



TIGER TALES



Issue 31

August 2012

Newsletter of 5th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment Association

We are all Tigers together

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FROM CO 5 RAR (MECH)

I trust this edition of Tiger Tales finds members of the association enjoying a rewarding 2012. Life in the Battalion is very busy and we are making full use of the available training opportunities. The Battalion remains very well equipped and resourced to conduct a full spectrum of war fighting training. During 2012 we are receiving 150 new soldiers straight out of Initial Employment Training at the School of Infantry to boost our manning. This 'next generation' of Tigers will participate in a very intensive training regime that will prepare them well for any operational requirements that arise in the future.



Night firing activities.

Most of the Battalion commenced 2012 with a period of jungle training either in Tully or in Malaysia as part of Rifle Company Butterworth. This 'back to basics' training in a harsh and austere environment was a not so gentle reminder to all of us of the requirement to master our infantry skills on foot before commencing training with the Battalion's armoured vehicles. All Companies performed to a high standard and many tactics, techniques and procedures were either learnt or reinforced as a result of this training.

The Battalion deployed to Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA) in May to conduct Exercise TIGERS WALK and RUN. This exercise series focussed on mechanised manoeuvre by day and night at the platoon and company level. A range of demanding day and night live fire activities, including night company attack and company defence practices, reinforced the Battalion's ability to quickly integrate with our M113AS4s to exploit the superior firepower, protection, mobility and communications resident

in Army's Mechanised Infantry Battalions. These exercises concluded with a short Battalion exercise to confirm higher level command and control procedures before our redeployment to Darwin for a quick period of leave.

Early June saw the Battalion re-deploy to SWBTA to participate in Exercise Predators Strike. This Brigade live fire activity grouped sub-units from 1 Armd Regt, 5 RAR and 7 RAR with supporting Engineers and Artillery to form Combat Teams. Each Combat team in the Brigade was rotated through a range of 24 hour tasks that had been planned by the Command-

ing Officers of 1 Armd Regt, 5 RAR and 7 RAR supported by each unit's key staff. The task that awaited Combat Teams at the 5 RAR stand was probably the most challenging live fire activity of all and I am pleased to report that both 5 RAR Combat Teams, based on B and C Company, were amongst the best performing Combat Teams in the Brigade.

The bulk of the Battalion is still in SWBTA as part of the 1st Armd Regt Battlegroup known as Battlegroup LION. This is a useful opportunity for 5 RAR to reinforce that the Battalion will not always be the main effort of the Brigade. After a very busy period from 3 December 2006, with more Battalion level operational tours than any other RAR Battalion, our soldiers are enjoying this unique training opportunity as the Brigade participates in Exercise HAMEL.

The Battalion's next major challenge is preparing for Ready Battlegroup (RBG) responsibilities which will cul-

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The 5 RAR (Mech) personnel and equipment that participated in the Battalion exercise.



CO 5 RAR (MECH) MESSAGE - Cont

(Continued from page 1)

minate in the Battalion assuming on-line status in mid-November this year for 12 months. This is a new challenge for us as RBG tasking normally resides within Army's 3rd Brigade. I have every confidence in our ability to re-focus on this task and become ready to deploy anywhere in the world at very short notice as required by the Australian Government. Unlike preparing for a known operational deployment the Battalion can not predict when and where we will be called to deploy and thus must prepare for the full spectrum of operations from peace keeping and humanitarian assistance through to mid-intensity war fighting.



Soldiers debussing from the Battalion's new M113AS4s.

During our busy training year we have made time to mark Battalion events of significance and will continue to provide social and sporting opportunities for our soldiers. Binh Ba Day was commemorated with a presentation by the junior officers of the Battalion followed by a social function. The Battle of Binh Ba is relevant today to our Battalion, and Army, as an example of the effects that can be achieved by the combined arms team against a tough, unforgiving enemy in complex terrain. It also remains the single most successful combat action undertaken during 5 RAR's long and proud history.

A number of current and former members of the Battalion were recognised in the 2012 Queens Birthday Honours list. All of these recipients were recognised for their dedication to duty, courage and leadership. They are an inspiration to Tigers both young and old and are thoroughly deserving of our thanks and appreciation.

Most of the Battalion will spend six months in the field this year training for our next potential operational deployment. As many older members will know this a natural state of existence for Infantry Battalions. We are either at war or preparing for the next war. The dedication shown by our soldiers in the field would not be possible without the excellent support provided by their families and the wider 5 RAR community. Thank you for your continued support.

Duty First.

LTCOL Andrew Forbes

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Tigers,

Firstly I would like to congratulate those members of 5 RAR, MTF 2 and the Association who were recognised in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours for their deeds on active service and in various administrative roles on behalf of the veteran community. A list is on Page 15 of this issue. Operational awards to Tigers since 2006 from Iraq, Timor and Afghanistan are part of the enduring history of our battalion. Individual citations with photos of recipients have now been placed on our website alongside those who were honoured during the Vietnam War.

Whilst on the topic on honours, earlier this year your committee agreed to invite Col Joye AM to accept honorary membership of the Association. Many will know of Col's 'capture' by the battalion in August 1966 as the Battle of Long Tan was about to unfold and his voluntary entertainment at our reunion on the Gold Coast in 2010. Col has been delighted to accept and so we now welcome him as a treasured member of our Association.

This issue includes after action reports of ANZAC Day and other activities by our state branches. I sincerely thank our State Representatives for the role they play in coordinating our dispersed membership. A most pleasing aspect is the number of younger 5RAR veterans who are joining our ranks for these activities. I have mentioned previously that our State Reps will join the rest of our

committee at an Executive Committee Meeting in Sydney on 24-25 August. At this meeting we will be reviewing the success of our Association over the past five years and will consider our priorities for the future. The December issue of Tiger Tales will include a report on the outcomes of this meeting. Subject to his commitments at the time, CO 5RAR will be attending this meeting.

A matter that will concern us all is the mounting number of our veterans who are now parading in higher places and unhappily many of them are too young, being in their mid 60's. With this sadness it is heartening that platoon and company mates flock to their side to say a final farewell - brothers in arms to the end.

You will have seen in various parts of the media the ongoing 'Fair Go' campaign conducted by the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations which address the issue of indexation of military pensions as well as a number of related issues. This has a direct impact on our Association members who have served our nation for extended periods and will affect current serving members of the ADF in the future, unless it is adequately addressed. The 5RAR Association supports the 'Fair Go' campaign and those who are leading it, providing that it continues to be conducted on a fully apolitical basis. Appropriate items about the campaign are placed on our website.

Roger Wainwright



CALL SIGN BIRD-DOG

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On 6 June 1966 an American light observation aircraft, call sign Bird-Dog, which had been supporting 5 RAR during the day made a low sweep over Nui Nghe on its way back to Vung Tau. Fire from 274 Regiment brought the aircraft down in thick jungle at the foot of the eastern side of Nui Nghe. Their commander decided to lay an ambush around the plane hoping the battalion would send out a search party, but as no one knew where the aircraft went down, none arrived.

The crashed aircraft was finally discovered by 1 Platoon A Company, led by LT John Hartley, in January 1967. It was invisible from 30 yards away and it was by chance that it was discovered. A Company HQ under the command of MAJ Max Carroll secured the area and Reconnaissance Platoon under command 2LT Michael 'Deaky' von Berg MC were tasked to secure a helicopter infiltration point through the thick jungle canopy for the SAS to winch down and to assist in the recovery of the pilots remains.



5 RAR members sifting through the wreckage of Bird-Dog. Photo courtesy Ray Bolitho, 1 PI A Coy 1966.

The pilot had been killed on impact and the observer had been able to climb out and the small pile of empty cartridge cases beside his skeleton testified that he had bravely held the VC off until his ammunition had run out. They had then shot him through the back of the head.

The helmet of the pilot was recovered from the body of a VC killed later in January 1967, by an SAS (Special Air Service) patrol.

46 YEARS LATER

James Metcalf who was a member of the USAF TACP party attached to 5RAR on occasions and is a member of the Association.

He had asked me about the photograph and circumstances surrounding the finding of the downed aircraft manned by MAJ Jacobs and CAPT Franco (see below) that is displayed on our Website Image Gallery at <http://www.5rar.asn.au/gallery/birdog.htm>

He obviously knew the two pilots and thought that either of their NOK would like to know the circumstances of that incident. Being a retired police lieutenant, he set about the task of locating someone and he finally succeeded in locating Franco's Sister.

His letter to the US DVA requesting it to be forwarded on to the NOK has been rewarded by an email from Franco's sister, Jude Doherty. (*You can read James' letter to the US DVA on the 5 RAR Association web-site at <http://www.5rar.asn.au/misc/letter-nok.pdf>*)

It is interesting to note that after 46 years another family member of a veteran receives some solace. Note the date of her reply to Jim. She received his email the day prior... 6th June 2012. The aircraft went missing on the 6th June 1966, exactly 46 years ago.

Ted Harrison,
Web Master

Email From James Metcalf:

Ted,

Received the below reply from the sister of Franco. While she thanked me for the gift of information that thank you properly belongs to you, the information on the site and also to the others that placed their information on the 5RAR site. Without that I would have had nothing to provide. So in the dark hours of the night working on the site know your efforts are meaningful.

Just wanted to let you know that the collective effort has provided a measure of pride and closure, to one of our brave warriors.

Jim Metcalf

Thursday, June 07, 2012 email From Jude Doherty:

I just read everything and it was very difficult, but I am so grateful to receive it. My big brother has always been my beloved hero and this info only makes me prouder. I think my parents knew some amount of this information because my mom told me the part about finding the VC diary and how the VC had laid in wait for possible rescuers to come. I was 10 years old when they recovered Chuck's plane. You have given my sons and I a great gift.

Hope all is well with you and yours. God bless you. Well done!

Thanks again,

Jude Doherty



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NSW



AROUND THE STATES

NSW - Cont.



I arrived at the forming up point early as usual, so I decided to have a wander around. The weather was a bit windy, but nice and sunny. There is a great atmosphere here prior to the commencement of the march – old friends meeting again, bands warming up, tuning up of bagpipes (if that's possible – the most ear-shattering noise you will ever hear when a piper attempts to get his strangled cat going). I got to meet some Korean children in their national costume. Beautiful kids: as excited as anybody could be. I wonder if they had any idea what ANZAC Day was all about. Still, they added some colour to the proceedings. I talked to various groups as I wandered around, lots of complaints about the cold wind, but I didn't even notice it. The atmosphere kept me warm. Then the banner turned up and was unfurled, turning the street into a rallying point for 5RAR Tigers, who started turning up. Time for some good conversation.



The 5 RAR Sydney march led by John Miller and David Wilkins.

Time to form up, and as usual, Tex Cunningham took charge. "Form five ranks", he yelled out. Nobody moved. "Form five bloody ranks", he yelled out. Nobody moved. What he said next is not fit for publication, but we formed five ranks after a bit of shuffling around. Mates always want to march next to their mates. Then a marshal came along and shouted "Form seven ranks". Tex went very red in the face and confronted the marshal. It looked as if things were going to get a bit ugly for a minute, then Tex backed down. "Form seven ranks", he yelled out. Nobody moved. Then Tex started to grab people and shove them into place – HE was organising the form-up and that was it. Seriously though, Tex does a great job organising the ranks, and we would be still milling around if he didn't take charge.

Then, after the long wait, we were off. You have all read about and taken part in ANZAC marches, so I will leave the march alone, except for one incident that deserves mention. At the Cenotaph in Martin Place we usually march past on the left side, and an "Eyes Right" is given. This time for some reason we marched past on the right side – but somebody – no names, no pack drill, gave an "Eyes Right". A bit of confusion for a second, but being 5RAR Tigers, we quickly assessed the situation and gave an "Eyes Left". Nothing fazes us!

The function at the pub was the usual. I had a couple of beers and a conversation with Dave Wilkins. He is coming up to 70 years shortly; we'll have to carry him around soon! I witnessed one happy digger practicing his Vietnamese trying to chat up the barmaid, until she politely smiled and informed him that she was from Thailand. More beer, more reminiscing, spilt beer down Tex's suit (glad it wasn't his hat or there would have been real trouble). We had an all-round great time. See you all next year.

Alan Miles, C Coy 1969-70

The RARA (NSW) Vietnam Veterans Day on Saturday 18 August 2012 will start with a Service at Regimental Square, George St, Sydney at 1030 hrs. This will be followed by the Government Service at the Cenotaph at Martin Place at 1100 hrs. Those that wish can then gather on the 1st Floor Windsor Hotel, Cnr Park and Castlereagh Sts at 1200 hrs for AGM and socializing with finger food supplied.

If attending please notify Secretary Rick Bigwood, 0488 727 475 or rarnswsecretary@gmail.com

Geoff Pearson

B COY 1969-70 REUNION

B Company 2nd Tour SVN 69-70 have been holding a reunion for many years gathering every second year during Anzac Day week, it is usually a 3-4 day event.

This year's get together was hosted by John and Sue McMahon at the picturesque Lake Macquarie in NSW between April 24-28 and was attended by around 90 members of B Coy and their partners. A great time was had by all renewing friendships and generally sharing some rare quality time together again.

Macca and Sue did a fantastic job of organizing the itinerary from the 'meet and greet' on 24th then the Anzac Day Dawn Service and March and the reception at the RSL afterwards. There was also a Hunter Valley Wine Tour and a golf day or 'girlie' pampering to choose from. It was all capped off with a formal dinner at Club Macquarie on Friday 26th where it was decided unanimously that our next reunion will be held in Tasmania in 2014.

As a final farewell John McMahon (Macca) performed for us a song entitled 'B Coy Boys' that he had personally composed. It was great and we were all then issued with a copy of the CD. All in all another great get together.

Dave Thompson, B Coy 1969-70

QLD



A highlight of the Anzac Day march in Brisbane, for 5 RAR at least, was the attendance of veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq.

An enthusiastic group of young veterans joined us, some

AROUND THE STATES - Cont.

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QLD - Cont.



Young Tigers in Brisbane. L-R: PTE Ryan Dodd, CPL Stuart Eckert, CPL Mathew Reeves, CAPT Alex Davidson, CAPT Nick Perriman DSM, LT Jonathon Sullivan and CAPT Greg Dunthorne.

of them still serving, including CAPT Nick Perriman who, for his efforts in Afghanistan, has since been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM). They marched alongside Vietnam veterans including Ron Shambrook, in a wheelchair, which was pushed by his son Group Captain Geoffrey Shambrook, RAAF, because of the effects of cancer. (see Ron's story later in report)

Also in the parade were six grandchildren of Chuck Stamp, a second tour veteran who died six years ago. A Canadian, he served with C Company. His daughter, Rachael Vivian, was with the children.



A Tiger's offspring, Chuck Stamp's grandchildren. L-R: Michael, Thomas, Andrew, Olivia, Nicholas and James.

The children wore t-shirts she had done with Chuck's photo and the words: 'I'm Proud! My Grandpa's a Vietnam Veteran'.

The Dawn Service at the National Memorial Walk was attended by several 5 RAR veterans including Ron and myself.

A special and effective moment was the appearance of the catafalque party of 8/9 RAR Diggers in full patrol order from among the trees. A gunfire breakfast followed at the 8/9 RAR Rams Retreat.

After the city march later in the morning, 5 RAR veterans joined other RAR veterans at the Pig 'n' Whistle at the Riverside Centre in Eagle Street. Some joined in other Anzac day activities later on back at the 8/9 Rams Retreat at Enoggera.



Max, Tom, Kevin and Larry.

On Anzac Day eve, members of B Company first tour held a reunion at the

QLD - Cont.



Breakfast Creek Hotel in Brisbane with about 15 attending. This photo shows Max Morrow, Tom Griffiths, Kevin Butcher and Larry O'Connor.

After a couple of years as Queensland representative for the 5 RAR Association, I wish to resign and hand over to someone else.

There is not a lot involved, mainly taking banners and flag to, and being involved with Anzac Day parade in Brisbane; plus writing about activities or other news for Tiger Tales.

When in Brisbane, I was involved a little with the National Memorial Walk and RAR activities at Enoggera. The degree of involvement with this and national meetings and activities is to a degree 'optional'.

You also need to keep up with a bit of email traffic around the network.

Anyone interested please contact me, see details in the 'NOTICES' or on the Up-date Form on the address sheet.

The Brisbane Vietnam Veterans Day will begin with a 'Meet and Greet' at the 'Live Wire Bar' at the Treasury Casino from 0930 to 1130 hrs. Form up for the march to ANZAC Square is at Redacliff Place at 1140 hrs with step-off at 1200 hrs.

Kerry White

I attended the RAR National Memorial Walk (NMW) Enoggera Dawn Service with seven members of my family, then breakfast at home, followed by the ANZAC 0800 Mass at the Catholic Cathedral and then the Brisbane City march. Great to see the 5 RAR lads with Afghanistan service marching with us. I did not have enough strength to stand and march for such a long period so I was in a wheelchair, pushed by my son GPCAPT Geoffrey Shambrook, RAAF. We then sat 14 family for lunch at home, what a great day.



Ron and Geoffrey.

Ron Shambrook, OC C Coy 1967

WA



ANZAC DAY

A new forming up area, and a different route, meant a slightly unusual Anzac Day for the WA Branch. About 45 members took part in the Perth parade and service. It was good to see an increase in the number of younger 5 RAR Association members marching this year.

Although Alan McNulty was in Victoria for the C Coy reunion, we were fortunate that his sons, Stephen and Brian, were available to again carry the 5 RAR banner, and we

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WA - Cont.



MAJGEN Murray Blake leads the 5 RAR contingent. Photo courtesy Jeff Keen.

(Continued from page 5) were honoured to have MAJGEN Murray Blake lead the 5 RAR Association contingent. MAJGEN Blake was in Perth visiting family and friends. Another interstate visitor who we welcomed was Bryan O'Donnell (D Coy 1966-67) and his wife, Madeleine.

After the march and service, we moved back to '43 Below' for drinks, food and fellowship. A busy Peter Tuck, with the assistance of some enthusiastic committee members, ran a numbers raffle to raise further funds for the WA Branch.

Greg Negus, D Coy/Adm Coy 1966-67

VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION

The Vietnamese sub-branch in conjunction with the Vietnamese community in Western Australia held a Commemorative Service to honour those Australian and Vietnamese servicemen and women who paid the supreme sacrifice. The service was conducted in Kings Park at the Vietnam Memorial Pavilion on Saturday the 16th June 2012. The weather was kind to us for most of the service. 5 RAR had a small contingent of members attending and the Vietnamese people presented a commemorative plaque to the next of kin of WA servicemen, who lost their lives in Vietnam, of which there are over 60 names on the Memorial.

Russell Briggs did a great job following up the 5 RAR NOK to attend the service (see Russell's report later). However, it was disappointing that many of the next of kin left the service before the presentation due to the rain. During one of the speeches by the Vietnamese, they mentioned how grateful they are to Australia for getting involved with the war enabling them to come to Australia for a better life. After the service the Vietnamese people put on a huge free lunch for everyone, a great gesture from them.

5 RAR Members have been invited by the Mandurah Murray Veterans Group to attend the Commemorative service for the Battle of Long Tan on Sat 18 Aug 2012 at

WA - Cont.



the Mandurah War Memorial. We will be forming up behind our Banner at 1015 hrs on the road adjacent to the skate park on the western side of the Old Mandurah Bridge. Please make every effort to attend as we will be having 20-24 of our members from the eastern states marching with us. The service should finish around 1145 hrs and members and partners are invited to the Mandurah RSL for friendship. If you are attending please advise Alan Mc Nulty, 08 9304-1333, 0417 914-309, alanmarian1@bigpond.com or Peter Tuck, 08 9405-1589, tucky01@iinet.net.au

Alan McNulty



Some of the Vietnamese Veterans and 5 RAR Association Members at the Kings Park Commemorative Service.

After the Commemorative Service at Kings Park on Sat 16th June the Vietnamese Community, together with the Republic of Vietnam Veterans Association, put on a dinner for all Vietnamese and invited guests to celebrate the 50 years since Australia became involved in the Vietnam war. Having helped the community get some names of relatives of the 5 RAR KIAs my wife, Audrey, and I were fortunate enough to be invited.

It was a great night with a good three to four hundred people there, mainly Vietnamese. Many of the Australian veteran groups were represented including the RSL and the VVAA. 5 RAR was represented by Michael Tomas, Brian Tomas and his wife, Frances, as brothers and sister-in-law of LCPL M. 'Titch' Tomas (KIA 8 Jul 1966), also by Fenton D'Antoine and Dawn Bessarab brother and sister of PTE G.H. D'Antoine (KIA 18 Oct 1966). There were other families at the Kings Park Service representing 5 RAR soldiers that were killed in Vietnam, but for one reason or another could not attend the dinner, all were invited.

On our table were Fenton and Dawn, Fenton had flown all the way down from Darwin for the occasion. Even though I did not know PTE D'Antoine, I certainly knew a bit about him, so we had a great night.

It was also great to see the Tomas' again, they said to say hello to all 5 RAR and especially C Coy members.

The following soldiers on the 5 RAR Honour Roll were represented at the Kings Park service by some of their family members; N.G. Cassano, A.E.L. Waring, G.H. D'Antoine, B.P. Watson, A. Drummond, J.C. Webster, M. Tomas. The family of J.M.T. White sent their apologies as they were unable to attend.

Russell Briggs, 9 PI 1966-67

AROUND THE STATES - Cont.

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TAS

Following on from our last edition of Tiger Tales and due to reunions on the main land we were forced to cancel parading on Anzac Day behind the association banner. I thank the four members who put their hands up to March; however, four really were not enough. With that in mind Rod Kenane and I accepted the invitation from the St Marys Cenotaph Memorial Association to attend their Dawn Service which was held in the hinterland above the East Coast of Tasmania. After the service and gunfire breakfast our nominated driver, Des Charles, Rod's next door neighbour and 'Mine Host' of Binalong Bay B&B conveyed us to the coastal town of St Helens where we took part in the Service and Wreath laying Ceremony. Des, while not a Veteran, marched wearing his late Father's Medals, his Father served during WW2 and this was the first time Des had paraded with the Medals, well done Mate.



Rod, Des and John

Also following on to the last edition Lutz Bockish has suggested we catch up with him, Bob Ferguson and others of our blokes on the North west coast area to take part in Vietnam Veterans Day Service at the Devonport Memorial, so come on you local blokes come along and catch up!

Well that's all from us now down here in Beautiful 'Tassie' take care and be good, if you can!

P.S. Hey Peter Hodge when are you going to join the Association, it's a wonder Colin Illman hasn't grabbed you by now.

John Smee



ACT

It was a very cold Canberra start to Anzac Day, with an estimated record crowd of 25,000 attending the Dawn service. During the One Minute Silence the only sound was a Siberian breeze whistling musically in the trees.



L/R- Ron Russell, CPL Christopher Tyrrell, PTE Mitch Judd, Bernie Pye, LCPL Daniel Underwood and Maurie Sharp.

Luckily the rain that was threatening all morning held off when around 3,000 service men and women, both past and present, marched up Anzac Parade. We (5 RAR) formed up with the RAR. We had a good attendance with



ACT - Cont.

eight 5 RAR diggers turning out on the day. They were: Norm Goldspink MBE, who hasn't lost his touch as a former RSM and kept the unit in step; Stew Innes from Taree; Ron Russell our bait layer (D Coy 1969-70) who is still travelling around Australia; John Smith (LJ) who came all the way from Kingaroy, Queensland; Maurie Sharp from Canberra who toured with 8 RAR and completed his time with 5RAR at Holsworthy; Bernie Pye; and three young diggers who are still serving - CPL Christopher Tyrrell, PTE Mitch Judd and LCPL Daniel Underwood.

At the service the Commemorative address was given by Air Marshal Mark Binskin AO, Acting Chief of the Defence Force and the Requiem was delivered by Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Ret'd), Chairman of the Council of the Australian War Memorial. As in previous years the Federation Guard and the Band of the Royal Military College kept us entertained throughout the service.

After the service we moved to the Carlton Room at Olims Hotel for a few ales. It was good to have a chat with the young diggers and catch up with what's happening in today's army. They have left the Battalion and are pursuing different careers within the army - we wish them all the best.

On the 21st of June the ACT branch had its inaugural mid-year lunch at the Ainslie Football Club. The lunch was well supported with 17 attending. We were pleased to see three new faces that hadn't been to our regular Christmas lunch before.



Colin Khan, Barry Morgan, Darren Huxley and Roger Wainwright.

They were: Ray Orchard and his son Jason - we were very grateful to Jason who took the day off especially to bring Ray along and COL Darren Huxley DSC, former CO of the Battalion, who also took time off work to join us. It was also great to see Colin Khan DSO AM, our Patron and CO of the second tour and Roger Wainwright, President of our Association.

After our lunch Roger formally congratulated Barry Morgan and Darren Huxley who recently received awards at the Queen's Birthday Honours. Barry received the OAM and Darren the DSC. Well done to both of them.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and a lot questions were directed at Darren about today's army and the modern day digger.

I would like to thank the ladies who came along and supported our luncheon, Cathy Morgan, Lois Goldspink, Susan Donnelly, Bev O'Mara and Gail Pye. Hope to see you all again at our Christmas Lunch.

Bernie Pye



AROUND THE STATES - Cont.

VIC



ANZAC Day in Melbourne commenced with the rain and a heavy overcast. Doug Bishop, our Victorian Representative was unable to attend due to C Company reunion being held in the Victorian town of Portland (*Doug's Report follows*).

Doug had issued a warning that the usual forming up place in Collins Street had been changed to Swanston Street which was apparently well heeded as there were no complaints from anyone I spoke to.

In spite of the gloomy weather there was a reasonably good turn up and surprisingly, a group of 12 – 14 current 5RAR Veterans turned up for the march. We made sure that they were most welcomed and it appeared they had a good time as most of them turned up at the Duke of Kent Hotel for a few beers after the march.

Just prior to us stepping off the rain eased and we had a relatively dry march to the Cenotaph. Ray Bolitho was a late arrival, as his jovial persona was seen joining the march along the way. Ray is currently the secretary of the TPI Association Vic Branch and is doing a wonderful job. Incidentally the photograph (*page 3*) of the crashed observer aircraft featured in this issue of Tiger Tales was taken by Ray.

The old and young veterans had a memorable day.

Ted Harrison, 1PI 1966-67

C Coy 1966-67 Reunion, Portland



The Tiger Logo depicted in flowers.

Anzac Day 2012 was a land mark event for those of us who attended this year's re-union for C Company, 1966-67 tour of Vietnam in Portland, Victoria. What it came down to was three days of camaraderie, pretty well a family re-union and a collective realization that the bonds that unite us remain as strong as ever. Participants arrived from all corners of Australia including Perth, Bruny Island South, Queensland, South Australia, NSW and the NT; oh, and Victoria. Communal drinks and dinner at Mac's Hotel on the Monday evening got things off to a promising start; whilst much of Tuesday was spent working out where we were to form up and when etc. etc.

To the best of my knowledge Portland is the only place where Anzac Day is celebrated with a **floral tribute** ac-

VIC - Cont.



Some of the C Coy Members at the Portland Reunion.

knowledging the Anzac tradition and 'LEST WE FORGET'. This along with row upon row of small white crosses bearing the name of a local who had served and/or who had given their life, either way were no longer with us; and each cross encircled by a small wreath. Many hundreds of them presented a most moving sight.

In recognition of our re-union this year the Portland organisers created a floral Tiger's head against a floral background of the South Vietnamese flag, which consists of three narrow horizontal red stripes against a yellow background. Looking at it from eye level, I overheard one young observer say, "Mum, that tiger's got big whiskers, hasn't he?" Seen from above it was much clearer. Our thanks go to Selwyn and Dot Williams (and their many talented assistants) for such a memorable display.

Although the temperature was 'bracing' the rain at least held off for the Dawn Service and we were treated to the unforgettable spectacle of the Norfolk Pines along the foreshore silhouetted against the sea as the sun crept over the Eastern horizon. The weather was not so kind later on in the morning; the rain fairly bucketed down but the show went on.

The highpoint was the speech of the Guest Speaker, COL Roger Wainwright (Ret'd).

Doug Bishop

CREEK CROSSING 1969-70



A Digger of B Coy negotiating a crossing over a deep and swiftly flowing creek. In the wet season the men were continually wet for days, sometimes weeks on end and this would cause the flesh to peel from your feet and you would frequently break out in sores. You counted yourself lucky if you could cross a stream on a fallen log. To wade across would assure you of picking up unwanted hitch hikers in the form of blood-sucking leeches as thick as your thumb and difficult to remove.

NUI DAT'S FIRST PERMANENT TOILET



The early days and weeks of establishing the main battalion base at what we then called Ap An Phu just north of Nui Dat (D company's location) were really hectic with so much to do in the new base area as well as operations away from the base and local patrolling. Digging defensive positions, erecting defensive barbed wire, sandbagging and erecting 16'x16' tents for accommodation also took much time from the already tired troops. Each company established a number of locations for troops to shower using canvas shower buckets. The early latrines were open pits and sapling railings for 'seats'.



Ron Shambrook, 1966.

In late June/early July 1966, my platoon, the QM Platoon, was the first location in the main battalion base to have a more permanent toilet built. The Engineers came with a large auger operated from the back of a truck proceeded to dig deep into the rich red soil. A concrete slab was laid over the hole/s and four galvanized metal toilet canopy seats placed on top of the concrete. The toilet was completed with galvanized corrugated iron on half walls and roof and the door and upper sections were completed with insect screening.



Father John Williams and Ron Shambrook preparing the Blessing.

Whilst the construction was underway I decided to enlist the aid of the Bandmaster Bob Taylor to gather back a number of his band from their other task, that of stretcher bearers and come down and play a few melodies. I also approached the Battalion Padre Father John Williams and asked that he officiate.

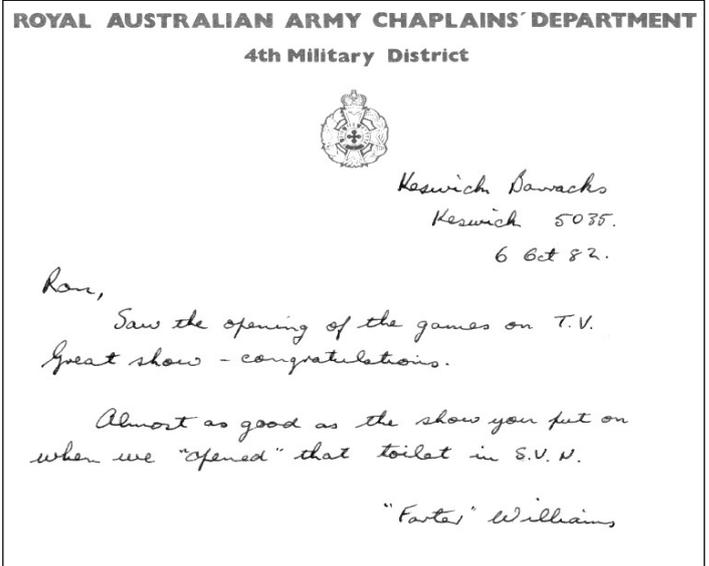
My purpose to have an opening ceremony for the toilet was to have a little fun and hopefully reduce the tensions some of the soldiers were experiencing. On opening afternoon we had a few beers the band played a few numbers and then we had the 'official opening'. I called on the band to play *Bless this House* and on completion asked the Reverend *Farter* Williams to officially open the building and *sprinkle*. He went inside and sprinkled with good

accuracy. All enjoyed the low key light hearted activity.

A couple of weeks later Father Williams showed me a note he had received from his Bishop in Australia. Someone must have written up the story and sent it to a Sydney newspaper. There before me was a newspaper clipping of our toilet opening event attached to a note from the Bishop admonishing John Williams and stating "that he thought he should have had more important things to do than open dunnies."

In September 1982 I was the Controller of the Opening Ceremony of the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. A few days later I received a note (see below) from Adelaide from Father John Williams.

Ron Shambrook, OC QM PI, 1966



A SOLDIER

I was that which others did not want to be.
I went where others feared to go,
and did what others failed to do.
I asked nothing from those who gave nothing,
and reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal loneliness. . .
should I fail I have seen the face of terror;
felt the stinging cold of fear;
and enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment's love
I have cried, pained and hoped . but most of all, I have lived times
others would say were best forgotten.
At least someday I will be able to say that I was proud of what I
was a soldier

This poem was written by an unknown soldier in Vietnam.

NEW MEMBERS TO 6 JULY 2012

Regt No	Given Names	Surname	Tour	Sub/Town	State
2796739	David	Di Pede	5/7	Hinchenbrook	NSW
8297062	Adam Roy	George	5/7 + 5	Grove	NT
37171	Holger	Koblitz	V1	Belmont	VIC
2788032	Ian Richard	Little	Aust	Currabubulla	NSW
2183924	Dennis Clifford	Morgan	5/7	Austral	NSW
3786932	Abraham	Melki	V1	Mill Park	VIC
8530963	Dale	Redmond	5	Palmerston	NT
4717639	Kenneth Raymond	Warren	V1	Moonta	SA



FEARLESS ACTIONS

When 5RAR sniper team leader CPL Ryan Avery went out on an Operational Mentoring Liaison Team (OMLT) patrol in Afghanistan on December 4, 2010, he had no idea it would lead to a Medal for Gallantry (MG) in the 2012 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

"I was stoked when I first read the letter telling me I'd been awarded the medal," CPL Avery said.

"The four-man team I was a member of in Afghanistan was extremely successful in what we did. One of our team members, CPL Marc Danieleto, was also awarded this year a Commendation for Distinguished Service for his work on the same deployment."

CPL Avery arrived in Afghanistan in October 2010 as a member of 5RAR's Battle Group Tiger and MTF 2.

His four-man sniper team was first deployed to Forward Operating Base Hadrian in Deh Rawud and then sent out to the Tangi Valley to Patrol Base Anarjoy. The base was 3km from the town of Derapet, a known hotspot where 6RAR's LCPL Jared MacKinney was killed during a major battle with insurgents a few months earlier.

Just after lunch on December 4, 2010, an OMLT patrol consisting of 11 Australian and 15 ANA soldiers left PB Anarjoy headed for Derapet.

"Our four-man sniper call sign decided to split in two as there weren't many Australians on the patrol and we wanted to put the 338 Blazer sniper rifle in an overwatch position while myself and PTE Grant Robins, with our semi-automatic SR-25s, moved with the patrol members on the low ground," CPL Avery said.

As they entered Derapet, the patrol members noticed a large number of local men watching them.

"We started seeing a lot of vehicles and families moving out of town, which was a sign to us something was going to happen," he said.

"At this point CPL Danieleto and PTE Rolston reported from overwatch they could see a large number of armed

insurgents approaching Derapet from the north."

As the patrol was moving along the town side of the tree line near the aqueduct, they started to take sporadic small-arms fire.

Their four-man lead engineer element began taking RPG fire, which fell short of their position.

"We then moved into the aqueduct to take cover and we began to move forward towards the firing insurgents," CPL Avery said.

"As I was one of the lead guys in the aqueduct, I moved forward when the engineers got pinned down in an alleyway by PKM machine gun fire and by a group of insurgents about 25 metres in front of them."

He continued to move forward and engaged an insurgent trying to escape.

"He was trying to get away from me by climbing over a wall," he said.

"I fired a couple of shots from the hip at him, as I was moving low.

"After he got over the wall he fired back with his rifle and then one of his mates fired an RPG at us."

CPL Avery then crawled over the aqueduct bank up to the pinned-down engineers.

"I fired a few rounds with my SR-25 into where I could see them moving," he said.

"They also had a machinegun flanking position, which upped his rate of fire to cover his guys in the lead coming towards us.

"The machinegun must have run out of ammunition as the fire stopped and we were able to withdraw to a wall as insurgents began to aggressively manoeuvre towards and fire at us."

The patrol members then conducted a fighting withdrawal out of the aqueduct into a compound where they regrouped and established a defensive position.

This gave the insurgents time to advance.

"I remember hearing one of them yelling out 'Allah Akbar' and it seemed like he was trying to fire up his mates," CPL Avery said.

"I took out a grenade, threw it out towards them then fired a couple of rounds at them too."

This slowed the insurgents and he and his mates began a fighting withdrawal through the compound, tossing grenades over walls into the aqueduct, firing their weapons and dodging RPGs.

The insurgents only stopped pursuing
(Continued on page 11)



In the thick of it: Medal for Gallantry recipient CPL Ryan Avery, second from left, with his 5RAR sniper team members, from left, CPL Marc Danieleto, PTE Grant Robins and PTE Jason Rolston in the Tangi Valley.

FEARLESS ACTIONS - Cont.

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(Continued from page 10)

the patrol after two AH-64 Apaches came to their assistance, strafing the aqueduct with 20mm guns.

"After the Apaches did their job we were able to break clean and patrol though Derapet back to the patrol base."

After returning to PB Anarjy the patrol estimated they had come in contact with at least 30 insurgents during the three-and-half-hour battle.

"Two weeks later in the same area, I counted a minimum of 45 armed insurgents as they tried to hit one of our other patrols," he said.

The contact exposed him for the first time to a different type of combat he'd only seen from a distance previously.

"Before December 4, the only fire fights I'd been in were as a sniper from long range," he said.

"It was an eye opener for me and I had a couple of close calls where I was nearly shot in the head or torso.

"I realised the insurgents weren't playing around and didn't care if they went home.

"The contact was exhilarating, fighting with my mates."

None of CPL Avery's patrol members were wounded during the December 4 contact.

During the contact, CPL Avery was primarily concentrating on withdrawing his patrol safely, but he had another important reason to survive.

"At the time my wife was pregnant with our daughter, Sunny, and I thought I'd like to see Australia and her again," he said.

He returned to Australia in June 2011, in time to see his daughter born.

SGT Andrew Hetherington,
Courtesy ARMY

Ed Note: The names of current and former 5 RAR members who received Awards in this years Honours Lists are shown on page 15 of this issue.

5 RAR ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2011-2012

Opening Balance as at 1 July 2011				\$ 35,158.52
<u>INCOME</u>				
Dues	\$	10,530.00		
Memorabilia Sales	\$	5,652.00		
Donations	\$	534.00		
C Coy Loan	\$	1,448.00	\$ 18,164.00	\$ 53,322.52
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
Postage & Handling	\$	6,462.53		
Printing and Stationery	\$	13,304.79		
Floral Tributes	\$	135.00		
Memorabilia Purchases	\$	3,077.44		
Website	\$	272.87		
Presentations and Donations	\$	1,668.19		
RAR Foundation	\$	500.00		
C Coy Loan	\$	1,300.00		
Travel and Accommodation (ECM)	\$	1,578.56		
Cash Investment Trust	\$	9,000.00		
GST	\$	2,441.98		
Bank Fees	\$	9.95		
Refunds	\$	10.00	\$ 39,761.31	\$ 13,561.21
<u>RECONCILIATION</u>				
Statement Balance as at 30 June 2012	\$	13,561.21		
Cash Book Balance as at 30 June 2012	\$	13,561.21		
<u>MEMBERS' EQUITY</u>				
Cash Book and Cash on Hand	\$	13,561.21		
Cash Investment Trust	\$	16,670.01		
Term Deposits - Matures 04 July 2012	\$	20,000.00		
Term Deposits - Matures 02 December 2012	\$	20,000.00		
Term Deposits - Matures 04 March 2013	\$	21,223.34		
Stock On Hand At Cost	\$	9,783.76		
TOTAL as at 30 June 2012				\$ 101,238.32
TOTAL as at 30 June 2011				\$ 110,749.20
Loss for Year 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012				\$ 9,510.88
<u>CONTINGENCIES</u>				
Tiger Tales Issues Cost; 2 x 2012 and 3 x 2013	\$	21,500.00	(Estimate)	
Memorabilia Postage BJ Schafer	\$	0.00	(TBA)	
Term Deposit - Interest 4 July 2012	\$	620.25		





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IN MEMORIUM

217950 KENNETH ROY HOLDEN 17 June 1948 - 12 April 2012

Ken Holden, who served in CHQ D Company on the 1969-70 tour of South Vietnam, sadly passed away on 12 April after a long fight with cancer.

He spent his last 6 weeks at St Vincent's Hospice in Sydney. He had suffered acutely with cancer through various parts of his body, I believe starting in the throat, other areas including the brain and finally into his lungs.

He was closely supported to the end with the dedicated care and love of his brother Garry. Ken's mother and Garry are his only immediate family.

Ken's funeral was held on Friday 20 April at St Laurence's Anglican Church, Fitzroy St, Barraba and then at the Lawn Cemetery at Barraba.

Another sad loss of one of our number, our deepest sympathy to his mother and Garry.



Bob Fenwick

54596 PATRICK JOHN BUNTING 24 November 1935 - 25 April 2012



Patrick John Bunting was a soldier in the Australian army who served his country with honour and distinction. No greater tribute can be given and nothing more need be said about Pat, as I believe this reflects the high esteem in which he should be held by all.

Pat was an original member of 5 RAR joining at its establishment on the 1st March 1965 from E Coy of the 1 RAR. He was initially posted to 3 PI A Coy as a section commander and commenced service in Vietnam on May 8th 1966. He came to 7 PI C Coy in Nov 1966 as my PI sergeant. The Bunting family was also represented in the 5th Battalion by Pat's late brother Bob, which reflects the high level of service commitment to our Nation by this family.

Pat was a 'soldier's' soldier, he never appeared to be under pressure when all around him were experiencing extreme stress. Perhaps the most impressive thing for me, in hindsight, was that he, unlike most sergeants and NCO's rarely raised his voice to instil discipline and did not resort to swearing. His demeanour and professionalism demanded and received respect from his troops.

Pat was not a 'saint' and I well remember an incident when the PI was required to undertake a three day ambush on a track junction. After a day of patrolling we entered the ambush position at dusk and set the ambush with the intention of rotating a section to the rear each day for rest. As this was an ambush the order was no lights, no fires and definitely no smoking. On the afternoon of the third day at an 'O' group with Pat, Ray Orchard, Ted West and Alan McNulty I was sure I detected cigarette smoke but did not say anything. Later, back at a camp, I mentioned this to Pat who confessed that he and Ray Orchard had copped two diggers lighting up under a poncho in the rear area and as they had already had a puff, they decided to confiscate the lighted cigarette and finish it off themselves, under the poncho of course, on the basis that the damage had already been done.

My tour of duty finished 8 days before the battalion ceased active duty so Pat took on the role of running the Platoon. It was a nervous time for all with only a few days to go and the VC planting mines which had caused a number of fatalities in B Coy as they took over from us on the horseshoe.

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."

Harry Neesham,
OC 7 PI 1966-67

25478 NOEL EWART WILLIAM GRANTER 27 March 1933 - APRIL 2012.



We have become aware that Noel Granter, OC C Coy 1st tour, prior to deployment and until July 1966, passed away in April 2012. The exact date is not known. Noel was 79 and lived at Gunning, near Yass, north of Canberra.

He also completed tours of duty in Japan, Korea, Brunei, Thailand, Malaya, Singapore (twice) and New Guinea.

Noel has never been a member the 5 RAR Association.

Rest in Peace Noel

IN MEMORIUM

13



2791406 FRANK BOYCE JONES 24 July 1948 – April 2012

We have been informed that PTE Frank Jones, who served with B Company from August 1969 until February 1970, passed away in April.

Frank's funeral was held on Thursday 19 April at the Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Camden Valley Way, Leppington NSW.



Stand Down Soldier

2100661 RONALD LENNON 28 March 1943 - 1 May 2012.



An infantry soldier who completed three tours of duty totalling 928 days in the Vietnam War was farewelled at a funeral service at Caloundra recently.

Ronald (Ron) Lennon was born on 29 March 1943 at Paddington, Sydney, and passed away on 1 May 2012.

He joined the Army with Service Number 1200661 in 1965, following in the footsteps of his father, Roy, who served in World War Two as a Divisional Provost Corporal, and his grandfather, Albert, who served as a Corporal with 6 Australian Light Horse.

He arrived in Vietnam in August 1966 with 1 Australian Reinforcement Unit and was posted to 5 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (RAR), serving as a forward scout and returning home with the battalion in May 1967.

He served again in Vietnam as a Platoon Sergeant with 9 RAR from November 1968 to November 1969 and for a third tour served with the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) from February 1971 to October 1971, attaining the rank of Warrant Officer.

He was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star and the Unit Citation of the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm. Post-Vietnam he served with the Military Police and retired from the Army in 1980. Ron is survived by his mother, Margaret, three step-sisters and one step-brother, six children from his first marriage to Yvonne and a son from his second marriage to Kathryn who passed away in 2006.

Ron's funeral was held at Gregson and Weight, Caloundra, on Tuesday 8 May.

Kerry White

11836 STANLEY RICHARD ARNOLD 23 August 1932 - 12 May 2012

We have been advised that Sergeant Stanley Arnold passed away on Saturday 12 May in Charters Towers, QLD. Stanley served in Vietnam with 9 Platoon, C Company, 5 RAR, from February to August 1969.

During his ADF service from March 1951 to November 1969 Stanley had a long connection to the Royal Australian Regiment. He served with 1 RAR, 2 RAR (Korea and Malaya), 3 RAR (Korea), 4 RAR and 5 RAR (Vietnam) and also completed postings at JTC, 1 RTB, 2 RTB and 1 RHU.

Stanley was laid to rest on Friday 18 May.



Rest Easy.

2788143 GARRIE IAN SMITH 1 June 1946 - 10 July 2012



I've just lost my best mate, Garrie Ian Smith died at about 1600 hrs Tuesday 10 July. He was diagnosed with Lung Cancer less than 3 weeks ago and succumbed to that terrible disease so quickly. The cancer was so far advanced that nothing could be done for him.

Garrie served in South Vietnam as a LCPL section commander with 11 Platoon, D Company, from 3 Feb to 20 August 1969. He is survived by his wife Maria and two sons, the other three loves in life were golf, cards and beer.

Garrie's funeral was held at 1200 hrs on Tuesday 17 July at Pinegrove Cemetery, Kingston St, Minchinbury, NSW.

Rest in Peace Gaz – Duty Done

Terry James



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IN MEMORIUM

2789638 EUSTON SHANE SWAN **19 August 1947 - 13 June 2012**

It is much sadness that I must advise you that Euston Swan (Swanny) passed away last night, 13th June 2012, just short of his 65th birthday.

Swanny had not been well in recent times, but his passing has been a great shock to us all. Swanny was born in Tamworth on 19th August 1947, and spent his early years in that area. At the time of being called up for National Service, he was working as a tyre fitter in Werris Creek NSW, and still working on the family farm. After National Service, he returned to the north-west/New England area of NSW and once again took up farming. The drought in the 1980's forced the family to make some hard decisions, and Swanny moved to the Central Coast area of NSW, and bought a milk run. He ran his business for some 25 years, and after retirement, still continued to assist in the business.



We will always remember Swanny as a 9 PI machine gunner – a stocky, fit soldier, who took great pride in everything he did – his gun was by far the cleanest and best maintained weapon anywhere! Swanny was a good soldier, about the only one of us who never got into trouble – he did whatever he was told without question, took his National Service commitment seriously, served 5RAR and his country for the entire 1969-70 tour of Vietnam, and was a totally reliable and trustworthy soldier. A good, solid, Aussie digger.

We convey to Sharon and the family our most sincere sympathy, their loss is enormous, as is ours.

A funeral was held on Thursday 21st June, at the Palmdale Crematorium, Palmdale Rd, Palmdale, NSW.

Rest in Peace Swanny, you have attended your last parade.

Don Harrod

217922 JAMES WARD **22 October 1945 - 17 June 2012**



Sadly Jimmy Ward passed away on Sunday June 17 in Sydney. He passed quietly in a hospice with his wife, niece and friends with him. Jimmy had endured a protracted battle with cancer. He was in 11 PI on the 1969-70 tour and had been wounded during his period of service. Our condolences go to his wife, his father and many friends...particularly those from his film and photography career.

Jimmy's funeral was held on Friday June 22 at Northern Chapel, Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, Ryde, NSW. A wake attended by his family, friends and his Platoon and Company mates was held after the funeral Service.

Bob Fenwick

3793688 BRIAN VINCENT BENSLEY **10 September 1947 - 19 June 2012**

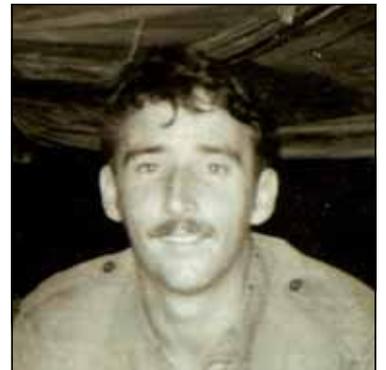
We have received the sad news that PTE Brian Bensley, 2 PI A Coy 1969-70, passed away on Tuesday 19 June, after a very long struggle with a muscle wasting disease.

He married the love of his life, Brenda, shortly before he left for South Vietnam in 1969 and they had 2 children, Debora and David. Then a grandchild Alicia, and a step-grandchild, Chris.

On his return to Civilian Street he worked many and varied jobs, mainly in the steel industry.

Brian volunteered as a Pension and Welfare Officer at the Southern Peninsula Veterans Centre Rosebud for some 6 years.

He was a past President & Committee member of both the Seaford RSL and the Mornington Peninsula Vietnam Veterans Sub Branch. He was awarded life memberships for both the RSL and MPVVAA.



A funeral service was held for Brian on Tues 26 June at the Weerona Chapel, Bunurong Memorial Park, 790 Frankston/Dandenong Rd, Dandenong South. A private cremation followed the service.

A very good man who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

HONOURS LISTS 2012

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Included in this years Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours Lists were both members of 5 RAR (Mech), our Association and personal attached to Mentoring Task Force - 2 (MTF-2) in Afghanistan, which was based on 5 RAR. We extend our congratulations to all of the worthy recipients of these awards.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (DSC)

Colonel Darren David HUXLEY, ACT

For distinguished command and leadership in action as Commanding Officer, MTF-2 on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan.



MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY (MG)

Corporal Ryan James AVERY, NT

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 4 December 2010 while a sniper team member in MTF-2 on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan.



Bombadier David Steven ROBERTSON, SA

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 20 March 2011 while a joint fire observer in MTF-2 on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (DSM)

Captain Nicholas James PERRIMAN, Qld

For distinguished leadership in action as the Commander, Mentoring Team Two, Combat Team Delta, MTF-2, on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan.



Captain Scott Anthony STORT, ACT

For distinguished leadership in action as the Commander, Mentoring Team Four, Combat Team Charlie, MTF-2, on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Mr Patrick John CLAGUE, (5 RAR 1969-70) Wollongong NSW 2500

Mr Clague has worked tirelessly with the volunteer members of the NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) since joining the service in 1990. He firstly worked in the capacity of State Manager Operations and Communications, and more recently as the current Manager Communications.



MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Lieutenant Colonel Barry MORGAN (Ret'd), Amaroo ACT 2914

For service to veterans and their families, particularly through the 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association.



Mr Mostyn William HANCOCK, St John's Terrace, Willunga South SA 5172

For service to the community of Willunga. (5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association's South Australian Representative)

COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY

Lance Corporal Shaun Miller KOBER, NT

For acts of gallantry in action during October 2010 and January 2011 while a sniper team second-in-command in Mentoring Team Four Three Bravo, Combat Team Delta, the MTF-2 in Chora, Baluchi Valley, Afghanistan.



COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Major Nicholas John BOSIO, Vic

For distinguished performance of duty in warlike operations as Officer Commanding, Engineer Task Unit and Staff Officer Plans, MTF-2 on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan.



Corporal Marc Gregory DANIELETTO, NT

For distinguished performance of duty in warlike operations and in action as a sniper team leader with MTF-2 on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan.

Major Brenton John PEARCE, Qld

For distinguished performance of duty in warlike operations and in action as the Officer Commanding Combat Team Bravo, MTF-2 on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan.

Private Brenden Leigh ROBINS, NT

For distinguished performance of duty in warlike operations and in action while a combat medic with the MTF-2 on Operation SLIPPER in Chora Baluchi Valley, Afghanistan from October 2010 to February 2011.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL WALK

The Honour Roll at the Royal Australian Regiment National Memorial Walk at Enoggera Barracks, QLD, is now surmounted by the Plaques of all the Battalions of the Regiment, that have served on the Australian Defence Force's Order of Battle, since the Regiment was formed in 1948.

The photo below was taken by Ron Shambrook (OC C Coy 1967) at the Dawn Service, held at Enoggera, on ANZAC Day of this year.





HAM AND LIMA BEANS

The Australian one-man ration pack consists of a plastic bag containing 3 meals (when reconstituted) for 1 day, about the length and width of an A4 sheet of paper with a depth of about 4 inches. The American rations for 1 day consisted of 3 different individual cardboard boxes, each consisting of 1 meal. The yank rations did have some good things in them, like smokes, 'Pall Mall', 'Lucky Strike'. 'Unfiltered Camel', 'Marlboro', usually about 5 smokes per meal. They also had a couple of brands of 'Menthol' tasting cigarettes which tasted like shit and a rather potent and foul tasting meal in a tin called 'Ham and Lima Beans'.

Usually we carried 3 or 4 Aussie ration packs and 9 or 12 yank cardboard boxes (1 meal each) about one and a half times the size of a Dolphin Eveready battery.



Tom Davern 1966-67

As it was my job to collect the rations and all the other equipment, and issue it to my Section members, I used to lay all the individual items out on the ground and call the troops in to collect their gear.

Naturally, after Operation Hardihood, there always would be some frantic trading and swapping going on amongst the troops whilst packing both the Australian, and especially the yank rations

into their packs (to lighten the load and get rid of especially the menthol cigarettes and the mongrel Ham and Lima Bean feed).

As a fair and just Lance Corporal, I would always wait until there was just one stack of rations left, for me. Inevitably, for some further two months, I always ended up with at least 1 or 2 and on one occasion 3 yank feeds with the hated 'Ham and Lima Bean' feed amongst my supplies.

By this stage if the manufacturer of the 'Ham and Lima Bean' feed had walked into the base area, I possibly could have shot him!

"Why me Lord, why me?" I curse to myself, whilst once again stashing the disgusting feed into my pack.

Suddenly, I saw the light! You most definitely cannot trust your very close comrades in a war, even though you expect them to be fair and upright as you are!

The yank individual cardboard packs had printed on their tops what the meal contained!

I know, I know, but as a young fellow (then, and readers might think me a bit slow), I really believed 'One for all, and all for one' related to my Section.

Hence the reason I am such a cynical elderly person now.

From then on all yank rations, were turned upside down, by me and strict instructions given, "No one will tamper with them, pick them up and go." Thinking to myself, "Now you conniving pack of hyenas, go! Go, squabble and snarl over your prizes, you shall not leave me with the lees of your feasts again!"

And so it came to pass, that a mere lance corporal/croupier watched with bated breath whilst, the dice was cast, knowing full well, where the 'Ham and Lima Beans' feeds were situated.

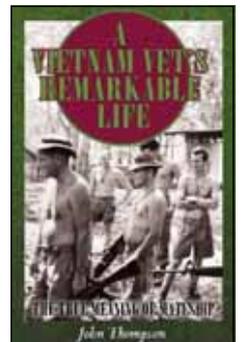
I am sure this recollection, should cause all those surviving members from the pack, to hang their heads in shame. I know it won't. What I do know, they and I would have died for each other. And seeing that I, so bitter and twisted as regards this matter didn't die, as they didn't, I could envision, upon my deaths door, I somehow could arrange the compulsory force feeding of at least one meal a day of 'Ham and Lima Beans' to all of them, everyday, until they finally fall of the perch.

Tom Davern, 8 Platoon 1966-67

A VIETNAM VET'S REMARKABLE LIFE - BOOK REVIEW

Author: John Thompson

It's 1967 and Jethro is a 20-year-old Aussie lad who is about to take up his new posting in Vietnam. Five months later Jethro is on his way home in a medic chopper with a third of his body blown away: one leg is amputated, his right hand and half of his left hand – gone. And so begins Jethro's journey back to a whole life. This is the story of a wounded soldier and what happens to survivors.



And through all his darkest days, Jethro's mates display the true Aussie spirit that has been mythologised since the days of the original Anzacs. Mates who stand by each other no matter what.

This is the true story of what it means to be a soldier and a man in Australia.

About the Author

John 'Jethro' Thompson joined the Australian Army in 1964 and served in Sabah British North Borneo in 1965. In 1967 he was posted to 1 Field Squadron (RAE) in Vietnam. Five months later he was seriously wounded after standing on a landmine. In 1989 he received an Australia Day Achievement award and was made Life Member of the Vietnam Veterans Association in 1991. In 2006 he was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for service to war veterans.

ISBN: 9781922036148

Category: Autobiography: general

Format: Paperback

Ed Note: There is a short 16 minute film of Jethro's story on You Tube at <http://youtu.be/ctPd-f0b3ic>

NOTICES

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DYNAMIC DELTA COUNTDOWN TO DUBBO

D Coy (1969-70) is on countdown to Dubbo, reminding you the dates are 18-21 October 2012 at Dubbo in NSW. BOOK NOW as accommodation availability is getting low, the Matilda Motor Inn has quite a number of rooms, the Blue Diamond Motel also has a number but most rooms are gone at the RSL Club Motel.

We have set September 30 as the cut-off date to advise your Platoon Rep that you are attending, please do this asap to ensure your place at the reunion.

Itinerary is:

Thursday 18, informal get together at the RSL, 5-7pm.

Friday 19 at 5pm an informal wreath laying at the Dubbo War Memorial (if you would like to make a floral tribute please advise your Platoon Rep). This will be followed by an informal welcome at the RSL Club to about 7pm.

Saturday 20 is the Reunion Dinner at the RSL Club, we plan a 3 course set-menu meal comprising 3 options per course so hopefully we can cater for all tastes. Cost of meal and room hire are yet to be finalised, suggest you budget \$55/head. **Platoon Reps will be responsible to collect the money in due course, please help them out and make your payment promptly when they ask for it.** Note that drinks will be by individual arrangement at the dinner. In keeping with the informality, we don't plan on wearing medals.

If you want to get a round of golf in, again please advise your Platoon Rep.

The 'Archibald Prize' Exhibition is coincidentally open to the public from Saturday 20th at the Western Plains Cultural Centre.

Sunday 21....at leisure with your mates.

Please check the 5RAR Association website for further information and updates as the next few weeks count-down; www.5rar.asn.au check the Sub-unit Reunions tab.

Platoon/CHQ Reps

CHQ: Peter (Doc) Jones 07 32791428

10 Pl: Bernie Pye 02 6242421

bernie.pye@bigpond.com

11 Pl: Ray Ward 08 92433207 0409426677

c42ward@bigpond.net.au

12 Pl: Ray Knapp 02 65851906

rkn19510@bigpond.net.au

Bob Fenwick: sendfenwick@bigpond.com

5 RAR CROSSWORD #01

Across:

1- The Engineers were known as? (6,5). 5- Our accommodation modules. 9- Every morning in the 'J' what happened? (5,2). 10- What was a 'goffer'? 13- If you were on a 'Fizzer' what was it? 14- A fast spreading rumour. 16- Anti-malaria tablets. 19- A colloquial name for our Military Police friends. (4,5). 20- A drink made with muddy or chlorinated water. 21- What did the M79 throw?

Down:

2- Another name for the cook. (4,5). 3- Vietnamese for 'Get or P*ss Off'. (2,2,3). 4- A tall thin bloke. 6- The Sub-unit area. 7- I was in my _____ all night. 8- What a clerk is called at times. (5,4). 11- What was a 'Black Duck'? (4,5). 12- The local meat & salad bread roll. (5,4). 15- What fuel did our patrol stoves use? 17- The local Vung Tau transport. 18- There were many of these in the Battalion.

Solution Page 19.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES AND ENQUIRIES

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

**The Secretary, 5 RAR Association,
31 Kenilworth St, Bondi Junction, NSW, 2022.
02 9387-1409 or hamlyn_rar@yahoo.com.au**

TIGER TALES ARCHIVES

The Back Issues of Tiger Tales, from August 1987 to April 2012, are on the 5 RAR Association Website.

These are stored in the PDF file format for ease of viewing or downloading to your computer. You will find them under the 5 RAR Association Newsletter, TIGER TALES banner on the Contents Page of - www.5rar.asn.au

A COMPANY REUNION

The next Reunion of A Company 1st tour, A Coy HQ and 1 Pl A Company 2nd tour plus friends will be held at Deniliquin NSW from 26 to 31 October 2012.

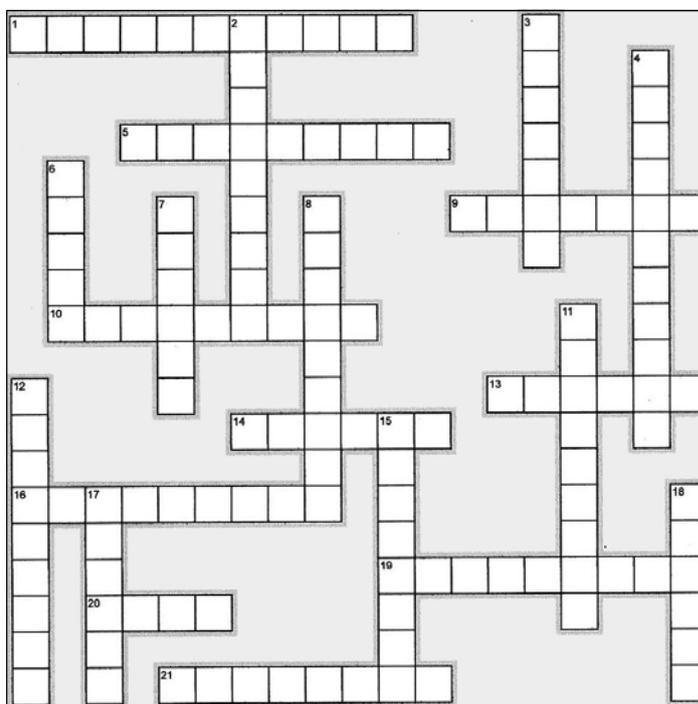
Book under 5 RAR Group at Deniliquin Riverside C/Park, ph 0358811284, and more cabins are available at Car-o-Tel ph 0358811732.

For more info contact Peter Wells ph 0357752033, mob 0418992805 or email: petergaylewells@bigpond.com

QUEENSLAND REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

Our Queensland Representative has relocated to the Sunshine Coast and we are in need of a member to assume the position.

If you think that you could fill the position, which does not entail many duties, please contact Kerry White, 0417 611 147 or kerry.white@optusnet.com.au





THEY CAME TO SAY GOODBYE

After the noise had stopped and the dust had cleared, CPL Brendan 'Danny' Coupe and PTE Les Farren of 10 Platoon, D Company, 5 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment had been Killed in Action, 10 June 1966. Four other members of the Platoon had been wounded and the young soldiers, mostly National Servicemen had tasted the worst part of war.

10 PI continued the remaining 10 months of the 12 month tour with many successful actions against the enemy. Unfortunately the PI lost another member, PTE Graham Warburton, Killed in Action on 1 October 1966. Since returning to Australia, the remaining members of 10 PI have taken the opportunity to formally farewell PTE's Les Farren and Graham Warburton, but have never been able to assemble for CPL Danny Coupe's farewell. Last year, it was decided that an all out effort should be made to formally farewell Danny. During this year's Queen's Birthday weekend, those of the original 10 PI and partners, where possible, came from all over Australia to do so.

The group stayed at the Marriott Courtyard Motel, North Ryde; close to Macquarie Park Cemetery where Danny now lies. The commemoration started on Friday evening with a 'Meet and Greet'. This was followed by a sumptuous Candle-light Memorial Dinner on the Saturday evening, and on the Sunday morning, a Memorial Service was held at Danny's grave site at 1100 h. That afternoon, the group then met at the Chatswood RSL Club for Danny's Wake.

The weekend was full of laughter, tall tales from the past and, at different times, heavy hearts and tremendous emotions. During Saturday evening's dinner, Frank 'Doc' Donovan (Coy Medic) informed those attending how his recount of Danny as a father, soldier and great mate was one of many contributing factors in establishing the VB 'Raise Your Glass' appeal. It was the embodiment of this uniquely Australian spirit as exemplified by Danny which

led to the unbelievable amount of money raised (nearly \$5 million to date) by the appeal. Doc's speech finished with an emotional toast to 'Fallen Comrades'. Guest speaker Roger Wainwright (OC 8 PI, C Coy 1966-67) toasted the Royal Australian Regiment and Graeme Ashton gave a toast to the 'Ladies'. The after dinner address was given by Dennis 'The Skipper' Rainer, MC. Dennis was the Platoon Commander during 10 PI's tour of Vietnam 1966-77.

On Sunday morning at 1100h, members of the Platoon and Danny's family and friends gathered at his graveside to formally farewell him. Chaplain COL Peter Hayes from Victoria Barracks, Paddington and Bugler Lance Corporal Tim Dain from 23 Field Regiment Band, Royal Australian Artillery added to the occasion with their kind attendance and professional touch.

Eric Leask, OAM read the Regimental Ode, Ross Hore followed with the RSL Ode. Colin Illman led the service with the Regimental Payer. At the completion of the service and after many photographs, the gathering adjourned to the Chatswood RSL for Danny's Wake.

Special thanks to the management and staff of the Courtyard Motel, CHAP COL Peter Hayes and LCPL Tim Dain who kindly volunteered their services on a Queens Birthday long weekend, their presence was so welcomed.

Thanks to the Chatswood RSL for their wonderful hospitality and a special thankyou to Mr Bruce Tyrell, AM, from Tyrell's wines and Mr Clinton Taylor from Taylors wines, their kind donation help to keep the cost of the weekend under control.

This was, indeed, a great weekend and a fitting manner to farewell Danny.

'Lest We Forget'

Colin Lee, D Coy 1966-67



L-R: Geoff Sobey, Colin Illman, Dennis Rainer MC, Graeme Ashton, Frank Clarke, Stretch McLean, John Stevens, Colin Lee OAM, Robbie Arnold, Geoff Arthur, Blue Babbage, Ross Hore, Peter Raine, Bob Bullen and Eric Leask OAM.

5th BATTALION AIF MEMORIAL PLAQUE



As part of our ongoing commemorative activities for the family of 5th Battalions, it has been jointly agreed by the 2/5th Aust Inf Bn Association and the 5RAR Association that a distinctive plaque should be presented in remembrance of the actions of the original 5th Battalion AIF in WW1. This plaque will be presented later this year to the Musée Franco-Australian at Villers-Bretonneux, France.

This initiative came about during a visit to this museum by the 5RAR Association President and his wife in 2011. It was noticed that there were many Australian unit and veterans organisation plaques on display that were not representative of the Australian units that fought on the Western Front. Consequently both Associations agreed that a plaque should be commissioned in recognition of the 5th Battalion AIF actions on the Western Front. The plaque which will be in bronze and mounted on a black acrylic base summarises their actions in both English & French.

The 2/5th Battalion had a very close relationship with the 5th Bn AIF. During and after WW2 the members of the original 5th Battalion sponsored the younger generation men of the 2/5th Battalion which established a lasting bond. Both battalions wore the black over red unit colour patch. The wording on the plaque has been agreed with Fred Hoare, President of the 2/5th Bn (NSW Branch) and their Secretary, Ken McKay.

Victoria School

Built in 1923-1927, the school is the gift from the children of the state of Victoria, Australia, to the children of Villers-Bretonneux as proof of their love and good-will towards

France. Twelve hundred Australian soldiers, fathers and brothers of these children, gave their lives for the heroic recapture of the town on April 24th and 25th, 1918.

On the front of the building there are two plaques (one in French and one in English) referring to this act of generosity.



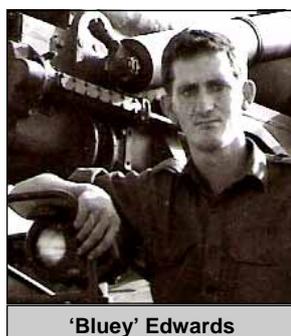
CROSSWORD #01 SOLUTION

Across: 1- ginger beers. 5- hootchies. 9- stand to. 10- softdrink. 13- charge 14- turphy. 16- paludrine. 19- meat heads. 20- brew. 21- grenades.
Down: 2- bait layer. 3- di di mau. 4- pullthrough. 6-lines. 7- farter. 8- shiny arse. 11- swan lager. 12- heppo roll. 15- hexamine. 16- lambrö. 18- nashos.

VIETNAM, BACK TO HAUNT ME

About 12 months ago I was diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer that spread into my spine and pelvis. No worries I thought I will beat it, so with drugs and an implant into my stomach every three months I was doing just fine. Then two months ago the cancer doc said that it was back again and has spread into my right leg as well as the base of the spine causing my right leg to throw a wobbly and go dead on me.

The doc sends me to the Nepean Hosp for a MRI scan, so I line up ready for the big scan. The attendant asks me if I have anything metal in me and this scan is a very powerful magnet and will drag anything metal in



'Bluey' Edwards

any direction out of my body. I told him I was a Vietnam Veteran and I have three lumps on the back of my neck. So, it was off for a CT scan of my head and neck and sure enough the scan picked up five white spots in my neck and head.

Well to make this story short, I was admitted and off to the op theatre to have a closer look. After three hours on my stomach, and a lot of digging, they removed three pieces of shrapnel about the size of a pea. But another piece was embedded in my skull and another in my spine and over the years the bone had grown over them.

Four days later I had my MRI and it showed that my spine had swollen up and is putting pressure on my nerves thus the gammy leg. So 48 years later and a bloody sore neck I have had pieces of the Vietnam War removed at last.

John (Bluey) Edwards, Recce PI 1966-67



Remit this form and payment due to:

The Treasurer
5 RAR Association
31 Kenilworth St
BONDI JUNCTION NSW 2022

Please indicate use of this form

Joining/Renewing Membership

Change of Details

Purchase of Memorabilia

All membership queries or amendments are to be forwarded to the Treasurer/Membership Officer.

To preserve your copy of Tiger Tales a photocopy of this form will be accepted.

<u>Surname:</u>		<u>Christian Names:</u>		<u>Known As:</u>		Membership 1 March 2011 - 28 February 2014 \$50.00	
<u>Partners Name:</u>		<u>Regimental No:</u>		<u>Rank:</u>		Memorabilia	
<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>		Vietnam Task		M	\$ 30
<u>Brief history of service with 5 RAR and or 5/7 RAR or link with 5 RAR Assoc:</u>				The Year of the Tigers (Ed 3)		L	\$ 65
				Honour Roll		M	\$ 35
5 Bn History DVD		S	\$ 30	Caps		S	\$ 20
Ties		S	\$ 30	Lapel Badges 20x13mm		S	\$ 6
TAC Plates-Set 2 130x130mm		S	\$ 20	5 RAR Plaque 205x255mm		M	\$ 50
Car Stickers				T5-90ASSNRND Tiger Head Round		S	\$ 5
				T5-1075GRGO Tiger Head C/Patch		S	\$ 5
				5R-1875ICBRBN ICB/SVN Ribbons		S	\$ 5
				T5-1014SVNRND Tiger Head SVN		S	\$ 3
Membership Dues							\$ 50
						Grand Total: \$	
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 Direct Deposit Receipt to hamlyn_rar@yahoo.com.au include your Surname and Initials as the reference.
 Direct Deposit Details - Account name: 5 RAR Association. Bank: CBA. BSB: 062-511 Account: 1015-9756

Your Committee Members and State Representatives.

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