

NOMINAL ROLL Service Record	
Name:	CHARD, Reginald James
Service:	Australian Army
Service Number:	NX134343 (N247379)
Date of Birth:	31 Oct 1923
Place of Birth:	SYDNEY, NSW
Date of Enlistment:	8 Aug 1942
Locality on Enlistment:	DULWICH HILL, NSW
Place of Enlistment:	PORT MORESBY, PAPUA
Next of Kin:	CHARD, ANNE
Date of Discharge:	21 Jun 1946
Rank:	Private
Posting at Discharge:	55/53 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
WW2 Honours and Gallantry:	None for display
Prisoner of War:	No



SERVICE RECORDS [Source: National Archives of Australia]

<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/>



MOBILIZATION ATTESTATION FORM			
Army Number	N247379		
Surname	CHARD	Christian Names	Reginald James
Unit	Not stated		
Enlisted for service at:	AREA 53A DRILL HALL MARRICKVILLE N.S.W.		
Date:			
A Questions asked Page 1			
Name	Surname	CHARD	
	Other names	Reginald James	
Where were you born	In or near town of		
	State		
British Subject	Yes		
Age & Date of Birth	Age	18	
	Date of Birth	31.10.23	
Normal trade or occupation grade			
Present Occupation	Packer		
Married, single widower	Single		
If married date of marriage			
Previous naval, military or Air Force service	No		
Reason for discharge			
Next of Kin	Name	CHARD – Hector Hercules	
	Address	232 Wardell Rd., Marrickville	

	Relationship	Father
Permanent Address		232 Wardell Rd., Marrickville
Religious Denomination		Church of England
Education		
Certificate for entry to Secondary School		Yes
Educational qualifications	Intermediate	No
	Leaving	No
	Leaving Honours	No
	Technical	No
	University Degree	No
	Other Diploma	No
Convictions by a Civil Court		No
What Court		
What offence		
Oath of Enlistment		
Where	Area 53A Drill Hall, Marrickville NSW	
Date	24 th December 1941	
Attesting Officer	???? Lieutenant	

AMF MOBILIZATION ATTESTATION FORM			
FOR SPECIAL FORCES RAISED FOR SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA OR ABROAD			
There is a typed copy of the attestation form in Reg's file. Accurate in every respect.			
On the next sheet of paper "C Coy" is recorded			
Army Number	N247375 NX134343		
Surname	CHARD	Christian Names	Reginald James
Unit	55 Battalion		
Enlisted for service at:	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea		
Date:	8.8.1942		
A			
Name	Surname	CHARD	
	Other names	Reginald	
Where were you born	In or near town of	Sydney	
	State	N.S.W.	
British Subject		Natural British Subject	
Age & Date of Birth	Age	19	
	Date of Birth	31.10.1923	
Normal trade or occupation grade		Pastry Cook	
Married, single widower		Single	
Previous naval, military or Air Force service		No: N247379. Rank: Private: Unit: 55 Battalion	
Other Service		-	
Next of Kin	Name	Mrs Anne Josephine Chard	
	Address	232 Wardell Rd., Dulwich Hill, Sydney	
	Relationship	Mother	

Permanent Address		232 Wardell Rd., Dulwich Hill, Sydney
Religious Denomination		Church of England
Convictions by a Civil Court		No
Education		
Certificate for entry to Secondary School		Q.C. (Qualified)
Educational Qualifications	Intermediate	
	Leaving	
	Leaving Honours	
	Technical	
	University Degree	
	Other Diploma	
PAGE 2 relevant facts		
Name of Employer		
Address		
Oath of Enlistment		
Where	Port Moresby, Papua	
Date	8 th August 1942	
Attesting Officer	L.R.O. Donald Lieutenant	

SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM				
[marked copy – this means that sections have been omitted or lost]				
Army No.	N247379 NX134343	Unit	55 Battalion S.I.B. Maritime Group A.I.F.	
Rank	Private Trade Group II Cook			
Christian Names	Reginald James	Surname	CHARD	
Date of Enlistment	24.12.1941	Marital Condition	Single Married	
Place	Marrickville	Next of Kin	Herbert Hercules CHARD Betty Marette CHARD	
Date of Birth	31.10.1923	Address of next of Kin	232 Wardell Rd., Marrickville 105 Norton St., Leichardt NSW	
Place of Birth	Haberfield			
Trade/Occupation	Packer	Relationship	Father Wife	
Religion	Church of England			
Identification				
Colour of Hair	Brown	Eyes	Grey	
Distinctive Marks				
REPORT				
Date	From Where	Record	Date of Casualty	Place of Casualty
20.3.1942	55 Bn	Marched in Taken on Strength	5.1.1942	EC
21.5.1942	2MDRO	2 nd Military District Routine Orders- Entrained for Queensland Line of Control Area	21.5.1942	Sydney
26.5.1942	55 Bn	Embarked Taroona for 8 Military District	26.5.1942	Townsville
29.5.1942	"	Disembarked Taroona from 1 Military District	29.5.1942	Port Moresby
Record missing here concerning service at Milne Bay leading up to the battle				

28.8.1942	"	Detached to 14 Aust. Infantry Brigade	28.8.1942	"
5.1.1943	2MDRO	Change of Army No. from A.M.F. to A.I.F. No NX134343	8.8.1942	"
9.8.1942	Infectious Diseases Hosp.	Admitted [Dysentery] and transferred to X List	9.8.1942	"
18.8.1942	"	Discharged Infectious Diseases Hospital to 14 Brigade Infantry Training Battalion	18.8.1942	"

Records missing here.

Following his discharge Reg was sent back to the front line. He was attached to the 2/33 Battalion serving as far as Eora Creek where he succumbs to illness. And was carried back on a stretcher to Owers Corner a journey that took many many days.

12.9.1942	55 Bn	Marched In from 14 th Brigade infantry training battalion & struck off X List	6.9.1942	"
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Records missing here concerning the movement of the Battalion to Sanananda

19.12.1942	2/9 AGH	Sick (Malaria NC) and transferred to X List	19.12.1942	"
5.1.1943	2/9 A.G.H.	Evacuated to Hospital Ship	5.1.1943	"
"	NG LoC	Embarked S.S. Katoomba	"	"
13.1.1943	"	Disembarked S.S. Katoomba	13.1.1943	Sydney
13.1.1943	113 AGH	Admitted 113 Aust. General Hospital, Concord Ex S.S. Katoomba	"	"
30.1.1943	"	Evacuated to Bonnie Brae Convalescent Home	13.1.1943	"
22.2.1943	Bonnie Brae	Evacuated to 103 Convalescent Depot	22.2.1943	"
15.3.1943	NSW GDD	Marched In ex 103 Convalescent Depot	12.3.1943	"
26.3.1943	113 AGH	Admitted 113 Aust. General Hospital, Concord [Malaria] X Leave	26.3.1943	"
3.4.1943	"	Evacuated to 103 Convalescent Depot	3.4.1943	"
10.5.1943	103 CD	Discharged to NSW Line of Control General Details Depot	3.5.1943	"
12.5.1943	D.D.D.	Discharge Details Depot- Marched in from NSW Line of Control Depot General Details Depot	8.5.1943	"
24.6.1943	113 AGH	Admitted 113 Aust. General Hospital, Concord [Malaria] x AMO 53A	16.6.1943	"
5.7.1943	"	Evacuated to Neringah Convalescent Home	1.7.1943	"
5.7.1943	Neringah Con. Home	Evacuated to 103 Convalescent Depot	5.7.1943	"
29.7.1943	103 C.D.	Discharged to NSW Line of Control General Details Depot	29.7.1943	"
21.8.1943	13 A.P.S.C.	13 Aust. Personnel Staging Camp– Marched in ex 1 Aust. Personnel Staging Camp	21.8.1943	Q. LofC
26.8.1943	55/53 Bn	Taken On Strength ex 13 Aust. Personnel Staging Camp	21.8.1943	"
30.8.1943	2.14 AGH	2/14 Aust General Hospital – Sick (Malaria Rel.) and transferred to X List	21.8.1943	"

		[Alligator Creek Townsville]		
2.9.1943	"	Evacuated to 116 Aust. General Hospital per train	24.8.1943	"
14.9.1943	116 A.G.H.	Evacuated to 114 Convalescent Depot	4.9.1943	"
17.5.1943	17 C Hosp.	Admitted (Malaria Rel) ex Discharge Details Depot [sic] this out of date order	17.5.1943	Sydney
15.10.1943	114 C.D.	Discharged to 5 Aust Army Reception Depot	15.10.1943	Qld LofC
"	5 Aust. ARD	Marched out to 13 Aust. Personnel Staging Camp	15.10.1943	"
28.10.1943	55/53 Bn	Transfer of Soldier ex 13 Aust Personnel Staging Camp	15.10.1943	"
15.11.1943	2/14 AGH	2/14 Aust General Hospital Sick (Malaria Rel) and transferred to X List	15.11.1943	"
11.11.1943	55/53 Bn	Graded Group II Cook	5.11.1943	"
"	"	Transferred to Aust. Army Catering Corps & attached for duty	5.11.1943	"
7.12.1943	2/14 AGH	Evacuated to 101 Convalescent Depot	7.12.1943	"
2.2.1944	101 C.D.	Evacuated to 2/4 Aust. General Hospital (P.U.O. - Pyrexia of Unknown Origin)	2.2.1944	"
17.2.1944	2/4 A.G.H.	Evacuated to 101 Convalescent Depot (Malaria Benign Tertian)	17.2.1944	"
23.2.1944	101 CD	Discharged to Qld. Line of Control Leave & Transit Depot 24 days leave	23.2.1944	"
17.2.1944	C/O 101 CD	Medical Classification assessed medically fit to carry out certain duties which requires only restricted medical fitness by Medical Board	17.2.1944	"
23.3.1944	NSW GDD	NSW General Details Depot – Marched in ex leave (Reallotment)	22.3.1944	Sydney
Signed R.E. Buchanan Lieutenant for O. i/c. Records				
27.4.1944	31 Grn Bn	31 Garrison Bn - Taken on Strength ex General Details Depot ex 55/53 Inf Bn	22.4.1944	NSW
22.5.1944	113 A.G.H.	Admitted (Malaria Benign Tertian debility) & transferred to X List	30.4.1944	"
22.5.1944	"	Discharged 113 Aust. General Hospital to Lady Gowrie Convalescent Home (Malaria Benign Tertian Malaria Debility)	22.5.1944	"
22.5.1944	Lady Gowrie Con. Home	Admitted ex 113 Aust General Hospital (Malaria Benign Tertian)	22.5.1944	"
22.4.1944	RR & GDD	Recruit Reception and General Details Depot Marched out to 31 Garrison Bn	22.4.1944	"
5.5.1944	31 Grn Bn	Evacuated to 113 Aust. General Hospital	30.4.1944	"
12.6.1944	GDD	General Details Depot Marched in ex 113 Aust. General Hospital	10.6.1944	"
13.6.1944	"	Marched out to unit ex 113 Aust. General Hospital	13.6.1944	"

5.6.1944	Lady Gowrie Con. Home	Discharged to 113 Aust. General Hospital (Malaria Benign Tertian)	5.6.1944	"
5.6.1944	113 AGH	Admitted Lady Gowrie Convalescent Home (Malarial)	5.6.1944	"
10.6.1944	"	Discharged to General Details Depot (Debility)	10.6.1944	"
14.6.1944	31 Grn Bn	31 Garrison Bn – Rejoined unit ex 113 Aust. General Hospital & struck off X list	13.6.1944	"
12.7.1944	"	Transferred to general reinforcements & marched out to 1 Aust. Base Depot Personnel	7.7.1944	"
26.6.1944	17 G.H.	Admitted (Post malarial debility)	26.6.1944	"
1.7.1944	"	Discharged to unit (Post Malarial Debility)	1.7.1944	"
5.7.1944	31 Grn Bn	Evacuated to 17.6.1944	26.6.1944	"
5.7.1944	"	Rejoined unit ex 17 G.H.	1.7.1944	"
8.7.1944	1 Aust Base Depot Pers.	Taken on Holding Strength ex 31 Garr. Bn.	7.7.1944	"
1.8.1944	113 CMH Glen Mervyn	Admitted 113 Concord Military Hospital x leave (Malaria)	20.7.1944	"
10.8.1944	"	Admitted Glen Mervyn {Randwick} ex 113 Concord Military Hospital	28.7.1944	"
28.7.1944	113 CMH	Evacuated to Glen Mervyn Malaria Benign Tertian	28.7.1944	"
2.9.1944	Med Bd	Medical reclassification now "B1" C... M ... confirmed	5.7.1944	"
19.9.1944	103 CD	Admitted 103 Convalescent Depot Ex Glen Mervyn (Malaria Benign Tertian)	1.9.1944	"
20.9.1944	"	Evacuated 103 Convalescent Depot to 1 AOPD (Australian Out Patients Depot)	4.9.1944	"
21.9.1944	1AOPD	Admitted 1 Australian Out Patients Depot (Acne)	4.9.1944	"
3.11.1944	113 C.M.H.	Admitted 113 Concord Military Hospital (Malaria Benign Tertian)	15.10.1944	"
6.11.1944	1 AOPD	Evacuated to 113 Concord Military Hospital (Malaria Benign Tertian)	15.9.1944	"
5.11.1944	113 CMH	Evacuated to 103 Aust. Convalescent Depot (Malaria Benign Tertian)	19.10.1944	"
4.11.1944	103 Con Depot	Admitted 102 Aust. Convalescent Depot – Malaria Benign Tertian	19.10.1944	"
13.11.1944	103 Con Depot	Discharged to NSW Line of Control Recruit Reception & General Details Depot (Malaria Benign Tertian)	31.10.1944	NSW
"	1 AOPD	Admitted 1 Aust. Out Patients Dept. (Acne)	31.10.1944	"
24.2.1945	31 Grn Bn	Transferred in from General Details Depot NSW Line of Control area	13.2.1945	"

14.3.1945	“	Relinquished Group 2 (Cook) at own request	7.3.1945	“
10.4.1945	“	Transferred out to 31 Aust. Garrison Bn.	7.3.1945	“
10.4.1945	“	Transferred in from Aust. Army Catering Corps.	7.3.1945	“
21.5.1945	“	Granted Proficiency Pay	7.3.1945	“
17.7.1945	“	Transferred out to H.Q. Aust S.I.B. Maritime Group A.I.F.	17.7.1945	“
17.7.1945	H.Q. S.I.B. M. Gp.	Transferred in from 31 Aust Garrison Bn.	17.7.1945	“
22.10.1945	“	Married – Wife Betty Marette Chard 105 Norton St., Leichardt NSW	6.10.1945	NSW
22.10.1945	“	Next of Kin now Betty Marette Chard (wife) 105 Norton St., Leichardt	6.10.1945	“
14.6.1946	“	Transferred out to Leave & Transit Depot Eastern Command (HS) for discharge	16.4.1946	“
	AMF DD	DISCHARGED AMR & O 253 (A) (1) (N) ON ACCOUNT OF DEMOBILIZATION	21.6.1946	“

Proceedings For Discharge AAFA 102 – (essential details)					
Unit	55/53 Battalion A.I.B.	Army No		NX134343	
		Rank		Private	
Other Names	Reginald James	Surname		CHARD	
Home Address	232 Wardell Rd., Dulwich Hill NSW	Marital State		Single	
Date Commenced F.T.D.	5.1.1942	Date of Birth		31.10.1923	
Age:	21 Years 11 Months	Height:		5 ft 5 ins	
Children:		over 16	-	under 16	-
Eyes:	Grey	Complexion:		Medium	
Hair:	Brown	Marks/ Scars:		-	
Trade Group	Trade Group II Cook	Medical Cases		-	
Served on continuous Full Time War Service					
C.M.F.		From	5.1.1942	To	7.8.1942
A.I.F.		From	8.8.1942	To	21.6.1946
Total Effective Service		1929		Days	
Active Service in Aust		1297		Days	
Active Service O/S Aust		233		Days	
Operational Service					
Operational Area		From		To	
New Guinea		26.5.1942		13.1.1943	
Non-Effective Service		nil		Days	
Date of Commencement of Full Time War Service				5.1.1942	
Age at commencement of Full Time Service				18 years	

INFORMATION DERIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES

55/53 Battalion War Diary – Australian War Memorial, Canberra

11.11.43 Routine Orders	Appointment 5.11.43
20.5.44 Routine Orders	Trade Grp II Appointed Cook 2.12.43

NSW BDM

Marriage: No/Year: 22443/1945. Groom: CHARD, REGINALD JAMES. Bride: BANHAM, BETTY MARETTE. District: MARRICKVILLE

Other Information

As of 18 June 2018, Reg is in great health and currently living at Villawood, NSW. Reg attends the annual reunion of the Battalion in December each year and is a regular volunteer with his friend Ray Gentles at the Kokoda Walkway memorial at Concord. The walkway exists as a living memorial because of Reg and the other veteran guides over the last 23 years: determination to continue to remember their mates who made the supreme sacrifice for this country; Teaching children about this sacrifice – story of the Kokoda Track and the Beachhead Battles 1942-43.

The following is a report account of an incident that occurred in the first minutes after the commencement of the first attack at Sanananda on 7th December 1943. The battle had just commenced Reg Chard was under the command of Sergeant (Colour-Sergeant) David Swaney. Reg was best mates with Dick Kayess, Thomas (Tich) Whitney and Henry Arthur (Harry) Davidson. I'll use their nick names here. Dick Kayess was standing on the left side of Reg Chard on right Allan Davidson. Tich should have been in the line but delayed because problems with his boots; Sergeant Swaney ordered Allan Davidson to take his place. The Japanese had seen them and fired a machine gun which killed Dick Kayess instantly being hit in the head. Moments later round probably mountain or naval gun fired at short range was decapitated Harry Davidson. Within moments his mates standing less that a yard on each side were killed, leaving Reg and Tich permanently traumatised. Reg remembers the horror of this event as if it occurred yesterday. Tich and Reg remained lifelong mates. (Reg Chard 12.10.2020)