

**26352 Anthony Bruce Perriman**  
**24 March 1932 - 26 August 2015**

A graduate of the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, Major Tony Perriman was the 5RAR Operations Officer for all of 1968 in Australia and 1969-70 in South Vietnam. In this most important central position he was the Commanding Officer's right hand man for all operational matters. He controlled the Battalion Command Post (CP), its radio operators and the operational master map, working closely with the CO either directly in the CP or by radio if the CO was in his chopper. When the battalion was tasked with an operation at very short notice it was Tony who would convert the CO's plan into a detailed operational order. Many long hours into the night saw Tony drafting the operational order then having his small team cut a stencil on the typewriter before winding it around two ink-saturated cylinders and then cranking off multiple copies by hand for distribution at the CO's orders group. Who could forget this very messy process with many low curses from the chain-smoking Tony Perriman if the stencil was not quite straight necessitating its removal and replacement laden with dripping ink? But Tony always got the job done in time.

The radio nickname for the Operations Officer was "Seagull" so it didn't take long before the Diggers were referring to him as the "White Winged Warrior", all the more amusing as Tony was hardly the picture of the sartorial elite athlete.

During quiet times at the CP, if not reading, Tony would team up at cards with the artillery Battery Commander, Major Lachie Thompson, to play 500 against the Adjutant Captain Dave Wilkins and the Mortar Platoon Commander, Lieutenant Maurie Neil. Not once did the majors lose. Not once. And this unbroken winning streak did not alter when Dave was replaced as Adjutant by Captain Bill Titley mid-1969.

Tony Perriman was a quiet, good-natured, competent and efficient man with a strong personality who got on well with both the soldiers and his fellow officers. Tony is most fondly remembered by all those who knew and worked with him.

Rest in peace "White Winged Warrior".

Dave Wilkins  
Captain,  
5RAR 1968-70

Our Commanding Officer (1968-70) Colin Khan asked me to append his own tribute with mine:

Tony Perriman served with distinction during his tour of the battalion in Vietnam. In that time the battalion operations achieved much success, success due in no small measure to Tony's efforts as the Operations Officer.

He had the unenviable task of translating the CO's concept for operations into meaningful, detailed tasks for sub units in the battalion and our supporting arms. He always had a clear understanding of the roles and capabilities of sub units and his outstanding ability in this regard was a material contribution to our success.