



TIGER TALES

5 RAR TIGERS

NEWSLETTER of the 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

PP 22620210007

NOVEMBER 1996

EDITION 9

Editor's NOTEBOOK

By the time this issue of TIGER TALES reaches members, the year will be drawing to a close. Therefore, on behalf of the 5RAR ASSOCIATION committee, I wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. The next issue of Tales will be in the mail in March, 1997. The cut off date for submissions for that issue will be, at the latest, end of February, 1997. Could all State reps send me all the information that you wish to be published in that issue. The obvious details that I require are:

- * **Anzac Day arrangements 1997.**
- * **News from your state.**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you change your address could you please notify the Association. A simple note in the mail will do the trick. I have said it before, it costs the initial postage PLUS an extra cost of 45cents per item to collect returned mail. PLEASE !!!!!!! Let us know where you are.

ALL MAIL that will alter your records, i.e., mailing list, must be sent to:

5RAR ASSOCIATION
GPO BOX 817
SYDNEY NSW 1043

FEES TO THE ASSOCIATION

Our fees were due at the time of our last reunion. If you paid at that time or sometime

after that date, you are financial to the year 2000. The word FIN will appear on your address label. If it ain't there please send \$25.00 and the word FIN will appear on your next issue (magical stuff).

On the other hand, if you have paid, and the word FIN does not appear on your issue of TIGER TALES, we have made a 'BLUE'. Let us know anyway.

ANZAC DAY SYDNEY 1997 VENUE

Anzac Day venue after the march will be:

THE PAVILLION TAVERN
580 GEORGE STREET
SYDNEY

Final details for Anzac Day will be detailed in the next issue of Tiger Tales (March 1997). 5/7 RAR (Mech) however, has invited association members to attend the Dawn Service at the Battalion (Holsworthy) in 1997.

ANZAC DAY Melbourne - 1997

I have just received news that 5RAR will be the host Battalion for the Victorian Branch of the RAR Association. As a result, 5RAR members, under the 5RAR banner, will lead the 1997 RAR contingent in the Melbourne Anzac Day march.

Details of Anzac Day (other states) next issue.

ORIGINAL 5RAR PENNANT

Robin Arnold of Mildura, Victoria, still has his original 5RAR pennant 1st tour of VIETNAM and there is one hanging in the local RSL.

Some of our members have seen this pennant and have asked if it could be reproduced. Robin has made arrangements to have this done, providing there are sufficient orders to make it worthwhile. A photostat copy of the pennant appears in this issue. An order of 20 will cost \$20 each, less if the order exceeds 20 items. Robin has offered to accept orders from members if they wish to purchase one of these original 5RAR pennants.

ONE of THREE THINGS WILL HAPPEN when you order,

* Members will receive their pennant as outlined at a cost of \$20 each.

* If the orders exceed 20, members will receive a refund.

* If the whole thing is a 'FLOP' your money will be refunded.

A brief description of the pennant is; BLACK FELT with GOLD LETTERING (4 other colours in the RAR badge).

Anyone interested write to

**ROBIN L. ARNOLD
PO BOX 183
MILDURA
VICTORIA 3502**

Orders to Robin by 20 December 1996: for late Jan. 1997 postage to members.

Editor's Note No profit to Robin in this undertaking.



Copy of PENNANT

1996 VIETNAM VETERANS' CONVENTION

The organisers of the Vietnam Veterans' Convention have labeled the 1996 convention as a success, despite the fact that it failed to attract the expected 8 000 veterans. Around 1 600 veterans attended (booked) and some 3000 vets attended the parade. Letters received clearly indicated that a good time was had by all.

5RAR was there, and the patron of the convention, Brigadier Colin Khan, paid his respects to our war dead with the symbolic



planting of crosses, with each cross representing a soldier who died in Vietnam.

IN MEMORIAM

**Brigadier Colin Khan
pays his respects to our war dead**

"All veterans of Vietnam should take heart that such nationalism was fostered by you on the battlefields of Vietnam and you should never forget that."

Brigadier Colin Khan
Commanding Officer
5RAR
1969/1970

SPONSORSHIP of 5 PL

KAPOOKA

A member of the Association will visit Kapooka and give a talk to each new intake of the 5th Platoon. The history of the Battalion will be the main focus point. An honour board will be prepared for the most improved recruit in each intake. A 5RAR plaque will be presented to the most improved recruit.

A 5RAR video will be given to 1 RTB for the use by each intake of 5 Platoon.

Members of the Association are invited to attend the march out parade and BBQ of each intake. (More details in this issue).

5/7 RAR (MECH) BIRTHDAY

The birthday parade of 5/7 RAR (Mech) will be held on the 7th December 1996 at Aero Paddock, Holsworthy commencing at 9.00am. All members of the Association are invited to attend. Members wishing to attend should advise the Association without delay.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Secretary reported on the current membership. The membership as at October 1996 is:

Total membership	786
Financial	588
Non financial	198

Could all non financial members please send your membership fee of \$25.00 to the Association as soon as possible. Complete the return form in this issue and send to:

The Secretary
5RAR Association
Mr K. Mallinson
GPO Box 817
SYDNEY NSW 1043

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARMY ISSUE EQUIPMENT AUSTRALIAN ARMY

Australia entered the Second World War with small arms exactly the same as those issued to soldiers in the First World War. Firearms such as the :

* SMLE .303 RIFLE
* VICKERS MMG

The Vickers was later replaced with the British made BREN LMG. The American made Thompson SMG 0.45 inch calibre also saw service with Australian Forces. The Thompson SMG was later replaced with the Australian made Owen SMG firing the 9mm round.

The experience of the Second World War clearly demonstrated the need for more mobile automatic and semi automatic firepower. The wheels of change were slow to turn however, and Australian soldiers went to the Korean War with the same weapons as those used in the Second World War.

The need to upgrade infantry firearms really began after the Second World War. America pushed for a standard (NATO) round. The choice of ammunition was not a clear cut decision by (NATO) countries. England, for example, developed a new rifle designed on the BULLPUP system. This rifle, called the EM2, fired a 0.280 inch calibre projectile. The British rifle was earmarked to replace the .303 Lee Enfields in the Australian Army.

The decision by (NATO) to adopt the 7.62 cartridge as the standard ammunition for member nations posed problems for the further development of the EM2.

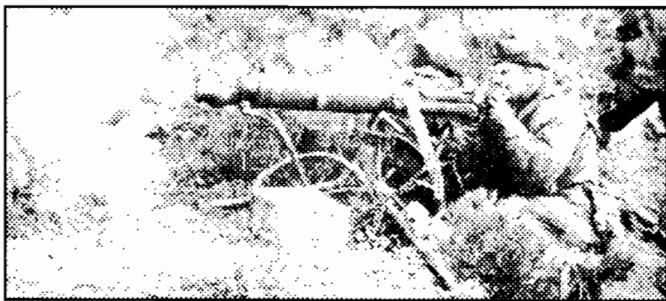
The designers of the British BULLPUP system tried to adapt their rifle to accept the 7.62 round. This required major modification to the design. The redesign of the rifle did not take place, due mainly to the cost, and the project was shelved. This required the Australian Government to search for another rifle to accept the (NATO) cartridge. By this time the Malayan Emergency had begun. In June 1950 Australian Forces (RAAF) were sent to Singapore to assist British Forces on operations in Malaya. The RAAF was equipped with WW2 Lincoln Bombers and DC3 Transports. Australian ground forces arrived in Malaya in 1955 (2RAR) and were armed with:

No 5 Jungle Carbines .303
OMG 9mm
LMG Brens .303
Browning A5 shotguns

US M1 Carbines .30 calibre

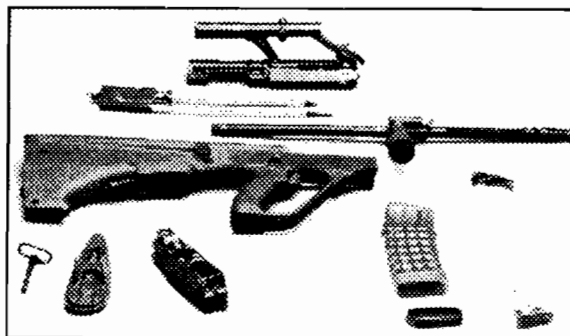
During this period, the Belgian made 7.62 calibre X8E1 and X8E2 self-loading rifle replaced the SMLE .303 rifles. These were the trial versions of the SLR which came into service in 1959. At last, the Australian Army was being issued with a modern, robust and reliable infantry rifle. On the other hand the Owen SMG was still on issue and this weapon was lacking in power beyond 50 metres. The same restrictions applied to the F1 SMG (Replacement for the Owen Gun).

By the time 1RAR arrived in Vietnam, the SLR and M60 Machine Gun were general issue. The Owen SMG was still on issue, as indeed it was when 5RAR arrived in 1966. The Owen gun was finally replaced by M16 5.56 mm Colt. The M16 was an improvement on the OMC, however, the light .22 calibre projectile was marginal.



Vickers MMG in action Korea 3RAR

In the mid 1980s (NATO) countries adopted the new standard cartridge called the 5.56mm. Again member nations selected various weapon designs. The USA stayed with the M16 (A1 & A2) model. The British went for the SA80 and Australia tested both the M16 and the F88 Austeyr. As a result of these tests, the F88 was selected. The projectile was improved by increasing the weight and fitting an armour piercing cap.



A field stripped F88

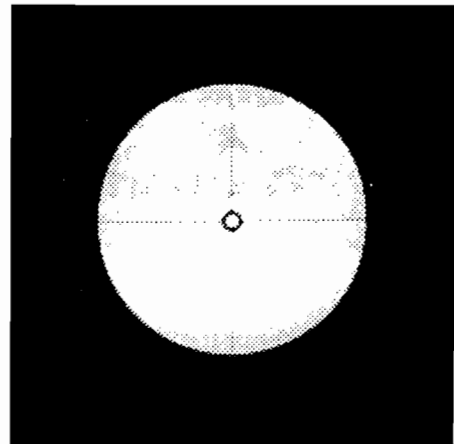
The logic, at least in part, for the introduction of the 5.56, was that more ammunition could be carried and the low recoil of the cartridge would improve marksmanship, and therefore result in more hits on targets. The maximum battle range for individual weapons (IW) is still 300 metres. The 5.56 cartridge is considered adequate for this purpose.

The F88 has suffered from a number of faults however:

- * Failure of triggers to return to the firing position.
- * Failure of action to stay open on last round fired.
- * Plastic handguard melting on automatic fire.
- * Sight on carry handle damage with only moderate use.

(Some of these faults have been rectified).

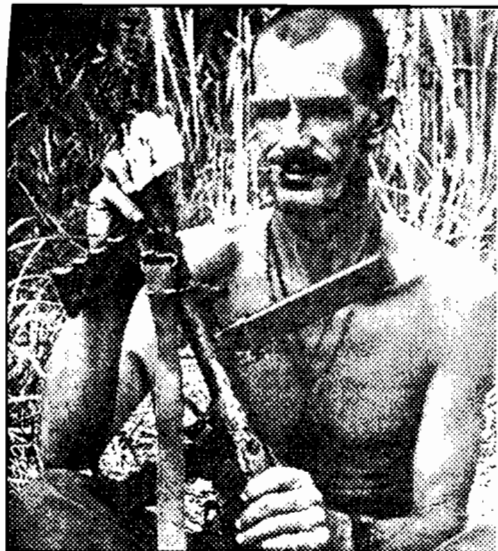
Australia and New Zealand jointly produced the F88, with 95% content, 5% of parts are imported.



A view through the scope of an F88



A British soldier with his SA80



A soldier of 2/6 Independent Coy cleans his Owen Gun New Guinea 1943

These firearms were still in use by 5RAR in 1966.

5 RAR ASSOCIATION
STATE REPRESENTATIVES

QLD	Lt Col R T Shambrook AM 57 Lade Street ENNOGERA QLD 4051 Tel : H. (07) 335 41706	Ron
VIC	Mr G Levey 40 Brook Street SUNBURY VIC 3429 Tel :H. (03) 744 4078 B. (03) 339 1234	Geoff
SA	Mr R H Naismith 16/A2 Harrison Road PENNINGTON SA 5013 Tel : H. (08) 326 1813	Bob
WA	Mr J D Burrige 88 Watkins Road CLAREMONT WA 6010	John
TAS	Mr C M Illman 20 Blackstone Road LAUNCESTON TAS 7250	Colin
ACT	Mr G Negus 3 Daplyn Close WESTON ACT 2611 Tel : (06) 243 1029 B. (06) 288 2070 H.	Greg

TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Changes)

Our telephone numbers have changed or, are about to change. Could all members notify the Association of the changes as soon as possible. Please list your old number as well as the new number.

MORE ON 5PL KAPOOKA

SPONSORSHIP OF 5PL 1RTB AT KAPOOKA

Earlier this year the Commandant 1 Recruit Training Battalion at Kapooka invited our Association to sponsor 5 Platoon.

The sponsorship entails members of the Association talking to 5 Platoon during the first week of training about life in the Army generally and giving some details of the history of 5RAR including its service in Vietnam.

At about the fourth week of their training, a BBQ is held at the Sportsmans Club on a Saturday and members of the 5RAR Association and their partners are invited to attend.

This is proving to be an excellent opportunity for our members to talk informally to the new recruits, most of whom are in their late teens and still a little bewildered by the sudden change from civilian life.

During their training, the recruits travel to Canberra to visit the Australian War Memorial and the two platoons which have undertaken this since our sponsorship commenced have been given special treatment by Max Carroll and Norm Goldspink.

At the conclusion of their training a presentation of a 5RAR plaque is made by a member of the Association to "The Most Improved Recruit" of 5 Platoon and the recruit's name is included in the "Tiger Platoon" Honours Board in the platoon lines.

Claude Ducker MC addressed the platoon, which commenced training in June '96 and he made the presentation when the platoon completed its training in September.

Max Carroll has undertaken these tasks for the platoon which commenced training in October and Colin Khan DSO will visit the next platoon when it commences training early next year and make the presentation.

Neville Smerden, who lives at Wagga, is the co-ordinator and he is assisted by Wally Anderson and Ken Watson. Tassie Wass, Blue Hush, Bill Gunning, Allan Walsh, Alec McLean and Ken Mallinson have visited 1RTB for the various activities with the Tiger Platoon.

Please contact Neville Smerden at Wagga (Tel: 069 312 907) or Bob Trenear (Tel: 047 395 487) if you would like to visit 5PL 1RTB when it next commences training or at the BBQ or March-out Parade.

John Warr

MINI-REUNION MELBOURNE MARCH 1997

A mini-reunion is to be held in Melbourne during the first week in March 1999. Victorian members who would like to assist with the planning of the reunion, are asked to contact:

Geoff Levey
40 Brooke St
Sunbury VIC 3429
Tel: Home... 039 744 4078
Bus...039 339 1229
Mobile...041 201 879

ASSOCIATION POST CODE CHANGE

Please note the Association Post Code has changed to:

1043

A Message from our Secretary Ken Mallinson

A PLEA FOR FEES

Fees for membership of our Association were fixed at \$25.00 for the current term of five years from the end of our last Reunion until the year 2000. This amounts to only five dollars per year - probably the lowest fee of any Battalion Association.

Costs of operating the Association, principally printing and distribution of TIGER TALES, our means of communication with you, are not light, but we can keep our present fee rate if EVERYBODY pays.

Most of you have, you have received your new Association badge as proof of it, and you will notice the word 'FIN' to the right of your name on the address label of this issue of TIGER TALES. Indeed some members have even paid twice.

If you are one of the minority who haven't yet paid your fees, PLEASE do so right away by forwarding your cheque or money order to:

The Secretary
5RAR Association
PO Box 817
GPO SYDNEY 1043

Don't let your mates down -

PAY YOUR FEES PLEASE

**A plea from your friendly Honorary
Secretary**

Ken Mallinson

B.K. LONDON (EDITOR)
PO BOX 422
BATEMANS BAY
NSW 2536
044 725748

Please note my new number will operate from AUGUST 1997. The number will be (02) 44725748. Continue to contact me on the original number until that time.

Editor