

# TIGER

*Tales*



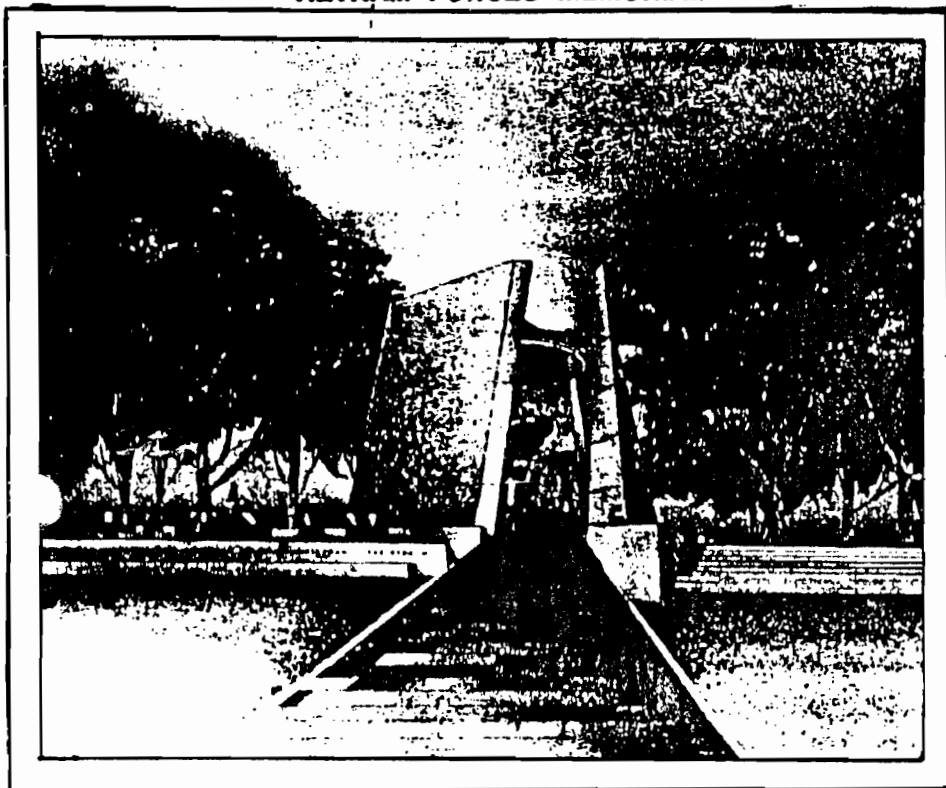
**5 RAR TIGERS**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE 5TH BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION  
ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO — THE SECRETARY — P.O. BOX 660 CLARENCE ST. SYDNEY, 2000**

**DEDICATION (Delayed) EDITION**

**JUNE 1973**

## **AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM FORCES MEMORIAL**



**CANBERRA**



# FIFTH BATTALION

## THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM 1966-67 1969-70

### HONOUR ROLL

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Vietnam Memorial Dedication  
 Canberra 3rd & 4th October 1992

# **FROM THE EDITOR**

Well here we are with an Edition of "TT" at last, and I sincerely hope that you enjoy it, as it has taken quite some time to bring it to you.

I would firstly like to apologise to all the members (and myself) for not giving this Edition the attention that it deserved earlier than this.

This Memorial Dedication Edition was to be before you last Christmas, but since returning from Canberra last year, circumstances have not permitted me to put the content together to bring you this Edition any sooner.

I have not been all that well, with a fairly serious back injury, and coupled with a change in work circumstances, the responsibilities and additional pressures has placed undue strain on my free time.

I certainly do not mean to "whinge", but it is becoming increasingly difficult to put this together, when little (or should I say NONE) editorial content is received from members. I simply do not have the time to sit down and contact State Representatives and "chase" content from members.

The Association does receive some requests from members to "advertise" their wears, and I wish to reiterate our previous advices, that this magazine will not be used as a platform for personal, political or racial issues. It is only to be used to convey information to members, about members, about the Battalion, to ensure the continuity of "the spirit of the Tigers" is with us for some time.

I do hope that you understand and appreciate this direction, which will be spelt out fairly clearly in our Constitution.

Let's get back to our "knitting". In this Edition I do hope that you enjoy my personal story of the Memorial Dedication weekend (Page 4). Whilst the weekend was a huge success in most areas, we still had a share of mishaps, and I would like to direct your attention to the following articles ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL DEDICATION FORT (Page 15) and THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING MICROPHONE (Page 19) both of which are self explanatory.

If any of you out there could help the Association in either case, PLEASE ADVISE us (NO NAMES/NO PACK DRILL/NO DATA LOSS OF PAY).

Any of you that are feeling guilty, either return the article(s) or send money. We do not want to know your name, just the colour of your money.

The Dawn Service saw a very moving situation, which was "capped off" by the Address given by Brigadier Colin (Ghengis) Khan. This has been reproduced on Page 20 for those that missed out!

In general, I trust you enjoy this Edition and will try to follow up with another very soon. Your comments would certainly be appreciated as would your input. It is YOUR magazine and YOUR input is needed to ensure continuity of interesting articles. The ball is in your court, so go for it.

At our last Committee meeting here in Sydney we discussed briefly the 30th Anniversary Reunion in 1995, and it looks fairly certain that it will be held over the weekend of the 3RD/4TH/5TH of MARCH 1995 here in Sydney. The details are "scratchy" at this early time, but our next Edition will give you a little more to go on. All we can say is that it will follow a similar format as the 25th Anniversary Reunion (1990) with, we hope, a little more to keep us and our families occupied. Again it will be based around 5/7 RAR (Mech) lines at Helsworthy, which was enormously successful for us on the last occasion.

So all you interstaters can start saving, and pooling your resources now, to get as many of your mates as possible to attend.

Anzac Day here in Sydney continues to give us our share of troubles, and I direct your attention to the Article on Page 16. Please give it your considerations, as we are looking for ideas QUICKLY to endeavour to have a suitable format and venue available for 1994.

At long last, the Video has been completed and an Order Form insert is within this Edition. The Video covers not only our both tours of Vietnam, but a comprehensive history of the FIFTH from 1875 up to 1973 so you can trace the history of YOUR Battalion. The Committee hope that you enjoy this Video, which can take pride of place within your Video collection. A memory that can be watched time after time.

I can only let the Edition "speak for itself". As already indicated, I hope that you enjoy the content here, and the Committee would WELCOME your ideas. Are we performing as expected? Can we do better?

Hope to hear from you soon.

ED

### 5 RAR ASSOCIATION CAPS

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The Association caps that were such a huge success in Canberra are again available at a cost of \$13-00 (handling/postage/etc included), which is still great value.

The caps are a yellow/gold corduroy (5RAR Battalion colour) and emblazoned on the front with the NEW Association badge (SEE inside front cover) which clearly shows "who we are".

Order the caps on the Order Form insert within the Edition.

# Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial

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## ASSOCIATION WEEKEND OVERVIEW

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Friday saw the troops arrive in Canberra, some by car, train, bus, bike, plane, and even on foot (must have thought they were still on the 20 miller) as we saw the Capital swell like it has never swelled before. Just as well the majority of our politicians went home for the weekend (obviously on their away from home travel passes) which made a little more room for the thousands of Vietnam Vets that made the trek to cement our name into Australia history.

Anzac Parade was getting more than it's usual workout, as hundreds of Veterans and their families and friends, as well as the usual supporters of ordinary people clamored to view the memorial first hand before the official opening the next day.

Workmen were still putting the finishing touches to the surrounds, erecting barricades, scaffolding, ensuring that everything was in readiness for our day, whilst the TV crews were sighting the best vantage points for their planned start to finish coverage.

Having battled with the usual Friday traffic, the writer and his crew of Ex-C Coy rebels (69-70) decided that we should get to the Motel quick smart to secure "the best beds", so we proceeded towards The Heritage in Narrabundah, collecting a case of the amber on the way (just in case we got lost, which we didn't) to check in.

This was around midday, and to our surprise, (???) the Tigers were already restless, and wanted out of their cage. It's truly amazing what happens to humans (and animals) when you take them away from their natural environment. These guys were lost, and were not game to venture past the front door, in fear of getting lost, or was it because they didn't want to miss anything.

After checking in, the crew located our two rooms, and quickly allocated beds, ensuring that all the snorers, farters and general pains in the arse were in the room that we were not in.

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We knew these rooms were going to be spartan, but they seemed to be the living end. Our tents at the Dat had more home comforts than these little suckers. NO television, NO radio, NO clock, NO phone, NO food NO pets (that would make a great line for a song, must remember that) and the shower was broken. The crew soon found some fishing line and nails, which fixed the shower, to ensure that the stragglers had little more to complain about when they arrived. To be fair however, we were fully aware that the rooms we had booked were barrack style accommodation, and whilst they were spartan, they served the purpose and we all have a bail, especially reminiscing about the types of rooms, beds/etc that we have experienced whilst wearing the green.

It was around this time that I started to receive the first of a number of minor complaints, from members that booked double rooms, only to find single beds instead of doubles. This gave us cause for no concern at all, but did find it difficult to understand the lack of compassion afforded by these people to the organising committee, who do find it tiresome at times, trying to cater for 400+ people and please them all. ALL OF THE TIME, and haven't we heard this <sup>the</sup> <sub>one</sub> before.

As a change of pace was needed, and venturing outside, we found Brian Budden with a bootfull of gold/yellow Tiger caps, which he proceeded to sell at \$10 each. Despite having been told several times by many people in the know that they would not sell, the total shipment sold out in very short time. All you could see around The Heritage were yellow caps. They provided one of the highlights of the weekend. \*\*Brian has further supplies of these caps, and can be ordered on the ORDER FORM within this edition.

Whilst some of us were settling into the case (purchased earlier) others decided that we would check out the Ainslie Football Club, where we were due to meet later that day for a few drinkipocs. Lunch was superb, and the cold ones went down well. Whilst the Club was very upmarket, it was just as well we changed our Reunion venue, as we would not have been able to fit our hungry Tigers into the Auditorium. We believe the Figs (7 RAR Association - who took our booking here) had a great time using the Club facilities at their Reunion the following night.

Official duties took some of us to RMC to view the 5 RAR Video, which did not pull up as well as we expected initially, so we decided to go back to the drawing boards to ensure that we gave the members a first class product when it did eventually "hit the streets".

Back at the Heritage Motel around the 3PM mark, the place was really starting to hot up, as mates that had not seen each other since coming back from "the funny fare" were already reliving those memories, that only you can understand. A great meal was provided (obviously at a cost) and the place rolled on until the wee hours. Whilst most of us went off to bed early, the stayers and players (ones too many, and one hundred is not enough) continued until the buses arrived to pick us up at 0400 hours the next morning.

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SATURDAY morning brought us a usual Canberra morning, bitterly cold and hard to get out of bed. When you combine this with 7 other guys in the same room, all trying to get into the only shower/toilet combination at the same time, it did not put you in the best frame of mind for the glorious day that they turned on at the time of the March.

As usual, the buses were all on time, and the "shuttle" to the War Memorial for the Dawn Service was undertaken without a hitch. On arrival, it was every man for himself, as we "jockeyed" in the dark on this crisp Canberra morning for the best position. Light sticks were handed round, and our instructions were clear. At 0515 hours to the roll of drums, the Dawn Service of Remembrance commenced, with the singing of the Hymn "O Valiant Hearts". After the Wreath Laying, the Dedication and Last post followed.

One Minute's Silence was broken by the Piper's Lament. Sir Colin Hines gave The Ode (Memorial), which were followed by Prayers.

The Address by Brigadier Colin Kahn DSO followed "Memory will paint this day with colours that can never fade" - "Roll call today may hear an answer from ghosts patrolling past". It was delivered superbly. You could hear a pin drop, and such a great pity that all good things must come to an end.

PLEASE NOTE, that the complete Address is printed within this edition for those that missed the Dawn Service. For those that did attend, it will enable you to relive the memories of that morning, and those that mean so much to us all.

Who can forget that single red light appearing way over Capital Hill, coming towards us as we waited outside the War Memorial. Who can forget that familiar sound of the single Huey. That familiar throb of the rotor blades that brought tears to our eyes the closer it came to us to "shatter" the silence and pricked us all with the "reason why we were there", to remember those that were not with us in body, but well amongst us in spirit and soul.

A very emotional service indeed.

A time to remember.

A time and place of Remembrance.

Thank you Brigadier Khan.

Looking down Anzac Parade, the movement around the Vietnam Memorial was really starting to get congested as the stands filled from relatives wanting to ensure the best viewing places, to witness this once in a lifetime opportunity.

The crowd around the Memorial started to disperse, as some went into the War Memorial (which opened early especially for this occasion), whilst some went off to seek that first cup of coffee or tea and toast or biscuits. The Everyman(s) were everywhere, and the Assembly Area was already starting to swell from eager Veterans trying to get to their mates first, to see who they could see before the others (aren't we a strange breed ? ).

The huge screen in the Assembly Area (FUP) gave us a great view of the proceedings around the Memorial, especially the Dedication, which not many of us experienced first hand. At least we got to view this, even though it was from afar, and irrespective of our political views (both sides got to have their say), the Dedication went off with only one minor mishap, which we won't mention.

The March Marshalls appeared to have the form up well in hand, with the Next of Kin Flags leading the March. Some of us marched with these flags, and came back to march with our unit.

When it was our turn to march, as usual, we walked/marched like "Browns Cows" until the band struck up "Dominique" and instantly the whole contingent snapped to attention and marched like true Tigers. It is amazing what that tune does to 5 RAR members. You never seem to tire of it's haunting tune. Wheeling into Anzac Parade, it was soon realised that the Band was only at the start, and we had to march down that long stretch without music. Well we tried our best to stay together, but it was impossible. We were not disgraced, as all the other units were having the same trouble.

As we approached the Memorial, the music could be heard again and it was obvious that there was only a band at the start and finish. If you were watching on television, you would think that the music was accompanying all the units all the way down Anzac Parade all morning, but not so. This did little to ensure that we finished "on a high" as after we passed the Memorial, there was nothing to keep you going. Just get out of the way as soon as possible to make way for the other contingents finishing the march.

A great let down, but let's not dwell on this, but turn it around and get into a better frame of mind to prepare ourselves for the Reunion Dinner later that night, which promises to be a great night. A year of preparation has gone into this night, and we want to make sure that we enjoy it, and make it as enjoyable for the other members as we can.

Before this however, we have the whole afternoon to fill in. Hailing a stretch Taxi (don't tell the taxi Council) we piled 11/12 diggers into the Taxi to go back to the Motel, where we planned an easy afternoon over a few "slabs", which the Taxi driver so kindly called into a hotel to collect, and an adjoining service station for a couple of bags of that cooling substance know as ice. Arriving back at the Motel, we all changed into our best drinking gear, and settled in the Games Room to "rip the tops off a few".

Over the next few hours, the problems of the world were solved quite easily, it is obvious that the majority of us had missed our vocation. We openly discussed our personal problems, which most of us can only discuss with our mates, not the ones that we see each day, but those that mean much more to us all.

The lolly and chip machine got a fair work out over this period, until some bright spark thought it would be a great idea to get a couple of pizzas (yes, just before we were to go to the Reunion Dinner, but what the heck).



The majority of us could see the night coming and going, and us "dozing" off and missing it, so a decision was reached to halt the proceedings (besides, we have run out of stubbles) and have a brief sleep and rest before we got ready to attend the Dinner.

The forward party had left at this stage to ready the venue for the arrival of the first bus load of hungry/thirsty Tigers. The immediate task was to set the tables with the Honour Roll place mats, napkins, knives/forks, programs and set up the tables at the foyer to control the surge that was about to set upon us.

Whilst the majority of us booked, weeks, months ahead for this function, there were many ex-Tigers that just decided to turn up at the door and expect a seat. Despite the committee giving members plenty of notice over a full 12 month period, there will always be people that do not give consideration to others. It is difficult to cover the thoughts of everyone, but we continue to at least try not to disappoint members and guests, especially at a function as important as this.

The Roma Restaurant was packed way past capacity, with us using both the main upstairs area, and the downstairs overflow, and despite a number of complaints (you can never please everyone all the time) the function was a huge success. The staff were stretched, but went about their business in a first class manner, ensuring that our glasses were never empty, and everyone had their fill (food that is). The meal was superb, even without considering the numbers that had to be fed.

Our ticket sales prior to the Reunion Dinner were around the 450 mark, and we had closer to 600 on the actual night. Again, despite a number of complaints about the crowd, the night was one that will go down in 5 RAR Association folklore, as another well planned function.

It was wonderful to see the relatives of those that we left behind, especially those that have never had any contact with the Army. Let us remember that we have not had the occasion to seek them out before this, but now there is no excuse. We owe it to their parents, brothers/sisters, family members in general to convince them that their memory will never die, and will be before us forever more.

There were however, a number of unfortunate instances that have cost the Association dearly (which are mentioned further in detail and highlighted accordingly in the Edition). The Radio Microphone (borrowed from RMC) went "walkies" during the Dinner, and being unable to locate the same, we had to purchase a new one for them, at a cost in excess of \$700. If anyone out there did "borrow" this Microphone (or knows who did), please return it to the Association through our FG Box (SEE on the front cover of this Edition), NO QUESTIONS ASKED. At the conclusion of the Dinner, a bottle of the Dedication/Memorial port was placed on each table to enable everyone to "test" the drop, prior to it going on sale. The stock was (or so we thought) secure behind the bar and was to be sold at \$10-00 per bottle. Unfortunately many amongst us "thought it was free" and helped themselves to numerous bottles, leaving us with almost a ZERO stock to sell. The Association paid for this port to make a small profit, which was to be applied to Association funds for the benefit of all members, but as a result of this incident, we suffered a rather large LOSS.

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AGAIN, if any member did manage to get home with a bottle or two/three or more of this port without paying, we appeal to you to send a donation (\$10 per bottle) to the Association in an envelope addressed to the Association PO Box (detailed on the front cover) NO QUESTIONS ASKED

Whilst the majority of members did leave around midnight, there were some still at the Restaurant at 0200 hours, and needless to say, they were not the ones to attend the Church Service, which was held at the National FOW (Changi) Memorial at RMC Duntroon.

This Service was again, moving, and whilst not attended by many of us Tigers, did have a good number of faithfuls to "fly the flag". They were not disappointed. The solemnity of the service is still being talked about, and the RMC Band only added further lustre to an already superb scene.

Each of THE Services were represented through their own Hymns and Prayers, and The Sermon delivered by our own Father Dillon a fitting message on THIS day. The National Anthem, as always brought tears to my eyes, especially when you consider our mates. If only they could hear us, and yet, maybe they could.

Early morning (hours before the Church Service) brought some rain. In fact it p-----d down, and dampened the mass enthusiasm somewhat (or was it the late night/early morning, or perhaps "something" I ate/drank the night before ???).

However, this was not the only reason that the Tigers missed the Church Service, the Association (in conjunction with the 7 RAR Association) had a breakfast function booked at the Woolshed at Yarralumba. The organisation of this function was left in the capable hands of 5/7 RAR (Mech), who had excelled themselves.

Despite the heavy overnight rain (and lets consider that these soldiers had been in place since Frida, getting things in readiness for our onslaught Sunday morning) the arrangements were first class. Food was ready as/when we arrived, and the "wet weather" station revealed tables spread with the usual (and unusual) condiments, salads, breads, etc, which all made for a first class meal.

The "hardware" of the usual sausages and steak sandwiches, was complimented further by a great hamburger and onions. File on your own salad, or whatever. Oh!, let's not forget the "cool ones". Copious quantities of "cool ones".- Oh, why did I say that I would be home tonight - Let's stay another day - What the heck.

Why do we have to leave here and subject ourselves with the multitudes again. Probably because we don't want to miss out on a good time, SO we gathered as many guys as possible in a short time, and set out to the Old Parliament House for the Concert.

The rain did not help, but then again it may have just added to the atmosphere of the weekend. The Concert site was awash. Heavy underfoot, with wet bums and plastic everywhere. The site resembled a country fairground - Plenty of people - heaps of food and drink - great atmosphere - attendees not worrying about the weather, just enjoying themselves amongst themselves.



Seen at Canberra modelling the new SFAR caps were Col "Bucketarse" COOPER, Sid "The Sheriff" DAVIS and Alan McNULTY.

Talk about "hits of the blitz". "Storm," Normie Rowe was ever present, BUT he had the very capable back up of Lorrae Desmond, Lucy Grillis, The Big Pretzel, Bev Harrell, Frankie Davidson, Jan Adele, Dinah Lee to name of few, PLUS many many more, who gave us a great days entertainment. despite the weather.

The weekend was coming to an end very quickly, and whilst many of us were battling to come to terms with this, it was becoming a reality. It is difficult "cutting off" a great time. Remember when we were kids, the great times went on forever. Isn't it a pity that we can't stay young forever. Many of us try, yet fail. We simply have to come to terms with the fact that we are not getting any younger, and more importantly, our good times are not supposed to last forever. Remember that the mind may be willing, BUT the body may no longer be able to perform to the level required at that (this) time.

1987 was a remarkable achievement, which was received much better than we could have imagined. The Australian people backed us better than was expected.

More importantly, we found ourselves, not individually, but collectively. We "pulled" mates from under their logs and helped them find out who they were, where they were going and helped them come to terms with where they had been. Proudly they could now tell the world that they were Vietnam Veterans and not be ashamed.

Individually we can (and have been able to) do little, but collectively (together) we can at least help our fellow Veterans towards providing them with a better existence than they have been enjoying over recent years. Not that we wish to involve politics here, but all Veterans have been dealt a bitter blow over a long period of time now, and it is about time we stood side by side towards a better lifestyle for those who are not quite as fortunate.

For those that attended Canberra over this weekend and supported the Association functions, we thank you, and sincerely hope that you all enjoyed yourselves and will continue to support YOUR Association who work very hard at providing as better facility as possible for members towards a continuity of the camaraderie of the Battalion and Association in perpetuity, or for as long as we are here at least.

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For those that did not attend, we missed you all greatly, but you guys missed a moment in time that will not be repeated. That is something that you will have to come to terms with.

We appeal to you however, to ensure that you support as many of the Association functions in the future as possible, as your Committee only put their time into YOUR future THE S RAR ASSOCIATION.

Irrespective of what you may think of the National Memorial (you may not like the "wall of memories" "THE ring" "the blank bare wall") you certainly can't take away the solemnity, the tranquility and personal message that it conveys. Don't forget to visit YOUR Memorial when next in Canberra and ensure that you give yourself time to reflect upon it's special qualities and quantities.

It says different things to each and every one of us that only you can feel.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

LEST WE FORGET

It's a pity that we were not told



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor,

The recent U.S. Presidential Commission on Hussein in the Military was "stunned" when it heard evidence that, during the Gulf War, the two American female POW's had been "indecently assaulted" during the period of their incarceration. Major Rhonda Cornum gave evidence indicating that despite having "had both arms broken, a knee smashed and a bullet in the right shoulder" after her "gray helicopter was shot down," her Iraqi captors sexually assaulted her. A similar foto detail her countrywoman, Melissa Coleman.

I would have thought that reasonable media disclosure of this evidence would have been mandatory to balance the ravings of the rabid feminists, women who think they have feelings and men who obviously haven't, whose demands that women be inducted into full combat roles, were given priority publicity by all sections of the media during the Gulf War.

Could it be that reality is too insignificant to warrant reporting or is it simply that there is no monetary gain to be generated by promoting a view which opposes the "politically correct" view of the Muslims? I have always thought that the media has a responsibility to inform. If seems that I am the only one who thinks so. While this situation endures, academics like Dr. Anne Summers, adviser on Hussein's affairs to the Prime Minister, will continue with peacenomics "...the distinction between combat and non-combat seems very little in the way modern warfare is conducted".

Yours faithfully,

PETER MCCARTHY

PER:

PETER MCCARTHY,  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.



Thanks Tony, for your encouraging words about our SRAR Car Sticker Design.

For those of you that don't know, the Sticker was designed by Col. Atteeman, Brian Budden (C Coy, 66-67 tour).

We have decided to adopt this design as our new Membership Badge, and if not available before hand, will definitely be ready for our 1995 Reunion. The initial Membership badge we felt was suitable at that time.

ED.

Peter, I feel that I speak for us all, when I say, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen", and it is about time that society either accepts women as equals, or gets them out of the "combat" forces.

They simply must realise that they will be treated like any other **FOU**

I also feel that the media does not seem to convey a true picture of the situation at any time, almost as if they are puppets on a string, being manipulated by, whom it would be interesting to know ???.

A. L. SPRENGER,  
81 GOOLAGONG CT.  
MT. WATKINS,  
N.S.W. 2528.  
042 961375  
28th JULY 1992.

Dear Editor,

I must compliment the designer of the 'Tiger' car sticker. So much so that I would like to see his design adopted for our 3 RAR Association badge to replace the current one. Don't get me wrong, I still think the one we have now is OK (The Tiger's head) but it on

it's own and doesn't tell any one anything. When I wear it people keep asking me if I'm a Brisbane football club supporter. So while I know what the Tiger's Head badge means, most people I meet think I'm a keen football fan. The design of the car sticker says everything the badge should while still retaining our Tiger image. Maybe on the back they could put a number-ship number. Mind you this is only a suggestion. But I still think it is an attractive and meaningful design and I for one would be very proud to display not only the car

sticker in my car but also to wear a badge like it on my lapel that would rival any other badge produced by another association so far. I would like to hear other members of 3 RAR opinion on this subject through our Tiger Tale Magazine. Anyway once again Well Done and thank you Brian Budden.

Tony Sprenger  
Mt Warrigal  
N.S.W. 2528

YEAH, HE'S ONE...  
A TIGER... ONE OF  
THE FIGHTING 5TH... YOU  
CAN TELL BY THE BADGE.

ton

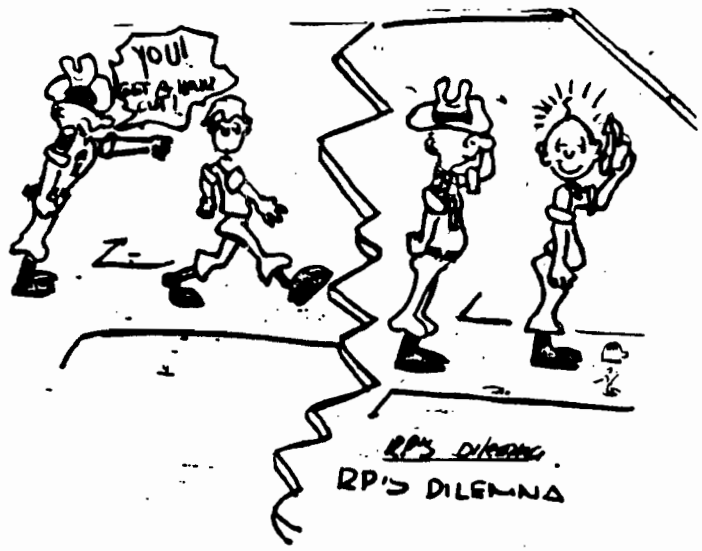






ONE OF  
TONY SPEELMAN'S  
EARLY CARTOONS

TIGER TAILS  
72/73



ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL DEDICATION PORT  
=====

Unfortunately, another tale of woe.

The Committee went to quite some expense arranging for a special Fort bottling to be ready for the Memorial Dedication, which not only depicted this special event, BUT more importantly to the Battalion, also listed all our members that paid the supreme sacrifice.

The label should have been a special memento to all of us.

At the conclusion of the meal at the Reunion Dinner, a bottle was placed on each table to enable members and guests to sample the Fort and encourage you to purchase a bottle or two as a keepsake. At the same time raise funds for the Association.

Unfortunately, the exercise went horribly wrong, when members (and guests) thought that these bottles were FREE and either helped themselves or were given bottles, which were not paid for.

I personally know of three members who boast that they "scored" a couple of bottles.

The day of reckoning is now upon us, and we are appealing to all those members that "scored" bottles of this port without paying, to now at least send a donation of \$10.00 per bottle to the Association at our PO Box (PO Box Col. Clarence St SIDNEY, 2000), again NO QUESTIONS ASKED and they will be thankfully received, and faithfully applied, to YOUR Association.



# ANZAC DAY 1993

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Anzac Day this year seemed to have lost it's usual impact, for me at least.

My usual early morning visit to 5/7 RAR (Mech) was halted early in March, as the Battalion were not going to be at Holsworthy over the Anzac weekend, which was a let down well before the day was upon us.

It is strange how one takes things for granted, and yet, is thrown completely out of "whack" when your usual "comfort zone" is taken away from you. It certainly makes you realise how lucky you have been over a period of time, to have the support of the battalion, especially with the "moments in time" that mean so much to us all.

I must thank the soldiers and officers for 5/7 RAR (Mech) for their past support and ongoing support, obviously when time and circumstances permit.

Anyway, after being thrown out of "whack" early in the day, we ventured to Regimental Square for the RAR Association Anzac Day Service, which is usually attended by a good number. The attendance seemed poor indeed, but the day was still young, and as it was a long weekend, "who" knows who could turn up.

As usual, the service was conducted with the usual decorum and solemnity, which is much appreciated by us all. The RAR is alive and well within us all. A positive sign indeed.

After the service, it was off to the "tank stream" for a few (quiet) ones before the March. This is a testing ground for the inexperienced knowing where to start, and more importantly, where (and when) to finish.

The Banner was very late this year getting to the FUP, and the officers were getting worried. We cannot let these other Battalions get on top of us, and we will be well prepared next year.

The immediate noticeable factor this year, our 5RAR contingent was well down on our usual 300/450 factor usually evident on Anzac Day. Looking around us, the whole March seemed to be suffering, and we HOPED that the longweekend took people away for the weekend, otherwise, we may have to go back to the drawing boards to attract Tigers next year, and beyond.

Because of the lack of numbers, the March also seemed to lack the usual positive response.

Not wanting to sound negative, but Anzac Day 1993 was not one of the most memorable to date.

17.

After the March (and after "pulling" members from the Pub in Elizabeth St) the party faithful ventured up Oxford Street (being careful not to drop their wallets on the way) to Victoria Barracks, where we were joining the RAR Association for lunch.

The usual first class spread was there, but it was immediately evident that the numbers were not going to cover costs. Whether the luncheon was suffering the same woes as the March (we may never know) BUT the numbers were not there to get the adrenalin pumping effectively.

It's a pity that the Association go to so much trouble on Anzac Day, but fail to get the desired number to cover costs. In fact it has been getting progressively worse over recent years, and it is difficult knowing how long they will provide this facility without YOUR support.

SRAR Association has been supporting the RAR over the past 2/3 years on Anzac day, but it is doubtful whether our support is of any assistance at all, as the overall numbers are not adequate to cover costs.

It may be time for us to obtain a venue solely for SRAR (you have no idea how difficult this is to acquire), BUT if we are to attract SRAR members (and only SRAR members know how parochial we are) this may be the only answer to our continuing Anzac Day problem.

**YOUR IDEAS ARE VALUED, AND WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU GIVE THE COMMITTEE SOME BASIS TO START FROM, TOWARDS OBTAINING A SUITABLE VENUE FOR OUR OWN REUNION, OR COMPROMISE.**

**MAYBE WE COULD/SHOULD COMBINE WITH 7RAR ASSOCIATION ON ANZAC DAY ?**

**SHOULD WE GO IT ALONE ?**

**SHOULD WE NOT WORRY ABOUT IT AND LET EVERY MAN DO HIS OWN THING ?**

**PLEASE** give us your ideas, as we would ideally like to see a common direction for the Association, and a known meeting place for the TIGERS on Anzac day.

The Committee will be meeting on this matter over the next few weeks, and the results will be published in the next edition of "IT".



## The Flag

Our flag bears the stars that blaze  
at night  
In our southern sky of blue  
And a little old flag in the corner.  
That's part of our heritage too  
It's for the English, the Scots and the Irish,  
Who were sent to the ends of the earth  
The rogues and the schemers, the doers and  
the dreamers.  
Who gave modern Australia birth  
And you who are shouting to change it,  
You don't seem to understand,  
It's the flag of our law and language,  
Not the flag of a far-away land.

(Though there are plenty of people who'll  
tell you 'now, when Europe was plunged  
into night  
That the little old flag in the corner  
Was the symbol of freedom and light)  
It doesn't mean that we owe allegiance  
To a forgotten imperial dream.  
We've the stars to show where we're going.  
And the flag to show where we've been.  
It's only an old piece of coloured rag.  
It's only an old piece of coloured rag.  
But there are thousands who died for  
Its honour,  
And shed their best blood for our flag.

1969/70 MORTAR PLATOON - "WHERE ARE YOU ???"

Nigel Lloyd-Thames and Lindsay Carlyon are trying to contact as many members of the 67-70 Mortar Platoon with a view of organising a reunion of sorts, depending on the interest shown.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the following Mortar Platoon members, please contact either Nigel or Lindsay as follows :

Nigel Lloyd-Thames = Work (02) 439-2555  
Fax (02) 439-7655  
Home (02) 425-2192

Lindsay Carlyon = Work (042) 28-2114  
Fax (042) 28-2906  
Home (042) 61-4965

Dave WATT  
John GILLAN  
Paul MORRISON  
Graham NESBITT  
Mick RHODES  
Dicky SINCLAIR  
Jerry WHITE  
John STEINHARDT

Noel CANIN  
Alan HARWOOD  
Fred MORSE  
Blue PEARSE  
Eddie RUTTLE  
Nev STANTON  
John COSGROVE  
Steve WAYNE

Barry FILMER  
Peter McCAULEY  
Fred MOTT  
NOEL RATTRAY  
Wally SAHARJACK  
BL WAGNAR  
RG EDWARDS

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**ARGUING WITH AN  
INFANTRYMAN IS LIKE  
WRESTLING WITH A PIG;  
EVERYONE GETS DIRTY  
BUT THE PIG LOVES IT.**



## ----- CHANGE OF ADDRESS -----

We again appeal to members to notify the Association if your address should change for any reason. It is a difficult enough task keeping members together when we know their address.

Please complete the Membership Application/Order Form within this edition of Tiger Tales with your NEW details, AND ENSURE THAT YOU ATTACH THE OLD ADDRESS DETAILS STICKER (on the front of the envelope) TO THE FORM.

Post to the Association PO Box as detailed on the form.

This will ensure that you are notified of all future Reunions/etc without any undue delay.

Thank you. Editor

## ----- THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING MICROPHONE -----

For those that were present at the Reunion Dinner, you may remember the problems that we were having with the microphone when it came to the official part of the evening, when speeches were being made.

The microphone (or associated equipment) became excessively noisy, and unable to be heard over the "how are you going mate" and associated repartee, which gave us little option but to dispense with the amplification equipment and revert to the good old fashion voice box to get the message across. This is where we made a major mistake.

In going so, we happened to put the microphone down and it went "walkies". Just disappeared.

Now we all know that microphones can't walk themselves, and it's a fair bet that someone "helped" it along the way.

This radio microphone was owned by the Royal Military College Duntroon and was on loan to your Association.

It's disappearance has cost YOUR Association in excess of \$100 to replace, and we would dearly love the microphone back, and as we have already expressed NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

Please return the microphone if you have it, or know who has it, to the Association through our PO BOX (PO Box 600, Clarence St SIDNEY 2000.) and your good deed will be advised in the next edition of "TT" and restore the Committee's faith in the Association and the work that they are doing to help it's members.

# Dawn Service address: Brigadier C.N. Kahn DSO (Retd)

**T**his is the dawning of a highly significant and memorable day in Australia's military history, and in particular in the history of the war in Vietnam — for those 50,000 who served, suffered and died in our longest and most controversial of all wars. Five years ago during our memorable parade in Sydney, many surviving Vietnam veterans made their most significant step in the healing of their wounds of war and in merging proudly back into a welcoming and grateful 1987 society — a society which is healthily putting the discussion of the war away.

Today, we are asking that society join with us again, when our memorial is dedicated as a unique witness, a monument in stone, to immortalise what we did, for all to see. In veterans, it will today evoke sadness, pride and humility; in the future, it will remind society of Australia's sacrifice in a war which personally touched so few, but evoked such strong feelings in so many. It will help the nation to understand the value of the Vietnam Veterans' service at that time. It will help, above all, to ensure that those who died rest higher than any achievement we who remain may have attained.

Now, 20 years after the war, at this, the most hallowed of all shrines throughout the country, for our war dead, we put further to rest, the remaining phantasms from which some of our colleagues and next of kin still suffer. It is entirely fitting that our ceremonies take place here, in front of the Australian War

Memorial. For it is here in this place, above all others, and especially at this time of day, that the ghosts, the spirit of soldiers past are honoured and revered by the nation.

We have been with the ghosts of veterans from all wars in this place many years; today, we and the nation walk with the particular spirits of the more than five hundred veterans who died and the thousands who suffered and those who served in places like the Hulo Woods, Lung Tan, Balmoral and Coral, on the gun line, in the skies and in the mine-infested province of Phuoc Tuy.

Of those five hundred, who do not ask for praise, just the recognition they so richly deserve, the army will in particular honour the ghosts of the more than four hundred and seventy five soldiers, regulars and national servicemen who died in that war, commencing with the death of a member of the Australian Army Training Team in 1963, and Warrant Officer Conway, killed in action in July 1964.

Down, to the serviceman and woman has always been a time of preparation and a time of reflection.

It was in Vietnam:

- the end of a sleepless night, of peering into the blackness, looking for the invisible and listening for a sound you did not want to hear;
- a time to leave the fold in the ground which had, for a time, become home;
- a time for the ship's company to square away the activities of the previous night and prepare for the coming bombardment of the day;
- A time to leave that wet paddie or bamboo forest ambush and trudge thankfully back to the protection of a friendly perimeter;
- a time for helicopter crews, RAAF and RAN, to be briefed for air assault operations by Caribins and Canberras to prepare for missions all over South Vietnam;

- a time to clear the battlefield to see what had been in darkness by spook, puff the map, dragon or tank and M4;
- it was a time to gather and send back the few belts of that mate killed or wounded during the night;
- it was a time when nurses, after a night time of the siren warning of the arrival of that off — of helicopters bringing wounded diggers to the 1st Viet Cong. A time to be ready to cut through mud lanes to get to wounds, the time to listen again — call of the wounded — "don't worry about me, let my mate";
- it was a time to thank God for getting you through another night, to see another "waker". It was a time to thank God, to promise him anything to get through the coming day.



And so, on this dawning, those who hattered me lived through an experience that was for most, the most traumatic event in their lives, and in so doing crossed a gap that who were not there can never fully understand.

It was a gap that taught us, as it has servicemen and before, that it was not who you were that mattered, but what you were; it taught us to pay respect to the person more than to that it was not one's position but one's professionalism that mattered.

We learnt that it was not a sign of weakness to be kindness and love; that selfishness had to be transcended through by team work, a team that has been aptly described "barbed wire banding of men under fire"; and we learnt when we called for help, we knew it would come.

1. We learnt that despite its uniqueness in many ways, in particular the divisions that the war caused within the country, it was a war that was predictably the same as most other wars. In the contrasts that the war seemed to throw up in the steepest relief. For we experienced cruelty, but at the same time unbounded compassion and love; fear, yet unequalled courage; the realisation of the fragility and the impermanence of life, at the same time the desire to preserve one's own life. We learnt aggression, but unshaken tenderness, particularly towards each other. We saw the comparisons of other ways of life with our own, and the realisation that despite our imperfections, Australia really was God's own country.

From 1962-72, with forces from the United States, South Vietnam, New Zealand, Korea, Thailand and the Philippines 50,000 Australians stood guard, at times desperate guard, on one of our then frontiers, Vietnam.

Our men and women did what men and women have done in all our wars, and the things that wars do to people happened to them. They fought for country, for family, for love of mates, for quietly trying to save mates.

They fought well because of mutual respect, of love for the team, the unit to which they belonged. The invisible threads that pulled and bound the unit together, pulled at everyone, and you couldn't or wouldn't let the team down. And while the Vietnam veteran in most cases learnt about death at an age when they should have been living life to the full, and they progressed from youth to middle age in one year, sometimes in several minutes, they also learnt the lessons of courage and fear, of suffering and comradeship. As we look around this gathering as this dawn, it is clear that the invisible remains alive, as strong as ever.

To the loved ones of those who died, let this day give meaning to the lines -

'Memory will paint this day with colours that can never fade.'

To those who served, let us at this time remember our colleagues who fell, for whom time and tide ran out and for whom there are no more dawns. Let them once again be one with us, and let us hope, in the words of a poem about Long Tan, that "Roll call today may hear an answer from ghosts patrolling past".

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## BINH BA DAY - 6TH June 1995

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5/7 RAR (Mech) apologises that they were unable to hold the annual Binh Ba Commemorative Service this year, as they were at Fuclapungyal on exercise at the time. Whilst the Battalion did commemorate the day amongst themselves, they are sorry that 5RAR Association members were unable to attend.

Provided the Battalion is in Sydney in 1994, the usual commemorative service and Battalion Parade will be observed, and members will have an open invitation to attend as in previous years.

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## 5/7RAR (MECH) - 20th ANNIVERSARY

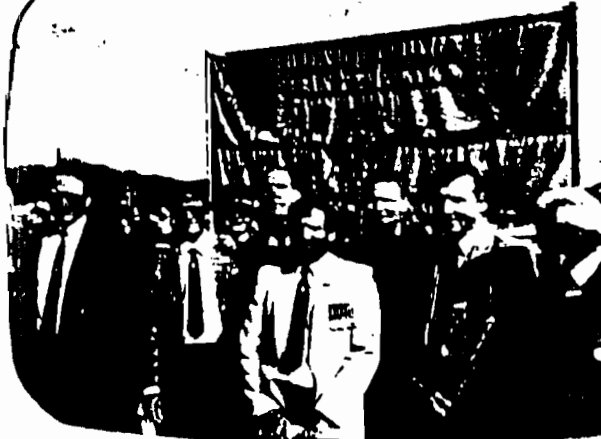
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Whilst on the subject of 5/7RAR (Mech), the Battalion is to celebrate their 20th Anniversary (that is, since 5RAR and 7RAR were brought together to form 5/7 RAR), on Friday 3RD DECEMBER 1993 and all Association members are invited to the Battalion Parade, and light refreshments after.

If you feel as though you would like to attend, please contact the Battalion (Lt. Darren HUXLEY) on 600-2352, who will advise you the full details as to time/etc.

The Association will be sending a number of Committee members, and it would be great to see a good roll up of "ex-Tigers" to give some support to the Battalion that certainly supports us.

See you there on the 3rd, and we will report on the celebrations in the next edition of Tiger Tales.



**FIFTH BATTALION HONOUR ROLL \*\*\* (Reproduced inside the front)  
(cover of this Edition)**

For those of you that attended the Vietnam Memorial Dedication in Canberra last year and attended the SRAAF Dinner, you must remember the Place Mats, depicting our first HONOUR ROLL of those "Tiger" boys that paid the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam.

That HONOUR ROLL was put together by Committee member, Brian Bud and many members thought that they were such a "close" memory that they had them framed.

Well Brian has responded, and has produced a very high quality reproduction "etching" on metal, which is mounted on a timber base and can be hung immediately received. They would look great in your office or den, and can be purchased for only \$30.00 (handling/postage) included.

TO ORDER a plaque of the HONOUR ROLL, PLEASE see the detail on the Order Form within this edition.

23.

# SHIRE OF SEYMOUR

Over the Dedication weekend, the Association was presented with a Book from the Shire of Seymour and a Banner from Seymour RSL. The Shire was represented by Ian Patterson, who made the presentation.

The Book, entitled "New Crossing Place" gives a detailed history of Seymour and it's Shire, and is suitably inscribed inside the front cover.

We have reproduced below the letter from Seymour Shire, the cover and inscription of the Book, and the Banner from Seymour RSL.

All three will be held by the Association until a decision is made as to where they should be housed, which will be advised in a later edition.

On behalf of the Committe, I extend a warm THANK YOU to the Shire of Seymour and the Seymour RSL for their kind thoughts and presentations



An equal process under the  
IP:6H.

## SHIRE OF SEYMOUR

WILLAMOOK STREET  
P.O. BOX 117, SEYMOUR 3601  
PHONE (057) 82 1200  
BX 68003 SEYMOUR  
FAX: (057) 822000

1st October, 1992.

The Secretary,  
5th Battalion  
Royal Australian Regiment Association,  
P.O. Box C 80,  
Clarence Street,  
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000.

Dear Sir,

On the occasion of the Official Dedication of the Australian Veterans National Memorial in Canberra on 3rd October, 1992, I consider that it is an appropriate time on behalf of our Shire to acknowledge with pride your Regiment's excellent performance during it's tours of duty in the Vietnam conflict.

The Shire has had a long and rewarding association with the Australian Military Forces, particularly in relation to our close proximity to the Army Base situated at Puckapunyal where many regular Soldiers and National Servicemen completed their basic training as well as continuous service in various units.

Without hesitation our Council made a generous contribution to the Memorial Fund and we are pleased that one of our staff members, Ian Paterson (an ex-National Serviceman) will represent the Shire by carrying our Australian flag in the parade at the opening ceremony.

I trust this dedication weekend will be meaningful and rewarding for all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

COUNCILLOR BOB EDWARDS,  
SHIRE PRESIDENT.



H. G. Martindale's  
NEW CROSSING PLACE

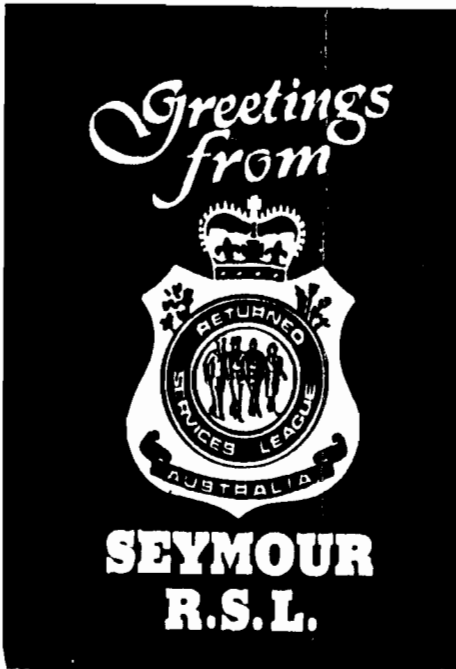


extended in 1987 by  
**NIALL BRENNAN**

A History of Seymour and its Shire

NEW CROSSING PLACE

PRESENTED TO  
5<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL  
DEDICATION  
AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM VETERANS NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
CANBERRA 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 1992  
BY THE  
SHIRE OF SEYMOUR



CAR STICKERS

The ever popular 5 RAR  
Car Stickers are still  
available @ \$3-00 each.

They are FULL 5 Colour  
Stickers and look great  
on your car, or anywhere  
else you would like to  
display them.

ORDER FORM within this



Crowd at the Dedication weekend Concert- Old Parliament House. What a great day it was, despite the rain

Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial

## CONCERT PROGRAM

Sunday, October 4 • 1pm - 6pm

At the Front of  
Old Parliament House  
Facing Lake Burley Griffin and the  
Australian War Memorial

Cost - No Charge

Executive Producer Norman Rowe  
 Musical Director Ian Both  
 Musical Co-ordinator Graham Fletcher  
 Stage Manager Phil Manning  
 Co-ordinator Charles Wright

### Entertainers

Leslie Devenand	Willis Slater	Ned Watson
John Schumann	Paul Newton	Culture Club (22 band group)
Lucky Grills	Frankie Davidson	Bob Mullen & Band
Jan Asble	Dina Lee	Normie Rowe & Band
Bev Hassel	Col Joyce	Sean Kinross
Lynn Fletcher	Pat Kennedy (The Big Pretzel)	Debra Dymale

Special Guest  
Adrian Cronauer  
(Good Morning Vietnam)

Plenty of Good Food and Beer On Sale At The Concert

# The Concert





I realise that it must be frustrating for all you interstate Tigers to continually read about NSW with little about you own activities, BUT simply, we have not had any contact with State Representatives for some time.

As the Editor has expressed earlier, some input on content for future Editions of "TT" would be appreciated, especially from you interstate guys. SO PLEASE forward your news via the Association PU Box and we will ensure that it is included in the very next Edition.

To help you contact your State Representative, we have produced the names/contacts below, for your convenience. Hope this helps, and we look forward to some input soon.

**EMAR ASSOCIATION**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVES**  
**AS AT 1 SEPTEMBER 1991**

✓ Queensland	LI Col R.T. Shambrook AM 87 Lacle Street ENOGGERA QLD 4061	(07) 282 9866 (W) (07) 354 1708 (H) (07) 252 4488 (Fax)
✓ Victoria	Mr P.K. O'Connor Kallara Stud Riddell Road SUNBURY VIC 3429	Ph: (03) 744-2689
South Australia	Mr R.H. Nolworthy 16/A2 Hamilton Road PENNINGTON SA 5013	
Western Australia	Mr J.D. Burdige 91 Sherman Road SWANBOURNE WA 6010	Ph: (09) 384-1218
Tasmania	Mr C.M. Ilman 20 Blackstone Road LAUNCESTON TAS 7280	
ACT	Mr G. Negus 3 Daphn Close WESTON ACT 2611	Ph: (062) 89-2070 (W) (062) 43-1029 (H)





# STOP PRESS

THE HISTORY OF  
THE  
FIFTH  
BATTALIONS

Well at long last the VIDEO has been completed.

At the last Committee meeting we viewed the Video at length, and the content is first class.

It's content covers the overall history of the FIFTH Battalions, from 1875 to 1973, when SRAR joined forces with 7RAR to become 5/7 RAR (Mechanized), and will enable these hardened Vietnam SRAR veterans to appreciate that there was life before Vietnam and that SRAR did have a history well before we joined the ranks.

We saw the FIFTH well before the 1914-18 era, their role through this campaign, the 2nd World War right up to both tours of Vietnam (66-67 and 69-70). The march through the streets of Sydney on returning to our shores.

This Video is a professional production, and we feel that it can be shown over and over. One not to be missed, that will form part of your history with the FIFTH, irrespective of when you served. The completed Video has cost the Association approx \$3,000, and we expect to recoup this initial cost and more from it's sale. All proceeds/profits will obviously go to the Association funds (your funds) to ensure the ongoing viability of the SRAR ASSOCIATION.

The Video is being offered at a price of \$40-00 per copy (postage included) and can be ordered by completing the attached ORDER FORM.

-- tear here -----

## "HISTORY OF THE FIFTH BATTALIONS - 1875-1973" - VIDEO

Please forward \_\_\_\_\_ Video(s) "History of the Fifth Battalions - 1875-1973 @ \$40-00 each (postage/etc included).

My cheque/money order/ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_



SRAR ASSOCIATION  
\*\*\*\*\*

Membership Application Order Form

SURNAME . \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN NAME(S) . \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS . \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBERS . (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_  
(WORK) \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION . \_\_\_\_\_

NICK NAME . \_\_\_\_\_

REGIMENTAL NUMBER . \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please tick the appropriate box, and return this form with your remittance according to your choice, to The Secretary, SRAR Association, PO Box C60, Clarence St SYDNEY 2000

I wish to join the SRAR Association	. \$ 25-00
I require ___ SRAR Ties @ \$15-00 each	. \$ -00
I require ___ SRAR Car Stickers @ \$2-00 each	. \$ -00
I require ___ SRAR Caps @ \$12-00 each	. \$ -00
I require ___ SRAR Plaques @ \$30-00 each	. \$ -00
I require ___ SRAR Honour Rolls @ \$3-00 each	. \$ -00
<u>TOTAL</u> ....	\$ _____

PLEASE NOTE that all of the above prices INCLUDE postage