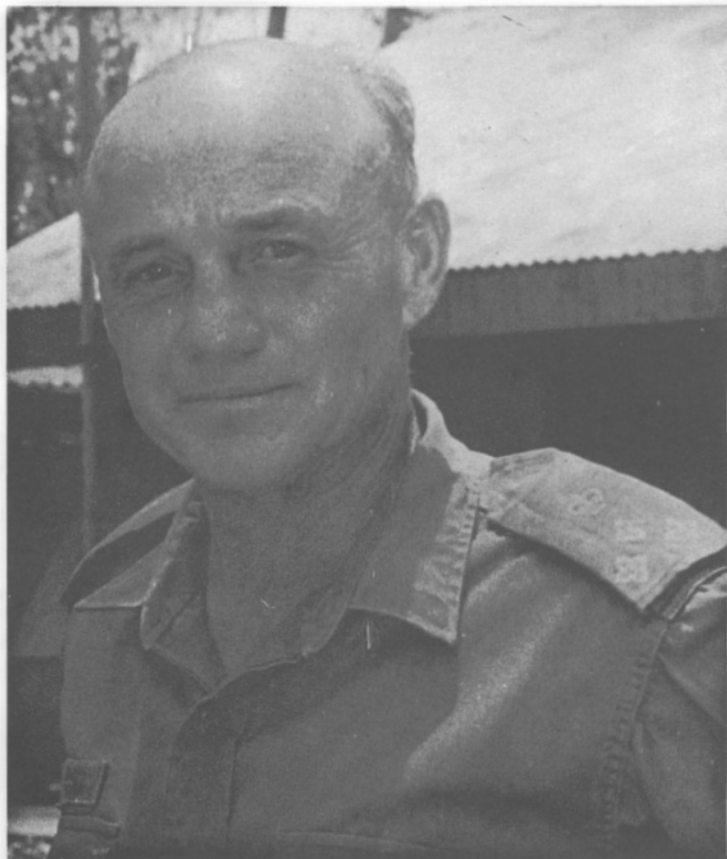


## Foreword



IT HAS BEEN inspiring to have had the opportunity to watch the beginnings of 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, at Woodside, South Australia, to watch it training in Malaysia, and to see it reach professional maturity during operations in South Vietnam.

In the latter period the major change has been the absorption of the New Zealand element into the battalion. I believe such a close integration of soldiers of two nations into the one unit has never been as successful as in 4RAR/NZ(Anzac)Bn. This is a great tribute to the personalities of all ranks who have made it work. The unit has completed a most successful tour in South Vietnam. It was not involved in any large battles — not many of our battalions have been — but, nevertheless, it was committed almost continuously on operations in the day-to-day fighting so well known in Vietnam.

The constant patrolling and ambushing, not knowing when the enemy might appear, often produces greater strain than large prepared battles. We are not addicted to statistics, but the accounts of operations and casualty rate set out in this book tell the story of this strain and the success 4RAR/NZ(Anzac)Bn had in countering it.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to those members of the battalion who died in battle in South Vietnam. These young men, from all walks of life, had learned lessons in self discipline and team spirit which are difficult to learn in civilian life. They will be sorely missed in building up our two nations.

I know this book will be valued in the years to come; valued as part of the traditions to be gathered for 4RAR, valued by the individuals who served in the battalion in South Vietnam, and valued as part of the unfolding story of the Australian and New Zealand armies.

My best wishes to 4RAR/NZ(Anzac)Bn for the future, our thanks to Lt Col Greville and all ranks for a job well done, and good luck to all who served in the unit during the past 12 months.

C.M.I. PEARSON,  
Brigadier,

Commander 1st Australian Task Force.

September, 1969.