Naw! Now then Gentlemen, come on. You've already managed to kid the selection committee that you're intelligent but you cannae fool a soldier. A semicircle, thart's the one like a half-moon."

We shuffled our gaggle into something resembling a half-moon. "Thart's right, just here in front of me. Now you're getting it. Very gude, Gentlemen."

"My name is Warrant Officer Richardson and I am from the Officer Cadet School. It is my responsibility to deliver you safely to the School, where the Regimental Sergeant Major is anxiously waiting to meet you. So I will be calling your names and you will be answering "Soor" and then you will embus on this vehicle behind me. Thart sounds pretty easy, doesn't it? And I'm quite sure, that even at this early stage, most of you young officer candidates will be able to do thart, without a great deal of trouble."

Warrant Officer Jock Richardson epitomised what was required of an instructor who was to shape the Australian Army's future leaders. His sense of duty and honour, coupled with a sense of humour, were qualities, which would earn the respect of many classes of officer cadets. Warrant Officer Class Two Jock Richardson, MM would remain at the Officer Cadet School until December 1963 at which time he was handpicked to be the inaugural Company Sergeant Major (CSM) of B Company 4 RAR.



Acting Platoon Commander, Warrant Officer Class Two Jock Richardson emerges from a bunker system whilst on operations in South Vietnam.

The Army (and Jock's) Welcome

Apart from each state's Army Recruiting Office staff, with which army applicants had dealings during the enlistment process, for many civilians entering the Officer Cadet School, WO2 Richardson was often their first encounter with a military instructor. Stories and anecdotes abound about WO2 Jock Richardson's "influential" guidance as an OCS instructor. Traveling to Portsea, south of Melbourne, necessitated drafts of officer candidates assembling at Melbourne's Spencer Street Railway Station for a bus trip down the Mornington Peninsula. Roger Wickham was a civilian entrant when he entered OCS in 1962. Roger was so impressed with the manner in which WO2 Richardson received newly appointed (civilian) cadets into the army that, and although tongue-in-cheek, he recorded the event.

"A shiny blue bus was parked nearby and it sported a gold painted badge, which read OFFICER CADET SCHOOL - PORTSEA. Standing next to the bottom step of the bus, was quite one of the most splendid sights I had ever seen. He stood a little taller than a fire hydrant, about 5'6" at a guess, and he was clad in an Army greatcoat resplendent with gold buttons. His khaki peaked forage cap had a 1/2 inch-wide band of what looked like maroon glass sitting on the peak. This highly (spit) polished leather strap was secured above his ears by a gold button at each side.

Mounted above this glass band, was a gleaming brass badge, which featured a kangaroo, under which were the words "DUTY FIRST" and behind which were crossed rifles. Underpinning them all was a boomerang, on which were embossed the words "Royal Australian Regiment".

Our oversized khaki fire hydrant stood ramrod straight ("You are allowed to stand to your full height in the Army, Wickham", he was later to tell me, and I supposed that at 5'6", you would need to do everything you could). He carried a long flat thick, highly polished cane, which was split down the middle and rounded at one end. It came to two brass points with

"Handpicked" He Helped Raise the Newest Battalion

The Australian Government's ongoing commitment to Malaya continued until 1967 and foreshadowing deployments to South Vietnam (1 RAR would deploy in 1965) it became evident that The Royal Australian Regiment needed to expand. The 4th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment (4 RAR) was to be raised in Woodside, South Australia in 1964. The Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel David Thomson, MC who would later as Brigadier be the Director of Infantry and later still The Honourable David Thomson, MC Member of Parliament. Lieutenant Colonel Thomson was given the task of raising the battalion. He was able to handpick his company commanders and company sergeants major. Warrant Officer Class Two Jock Richardson, MM would be one of the CSMs chosen to raise the battalion. He would remain the B Company CSM for five years. (In current times, CSM appointments are for, on average, two years.) During the time that he was a CSM the battalion would deploy on operations to Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam. And, it was whilst on operations in South Vietnam that WO2 Robert Richardson, MM again demonstrated inspirational leadership and bravery under enemy fire. It was for his actions on 16 February 1969 that he was, again, formally recognised for bravery and Mentioned in Despatches. Some eight and half months into the 12 month tour, B Company was on OPERATION GOODWOOD with the remainder of 4 RAR when B Company personnel came under fire from automatic weapons, medium machine guns, claymore mines and Rocket Propelled Grenades. Two soldiers were killed, and Jock was critically wounded. His Citation reads:



**Mentioned in Despatches
Warrant Officer Class Two
Robert Richardson, MM**

Warrant Officer Robert Richardson enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 16 October 1951. He was posted to the 4th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment on 24th January 1964 as Company Sergeant Major of B Company. He arrived in South Vietnam on 21st May 1968. Prior to his arrival in South Vietnam, Warrant Officer Richardson completed operational tours of duty in Korea, Malaya and Borneo.

During the five years he was Company Sergeant Major of B Company his devotion to duty, loyalty, professional skills and leadership were of the highest order. For some months during 1968 he commanded a rifle platoon with considerable success. He planned and conducted numerous successful ambushes and achieved an extremely high standard of patrolling. The platoon he commanded was skilled and aggressive.

On 16th February 1969, B Company was heavily engaged by enemy concealed in bunkers. Warrant Officer Richardson was wounded early in the action. Disregarding his wound he moved to the section that was pinned down by the enemy fire. He re-organised and encouraged the soldiers in his vicinity and directed accurate fire into the enemy bunkers. When the elements of B Company nearest the enemy were forced to withdraw, Warrant Officer Richardson, although badly wounded himself, carried another wounded soldier from the area of the engagement to safety. This was achieved under intense and accurate enemy fire. He continued to give encouragement and comfort to the other wounded members of the company until evacuation by helicopter was possible. He was an inspiration to all who saw him during this action.

Warrant Officer Richardson's unfailing energy, determination and personal courage in this and other actions were in the finest traditions of the service and The Royal Australian Regiment.

Many years later when addressing a gathering of officers and warrant officers and referring specifically to WO2 Richardson's, performance as CSM B Company the Honourable, David Thomson, MC remembered that he had chosen his CSMs well

When speaking with Jock in 2005 he was unsure of, and reluctant to discuss, the extent of the injuries that he sustained during the action. I felt it important to go against his wishes, in this instance, to put into perspective what he had achieved after he was "wounded early in the action" as noted in his citation. He reported that the Medical Assistant who treated him said that his body had 22 fragmentation holes [presumably from the Chicom Grenade (containing glass and metal)] including a bullet hole in the neck. Two other B Company personnel near Jock at the time were killed in action.



**Jock Returns to OCS as
the Regimental Sergeant
Major**



PAST WARRIORS

Finally fit enough for air travel following the ambush in South Vietnam, Jock was evacuated to Australia in the first half of 1969. By this time 4 RAR was home-based in Enoggera Barracks in Brisbane. Jock spent some time recuperating before, in mid 1969, he was posted to the Officer Cadet School as Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) to prepare for the January 1970 intake of potential officer cadets.

Promoted to Warrant Officer Class One and now RSM, Jock Richardson was again in a position to influence, develop and shape Australian, as well as our regional neighbours' junior officers. Many would command Infantry platoons in South Vietnam. After a very successful three years as RSM he was selected to move at the end of 1972 to be the RSM of the Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) in Campbell Barracks, Perth, an appointment that he relished. But because of posting planning difficulties for RSMs that year, had he accepted, then the RSM position at the Officer Cadet School would have remained vacant. So it was decided, for him, that he would remain as RSM at the Officer Cadet School until December 1974 for what would be an unprecedented five-year appointment.



Warrant Officer Class One Jock Richardson, MM in Service Dress Ceremonial outside his office (The Shepherd's Hut).

Graduating to Retirement

The graduation ceremony at the end of the each twelve-month officer-training course at the Officer Cadet School included a formal parade. At the end of the ceremony it was customary for the RSM to remain on the parade ground and, with the junior class, salute as the senior (graduating) class marched off. On Friday 13th December 1974, WO1 Richardson, MM marched off the parade ground with the senior class. A fitting departure for an exemplary warrant officer who served the Australia Regular Army for 23 years and 150 days, six years and 314 days of which were outside Australia. He had served in four wars/theatres of operations and had an unprecedented 11 years as an instructor at the Officer Cadet School thus assisting 23 graduating classes of newly promoted officers. In retirement, he is often heard to say that, "I loved training my cadets".

**"I Would Trust Him
With My Life!"**

- Major General David Butler, AO, DSO

In the Officer Cadet School's 33-year history, Jock Richardson uniquely, for 11 years, trained, guided and counselled Australian, and our near neighbours' future young warriors. A proven warrior himself, being twice decorated for inspirational leadership and bravery in battle, Warrant Officer Class One Robert "Jock"

Richardson, MM ended his distinguished military career, not long after marching off that parade ground 1974. At the time of his retirement, the Commandant of the Officer Cadet School was Colonel (later Major General, now retired) David Butler AO, DSO who would comment in a personal reference that he would trust his life with Warrant Officer Class One Jock Richardson, MM. One cannot receive a higher acclamation.

Three decades after his retirement, Jock Richardson's military career, during which he was twice cited for bravery and leadership under fire, decorated with the Military Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and Meritorious Service Medal remains as impressive today as it was in 1974. Robert Richardson, MM is one of the Australian Army's past warriors.

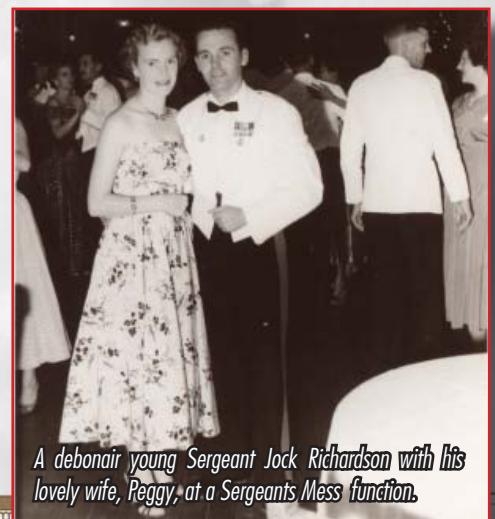
Editors notes:

The Final graduation class of the Officer Cadet School at Portsea on the Mornington Peninsula south of Melbourne marched off the parade ground on 13th December 1985. This final parade ended an era of Australian Army officer training, which commenced in 1952, spanned 33 years and promoted 3,544 young officers as Second Lieutenants or Lieutenants. The history of the Officer Cadet School is recorded in Neville Lindsay's book *Loyalty and Service (OCS Motto) The Officer Cadet School*. The book is available from the Royal Military College Duntroon in Canberra or by visiting www.ocsportsea.com.au.

On 13th June 2005 Jock Richardson, MM attended a reunion of the last OCS Junior Class to which he had been RSM. The 30th anniversary of the 13th June 1975 graduating class was held in the grounds of the now disused Officer Cadet School.

Jock and Peggy Richardson have five children, Catherine, Margaret, Fiona, Bill and Duncan and Jock's warrior lineage lives on. Catherine and Fiona are married to Infantry officers; Lieutenant Colonels Craig Johnston and John Davidson. "Do you think that I would allow my daughters to marry into any other Corps?" Jock would often quip.

Lieutenant Colonel John (and Fiona) Davidson's two children have also followed the call-to-arms. Private Robert Davidson is currently in 6 RAR but on detachment in Afghanistan having served previously in East Timor. Lance Corporal Jodie Davidson (Royal Australian Army Medical Corps) is a Medical Assistant with the 2nd Health Support Battalion (2 HSB). She has deployed with the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) as well as to Indonesia's Banda Aceh province to provide medical assistance to the people in the aftermath of the tsunami that devastated parts of Indonesian on 26th December 2004.



A debonair young Sergeant Jock Richardson with his lovely wife, Peggy, at a Sergeants Mess function.