



# TIGER TALES

5 RAR TIGERS

## NEWSLETTER of the 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

PP 22620210007

FEBRUARY 1995

5RAR RE-UNION

EDITION 2

### Editor's NOTEBOOK

I hope that all members and families enjoyed a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. The November issue of TIGER TALES listed and outlined the various services and functions taking place on our Re-Union on the 3 - 5 March 1995.

Some of the previous information is re-printed in this issue to further assist Association members to make final planning arrangements.

It is of paramount importance to forward your return form without any further delay.

From the returns received thus far the HARBOUR CRUISE at Darling Harbour will go ahead as planned.

The plan is to send each and every member who has replied to the Association confirming their intentions the following:

1. A statement of monies paid
2. Tickets for pre - paid functions
3. A new Association badge

Obviously this will only occur when:

1. Subscription for 1995 has been received
2. Payment for functions recorded
3. Sufficient time allowed to reply by normal mail.

I would suggest that "cheques in the mail" at the time of our re-union weekend will be an administrative headache to our committee and will do nothing towards a favourable start to our 30th Anniversary.

Members wishing to attend the 1995 Re-union and who have not completed and sent te return form to the Association, I can only say, time is running out.

Mr Ken MALLINSON will be the contact in the case of any problems associated with tickets and pre-paid accounts.

phone: (02) 579 6619

Also, for general enquiries, members can contact the Editor on (044) 725748 *Brian London*

All written correspondence is to be sent to:

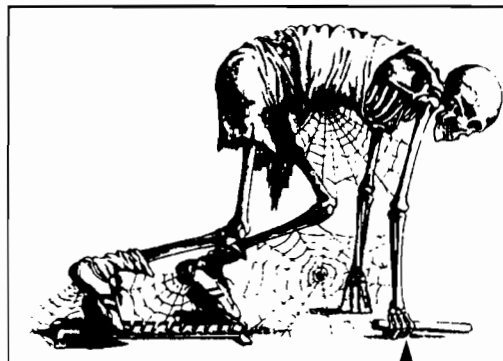
The Hon. Secretary  
5 RAR Association  
GPO Box 817  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Please Note:

The 5RAR dinner on Saturday night is for Association members only.

**5RAR RE-UNION  
THIS WAY**

**DON'T BE A LATE STARTER!**



**RETURN FORM**

Best wishes for 1995.

EDITOR

Brian LONDON

**WANTED:** Photographs of both tours of 5 RAR.

Please mark on back of photo:

1. Owner of photo
2. Brief description of subject matter
3. Date photo taken (if known)

I intend to publish in TIGER TALES all suitable photos received.

Send to:

BRIAN LONDON  
PO BOX 422  
BATEMANS BAY  
NSW 2536

**EXCERPTS FROM:  
MURPHY'S LAWS ON OPERATIONS**

**1. ANYTHING YOU DO CAN GET YOU SHOT,  
INCLUDES DOING NOTHING!**

**2. IF YOUR ATTACK IS GOING REALLY WELL,  
IT'S AN AMBUSH.**

**3. YOUR WEAPON WAS MADE BY THE  
LOWEST BIDDER.**

**4. FRIENDLY INCOMING FIRE IS MORE  
ACCURATE THAN ENEMY INCOMING FIRE.**

**5. IF THE ENEMY IS IN RANGE - SO ARE YOU!**

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION 3 - 5 MAR 1995**

Description of functions Fri. 3 March 1995.

(a) **HARBOUR CRUISE** - departs from Circular Quay East at 7:00pm. The cost is \$50 per head and includes a 3 course dinner (drinks are extra). The cruise will return at 11:00pm. There will be a Committee Member in attendance to meet members.

(b) **TUDOR INN - 249 CASTLEREAGH ST SYDNEY** Fri. 3 March 1995 7:00pm This is an informal gathering. A large room has been allocated to the Association. Drinks and refreshments will be available at reasonable prices.

**2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** Fri. 3 Mar. '95.

At 1:00pm, following the Memorial Service, the Association will hold a general meeting at the offices of Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants, level 23, National Mutual Centre, 44 Market St Sydney - proceed down York St after the service.

**3. MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Refer to the programme of events for details.

**4. ACCOMMODATION IN SYDNEY**

Details of suggested accommodation in and around Sydney are included in this edition. Members are requested to make their own bookings. Mention that you are a member of 5RAR Association when booking your accommodation.

**5. ACCOMMODATION AT HOLSWORTHY**

Single accommodation will be available at 5/7 RAR (Mech). Indicate on your return form if you require a bed on Saturday night so that we can organise it. Only one person to a bed!!!

**6. TRANSPORT**

**FREE** bus transport (if required) will be provided on the Saturday night only; leaving from the TUDOR INN 249 Castlereagh St at 6:00pm for 5/7 RAR. The bus will return to Sydney leaving 5/7 RAR at 11:59pm. Please mark on your return form if you will be using the free bus. Public transport service (train) is also available, however the last train leaves Holsworthy on Saturday night at 11:58pm. On Sunday, 5 March 1995, members will find the train service perhaps the best method of transport to attend the BBQ if no other mode of transport is available or convenient. The Holsworthy station is only 5 minutes walk from 5/7 RAR. (A Committee Member will be on the FREE bus Sat. 4 March.)

**7. 5 RAR ASSOCIATION DINNER** 4 March 1995

Held at 5/7 RAR (MECH). Cost \$25 per head and must be paid prior to 4 March '95. Includes wines and drinks during dinner. Dress: Coat, tie and medals.  
(MEMBERS ONLY)

**8. CHURCH SERVICE**

A Church Service will be held at 5/7 RAR prior to the BBQ on 5 March 1995.

**9. BBQ** 5 March 1995

The BBQ will be held at 5/7 RAR lines. Cost is \$5 per head and must be paid beforehand. Children under 10yrs are free. Please refer to 5RAR Programme of Events for detailed timings and other activities provided.

**10. INFORMATION BOOKLET**

An Information Booklet will be available to members before the Memorial Service at Martin Place. This Information Booklet will provide specific details of all activities for the Re-union Weekend. Programmes of the Memorial Service will also be available.

**5 RAR ASSOCIATION  
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS  
3 - 5 MARCH 1995**

Fri 3 Mar '95 Set up table and three chairs under  
at 5 RAR Banner in Martin Place.  
11:15am Table manned by: Committee  
Members.  
Members pay Subscription  
(if not already paid).  
Issue Information Booklet and  
programmes for Service at  
Regimental Square.

11:40am Marshall members of 5 RAR to march  
to Regimental Square. Pipes and  
drums.

11:50am Colours at Regimental Square.  
12:00noon Service. Lay wreaths.

1:00pm Annual General Meeting at  
National Mutual Centre Level 23  
44 Market St  
Additional copies of Agenda and  
Constitution to be handed out.

7:00pm Harbour Cruise at Darling Harbour

7:00pm Club dinner at Sydney TUDOR INN  
249 Castlereagh St

Sat. 4 Mar. '95 Bus departs TUDOR INN Hotel  
6:00pm for Holsworthy.

7:00pm Bus arrives at 5/7 RAR Holsworthy.  
Check in of members.

7:30pm 5RAR Re-union Dinner.

11:59pm Bus departs 5/7 RAR for Sydney.  
(TUDOR INN).

Sun. 5 Mar. '95  
11:30am Breakfast Holsworthy - if required.  
Church Service at 5/7RAR  
12:30pm Barbecue.  
Collect tickets or money at serving  
point.  
1:30pm APC rides.  
3:30pm Flying Fox.  
Small Bore Shooting.  
Museum open.  
Proofs of photos available.

For sale: caps, plaques etc.

**5 RAR ASSOCIATION  
STATE REPRESENTATIVES**

**QLD** Lt Col R T Shambrook AM Ron  
57 Lade Street  
ENNOGERA QLD 4051  
Tel: (B) (07) 252 9866

**VIC** Mr G Levey Geoff  
40 Brook Street  
SUNBURY VIC 3429  
Tel: (H) (03) 744 4078  
(B) (03) 339 1234

**SA** Mr R H Naismith Bob  
Mountain Road  
MORPHETT VALE SA 5162  
Tel: (H) (08) 326 1813

**WA** Mr J D Burrige John  
88 Watkins Road  
CLAREMONT WA 6010

**TAS** Mr C M Illman Colin  
20 Blackstone Road  
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

**ACT** Mr G Negus Greg  
3 Daplyn Close  
WESTON ACT 2611  
Tel: (H) (06) 243 1029  
(B) (06) 288 2070

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The 5 RAR Association regrets to announce the passing  
of the following member of the Fifth Battalion Royal  
Australian Regiment:

J H AITKEN WAGGA NSW

**OBITUARY**

Mr Jeffrey Harold (Tex) Aitken, of Northcott Parade,  
Wagga, husband of Mrs Veronica (Ronnie) Aitken,  
passed away suddenly at Coffs Harbour on Sunday,  
September 25, 1994, aged 48 years.

Tex will be remembered for always being larger than  
life itself, and always being full of surprises. He will be  
remembered by all walks of life and may his will to  
"save lives" make us all determined. He was a  
wonderful husband and father and most of all friend and  
mate.

Tex is survived by his wife, Ronnie, sons Bruce and  
Wayne, his father Harold Aitken, his sisters Patricia and

Lorraine and their families. His mother, Dulcie, passed away four days after him.

Mr Aitken's funeral was held on Friday, September 30, 1994 in St John's Anglican Church, Wagga, where the service was officiated over by Archdeacon Steve Williams. The casket bearers were Tony Spellman, Dave Judd, Tim Donnelly, Ken Watson, Steve Gage and Stuart Innes. A guard of honour was formed by 5 RAR (infantry with Tex in Vietnam).

Among those present were representatives from Royal Life Saving Service of Australia, South Wagga Lions, 1RTB Kapooka and other camps (especially 5 RAR ), Wagga Swimming Club, Scouts, Red Cross, many representatives from Royal Life Regional Area, Department of Sport and Recreation, Wagga City Council, State Government Schools, Calvary Hospital and Wagga Country Club.

Relatives and friends attended from Melbourne, Lakes Entrance, Batemans Bay, Queensland, Bathurst, Sydney, Newcastle, Wagga and surrounds.

Funeral arrangements were in the hands of Burgmann and Bance Funeral Home, 95 Fitzmaurice Street, Wagga.

## LETTERS

MR R (ROWDY) HINDMARSH -  
BRAUNSTON NSW

Dear Rowdy  
Thank you for your letter (Oct 94). I am pleased to hear how you are after all this time. Thank you for your comments on our newsletter.

We are all concerned about your health (heart condition) and that you are still waiting for surgery as at 17 January 1995. I hope that all goes well for you and we will see you at the '95 Re - union.

I agree, the article by PETER TURNER (VIETNAM REVISITED 94) made fine reading, and, of course, articles of high calibre make our newsletter popular. Your comments on our commitment to Vietnam are shared by most of us and it was certainly not the result we wanted.

My wife was speaking to a Vietnamese priest in Bega NSW some time ago, he said to her, "Could you please thank them all for me for all they tried to do to save my country." I guess that says it all.

Anyway Rowdie, keep in touch, and try to make it to the Re-union.

Best of luck

KEN WATSON

WAGGA WAGGA NSW

22 Dec '94

Dear Ken

It is difficult to come to terms with the news on the passing of Jeff (Tex) Aitkens (48 years) D. COY 5RAR (second tour). Jeff will be sadly missed by us all.

Thank you for the information on 1RTB Kapooka. I am sure that the Association will give careful consideration to mounting a plaque on the memorial wall in the area of the Soldiers' Chapel 1RTB. (Similar to 7 RAR).

I will publish the photos in this issue of TIGER TALES to give members a clear indication of your proposal.

Regards  
Brian LONDON  
Editor

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M B DAWSON

MARGATE QLD

Dear Max

We received your letter and you should have received your TIGER TALES.

All of your requests will be sorted out once the back issues reach you.

Phone or write if you encounter any other problems.

Brian LONDON

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M H McBRIDE

GOONELLABAH NSW

Dear Michael

I have been told that your request for information on 5 RAR items for sale is being handled by the committee in Sydney.

You will be interested to know that there is a proposal to re-print the book VIETNAM TASK. If you are still interested, complete the form in this edition of TIGER TALES and return it to the Secretary, 5 RAR Association.

Regards  
Brian LONDON  
Editor

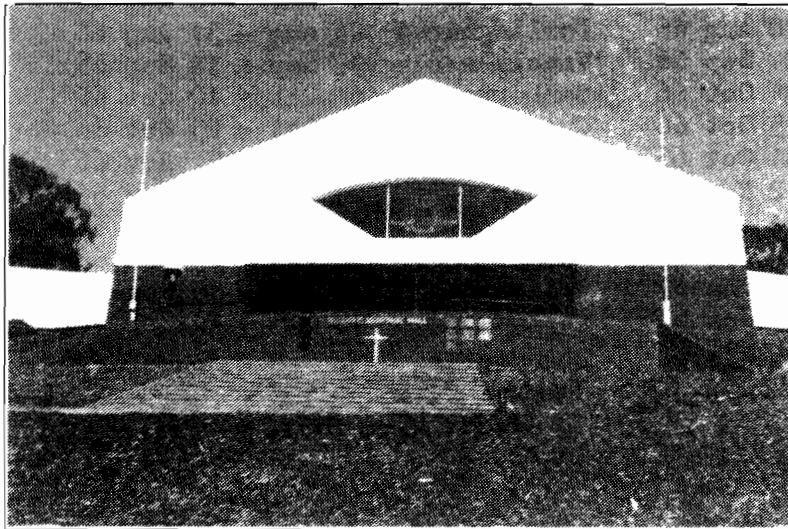
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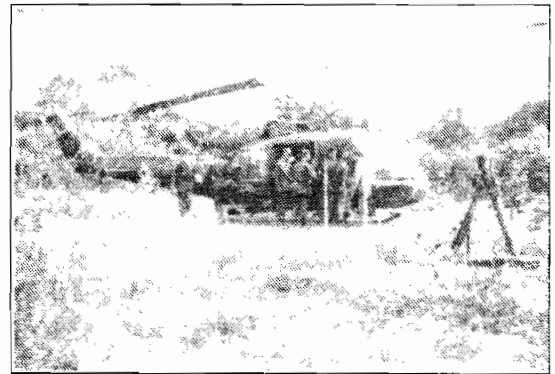
PLAQUE 7RAR MEMORIAL WALL  
1 RTB WAGGA WAGGA



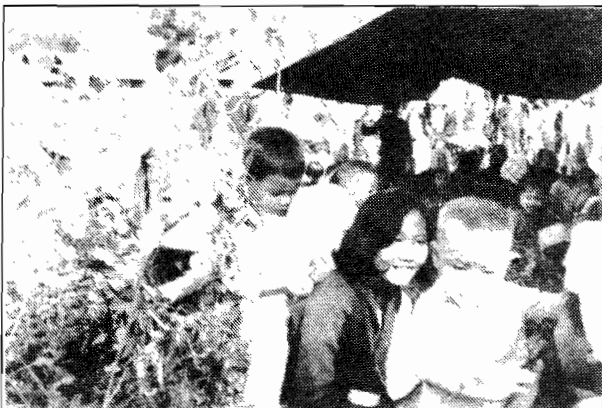
CAPTAIN BRIAN LE DAN  
1966



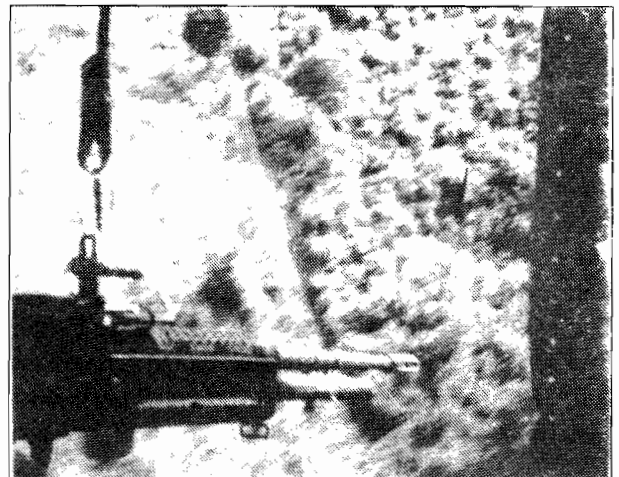
SOLDIERS CHAPEL  
1 RTB KAPOOKA



U.S. AIR SUPPORT WITH  
MORTAR PLATOON 1966-67



VILLAGE SEARCH  
1966/67



EARLY MOUNTING FOR  
GPMG M60

HMAS SYDNEY  
at Sea  
28 Apr 67.

D COY ACTIVITIES IN STH VIETNAM

6 May 66 - 20 Apr 67

GENERAL

1. D Coy arrived in Sth Vietnam by air on the 2 and 7 May 66 and departed by HMAS Sydney on the 20 Apr 67. The Coy returned to Vung Tau on 30 Apr 67 when the main body embarked for Australia. The following is a record of the Company's operational activities during that period.

OPERATIONS

2. During the tour of duty the Company took part in 26 different operations. They were;

Hardihood	24 May - 12 Jun 66	Parkes	12 Jun 66
Sydney	6 Jul - 23 Jul 66	Holsworthy	8 Aug - 18 Aug 66
Smithfield	19 Aug - 20 Aug 66	Darlinghurst	26 Aug - 31 Aug 66
Toledo	2 Sep - 7 Sep 66	Vaucluse	9 Sep - 14 Sep 66
Crow's Nest	1 Oct - 3 Oct 66	Canberra	6 Oct - 10 Oct 66
Robin	11 Oct - 15 Oct 66	Queanbeyan	16 Oct - 25 Oct 66
Bundaberg	30 Oct - 31 Oct 66	Yass	6 Nov - 7 Nov 66
Hayman	8 Nov - 12 Nov 66	Ingham	21 Nov - 29 Nov 66
Canary	4 Dec - 14 Dec 66	Duck	15 Dec - 17 Dec 66
Albany	22 Dec - 24 Dec 66	Duck	27 Dec - 28 Dec 66
Caloundra	9 Jan - 10 Jan 67	Wollongong	12 Jan - 15 Jan 67
Camden	16 Jan & 18 Jan 67	Wollongong	19 Jan - 24 Jan 67
Camden	4 Feb 67	Beaufort	13 Feb - 14 Feb 67
Renmark	18 Feb - 22 Feb 67	Lecton	6 Mar - 18 Apr 67
Portsea	14 Apr 67	(Horse Shoe Hill)	

TAOR PATROLS

3. The Company spent 36 days on TAOR and/or ambush patrols.

AREA PROTECTION

4. During the period the Company spent several days protecting areas outside our own base.

6 RAR - 10 days  
Binh Bah - 5 days

BASE ACTIVITIES

5. Initially the Company spent 17 days at Vung Tau prior to being committed to operations. This time was spent on "in theatre training".

6. Between operations the Company spent a total of 93 days in the base area. On these days we put up our wire, built bunkers, buildings and sand-bagged our tents.

RECREATION

7. During the tour the Company spent 8 days at Vung Tau.

SUMMARY

8. We spent 353 days in Vietnam, broken up into the following brackets.

Vung Tau	17
Operations	184
TAOR Patrols	36
Area Protection	15
Nui Dat	93
Recreation	8
Total	<u>353</u>

Total days in South Vietnam	353	% on operations	67%
Total days in forward area	332	% on operations	71%

9. The Company arrived with a full strength of 5 Officers and 118 OR's. During the year we lost 29 men, made up by the following causes.

4	- KIA
3	- WIA
17	- Medical
5	- Repostings, Compassionate
<u>29</u>	

10. The Company accounted for the direct elimination of 36 VC, of which 25 were KIA.

11. My sincere thanks for a job well done. You can be extremely proud of your effort.

DC D. Coy  
SRAR