

## AUSTRALIAN GUNNER OBITUARY RESOURCE

### **Monsignor Gerald Anthony Cudmore, AM**

**( 10 February 1933 – 21 April 2004 )**

**By Arthur Burke, OAM  
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Sadly, Monsignor Gerald Anthony (Gerry) Cudmore AM our old mate and good friend to so many Gunners passed away on 21 April 2004 following the removal of life support systems required as the result of a sudden and severe heart attack. He had only just celebrated his three score years and ten (plus one) on 10 February.

Gerry joined the Army on full time duty in 1961 in the Mornington area and quickly established a warm camaraderie with staff and trainees at Portsea and Balcombe. He remained there till his posting to the 1 RAR Group to go to Vietnam in 1965. Blokes from the 105<sup>th</sup> Field Battery fondly remember the 'Padre on the bicycle' who

regularly conducted before-action masses using the bonnet of an American jeep as his alter.

Chaplain Cudmore then spent a year in Far Eastern Land Forces (British Army) FARELF before returning to the Liverpool area. Following a couple of years at Puckapunyal, Gerry joined the character guidance section of the Australian Chaplains Conference which again took him back to FARELF, saw him living in the Officers' Mess at the School of Artillery at North Head and all around Australia from then onwards. There were very few Gunners who did not meet Father Cudmore in the late 1960s and 1970s. His capabilities and nature eventually led him to the appointment of Chaplain General of the Army. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours in 1988 in recognition of service to the Australian Army as Principal Chaplain

Gerry retired from the military but continued parish work with a vengeance in Melbourne and was made parish priest of the Armadale and Toorak partnered parishes at the time of his untimely death.

Gerry was a good personal friend who would do anything for 'his Diggers'. His thoughtful and astute advice to generations of students, subalterns and staff at the School of Artillery was legendary. Vale Gerry Cudmore – worker for God, guide for Diggers and a wonderful friend and confidante.