History of 2/4RAR

With the reorganisation of the Army during 1973, due to the cessation of National Service, 2RAR and 4RAR were linked on 15 August 1973, to form the 2nd/4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

The Battalion was formed up on the parade ground by the Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 W.T.C. Thompson. The 2nd Battalion was marched back to the rear lines where 4RAR resided and the RSM handed over to WO1 Ken Hall. The new 2nd/4th Battalion was lead off the parade ground by the Pipe Major WO2 D. Torenson to the tune of "Inverbrackie" and "Ringo". Through the next twenty years of history the Battalion enjoyed training in a peacetime army and achieved many successes on the sporting field and in competitions, such as, Duke of Gloucester Cup and South East Asia Sniper team competitions.

The new Battalion was charged with the task of preserving the traditions, associations, museums and proprietorship of the two original battalions from which it was formed until such time as the linking is annulled. Because of this, all ranks of 2/4RAR were aware of the history of both 2RAR and 4RAR and jealousy preserved these traditions, whilst working hard to establish a distinctive image for their Battalion.

Between 1977 and 1979 the Battalion concentrated on conventional warfare including night and mounted operations. On 1 July 1980, the unit was re-organised on light scales and trained as part of the Operational Deployment Force (ODF) in close country and conventional warfare operations.

On 1 February 1982, with the official replacement of the title 'Task Force' with 'Brigade', 2/4RAR became a unit of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division.

The Battalion was placed on operational readiness in 1987 and 1990. On each occasion the Battalion was prepared to evacuate Australian citizens from Pacific region countries experiencing civil disturbance.

From 1990 to 1993 many individual soldiers from the Battalion served with the United Nations in Cambodia. In 1993, 54 soldiers from the Battalion were detached to 1RAR for operational service in Somalia as part of Operation Solace.

In May 1993, 2/4RAR was tasked to provide a Rifle Platoon for operation Gemini in Cambodia. 12 Platoon, Delta Company, deployed to Cambodia tasked with providing local security for Australian Army Aviation Assets.

In August 1994, 114 members of the Battalion mainly A Coy deployed to Rwanda as part of the Australian Medical Support Force for the United Nation mission UNAMIR II. The nucleus of the 2/4RAR contingent was Alpha Company, tasked to provide security for the Australian Medical Support Force. Other 2/4RAR personnel were employed in the Contingent Headquarters, as medical assistants and in logistic support functions.