

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SSGT FRANK N. STEIN

"Frankie" was constructed by the then SGT Noel Huish from kit form in 1964 at Woodside S.A. for presentation to the 4 RAR Sergeants Mess after their Inauguration.

On presenting "Frankie" to the Mess and to the then PMC WO1 Paddy Brennan, both Frank Galvin and Noel Huish carried "Frankie" into the Mess in a box shaped like a coffin, filled with dry ice. The lights in the Mess were dimmed and he was placed on the bar with the dry ice vapours rising from the coffin.

When "Frankie" was built, he originally had a ball and chain around his right ankle, but over the years it disappeared through moving him on various 4 RAR postings.

It was decided at a formal dinner by the first CO, LTCOL D. Thompson MC, that he should be promoted to SERGEANT, which was duly done. It was also decided that he should be dressed accordingly, 4 RAR main dress then was battle dress, so a set was made for him, together with a set of Mess Dress (Blues).

"Frankie" became the Mess mascot and he attends all Mess functions. At Regimental Dinners he has his own seat, place card and is served all meals (small portions) wines and port. He sits at the end of the table and is hosted by the junior infantry Sergeant.

He accompanied the Battalion to Malaya in 1965. It was there a set of Summer Dress and Planters Dress was tailored for him. He was promoted to SSGT in 1973/74 (after 2 RAR and 4 RAR were amalgamated) by the CO, LTCOL J.P.A. Deighton MC.

It was decided in Malaya that he should only reach the rank of SSGT. SSGT Stein was officially presented to the 2/4 RAR SGT's Mess by WO1 G.N. Huish in February 1982.



SSGT Stein

RECORD OF SERVICE

4 RAR Woodside S.A.	1964-65
4 RAR Borneo/Malaya	1966-67
4 RAR Enoggera	1967-68
4 RAR/NZ South Vietnam	1968-70
4 RAR Townsville	1970-71
4 RAR/NZ South Vietnam	1971-71
4 RAR Townsville	1972-73
2/4 RAR Townsville	1973-

SSGT Stein is entitled to wear the following medals/awards:

- General Service Medal 1962 with Clasp Borneo,
- Vietnam and South Vietnamese Campaign Medal,
- National Medal,
- Defence Force Service Medal with Clasp,
- Infantry Combat Badge.