

Major Sidney Harold Cheeseman AM JP RAEME
7th March 1935 to 25th March 2015
Life Member with Gold Badge
Honorary Secretary Treasurer 1996-2012
Member of the League 1990-2015
Roll No.56



Major Sidney Harold Cheeseman AM JP RAEME died on 25th March 2015 after a long illness. Sid was born at Crows Nest, Sydney on 7th March 1935. He grew up around Sydney and joined the Army in 1950 as a 4th intake apprentice vehicle mechanic at age 14 – possibly the youngest person to enter the Army Apprentice School.

Not long after graduating from AAS he was posted to Korea after the Korean War and served there, and also with the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan for two years. He also served in Antarctica not long after that. In Vietnam he was with the first commitment of troops, serving with the Australian Logistic Support Company at Bien Hoa – part of the 1RAR Group which were with the US 173rd Airborne Brigade. After seven months there he continued his time in Vietnam with 101 Field Workshop.

He spent over three years on secondment in Thailand where he established the Trade Training Centre for Vehicle Mechanics. This was a major challenge for him, but also a great achievement, and gave him a lot of satisfaction for its success.

One of Sid's other achievements was his posting to the RAEME Training Centre, Bandiana where he trained adult tradesmen. His commitment, dedication and professionalism during his military career were recognised with the award of Member of the Order of Australia whilst at 1 Watercraft Workshop prior to his retirement.

Sid was an author who wrote the history of Army Apprentices – "From Boy to Soldier". He wrote numerous articles for Associations and his last was 'An Overview and History of 1 Watercraft Workshop. He loved military history and was prolific writer.

Sid's funeral was held at the Castlebrook Memorial Gardens Crematorium. There were over 120 people present of which about half were his family and friends and the remainder were either ex-Army Apprentices or RAEME members who served with Sid either in Australia or overseas. A wake was held at Castle Hill RSL Club. Our Association was represented by Graham Murray, Ken Duncan, Ian Johnson, Mal Campbell and his son, Kaye Shannon and Les Dennis.

Our condolences go to Sid's wife Mishie and sons Ken and David and their wives, children and grandchildren.

Taken from "The Last Post" – 32 Small Ship Squadron. Thanks to Harry Cole, Kerry Tunbridge, Ken Duncan and the Australia Army Apprentices Association for information provided for this article.

Sid was well known by members of the Ancient Mariners for his long and diligent work as Secretary Treasurer of the League and his efficient organisation of the Annual Luncheon.