

## Mervyn Arthur Frederick Wilson – A Granville Born Man The Long Journey Home

### Operation Crimp Vietnam War 1966



Photograph Courtesy of Eunice Wernhard sister.

Mervyn Wilson was one of the thirty three soldiers left overseas when the Vietnam War was finished. Due to the work of the families signing petitions and the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia lobbying the Federal Government to bring the men home, this would not have happened.

Mervyn was the son of Albert Arthur Wilson and Martha Lillian Wilson nee Mallinson. He was born in Granville on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1936. He was the great grandson of George Mallinson who arrived in Australia from Yorkshire, England in 1886.

George had two sons fight in World War 1 James Edward Mallinson who was killed in Belgium on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1917 and his other son George Richerby Mallinson who returned to Australia.

Mervyn was twenty five years old when he joined the Australian Army, four years before he was killed. He was attached to 1 Royal Australian Regiment, D Company; his nickname was "Scuffs". 1RAR was restricted to security operations defending the airbase. However, in September 1965, the Australian government lifted these restrictions, and 1RAR was able to be fully employed as a manoeuvre battalion. The Regiment participated in search and destroy missions, patrolling and security operations. 1RAR's patrol program reduced enemy activity around the Bien Hoa Airbase.

In early 1966 1RAR was involved in Operation Crimp (8-14 January). This was a search-and-destroy operation in the Hobo Woods, north of Saigon. During Crimp, 1RAR uncovered the Cu Chi tunnel complex. A search of the tunnels resulted in the capture of thousands of documents, weapons and supplies. It was during this operation that Mervyn a stretcher bearer was killed by a sniper whilst he was treating Private Barry Delaney on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 1966.



Mervyn Arthur Wilson was buried in the Terendak Military Cemetery, Melaka, Malaysia. It was from this cemetery that Mervyn Wilson along with others interred with him, the fight of Vietnam Veterans began the crusade to bring the men home.

Terendak Military Cemetery, Melaka, Malaysia  
Commonwealth War Graves.

Early on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016, the remains of the Australians who died in Vietnam was removed from the Hercules aircraft and after a private ceremony conducted for the relatives and families was loaded onto thirty three hearses supplied by Guardian Funerals each with a flag draped coffin. The convoy with their precious began the long journey to Parramatta.



Photograph courtesy of Guardian Funerals

Parramatta City Council was given the task of organising the funeral procession through the Parramatta central business district. People lined the route which went past the Prince Alfred Square War Memorial where veterans and the community gathered to pay their respects.



Parramatta Photograph Courtesy of George Gittany Photography

The remains of Mervyn Arthur Wilson were buried in the Soldiers section of Rookwood Cemetery.



Eunice and Guy Wernhard Courtesy ABC

Eunice Wernhard nee Wilson is the sister of Mervyn, live on the Central Coast remembers her mother and father receiving the news of the death of her brother. His death caused hardship for the family, his wife and two children were devastated.

The Wilson Family lived at 15 Gibbons Street, Auburn in 1930, at 17 Malcolm Street Granville from 1933 to 1949 when they moved to 15 Yamba Street, The Entrance, Mervyn was a Junior Life Saver during this period. The couple then moved to Tamworth in 1963.

Mervyn was a musician, playing in a group called the Mt Kindred Rythem Rockers, they are pictured here on exercise Nutcracker Left to right are Nick Peet (Guitar)? Walker, Frank Baker (Drums) John Fleming (Slap Bass), Ivan Phillips (In white hat playing mouth organ) Corporal

or sometimes Sergeant Reginald Charlesworth Administration Company (Money lender, Scoundrel etc mouth organ) Mervyn Wilson Killed in Action Vietnam 1965-1966 (prune tins) Band information and Photos supplied by Frank Baker to the <http://www.1rar.org.au/association-history/1960s/>



Blue Lanyard Red Banner



Bandsman and medic. Infantry medical orderlies are also highly trained musicians in the battalion band. Here Merv Wilson concentrates during a performance.

(John Seagg)

Mervyn was a member of the battalion band. This information has been offered by Mr Greg Corkeron if you can help him his email is [gcorkeron@tricolour.queensu.ca](mailto:gcorkeron@tricolour.queensu.ca)

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