

BARRINGTON GEORGE WILLIAM INGRAM (1975 – 1978)

BARRINGTON GEORGE WILLIAM INGRAM (1932 - 2021), was born on the 29 September 1932 at Caulfield, Victoria, the eldest of three children of Victorian born parents, Edgar Cooper Ingram, builder, and his wife Grace, nee Holman, whose father William Holman, a mining engineer from Bendigo, invented the 'Holman Compressor', still used in mining operations.

Barrington, best known as 'Barry', was born during Australia's 'Great Depression', a 'Polio' epidemic was rife in Melbourne's schools, and in his seventh year of age, World War II commenced. Fortunately, he spent many of those formative years with relatives on Victorian country properties.

His initial education commenced in Melbourne, at a State School, continued with secondary study at Wesley College. The HQ US Army occupied the Wesley College Senior school premises. During those years most men were absent at War, his teachers were often the same age as his senior classmates; the workload was shared by women and veterans from the First World War. School yards included 'slit Trenches', and anti bombing drills were conducted each day. Each suburban household had a bomb shelter, and gas masks, the street Air Raid Warden conducted drills. As an Army School Cadet Barry maintained his personal issued 'Lee Enfield .303 Rifle' at home and learned to use it at firing ranges.



On the 8 August 1952, 'Barry' enlisted as a Recruit, 373808, into the 5th Battalion, Victorian Scottish Regiment (5 VSR). Subsequent service included selection as a member of the Queen's Quarter Guard during her initial visit to Victoria. Advancing through the ranks to Sergeant, he was commissioned Lieutenant on the 6 August 1957.

On the 29 October 1955, at the Wesley College Chapel, he married Pamela (nee Wells), and they raised a son, Matthew, and daughters, Penelope, and Amanda (Mandy). Pamela would pre-decease Barry.

His commercial life commenced in 1949, as a warehouseman in a Textile Company, later developed with import and export activities as Managing Director of his personal company, and final years with a major Retail Corporation, retiring in October 2006.

From 1957 to 1964 he completed postings as Platoon Commander, Staff Officer HQ 4th Infantry Brigade, and was promoted to Captain. In an Army re-organization, he was posted to the 1st Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment (Pentropic) (1 RVR), as a Company 2IC, and then as Battalion Intelligence Officer. Between 1964 and 1968, after receiving the award of best result at the 3rd Military District Command & Staff Training Unit 'Tactics & Administration Course', he was promoted to Major and OC Support Company 1 RVR (Post-Pentropic). Within another Army re-organization, he retained the posting, serving with the newly formed 5th Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment.

Upon the formation of the 3rd Military District Officer Cadet Training Unit, he was appointed Senior Instructor, and then the same role with the 3rd Military District Command & Staff Training Unit.

During the period 1969 to 1971, while the Vietnam war was being conducted, he completed postings with HQ 4 Task Force (as DAA&QMG), active duty during a CMF Officer's Tour of Vietnam with 6th Battalion Royal Australia Regiment from 6 – 20 August 1969, Second in Command 1st Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment, and with HQ 3rd Infantry Division, as Chief Instructor Centralized Recruiting. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, he assisted with planning the forthcoming Army re-organization at HQ 4 Task Force.

From 1972 to 1974 he commanded the 1 RVR, the metropolitan battalion He was also tasked to create a 'Ready Reserve Battalion' (3 RVR), by combining all resources available to Infantry within Victoria. From 1975 to 1978 he commanded the 2 RVR, the country battalion, the predecessor to the 8/7 RVR.

From 1979 until 1982, he completed postings as Chief Instructor 3rd Military District Command & Staff Training Unit, Staff Officer Grade 1 HQ 3rd Training Group, and completed a Senior Officer's Tactics Refresher Course at the Australian Land Warfare Centre (Canungra).

In November of 1979 he served on the staff of the HQ IX Corps (Augmentation) United States Army during a world-wide mobilization exercise centered on Hawaii when the South Korean President was assassinated.

On 28 September 1982 he retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on reaching the Compulsory Retirement Age.

For his service Barry was awarded:

- Member of the Order of Australia,
- Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp Vietnam
- Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal
- Reserve Forces Decoration with 1st Clasp
- National Medal with 1st Clasp
- Efficiency Decoration with 1st Clasp
- Australian Defence Medal
- Letter of Commendation Headquarters IX Corps (Augmentation) United States Army.