



Brigadier L R GREVILLE DSO

[1927 – 2023]



Brigadier Greville was President of the Club in 1986 - 87

Leon (“Lee”) Rodric Greville was born 10 August 1927 at Queenscliff, Victoria. He was the son of Colonel Sydney Jamieson Greville OBE [1899 – 1982]¹ and Doreta (“Reta”) Mary (née Spring) [1900 – 1994] (married 1925). His elder brother was Brigadier Phillip Jamieson Greville CBE [1925 – 2011]² and their younger sister Patricia was married to Major General Ron Grey AO, DSO.

Lee was educated at Canberra High School (1938-39), Box Hill High (1940-41) and Essendon High (1942-43). At 16, he entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon and graduated in 1946 into the Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

¹ Colonel Sydney Greville – Professional Soldier; 6th Division Signals, WW2; CO British Commonwealth Forces Base Signals Regiment, Korea,

² Brigadier Phillip Greville – graduated RMC 1944; 2/8 Fd Coy, New Guinea, WW2; graduated civil engineering University of Sydney; Aslt Pnr PI Comd 1 RAR Korea; captured and PoW; Comd 1 ALSG Vietnam; Acting Comd 1 ATF Vietnam; Comd 4MD.

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

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Lee married Helen Margaret (“Peggy”) Lawrence [1926 – 2012] - a science graduate from Melbourne University, in Bendigo in 1951. They had 4 children:

- Richard, who followed his father to RMC Duntroon and served as an Army officer for 20 years, before resigning and pursuing management and training interests;
- Virginia, a graduate of UQ and ANU and a public servant, who served as Australian Ambassador to Chile and other South American countries and then Spain;
- Andrew, a graduate mining engineer from UQ who worked extensively overseas before becoming a company director and consultant, and
- James, a graduate of QUT who runs a film production company (*Two Little Indians*) and writes screenplays.

Lee’s distinguished military career is summarized below.



LT L.R. Greville - 1947

His first appointment was as a reinforcement officer to 67th Infantry Battalion (later 3RAR) in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) in Japan, where his father was also stationed.

Following duty as a Lieutenant platoon commander, he was promoted to Temporary Captain as Adjutant for a period, before commanding a rifle company for 18 months. In 1950, he was appointed ADC to the Commander-in-Chief BCOF, Lieutenant General H.C.H. (“Red Robbie”) Robertson CBE DSO.

Returning to Australia, he was posted as Adjutant 38th Battalion (Northern Victoria Regiment CMF) in Bendigo and served there throughout 1950. It was there that he met his wife Peggy. By this time the Korean conflict was under way and he was keen to join his old battalion, 3RAR, and began urging for a posting. This was successful and in June 1950, two weeks after his wedding, he joined 3RAR and was appointed 2iC of C Company. Following *Operation Commando* (at Maryang-San), during which his company commander was wounded, he acted as commander of C Coy for a short period and then was appointed as Adjutant for the remainder of his tour.

On return to Australia, he had several postings including attendance at Staff College, Queenscliff in 1956. After Staff College, he was promoted and posted to 8th Brigade (CMF) as Brigade Major. His next posting was to the UK School of Infantry at Warminster as an exchange instructor for 2 years.

Lee returned to Australia to 3 RAR at Enoggera and then, on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, to GSO1 at Army Office (Directorate of Military Operations and Plans) in Canberra. His next posting was to RMC Duntroon for 3 years as Senior Instructor, before appointment as Commanding Officer of 4RAR and a 12-month tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968-69.

Lieutenant Colonel Greville was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his service in command of 4 RAR in South Vietnam.

Returning to Brisbane, Lee was promoted and appointed as Colonel Administration HQ Northern Command. He then was Commandant of the Jungle Training Centre at Canungra for 12 months, before being posted to Japan for 3 years as Military (and later Defence) Attaché. Lee returned to Canberra and was promoted to Brigadier, Director-General of Army Development at Army Office.

He took early retirement from the Army in 1978 and returned to live in Brisbane where two of his four children were in school. In 1979 he accepted an appointment as Executive Director of the Queensland Division of the Australian Red Cross, a post which he held for 13 years before his next retirement. He then held an appointment as a military member of the Veterans' Review Board for 7 years.

Lee joined the Club in 1975. His first service on the Committee was as Vice-President (to Brigadier Murray Brown MC, ED) in 1985; then as President 1986 – 87; and as Immediate Past President 1988 – 89.

As President in 1988 he oversaw another approach to redevelop the Club's property (which did not proceed due to adverse market conditions of the time); and importantly commissioned FLTLT Murray Adams and LTCOL Peter Charlton to write the Club's centenary history.

He has been an enthusiastic golfer into his senior years and was Club Captain of Royal Queensland Golf Club 1985-86.

Brigadier Greville died peacefully on 14 April 2023 in Brisbane.



Peggy and Lee Greville

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- Contribution from Brigadier Greville April 2020.