

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. 5

WINTER EDITION

SEPT. '91



5 RAR ASSOCIATION * COMMITTEE

Col.JA Warr.DSO
Brig.JA Hooper.CBE
Lt.Col.PA Pedersen
Maj.JF Miller.MBE
Mr.G.Pearson
Mr.CW Cooper
Lt.Col.RA.Lambert
Mr.B.Budden

Brig.CN Kahn.DSO
Col.JR James
Maj.LR Shuttlewood
Capt.BJ Schafer
Mr.RA.Fenwick
Lt.Col.RD.Hamlyn
WO1.RD.Campbell
Mr.M.McDermott

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

QUEENSLAND
VICTORIA
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
TASMANIA
ACT

. Lt.Col.RT.Shambrook
. Mr.PK.O'Connor
. Mr.RH.Naismith
. Mr.JD.Burridge
. Mr.CM.Illman
. Mr.G.Negus

**** OUR COVER ****

Cover story/design is the new 5 RAR Association
Car Sticker - SEE- within for the background &
order details.

EDITORIAL

An issue at last.

The Editor and Committee realise that we should have been in touch well before this, and we are trying to publish at least 3 to 4 issues per year, but it is becoming increasingly difficult gathering content, when very little, in fact NOTHING comes from members, apart from the excellent input from Tony Speelman, our longtime cartoonist.

We can only continue to endeavour to get the Tiger Tales out a little more often in the future, and hopefully, "slot" publication into a set timeframe format.

This edition is full of topical articles, to give you some idea of the matter that is before your Committee, not only at this time, but all the time.

Please try not to be critical, as your Committee here, and in all the States give of their time freely, and remember, the majority of us are holding down jobs and have a family, which limits our free time even more.

I direct your attention especially to the REUNION details for the Dedication of the National Vietnam Memorial in October 1992 in Canberra. It would be a lot more satisfying to see a greater interest from members in attendance, BUT more especially in booking accomodation (SEE the ORDER FORM within this issue).

ADVERTISING - Please SEE our article within this edition should you be interested in advertising in future Tiger Tales.

On behalf of the Committee, I thank you for your patience thus far , whilst we have been trying to establish an acceptable format for the publishing of "TT". If you approve of the publication (or not) your views/ideas would certainly be appreciated. (PLEASE write to The Secretary at the Association's PO Box, listed on the front cover).

AGAIN you input would be appreciated.

editor.

2.

BINH BA DAY (Thursday 6th June 1991) at 5/7 RAR (Mech)

5/7 RAR (Mech) again held the Binh Ba Commemorative Service this year (details above), which commenced with a Parade & Service at 10AM (only 1/2 of the Battalion were present, but the soldiers still gave of their best under the conditions. The Band were excellent.

The Parade was followed by Morning Tea served in the OR's Mess, where we had the opportunity to talk to the diggers of today. Times certainly have changed.

The Association only saw 5 members attend this Service, which commemorated this battle honour of "The Fighting Fifth", but it went long way to show the younger soldier of 5/7 RAR (Mech) that the spirit of the FIFTH is alive and well today within the amalgamation of 5 & 7 RAR.

PRESENTATION TO 5/7 RAR (Mech)

At this Binh Ba Service, the Association made a presentation to the soldiers of 5/7 RAR (Mech) in the form of a bronze tiger (suitably mounted on a wooden base) to be housed in their own OR's Club, the Gary Holmes Club.

It has always been a tradition that the outgoing CO of the FIFTH present the Officers Mess with a similar display.

The Association, wanting to make some contribution to the Battalion, asked the then CO (Lt.Col. John James) for some ideas. It did not take long for him to come up with this suggestion of a presentation to the "diggers" of the Battalion.

We must initially thank Lt.Col John James for his suggestion, and Mick McDermott for his many hours of locating a suitable sculptor, and bringing the plan to fruition.

The Association outlayed the funds for this bronze tiger, it now owns the mould, and can now cast duplicates quite easily. At this stage, we do not have any castings on duplicates, but should anyone be interested, after viewing the original presentation within the Gary Holmes Club they can contact the Secretary for details.

Members of the Association that did attend, enjoyed a few beers with the soldiers in the Club, (which is a credit to the dedicated few that brought the Club where it is today) in fact, were presented with a limited membership medalion.

We would like to again thank the soldiers of 5/7 RAR (Mech) for their hospitality, BUT would like more members to note this date in their Diary for next year..... 6TH JUNE - BINH BA DAY -- 5/7 RAR ---

We would like as many members to attend as possible ONGOING to ensure that the soldiers of 5/7 RAR are aware of the Battalion's heritage, and are assured of the Association's continued support.



PHOTOGRAPH (sorry about the reproduction) shows our Treasurer Bob Fenwick, making the presentation to Cpl. Dawes, the PMC of the Garry Holmes Club.

ASSOCIATION TIES

5 RAR Association Ties are available at a cost of \$15-00 each (including postage).

PLEASE use the ORDER FORM within this Edition.

VIDEO on the History of 5 RAR

The Association are currently looking at the possibility of preparing a Video on the History of the Fifth Battalion to be released in October 1992, to coincide with the Dedication of the Vietnam Memorial in Canberra.

This is to be a truly professional presentation, with a view to obtaining a national sponsor (if possible) with a view also of selling the rights to a TV channel.

The video should contain highlights of the following events-

- 1) . Introduction - 5 RAR & 2/5 Battalion
- 2) . 1965 -Raising of 5RAR from 1RAR
- 3) . 1965/66 - Training for 1ST tour
- 4) . 1966/67 - 1ST Tour,Vietnam
- 5) . 1967 - Return to Sydney - Quintus appears
- 6) . 1967 - Presentation of Colours
- 7) . 1967/68 - Training for 2ND tour
- 8) . 1968/69 - 2ND Tour,Vietnam
- 9) . Return to Sydney
- 10). 1969/72 - Training in Australia
- Linking of 5/7 RAR
- 11). 1985 & 90 - Reunions
- 12). SUMMARY

The Association has quite a bit of material available through a number of areas, including the Australian War Memorial, TV channels, newspapers, etc, as well as the footage that some members have already forwarded to us (which has already been transferred to a video tape for future use), BUT we could still do with more material.

As it is at this time, the Committee members are giving of their own time to visit the Australian War Memorial to view the many hours of footage available there. Once obtained, it then must be catalogued in readiness for compilation BEFORE October this year to leave time for the next process of working it all together in viewing form.

Next comes the cutting room to condense the many hours into a one/two hour video suitable for public distribution (we hope).

PLEASE, if you have any material, whether it be old Super 8MM, 16MM film , Videos, still pictures, slides/etc that you think may be of interest, please send them to The Secretary of the Association (Postal address on front of this issue) and we will return them to you as soon as we have copied them (if we feel that they are of any value to to video).



THANKS FOR EVERYTHING

I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to the officers and men of 5/7th battalion for their tremendous hospitality during our reunion and stay at Holsworthy. I would especially like to mention how impressed I was with the Pipe and Drum Band, both with their performance and with the way they handled their heavy work load over the duration of the reunion. They never seemed to stop, it was great the respect, discipline and overall courtesy shown to us by all those in 5/7 was much appreciated. Although I write this on my own behalf, I know many of the ex-5RAR members have said as much themselves. So thank you once again, Thanks for making my first reunion a most memorable one.

TONY SPEELMAN

MT WARRIGAL. N.S.W.

5 RAR WALL PLAQUES.....

The Association has been researching the development of a NEW 5 RAR Unit Wall Plaque.

Whilst the original one, with the RAR Crest & Tiger appears to be the most acceptable, some members thought that it looked a little cheap.

We have been working on a completely NEW design, which will incorporate most of the features asked for by members, and hope to have more on this in our next issue of "TT".



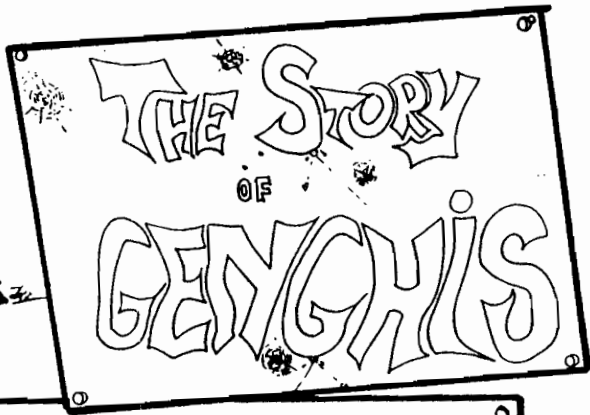
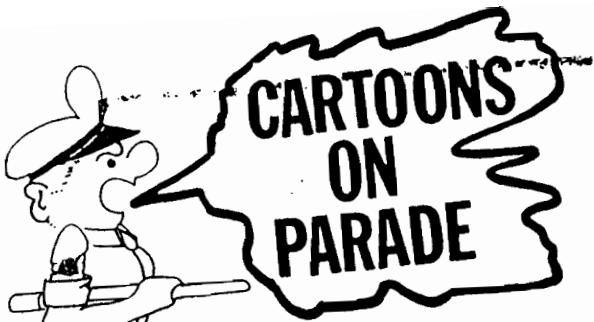
WHERE ARE THEY!?

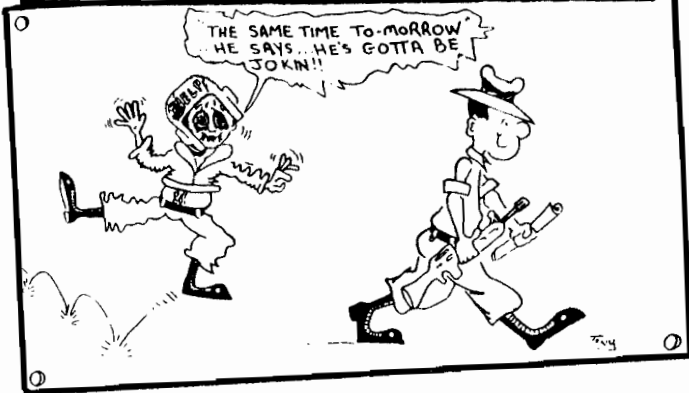
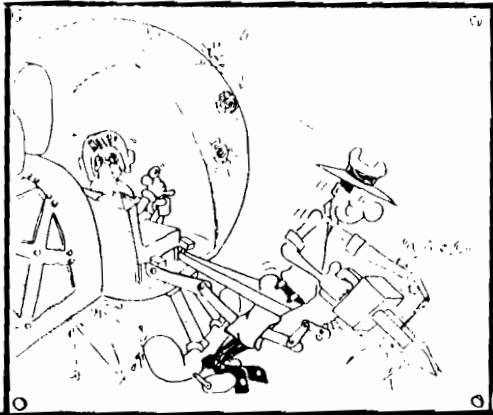
John Connelly of Cooma would like to know the whereabouts of the following ex-tigers

- 1) Ron (Shorty) WFB (Originally from SA, went through IRTH 1964 & Vietnam 1st Tour)
- 2) Arthur (Bluey) OLSEN (From NSW, also IRTH 1964 & 1st Tour)

If you know of the whereabouts of either of the above, please give John a ring (064 52704) as he would be very pleased to hear from you.

9/11/04







NSW

As you are aware, the Association currently "lives" in NSW (The Premier State) and as such advise all members (by way of the "TT" of what is doing locally).

The only major problem that we seem to have is securing a suitable venue for Anzac Day.

You may remember from the 25th Anniversary Reunion, we used the Woolloomooloo Bay Hotel, which we again used for Anzac Day 1990. BUT as the Hotel is one of the most popular in Sydney, it is difficult to secure any part for our own use, which resulted in numerous complaints from members.

To be fair, we did have as many compliments as we did complaints.

This year, we again tried the Paddington Woollahra RSL, but like most RSL Clubs on Anzac Day, they were also hosting a number of other functions and our attendance was well down on previous years.

We are currently working on a venue for next year, BUT if you have any suggestions, please RING (Geoff. Pearson 524-3561) and we will look at them. PLEASE ensure that they are in close proximity to the City Centre, as too many members "hit the amber" and will forget how to get there.

It has been suggested that we amalgamate with the RAR Association at Victoria Barracks, which certainly seems the best way to go at this time. Their Anzac Day function is well organised, well situated, well catered for, and 5RAR are most welcome.

We will advise you where our function is being held next year well in advance, and will seek details from all the State representatives by SAY December this year, to ensure that all members are informed where the Anzac Day Reunions are to be held.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Again Blue Burrige and his Sandgroopers take the prize as being the best organised, informative State of all.

They already have their own condensed version of "Tiger Tales" to keep WA members up to date with their own "in State" functions, and were the 1ST State to purchase their own 5RAR Association Banner.

CONGRATULATIONS Western Australia.

The WA boys also have their own 5 RAR Annual GET TOGETHER in Kings Park, which takes the form of a family orientated Bar B Que/Picnic.

1992 ANZAC DAY

The Sandgroopers are also organising a mini 5RAR Reunion for Anzac Day 1992.

"Blue" claims that the nucleus will be 70 PLUS ex WA 5RAR Vets..... Billets can be arranged..... with a variety of accomodation to married/family members. They are also examining the possibility of Perth being used as a "stop over" on an International flight (to SAY Singapore/Bali/etc), where attending members could enjoy the holiday in these places before/after the Anzac Day Reunion. If this is possible, you can enjoy DUTY FREE SHOPPING.

The extent of the organisation can only be gauged by the numbers that are interested in attending, SO before the WA committee commence their arrangements, they ask that any interested persons contact either of the following for details:-

- John Burrige (09) 384-1218
- Ken Benson " 349-0323
- John Fitzgerald " 342-2236



VICTORIA

State Representative, Kerry O'Connor met with a very serious accident whilst working on his property at Sunbury which saw him loose a leg, breaking the other.

His bout in hospital, we believe was broken by 5RAR members who got him to the Anzac Day March.

Kerry has not lost his sense of humour despite all this, when I last spoke with him he asked that he not be bunked up with Zeke Mudine at the next Reunion, as Zeke has had more practice at this stage than he has, and the first one up in the morning would be the best dressed (Zeke has the same leg missing as Kerry).

Speedy recovery Kerry, and our thoughts are with you.



QUEENSLAND

The only news from Cane Toad Territory, is that Zeke Mundine (longstanding State Rep) has moved back to NSW. WELCOME back Zeke.

The new QLD State Representative is Ron Shambrook, and we thank him for "jumping" into Zeke's shoes so quickly.

If you Queenslanders have any problems, feel free to give Ron a ring (07 354-1706).

* LOOK



ADVERTISE YOUR
BUSINESS
HERE —

SPONSORSHIP

If you are not aware, the printing/postage of each edition of "TT" is now approaching the \$600 mark, and our funds will not last long if we are spending up to \$2,000 per year supplying members with copies "free of charge".

We have an obligation to those members that joined the Association, and parted with \$25-00 to get the Association "off the ground", to supply "TT" as long as we can without asking for membership renewals.

The Committee have decided to seek SPONSORSHIP for the TIGER TALES along the following lines.

The back cover only (BOTH inside and out) will be divided into 4, and we are offering a 1/4 page advertisement, to run in 4 editions for \$250-00. We plan on using the same cover for all 4 editions, and will print them at the one time. You can use your own artwork, or we can build it for you if you send the details (if we do build the artwork for you, it will certainly contain all the information that you require, but we are limited with graphic detail).

If any members that have a business are interested, please contact Geoff.Pearson (02) 524-3561 for further details.

This is your newsletter, and we are now giving you the opportunity to assist with the cost offset, at the same time giving you an exposure of a minimum of 1,000 copies X 4 editions. The newsletter not only goes to Association Members (800 copies) but to 5/7 RAR (Mech) soldiers as well.

1 2

STOP PRESS*STOP PRESS*STOP PRESS*STOP PRESS*STOP PRESS*STOP PRESS*STOP

NSW MEMBERS ** ANZAC DAY 1992

At our last meeting, it was agreed that the Association should attend the RAR Association Anzac Day Reunion at Victoria Barracks.

This will have a twofold purpose in as much as providing the RAR Association with a solid 5RAR attendance to assist their efforts in providing continuance of the esprit de corps within the Regiment, irrespective of which Battalion you served with, and also provide our Association with a KNOWN meeting place for ANZAC DAY that all members will be aware of.

It is very important that the "Tigers" know where to meet up with fellow "Tigers" if they are at a loose end on Anzac Day.

We take this opportunity to thank the RAR Association for their invitation to join them and use the facilities that they provide on Anzac Day, and look forward very much to seeing as many "Tigers" as possible on April 25th 1992.

After the March, head up Oxford Street to Victoria Barracks (make sure that you don't drop your wallet on the way up) and enjoy a few beers with members of the RAR Association as well as meeting up with your old "Tiger" mates. An excellent meal is provided as a very reasonable cost.

SEE you there.

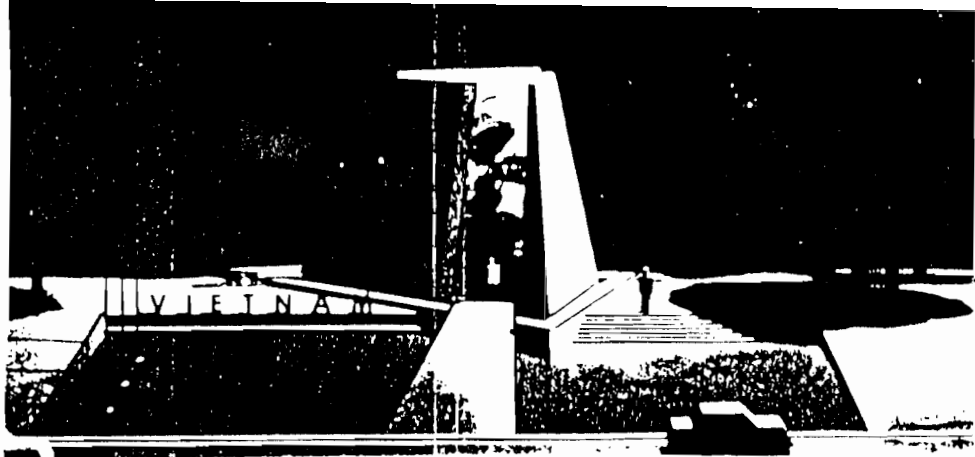
CAR STICKERS ** (SEE front cover) **

Committee member Brian Budden has designed the Car Sticker that you see on the front cover of this edition, and we must thank him for his input.

The sticker is of the finest quality, printed in three colours (yellow/black & red) and it's approx. size will be as shown on the cover.

It is designed to be affixed to car (or other) windows, and will sell for \$3-00 (including postage) from the Association.

PLEASE use the order form at the back of this Edition.



AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM FORCES NATIONAL MEMORIAL

As we outlined in our last edition of "TT", the Association are well advanced with plans to have a 5RAR Association Reunion in Canberra to coincide with the dedication of the National Vietnam Memorial.

The timing (at this stage) appears to be as follows:-

FRIDAY 2/10/92

Members arrive to take up their accomodation (SEE flyer within this edition)

SATURDAY 3/10/92

- a) Dawn Service
- b) Memorial Unveiling/Dedication
- c) Dedication March Past
- d) Unit Re-Unions ****

**** At this stage, the Association have booked a local Football Club for a Reunion Dinner (mixed function) this evening, with a cost factor or around the \$30 per head mark, but this will be advised when full details are known.

SUNDAY 4/10/92

- a) Church Service
- b) Bar B Que ****
- c) Family Concert (similar to the Welcome Home Concert)

**** 5RAR Association have a site allocated (near the Lake) where 5/7 RAR (Mech) have agreed to cater a Bar B Que, and it is fairly certain that 7RAR will join us on this occassion.

As you can imagine, it is difficult for the Battalion to be in two places at the one time, so by inviting 7RAR to join us, it not only solves the catering problem, but helps cement the relationship between the two "founding" Battalions into 5/7 RAR (Mech), towards a close ongoing relationship for current soldiers.

ACCOMODATION

As we have also outlined in our last edition, the Association has booked 300 bunks (in rooms of 10, with private facilities) and 20 Double Rooms.

Bookings can only be made through the Association for the 2 nights (Friday 2/10/92 & Saturday 3/10/92) on the following basis.

BUNK ACCOMODATION	- \$50-00 (2 nights)
DOUBLE ROOM	-\$200-00 (2 nights)

FIRST COME --- FIRST SERVED

If we are unable to secure any additional accomodation, you may have to "fend for yourself".

Canberra is now booked solid for this weekend, so we suggest that you complete the booking form within this edition, and return it (obviously with full payment) to The Secretary.

SUGGESTION - Why not ring around and get 10 mates to book one room of 10 beds.. All it costs is \$500 for the whole room. This will ensure that you have accomodation with ex-tigers that you know. The Battalion cannot be in two places at the one time, and this suggestion helps us both, as well as cementing the two Battalions within 5/7RAR (Mech).

TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Association has almost completed negotiations with a local ACT bus company to provide coaches for the Dedication Weekend.

The total cost for the weekend looks like being around the \$2,700 mark, and as yet we have not assessed the actual individual cost factor to members.

Briefly, the coach picks up at the Motel early morning for the Dawn Service & returns. Later that day, again picks up at the Motel for passage to the Reunion Dinner at Anslie Football Club & returns.

On the Sunday, Motel pickup to the Bar B Que and return.

If you are staying at the 5RAR Motel (SEE booking slip within this edition) you can safely leave your car at the Motel, use the coach, have a few drinks and generally enjoy yourself.

We hope to have the cost factor of the bus determined by our next "TT" which will also include reservation forms for the Reunion Dinner.

WAIT FOR IT !



LAST POST . . . Lest We Forget

John McAloney MC (Col.)

SPECIAL NOTICE * PLEASE READ ATTACHED REQUEST**

The Association has received a request (via 7 RAR Association & The Infantry Centre) to seek assistance for a Bushman Scout, who appears to have been attached to 5RAR during the 2nd Tour.

The applicant (Nguyen Huu Hanh) is currently in a refugee camp in Indonesia and is seeking assistance from someone that knew him, to sponsor his Application for residency here in Australia.

If any of the members know this man, and can add some weight to his Application, please contact the Secretary who will take the matter further.



Hanh

NGUYEN HUU HANH

GALANG CAMP
JAN. SATURDAY
12th 1991

①

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE

Respectfully to
Commander in Chief of the Higher
army command of AUSTRALIA

I, The undersigned: NGUYEN HUU HANH
DOB: OCT. 21st 1948. POB: KSI MY
VILLAGE - BATDO DISTRICT. MARIA. PHUQU TU
TOWN. South V.N.

I was at 483/14 Khai Trung Hamlet.
Phuoi Hai (V) Long Bat (8) Tring Nai
TOWN. South V.N

I Came to INDONESIA on July 22nd 1990
and was moved at GALANG camp site
I on AUGUST 17th 1990
I'M now at Galang site I. Zone II
Barack 217

Dear Sir

For screening of VIETNAMESE
Boomer which absided to INDONESIA
after 17th 1980. So I want to have
a necessary certificate of my
personal status. please. to have Sir
to trace an affiam a certificate
to me that could help me to get
a Refugee Regulation.

②

Dear Sir

please reduce my status after
mentioned

I was a defecting communist who
Returned free regime on July 15th
1969 at Phuoi Tay Town's Command
South V.N

~~After Sep/1969 I was a business-~~
~~man in the area of~~
~~Phuoi Tay Town~~
~~South V.N~~
~~until~~
~~1970~~
~~After 1975 I was a prisoner~~
~~for defecting communist and joining~~
~~your five years since Aug 25th 1975~~
~~I was released on April 26th 1980~~
~~after that I was arrested again for~~
~~escaping from V.N by sea on Aug~~
~~10th 1981, I was released on Oct~~
~~19th 1983 and I was captured one~~
~~more time since Jul 24th 88 till~~

After Sep/1969 I was a business-
man of
Scout of
Australian Force, which stationed
at Nui Sat, An Hoa, Phuoi Tay Town
South V.N till 1970.

After 1975 I was a prisoner
for defecting communist and joining
your five years since Aug 25th 1975
I was released on April 26th 1980
after that I was arrested again for
escaping from V.N by sea on Aug
10th 1981, I was released on Oct
19th 1983 and I was captured one
more time since Jul 24th 88 till

③

April 24th 1989. After those times
I lost all my necessary papers.

Now I have Sir to search records
from your old records. You could
ask yours to affirm my actions with
yours in past. please give me a
certificate in that I was captured as
trading with your force from Sep/1969
until End 1970 in Battle of South V.N

Personally, after 1970, I joined
the police force of South V.N.

Thanks in advance for your
consideration. please get rid of
the thankful heart of all my thank
heart. I do hope from yours, Sir
and expect minutely.

Sincerely yours

PS
My present address
NGUYEN HUU HANH
BOAT. VC 6500 TS
PO Box 19
GALANG SITE I. TANJUNG
PINANG RUMI 29101.
INDONESIA

(c/o THE INDOONESIAN RED CROSS)

Nguyen Hui Hanh

"JUNKING" OF THE VIETNAM MEDAL

Briefly, but over the past few months numerous rumours have been spread around regarding the Fed.Govt's intention of downgrading the Vietnam Medal, with Public Service awards to receive greater importance within the award structure.



All RSL bodies, Associations/etc have written to the Govt. and local members with good points coming being raised.

Our President wrote on behalf of the Association, and a copy of his letter was to have been included in this edition, BUT the Editor has misplaced the FAX that was sent for this purpose, and is unable to obtain a copy in the time frame to complete this issue.

If the issue continues, we will include it in our next edition, but it appears as though the matter is resolving itself, so continue to wear it with pride.

PROFILE - Tony SPEELMAN

Our resident cartoonist, Tony Speelman sent us some material with his last cartoon input, which may be of some interest.

PLEASE Note, longtime 5RAR Chef/Cook Paddy Cahill (who called the C___ a C___)

Tony is seen decorating the Battalion cake (in the form of a Tiger of course) for the Battalion's 7TH Birthday Celebrations.

We hope that you can see the humour, especially in Tony's comments, which have been reprinted on the opposite page.

Tony was responsible for the early Battalion issue's of "TT" and his input today is valued as much as it was when the Battalion was a strong fighting unit.

We cannot thank him enough for his honour, and hope that he continues to show a keen interest in "TT" and the continuation of that Tiger spirit.

THANK YOU TONY

TIGER ON THE JOB



Lance Corporal Tony Speelman, of 5 R A R, decorates the birthday cake for Quintus, a 7th birthday celebration, at the 5th Battalion, at Hobart, Tasmania, in 1972. (Photo by Dept. of Army)

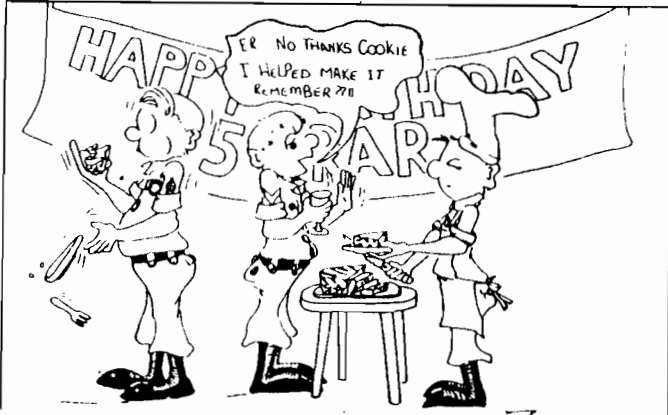
VAL touches to an all-important cake from Warrant Officer Bruce Kennedy of Moorebank and Lance Corporal Tony Speelman from Shellharbour during recent birthday celebrations of their Holsworthy-based unit the 5th Battalion. The odd appearance of the cake is explained by the battalion's adoption some years ago of a live Australian tiger.

CAPTION "THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING"

Just thought these couple of Photo's may be of some interest. The photographs were taken by a local Liverpool paper in March 1972/73 (7th & 8th Birthday Celebrations), during the preparation of Quintus' Birthday Cakes.

I must confess that whilst the cake & icing were OK, the colouring I used to decorate the cake was anything I could lay my hands on...mostly printing ink...texts colour and just a touch of turps. (I had to clean the brushes somehow)

The end result turned out great...well, at least I think it did, because I never did get to taste any of Quintus' Birthday Cake.
 Tony Speelman
 Mt. Warrigal. NSW



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

I require _____ CAR STICKERS

\$ 3.00 EACH