

TIGER

Tales



5 RAR TIGERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE 5TH BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO — THE SECRETARY — P.O. BOX C60 CLARENCE ST. SYDNEY. 2000

NO. 4

REUNION POSTMORTEM ISSUE

JULY 1990



OUR COVER

Shows the 350 strong "Tiger" contingent
marching past the Cenotaph on Friday
2 March 1990 towards Regimental Square
where we held our Memorial Service

RRR ASSOCIATION - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	Col. John Warr DSO	(02-969-2961)
SECRETARY	Lt. Col. Ron Hamlyn	(02-262-5173)
TREASURER	Bob Fenwick	(02-99-4616)
MEMBERSHIP/ PUBLICITY	Geoff Pearson	(02-524-3561)

Brig. Colin Kahn (062-86-3631)	Brig. John Hooper (02-33-4812)
Lt. Col. Rod Margets (02-600-2333)	Maj. Lex Shuttlewood (02-600-2350)
Maj. John Miller (02-938-6312)	Capt. Brian Schafer (02-600-2337)
Colin Cooper (02-601-8613)	Lt. Col. Roger Lambert
WO1 Brian Boughton (02-600-2339)	

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

<u>QUEENSLAND</u>	Mr RL (Zeke) Mudine	(PHONE to be advised)
<u>VICTORIA</u>	Mr PK (Kerry) O'Connor	(03-744-2659)
<u>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</u>	Mr RH Naismith	(08-381-1465)
<u>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</u>	Mr JD (Blue) Burridge	(09-384-4139)
<u>TASMANIA</u>	Mr CM Illman	(003-43-0999)
<u>ACT</u>	Mr G Negus	(062-88-2070)

EDITORIAL

The Editor must apologise at all for the lateness of this newsletter. The past few months have not been all that easy, and the time has slipped away so fast, that it is rather embarrassing, to say the least, that we have not finished a newsletter since our 25th Reunion in February last.

Please forgive us on this occasion, and we will make an effort in the new year to set the record straight, and ensure that regular copies are forwarded on a much more regular basis.

On behalf of the Committee, I have been asked to bring to your attention the difficult task it is to make the newsletters interesting. It is extremely frustrating to sit down and prepare a publication, endeavouring to make it sound interesting, different, topical, when the majority of the input comes from one head. It sure would make life a whole lot easier, if some of you members would send stories/poems/photo's/etc, to assist us compile the newsletter.

We must state that we may not be able to use all the items sent, but we sure will be trying.

We must also make it clear from the outset, the Committee have decided that the Tiger Tales is not to be used as an advertising medium for members to sell their own products, and this is the reason why we have not placed some of the material within these pages that we have already been forwarded.

The Tiger Tales is to be used to keep members and ex-Tigers of not only newsworthy items of the 5TH Battalion, but also the Regiment in general. We aim to continue the fantastic spirit that was (and still is) evident from every member of the rank and file, that made the 5TH the great Battalion that it was. We feel also, that we have a commitment to inject some of that spirit into the 5/7th (Mech) to ensure that it continues to prosper within the young soldier of today. Let's all make an effort to encourage them. Give them guidance and direction.

It is YOUR DUTY to ensure that the Tiger spirit lives on.

Hope that you enjoy your long awaited edition of Tiger Tales, and please send any ideas that you may have to improve future editions.

Ed.

A rather placid looking mascot at the 25TH Anniversary Reunion

Whats the story with the cage ???



25TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

For those that were fortunate to attend the Reunion earlier this year, we say 'thank you' for making the weekend the success that it was. If you did miss out, we can only say sorry, but ensure that you keep up with further Association developments so that you do not miss out on future Reunion information. If you have not joined the Association, we direct your attention to the Application within this newsletter.

We already have well over 400 ex-Tigers that have joined, and we have the potential to at least double this in the short term, if we can get some of them out of hibernation.

From the time that the walking and mentally (alcohol induced) wounded started to form up in Martin Place, from the swelling of numbers, we could see that the weekend was going to be a huge success.

Many an old face was seen shaking hands, embracing, and generally telling yarns that have been bottled up for years, just waiting for an opportunity such as this to reminisce. To open up with mates that fully understand. That you do not have to apologise to. All having a common interest. A common bond.

Being mates, Sharing that common interest today. That interest of looking after each other.

The years have been kind to some of us, but not so kind to others.

Let's all remember that we do have a responsibility to ensure that we all try to look after each other. Endeavour especially to show empathy towards those of us that have not had lady luck on their side of late.

It soon was time to form up, and under the direction of the RSM-5/7 RAR (Mech) WO1 Brian Boughton, the parade was ready to march down Martin Place towards the RAR Memorial.

The Pipes & Drums of 5/7 RAR (Mech) provided us with suitable music to march past the Cenotaph (See front cover) where we paid suitable reverence, prior to us forming up at the Memorial in Regimental Square.

When the assembly was quiet, the Colours of 5 RAR were announced, and suitably presented to us. Once secured in their stands, the service commenced under the able direction of our Secretary, Mr Ron Hamlyn.

At the conclusion of the Memorial Service, several wreaths were laid. It was very encouraging to see a good number of wreaths from relatives/friends.

The total assembly adjourned to the Woolloomooloo Bay Hotel, where a great afternoon (night) was enjoyed by all. Whilst there were some minor complaints regarding the prices of drinks, generally, the whole day was a huge success.

The Regimental Dinner on the Saturday night was probably the highlight of the weekend.

From the time that members arrived at 5/7 RAR (the old 5 RAR Mess area) they were ushered into the mess where drinks & savories awaited. Again many yarns were being exchanged, prior to the assembly taking their seats in the Mess for what was to be a first class feed.

Before eating however, the Pipes & Drums of 5/7 RAR (Mech) marched into the Mess the Colours of 5 RAR. The oldest Colours in the Royal Australian Regiment.

All members stood to attention to pay due respect to OUR COLOURS (Please SEE a story within this edition regarding the history of Battalion Colours).

After Grace, a fantastic night unfolded.

We were entertained by displays from soldiers of 5/7 RAR (Mech). The Pipes & Drums gave a very stirring performance. Their rendition of Dominique brought the house down. This was played quite a few times. It is quite amazing that even the oldest amongst us remembers quite vividly the fond memories of breaking into quick time on the 5 RAR Parade ground to this fantastic march.

The Committee are currently working towards getting a tape recorded, which will include Dominique.

Even long after the Dinner had finished, members wandered around the old grounds, many finding their way to the Band Room (near the Sportsmens Club) where they 'battered on' until the wee (late) hours. Now that Band made it to the Drum head Service the next day has me stuffed, to say the least. And believe it or not, they sounded just as good the next day, as they did earlier that night at the Regimental Dinner.

Many of them did have dark glasses on, but never the less, they all did a great job. It is amazing what the human body can endure, and still come back for more.

Sunday morning saw a great day, starting with more familiar faces, together with their families, form up under the direction of the ISM.

The parade ground, once secure, saw OUR COLOURS march on, again to the tune of Dominique.

Members took up their places, to form a hollow square, where the Drums were piled and Service commence. It was certainly a stirring event.

After this, THE COLOURS were march off, battalion followed, and a full open day provided by the Battalion.

Food was aplenty (as was liquid refreshments).

The kids (and older kids) were well catered for with APC rides, Venture patrols, Flying Foxes, 25m range shooting/static display of the latest weapons/equipment ranges/etc.

The day finished around 4/5 PM, and not one complaint was registered.

The Association must thank the Officers and Men of the 5/7 RAR (Mech) for their efforts not only over the weekend of the Reunion, but for the weeks of preparation prior to the 2/3/4TH March.

Special thanks must go to Capt (Blue) Schaffer who arranged the beds/tents/glasses/jugs/grog/etc

The Pipes & Drums for their fine effort of providing music, over the 3 days. Especially, for their display at the Regimental Dinner. A display that will be talked about for quite some time.

RSM Boughton for his control and ceremony. Also for his direct to us well before the weekend commenced.

The CO (Rod Margetts) the 2IC (initially Dougal McMillan and now Lex Shuttlewood) for their co-operation in providing full usage of their Battalion.

We would not have been able to provide the facilities over the weekend without their assistance.

A thank you all, and especially to the men of 5/7 RAR (Mech). We sincerely hope that we can continue to enjoy the excellent rapport that we currently have with the Battalion. And we hope that we can provide some motivation, inspiration to the rank and file, to endeavour to keep the spirit of the TIGER within 5/7 RAR (Mech).

Whilst the Committee feel that the 25th Anniversary Reunion was a great success, obviously there were some problems that we hope we can iron out before our next scheduled Reunion in 1995 (30th Anniversary).

We have already expressed our thanks to 5/7 RAR (Mech) for the part that they played to make the 25th a success.

There are many members that feel that future Reunions should be centred around the Battalion (for their assistance ongoing) and definately here in Sydney because 5 RAR was a Sydney based Battalion/etc.

We agree in some areas that it seems a little unfair that interstate members must always travel to Sydney for Reunions, whilst NSW based members always seem to get away fairly light.

There has been suggestions that we should look to holding future Reunions in other States.

Blue Burrige from Western Australia has put a proposal forward to consider our next Reunion in Perth. He has gone to some trouble obtaining quotes (only as a guide at this time) to offer attractive packages (EG - single/family accomodation - trips included in package to Singapore.

He maintains that he could arrange a Reunion similar to our last, and provide additional functions for wives/familes/etc.

The Committee is only looking for ideas at this time, as we have plenty of time to work on our 30th. HOWEVER it would certainly help if we had your views on the subject.

COULD YOU PLEASE REGISTER YOUR VIEWS ON THE TEAR OFF SLIP BELOW, AND RETURN IT TO US BY WAY OF OUR PO BOX

I feel that the Reunion should remain in Sydney

I feel that future Reunions should be held in other cities to give other States members a better opportunity to attend

OTHER IDEAS _____

** If insufficient space, please use over.....

REUNION VIDEO

Those that attended the March Reunion would be aware that the Association had the whole event captured on video by Scott Cornell of Pilot Video.

Scott combined the overall weekend with footage "found" on Association members old 16/35mm film, as well as stills from "The Year of the Tiger" and anything else that he could find. The result is an excellent account of the 25th Anniversary Reunion highlights.

From the "form up" at Martin Place- March- Memorial Service- Informal Get together at Woolloomooloo Bay - Reunion Dinner (including the first class show from the 5/7 (mech) Pipes and Drums. The Drum Head Parade, family Bar B Que, and Battalion Mascot.

The more you play this video, the better it becomes, with many an old face gracing the screen. If Bill Collins gets hold of this, it will certainly be a classic.

You can obtain your copy of the video by completing the order form attached below. PLEASE do not forward your orders to the Association, IT direct to Pilot Video.



Have you Blokes Ordered your Video of the Reunion Weekend Yet?



'Cause Judging by the Footage we shot over **THOSE THREE DAYS** this might be **YOUR LAST CHANCE!!!**

Yes I Would Like Copy/ies

order form

VHS BETA

Name: _____		Tel: _____	
Address: _____			
_____		P. Code: _____	
Postage and packaging - \$5			
I enclose - cash /cheque for \$ _____ (cheques payable to Pilot Video)			
bankcard/mastercard			
cardholders name	expiry date	cardnumber	

Mail Orders to: PILOT VIDEO 384 Cleveland St.SURRY HILLS 2010. Ph.698-5181

THE COLOURS-

Whilst the Reunion Dinner was a great success, it is quite apparent that a number of our members are unaware of the importance of the Battalion Colours, which were piped into the Mess with great reverence.

It is not unusual for the average "digger" to fully understand the importance of "his" colours.

To enable all members to share with each other the unique example that was brought before them that night, the RSM of 5/7 (Mech) ,WO1 Brian Boughton has put together the following outline, which it is hoped we will all benefit.

THE COLOURS (Sir Edward Hamley)

A moth-eaten rag on a worm eaten pole
It does not look likely to stir a man's soul
Tis the deed that were done
Neath the moth eaten rag
When pole was a staff, and the rage was a flag

INTRODUCTION

As colours may be seen to have no practical value, it is sometimes thought that there is a case for their abolition. But colours are a symbol of the spirit of the Regiment, for on them are borne the battle honours and badges granted to the Regiment in commemoration of gallant deeds performed by members of the Regiment from the time it was raised.

This association of Colours with heroic deeds has caused them to be regarded with veneration.

In a sense, they are the epitome of the history of the Regiment.

The full history of a Regiment is contained in written records, but as these are not portable in a convenient form, the Colours, emblazoned with distinctions for long and honourable service, are something in the nature of a silken history, the sight of which creates a feeling of pride in soldiers and ex-soldiers.

COMPLIMENTS -

Uncased Colours should always be afforded the highest compliments. Soldiers in uniform are to salute, and those in civilian attire stand.

BATTLE HONOURS-

Authorised Battle Honours are emblazoned on the Colours. At present, the Regiment Colours of units of The Royal Australian Regiment display the following Battle Honours.

KOREA 1959-53
KAPYONG
VIETNAM 1968-72
LONG TAN
CORAL/BALMORAL

5/7 RAR (MECH)

Although 5/7 RAR (Mech) celebrate it's 17TH birthday this year, the Battalion does not have it's own Colours. The Battalion gladly accepts the task of holding both 5RAR and 7RAR Colours in trust. These Colours are the oldest Colours in The Royal Australian Regiment, as all other Battalions have since replaced their sets of Colours with a new design approved by Her Majesty the Queen in 1969.

5/7 RAR (Mech) takes great pride in parading these Colours on ceremonial occasions on behalf of both Battalions.

The 5 RAR Colours were originally presented to the Battalion by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler, VC.KCMG.KCVO.CBE on 29th October 1967.

***** Thank you very much Brian for your time and attention to detail that this topic deserves.

Well Tigers, there is really no excuses for the future**** Let's all give the Colours our thoughts, and dedication that they deserve. At some time or another, we have all served under "THIS RAG (FLAG)."

T COLOURS of 5 RAR

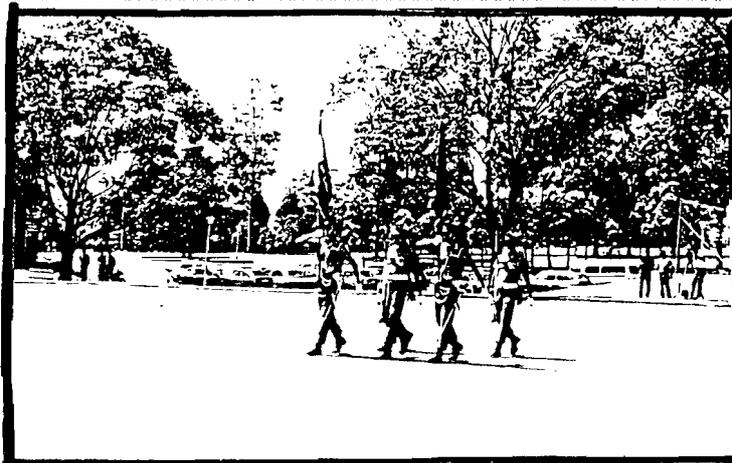
being marched onto

parade at the 25TH

Anniversary Reunion

Drum Head Parade

Sunday 4th March 1990



CARTOON CORNER

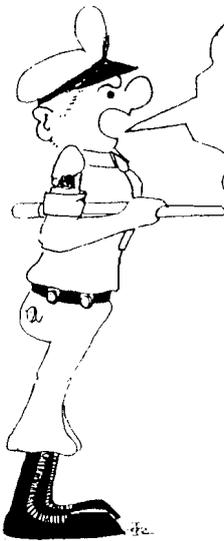
In previous issues of Tiger Tales, we advised you all that we were very fortunate to locate Tony Speelman, that well known 5 RAR cartoonist that illustrated "The Year of the Tiger" and our original Tiger Tales.

Tom has already given us some great material, but another idea came to him over the Reunion weekend.

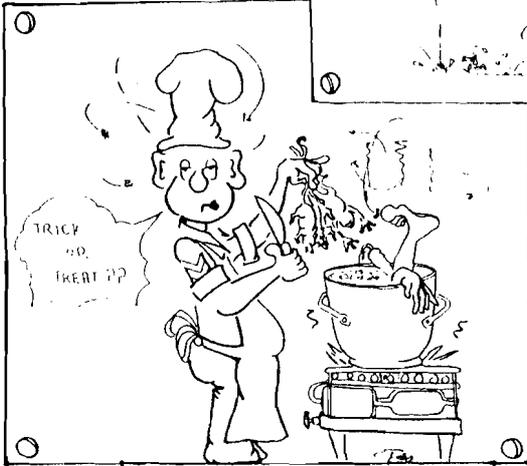
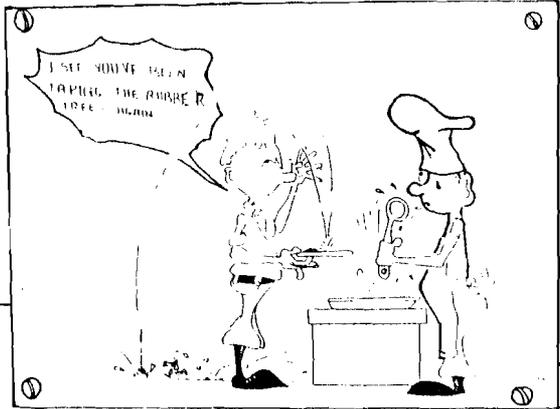
As well as our usual features, Tony has decided to draw us a feature cartoon article for each issue. The topic will vary (according to his mood at the time) but it will always centre around a subject within a Battalion. Hopefully the FIFTH, and hopefully, you will all see the humor as it is intended.

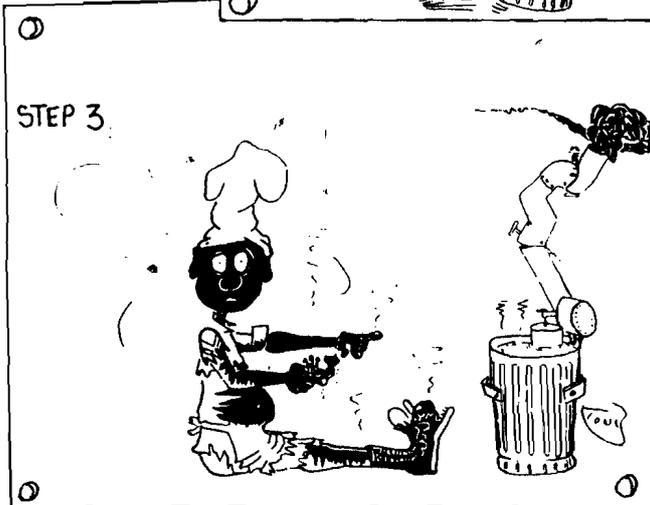
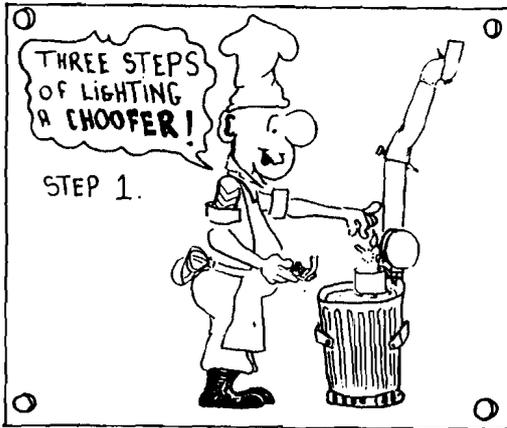
In this issue, Tony has given us an insight to the Catering Corps, as he agrees that they provided us with first class tucker over the Reunion weekend, and it seem appropriate at this time.

Thank you again Tony, and keep them coming.



CARTOONS ON PARADE





I didn't know it
was loaded Sir



"Charlie" Company
group.

"Blue Schaffer
Jack Lake
5/7 RAR Piper
Claude Ducker
Geoff Pearson

Have a look at the
heavies.

Not even a good voice
amongst them.



APOLOGY

In our last issue, we ran a poem "Bless Australia I Say", which had been given to us for inclusion into Tiger Tales.

That poem was intended only as a humorous item only, and certainly did not reflect the views of the Association.

Unfortunately, the inclusion of that item did upset a number of our Members.

The Committee sincerely apologise to those people offended by this poem, and we undertake to ensure that this type of item is not included in the future.

Please be assured that the main aim of Tiger Tales is to endeavour to run in the esprit de corps of THE TIGERS. To provide topical/humorous stories about its members, and generally items of interest.

Please accept our sincere apologies.

GALLIPOLI - ANZAC DAY - 25th APRIL 1990

Popular Member Siggy Jablonsky (lucky man works for QANTAS) was fortunate enough to accompany the Anzacs back to Gallipoli earlier this year, for the 75th Anniversary of the landing at Anzac Cove.

Whilst we are to include a full report from Siggy in our next issue, he reports that it was a very satisfying experience.

On behalf of 5 RAR and 7RAR, he layed wreaths to commemorate the occasion.

We done Siggy, and thank you from all ex-Tigers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Again, this section has been left BLANK.

We have not received a single letter from any member for inclusion in this section.

Please try to put something together for our next issue.

Subject to the Committee aproving, all letters received will be included, and our comments attached where necessary.

AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM FORCES NATIONAL MEMORIAL

If you are not aware, a design has been agreed upon for our Memorial, to be erected in Anzac Avenue in Canberra. The Memorial is to be completed for the official opening set down for 3/4th October 1992.

Already, accomodation in Canberra has started to fill, and the Association are planning a Reunion over that long weekend, as are all other Vietnam associated units, so you can imagine, Canberra will be iam packed.

The actual dedication takes place on Sunday 4th October, commencing with a Dawn Service, followed by the commemoration and march.

5 RAR Association plan on using both Saturday and Sunday to offer a Dinner, other outings, and a Bar B Que after the March on the Sunday, hopefully being shared with 7 RAR.

Colin Khan has been doing some great work securing accomodation on behalf of the Association, who have already paid a deposit to the Motel.

We have 200 bunk beds (10 to a room, with facilities) and 40 double rooms secured. If you wish to secure accomodation in the 5 RAR Association (first choice venue) you will have to complete the attachment within this edition, and forward full payment now.

YOU CAN ONLY BOOK FOR THE 2 NIGHTS (Sat 3/Sun 4 OCT 1992)

COSTS - Bunk Accommodation - \$ 50-00 (2 nights)
- Twin Rooms - \$200-00 (2 nights)

All bookings will be receipted on a FIRST come, FIRST served basis, and if you are too late for the initial bookings, we will return your payment under advice.

If we have a flood of bookings, our man in the ACT is currently seeking out additional accomodation, which is very limited, and we are not hopeful of finding much within the City limits.

BOOK NOW to avoid disappointment, if you are going to attend this historic occassion.

The accomodation booking form is enclosed.

We hope that we can provide you with more positive information in our next issue, but we urge you to give serious thoughts NOW as to whether you are to attend, and make arrangements for accomodation as soon as possible.

ATTACHMENT 1

5 RAR ASSOCIATION APPLICATION/ORDER FORM

SURNAME _____

GIVEN NAMES _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ POST CODE _____

PHONE NUMBERS _____

HOME

WORK

OCCUPATION _____

NICK NAME _____

REGIMENTAL NUMBER _____

Tick the appropriate Box & return this form with your remittance according to your choice, to the PO Box indicated on this newsletter

I wish to join the 5 RAR Association

\$25-00

I require a 5 RAR Tie

\$15-00