



Colonel V. W. MULLINS RFD, ED



Lieutenant Colonel Mullins was President of the Club in 1981, and as Colonel Mullins in 1982

Vernard William Mullins was born at Childers in 1935. He is the son of William John [1900 – 1942], who worked at the Isis Central Mill, and Muriel Catherine Mullins (née Larfield) [1900 – 19xx]. He was an only child, and his father died when he was 7 years old.

He was educated at Christian Brothers College, Bundaberg.

Vern married Margaret Florence (née Hunter) at Brisbane in 1978. Margaret was the daughter of long-standing Club member Lieutenant Lincoln Hunter (a Second World War veteran). They have lived at Windsor, Toowong, St Lucia and Victoria Point.

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.

Please do not reproduce them or distribute them outside of the Club membership.

Following the Second World War, the Citizen Military Forces were re-established in 1948. Included in this re-establishment was the Regimental Cadets, and in 1949 a 14-year-old Vern Mullins joined them in 47th Infantry Battalion (The Wide Bay Regiment). In 1951 he moved to Brisbane and transferred as a Regimental Cadet to 11 Field Regiment RAA until 1953 and his 18th birthday.

His military career as an adult is summarized below:

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| 1953 | enlisted in 11 Field Regiment RAA in Brisbane |
| 1954 | National Service at Wacol |
| 1957 | Commissioned Lieutenant (Probationary) Royal Australian Artillery |
| 1960 | Promoted Captain |
| 1963 | Promoted Major |
| 1966 - 68 | United Nations Military Observation Team, Kashmir |
| 1969 - 72 | Second-in-Command 5 Field Regiment RAA in Brisbane |
| 1972 | Promoted Lieutenant Colonel |
| 1972 - 74 | Commanding Officer 5 Field Regiment RAA |
| 1975 | Joint Services Staff College, Canberra (student) |
| 1976 – 78 | Chief Instructor, Officer Cadet Training Unit, Wacol |
| 1979 – 81 | Chief Instructor, Command and Staff Training Unit, 1 MD |
| 1982 | Promoted Colonel |
| 1982 | Commandant, Reserve Command and Staff College, 1 MD |
| 1983 | Staff Officer, HQ 1 st Division, Enogerra |
| 1984 | Retired |

The Australian Army maintained a contingent under United Nations command in Kashmir from 1950 to 1985. The Observation Team's role was to monitor the compliance of the Indian and Pakistan armies in maintaining a truce and the cease-fire line. Until the mid-1970s a significant number of Captain / Major CMF / Army Reserve arms officers were deployed on full-time duty in this theatre, where a total of some 150 Australians served over the years.

(Then) Major Mullins' Chief Military Observer (the Chilean LTGEN Luis Tassara) reported glowingly on Vern's service – noting his fitness and professional skills including survey, navigation, and leadership of several mobile teams and field stations ... "Major Mullins has made a significant contribution to the mission".

Colonel Mullins has been awarded the Efficiency Decoration in 1969, and a First Clasp in 1975; and the Reserve Forces Decoration and First Clasp.

In 1951, Vern joined the Postmaster General's Department as a Trainee Technician. He remained with the PMG (and later Telecom) in technical telecommunications roles until he retired as a technical manager in 1995.

Colonel Mullins joined the Club in 1957. He joined the Committee in 1970 and served as Vice-President in 1979-80 (to President MAJGEN The Hon. J.L. Kelly CBE, RFD). He was President 1981 – 82, and Immediate Past President 1983 – 84.

In 1973 and 1981 he was involved in sub-committees considering redevelopments of the Club property; and in 1985 was the convenor of a sub-committee that reviewed the Club Rules.

Amongst the important initiatives of his presidency was the establishment of 11 modern, airconditioned accommodation suites for members and guests. During his time on the Committee (and before that as a member) Vern was at the forefront of developing the Club's social life and programs. The 1980's club balls were renowned events in Brisbane.

Vern has been active in the community for many years. Amongst his roles have been:

- United Service Institute (Qld) Committee member
- President of the RAA Association (Queensland) since 2008
- State Emergency Services (Western Suburbs) Deputy Group Leader and Group Leader
- Victoria Point Bowls Club President; and an involvement in bowls umpiring including Chairman of Umpires and service on the District Committee.

- An active scuba diver and instructor for some years.

Colonel Mullins and Ms Hunter were married at the Club in 1978, and he is reliably believed to be the first member to be married and have the reception at the Club.



Colonel Vern and Mrs Margaret Mullins

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 Colonel Mullins May 2020