

# Mundy, Brian Edward (4718424)



<b>Name</b>	<b>Mundy, Brian Edward Sapper</b>
<b>Service Number</b>	4718424
<b>Date of Birth</b>	25th March 1946
<b>Place of Birth</b>	Port Augusta SA
<b>Resident</b>	Victor Harbor SA

Image 1 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
Studio portrait of Brian Edward MUNDY, circa 1966

Brian Edward Mundy was born at Port Augusta on 25 March 1946, the son of Stanley William Mundy and Phyllis Joan Mundy (nee Brewster). He was educated at Port Augusta Primary and High Schools. He attained his Leaving Certificate in 1962. Brian joined the National Bank of Australasia and had been employed by them for three years at the time of his call-up for national service.

The National Service Act 1964, legislated on 24 November 1964, required 20-year old Australia males to serve in the Australian Army for a period of two years. The two-year period had been nominated by the Army General Staff as sufficient time for recruit and corps training and more than one year of regimental or unit service. The Defence Act was amended in May 1965 to provide that conscripts could be obliged to serve overseas, and in March 1966, Prime Minister Harold Holt announced that National Servicemen would be sent to Vietnam to fight in units of the Australian Regular Army.

The selection of conscripts was based on date of birth, and conscripts were obligated to give two years' continuous full-time service, followed by a further three years on the active reserve list. Although registration was compulsory, a process of selection by ballot determined who would be called up. Two ballots were conducted each year, one in March and one in September. There were 16 ballots in total. The ballots selected several dates in the selected period and all males with corresponding birthdays were called up for national service. The ballot was conducted using a lottery barrel with wooden marbles representing birthdays. For Brian, his ballot was the third draw, and drawn on the 1 March 1966. His ball number was 84.

Brian underwent his medical examination on 19 April 1966 and was classified as "A" and officially enlisted into the Australian Regular Army Supplement (National Service), or ARAS (NS) on 14 July 1966. Brian's 1966 national service registration papers recorded that he was a good candidate, having a clean appearance, and confident manner and that he was suitable for a consideration for

officer training. Brian's recruit pay while in National Service was a daily rate \$4.88, or \$68.32 per fortnight, and tax deductions at approximately \$6.72 which left \$61.60 per fortnight net per pay.

Between 1964-1972, over 804,286 20 year olds registered for the National Service Scheme. Brian joined in the ranks of 63,735 Nasho's who served with the Army. During that period the Army rejected 99,010 for they failed to meet medical, educational and psychological standards. 237,048 people were not eligible for the ballot but some elected to serve with the Civilian Military Forces (CMF). 3,563 people were given exemptions, 1,768 were found to have mental and physical disabilities and 1,242 were deemed to be conscientious objector by the court.

Brian was allocated the serial number 4718424. Right up until 1997, Australian states were represented by their military districts. In Brian's regimental serial number, the first digit 4, represented the military district in which he enlisted; 4 represented his state of South Australia. 1 being Queensland, 2 being New South Wales and the ACT, 3 being Victoria, 5 being Western Australia, 6 being Tasmania and 7 being the Northern Territory. The second digit in his regimental serial number of 7, represented all those under national service. Brian served his two year obligation under the National Service Scheme.

Basic training for national service recruits from South Australia and Victoria was undertaken at 2nd Recruit Training Battalion (2RTB), Puckapunyal in Victoria. At any given time, there were up to 4,000 recruits training at Puckapunyal. The Base also was home for the RAASC Training Centre and the 1st Armoured Regiment and the Armoured Training Centre.

Brian recalled that *"Upon arrival at 'Pucka', each recruit was given a short medical examination, a number of injections, regulation haircut (no hair) and his uniform and kit."*

For almost every army recruit, whether a conscript or volunteer, the initial experience of army basic training was a regime of discipline. The regimen was a shock to the system. For ten weeks it consisted of early reveille at dawn, 15 minutes for personal hygiene, 15 minutes for barracks maintenance, a quick breakfast, before being confronted by senior non-commissioned officers conducting barrack and uniform inspections. The remaining day was spent doing training that was very physical, a quick lunch and dinner was permitted in-between training before the nightly routine of cleaning and lights out at 2200 hours.

All recruits were given instruction in physical training, weapon handling and shooting, first aid, marching drill and field craft. Each recruit was to be trained in the basic skills of an infantryman regardless of which corps he might later be posted to.

Throughout Brian's training field craft was one of the essential skills taught to all trainees. The recruits were instructed in the use of all the military equipment issued to them, and how to set up a section and platoon harbour, fire and movement, camouflage and concealment.

With weapons and marksmanship training, recruits received instructions on all aspects of firearms. This consisted of the basic principles of shooting, to the elaborates of the finer points of the application of fire. They were shown the impact and fire power of different weapon systems at close hand on a 25m range. All recruits were required to pass all live fire shoots during the duration of their course. The basic infantry weapon was the Belgian designed-Australian manufactured FN 7.62mm self-loading rifle (SLR).

Physical fitness and training formed an integral part of military training throughout the Recruit Training Battalions with a large number of the instructors coming from the Royal Australian Artillery regiments who were generally renown (infamously) for their perceived ability to inflict

pain upon any unfit recruit. This style of training produced discipline and tenacity to endure almost any condition.

In navigation training classes, recruits were taught how to navigate in different terrains during day and night navigation exercises using a map, protractor & compass. They were given theory lessons on the aspects of navigation and then they had to apply the knowledge in a practical navigation scenario.

This routine continued for six days a week and recruits were generally given each Sunday off unless they were rostered for duty. Church parades were compulsory and 2RTB had churches and Padres for each of the major denominations. After the Sunday Service, recruits had time to themselves and leisure time was spent doing their personal laundry, uniform cleaning and maintenance and letter writing. Weekend leave was non-existent and private vehicles were only allowed to be brought back to the base after the mid-course break.

Half way during their recruit training, each recruit was given a four-day leave pass (which included a Saturday and Sunday) and allowed to travel to their nominated home address. All travel was at the recruit's private expense. 2RTB was the principal training establishment for national servicemen from Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. The soldiers that resided out of state were generally disadvantaged, as the travel time to and from their homes were included in the four days leave.

At the end of recruit training, each course held a passing out parade where formal platoon portraits were taken. At this time, each recruit was notified which corps they had been allocated to and what mustering they were selected for. Brian was posted to the Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) and underwent training at the School of Military Engineering (SME) at Casula (NSW). He arrived at SME on 21 September 1966.

Engineer training entailed attaining a high level of proficiency in the use of explosives, mine detection and clearance, water purification, bridge building and operating construction equipment. Corps training was completed on mid-November 1966 and Brian was posted to 18 Field Squadron, which at the time was based at Wacol (Qld). He remained there for twelve months until the Squadron transferred to Laverack Barracks in Townsville (Qld).

During his time at 18 Field Squadron, Brian participated in two army exercises, the first near Tin Can Bay (Qld) in 1967 and Shoalwater Bay, near Yeppoon in February 1968 (Exercise Grass Parrot). The military training area near Tin Can Bay became known as the Wide Bay Military Training Area. It was first developed and constructed in 1967 by No 7 Field Squadron, RAE. Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area came under the control of the Army in 1965; it is situated 100 km north of Yeppoon. Referred to as simply Shoalwater Bay, the army's prime reason for its acquisition was to use it for training troops in battalion sized formations prior to their deployment to Vietnam.

Exercise Grass Parrot was the largest exercise held in Shoalwater to that time. Both the 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) and 6 RAR were deployed there, along with supporting engineer, armoured and logistical units, principally 1 Company RAASC, which provided the supplies and transport to the deployed units.

During his time at the Squadron, the men of the unit built a light aircraft strip at Rosewood, near Amberley RAAF Base. Following this, 18 Field Squadron travelled twice to Tully in Far North Queensland where they built infrastructure for a training base located at Jarrah Creek, near Tully. This base was initially used for testing army tanks prior to their deployment in the Vietnam; today it is the home of the Jungle Training Wing, Combat Training Centre.

Brian says his happiest memories of his army service were when he was working in the field with fellow engineers operating the Caterpillar D4, D7 and D8 bulldozers and front-end loaders along with the Euclid wheel tractor-scrapers.

On 20 June 1968, Brian completed pre-discharge procedures at Northern Command Personnel Depot (NCPD) and proceeded to South Australia on annual leave prior to his discharge on 13 July 1968 at Central Command Personnel Depot (CCPD), Adelaide. 15,281 Nasho's served in Vietnam. Brian was one of over 44,000 conscripts who did not serve overseas in the Vietnam conflict. This did not diminish their service to the country.

Post-national service, Brian resumed his employment with the National Bank. He later married Joy Dawn McGuire and there were two children of the marriage. Brian retired in 2001. Both his he and Joy moved to Victor Harbor that year.

Brian was later entitled to the Anniversary of National Service Medal 1951-1972 and the Australian Defence Medal.

# References:

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*Compiled by the Victor Harbor RSL History Research Team, May 2020. Updated by M.Young 28/02/2026*

# Appendix

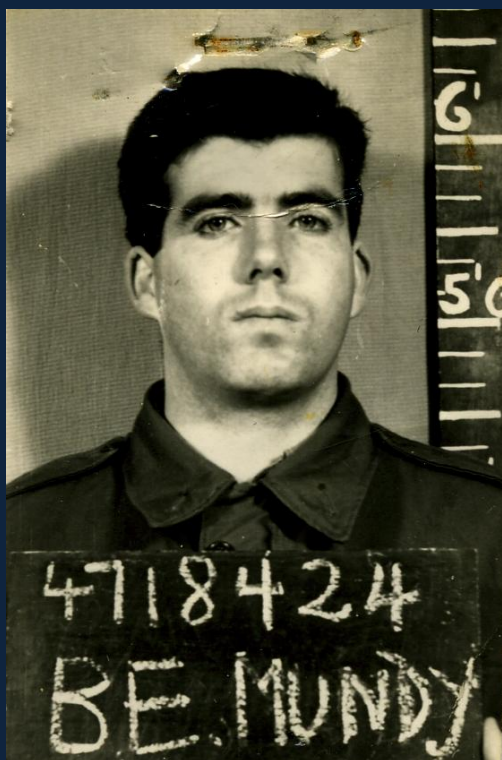


Image 2 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
Enlistment photograph of Brian Edward MUNDY; every soldier's paybook contained a photograph of the soldier on the inside front cover.



Image 3 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
View from the Ipswich Highway of 18 Field Squadron's barracks at Wacol (Qld). The Squadron moved to Laverack Barracks in Townsville in December 1967.

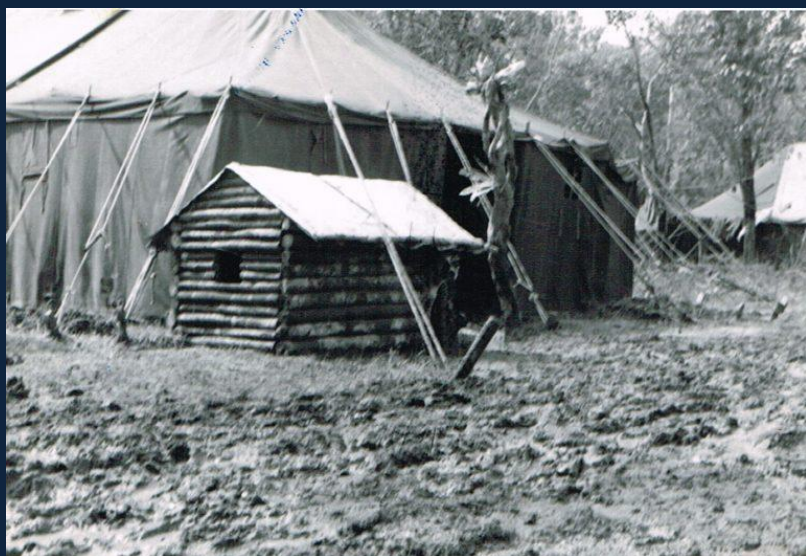


Image 4 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
Jarrah Creek Camp 1967: The kennel constructed by the Troop for the 'pig-dog' that wandered into camp and was adopted by the Troop.

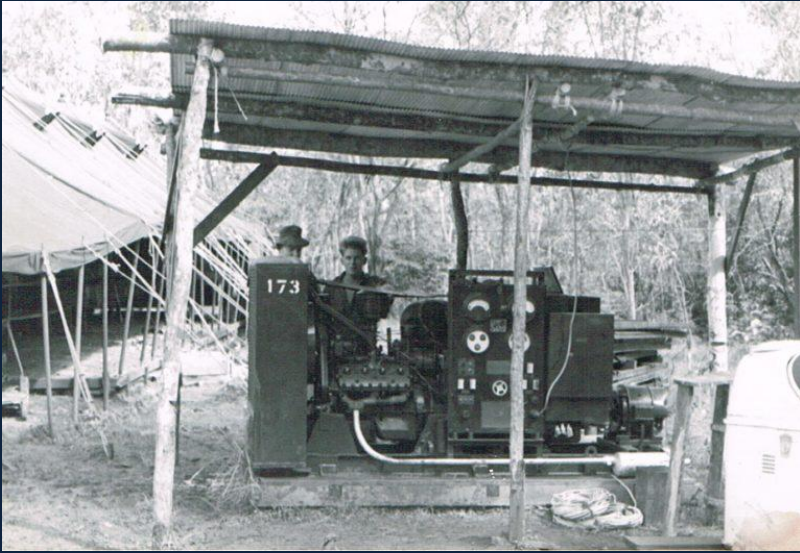


Image 4 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek Camp 1967: The 2KVA diesel generator that the Troop used to power lighting, refrigeration and washing machines.*



Image 5 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek Camp 1967: this photo shows the power lines running overhead between the tents.*



Image 6 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek Camp 1967: soldiers of the Troop are shown setting up the hot water heating unit.*



Image 7 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek Camp 1967: the latrines and shower block built by the Troop. The overhead tanks supply water for the showers; these would be filled daily by the Squadron's water truck.*



Image 8 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek Camp 1967: this view shows the road into the Troop's camp when it was first graded.*



Image 9 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek Camp 1967: the Euclid scraper is shown grading the road through the camp.*



Image 10 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek Camp 1967: a Caterpillar D4 or D7 is shown clearing the scrub to extend the training area*



Image 11 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek Camp 1967: a Caterpillar D4 or D7 is shown clearing the scrub to extend the training area*

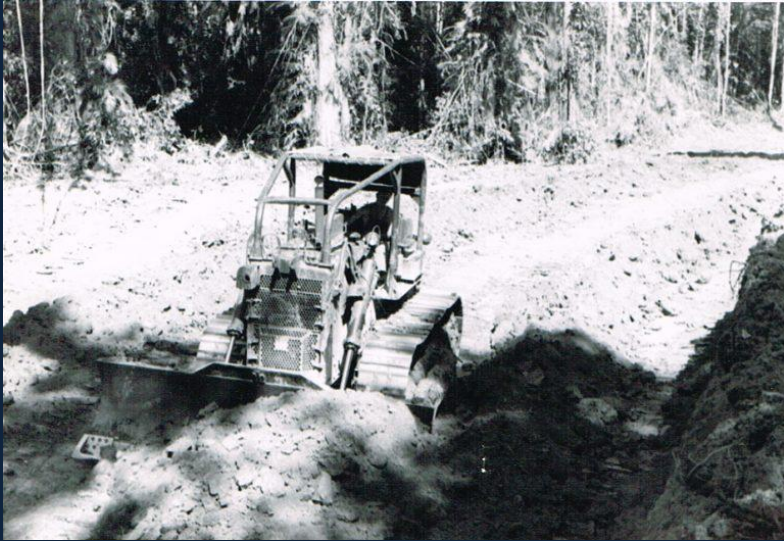


Image 12 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek Camp 1967: another image showing the extensive clearing operations.*



Image 13 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek Camp 1967: the sandy soil was heaped up and used for finishing the road into the training area.*



Image 14 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek Camp 1967: clearing operations.*



Image 15 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020

Jarrah Creek Camp 1967: No 2 Troop, 18 Field Squadron shown during a break from clearing and construction work. Sapper Brian Mundy is in the front row, third from left (note the long hair). Front row, fourth from right is Sapper Russell Hunt of Wangaratta; he is holding the troop's mascot – the piglet.



Image 16 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020

Jarrah Creek Camp 1967: this D7 is shown grading sand to be used in the completion of the roads.



Image 17 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
Jarrah Creek Camp 1967: this front-end loader is shown loading up the International Tipper with sand for the roadworks.



Image 18 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
A Lysaght storage shed built by No 2 Troop at Rosewood in late 1967.



Image 19 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
The observation tower at the light aircraft landing strip built by No 2 Troop in 1967



Image 20 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
Jarrah Creek (Tully), June 1967: Brian is shown in front of his tent.

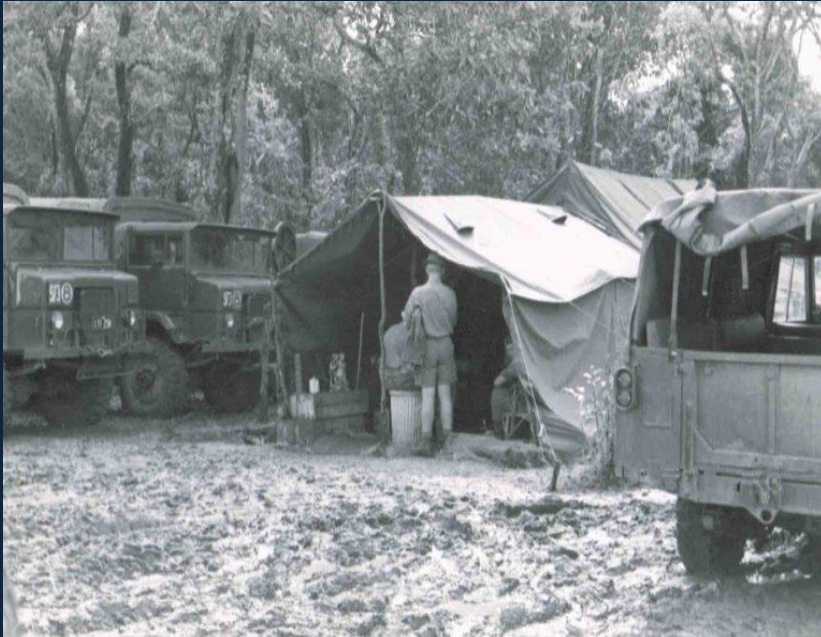


Image 21 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarrah Creek (Tully), June 1967: Brian is shown in front of his tent.*



Image 22 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarrah Creek (Tully), June 1967: the road leading into the Engineer's camp, it was later tarred.*



Image 23 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek (Tully), June 1967: a Leopard tank undergoing evaluation..*

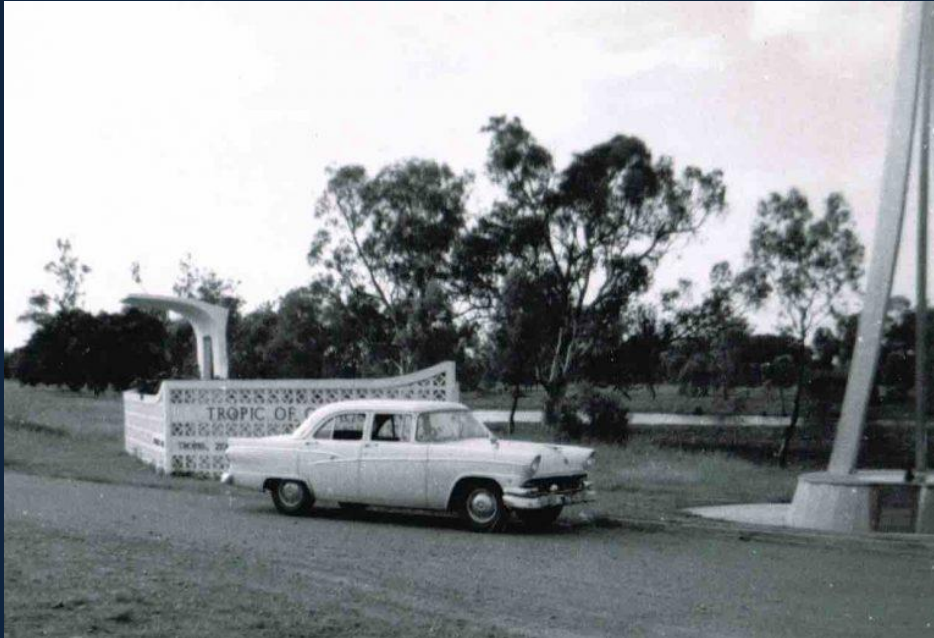


Image 24 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Rockhampton, late 1967: Brian purchased this 1956 Ford Customline in Brisbane and drove it back to the unit in Townsville. The vehicle is parked in front of the Tropic of Capricorn sign on the outskirts of 'Rocky'.*



Image 25 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area (Qld), February 1968: this image shows five soldiers from the Troop holding a mud crab on the beach. The soldier on the left is a second lieutenant.*



Image 25© Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*An M113 Armoured Personnel carrier (APC) at Jarrah Creek undergoing testing and evaluation in early 1968.*



Image 26 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*Jarraah Creek, 1968: the tank is believed to be a German Leopard which was evaluated for possible purchase by the Australian Army as a replacement for Centurion tanks.*



Image 27 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
*This picture has Brian photographing a Leopard tank fording the river at Jarraah Creek, early 1968.*

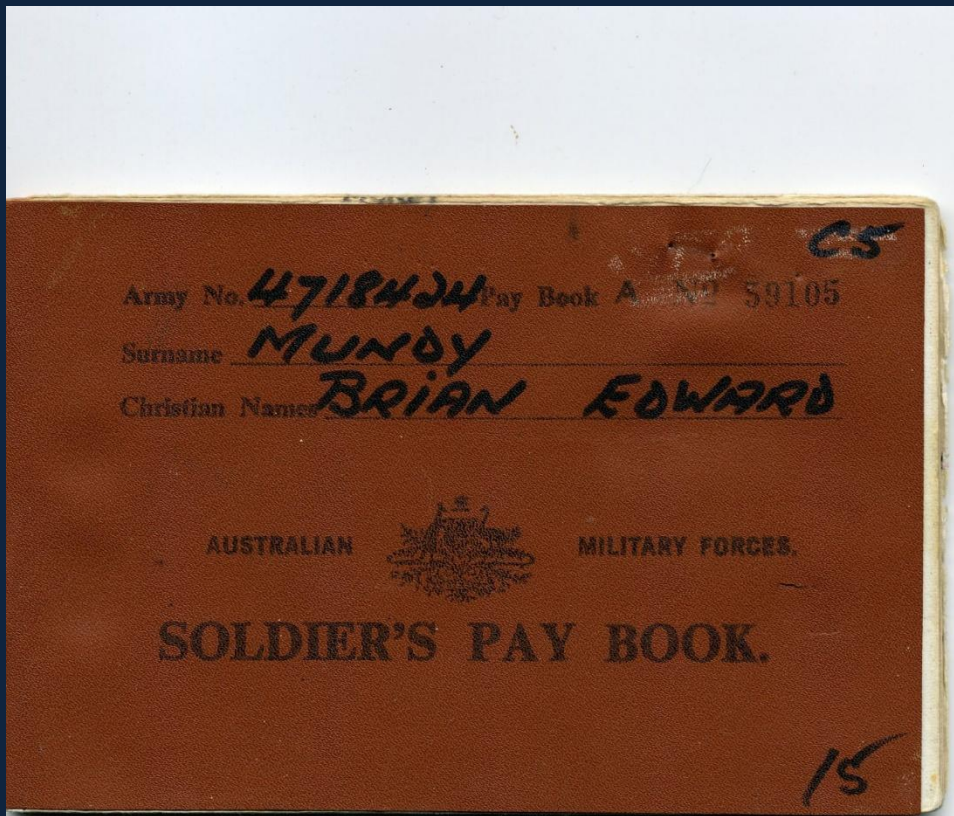


Image 28 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020

Front cover of sapper Mundy's paybook, and below (37B); The summary page of the paybook. Each paybook had a unique number.

**SOLDIERS PAYBOOK**

ARMY No. 4718424 SURNAME MUNDY A No 39105  
 OTHER NAMES BRIAN EDWARD

RANK	RELIGION	SPECIAL ALLOWANCE APPROVALS NOTIFIED by CAP					
		Allce	Daily Rate	W.E.F.	Daily Rate	W.E.F.	
<u>Sec</u>							
<u>GPR 6P3</u>							

TAX CONCESSIONAL DEDUCTIONS

FIN. YEAR	AMOUNT

THIS PAYBOOK WAS ISSUED BY  
 PAYMASTER No. 30 on 19-7-66  
 (DATE)

[Signature]  
 SIGNATURE OF PAYMASTER

Image 29 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020

Soldiers pay book page

PAY HISTORY				SECTION				
DAILY RATES OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES				FORTNIGHTLY RATES OF DEDUCTIONS AND ALLOTMENTS				
ACTIVE PAY (MA/PA/SA)		GROSS DAILY PAY	GROSS FORTNIGHTLY PAY	TAX	DFRB	RENT	TOTAL F/N DEDUCTIONS	FORTNIGHTLY NET CREDIT EARNINGS RATE
4-88		4-88	68-32	6-72			6-72	61-60
OCCURRENCE: H.S. LITAKE 3/66 PVA No. 01/04				Effective Date: 14-7-66 Signature of Authorized Person: [Signature]				
4-88		4-88	68-32	6-72	40-00	10-00	56-72	11-60
OCCURRENCE: WF 12s PVA No. 01/04				Effective Date: 15-7-66 Signature of Authorized Person: R. Smith				
5-10		5-10	71-40	7-40	40-00	10-00	57-40	14-00
OCCURRENCE: GPV PVA No. 02/67				Effective Date: 22-7-66 Signature of Authorized Person: [Signature]				
5-15		5-15	72-10	7-60	40-00	10-00	57-60	\$ 14-5
OCCURRENCE: GAV PVA No. 03/19/67				Effective Date: 3/2/67 Signature of Authorized Person: [Signature]				
5-15		5-15	72-10	7-60		10-00	17-60	\$ 54-5
OCCURRENCE: OIA PVA No. 04/24				Effective Date: 5/5/67 Signature of Authorized Person: [Signature]				
5-15		5-15	72-10	7-60	44-00		51-60	\$ 72-5
OCCURRENCE: OIA PVA No. 05/25				Effective Date: 19/5/67 Signature of Authorized Person: [Signature]				

Image 30 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020 Pay Book pages

LOCAL LEAVE GRANTED					AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES	
FROM		TO		Signed by	AAF - 95 Reprinted Feb., 1967	
Hours	Date	Hours	Date		IDENTIFICATION CARD AND LOCAL LEAVE PASS	
					* <b>LIVING IN</b>	
					No. 718424 Rank SPR	
					NAME <b>BRIAN MUNDY</b>	
					Unit <b>N. COMD. PERS DEP. FRASERSON, ASHROVE</b>	
Whose specimen signature appears hereon is a member of the above unit and is on local leave as per dates and hours shown on back hereof.						
Bearer's Signature				Adjt.		
* Note: Space for any restrictions imposed on local leave.						

Image 31 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020 Local leave pass issued to Brian whilst he was at Northern Command Personnel Depot (NCPD) undergoing pre-discharge procedures.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Checked by N. COMD. PERS. DEP.  
FRASERS PDK. ASHGROVE

Northern Command Personnel Depot,  
ASHGROVE. 4060.

Date: 20 JUN 1968

No: H.718424. Rank SPR. Name B.E. MUNDY

The abovenamed member has returned all articles of clothing and equipment to the QM with the exception of those articles shown on the back hereof.

I certify that I have been notified of these deficiencies which amount to \$ ..... and that a charge will be made against me on WF 253

No: .....

Debtor's Signature B. Mundy

Adjustment entered in paybook No: .....

This member is now ready for discharge.

..... For Capt.  
QM. N. COMD PERSONNEL DEPOT.

Note: This form is to be presented at Cash Office before payment can be made.

Image 32 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
Clearance certificate from NCPD issued as part of his pre-discharge procedure.

Register No P72181	<b>CERTIFICATE OF DISCHARGE</b>		AAF - A 16 Reprinted June, '67
Army No 4718424	Rank Sapper	Previous Army Service:	NIL
Name Brian Edward MUNDY		Decorations and Medals:	NIL
Date of Enlistment: 14/7/66 at Adelaide SA		Service Badge:	NIL
Date of Discharge: 13/7/68 at Adelaide SA		General Remarks:	
Reason for Discharge: Expiration of service in the ARAS(NS)		Date 5/9/68	<u>[Signature]</u> Captain Records Officer Central Army Records Office
Army Trade or Posting: Plant Operator		Signature of Soldier	<u>B.E. Mundy</u>
Army Trade Qualifications: NIL		<p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <p>This certificate is issued without alterations, erasures or blank spaces. You should on no account part with this certificate. If using it as a reference you should NOT mail it but should use a copy certified by a responsible person. This certificate will NOT be replaced unless the original can be produced to Army Records in an identifiable form.</p>	
Types of Employment During Service: Recruit, and Corps training 5 months. Regimental and Plant Operator duties with Engineer unit 1 year 7 months		<p><b>WARNING</b></p> <p>On leaving Her Majesty's Service you are hereby reminded that the unauthorized communication by you to another person AT ANY TIME of any information you may have acquired which might be useful to an enemy in War renders you liable to prosecution under the Official Secrets Act.</p>	
Total Effective Service: 2 years NIL days			
Service Outside Australia: NIL years NIL days			

Image 33 © Brian Mundy Collection 2020  
Certificate of Discharge dated 5 September 1968 issued to Brian which records details of his service procedure.