

Foreword



This book tells only part of the exacting operational tour of duty of 4 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion. That part which it does tell is, mainly, of the way in which the unit lived throughout its fore-shortened tour of duty. Nevertheless, it gives a valuable insight into the close integration of the Australian and New Zealand elements of the battalion which, in my opinion, was most successful and which augurs well for the future military associations of our two nations.

The war in Vietnam was not easy to fight due to the elusiveness of the enemy who, although constantly harassed by all forms of attack, still managed to survive. The constant patrolling, ambushing and attacks by 4 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion in the area of operations left no doubt in the enemy's mind of his insecurity in that part of Phuoc Tuy which he attempted to penetrate. This state was achieved by the professional ability and dedication of all members of the battalion whose actions at all times reflected great credit upon our two nations.

The battalion's operations regrettably brought casualties. Those young men who died in battle deserve high tribute from us all for their bravery and I, in particular, wish to pay my sincere tribute to all of them.

My thanks to you all for the service which you rendered to the 1st Australian Task Force and my best wishes for the future wherever you may be.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. A. McDonald'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.