

# Half Circle



Number 181 – January 2022

This informal publication is for the members of C Coy 5 RAR (2<sup>nd</sup> tour), South Vietnam, 1969/70, and for the families of those who are no longer with us. It is non-political and is designed for us to have a laugh at ourselves, re-live our memories, and maintain camaraderie. Formal advice, when needed, should be sourced from Veterans' Organisations.



**AT THE RAP:** Neville Hayne and Vince Feenstra. We send our best wishes to our mates who are not as well as they would like to be.

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## Don Frohmuller reports:



During lockdown, I joined the NSW National Servicemen's Assoc., Gosford City Sub Branch who has a 'National Service (1951-1972) Re-enactment Unit' which we were asked to also join.

The photo, of Carolin and me was taken on Remembrance Day, 2021 at the Ettalong Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. I never thought I'd be back in uniform again! I was asked to join the catafalque party, however I didn't really want to handle a weapon again so opted for Chief Medic of the Unit where I have been promoted to 'Corporal'. I have been given the task and responsibility of looking after our 9 nurses, also dressed in First World War uniforms. I feel as

though I'm following in the footsteps of Kevin (Doc.) Mulligan. We will be attending the National Servicemen's Reunion in Moree in March where the Unit will again be involved. Our regards to all.

**REMEMBER THESE – MILITARY PAYMENT CERTIFICATES (MPC)?**



This was the currency we used in Vietnam. It was issued by the US Government in lieu of genuine currency to prevent money laundering. It was paid to us instead of Australian or US dollars and was designed to be spent in unit boozers and PX stores. It was treasured by operators of bars and other establishments in Vung Tau as it could be converted on the black market to US currency. On occasions (and once during our tour) all military establishments were locked down overnight and the money replaced by new currency. This meant that the illegal MPC in circulation became instantly worthless, and the operators of illegal money lost everything. *(Thanks to Roger Lambert for the pictures).*

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Photo by Ian Leis: HMAS Sydney (top), escorted by HMAS Derwent and HMAS Hobart, on our way to Vietnam, February 1969.



From the last 5RAR reunion – half of C Coy on its knees on the Gold Coast. In Nui Dat on Christmas Day 1969, you'd hardly find a digger who wasn't on his knees! (Picture: Paul McQueen).



**From the Editor:**

As Christmas/New Year is traditionally a quiet time for correspondence, and you are all no doubt thinking about your submissions for Half Circle next year, I have dug up a few items from previous edition of our publications for your enjoyment:

**From Half Circle number 95 – November 2014:**

“The construction of the new War Memorial at Hervey Bay, Qld. What a magnificent tribute to the fallen and returned veterans this will be. This tribute to the ANZACs will be ready for ANZAC Day 2015.”



**Half Circle number 16 – March 2008:**

*Geoff Ford -Vietnam 1969, and on a visit to Ian Cooper's, north Queensland in 2007.*



**Half Circle number 28 – March 2009:**

C Company Faces:



Taffy Cheeseman



John Perry



Dave Bowman



Blue Newberry



John Roberts

## **Half Circle number 70 – October 2012:**

### **Eddie Moon recounted a very funny story -**

During my time in Vietnam, like all of us, I was caught committing a bit of an indiscretion - and subsequently an appointment was arranged by the Company Commander to meet with the CO (complete with escorts and the RSM barking!). As a result, I was fined \$40 and given the usual 14 days CB. It didn't matter because we were going out on operations anyway. Many years later, one ANZAC Day, we ended up in the City of Sydney RSL, and the CO, Colin Khan was also there. After a few more ales, I fronted him and said "Sir, you probably don't remember me, but you fined me \$40 and gave me 14 days CB in Vietnam. Now I'm a pretty fair bloke - if you just gave me back my \$40, I'm prepared to forget the CB, and we'll just call it quits". Genghis took this in good spirit but didn't give me back my money!

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## **Protocol for wearing medals:**

ANZAC House has received a number of enquiries regarding medal wearing protocols. Medals are a visual expression of the honour conferred on the recipient. They should be worn in accordance with the applicable dress code.

Information on the appropriate order of wearing Australian Honours can be found [here](#) and Defence Honours and Awards information can be found [here](#).

As a general guide:

- Australian honours and awards are worn on the left breast
- NSW and other State awards are worn on the right breast
- Full-size insignia are generally worn at day functions, for example commemoration services; and
- Miniature insignia are generally worn at evening functions.

Correct dressing for NSW awards can be found in the relevant dress manual for services such as NSW Police, Ambulance Service, Fire & Rescue, Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service, and Corrective Services.

Ideally, unofficial medals should not be worn at public ceremonial and commemorative events, but if they are worn as the occasion demands, the convention is that they are worn on the right breast. Descendants of veterans are encouraged to wear their forebears' medals on the right breast at commemoration services, which indicates the awards are not their own.

It is the responsibility of each member to ensure they are wearing the medals to which they are entitled. Confirmation of your entitlement can be obtained by contacting Defence Honours and Awards on **1800 DEFENCE** (1800 333 362) or [YourCustomer.Service@defence.gov.au](mailto:YourCustomer.Service@defence.gov.au)

Wearing medals to which one is not entitled is an offence under the Defence Act 1903 Section 80B. RSL NSW takes medal fraud very seriously. Any report of a member suspected committing an offence under this Act will be referred to the RSL NSW Tribunal.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact the RSL NSW Member Support team at [support@rslnsw.org.au](mailto:support@rslnsw.org.au) or 1300 679 775.

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Who said 5RAR had changed?

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE,  
MAY 2022 BE KIND TO YOU!**

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