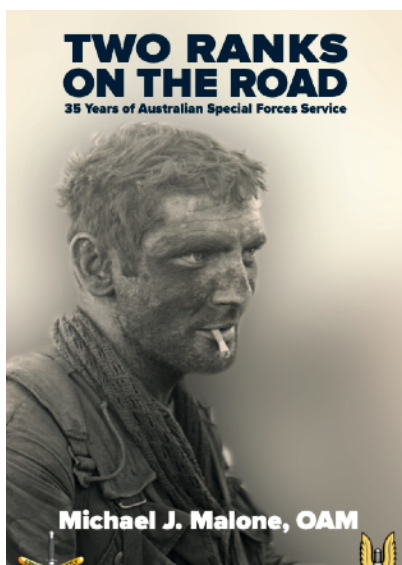




MICHAEL J. MALONE, OAM TWO RANKS ON THE ROAD

35 Years of Australian Special Forces Service



It was 19 September 1966, and I had commenced my long Army career, inspired by my father and his family's service in WW2, as well as the heroism at Long Tan. I was determined to go the distance: no matter what.

From humble beginnings in country New South Wales, in 1966 Michael J. (Mick) Malone was an aimless nineteen-year-old working unsatisfying jobs in manufacturing plants and wool stores. Everything changed after news reports of heroism from Vietnam, where young Australian soldiers distinguished themselves at the Battle of Long Tan. Inspired, Mick Malone immediately followed a family tradition and enlisted in the Australian Army, where he would carve out a remarkable 35 year career.

'Two Ranks On The Road, 35 Years of Australian Special Forces Service' tells the story of one man's military journey: a man who was never afraid of a challenge, who fought for what he believed was right, and would always stand up for his mates. A chance encounter in basic training led to the opportunity to cross the country to take on the fearsome 'Cadre': the selection course for the famed Australian Special Air Service Regiment. There, the young knockabout from the bush was selected to join the finest military outfit in Australia, preparing to do their bit in Vietnam.

This book tells, in extraordinarily honest and vivid detail, the story of a military life. This is a story of a man who never took a backward step, never shied away from danger, and who was a vital and formative force in developing the early careers of some of Australia's most prominent soldiers and military leaders. This book traces Mick Malone's entire military career, including his time in combat as a trooper with 3 Squadron SAS in Vietnam, his influence in developing innovative counter-terrorism and Vehicle Mounted techniques across Australia, his

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REVIEWS

"Michael Malone, soldier, author, Vietnam Veteran and family man takes the reader on a real-life Australian Story. It is refreshing to read a story covering Australian values, courage in war and a strong family bond. This book will appeal to young and old alike. A great read."

Patrick (Pat) Cullinan SC, OAM ex SASR and 1 Cdo Regt, Author of 'White Sherpas'

"This hugely entertaining and moving account of Mick's life and time in the Special Air Service before, during and after the Vietnam War is [...] filled with astonishing detail [...] it should take its rightful place among the important national records, not only of the man, but of Australia at war and peace."

Tim Ryan, Chairman, CONSOLUM

"... This is a knock-about soldier's story told by a knock-about bloke. It is both fascinating and informative and very hard to put down. Mick's journey from adolescence to senior soldier in the Australian Army's Special Forces is packed with humour, anecdotes and amazing facts that capture the reader's imagination. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in how the Australian Army produces leaders of the calibre of Michael J. Malone..."

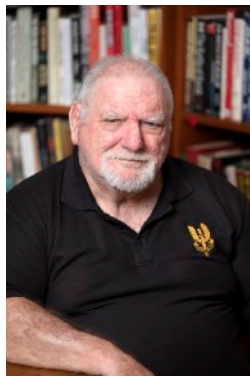
John E Tick, Lt Col (Retd), Sapper

tenure instructing at the Royal Military College (Duntroon), his time as Regimental Sergeant Major of 1 Commando Regiment (Sydney) and as 2IC of SAS Training Squadron (Swanbourne), and in retirement, as Army Museum administrator and renowned book dealer. This is a remarkable story of a humble family man who has touched countless lives by carving his own path and doing what was right.

'Two Ranks On The Road, 35 Years of Australian Special Forces Service' follows Mick Malone's two bestselling previous books: the highly collectible SAS - A Pictorial History of the Australian Special Air Service, 1957-1997 (1997), and the widely acclaimed SIMMO – A Biography of Ray Simpson, VC, DCM – One of Australia's Greatest Soldiers (2015). Both of these books delved deeply into the mythology and mystique of what makes the SAS so important. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mick Malone was inspired to continue this exploration and succumbed to the regular encouragement to write his memoir of his military career. Working steadily over four years, Two Ranks on the Road took shape as a heartfelt meditation on mateship, duty, and the power of memory, written with editorial collaboration with his widely-published academic son, Dr. Toby Malone, who is based in Toronto. Mick was able to draw on his own memories, fortified by the recollections of many of his mates along whom he proudly served. At a pivotal historical moment in which the military's role is once again questioned, this is a book that emphasises the unsung heroism of so many hard-working soldiers: its pre-Anzac Day 2024 release in tribute to the sacrifices that those individuals have made.

It shows what can happen when you back yourself, never take a backward step, and pass on what you have learned. This is a vital read for anyone with an interest in the career of an understated, decorated Australian legend.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY



Michael J. Malone OAM was born in Binnaway, NSW, in 1947 and joined the Army in 1966 in response to the Vietnam War. He was selected to join the Special Air Service Regiment in 1967 and served in Vietnam with 3 Sqn SASR in 1969-70.

After returning from active service, Malone remained an active member of SAS counter-terrorism and vehicle mounted troops, and was highly influential on young soldiers while on postings that took him to the Royal Military College, Duntroon; School of Infantry, Warminster; RSM 1 Commando Regiment, Sydney; and as 2IC of SAS Training Squadron.

He retired from active service in 1993 and has had great success as a museum administrator, military book dealer, and author, including the highly successful SAS - A Pictorial History of the Australian Special Air Service, 1957-1997 (1997), and the widely acclaimed SIMMO – A Biography of Ray Simpson, VC, DCM – One of Australia's Greatest Soldiers (2015). Decorated with the Order of Australia Medal for his service to the military, Mick Malone is a father and grandfather, and lives in Perth with his wife, Jo.

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