

**Brigadier William Harold "Mac" Grant,
OAM RFD
Passed away 10 June 2013**

Mac Grant passed away in his sleep in the early morning of Monday 10 June 2013 at Oak Towers Nursing Home. Mac enlisted as NX49125 MCARTHUR, WILLIAM HAROLD. Service Number 350330 (237544, N18780, NP9709, NX49125) Date of Birth 24 Jun 1922, Place of Birth CORDEAUX DAM, NSW. "Mac" Grant served Australia from World War II until he retired in 1977, in the army, the Citizen Military Forces (Army Reserve) and with the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS). He was with the army training forces in Vietnam for brief periods, and his other appointments included being in Britain, Singapore, Hong Kong and Indonesia.



His military career began when he enlisted in 1940, he enlisted in a militia battalion - 30 BN The NSW Scottish Regiment in September 1940. After completing a 90 day training camp at Greta NSW he enlisted in 1 Hvy Bde RAA of the Permanent Military Force (PMF). This unit manned coastal artillery around Australia. Members of the permanent forces were not permitted to join the AIF, so Mac, *"on very good authority from other 18-year-olds"*, put his age up from 19 to 21 and enlisted in 1941 under his mother's maiden name of McArthur. He was known as "Mac" thereafter. He transferred from the PMF to the AIF in October 1941. When the Japanese entered the war in 1941, Grant was in a training camp at Cowra and was recruited by Major Paul Kneen to serve in special units. In 1942, the Fifth Independent Company was formed and Grant joined the 2/5 Independent Company. With brief specialist training but few basic infantry skills, the unit embarked for acclimatisation in Port Moresby before being airlifted into Wau and Bulolo, where the 2/5 carried out constant patrolling, interspersed with raids on Japanese positions. Grant was commissioned in early 1944, and in 1945 was committed with 2/12 Commando Squadron, 9 Aust Div to North Borneo and liberation of Sarawak, and from there to Labuan at war's end.



On his return to Australia in 1949 he was given a regular commission and posted as OC / Instructor AUSTMIT (Australian Methods of Instruction Team). He remained with AUSTMIT until the end of 1951 when he attended Staff College Queenscliff. After graduating from Staff College he spent a brief period with HQ 5 Inf Bde in Sydney and was then posted to Korea/Japan where he served as a company commander with 3RAR, a general staff officer on HQ1 Commonwealth Division and 2IC of 1 Commonwealth Division Battle School. In early 1955, he was appointed to raise and command 1 Cdo Coy (later 1 INF BN (Cdo) The city of Sydney's own Regiment). He remained in command of that unit until May 1959 during which time he was seconded to the Royal Marine Commandos in UK for seven months for specialist training. In 1958 he was attached for several weeks to 21SAS in what is now West Malaysia. In 1959, Grant resigned from the army and joined ASIS as a full-time career officer. He also joined the Citizen Military Forces. In the mid-1970s, Grant was sent to Jakarta by ASIS under diplomatic cover. His military background was very useful when dealing with Indonesian generals. He was seconded to Dept of Defence and almost immediately went overseas for seven months for a series of attachments in London and Washington. BRIG Grant resigned from the ARA in June 1961 to accept a civilian appointment with the Dept of Defence. He was appointed aide-de-camp to HM The Queen in 1975 and retired from the army in 1977.

Back in Australia he joined the CMF (now the Army Reserve) after leaving the ARA. He was posted as Deputy CO to COL George Warfe in 1RVR (Pantropic), CO 6RVR, Commanding Officer Training Group and Commander 4 Task Force. He was Honorary Colonel of the Royal Victoria Regiment from 1980 to 1984.

In his civilian capacity he filled a variety of appointments in Australia with OGA and visited South Vietnam in several occasions in 1962-63 to observe AATTV and US Special Forces. He was attached to HQ British Forces in Hong Kong from 1967 to early 1971. In 1976 he was detached to the Dept of Foreign Affairs and after undergoing language training at Point Cook, he served as counsellor with the Australian Embassy in Jakarta from 1977-79. Following his return to Australia, he served in several second division appointments with the Dept of Defence until his retirement in 1984.

He was Honorary Colonel of the Royal Victoria Regiment from 1980-84 and was Patron of the Commando Association in Sydney. He was subsequently appointed as Commander, 3 Division Field Force Group. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2003. He was appointed Regimental Colonel of 1st Commando Regiment in August 1990 and also appointed President of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria. His funeral service was on Saturday (15 June) at All Souls church, 48 Bay Rd, Sandringham at 1300 Hrs with Full military honours.