



## TIGERS RESCUE AGED CARE RESIDENTS



Soldiers from C Company 5 RAR assist residents of aged-care facilities evacuate during Operation Flood Assist 2022 in Brisbane.

Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5 RAR), helped evacuate more than 100 aged care residents from two facilities in Brisbane recently during the worst of the flood emergency to hit the Queensland capital.

The 5 RAR riflemen used their four-wheel-drives to take vital medication to the facilities and then ferried residents to dry land and into the arms of awaiting loved ones.

The soldiers, from Darwin, are part of the ADF support to the aged care sector, and had been doing general duties in the facilities in Brisbane.

5 RAR section commander Corporal Alexander Johnson said the team had seen residents and staff struggling through waist-high water and realised they could use their vehicles to speed up the evacuations.

"We were already helping Queensland Fire and Emergency services move a small boat across the water, but we found a route for the four-wheel-drives that allowed us to really speed the process up," Cpl Johnson said.

"The two vehicles were moving people and supplies from

9am in the morning until about 5.30pm that afternoon and we must have helped evacuate at least 100 people during that time," he said.

The Brisbane facilities were without power and the ground floor of one of the aged care centres was filling with water.

Private Xi Rui Chen, who worked directly with emergency service and police personnel on the day, said it was rewarding to be part of the evacuation effort.

"The emergency services resources were stretched thin, so for us to be able to contribute was both rewarding and challenging," he said.

"But seeing the relief in people's faces when they were reunited with their loved ones was very satisfying."

With the floodwaters in Queensland now receding, the 5 RAR contingent are now turning their efforts to helping with the clean-up.

Lieutenant Geoff Long  
Department of Defence Website  
2 March 2022



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

G'Day to all Tiger Battalion Associations Members, family, friends and current serving members.

I think I have written before that the only constant is change, and that soldiering and service continue to bring unique challenges every day. This period of time is no different for the current serving members of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion who are faced with multiple non-combat deployments in addition to training, overseas commitments and trying to find time with their own family and friends. This has also come at a time where the media of almost all channels subscribed to some poor and uninformed reporting on how the soldiers, sailors and airman of the Australian Defence Force are and will support their community. While I generally subscribe to the theory of 'don't play chess with pigeons'\* when dealing with these sorts of conversations with the ill-informed, in this particular instance I felt compelled to comment publicly and did so on the Association social media pages. One of our aims of course is to guard the good name of the Battalion and I personally found the reporting lazy and aimed solely at causing drama and not supporting the flood victims or our soldiers. From the comments on the posts I know many of you feel the same way.

I would ask that those of you who are active on social media reach out to the official 5 RAR pages at and leave a note of support for our current Tigers and their families. I am sure they would appreciate the recognition of their efforts from our community.

In the past few months we have also seen an uptick in individuals appropriating either the name or logos of the Association on some pretty dodgy merchandise and trying to sell it to our members via social media (One of the downsides of that). Please be warned, any time I see this I will call out that individual by name, publicly inform them they are exploiting veterans and report them. While some of these are coming from 'fake profiles' there have been a couple from which are not. To be clear, **the only people authorised to use our Association logos on memorabilia are the Association.** This ensures that any monies are spent supporting our members, their families and the Association. I make no apologies for ensuring our intellectual property is protected.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge some recent events for some key personnel. Our Co-Patrons have both been recognised for their service recently – BRIG Khan by South Korea and MAJGEN Ellwood for his as Commander 1<sup>st</sup> Division. Both well-deserved and how wonderful that South Korea has not forgotten those who fought with them so long ago now. BRIG Ellwood has also been appointed to lead the flood recovery in Queensland and we wish him and his team all the best in this role.

After two stellar years in trying time, LTCOL Matt Dirago has turned over command of the Battalion to LTCOL



Dave French

Chris Gilmore. Matt has been an excellent CO and his calm and considered hand on the tiller was what the Battalion needed. Every time we spoke I left with a great sense of his care for the soldiers, his determination to prepare for whatever came their way and his deep respect for the Battalion's storied history. We wish Matt and his family all the best.

I would also like to welcome Chris to the role. Chris and I have met on a number of occasions in the past and he comes with an excellent reputation for a hard working attitude and leadership from the front. As I write this, Chris and his BHQ Tac are in New South Wales coordinating flood relief. Welcome Chris – we know the Battalion is in good hands.

Finally, have a great Anzac Day coming up. Remember our good times and the bad. Remember those of us who came home and those who did not. Share a beer with a mate, and find a young digger to do the same with. Look after you and yours.

Cheers

Dave French

*\*Don't play chess with a pigeon. It'll just land on the board, flap it's wings, knock over the pieces, shit everywhere and then strut around like it won the game.\**



## WHAT'S IN A WORD

It was October, 1966 and I was on patrol with a platoon from A. Company. There were two of us Assault Pioneers attached to the platoon because intelligence believed there may be booby traps and tunnels with which we may have to contend with.

I was smacked in the leg one morning and it necessitated me being 'dusted off' to Nui Dat for a preliminary examination. They decided I would have to be sent to the coast and I was 'choppered' to the US 36<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital in Vung Tau. The Yanks were fantastic and had me on the operating table in no time to stitch up my Achilles Tendon before complications set in.

A few days after the operation, as I was recuperating in the main ward, one of the more gorgeous nurses came to see me. Now you would understand I had not seen a decent round-eye for six months and this Sheila was a knockout.

She came up to me and explained that the nurses were having a baseball match against the doctors the next day and although she knew I wouldn't be able to see her play, she wondered if I would root for her. My eyes glazed, my mouth went dry, and all I could do was nod a very definite **yes** and in my naivety asked where and when.

After she had gone away I asked a Yank in the bed next to me if she was fair dinkum. He then explained the different meanings for the same word. Someone must have told her about our meaning because she would not look me in the eye for the remainder of my stay.

Bob Alexander  
Assault Pioneers 1966-67



## FROM THE BATTALION

### CO'S DISPATCH

G'day Tigers,

It is great to get my first opportunity to write to the Tiger Battalion community and give you an update on how the Battalion finished up in 2021, and to provide you with an overview (as we currently see it) of where the Battalion is heading for 2022. In opening, I offer a very gracious thank you to my predecessor LTCOL Matt Dirago for the shape the



LTCOL Chris Gilmore

Tiger Battalion is in – the grit, professionalism and fighting spirit that the Tiger Battalion is renowned for is evident in every corner of the unit. We all wish Matt, Ange, Ollie and Grace the best for the future and we look forward to having you back in Binh Ba lines as often as possible.

I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate a former Commanding Officer of the Tiger Battalion, MAJGEN Jake Ellwood DSC, AM, on being awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in the 2022 Australia Day Honours for his leadership of the 1st Division.

We finished 2021 in a sprint, deploying a platoon in support of Operation COVID-19 Assist in remote Northern Territory. Thankfully, that team were able to complete their task and make it back to Darwin by Christmas to enjoy some time off. It was also great for the majority of our Tigers to be able to travel to see their families and spend Christmas and New Year with their loved ones after a long period of COVID-19 restrictions.

Returning for 2022, we have hit the ground running. We have completed our induction and mandatory training and we have dived head on into the training year. Bravo Company have deployed elements to the Philippines, Charlie Company are deployed to Queensland in support of Operation Aged Care Assist, Delta Company are deployed as the current Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) and Log Company are deployed to northern NSW on Operation Flood Assist. Support Company are training our future leaders on the Section Commanders Battle Course; the Motorised team are executing driver training on our fleet of Bushmaster's; Charlie Company are planning small boat courses for May and Logistics company are supporting all of the above and swinging spanners to make sure we are in good order for the campaigning season. This will see the Tigers keeping busy right up to Binh Ba week.

This year, we are going to build upon the Battalions commemoration of the Battle of Binh Ba. The Regimental Sergeant Major and I are extending an invite to all Tigers to return home to the Battalion for Binh Ba week commencing 6 June 2022. We will be holding a Soldiers and Veterans Dining-In night in the Battalion, a combative night, Rugby, Aussie Rules, an evening parade and then an evening cocktail reception to close out the week. More details will follow, however we hope to see as many former Tigers as possible in Darwin and Binh Ba Lines to

catch up and have a chat with the current generation. We will make sure the Gary Holmes club is stocked with memorabilia and hope that past Tigers can see the effort the current generation have put into the 5 RAR museum.

Whilst the first half of the year to Binh Ba week looks busy, we will continue to keep ourselves occupied in the second half of 2022. We will be getting out into the region with Exercise Wirra Jaya and we will be working closely with our regional partners. In August, we will form Battle Group Tiger for the first time since 2016 and participate in Exercise Predators Run across the Top End. We will continue to link closely with our United States Marine Corps brethren; and in 2022 the Marines of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines will join us again as the Infantry Battalion of the Marine Rotational Force Darwin. Most importantly, we will look to maintain our close links with the 5 RAR Association and look for any opportunities to include our Tigers who have gone before us in our activities.

Overall, 2022 is shaping as a cracking year, and I look forward to working closely with all Tigers, past and present.

Duty First!

Chris Gilmore, CO 5 RAR

### BRAVO COMPANY

The last quarter of 2021 saw members of Bravo Company, boosted by an influx of new, keen and raring to go soldiers from the School of Infantry, join forces with Charlie and Support Company in deploying on OP C-19A to support the remote communities of Timber Creek and Tennant Creek.



Members of B Coy conducting urban drills.

Post the Christmas period, Bravo Company has hit the ground running in 2022. The Company has sunk its teeth into reality based training platforms, including the Protected Mobility Tactical Trainer (MTT) to develop motorised SOP's and conduct navigation exercises along with the conduct of Non-Lethal Training Ammunition practices in the Tiger's Den (Urban Training Facility) to develop section level urban SOP's.

(Continued on page 4)



## FROM THE BATTALION - Cont.

### BRAVO COMPANY - Cont.



Modified EF-88 utilised for Non-lethal training ammunition.

*(Continued from page 3)*

Looking forward, Bravo Company has a busy year ahead, with a large force element deploying on Joint Australian Training Team - Philippines, closely followed by Platoon to Company training through involvement in Exercise TIGERS RUN and the 1st Brigade Warfighter Exercise to then close out the year with a Sub Unit Trainer rotation through Tully along with Support Company courses.

LT Doble

### CHARLIE COMPANY

On Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 5 RAR sent nine General Duty (GD) teams and a HQ element to Brisbane to take part in OP Aged Care Assist.

Shortly after arriving, the GD teams were allocated and sent to their duties at aged care facilities amid the torrential downpour around Southeast Queensland. (see Front Page)

Aged care workers provide critical and time-consuming roles for the elderly citizens of our community. COVID 19 around Southeast Queensland has resulted in many aged care facilities seeing severe staff shortages. This along with lockdowns has resulted in residents only receiving minimal social contact and spending significant periods completely isolated. The GD teams have been able to assist by dedicating themselves to companionship and allowing the facility staff to focus on the clinical roles.

Within the first week we had most of the teams out working at facilities from North Lakes to Coolangatta. Amidst the worst weather Queensland has seen in a decade the teams set about giving our senior citizens a semblance of normality. During the first week a resident was visited by her son, Greg Pike who was thrilled to meet some of the new members of the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion.

*"I was in C Coy in 1973/74 and there for the linking with 7 RAR in December 73. My first Battalion! Today I visited my mum and was excited to meet five young diggers from 5 RAR down from Darwin who were providing assistance to the residents of mum's aged care home. To top it off they were from C Coy too. Great job lads and thank you for what you are doing to help our very senior citizens stay safe and happy! Duty First' – Greg Pike, C Coy 5 RAR."*

### CHARLIE COMPANY - Cont.

As the rain continued to fall the teams began swapping out their scrabble tiles for entrenching tools as some facilities began to be impacted by the rising waters. For the lower lying facilities, the teams linked in with emergency services to facilitate the movement of residents at risk to the floods. Having the GD teams on hand to work with emergency services enabled the facility staff to focus on the clinically high-risk patients. The teams have proved to be extremely valuable in these times of staff shortages, COVID 19 and floods.

LT Rowe

### DELTA COMPANY

D Coy has had a busy start to the year, picking up preparations for Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) where we left off at the conclusion of 2021. It commenced with the company conducting mandatory training with the rest of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, followed by valuable JNCO training which would set the preconditions for our junior leaders this year. Once this introductory training was complete the company dived headfirst into preparing our sections for deployment to jungle operations within Malaysia.

Our soldiers developed their foundation warfighting skills ranging from individual weapon proficiency, personal



D Coy members walk out to board the C17 Globemaster for their deployment to Butterworth, Malaysia.



## DELTA COMPANY - Cont.

equipment setup and tactical care of the combat casualty. Upon achievement of individual skills refreshers our sections commenced development of standard operating procedures that will enable both offensive and defensive actions.

The company's preparations culminated with Exercise Tigers Trial where soldiers were assessed on the individual skills they had developed, and section commanders on their ability to command their sections in complex environments. The results of these assessments was very positive and is a standard that will only be honed further through the conduct of good, challenging training.

On 1 Mar 22 the company farewelled loved ones and staged at the Battalion for their departure. Once all personnel were accounted for and all gear loaded, CO and RSM 5 RAR as well as CoS 1 BDE addressed D Coy highlighting the importance Rifle Company Butterworth has for both the ADF and Australia's national interests. The company then boarded our C-17 and endured the 5-hour flight to Malaysia.

D Coy will complete 5 days of isolation prior to commencing training in Malaysia and look forward to the opportunities and memories that are to follow. The jungle environment promises to be both challenging and rewarding for those who enter it, and will only serve to improve the combat capability of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

LT Samuel Ellwood

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## SUPPORT COMPANY

### Mortars

The waning months of 2021 saw Mortar Platoon conduct Basic Mortar Course (BMC). The course involved intense PT to test the group's ability to work under fatigue whilst conducting crash actions throughout Robertson Barracks with the intent of creating a strong group bond through hard training. The BMC qualified participants on the 81mm Mortar with ancillaries and the M32 Ballistic Computer. The course culminated with a field phase at Bradshaw Field Training Area (BFTA) conducting live fire missions and fire plans with HE, smoke and illumination rounds. The Platoon also fired in support of Delta Coy during EX KOOL-ENDING. The final part of the year had Mortar PL providing soldiers in support of OP COVID ASSIST at multiple locations Australia-wide and the remainder of the



81mm mortar fired in support of Delta Coy's attack during the Bradshaw campaign.

## SUPPORT COMPANY - Cont.

Platoon conducting training in preparation for a busy 2022. Mortar Platoon remains motivated and excited for the opportunities that 2022 presents, with increased live fire and field training seeming plentiful.

CAPT Hayden Murphy, OC Mortars

### DFSW

With a new PHQ command team of LT Ireland and SGT Grieve, Direct Fire Support Weapons (DFSW) PL started 2022 by integrating old with new and ensuring everyone was set to progress beyond our baseline standard. Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) course, Sub 2 and various readiness requirements meant that distractions and obstacles were abundant, however this did not deter the section commanders from grabbing all present diggers and heading out to train both in our specialist role and basic rifleman skills.



64 in the CTA conducting tank stalks with the M4 84mm Carl Gustav.

After taking the Sustained Fire Machine Gun (SFMG) Kit out for some PT, the first real training was tank stalks with the 84mm Carl Gustav, using the brand new M4 variants. The soldiers went over to the Close Training Area's (CTA) glorious mud and overflowing creeks, a section at a time patrolling in, taking aim and simulating an engagement on enemy armour. The boys enjoyed getting back into the tactical mindset and testing out the head and shoulders camouflage which had been laboriously built over the previous weeks.

Thereafter, we practiced Javelin Observation Posts (OP). After some theory work and section SOP development, 64A, 64C and 64E went out the back of Robertson Barracks and practised the clandestine infiltration, setting up and conduct of an aggressive Javelin OP. These skills will hopefully be tested during the 1 BDE Warfighter later in the year.

Next on the cards for 64 is upskilling the unit in the M4 84mm, supporting the field phase of Sub 2 Corporal and continuing to train and achieve ATL3 in preparation for Ex TIGERS RUN.

LT Joshua Ireland, OC, **DFWS**

*(Continued on page 6)*



SUPPORT COMPANY - Cont.

'Time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted'

Recon, Sniper, Surveillance (RSS) PL closed 2021 with a bang, conducting live Emergency Close Air Support (ECAS) with our Joint Fire Team brethren at 8/12 Regiment, with support from 1 Aviation Regiment (1 AVN). The serials included kinetic strikes as well as simulated Casualty Evacuation prior to commencing with live fire strike. As 8/12 REGT closed their range, Recon was allocated extra ammunition supply to call in artillery and rockets.



Sniper cell conducting night operations in the depths of the Mount Bunday Training Area.

The platoon reconsolidated after the end of year break, with training commencing for 2022 in Feb with the main effort of ensuring Unmanned Aircraft System currency across the battalion. Patrols made use of the early weeks of the year conducting team shakeouts in the Close Training Area, prior to the majority of Junior NCOs going on Advanced Reconnaissance Course, or Sniper Team Leaders course in March. Several diggers from the platoon will conduct promotional courses, as well as various driver courses. If all goes to plan, our gigantic platoon will soon have more than 20 detachments.

Reconnaissance platoon will now concentrate on developing skills and proficiency on key equipment in our lead up to patrol and sniper team training, as well as making use of the Tigers Den non-lethal training ammunition ac-

SUPPORT COMPANY - Cont.

tivities to maintain infantry urban fighting skills. The emphasis on using equipment will never shadow the basic skills of a reconnaissance patrolman. Marking form up points, conducting point target reconnaissance, and occupying Observation Posts will never go out of style, therefore these skills will always be a significant portion of weekly training. Our focus for the year platoon Reconnaissance operations, allowing us to support multiple companies and provide patrols to answer information requirements on behalf of manoeuvre commanders simultaneously prior to EX TIGERS RUN.

LT Andrew Farrands, OC RSS

Signals

2022 has kicked off swiftly, with Signal Platoon embracing a philosophy of "soldier first, sig second". With an emphasis on balancing training between the technical and the tactical, we've started the year with refamiliarisation training, focussing initially on VHF communications, then moving onto UHF and HF means. With the baseline now set, training is shifting towards developing a resilient communications capability. While the plan may not survive first contact, comms will. To that end, Signal Platoon is building up to a series of activities, both independently and in support of the battalion. A navigation exercise will test individual fieldcraft, as well as each soldier's ability to establish and flexibly employ a variety of equipment in challenging environments. Meanwhile, command post exercises will test how the platoon performs as a team, building from controlled environments to the chaotic.

It's not all waveforms and rainbows. PT has started with a vengeance, and despite the introduction of a PT shirt for every emission control (EMCON) state, while we may train with sigs, we don't train like sigs. Our fitness regime was a post-Christmas shock for many including the new platoon commander. Sig platoon has been shooting every week, with soldiers spread between courses, international cooperation and domestic operations, it truly has been a busy start to 2022. The next step is to see how well our Weapon Training Simulation System (WTSS) prowess translates to our first long range HF broadcast – although the targets may be a few thousand kilometres further away. There's a lot to look forward to from Signal Platoon—stay tuned!

LT William Petersen, OC Signals

LOGISTICS COMPANY

Logistic Company has picked up where we left off in 2021 and have been busy supporting a number of courses, exercises and deployments. The company has already seen several of our members promoted and begin this year in new roles. As a part of this, we have had some key members within the company reach out and engage with other units, in particular 1 CSSB and MakerSpace, to conduct tasks and explore opportunities in the 3D printing space.



## LOGISTICS COMPANY - Cont.

Distribution Platoon has been busy organising D Coy for their deployment on Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB), equipping B Coy to conduct Joint Army Training Team-Philippines (JATT-P) ranges and preparation and ensuring C Coy was ready to deploy on OP Aged Care Assist. During all of this, they found time to plan a week of training which will see them hone their field skills and conduct driver training in the coming weeks.

The workshop has also had an outstanding start to the year, already conducting numerous FRTs and recovery tasks supporting PMV driver courses around the Darwin region. They have also been supporting other units with their courses by providing several instructors and SMEs across 1 BDE. They took the lead in maintenance hours, conducting more work in the 5 RAR workshop than 1 CSSB, 8/12 Regt, 1 CER and 1 CSR combined.



A deliberately bogged Protected Mobility Vehicle immediately prior to being successfully recovered by Logistics Company members.

The company now prepares to support OP Flood Assist 22 in what will be a challenging but rewarding experience and is simultaneously organising Log Company's contribution to Task Unit (TU) BOAR (7 RAR). We will leave behind a supporting element to ensure that Supervisor Infantry Op Sect Course (SIOS) and JATT-P continue and 5 RAR maintains its logistic capability.

CAPT Sayers

**Quote: "The discipline which makes the soldiers of a free country reliable in battle is not to be gained by harsh or tyrannical treatment. On the contrary, such treatment is far more likely to destroy than to make an army. It is possible to impart instruction and give commands in such a manner and such a tone of voice as to inspire in the soldier no feeling but an intense desire to obey, while the opposite manner and tone of voice cannot fail to excite strong resentment and a desire to disobey. The one mode or the other in dealing with subordinates springs from a corresponding spirit in the breast of the commander. He who feels the respect which is due to others cannot fail to inspire in them respect for himself; while he who feels, and hence manifests, disrespect toward others, especially his subordinates, cannot fail to inspire hatred against himself."**

LTGEN John M. Schofield, 1879

## ARMY OFFICER TAKES ON 'HUGE JOB' OF FLOOD DISASTER RECOVERY COORDINATOR

The Queensland Premier, Ms Palaszczuk announced the appointment of Major General Jake Ellwood as Queensland's flood recovery coordinator.

"Jake is no stranger to Queensland having served at some of the highest ranks," Ms Palaszczuk said.

"He had no hesitation when we asked him to do this job and it is absolutely a huge job."



MAJGEN Jake Ellwood

Major General Ellwood said his heart went out to the affected communities.

"I must say I did feel that you see the very best of Australians at the worst of times, and I think looking around we see that here," he said.

"So for me now straight after this, what I want to do is get out on the ground and to talk to people, to understand the issues, to understand the environment so that we can make sure that we're prioritising things correctly, because that is important.

"It is a tough time for Queenslanders and for some, this comes on the back of a number of other disasters.

"There are going to be hurdles, there will be obstacles, but together we will overcome it. I commit [to] you that I'll do my very best in this appointment."

Major General Ellwood's appointment was 'fantastic', Defence Minister Peter Dutton said.

"He will provide that coordination and that assistance to help Queenslanders get back on their feet as quickly as possible," he said.

"He has 30 years' worth of service to our country, he served overseas in Kosovo, where he was recognised with a special recognition there from the British forces.

"He has served in Iraq where he received the Distinguished Service Cross, he has led the men and women of the Australian Defence Force during his entire three-decade career.

"He's been an inspiration to many people who have worked under him."

*Editor's Note: MAJGEN Jake Ellwood was the first CO of 5 RAR when it de-linked from 5/7 RAR in December 2006.*



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# IN MEMORIAM

## **42848 JACOB EVERT WIERINGA** **25 December 1942 - 3 November 2021**

PTE Jacob 'Jack' Wieringa died peacefully on Wednesday 3 November, in his home town of Tailem Bend.

Jack enlisted in 1962, completed his initial training at 1 RTB and Inf Ctr and deployed to Malaya firstly with 2 RAR and then 3 RAR for a total of 24 months including 2 periods of Special Service on the Thai Border. He then spent 6 months with 1 RAR joining 5 RAR on it's formation. Jack deployed to Vietnam with the Mortar Platoon in May 1966 and served there until the Battalion's return in May 1967. In July 1968 he transferred to the CMF and 27 Bn RSAR until his discharge in 1969. Jack served for many years as a Federal Police officer in South Australia.



A family only Funeral Service was held for Jack on Friday 26 November.

## **6709401 JOHN TERRANCE WATSON** **15 September 1945 - 28 December 2021**



PTE John Watson died in the early morning hours of Tuesday 28 December, in Rossarden TAS, he had been suffering with respiratory illnesses for some time.

John was a national-serviceman, who enlisted voluntarily and deployed to South Vietnam with 1 ARU on 12 November 1969. On 3 December he was transferred to A Company 5 RAR, where he served as a rifleman. When the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion returned to Australia he was posted to the strength of 8 RAR. He served in 8 Platoon of this battalion until his tour was completed on 12 November 1970. During his time with 8 RAR, he acted as a forward scout and was wounded in action.

A Funeral Service was held for John on 6 January at Finney's Funeral Home, Youngtown, TAS.

## **3787048 ANTON NIEUWENHOUT** **8 January 1945 - 23 January 2022**

PTE Anton 'Tony' Nieuwenhout died on Sunday 23 January in his home town of Yarrowonga VIC, he had been battling cancer for quite a few years.

Tony, a 1<sup>st</sup> intake National Serviceman, completed his recruit training at 2 RTB, Puckapunyal. On 15 September 1965 he was posted to 7 Platoon Charlie Company 5 RAR, and received his Corps training with the Battalion. He then joined Bravo Company, 4 Platoon and deployed to South Vietnam on 10 May 1966. During Operation Renmark, on 19 February 1967 Tony was wounded in action while 4 Platoon was involved in a firefight with a group of Viet Cong. He was medevaced to Australia, arriving back on 9 March 1967.



A private family only funeral was held for Tony.

## **5411528 MURRAY GEORGE CRAIB** **24 October 1942 - 24 November 2021**

PTE Murray 'Grandpa' Craib died on Wednesday 24 November 2021, he had endured several strokes over the last 12 months. On Saturday 20 November he suffered a major stroke.



Grandpa enlisted in May 1965, attended 1 Recruit Training Battalion (1 RTB), Infantry Centre (IC) and then IC Reinforcement Wing. He deployed to 1 ARU for 4 days in June 1966, and then joined 1 Section 7 Platoon C Company, as a rifleman, for the balance of the Battalion's first tour. Murray transferred to 8 RAR, which included over 20 months service in Singapore/Malaya. He also served with 10 Task Force, 1 RTB and 16 Bn RWAR before discharging in May 1969.

A private, family only, Funeral Service was held for Murray on Monday 29 November.

## **6708281 JAMES PATRICK DUFFEY** **14 April 1945 - 16 January 2022**

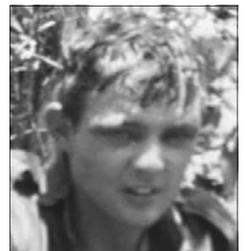
PTE James 'Paddy' Duffey died in his home town of Lindisfarne, TAS, on Sunday 16 January.

Paddy was a 1<sup>st</sup> Intake National Serviceman, doing his recruit training at 1 RTB and his Corps training at Infantry Centre. He joined 5 RAR in December 1965, with 10 Platoon, Delta Company and completed his training for deployment to South Vietnam. Paddy arrived in Vietnam on 6 May 1966 and acclimatised at Vung Tau. During Operation Hardihood on 10 June, about 19 km north of Vung Tau, 10 Platoon received incoming mortar fire. The Battalion lost 2 members KIA and 4 others WIA. Paddy received multiple shrapnel wounds and was repatriated to Australia on 5 July. For many years he served with the Tasmanian Police Force, retiring with the rank of Inspector.

A private cremation was held for Paddy on Monday 24 January.

## **18353 BRUCE DAVID HERON** **8 April 1946 - 29 January 2022**

CPL Bruce Heron died peacefully at home in Forth TAS, on the morning of Saturday 29 January, he had been suffering with cancer for some time.



Bruce, a foundation member of 5 RAR, deployed to South Vietnam (SVN) with SPT Coy, Signal PI, on 10 May 1966. As a radio operator he was attached to various companies throughout the tour and returned to Australia on 8 May 1967. He returned to SVN on 28 January 1969 with D Company, 12 PI, and was made section commander of 8 Section. Bruce was WIA in two incidents, the first on 4 April and the second on 15 June 1969. Due to the second wound he was repatriated to Australia on 1 July 1969. Bruce had also served in 1 RAR and 6 RAR.

A Remembrance Service will be held at a later date.

# IN MEMORIAM - Cont.

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## 2781393 WILLIAM JOSEPH MURPHY 17 February 1945 - 25 February 2022



PTE William 'Spud' Murphy passed away on Friday 25 February in the care facility that he had been residing in for approximately the last twelve months.

Spud, a 1<sup>st</sup> intake National Serviceman, completed his recruit training at 2 RTB, Puckapunyal. On 15 September 1965 he was posted to 8 Paltoon

Charlie Company 5 RAR, and received his Corps training with the Battalion. He then joined 2 Platoon Alpha Company, and deployed to South Vietnam on 8 May 1966. He completed the tour and returned to Australia with the Battalion, aboard HMAS Sydney, arriving in Sydney on 12 May 1967.

A Funeral Service was held for Spud, on 9 March, a member of the 5 RAR Association was present.

## 29214 THOMAS WITHERIDGE 23 March 1937 - Friday 4 March 2022



WO2 Thomas 'Stretch' Witheridge died on Friday 4 March, after suffering from a blood disorder for a long time.

Stretch enlisted in September 1955, he completed recruit Training at 1 RTB and Corps Training. He then served in 4 RAR, 3 RAR and then joined 1 RAR. Stretch deployed to

Malaya with 1 RAR. He was a foundation member of 5 RAR when it was raised on 1 March 1965. Stretch served in various positions and companies, for both of the Battalion's tours of South Vietnam, as a sergeant for the first tour and WO2 for the second tour. He continued to serve in the ADF until he took discharge in May 1977.

Funeral details will be provided as they come to hand.

## VETERAN THANKED FOR HIS SERVICE

Retired brigadier and platoon commander Colin Khan, who served in Korea, was awarded the Order of Civil Merit by South Korean President Moon Jae-in last year.

Brig Khan received the award in Canberra from Korean ambassador Jeong-Sik Kang in December.

The order recognizes "outstanding meritorious services in the area of politics, economy, society, education, art or science, in the interest of improving citizens' welfare and promoting national development".

Brig Khan said South Korea's appreciation for the little bit he did meant a great deal.

"I didn't last there too long [in the Korean War]. I was wounded pretty early after getting there but they are still very grateful for what help we gave," he said.

"I don't think any other nation comes anywhere near the gratitude the Koreans have shown to the veterans that assisted them."

The country's embassy maintained close contact with him after the war, with invitations to numerous functions in South Korea.

Brig Khan graduated from RMC in 1951 and became a platoon commander with 1RAR.

He said four years of training meant he wasn't nervous, just concerned the war might finish before he got there.

"I was terribly excited and anxious to be in charge, and working with a group of mainly returned servicemen," Brig Khan said.

He learnt a lot from his men, particularly what made the



Colin receives the medal from the Ambassador.

older soldiers "tick", as the majority were WWII veterans and about twice his age.

They were keen and helpful, only expecting he did his job.

"I was a young 20-year-old green skin that checked out of Duntroon with no professional experience," Brig Khan said.

"But we took to each other pretty quickly and very closely.

"I did many fighting patrols with these men and have been in contact with some of them ever since."

In November 1952, while leading a patrol, machinegun fire penetrated the zip of his flak jacket.

A young lieutenant at the time, Brig Khan organised evacuations of the wounded before allowing himself to be evacuated.

After recovering from the loss of his right lung, Brig Khan returned to Australia and completed training, command and staff postings before becoming CO 5RAR. He began rebuilding and training the battalion for service in South Vietnam in advance of his arrival in 1969, where he spent more than a year.

He was known to his men as 'Genghis' for his "spirit of aggression, courage under fire and resolute leadership", for which Brig Khan was awarded a distinguished service order.

On retiring in 1986, he served a decade with the AFP, followed by consulting for the NSW Police Service.

Brig Khan continued to participate in Korean War-related seminars and forums, and he has featured in documentaries, such as the *Korean War 70th Commemoration* and *Armed Forces Day* videos.

Allied veterans of the Korean War are eligible for merit awards.

CPL Veronica O'Hara  
ARMY Newspaper  
Issue 1503, 3 March 2022



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## AROUND THE STATES

### WA



The 5 RAR WA Branch Christmas Lunch was held in early December 2021, but we were not sure if it would go ahead as WA goes into lockdown without any notice.

The lunch was held in the HQ of 5 RAR WA Branch, 43 Below our numbers are getting smaller each year down from 70 to 80 people to 48 members and partners this year. We missed 3 long time members who have passed away Laurie Sibson, Paddy Meckenstock, former RSM Bob Armitage and other members that have passed away in previous years. Also some of our regular members were not well enough to attend, namely Greg Negus.

This low number of people attending meant we were more spread out and you could speak to everyone at the table. The entrée that Sandra provided was superb oysters, prawns and salmon, we had to stop eating seafood and leave room for ham and turkey.

John Burridge recited the Ode and I am sure anybody outside would have heard him and stood to attention.

We had members attending from Collie, Bunbury, Mandurah, Baldivis, Goomalling and of course Perth.

Everyone brought a present for the raffle and as normal Audrey Briggs brought many gifts and Christmas Hampers. I was lucky and got a hamper in the raffle donated by Lynette Simpson which was packed with so many great items. Peter Guyatt donated fresh crayfish for the auction which everyone wanted.



The Ron Nichols Trophy this year was awarded to LT -COL Darryl Lovell for an outstanding presentation on 5 RAR Members who were killed in Vietnam and other conflicts. The booklet that Darryl produced tells the history of the member and how he was killed and it is a very valuable part of our history. I am sure that everyone agreed Darryl is a

worthy holder of this trophy. We may have trouble getting it back, I must admit I have never seen Darryl lost for words when his name was read out, well done Darryl.

Again Sandra and Chris, her son, and all staff for welcoming us and making sure we all enjoyed ourselves, and I know Sandra's late husband Steve would have been there in spirit.

Alan McNulty

Although we here in WA still have Covid restrictions this did not deter some 29 members and wives to attend the battalion Birthday on 1<sup>st</sup> of March at our usual haunt of 43 Below.

Proceedings were commenced with our President, Alan McNulty, reading out the names of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the two tours of Vietnam and the three soldiers who died during the Afghanistan war, as they were members of the 5 RAR Battle Group. Bruce

### WA - Cont.



Some of the WA blokes at the Battalion birthday later in the day.

Prior recited the Ode and a toast was made for those who are no longer with us.

Catering was up to the normal high standard by the staff at 43 Below and was consumed with gusto. At this time we can expect to have an ANZAC Day parade, although there may be some restrictions members should anticipate that the parade will be in the same format as previous years, with the after parade get together at 43 Below. All will be welcome.

Ray Ward



### NSW

Association members are reminded and invited to attend the RAR Association's Anzac Day Service at Regimental Square at 8-30am on Anzac Day. Association FUP is as usual in Bligh Street, close to the corner of Hunter Street (look out for the Association banner) from 9.30am for a 10.30/11.00am start.

After the March we are again using the facilities of The Shark Hotel (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, up the stairs/lift- 127 Liverpool Street - CNR Pitt Street - Phone 02 9267 6364) where a section has been reserved within the dining area. (NOTE: Liverpool Street is on the RIGHT at the end of the March, so you can't get lost. NO EXCUSES!) Looking forward to catching up with you all on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. Let's swell the 5 RAR contingent back to being the best presented on Anzac Day.

Geoff Pearson



### TAS.

The past year and a bit have been very unkind to our 5 RAR family with five of our members passing away. Unfortunately three of these were staunch members of the Association and rarely missed an organized activity in the State.

It is now unlikely that any further State-based activities will take place due to our members obviously having other priorities or commitments.

I would also like to acknowledge our Federal member for Braddon, the Honourable Gavin Pearce, for his support in supplying coffin flags when requested; it is worth noting, also, that Gavin is himself a returned soldier.

Kevin Mulligan



QLD

This year I will need help on Anzac Day. I am not walking too well, I will need diggers who can carry the banner and someone to lead the March, any help would be appreciated. FUP beside the Casino Hotel, Step off time approximately 11:00 hours. Telephone (0427) 341 515.

Vince Feenstra



VIC

Anzac Day Melbourne March, FUP, Collins St between the Town Hall and the Regent Theatre, more info (0437) 653 577. Post march refreshments RAR Association (Vic), will be at the Cooper's Hotel 1st floor, Exhibition and Lt. Lonsdale Streets. Food, drink and excellent company.

Doug Bishop

COLLIE REMEMBRANCE BENCH

Collie Western Australia lost two sons during the Vietnam War, both killed in 1969. It has always been the intent of the local RSL Sub Branch to honour the two soldiers with a memorial at the Sub Branch premises. A bench seat in honour of James (Jimmy) White has recently been dedicated at a service in November 2021.



Laser cutouts on the steel bench show the Infantry Corps Badge central with Huey helicopters on either side. Text cutouts below the helicopters read: Left - 5715978 PTE James Mungo Thomas WHITE, 5th Battalion RAR, Killed in Action Long Khanh Province Vietnam, 4 April 1969, age 21 years. Right - Rest Awhile and Remember Those Who Served & Those That Died. The cutout on the front of the bench reads; VIETNAM REMEMBERED. As can be seen when the sun is in the right position the shadow of the text is highlighted on the concrete pad. Each side of the bench has a poppy and a soldier in the Rest on Arms Reverse position.

The APC display at the rear of the bench honours the second Collie Boy killed in Vietnam; 5715633 LCPL Keith Ivan Dewar, RAAC, Killed in Action Phuoc Tuy Province Vietnam, 24 June 1969, age 21 yrs. LCPL Dewar was in command of an APC which detonated a landmine, the explosion killing himself and the driver.

Grahame Old Secretary, Collie Cardiff RSL Sub Branch

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS (CSC)

Maj-Gen Justin Frederick Ellwood DSC AM CSC

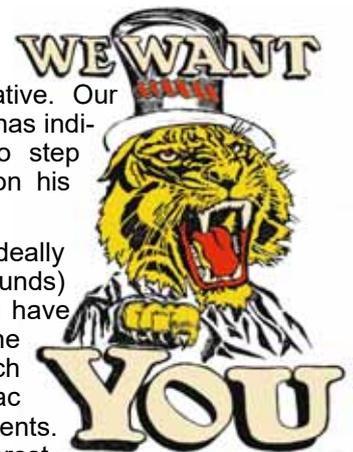


For outstanding achievement as Commander of the 1st Division, Commander Joint Task Force 637 and Commander Deployable Joint Force Headquarters.

Our congratulations are extended to our Co-Patron for this well deserved Award.

The Association has a vacancy on the Committee for the Queensland Representative. Our current Rep, Vince Feenstra has indicated that he would like to step aside, as he concentrates on his ongoing health matters.

The man we are seeking ideally should be Brisbane (or surrounds) based, as that person would have the responsibility of being "the keeper of the banner" which should be on call for Anzac Day Marches and similar events. We ask that any persons interested in taking on this role to contact the Secretary Geoff Pearson on 0417 223 001 or E: [secretary@5rar.asn.au](mailto:secretary@5rar.asn.au)



WARR-KHAN TROPHY WINNER



The Warr-Khan Trophy for 2021 was awarded to CPL Zach Smith, a member of Charlie Company, just prior to the Battalion taking Christmas leave.



## GOOD REASONS TO RUN

**MAJGEN Jake Ellwood writes about how the Running Change program was born and how it, in turn, spawned the annual Run Army fun run.**

Anyone who has spent time in the Australian military will understand what the term “running, change” means.

It is a command barked out by our wonderful and sometimes impatient PTIs (often followed by muffled groans of those within the ranks) to get a group of service personnel running.

The next command most pray for is “walking, change”, which is the moment one can draw breath again.

With some intentional irony thrown in, this phrase has now been taken as the name of a new program instigated by the Army to help its people reduce injuries.

Army moved away from running a decade ago to a more holistic, weights based physical conditioning program.

While this program has been very successful in reducing injuries in training, the challenge of enhancing issues of mental and physical resilience, as well as increasing issues associated with obesity, remains elusive.

These issues are mirrored, if not magnified, in the wider community.

Having used running as my church while growing up in a broken family and throughout a long and rewarding career as an infantryman – which included numerous challenges, including multiple deployments – I understood the power of running.

Regardless of the personal challenges I was facing, I knew I could always throw on my runners, go outside and find the answers I was looking for, or if not the answers, at least a moment of respite from the pressures of life.

I coached both of my children at different stages in their lives to use running as a tool to help them navigate their own challenges. Despite some initial protestations like, “Dad, running can’t fix everything”, I am proud to say both are converts, addicted to the life of a “runner”. Both have also joined the military, but I can say in all honesty, while I did all in my power to shape them to run, their decision to serve our nation was all theirs.

While on long runs with a friend of mine, who also serves in the military and is an accomplished athlete and former PTI, we often discussed the issues facing some of Army’s people.

During one of these long runs we threw around the idea of using running as a potential medium to help some of those in the ranks who were struggling physically or mentally.

After all, there is more than enough research proving the nexus between improved mental health and running, not to mention the physical health and wellness benefits.

Enter Running Change, a running program that has thrown away the old Army no ‘pain, no gain’ methodology that resulted in the high injury rates.

It has been replaced by a calibrated program that focuses on heart rate, form and mindfulness.



Maj-Gen Jake Ellwood encourages participants at the finish line of the first Run Army fun run at Gallipoli Barracks last year. Photo: PTE Jacob Hill

As with any Army idea, it is the execution that counts.

It didn’t take long to find a small, capable team of running enthusiasts to ‘make it happen’, and make it happen they have.

Within three months of an idea forming, this amazing team put together a crew of mentors, a sport physiotherapist, a sports psychologist and a handful of dedicated mentors who have now run a prototype program for 25 participants who were facing a range of issues.

The tailored eight-week program has been absolutely transformational for many of the participants. Importantly, it went beyond transforming fitness, to transforming lifestyle.

Watching the pointer on the clock or weight scale was not the aim, but rather a pleasant bi-product.

More important was the change to a more healthy routine that has resulted in decreased anxiety about running, improved performance, improved health and wellness and, importantly, without injuries.

This program will go nation-wide over the next 12 months, becoming accessible to soldiers posted regionally.

Overlaid with this new program, we thought it important to hold an event that could serve as a goal for those on the Running Change program.

Enter the Run Army annual fun run.

### A NEW TRADITION IS BORN

In the finest traditions of the US Army Ten Miler, the US Marine Corps Marathon and the Canadian Army’s Army Run 5km event, the Australian Army has now committed to holding a 10km event each year on the Sunday before Anzac Day, in conjunction with Legacy, which will be the benefactor of all money raised.

Legacy is the only organization of its type, serving the families of injured or fallen service personnel since World War I.

The pilot event was run Enoggera Barracks, with 1,100 runners - predominately from Army.

This year it will be run in Brisbane on April 24, ANZAC Day eve, and will be open to the public.

It will be a spectacle for those who want to see Army’s hardware and personnel on display while running around the track.

Apart from the main 10km event, there will be a 5km option. The program is likely to include longer options in the future.

ARMY Newspaper,  
Issue 1503, 3 March 2022

*Editor’s Note: This year Jake Ellwood will be running and states, “if there are any Tigers, old or new, in Brisbane on 24 April, it would be great to see them participate in the*



*5km or 10 km event. I will see them out there on the track. I am President of Run Army so I am super keen to see Tigers there"*

Registrations are now open at; <http://runarmy.org.au/> or for Instagram; #runarmyau

### A MEETING WITH LES HYATT

On Friday, 10 June 1966 PTE Les Hyatt, a National Serviceman who had been 'in country' in Vietnam for barely a month when, as Les recalls, his 10 Platoon, D Company 5 RAR commanded by 2LT Dennis Rainer had been out on patrol clearing an area beyond the battalion perimeter for much of the day when they propped, went into a defensive position for a quick 'brew up' when they came under mortar fire. Les (upon reflection) assumes that the enemy had been stalking the platoon, unseen; and when they stopped called in their mortars. It was a salutary lesson that war is not fun, and certainly not for the faint hearted. In that attack CPL Danny Coupe and PTE Les Farren were killed and Les Hyatt was very badly wounded in both legs. Les was CASEVAC-ed back to Australia (via Butterworth Malaysia) where he received extensive convalescence on his road to recovery.

Back in Australia that same day, late in the evening, PTE Doug Bishop of Reinforcement Wing, Infantry Centre, Ingleburn [along with a full plane load of other Reinforcements] was boarding a chartered Qantas flight (Boeing 707) from Mascot to Saigon via Townsville and Manila. Thence a Caribou from Saigon to Vung Tau. Then a couple of weeks with 1 ARU at the 1<sup>st</sup> Task Force Base at Nui Dat.

On 21 July I was posted to 8 Platoon, C Company 5 RAR into a rifle section. From here I took part in Operations, patrols, ambushes etc. and when back at base helped build up the defences, sandbagging, digging weapon pits, the Company CP, putting up defensive concertina barbed wire and bastard wire to our immediate front. Constant fatigue/insufficient sleep was pretty well our lot for the duration, especially so in those early days.

On 3 October, my Platoon Commander LT Roger Wainwright had his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Several kilometres directly to the west of our base was a very large feature, Nui Thi Vai (aka the Warburton Mountains) controlled by the enemy, that offered a commanding view of Route 15 {the road from the port at Vung Tau to Saigon). The US Army intended transferring their newly arrived soldiers by convoy from Vung Tau up Route 15 to Saigon but Nui Thi Vai posed a significant threat to their security. 5 RAR as part of **Operation Canberra** was allocated the task of clearing this mountain thus diminishing the risk.

As one element of this Battalion Operation late in the afternoon of Friday, 7 October C Company disembarked from APCs on Route 15, South of Nui Thi Vai; initially we moved across open ground to a lesser feature which had plenty of cover, formed a harbour position where we stayed overnight. The following morning, with 8 Platoon in the lead, C Company moved down from our position, across a dry creek bed then proceeded up the steep slope on the south-west of Nui Thi Vai, following something approximating a sheep track. Perhaps halfway up the mountain our forward scout spotted a couple of ene-

### A MEETING WITH LES HYATT - Cont

my sentries about the same time as they saw him and opened fire.

This was my first contact, my first encounter with the enemy under fire. I was in the second section of the lead platoon. The first section had gone to ground to provide covering fire; now my section was about to form an extended line at right-angles to the so-called track and launch an attack. Well, that was the plan. The problem was that the area where we were shaking out into an extended line was rather heavily booby-trapped and someone tripped one (perhaps two) of them, causing very serious casualties to us, the assault section.

With this the enemy sentries withdrew and we set about extracting our wounded. Whilst no-one was killed, one of our section was so severely wounded that he teetered between life and death for several hours managing to survive. I was much less seriously wounded although I did completely lose the use of both legs. I learnt to walk again, bit by bit over the next few weeks. The Army had a policy that if you were to be hospitalised for 30 days or more, they sent you home. Lucky me was hospitalised for 29 days, so soldier on.

This incident made the papers back in Australia furnishing the name, age and where we were from for each of the wounded. Les Hyatt's parents who lived in Ballarat, saw this and kindly wrote a comforting letter to my parents saying that their son had similarly been seriously wounded in Vietnam. Their envelope was addressed to:

Mr & Mrs Bishop, Parents of son Wounded in Vietnam, Mount Waverly, Melbourne

Clearly, the letter arrived at its intended destination and I regret to say that that letter was not responded to, however it did remain among my Vietnam memorabilia for the next 50 years or so. Earlier this year I stumbled across this letter and looked to see if this Les Hyatt fellow was a member of the 5 RAR Association – he was (still is) and living in Hoppers Crossing; so I phoned him up and related to him a most unlikely story. We agreed to meet once the Melbourne Covid lockdown was behind us.

Another member of 8 Platoon, Dave 'Stretch' Bryan (present at Nui Thi Vai), still living in Melbourne, a National Serviceman who went to school with Les Farren (he was killed when Les was wounded) at Northcote High School agreed to join me as I returned the letter to Les as a memento and reminder to him and his family what kind hearted and decent people his parents were – both of our parents have long since passed away, but may their story live on.

Les has four sons and a daughter, Paul, Scott, Shayne, Cameron and Jodie. His second son Scott once phoned his father from Vietnam (some time ago) to let him know that he was standing on the precise spot that his father had sustained those wounds in June 1966.

I was tempted to call it a reunion, but that would mean that we had all met previously – it was in fact a first-time meeting for us all, but rest assured it will not be the last.

Doug Bishop



## A TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Since retiring, well over twenty years ago, my wife Kathy and I have done a bit of travelling, both locally and overseas. On a number of occasions I have found myself visiting war memorials and pondering the futility of war and the absolute waste of life sacrificed in political power struggles and idealism.

That being said I have found each of these occasions to be quite emotional and which evoked feelings of deep sadness.

One of my first experiences of this nature (apart from my sometimes Anzac Day attendances) was a "blokes" trip to Vietnam and mainland China in 2000. I had heard it said that such trips could be quite cathartic for Australian veterans of that conflict. I must say that I found it quite the opposite. It was August and on arrival at Sai Gon airport with my brother-in-law (an ex defence member of some twenty years but non-combatant) and accompanied by Matthew O'Brien, a young (20 something years) family friend of his, I found myself almost frozen to the aircraft seat, not instantly willing to disembark. After this initial setback, pulling myself together and a few days kicking around Sai Gon we hired a vehicle (with local driver) and set forth for Vung Tau. When we arranged the vehicle we had been assured that the driver would be able to speak English. Well, very early on the morning of setting off, the vehicle was readily available and so was the driver, a nice chap but .... did he speak or understand English? You can guess the answer!!!

On the way to 'Vungers' we travelled along what in my deployment in 1966 was a very narrow and dilapidated blacktop track (Route 15 I think it was). It was now virtually a four-laned highway. Along the way we passed the Nui Thai Vai's to our left and memories came to me of Operations that took place there in October 1966 and of at least two of our boys who were KIA, Normy Womal and a close friend of mine, Gordon D'Antoine. I must say I was quite shaken and to my embarrassment broke down. I must say that I felt like a bit of a d'head at the time. To my relief however, the others in the vehicle remained respectfully silent, maybe they did not know what else to do.



Trevor Russell, Mathew O'Brien, Dusty Miller and John Sanders at the Long Tan Cross, 22 August 2000.

We continued on with the intent of visiting the Long Tan Memorial Cross along the way. This presented a major

problem in itself trying to get the driver to understand our wishes. We followed many muddy tracks where the driver stopped on occasions to ask villagers for directions. Much finger pointing and arm waving took place when this occurred. Then a miracle happened. On one of these stops we saw two mud bikes in the distance coming our way being ridden by what appeared to be Europeans. As they drew near we hailed them. They pulled up and one of them said "How ya goin mate, can I help you?" Two Aussies would you believe, one being a Vietnam Vet, John Sanders who at the time was domiciled in Vietnam and spoke fluent Vietnamese. After introductions and some very cheerful conversation it was revealed that John knew two very good friends and former workmates of mine back in Australia, one Ian McDougall (5 RAR) and one Bob Moodie (2 RAR), both of whom had been in the Federal Police with John in Sydney.

John quickly conveyed our wishes to our driver and a short time later we arrived at the Memorial Cross. It was August 22<sup>nd</sup> and there were still wreaths about, left by those who attended on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Again it was a very emotional occasion for me and I silently thanked the others for their understanding.

After a while we travelled on to Vung Tau, passing the 'Horseshoe' along the way. It was barely recognizable, the country had changed so much from my time there in 1966-67.

In Vung Tau we enjoyed a few beers with John and a mate of his, Alan Davis, who ran the 'Ettamogah' bar with his wife, Ahn. We also enjoyed some good hamburgers, a change from local tucker!

After 'Vungers' we ventured on to Da Nang, Hoi An, Hue and Ha Noi, all of which I found quite enjoyable, having gotten over my earlier hang-ups.

I must say that the Vietnamese people, as I always found them during my time there, to be cheerful and very accommodating, notwithstanding the traumas of years (decades and more) of conflict they had been subjected to.

Leaving Vietnam we travelled on to China, flying into Nanning and hence to Kunming, Xian, Dali, Lijiang, Chengdu and Beijing. In Beijing and at the invitation of a mate of mine attached to the Australian Embassy we attended the Embassy and watched the opening of the 2000 Sydney Olympics on the 'Big Screen'. We also enjoyed several cans of Fosters. After Beijing it was on to Guilin, Hong Kong and thence back to, Australia, a country I am so privileged to call home.

Whilst China was an enjoyable and eye opening experience it would be a story for another day. I had the feeling that we were being surveilled the whole time we were there.

Subsequent overseas travels have seen me visit 'Hell Fire Pass', Gallipoli and the northern France areas of WW1 and WW2 conflicts. This article has been somewhat of an effort but maybe I will write about some of the others at a later date if I feel up to it.

Cheers to all Tigers for now.

Dusty Miller  
5 RAR Mortars

# VIETNAM TASK TO BE REPRINTED

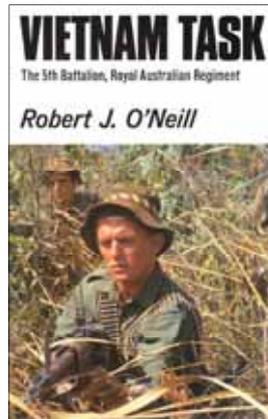
15



The association has received a 'Saluting Their Service' Commemorative Grant from the government to re-print and digitise 'Vietnam Task'. First published in 1968 by 5 RAR veteran Robert O'Neill, this important history of 5 RAR's first tour of Vietnam and the early days of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War is still used as a teaching text in many military and tertiary institutions in the study of counter insurgency operations.

Publishing will be undertaken by ANU Press, with whom the association successfully partnered to publish 'Vietnam Vanguard' in 2020. The two books will become companion volumes with the same physical dimensions. The same photographs from the original edition will be used with high resolution copies of most being obtained from the Australian War Memorial to ensure they are of the highest quality.

A key addition to the re-print of 'Vietnam Task' is the in-



clusion of a new appendix, being the nominal role of all who served with the battalion on the 1966-67 tour of Vietnam. This will therefore make it a valuable keepsake for veterans and family members.

As the book will also be digitised, it will be available for future generations in a similar manner as 'Vietnam Vanguard'. It will be able to be downloaded for free on the ANU Press website or purchased in hard copy.

The project is about to get underway with publication to be approximately in September of this year. Further details of availability will be advised when known.

## KIA HONOURED

On the evening of Friday 19 February 2022, Graham Warburton was inducted as an Alumni of Emmanuel College Warrnambool, it was to be held in September 2021, but was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

**PTE GRAHAM FRANCIS ANTHONY WARBURTON  
SERVICE NUMBER 3786978  
5RAR D COMPANY 10 PLATOON  
KIA 1 OCTOBER 1966**



From the class of 1961 Graham was inducted, along with five other inductees, as an Alumni of Emmanuel College Warrnambool for service to his country. The evening commenced with drinks and finger food followed by a short video presentation of each recipient's achievements and a presentation of their award.

This was a great honour for Graham and his family represented by Graham's Sister Judith, daughter Nicole and granddaughter Grace, Sister Faye, Sister Cheryl & husband James, Brother Barry & wife Barbara.

Graham's induction process was instigated by Vietnam Veteran Gavin Neville 5 years ago, with a letter of commendation from John Harris 5 RAR D Company 11 Platoon for which the family were incredibly grateful, unfortunately John was unable to be in attendance.

A section of John's letter states:

*'It is difficult to measure the value of a person's life that did not extend past his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. But, if it is measured by the significance and weight of loss placed on it by his mates, family and those who knew him, then in Nug's case it is immense.'*

There were two apologies from local Vietnam Veterans being Doug Heazelwood and Peter Stapleton, Peter went to primary and secondary school with Graham.

The 2022 year school Captains presented the awards, and the art students produced and presented the videos.

Barry Warburton

*Editor's Note: Graham was known to his mates as either Nug or Nugget. The infamous Warburton Mountains or 'Warbies' were named after him.*

**Quote: "War itself is, of course, a form of madness. It's hardly a civilised pursuit. It's amazing how we spend so much time inventing devices to kill each other and so little time working on how to achieve peace."**

*~ Walter Cronkite*

## NOTICES

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES AND ENQUIRIES

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

Membership Officer, 5 RAR Association,  
82/117 Palm Meadows Drive, CARRARA, QLD, 4211.  
07 5594 4780 or [garyt.5rar@gmail.com](mailto:garyt.5rar@gmail.com)

### 5 RAR DARWIN VISITS PROCEDURE

If you are going to Darwin and would like to visit the Museum, please email [5rar.welfare@defence.gov.au](mailto:5rar.welfare@defence.gov.au) with your available dates and one of the team will get back to you with arrangements.

The Battalion will strive to arrange security requirements, if it is at all possible, to suit your travel time frame for you to visit Binh Ba Lines and the Museum.

### D COY 1969-70 – NEXT REUNION?

D Coy 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour is attempting to plan a next reunion, pending on COVID-19 in the next 12 months to 2 years. We currently have options for Perth/Busselton if in the west, or Wauchope/Port Macquarie in the east. Timing possibilities are 5-7 June 2022, fall back option to 17-19 August 2022, failing these options plan is to defer until 5-7 June 2023. For more information, please contact Bob Fenwick 0417 471 172 or [sendfenwick@bigpond.com](mailto:sendfenwick@bigpond.com)

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# OPERATION FLOOD ASSIST

On 7 March a majority of 5 RAR's members, with the exception of those who are currently in Malaysia and the Philippines, started a deployment to Northern New South Wales. Designated as Task Unit Tiger, they are a part of the much larger ADF commitment to Operation Flood Assist.

I receive the photographs below on the evening of Friday 11 March which show the Battalion members assisting in the clean-up of the effected zones in their allocated area of operational responsibility, and working alongside effected residents and other emergency services.

Gary Townsend



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Remit this form and payment due to:

**The Secretary  
5 RAR Association  
P O Box 698  
CARINGBAH NSW 1495**

Current at 5 February 2022

Please indicate use of this form

Joining/Renewing Membership

Change of Details

Purchase of Memorabilia

<u>Surname:</u>		<u>Christian Names:</u>		<u>Known As:</u>		<b>Membership 1 March 2020 - 28 February 2023 \$50.00</b>	
<u>Partners Name:</u>		<u>Regimental No:</u>		<u>Rank:</u>		<b>Memorabilia</b>	
<u>Home Ph:</u>		<u>Mobile:</u>		<u>Business Ph:</u>		O/S Price Qty Cost	
<u>Address:</u>				<u>Suburb/Town:</u>			
<u>State:</u>	<u>P/Code:</u>	<u>Email:</u>		<b>Vietnam Vanguard (See Below)</b>		M \$ 55	
<u>Brief history of service with 5 RAR and or 5/7 RAR or link with 5 RAR Assoc:</u>				Vietnam Task (Nil stock-Reprinting)		M \$ 35	
				The Year of the Tigers (Edition 3)		L \$ 65	
				Honour Roll		M \$ 35	
				Caps		L \$ 25	
				Ties		S \$ 30	
Lapel Badges 20x13mm		S \$ 6		<b>Car Stickers</b>			
TAC Plates-Set 2 130x130mm		S \$ 20		T5-90ASSNRND Tiger Head Round		S \$ 5	
5 RAR Plaque 205x255mm		M \$ 50		T5-1075GRGO Tiger Head C/Patch		S \$ 5	
				5R-1875ICBRBN ICB/SVN Ribbons		S \$ 5	
				T5-1014SVNRND Tiger Head SVN		S \$ 5	
				<b>Membership Dues (3 Year Period)</b>		\$ 50	
				<b>Grand Total:</b>		<b>\$</b>	

The following charges will apply to overseas (O/S) orders.  
Items marked S - \$1, M - \$5, L \$10 per item.

Complete all sections of this form and remit it, with Cheque or Money Order made payable to 5 RAR Association, to the address above, or, email this form and Internet Deposit Receipt/CBA Deposit Slip to [gp@therbco.com.au](mailto:gp@therbco.com.au) please include your Surname and Initials as the reference.  
Bank details: Account name: 5 RAR Association. Bank: CBA. BSB: 062-511 Account: 1015-9756

**Your Committee Members and State Representatives.**

Patrons: BRIG Colin Khan DSO AM (Ret'd) Ph: 02 6257 7249 - MAJGEN Justin Ellwood DSC AM CSC Ph: 07 3332 6025

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**Submissions for Tiger Tales to 82 Lake Hills, 117 Palm Meadows Dve, CARRARA, QLD, 4211 or [garyt.5rar@gmail.com](mailto:garyt.5rar@gmail.com)**

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