

## AUSTRALIAN GUNNER OBITUARY RESOURCE

**15138 Major Peter Scott Sadler**

**9 January 1941- 9 October 2001**

**By Colonel A. R. Burke, OAM (Retd)**

Born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1941 in England, Peter was commissioned through the Officer Cadet School, Portsea on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 1964, graduating with fellow gunners, Hans Schmerlaib and Don Reid. He had operational service in Vietnam with the Detachment of 131 Divisional Locating Battery from the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1966 to the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1967. Later postings included Adjutant 8<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment, Exchange Instructor Fort Sill in the USA and instructor at the School of Artillery at North Head. He served as Battery Commander of the re-raised 106 Field Battery conducting the medium gun trails in the mid-1970s. He was later appointed as Staff Officer Grade 2 on the Merit Team Review and obtained an MA through historical research. He was a major researcher for David Horner's "The Gunners". Peter had a passionate desire to analyse and write on Sir John Gellibrand, one of the founding fathers of the Legacy movement. Happily, this concluded with his publishing the book "The Paladin", a biography of Sir John Gellibrand in 2000.

Peter Sadler was always more of an academic than a gladiator. He held strong opinions on almost any subject and argued well in defence of his beliefs. He took life seriously, held strong moral and traditional values and respected others with similar traits. Behind his facade, however, was a very dry, laconic sense of humour which in his younger days burst forth in quite entertaining newsletters, especially on courses at the School of Artillery. He was ideally qualified to conduct the detailed and intimate research for 'The Gunners', and many of his footnotes in that publication bear his stamp. His battle with cancer would have been in excess of ten years and it is a reflection of the tenacity and dedication of this man that he published 'The Paladin' before moving to that great Stand Easy position.

Peter was survived by his wife Annette (Anne), his children and grandchildren. His funeral service was held at the Holy Cross Anglican Church, Hackett on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2001 and he was buried at Gungahlin Cemetery.