



**2790819 LANCE CORPORAL EDWARD JAMES MOON**

**C COMPANY, 5<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION**

**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT**

**VIETNAM – 1969 / 1970**

**I am speaking today not for myself, but for the men of C Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, who served in Vietnam in 1969 / 1970.**

**Ed was a National Serviceman, called up by his Country to serve during the time of the Vietnam War. Ed didn't shirk his duty, and laid down his farrier's tools at his Condell Park home, and undertook his training in Australia. In mid 1969, Ed was posted to Vietnam, and served with the First Australian Reinforcement Unit, until he was posted to 5RAR. Upon arrival in 5RAR, Ed was allocated to 9 Platoon, C Company, That platoon consisted of both Regular Army and National Service soldiers. These men were totally professional, but were also a bunch of vagabonds and rogues – the type of soldier that history has depicted as being typical Aussies. Men who worked hard and played hard – a band of unquenchables. Ed fitted right in, and served with them until the battalion returned to Australia in early 1970.**

**Ed was an excellent soldier – hard working, alert, a good thinker, close to and protective of his mates, and an all-round good bloke. His nickname was “Suave” or Suavey” something he was definitely not. He was more at home shoeing horses than he was on a parade ground.**

**After a short time in C Company, Ed was promoted to Lance Corporal, and allotted the task of second in command of his infantry rifle section under his lifelong best mate Bryan (Blue) Schafer – up front in a war zone, facing the enemy. Ed excelled in his duties.**

**He was discharged from the Army in 1970, and returned to Condell Park, to his farrier and blacksmith trade. In 1971, he married his sweetheart Wanda, and they settled in their new home at Hammondville. There, they raised their family – Peter, Melissa and Renee. Ed was always a very private person with his family – he loved all of them, and they loved him. This carried on to future years, where he held the same feelings for his grandchildren. His eldest grandchild, Locky, always marched beside Ed on ANZAC Day in Sydney.**

**I was fortunate to live not too far from Ed and Wanda, and over the years my wife and I got to know them quite well. Ed, Blue Schafer and I started having a game of golf each week, and this went on for some years – always a lot of fun, a lot of sledging, and of course, a few schooners.**

**Ed was also a bit of a larrikin. On one occasion, he and Blue were to pick me up to go to a reunion. They arrived at my place, rang the bell, and my wife, having just covered her face with a cosmetic cream, answered the door. Ed took one look at her, and said “Needs another coat”. On another occasion, we were on the way home from golf, when Ed asked me to stop at the local shops so he could buy a bottle of beer. Just at that time, a Police van pulled into the car park, and officers alighted with their pushbikes, to conduct a community patrol. Ed walked up to the sergeant in charge and said “What, run out of cars have you?” Then there was the very Asian gentleman who went to the golf course every week – the one that Ed christened “Egg Fu Yung” That was bad, but what was worse was when Ed would see him, and yell out “G’day Egg!” The man always waved!**

**On one ANZAC Day, our Commanding Officer from the Vietnam days, Brigadier Colin Khan was our guest. Ed looked him up and down and said “You probably don’t remember me, but in Vietnam I got caught doing something, and you fined me \$40. I’m not one to hold grudges, so if you’d just give me back my money, I’d be prepared to forget the whole thing”. Ed never saw his money.**

**As I look around, I can see the faces of many of the men who served with Ed. They have come from around Australia today to pay tribute to him.**

**It is now time to say goodbye to Ed – a husband, father, grandfather, brother, soldier, friend, and a decent bloke. Ed – Australia owes you a thank you. We stand beside Wanda, Peter, Melissa, Renee and their families in offering our support.**

**Stand down Ed; you have served your Country and your family. We salute you. Goodbye old mate.**

**Don Harrod  
April 2013**