

## AUSTRALIAN GUNNER OBITUARY RESOURCE

### Major General Ross Stuart Buchan

23.10.1935 to 07.02.2003

Edited Version by P J Bruce, OAM



Major General Ross Buchan entered RMC Duntroon in 1954 and graduated into the Royal Australian Artillery in December 1957. His service with the Gunners included postings with 1 Field Regiment in 1959, 101 Field Battery in Malaya 1959-1961, Adjutant 3 Field Regiment 1961-63, Adjutant 1 Field Regiment 1964, a Senior Instructor at the School of Artillery in 1967, Commanding Officer 1 Field Regiment in 1973, and Staff Officer Grade One Operations Headquarters RAA 1st Division in 1974.

Ross saw operational service with AATTV in SVN in 1966/67. Non-Corps postings included service with 13 National Service Training Battalion on graduation, as a staff officer on Headquarters 1st Division and in Canberra, and an exchange posting to Training and Doctrine Command in the USA. Ross was Commandant 1 RTB, and later served as a Director General in DOD. His last appointment was as GOC Training Command between 1987 and 1991.

Ross was Mentioned in Despatches for his service with AATTV His citation reads: *"Major Buchan distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the period 15 July 1966 to 2 July 1967, while serving as 1 Corps G3 Training Advisor to 1 Corps Scout Dog and Sentry Dog Platoon. His Distinguished service in these positions was conspicuously marked by outstanding leadership, exceptional efficiency and organisational abilities, and outstanding professional competency in all training matters. Beside the duties mentioned, Major Buchan was also the senior Australian Advisor to 1 Corps Tactical Zone, and as such, he was administratively responsible for all Australian VIP visits. He performed all of these tasks with outstanding efficiency and diplomacy, in the boat and by foot, to visit training sites. The unselfish devotion of his time and efforts in making inspection trips and liaison visits gave the status of 1 Corps the boost necessary to create more effective ARVN units. Major Buchan's high degree of professional competency coupled with outstanding leadership in the conduct and accomplishments of the mentioned above is truly noteworthy and deserves the highest praise. His performance throughout his tour was exceptionally meritorious and reflects the highest military qualifications upon himself and his country."*

In the Queen's Birthday 1989 Honours List, Ross was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) *"In recognition of service to the Australian Army as General Officer Commanding Training Command."*

On leaving the Service, Ross retired to Valla on the mid north coast of NSW. From late 1991 to 1994 he was a Services member of the Veterans' Review Board. Major General Ross Buchan was well known throughout the Gunner community and will be sadly missed. Major General J P Stevens, AO extended the sympathy of the Regiment to his wife Carole, his daughter Nikki and her children, and his daughter Samantha and her husband.

**Acknowledgements:**

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- Major General J P Stevens, AO Representative Colonel Commandant (2003)
- David Troedel (Ex 101 Field Battery)