



ANZAC DAY - AFGHANISTAN

ANZAC Day meant more than ever to the men of Combat Team Charlie deployed to Forward Operating Base Hadrian in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan.

After the death of Cpl Richard Atkinson on February 2, the 163 men of Combat Team Charlie had him foremost in their thoughts this Anzac Day.

OC Maj David French said his men had soldiered on since the incident.

"It was a huge challenge for them, but they rebounded very well and they were back on patrol two days after the incident." Maj French said.

The combat team began Anzac Day with a 04:30 hours gunfire breakfast in the FOB mess and a traditional tot of rum in their coffee before they assembled on the parade ground.

Waiting for them were two rifles

bayoneted into the hard Afghan earth with helmets resting on the butts and a memorial board displaying the 23 names of Australian soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

In front of them were two red roses freshly picked from the garden that borders the parade ground.

It was the first time Spr Toby Lucas had commemorated Anzac Day while on a deployment.

"This year it means a fair bit to me as my section commander, Cpl Atkinson, was killed earlier in the year." Spr Lucas said.

"It hits home a bit more than other Anzac Days and I'm proud to be over here fighting in his name."

The dawn service was followed by breakfast and games of two-up and crown and anchor. Each man also enjoyed a ration of two beers.

One enthusiastic and successful two-up player was Spr Stephen Burgess.

He went to the trouble of dressing in Australian flag board shorts and smoked a honey-flavoured cigar while he tossed a few rounds of the iconically Australian game of chance.

"Anzac Day for me is to remember and show respect to my fellow soldiers and family members who've died in wars." he said.

"It's pretty cool being deployed on Anzac Day, as I'm doing my job for real and by being here we've brought one of our remembrance days to other militaries that wouldn't know what it was."

He brought something else to the game other than his ocker personality.

"I found this air horn lying around and thought it might cheer the boys up."

Article and Photo by
Sgt Andrew Hetherington
ARMY Newspaper



LEST WE FORGET: Soldiers from Combat Team Charlie hold a Dawn Service at FOB Hadrian in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan

THIS MAY BE THE LAST TIGER TALES THAT YOU RECEIVE!!!
Please read The President's Report (page 3) and if there has been a separate letter inserted into your copy of Tiger Tales you will have to act now as you are unfinancial.



NEW COMMAND AT 5 RAR



LTCOL ANDREW FORBES - CO

Andrew Forbes was born on 31st December 1971 in Brisbane. After completing his secondary education at St Josephs College Nudgee in Brisbane he entered the Royal Military College in 1991 graduating in 1992 into the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. His initial posting was to 5/7 RAR (Mech). During this posting he fulfilled the appointments of Mechanised Platoon Commander, Training Officer and Company Second-in-Command as both a Lieutenant and Captain.

Further regimental appointments in 5/7 RAR (Mech) included Adjutant (2000) and Officer Commanding both Support Company (2001) and Bravo Company (2002). Lieutenant Colonel Forbes has served in East Timor twice with 5/7 RAR (Mech) - 1999/2000 and 2002/2003.

Lieutenant Colonel Forbes' instructional appointments include a position as the Mechanised Infantry Officer Instructor at the School of Armour (1998/1999) and employment as the Infantry Officer Instructor on the Combat Officers Advance Course (2003/2004).

Lieutenant Colonel Forbes completed the Australian Command and Staff Course in 2005, where he was awarded the Land Operations Prize as the course member who achieved the best overall result in the Land Operations module.

Lieutenant Colonel Forbes's staff experience includes Brigade Major (2006) and Chief of Staff (2007) of the 1st Brigade. Lieutenant Colonel Forbes received a Chief of Army Commendation for his performance in these two positions. Further staff appointments included SO1 Coordination in the Office of the Chief of Army (2008) and SO1 Military Commitments-Army (2009/2010). Lieutenant Colonel Forbes assumed command of 5 RAR (Mech) on the 17th of January 2011.



LTCOL Andrew Forbes

Lieutenant Colonel Forbes has been married to Melissa since 1994 and they have two children, Shamus (2001) and Mackenzie (2003). Lieutenant Colonel Forbes is interested in most sports including running, rugby and cricket.

WO1 DALE de KOCK - RSM

Warrant Officer de Kock was born in Zimbabwe in 1968. In January 1986 he enlisted in the Australian Regular Army and following recruit training, was allocated to The Royal Australian Infantry Corps, he was posted to the 5/7 RAR (Mech) where he completed initial employment training.

After his initial employment training he remained with the 5/7 RAR (Mech) where he was promoted to Lance Corporal and then Corporal before going on a further posting to Depot Company, The Royal Australian Regiment (1991). In 1994 he was promoted to Sergeant and was posted to the 6 RAR as a Platoon Sergeant. In 1996 he was posted to the 4/3 RNSWR as a Training Sergeant.



WO1 Dale de Kock

In 1998 he returned to Depot Company RAR as a Platoon Sergeant. During his posting to the School of Infantry he was selected to serve with the Multinational Forces and Observers in the Sinai (2001). On return from the Sinai he was posted on promotion to 1 CSSB in Darwin as a Training Warrant Officer. It was during his time in Darwin that he was selected to deploy in 2004 as part of the first Australian Army Training Team Iraq (AATTI).

In 2005 he was posted to the 1 RAR where he served as the Company Sergeant Major of Charlie Company and Support Company. In 2006 was selected for a two year accompanied posting to the Infantry Battle School as an instructor with the Small Arms School Corp at the Infantry Battle School, Brecon, Wales, UK.

Before returning to Australia he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One. He assumed the position of OI Range Qualification Team, at the School of Infantry where he served for 2 years. It was during this posting that he learned of his appointment as the Regimental Sergeant Major, 5 RAR (Mech). In December 2010 WO1 de Kock deployed to Afghanistan as RSM of the 2nd Mentoring Task Force. In July 2011 he returned to Darwin and continues as RSM of 5 RAR. This appointment is a career highlight for Warrant Officer de Kock and he is extremely honoured to serve with such a fine unit.

Warrant Officer de Kock is married to Kelly and they have two children, Maddison (18) and Jayden (16). He enjoys watching rugby and V8 supercars. He is also a keen pistol shooter and enjoys fishing when the opportunity is available.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At its last meeting, your committee decided that from this issue, future editions of Tiger Tales will be in full colour. This will inevitably cost us more but can be partly absorbed by the small increase that was imposed for our current three year membership period to 2014. I hope you enjoy the full colour edition as it is the committee's desire to continually improve our communication to members.

I must make some blunt comments about overdue membership fees. The last two issues of Tiger Tales have had front page banners about payment of membership fees that were due by 1 March 2011. Every member has also received an individual notice about their fee status and our State Representatives have recently spent much personal time following up those who are still errant. Disappointingly, about 340 of our members have still to renew their membership from the end of the 2011 membership period. This equates to over \$17,000 in revenue to the Association and means that our financial members have been supplementing those who have not paid their dues. That is unfair.

The Association cannot afford to continue this way so regrettably, this will be the last edition of Tiger Tales that unfinancial members will receive until their membership dues are updated. I have written to each unfinancial member encouraging them to renew their membership and have inserted that letter within this copy of Tiger Tales. Hopefully in most cases, it is just an oversight but it does add an unwanted time consuming and financial cost to the administration of our Association.

Despite my above comments, you will see from the annual financial statement included within this issue that the Association is in a sound financial position. However, you should note this is at the beginning of our three year membership period (2011-2014) and these cash assets need to be managed for that period. Needless to say, our major source of income is from membership dues with our largest expenditure being for three editions of Tiger Tales each year. I thank Treasurer Ron Hamlyn for his ongoing management of our accounts.

The 2nd Mentoring Task Force led by 5 RAR under the command of Darren Huxley has now returned home. After a period of leave the Task Force will be officially welcomed home on Sat 3 September by a parade through the streets of Darwin. MTF 2 has performed in an outstanding manner. On behalf of all members I congratulate Darren on his recent promotion to Colonel and thank him for his friendship and support of the Association during his time in command.

I have advised previously that LTCOL Andrew Forbes has assumed command of the Tiger battalion and that we look forward to maintaining the healthy and robust relationship between the battalion and the Association. To further enhance this we have already agreed to conduct a small "recruiting campaign" during the welcome home activities to encourage younger tiger veterans to the Association. Biographies of LTCOL Forbes and RSM Dale de Kock are included in this issue together with some comments by the CO on future activities for 5 RAR.

Roger Wainwright

3



CO 5 RAR (Mech) REPORT



450 5 RAR (Mech) personnel have returned to Australia following a very successful deployment to Afghanistan with MTF 2. The achievements of MTF 2 are well documented elsewhere but I would like to personally congratulate Darren Huxley and the officers and soldiers of MTF 2 on a job well done. Sadly, MTF 2 had three soldiers KIA during its deployment. These soldiers, and the sacrifice they made for their nation, will be remembered by the Army community.

Soldiers who have recently returned from operations are enjoying a period of well earned leave with their families and friends. For the 300 5 RAR (Mech) personnel who did not deploy (or redeployed early) 2011 has proven to be a busy and rewarding year. Currently the Battalion has soldiers in Shoalwater Bay conducting EX TALISMAN SABRE, soldiers detached to our Brother Battalion - 7 RAR (Mech) for an upcoming Rifle Company Butterworth tour of Malaysia and soldiers attending courses to maintain the Battalion's mechanised skill sets at the School of Armour in Puckapunyal.

The Battalion will focus on individual training when MTF-2's leave period concludes. The Battalion will conduct a wide range of specialist and career courses including Basic Recon, Specialist Combat Communicators, Subject 2 for CPL, Sniper Basic, Mechanised Driver and Mechanised Crew Commander courses. These courses will occur during the period 1 October to 1 December this year and will be conducted both in Darwin and at Cultana Field Training Area in South Australia.

Before the courses period commences 5 RAR (Mech) personnel will participate in a range of MTF 2 Welcome Home activities. These include a Memorial Service on 2 September at 1 CER and the Welcome Home Parade through the streets of Darwin on 3 September. The Battalion will also take this opportunity to present the Warr-Khan Trophy to the Battalion's best Junior Leader in 2011. An open invitation to these activities will shortly be sent to the President of the Association and I am hoping to see as many "Old Tigers" as possible at the event.

5 RAR (Mech) has been given clear direction to re-mechanise after an extremely busy period of operational deployments. The Battalion has received 30 M113AS4s and we will receive a large majority of our A Vehicles by the end of 2011. The delivery of these vehicles with their enhanced protection, firepower, mobility and communications marks the start of a new chapter in the Battalion's history.

The Tiger battalion looks forward to re-integrating our recently deployed soldiers, re-building our mechanised skills and knowledge and contributing to future operational deployments in defence of Australia's national interests.

LTCOL Andrew Forbes



INDIA-81 MORTAR SECTION



On the 5th of March 2011 the Tangi valley erupted once again with the sounds of small arms and high explosive fire. O33C and attachments were once again in contact, receiving effective PKM (*Kalashnikov machine gun*) and rifle fire from multiple enemy positions in the high ground. With the insurgent using their weapon ranges and the defilade firing positions to their advantage, the ground call signs were having difficulty in applying effective return fire. The JFO identified several positions and started to send through a fire mission.

We had been monitoring and battle-tracking the contact from the mortar line and the boys knew that a fire mission was imminent. This was the first supporting mission for us, the newly formed Mortar section, India-81.

In the February of 2011, 9'r identified a need for another Mortar element to be raised to support the actions of Combat Team Charlie (*CT-C*) in the Deh Rawud Area of Operations. The other two Combat teams had a mortar section attached to them respectively, but CT Charlie did not, which was a concern as a portion of the expansive Deh Rawud AO (*Area of Operations*) was out of range of the 155mm Artillery. This section needed to be raised and equipped rapidly as well as be manned from within the MTF 2 Battle group. The call went out to identify mortar qualified personnel. Soon, 9 soldiers were identified and moved from their different teams to raise this new Section. All of these soldiers came from different areas of operation and were recruited from both Rifle sections and Mentoring teams. Most of the lads had already weathered multiple engagements with the enemy and the prospect of hitting them with mortars made the transition from Rifle Section/Mentoring team easy.

Due to the fact that Mortaring wasn't the role any of us had been training for in preparation for this tour of duty, and as well as the fact that it had been a while for most of the boys, a crash refresher course and certification was required to get our hands back into the art of mortaring.

After rigorous training, countless crash actions, deliberate set ups and rehearsing every possible action on, the assessing staff deemed us 'certified' for the purpose of deploying out into an active AO and providing top notch offensive support. We were also allocated our call sign, India-81.

So on the 20th of February, we took our vehicle with a trailer load of ammunition and moved out to the Deh Rawud AO, and later, to Patrol Base Qarib in the Tangi Valley.

The fire mission came through loud and clear...

"India-81 this is Golf-13-Bravo fire mission section over"

This was the moment we had all been waiting for. When I called 'section positions!' the boys were already there. Grid, Altitude, direction followed.... 'Machinegun position, at my command 2 rounds bedding in fire followed by 1 round fire'. The clear air authority to engage was requested, data calculated, issued and checked. The number two's had the bombs poised and the number one's were crouching on their base plates, wrists resting on the bipods, ready for the command to fire. The CPOA (*Command Post Operator Assistant*) reported 'ready' to the JFO (*Joint Fires Officer*). The JFO simply replied 'ready, fire'. So we did.

'Fire!' was screamed to the line with the number two's dropping their first rounds down the barrels simultaneously. A correction was given followed by '4 rounds fire for effect'. The 8 rounds found their target with an 'end of mission, no effective fire from that position' reported back. We fired 26 rounds that day in multiple missions.

Since then, we have been used again firing 31 high explosive rounds for several missions in support of another day's contact. The effect our fire has had on the enemy is positive. Intercepted enemy transmissions have indicated that they received casualties from our fire and even requested reinforcements due to the detrimental effect the accurate mortar fire was having. We have the ability when used to deny the enemy the ability to completely dominate the high ground. Plus, for the boys on the ground I'm certain it raises morale to see incoming bombs landing on an enemy position that seconds earlier was suppressing them.

There are still a few months left on our tour with fighting season about to kick off good and proper. I'm sure India-81 will manage to remain gainfully employed, supporting our mates and destroying the enemy in contact with high end, accurate and devastating indirect fire.



India-81 Mortar Section

5 RAR'S PRESENCE AT AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM VETERANS' MUSEUM



Recently Robert Birtles and John Bilston (C Coy 1966/67) visited the Phillip Island National Vietnam Vet Museum which is now part of the Island's tourist promotions. Their goal was to secure additional space for a more comprehensive 5 RAR display.

At this point 5 RAR had limited items on display but included a photo frame of John Warr, Battalion Operations, Honour Roll and the 5 RAR Plaque. Not on display (but in storage) were both 5 RAR books and official DVD's.

They met with John Methven (President - NVVM) who was extremely co operative and generous with additional space allocated. They could not have expected to be allocated such a prime position as it was located only meters from the Long Tan hologram presentation; the most visited area in the museum.



The 5 RAR area.

The position warranted the best display that they could create thus, photos of members, weapons, moments of interest, etc, were collected and framed.

Roger Wainwright made available an early 5 RAR banner and when all was combined they

succeeded in a colourful and informative display.

Approximately 130 photos are on display which should keep visitors and members entertained whilst seeking out familiar faces and places.

As many members as possible are photographically represented, the goal was to be representative of the soldiers, places and experiences had.

Many of the photos were taken from Birtles, Tommasi and Townsend's personal files. Others were collected, borrowed and pirated from where ever it could be done.

Gary Townsend donated the photo DVD played at our last reunion. This will be added to the museum's collection of DVD's played within the refreshment area.

Much has been achieved, however with a constant flow of additional material the existing display will continue to evolve; therefore it will always be of interest to regular visitors.

Please note that understandably, the museum does not wish to display photos that may cause individuals, children or family members stress. Apart from this just about anything is welcome.

The Australian Vietnam Veterans' Museum is located at; 25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven, Phillip Island, VIC, 3925, their web-site address is; www.vietnamvetmuseum.org

Robert Birtles

TROOPS REWARDED FOR JOB WELL DONE.

A number of ceremonies have been held to recognise the sacrifices and contributions of soldiers, sailors and airmen who have spent the past eight months striving and succeeding in improving the situation in Uruzgan province,

The most personal of these ceremonies were those where the servicemen and women from MTF 2 received the medals they had earned during their deployment.

"It is an extremely important event to each and every member of a deployment when they receive their medals." RSM Combined Team Uruzgan WO Dave Ashley said.

"The medals serve as a reminder and a symbol that these individuals have left the safety and comfort of home and have deployed to Afghanistan to serve their country and its interests.

"The medals are a visual symbol of the efforts, hardships and dangers that these people have faced and a reminder of the team they contributed to and the difference they have made for the future of Afghanistan."

Those deployed to Afghanistan for the first time received the Australian Active Service Medal with International Coalition Against Terrorism Clasp, the Afghan Campaign Medal, the International Security Assistance Force Medal, the Returned from Active Service Badge and the Infantry or Army Combat Badge.

MTF 2 officially handed over responsibility for the mission in Uruzgan to MTF 3 on June 25.

By Maj Lachlan Simond
Courtesy ARMY Newspaper



END IS NIGH: CO MTF 2 LTCOL Darren Huxley, right, shakes hands with RSM MTF 2, WO1 Dale de Kock after lowering the flag that marked the transfer of authority to MTF 3.

Quote: "Freedom is never free."

Anonymous



AROUND THE STATES

ACT



BARRY THOMPSON REMEMBERED

On a cold and wet Sunday morning on 10th April I travelled to Belmore Park, Goulburn, NSW to attend the ceremony for the Dedication of Memorial for all National Servicemen from Goulburn and surrounding districts who served from 1951-1972. Considering the bad weather conditions there was a very good attendance. The Memorial was unveiled by Mr Ron Brown OAM JP, President,



L-R: Helen Keed, Bernie Pye and Valda Lees.

NSW State Branch of the National Servicemen's Association. There were six diggers who lost their lives in the Vietnam war from this area. My wife and I were there at the invitation of Barry Thompson's sisters, Valda and Helen who were also present at the service. Barry was the last digger from our Battalion to be killed, on 1st February 1970. He was a member of 8 Platoon C Company and most of his time was spent as a forward scout for his section. Unfortunately I didn't get to see Barry much during the time we were in the Dat as I was in D Company on the Hill for most of the tour.

I was fortunate enough to have known Barry well as we both attended Gunning High School. Barry came from Gunning which is situated some twenty minutes drive from Goulburn on the Hume Highway and I lived in Dalton, a small town near Gunning. We were in the same class in high school until he left to take up a traineeship in the shearing industry. He also worked with a local builder on rural cottages. He was a typical country boy who loved rabbit trapping, fox shooting and playing cricket and rugby league for his home town of Gunning. Most of all though he loved nothing more than having a beer with his mates. Barry you are always in our thoughts and I feel very proud to have known you.

ANZAC DAY

On a beautiful warm sunny Autumn day in Canberra we marched with the Royal Australian Regiment Association

ACT - Cont.



- there were five present from the Battalion. Numbers were down from the previous year due to the long weekend, as most Canberrans head for the South Coast. The Commemorate address was given by Mr Les Carlyon, Member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial. This was followed by the Requiem by General Peter Cosgrove AC MC (Retd), Chairman of the Council of the Australian War Memorial. The Australia's Federation Guard and the Band of the Royal Military College of Australia also kept us entertained and performed to their usual very high standard.

After the ceremony we adjourned to Olims Hotel for some cleansing ales. It was good to see our Chairman, Roger Wainwright and Peter Taylor (PJ) who has been AWOL in Vungers for a few years turn up --- welcome home PJ. Norm Goldspink MBE also came along and held us captive with his stories about two cadets, Peter Cosgrove (5 RAR 1972/3) and Mick McDermott (OC 10 Platoon D Company 1969/70) who were under his wing when they were going through Duntroon. A very good day was had by all.

Bernie Pye

WA



ANZAC DAY

Again we were blessed with perfect weather. Before the march quite a few members and friends gathered in Stirling Gardens where we ate a very generous breakfast for the price of a gold coin. The venue, where we were to have our lunch after the March, opened at 9am so some members took advantage to freshen up with cold ale.

We then adjourned to St Georges Terrace and formed up behind the 5 RAR Banner which was once again carried by Stephen and Brian McNulty. We had 54 members marching and great to see our country members. Barry



Mathew Shea (ex-5 RAR and 5/7 RAR), Greg Negus and Barry Ryan on ANZAC Day 2011.

AROUND THE STATES - Cont.



WA - Cont.

Ryan from South Australia came straight from the Airport to join us marching, well done Barry.



Peter Tuck and Mike Nettleton at the 43 Below Bar after the march.

Ex Major Matthew Shea who served with 5/7 RAR and 5 RAR came up and introduced himself, marched with us and is now a new member.

We were doing little dances to avoid stepping in the Police Horse droppings.

We marched to The Esplanade where the service

was held, then after that we made a very quick exit back to the 43 Below Bar as it was so hot. It was great to see both Matt and Barry mixing with all the West Aussies, Matt told some good stories about his service with 5 RAR. We will rely on him to try and get some of the younger 5 RAR members to join us.

3 RAR and 4 RAR also had lunch at this venue which is becoming very popular with service people.

Once again we had a great time and relived many old tales.

Alan McNulty



TAS

ANZAC DAY

Although our numbers were down in Launceston on Anzac Day it was to be expected seeing as how the day fell on the Easter weekend, a number of apologies were given due to the holiday and family commitments. Any-



The 5 RAR contingent in the ANZAC Day March. Photo Courtney Brooks.

way those who turned up marched with a great deal of spirit, in attendance were Jim Fitzgerald, Noel Peck, Peter McCarthy, Rod "Chuck" Kenane, David Brooks, Darrell George, Lutz Bockish, Malcolm Youd, Peter McCarthy and myself. We welcomed two guest attendees, Mrs Deris Thow, the mother of Capt Mark Bingley who was tragically killed in the Blackhawk training exercise in Qld, and



TAS - Cont.



my son Matthew Smee who had just returned from Op Anode the peacekeeping mission in the Solomon Islands.

A special thanks goes to our Banner carriers Andrew Hinkley and Braydon Bennett, the grandsons of our member Malcolm Youd, these two young boys give up their time to assist in the march and Cenotaph Service, well done boys we'll see you next year. Absent from the march but in attendance at the Cenotaph service was "Sammy" Mackrill, seems "Sammy" went home after the Dawn Service and decided a short nap was in order and so missed the start. We'll give you a telephone call next year "Sammy".

Nothing has been planned for Long Tan Day due to my involvement in the National Census so we will leave the day up to individual members.

John Smee



L-R: John Smee, Jim Fitzgerald, Noel Peck, Malcolm Youd and Lutz Bockish after the Cenotaph Service. Photo Luke Bockish.



QLD

ANZAC Day in Brisbane drew the usual enthusiastic crowd of thousands with a contingent of nearly 40 veterans of 5 RAR marching.

Afterwards many joined other RAR veterans at the Pig 'n' Whistle for the afternoon. It worked well having a spot for all RAR members. SAS was sharing the venue but caused no trouble – joking guys.

Other 5 RAR members attended services and marches around the state.

Many are expected to turn out again on 18 August, which is now officially Vietnam Veterans Day and also the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

The Brisbane march will start from Queens Park near Treasury Casino (Elizabeth Street) before a noon remem-

(Continued on page 8)



AROUND THE STATES - Cont.

QLD - Cont.



(Continued from page 7)

brance service at Anzac Square around the Vietnam Memorial.



The Dawn service at ANZAC Square, Brisbane, 2011.
Photo Jeff Camden, Courtesy Courier-Mail.

Dad's Army and others are continuing to do a wonderful job at the RAR Memorial at Enoggera. You will always be welcome on Monday morning to help with maintenance and other activities. It is also worth a visit anytime (check in for a pass before you enter the base).

I recently attended a RAR lunch at the wonderful Samford Hotel just out of Brisbane. It was a great event. If you are interested I can send you details of when the next one is on, and any other events. Details of lunches and other events are available on the RAR website at;

<http://www.rar.org.au/QLDActivities.html>

Disappointing for 5 RAR among others that our own Kel Ryan missed out on his bid for presidency of the Queensland RSL. He is also retiring as President of the RAR Association (Qld). Thanks Kel for all you do for veterans and their causes.

Kerry White

VIC



It's most encouraging that the number of veterans participating in the Anzac Day March seems to grow with each passing year; along with larger crowds expressing their appreciation with their clapping; their cheering and the display of their many complimentary banners.

I reckon it's something between late onset maturity and melancholia, but I find myself increasingly emotionally stirred with each year's march. This is largely due to the realisation that we no longer march solely to honour those who lost their lives in the service to the nation, but also to recall friends who came home but have since died for reasons, due in part as a consequence of injuries (physical and emotional) sustained as a result of their service.

This year the Anzac Day March passed without incident and a very healthy representation from 5 RAR, notwithstanding that our regular stalwarts Birtles and Bilston were lured to Sydney this year, which no doubt raised the standard of both the Melbourne and Sydney marches.

Anzac Day 2012 will include a C Coy reunion in Portland (South West Victoria) with guest of honour COL Roger Wainwright (Retd). This promises to be a most memorable family-friendly event to which you are encouraged to attend. For advice on arranging accommodation and any other details you can contact Daryl McCombe (who lives in Portland) by email on darylmccombe@gmail.com

Victorian Tigers with suggestions, questions or comments worthy of mention in Tiger Tales can pass them on to me via email on doug.bishop@internode.on.net I look forward to hearing from you.

Doug Bishop

*God and the soldier we alike adore,
In time of danger, not before,
When danger past and all things righted,
God is forgotten, the soldier slighted.*

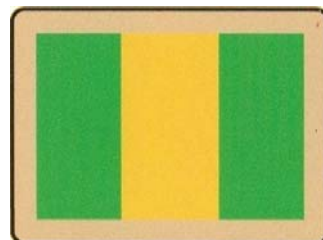
Thomas Jordan 1612-1686

MTF 2 WELCOME HOME PARADE 2011

The members of 5 RAR who deployed to Afghanistan with MTF 2 have now returned to Darwin. An invitation has been extended through our President for members of the Association to attend the "Welcome Home" ceremonies and functions.

The Battalion has provided the following information;

- **Fri 2 Sep:** PM. Presentation of the Warr-Khan Trophy and CO's Tiger at a 5 RAR activity. This will be held in the Gary Holmes Club as an informal activity. Late PM (sunset); MTF2 Memorial Service at 1 Combat Engineer Regiment in recognition of the two sappers who were KIA. Evening; Possible 5 RAR activity in Officers Mess (TBC).
- **Sat 3 Sep:** 09.00 – 12.00. Welcome Home Parade in Darwin city. Further details of post parade functions will be advised when known.



If you are intending to attend please advise your State Representative, or alternatively the Secretary, Geoff Pearson on 0417 223-001 or by email at gp@rbimports.com.au

Geoff Pearson

ANZAC PACKAGE REPLY



We received an unexpected package at our doorstep in late May, it contained a beautiful framed photo and a letter which is printed below.

10 May 2011.

Dear Alan and Judith.

We would just like to say thank you in a more personal way in the form of this letter. We are aware that your package was originally addressed to an Australian Soldier of MTF 2. Due to the overwhelming response from the generous Australian public, we were inundated with parcels from all across the country.

As luck would have it, our Crew received your package and we were all very grateful for such a kind gesture on your behalf.

We also wanted to let you both know a little bit about ourselves, and what we are doing over here in the Middle East. We are a crew of Officers, Airmen and Airwomen who operate the AP3C Orion aircraft out of Edinburgh, South Australia. Our aircraft's main role once upon a time was Anti-Submarine Warfare, however since the Middle East Operations started back in 2003 our aircraft and crews have been deployed in support of Coalition and Australian Forces, firstly in Iraq, and more recently Afghanistan. We provide support by conducting ISR missions. (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance)

Our troops as well as our Coalition troops do an outstanding job on the ground, and we are all proud to contribute to their work, by providing a professional overhead watch for many.

We also conduct anti-piracy patrols throughout the various Gulfs and water ways within the region. As you are probably aware, piracy is a big issue in the region and our aircraft can contribute in many ways towards preventing such occurrences. By providing a visual deterrent, and working along side other coalition aircraft and warships, we are making positive progress in eliminating piracy and ensuring safe passages for many Merchant ships passing through the region from all over the world. We have also included a photograph of our crew, so you can put some Australian service men and women's faces to our thank you letter. We are Crew 1 of 11SQN, and are all very proud to be serving our country over here, and it is kind gestures and support from people like yourselves that make our job so much more rewarding. Please take care and once again a sincere thank you from all of our Crew, over here in the Middle East Area of Operations.

Crew 1/11 SQN.

It of course referred to the Anzac Day package we sent. It obviously did not reach a 5RAR soldier but never the less it brought a little bit of Australia to serving personnel over there.

The photo is of the crew in front of their Orion aircraft. Judith is over the moon and has already picked a spot on the wall for the photo of "our" crew to go. Now she is already planning a Christmas package to send!

HMAS SYDNEY TO NZ

Here are two photos I took when 5 RAR ventured to the North Island of NZ to exercise at Waiouru in 1973.

We sailed over on HMAS Sydney to Wellington where we marched through the city before embussing on trucks to Rotorua then the training area and finally to Auckland for a drop of leave and home again on the Sydney. I'm sure it was the last commissioned voy-

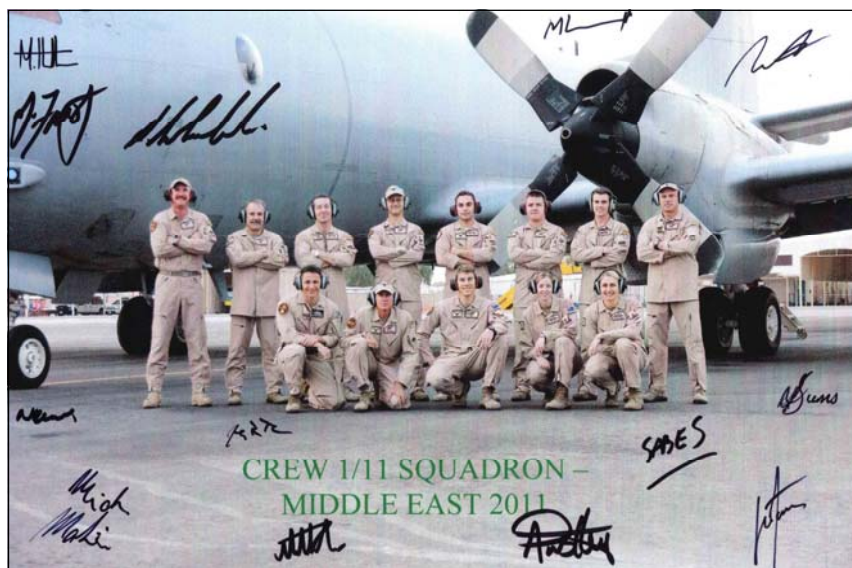


HMAS Sydney with a bit of a roll.

Trying to keep warm.

age of the troop ship. My main memory was of it rolling like mad with any type of swell. Navy boys said it had several compartments flooded but this was never confirmed.

Warren Reye
5 RAR 1973-76



Alan (C Coy '69/70) and Judith Miles



10

A CLOSE CALL

One soldier who has seen plenty of combat action is MAG58 gunner PTE Thomas Jane.

His most memorable contact took place on March 5 this year.

"We were at Tutac and we were taking accurate PKM (machine gun) fire and I was told to move back and cover my arse while I had my back up against a quala wall," PTE Jane said.

"I had my MAG58 barrel resting on another wall in front of me with the bipod legs stretched out in front of the wall so it wouldn't kick back into my shoulder while I fired it.

"As I had to cover a large area I had one hand on my pistol and one hand on the gun.

PTE Jane and his mates continued to be engaged by the PKM gunner.

"I thought I saw someone walking in front of me in the distance, but it turned out to be a sheep," he said.

"Then we received a whole heap of rounds, we could hear them zipping over our heads and then I remember seeing a massive amount of dust kick up in front of me

"My mate said 'dude. f***, they're shooting at you man'."

PTE Jane continued to cover his arse and then something happened to his weapon. "A round hit the side of my barrel and it split the side of the flash suppressor." he said

"As soon as the round hit I dropped back onto my arse and I was still holding the trigger and luckily the wall in front of me gave me cover.

"I was shaking my mates were asking me if I was hit and I was patting myself down to see if I was bleeding"

PTE Jane wasn't badly hurt and tried to get back into the fight.

"I tried to re-engage, but I kept getting stoppages and after checking my ammunition I still couldn't get it going.

"I was happy it hit the barrel and not me. I was very lucky."



PTE Thomas Jane and the flash suppressor that was struck.

Photo and story by Sgt Andrew Hetherington
ARMY Newspaper

1 RAR'S PONY GETS MARCHING ORDERS

A rogue military mascot will be put out to pasture after a chequered army career disobeying commands and assaulting the top brass.

Shetland pony SGT Septimus "Seppy" Quartus, the official mascot for Townsville's First Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR), will be honourably discharged after 17 years serving his country despite being charged with insubordination last year.



"He can be a cantankerous little pony and has been known to take a chunk out of the guys during marches," 1 RAR CO LTCOL Andrew Hocking said. "He has kicked out at superiors and dignitaries and absolutely hates 2 RAR ... if you wear black clothes he goes ballistic."

The petulant pony, who lives at Lavarack Barracks, was enlisted in 1993. And like his forefathers, Seppy has proved a tough recruit but with larrikin ways. His great-great-grandfather had a penchant for the ladies and often went AWOL.

The Australian Army has released the official conduct records for all four Shetland pony mascots and each reads like an episode from TV series M*A*S*H. The serving Seppy's records show that the prickly pony has completed parachute training and has a column in the newsletter.

Last year he was charged with disobeying a lawful command after publishing rebellious comments about the CO.

The comments came after LTCOL Hocking, who admits he has no idea who is behind the Seppy satire, censored his rants and threatened to demote him for insubordination.

But it is not just the CO's authority that the pony has challenged. Retired General Peter Cosgrove has copped several swift kicks from Seppy.

The current Seppy's military charge sheet is relatively mild compared to his great-great-grandfather Septimus, the original mascot.

The first Seppy went AWOL three times and was punished with hard rations. Soldiers say the frisky pony would often run off to "meet the ladies". The Shetland was also reprimanded after trying to kick a superior officer in the family jewels.

The current Seppy will front a parade for the last time during the Battle of the Coral Sea celebrations in Townsville in May. PTE Septimus Quintus, who was born on October 5 in the Lockyer Valley, will take his place.

Courtesy Sunday Mail (QLD)

Editors Note: This story has two connections with 5 RAR, firstly is that in 1965 the nucleus of 5 RAR was formed from 1 RAR personnel, and secondly they have used the name of the 5 RAR mascot, Quintus, to designate him as their fifth mascot.

CANUNGRA PLAQUE PRESENTATION

Saturday 29 October is the anniversary of the dedication of the Canungra Vietnam Memorial, which is situated at Land Warfare Centre (LWC) or Jungle Training Centre (JTC) as we knew it. This will also be the day that a plaque is installed to commemorate the members of 5 RAR who have been killed or wounded in theatres of operations around the world.

The ceremony will take place at 1100 hours with dress as jacket and tie with medals. This will be followed by a self-funded lunch and drinks at the Canungra RSL Club.

The manufacturer produced two plaques for our 45th anniversary. The second is identical to the one dedicated at Twin Towns at the reunion last year and it was decided to place the second plaque at Canungra with other Association plaques in recognition of the training that was undertaken at Canungra prior to operational deployment.

If any member would like to attend on this day please contact Gary Townsend on 07 5594-4780, 0412 767-975 or garyt.5rar@gmail.com so that numbers can be calculated.

Gary Townsend

THE LONELY FORWARD SCOUT

Each man has his duty
Yes, each man has his job
And each one takes the chance
That he will stand before his God
But ask of any soldier
What he thinks about the scout
The one that leads the others
The lonely forward scout

He's the first one into danger
The first to face the shots
He sees and hears what others miss
And reads right on the spot
For none may walk beside him
While he is up in front, the scout
He's known as both the eyes and ears
The lonely forward scout

But man is man and life goes round
And returns to form a ring
The whispering of the leaves may mean
That death is on the wing
The rifles boom, the rockets crash
Many lives hang in doubt
His chest now but a crimson cloak
The lonely forward scout

There now lies in our sunburnt land
Deep down below the earth
A boy who died a soldier's death
For all this, it was worth
We were hit from every side it seemed
Just able to get out
But there up front, alone, he died
The lonely forward scout

CPL Stephen Evans, 9RAR 1969



THE HORSESHOE

In his book 'Vietnam Task' Robert O'Neill, the battalion's intelligence officer first tour wrote:



A Chinook helicopter laden with supplies approaches the landing pad of the newly defended "Horseshoe."

Photo by Ron Webb, A Coy 1966/67 and 1969/70

"The stretch of country from Nui Dat, through Long Tan, around to the east of Dat Do, and to the east of the villages on Route 44 between Dat Do and the sea, was the area through which Viet Cong movement into Central Phuoc Tuy could take place. Just to the north east of Dat Do, approximately half-way between Nui Dat and the coast rose the steep slopes of what had once been a small volcano. A crater rim, roughly circular in plan except that the southern sector had been blown out, rose to a height of two hundred feet above the surrounding plain. The crater was six hundred yards across and the defences of a complete rifle company, its administrative installations, and a gun position for artillery of any size could all be sited within it. The fields of fire for defenders on the lip of the crater were limitless while an attacking force would have to assault up a slope of two hundred feet on a gradient of nearly two in one. Thus an excellent defensive position was available for a small force at a convenient point for controlling the eastern approaches and for preventing Viet Cong movement into Dat Do from Long Tan. Furthermore the hill was well placed for launching operations to the east, particularly towards Xuyen Moc.

Brigadier Graham's plans for interdicting to the east were completed in February 1967. They called for one rifle company and a troop of field artillery to be established permanently in the crater of what came to be called the Horseshoe Hill, because of its shape. The country between Nui Dat and the Horseshoe was to be controlled by patrolling from both bases and a barrier fence and minefield was to be built from the Horseshoe to the coast, covering seven miles in its course. At the same time a massive thrust was to be made out to Xuyen Moc to clear the country from the coast to over fifteen miles inland of Viet Cong and their bases, caches and other installations."

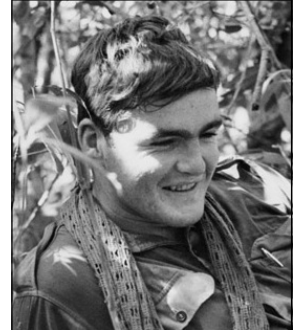


12

IN MEMORIUM

3411726 GLENN JOSEPH BENHAM 7 October 1946 - 23 May 1988

I have been advised that "Moose", as Glenn was affectionately called in Recce Platoon 1966/67, passed away on the 23rd of May 1988. The Platoon had been trying to contact Moose for various events over the years and the sad news today explains why we were unable to do so. Moose was my Platoon Signaller and a strapping young bloke of incredible strength who used to carry his load and more with considerable ease. Moose struggled with his inner demons and sadly at such a young age he died by his own hand. A much loved member of the platoon, a fine soldier and a good mate gone far too young and far too soon. Moose and Judy his now divorced and remarried widow, had a son, Shawn. I am in touch with the family and have extended our hand of friendship albeit some 23 years after Moose's passing.



Sadly after Vietnam, Moose isolated himself from anything Vietnam and none of us ever had the opportunity to say g'day, or now goodbye!

May this fine soldier always rest in peace.

Michael von Berg MC, OC Recce PI 1966/67



It has been published in the March issue of The Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Journal that the following ex-Tigers have passed away.

216962 ROGER JOHN SCHAEFFER 12 November 1946 - 28 September 2010

Roger served with the Battalion from March to May 1967 and was then posted to 7RAR.

216922 JOHN VINCENT GRELCK 19 October 1941 - 2 February 2011

John served with the Battalion from March to April 1967 and was then posted to 7RAR for the remainder of his tour. John also served with the AATTV on their last tour in 1972 and his last posting was as the RSM of 2nd Officer Cadet Training Unit in Townsville.

22608 JOHN PERCY CLARKE 15 July 1930 - 20 March 2011

WO2 John Clarke passed away in Sydney on Sunday 20 March. He served as CSM ADM Coy and then CSM D Coy, with 5RAR in South Vietnam 1966-67.

John completed a tour with AATTV from July 1964 to June 1965. On 10 November 1964 John, along with other AATTV members in the Da Nang area, took part in a rescue operation after Tropical Storm Kate, for which he was awarded the "Queens Commendation for Brave Conduct", the award for bravery in a non-military situation.

Previous to that John served with 3RAR and also with Headquarters, 1st British Commonwealth Division in the Korean conflict.

A funeral was held for John at Pine Grove Cemetery, Sydney, on 24th March.



Rest Easy Soldier

38922 ARTHUR PHILLIP SINCLAIR 5 March 1947 - 24 March 2011



We have been informed that Arthur "Ziggy" Sinclair passed away in Mackay on Thursday 24 March, after a long battle with bowel cancer. Arthur served as a Corporal with 5RAR, in the Mortar Platoon, on the Battalion's tour in 1969-70.

In all, Arthur served with 4 Battalions of the Regiment in Vietnam, 6RAR from March to May 1967, 2RAR from May to December 1967, 5RAR from February 1969 to March 1970 and 4RAR from May 1971 to February 1972.

Arthur's funeral was held for family members at Mackay Funeral Chapel on Monday 28 March.

Your work is done.

IN MEMORIUM

13



2781367 DENOVAN ERIC HILLIER 28 January 1945 - 28 April 2011



Notice has been received that Denovan (Don) Hillier passed away on Thursday 28 April.

Don served with 4 Platoon, B Company on the Battalion's first tour until he was Wounded-In-Action in the Long Hai Hills Mine incident on 21 February 1967.

Stand down soldier

2789641 BARRY RAYMOND WILLIAMS 28 July 1947 - 3 May 2011

I lost a good friend on Thursday 28 April, CPL Barry (Bungy) Williams passed away after a long and courageous struggle with cancer.

I know I will miss this man whose attributes were courage, mateship, honour, duty, loyalty and integrity, he was my friend and brother. Each person has to look inside their soul to value such a friendship and mateship.

Barry's served two tours of South Vietnam; first with D and C Companies, 5RAR, 69-70; his second tour was with the MAT Teams, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, 70-71-72. He then was posted as an Instructor in Kapooka.

For my part, I was privileged and richer to have had such a friend.

John Hunter, D Coy 1969



3787182 DAVID WILLIAM SHARP 27 January 1945 - 1 May 2011



I sadly advise you that David William Sharp passed away at about 16:00 Sunday 1 May in Adelaide. His family were at his side. Dave's funeral took place in Adelaide on Fri 6 May at the Florey Chapel, Centennial Park, Goodwood Rd, Pasadena SA.

David was a member of the very first intake of those magnificent national servicemen that were called up in 1965. He was a forward scout who then became the signaller for Callsign 32. David will forever be respected as a very popular and integral member of 8 platoon. I had the privilege of sharing a hutchie with David for virtually all our operations. He will be missed.

Rest in Peace Sharpy.

Roger Wainwright, OC 8 PI 1966/67

ANZAC DAY COFFEE

My wife, Helen, and I went to Canberra for two days to commemorate ANZAC Day this year. While there we were invited to have coffee with Colin Khan, our Patron, he made us very welcome and as always he was a real gentleman.

Helen had an aneurism (DVT) in her left leg burst, 10 minutes after take-off from Hobart, and was confined to a wheelchair during our stay, but is now slowly recovering. We were going to be flying to Vancouver, Canada, thank god it happened here and not over there.



Colin, Helen and David, Canberra.

David Keating, Tracker PI, 1969/70

THE MUSHROOM CLUB

The members of C Company 1966/67 now have their own web-site, "The Mushroom Club", named after the original C Company 'boozer'. The web-site at cgtownsend.com will post news, articles and photos that it is hoped will be of interest to the "Chuckles" members and keep them informed of any future events.



If any C Company members have photos or stories that they would like to have posted on the web-site, please contact Gary Townsend on 07 5594-4780, 0412 767-975 or email at garyt.5rar@gmail.com

DISCLAIMER: The 5 RAR Association, the National Committee and the Editor take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies contained in this newsletter. Nor do they accept any liability for any loss or damage suffered directly or indirectly from use of information contained in this newsletter. Nor do they warrant that articles or opinions published in this newsletter are necessarily the opinions held by the Association, the National Committee or the Editor.



5 RAR ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011

Opening Balance as at 1 July 2010				\$ 21,931.72
INCOME				
Dues	\$	37,166.00		
Memorabilia Sales	\$	11,971.49		
Donations	\$	423.50	\$ 49,560.99	\$ 71,492.71
EXPENDITURE				
Postage & Handling	-\$	3,615.56		
Printing and Stationery	-\$	5,041.94		
Floral Tributes	-\$	272.70		
Memorabilia Purchases	-\$	1,308.00		
Website	-\$	249.00		
Presentations and Donations	-\$	3,231.62		
RAR Corp	-\$	258.00		
Miscellaneous	-\$	562.27		
Travel & Accommodation	-\$	708.95		
Cash Investment Trust	-\$	20,000.00		
GST	-\$	908.50		
Bank Fees	-\$	177.65	-\$ 36,334.19	\$ 35,158.52
RECONCILIATION				
Statement Balance as at 30 June 2011	\$	35,208.52		
Cash Book Balance	\$	35,158.52		
Cash on Hand to be Banked	\$	50.00		\$ 35,208.52
MEMBERS' EQUITY				
Cash Book and Cash on Hand	\$	35,208.52		
Cash Investment Trust	\$	21,018.12		
Term Deposits	\$	45,000.00		
Stock On Hand At Cost	\$	9,522.56		
TOTAL				\$ 110,749.20
Accounts Owing and Contingencies				
Remainder of 5 RAR CO's Tiger Presentation	-\$	610.00	(Estimate)	
Dec 2010 and Apr 2011 Tiger Tales	-\$	9,009.83	(Paid Post 30 June)	
New Association Caps	-\$	0.00	(Price and Quantity - TBA)	
Memorabilia/Postage, Schafer, Pearson, Hamlyn	-\$	400.00	(Estimate)	



THE AERIAL CONNECTION

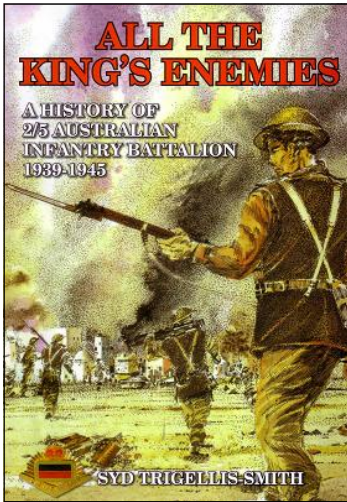
Without the air traffic arriving and departing from Luscombe Airfield with troops and logistics, the Task Force would have been isolated with the exception of Route 2, a road link from Nui Dat to Vung Tau. A 'Chinook' can be seen landing at the Task Force base. The mountain ranges of the Nui Dinh and the Nui Thi Vai's in the background were VC strongholds.

Unfortunately the clearance of these mountains caused many casualties to the Australians.

NEW MEMBERS APRIL - AUGUST 2011

Regt No	Given Names	Surname	Tour	Suburb/Town	State
237771	David N	ALLEN	Post SVN	Northlakes	NT
5715611	Maxwell Edmund	CHAPMAN	V2	Greenwood	WA
AF19668371	James	METCALF	V1	Boulder City	NV USA
216438	Neil Arthur	ROGERS	V1&2	Beaconsfield	QLD
3792976	Terence Michael	RYAN	V2	Carlton	VIC
2808223/8250778	Matthew	SHEA	Post SVN	South Perth	WA
37405	David Euan	SPARK	V1	Red Cliffs	VIC
3786815	Murray Robert	WHITE	V1	Ferny Creek	VIC
221303	Brian James	WILSON	Aust	Emu Plains	NSW

THE 2/5th BATTALION'S PART IN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY HISTORY



The history of the 215th infantry Battalion, "All the King's Enemies", was reprinted in late 1994 by order of Major General Frank Hickling, the General Officer Commanding the Australian Army's Training Command. The following letter by General Hickling, which appeared on the inside front cover of the reprint, points to why the Battalion is so important in Australian military history.

"This book has been reprinted by Headquarters

Training Command of the Australian Army. The headquarters recently published other works of Australian military history but this is the first occasion it has reprinted an existing work and a unit history. I wish to explain the reasons for doing so.

The books and films of Australian military history produced by Headquarters Training Command reinforce our current Army doctrine or illustrate the well-founded principles of war. Our efforts to date have focused primarily on individual battles, although a campaign history is currently being prepared. "All the King's Enemies" was recommended for reprinting as it was an excellent account of a battalion at war which contained many relevant lessons for junior officers, non-commissioned officers and private soldiers. The book was also an important piece of Australia's military history in that the 2/5th Battalion was one of only two battalions to fight all of Australia's enemies in the Second World War; Italians, Germans, Vichy French and the Japanese. Despite this "All the King's Enemies" was extremely difficult to obtain and our Defence Libraries held only one copy of the book placed on a special reserve.

For these reasons we decided to reprint the record of service of the "Fighting Fifth". I regard it a significant contribution to Australia's military history and as an appropriate way for my command to help commemorate the 50th year since the end of the Second World War.

*F.J. Hickling
Major General
Sydney NSW*

1 November 1994."

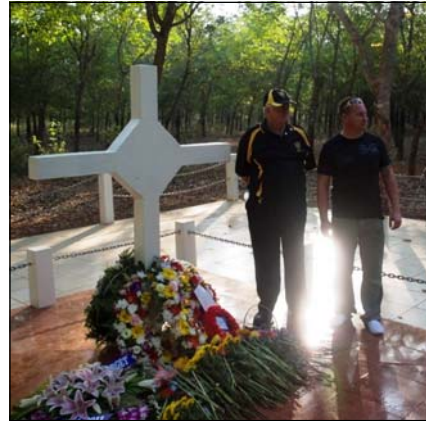
"All the King's Enemies" was first published in 1988 and as Ian Clarke has recently put it, the 1994 reprint was a feather in the cap for the author, the late Syd Trigellis-Smith.

Also of note is that the book has again recently been reprinted and is available through several internet based book sellers. The fact of three editions of "All the King's Enemies" is also a feather in the cap for all soldiers who served in the 2/5th Infantry Battalion.

Courtesy of 2/5th Assoc Newsletter

VIETNAM 2011

The first two photos have been supplied by John Hellyer who served with C Coy 5RAR in 1966-67. John returned to Vietnam to attend the ANZAC Day service held at the Long Tan Cross.



The first shows John, and his son, Denis at the cross following the service.

The second is of the old Baria water-tower which is still there.

Oh, if any of you go back to Vietnam, those pedestrian

crossings mean absolutely nothing at all, just step off the kerb anywhere you like, walk slowly, don't run, and you **should be alright!!**



Thank you John

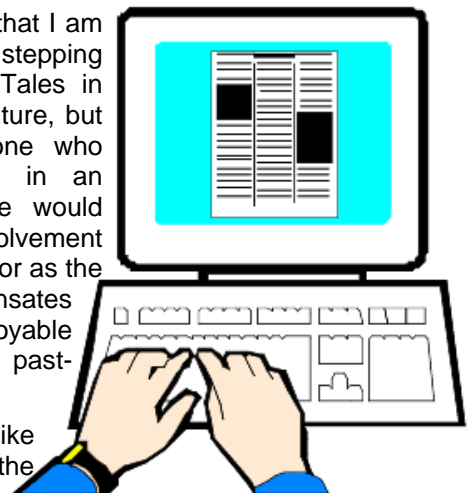


FROM THE EDITOR

The National Committee is seeking to appoint an "Emergency, Back-Up Editor" for Tiger Tales. This is necessary to ensure that the newsletter would continue if I found myself in unexpected or exceptional circumstances.

I must state here that I am not considering stepping back from Tiger Tales in the foreseeable future, but we need some-one who could take over in an emergency. There would be very little involvement while I am the editor as the position compensates me with an enjoyable and interesting past-time.

If any member is like to know what the position would entail, please contact me on 07 55944780, 0412 767975 or by email at garyt.5rar@gmail.com and we can discuss why the position is necessary and what it would involve.



Gary Townsend



THE SAGA OF NUI DAT

5 RAR AND 33 REGT MEET AGAIN

A Committee Member of the 33 Regt Veterans Association, Vo Xuan Thu joined Peter Turner, Rob Penny and Phil Ahearn (all Sig PI 2nd Tour) at this year's ANZAC Day ceremony at the replica Long Tan Cross at the site of the battle.



From left: Rob Penny, Peter Turner, Vo Xuan Thu and Phil Ahearn.

Peter, who is also President of the Cairns RSL, is developing closer ties with our former enemies from 33 Regt in Vietnam.

"Thirty-Three Regiment has a fascinating history," said Peter. "They were involved in the Battle of Ia Drang in 1965 attacking the force sent to relieve LZ X-Ray. Then after fighting in the central Highlands and in Tay Ninh Province, they ended up in Phuoc Tuy in late 1968 and stayed there until the end of the war."

For their part the 33 Regt veterans, in particular Vo Xuan Thu, are also keenly interested in the Australians and their operations in old Phuoc Tuy province.

Thu joined 33 Regt in 1970 after a four month walk down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. He says of the one hundred people who started out with him only sixty or so made it to the south.

Thu also collects Australian memorabilia which he puts in the 33 Regt museum or House of Tradition as they call it located at the Regiment's Memorial at Binh Ba.

Thu spent several days around ANZAC Day showing Peter, Rob and Phil around Vung Tau and the province.

Walter Pearson, Monkey Bridge Tours



I say Old Boy, have you heard the word that's got around?

There's a Company up on top of Nui Dat.

They've got a Shangrila up there;
And the bastards won't come down.

What the hell will the C.O. do about that!

"This hill is ours" they've told the world,
"No intruder comes up here."

"We'll hold this place 'till Kingdom come;
Or, at least, for this one year."

We've closed the road,
And sighted guns for every field of arc;
We've laid our mines and booby traps,
Our flares light up the dark.

"We've built a boozier from bamboo,
We've got a still installed.

We've got the food, we'll get the girls;
We're going to have a ball.

And we're going to stay right here
.....On Nui Dat."

The C.O. thought: "I'll starve them out,
But they're too well fed for that;

I'd put an air drop on the hill,
But I just can't call on SAS."

Then the light of wisdom dawned;
To clear the furrowed brow,
The C.O. smiled in triumph:

"I've got the answer now:

They think they'll live a life of ease,
Of bawdy vice and sin.

I'll stop their game before it starts,
I'll send the Padre in!"

He'll get those rebels down
.....From Nui Dat.

The C.O. was right, you know, Old Man,
The Padre did the trick.

He drove the Company from the hill;
And there, alone, he sits.

....Well, not quite alone, you see, Old Friend,
The Boozers' up there still,

And if one relates the raucous din that echoes from the
hill;

To a Padre lost to a life of sin,
Then the problem's with us still.

Who's going to get the Padre down:
.....From Nui Dat!

© Father John Williams

Father John Williams was the battalion's Catholic padre during the battalions' f1966/67 tour. Sadly he passed away 24 September 2004. As can be seen he had a great sense of humour. In the words of John O'Callaghan ... "Enjoy your promotion!"



NOTICES

17



ACT REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

We are in need of a volunteer to assume the position of State Representative for the Australian Capital Territory.

Barry Morgan, after almost nine years in the position, would like to retire and is hoping that someone will step up to take his place.

The duties are not onerous and if you feel that you could contribute in this position, please contact Bernie Pye whose contact details are shown on page 18.

C COY 1966-67 REUNION APRIL 2012

Currently there are about 74 members and partners of C Coy 1966-67 who have committed to attend the ANZAC Day Reunion in Portland, Vic, in 2012.



It is anticipated that this event will start with an informal get-together on Tuesday evening to provide information about Portland and the ceremonies. ANZAC Day will begin with the Dawn Service, followed by the Gunfire Breakfast and then, at 1030 hours, the March and Service. The guest speaker for the Main Service in 2012 will be Roger Wainwright, OC 8 PI '66-67 and 5RAR Association President.

It is a tradition in Portland that the guest speaker's Unit emblem is represented in a floral display and this may be the only chance that you will ever have to see our C Company Logo depicted in flowers.

A dinner is being planned for Thursday evening.

If you feel that you would like to attend please contact Daryl McCombe on (03) 55234913, 0428 234913 or darylmccombe@gmail.com

THANK YOU FROM ZACH DAVIS

In the April issue Zach Davis, who resides in the UK, asked for information on his great-uncle, Sid (The Sheriff) Davis. Below is an email that I recently received from Zach and my thanks go to all those members who assisted him with his request, the Editor.

I'd like to sincerely thank yourself and every other Tiger who has helped me with my research on my great-uncle Sid. A few months ago all I knew of my great-uncle was that he was a soldier in the Australian Army and went to Vietnam once or twice. Now I have an almost complete knowledge on Sid, RAR and the ANZAC legend, as I've looked into the likes of Gallipoli and Kokoda. It's amazing to think someone in my family is a part of a tradition that has helped shape your nation since 1915. In the next few years I plan to come to Australia as I have family there and quite a few relatives moving over, and given the chance, I would definitely like to continue upholding the ANZAC legend within the Davis name. Who knows what the future may bring.

Zach Davis
zach_davis@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES AND ENQUIRIES

All enquiries regarding membership, or changes and amendments to your contact details should be forwarded to:

The Secretary, 5 RAR Association,
31 Kenilworth St, Bondi Junction, NSW, 2022.
02 9387-1409 or hamlyn_rar@yahoo.com.au

TIGER TALES ARCHIVES

The Back Issues of Tiger Tales, from August 1987 to December 2010, are now on the 5 RAR Association Website.

These are stored in the PDF file format for ease of viewing or downloading to your computer. You will find them under the 5 RAR Association Newsletter, TIGER TALES banner on the Contents Page.

10th INTAKE NASHO REUNION NO. 4

Our 4th biennial Reunion will be held from Mon 5th September until Sun 11th September 2011 at our regular site, Sawtell Beach Caravan Park, Sawtell, NSW. Phone 1800 729 835 to book your camp/van site/cabin using Group Booking N^o 70549.

For more details contact either;
Max/Carol Dahler mdahler@bigpond.com 07 5494-5136
Bill/Sandie Snape bill.snape@hotmail.com 07 4981-0127

A special invitation is extended to any 5RAR 10th Intakers in Australia who have not attended one of our fantastic reunions before. Can you please contact Richard Barry richyvon@hotmail.com 02 6792-3114 whether you are going to attend the 2011 Reunion or not as he would like to add your details to his comprehensive contact data base in order for continued contact and support.

D COMPANY 1969-70 REUNION OCT 2012

The next D Coy (2nd tour) Reunion is planned for 18-21 October 2012, at Dubbo, in NSW. Purpose of this notice is to remind everyone of the reunion so you can put it on your schedule and ask that the word be spread to all 2nd Tour D Coy blokes. Bob Douglas (ex 12 Pl) lives in Dubbo and has volunteered to help get the reunion organised (thanks Bob).

The details of the event are yet to be planned, we will get more info out later in 2011 along with update of Platoon/CHQ Reps so you can confirm/update your contact info....for the moment just put the dates on your schedule and tell your mates so we can get as many as possible along to the reunion.

Bob Fenwick, sendfenwick@bigpond.com



"Tiger Tales is printed and distributed for the 5 RAR Association by The Pack Factory, 2 Haran St, MASCOT, NSW, 2020. Graeme Tooth, the principal of The Pack Factory, is a veteran of 5 RAR's 1969-70 tour of South Vietnam"



A SNIPERS PERSPECTIVE - AFGHANISTAN

Through the darkness we move with caution, passing Qalas whose inhabitants are fast asleep, unaware of our presence. Our night vision goggles a green hue, gathering ambient light courtesy of the snipers moon. Foothills beckon us towards the mountain looming above, waiting to accept us with its cold and jagged embrace. We begin the ascent.

Slowly we wind up and up... legs aching, lungs craving for more oxygen as we gain altitude. Our equipment feels heavier with every step that's taken. Eyes scan, ears listen, smells are analysed. We must remain vigilant as the enemy uses these mountains as well. **"THUD"**... one of the patrol members has taken a fall down the hill side. We can only hope no-one has heard us.



Many hours later we have arrived at our destination. A quick reconnaissance of the area deems it clear.

We lay wet shivering from sweat, high up in the mountain as an icy wind cuts to the bone. Our Observation Post is set... a panoramic view awaits us. The sun begins to rise and sheds light upon our target area.

With eyes glued to our optics we begin a methodical scan of the area. Each patrol member responsible for a given arc, searching for any indicators of an enemy presence. The local pattern of life begins. Smoke rises from compounds, herds are led to graze and farmers tend to their crops.

Individuals are scrutinized as to their intentions. Do they have weapons? Bingo. Small groups begin moving to their fighting positions, unearthing caches of weapons along the way. We have counted upwards of thirty-plus insurgents, travelling in groups of five to six, armed with an assortment of weaponry... AK 47, PKM (*Kalashnikov machine gun*), RPG, bolt-action rifles. They have ammo bearers following behind. Amongst them children are embedded within. A cowardly tactic indeed, but one which the INS (*Insurgents*) know we would have difficulty in engaging.

Reports are sent to CHQ in detail, chronicling these events... a commentary of the battlefield as seen through our eyes.

"India-39 this is India-63-Yankee, multiple RPG and PKM teams sighted. Request permission to engage key targets, over."

Ranges and angles are calculated. Wind strength and direction is judged. External climatic conditions bring forth the challenge of determining our final firing solutions. Scopes are set, yet we wait, continuously updating all available information needed to release that inevitable shot. Time slows as we wait for the green light to engage. A calm anticipation descends upon us.

"India-63-Yankee this is India-39, green light to engage

Charlie-2 elements and heavy weapon teams, out."

Each individual conducts final calculations and applies these to their scopes.

"Co-ord shoot, at my command, all call-signs report when ready."

We in turn acknowledge our team leader.

"Ready, Ready... Ready, Ready... Stand-by... Fire"


A loud report echoes throughout the valley as four Sniper Weapon Systems engage simultaneously. Insurgents tumble, scatter and fall into aqueducts. Some emerge clearly wounded. Others call children over using them as human shields to affect their withdrawal to a safer position. Those remaining seek cover and receive unwelcome attention from us as we systematically engage their rear echelon, picking it to pieces.

This scenario is just one of the numerous occasions where Snipers have been utilised to accurately target Insurgents beyond the range of the combat team's inherent weapon systems. Not only has our ability to provide precision long range fire and gather information requirements prevented the inevitable collateral damage often associated with warfare conducted within a COIN (*Counter Insurgency*) orientated environment, but also allowed other friendly elements to shape their course of action and set the conditions in place for them to manoeuvre. This undoubtedly, has prevented the Insurgents from initiating well prepared ambushes. On almost every occasion I63Y sniper team has initiated contact with the insurgents within the Tangi Valley. By forcing the Insurgents to adopt another scheme of manoeuvre it is clear that the capability provided by just four Snipers has undoubtedly prevented casualties throughout the combat team time and time again.

Our tour thus far has been, albeit an eye opener at times, a great privilege to serve our nation as a specialist asset within a Combat Team environment where everyone brings a niche capability to the forefront. As a sniper we see things from within our sights with different eyes and from different points of view. To the enemy... so far away. To us... up close and very personal, without remorse. Providing a skill set that is in my mind, without a doubt, the best job on this planet.

PTE J. P. Rolston,
Sniper, CT-C, 5 RAR, MTF 2

THINK



TELL US YOUR STORIES,
OR SEND US YOUR PHOTOS,
SHARE, AND KEEP OUR HISTORY
ALIVE FOR THE SAKE OF ALL
MEMBERS OF THE BATTALION
AND THE ASSOCIATION.

NEW DVA WEBSITE

This is to inform veterans and former serving members to let them know about a new health promotion initiative called the Wellbeing Toolbox.

The Wellbeing Toolbox is an on-line interactive tool designed primarily to assist those making the transition from the Australian Defence Force to civilian life, however it can be of use to any veteran who may feel they are not travelling too well.

What is the Wellbeing Toolbox?

The Wellbeing Toolbox allows you to self-assess your mental health needs and work through a self-management plan to help you adjust to post-military life. The Wellbeing Toolbox provides health advice in six key areas:

- problem solving;
- building support;
- helpful thinking;
- getting active;
- keeping calm; and
- sleeping better.

Based on international best practice, each module takes you through a series of information panels and allows you to complete interactive tasks and worksheets. You can work through all six modules or pick individual modules of particular interest.

By registering on the Wellbeing Toolbox you can save, revisit and update worksheets and a Self Management Plan. Saving your Self Management Plan allows you to identify goals and track your progress over time. Un-registered users can also complete worksheets and develop a Self Management Plan but will not be able to save and revisit their work. Registration for the Wellbeing Toolbox is free and anonymous and can be cancelled at any time.

More information and feedback

The Wellbeing Toolbox is available by visiting the 'At Ease' website www.at-ease.dva.gov.au or the post-ADF information portal, 'touchbase', www.touchbase.gov.au.

The Wellbeing Toolbox is being piloted for 12 months from March 2011 and is a partnership between the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Health. If you would like to be informed about opportunities to assist with the evaluation of this website please register your interest by e-mailing to; wellbeing-toolbox@unimelb.edu.au

You are strongly encouraged you to have a look at the website and recommend it to your friends.

In the meantime, if you are visiting your GP, don't forget to let him or her know that you are a veteran or have served with the Australian Defence Force. Partners and children should also tell their GP that they are from a veteran's family. GP's need to know this to provide treatment that best meets your needs and the needs of your family.



THE SLOUCH HAT

He was a big bloke for a gunner and as far as is known the only digger allowed to wear a Slouch Hat in 5 BN in Vietnam, his name; Tex Nevins. He was at home in the bush with a total awareness of his surrounds, the essence of a skilled Infantryman, always had a smile ready even after lugging a M60 and ammo around all day.

Once when we were in the weeds it came time to retire his tattered Slouch Hat so he left it on a stump with a note written on it for the nogs. It didn't take him long to train his new hat so after a few days it looked battered and worn and normal. I don't know where he got the hats from and didn't ask, he most probably had a trunk full of 'em.

He was proud of his ability with the M60, and he had every reason to do so, as the guns only stoppages were to load a new belt. However on one occasion, in an assault, myself and the Scout moved forward to firing positions so Tex could move up, but he didn't. I looked behind me to see him standing up swearing and kicking the cocking handle of the M60. It may have been the sight of a tall Uc-da-loi in a Slouch Hat standing swearing which amazed the nogs or perhaps they were just rotten shots but he was able to walk away to the rear. An angry PLCOMD, LT. Ian Hosie, appeared wanting to know why my machine gunner was wandering around in the middle of an assault, he gave me the depth Section machine gun and we continued the assault. We found out that the feed mechanism of the gun had jammed while Tex was giving covering fire for me and the Scout.



Tex Nevins and Jack Bradd

Many retired Slouch Hats later we came to the last battle of 5 RAR (excellent coverage of this in 'Year of the Tiger' by OC C Coy CAPT Dave Wilkins) I like the way Tex tells the story; 'In the Killer Group that night were myself, the PLCOMD (LT. Ian Hosie) Jack (CPL Jack Bradd) and Andy (LCPL Andy Macdougall). We heard the nogs come into the Killing Ground then the PLCOMD fired the Claymores (12) the ambush belonged to us and we hooked in'.

40 years later Tex is telling me things he should have told me way back then, for example; he always hated the nickname 'Tex', when he came home he transferred to RAE and took the nickname 'Digger' he has been known by that name since. He also told me he wore the Slouch Hat in honour of the diggers of the 39th BN of Kokoda Track fame. He reckons that it's about time he was in Tiger Tales but we'll have to leave that to the Editor.

Jack Bradd
C Company 1969-70

