

Brigadier R.S.P. Amos, RFD, ED 1927 to 2003

Brigadier Roger Stuart Phillip Amos, RFD, ED, passed away on the 18th August 2003 after a long illness. Known to many as 'The Brig' or 'Uncle Phil', he was a stalwart of the Corps for many years. He was the well-respected Patron of the RAEME Association in New South Wales, and only relinquished his role earlier this year when illness prevented his continuation. Phil Amos was one of only two (2) RAEME officers to reach the rank of Brigadier while serving part-time.

He studied electrical engineering at university, and enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) on the 29th July 1948. Initially joining the Sydney University Regiment, where he became a Lance Corporal, he transferred to 103 Infantry Workshop on the 15th April 1950, where his long career with RAEME began. Not long after his transfer to the Corps, he was promoted to Corporal.

Although having the qualifications to become an officer, the RAEME 2nd Division policy at the time was for all new officers without prior service to spend time in the ranks before sitting for the first appointment examinations. Soldiering on in the ranks he was promoted to Sergeant in January 1951, and commissioned as a probationary Lieutenant on the 10th April 1951. He was posted to 102 Infantry Workshop, and his rank was confirmed in March 1952.

Service in the workshop was followed by a posting to 17 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Light Aid Detachment (Technical Support Troop for our younger readers), where he served for three (3) years. During that time he was promoted to Captain.

As was often the case in the CMF, he was posted back to his original RAEME unit, 103 Infantry Workshop at Leichhardt, in February 1957, and appointed the Officer Commanding. Later that year he was promoted temporary Major, and this rank was made substantive in June 1958.

He transferred to the Reserve of Officers (Inactive List) in February 1961 for two and a half (2 ½) years, returning to the Active List in June 1963 as the DADEME (Deputy Assistant Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering).

In October 1964 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and posted to Headquarters 1 CRAEME Communications Zone. Changes in unit names and roles followed, but he remained a RAEME Lieutenant Colonel in 2nd Division until November 1969, when he was detached to Headquarters Communications Zone.

By this time in civilian life he was a Director of Email Limited, the large electrical switchgear and whitegoods manufacturer located at Waterloo in Sydney. The author of this article had then completed one (1) year of his apprenticeship with Email, and over the Christmas period was detached to the administrative section for a few weeks. Waiting to be called forward for enlistment into the CMF – in those days there was a waiting list – it was with trepidation that I entered the hallowed executive area one day, only to be met by none other than Phil Amos. He immediately knew whom I was, and that I wanted to join RAEME, and made me feel like a member of the Corps already.

In January 1972 he was appointed the AA & QMG of Headquarters 2nd Division, and on the 1st May was promoted Colonel and appointed Deputy Commander Eastern Command Training Group. At the end of 1973 he was posted to Headquarters Communications Zone (HQ COMMZ).

Promoted to Brigadier twelve (12) months later, he was appointed the Commander Communications Zone. Subsequently the unit was designated Headquarters Field Force Command

Logistic Planning Staff. It was during this period he was appointed Honorary ADC to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for a period of two (2) years beginning in May 1977.

Transferred to the Reserve CMF at the end of October 1982, he retired on 17th July 1984 after 36 years service, 34 of which were in RAEME.

Even in retirement he retained his interest in the Corps, and was the RAEME Colonel Commandant 2nd Military District from August 1983 to August 1989. As the RAEME Representative Colonel Commandant from July 1986 until August 1989, he did much to ensure that the Corps history was recorded, and was instrumental in the publication of “The Craftsmen of the Australian Army”.

During his retirement he was also the Honorary Colonel of the University of New South Wales Regiment from October 1985 to October 1991.

As Patron of the RAEME Association of New South Wales, he always provided valuable advice and guidance to the President and the Committee, and always had a word for individual members. His ‘pork pie hat’ will be sadly missed on ANZAC Day marches.

Honours and Awards:

Reserve Force Decoration & 1st Clasp
National Medal & 1st Clasp
Efficiency Decoration

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The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Major Stefan Hreszczuk and Mr Andy Moffat in the preparation of this article.