



TIGER TALES

5 RAR TIGERS

NEWSLETTER of the 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 1997

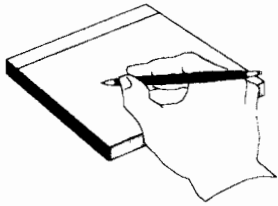
EDITION 12

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to members and
 families of the 5 RAR Association

THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF 5 RAR Lt Col J.A. WARR SERVING CHRISTMAS DINNER TO
THE MEN of the FIFTH BATTALION DURING THE FIRST TOUR OF THE BATTALION IN
VIETNAM.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Once again another year is almost over. As your editor and on behalf of the Association Committee I wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Sadly during 1997 we lost members due to illness and other tragic circumstances. Our newsletter is an important conduit enabling us to keep in touch with members to pass on information and details of coming activities. Further, our newsletter serves as an instrument to direct assistance to members in need of support. Therefore, it is paramount for Tiger Tales to continue to grow and remain viable in the future. How can this be achieved? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Ensure your current address details are advised to the association, along with your correct phone number.
2. Contribute to Tiger Tales with news from your area.
3. Encourage non-members to join the association.
4. Remain financial. (\$25.00 for five year membership)
5. When you finish with your copy of Tiger Tales, if you do not keep them, drop the copy into the nearest DVA/VVA office. Some ex-5 RAR member might read it and join the association as a result.

The above list is certainly not exhaustive. The object is to keep in contact with all members (over 800) and to assist members in need of support and to increase membership at every opportunity. Any assistance by members to achieve this objective will be greatly appreciated.

Not sure if you are financial? Look at your address label. If you are, the letters **FIN** will appear on the label. If the letters are not there, please send \$25.00

to the Association and help keep Tiger Tales in the mail.

The membership of the 5 RAR Association is as follows:

595 paid fees till year 2000.
 29 paid fees till year 2005.
 173 non-financial.
 59 members. (Haven't a clue where they are) as their mail has been returned (address unknown)

PLAQUE STOCKS

Plaque stocks are back to normal thanks to Brian Budden's efforts to fix the problem. All back orders should have been filled by this time. All orders for 5 RAR items for sale will include a detailed statement. Any item unavailable due to stock shortage will be advised on the statement enclosed with the order. All orders or queries are to be sent to:

THE SECRETARY
 5 RAR ASSOCIATION
 GPO BOX 817
 SYDNEY NSW 1043

Brian London Editor

PROPOSED RE-UNION 6 PLATOON B COY 66 67

Steve Botterell is eager to organize a re-union for 6 Platoon B. Company 66 67 tour. Steve has contacted several members including Ted Pott Platoon Commander and all agree that a re-union is long overdue. Members of 6 Platoon should contact Steve and supply answers to the following questions:

1. Are you interested in a 6 Platoon re-union?
2. Would you be able to travel to Qld for the re-union?
3. Are there any restrictions on attending?
4. Would you bring your wife/partner?
5. Do you have any suggestions on the re-union?

You can contact Steve at the following address:

PO BOX 29
 LANDSBOROUGH QLD 4550
 PHONE 0754948919

Editor.

50th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Regiment 1998

In the last issue of *Tiger Tales* details of the Anniversary of the Regiment to be held in Brisbane November 1998 were published.

A ceremonial parade at the Australian War Memorial will be conducted on the 1st March 1998 and will represent the national focus for the celebrations.

Members of the 5 RAR Association have been invited to participate in the parade. The parade will be conducted in two phases.

Phase (1)

Members of all RAR Associations will march behind their association banners along Anzac parade to the War Memorial in CANBERRA. They will disperse and view the formal phase of the parade.

Phase (2)

1. Colours of all RAR Battalions escorted to the War Memorial by a guard of pipes and drums of the Regiment.
2. Evolution of the Regiment, with soldiers in period dress, with helicopters and music.

FAREWELL TO 5/7 RAR (MECH) 16--18 October 1998 Holsworthy NSW

It is important that all members of the 5RAR Association mark the 16 to 18 October 1998 as a significant date on their calendar. On this date the 5 RAR association will join with the 7 RAR association to farewell the Battalion on their move to Darwin.

The 5 RAR association, via *Tiger Tales*, will keep you informed on the lead up to the farewell and, to our re-union plans on this occasion.

At this stage the committee is still in the planning mode however, the event will follow generally;

- Friday, 16 October- Parade by 5 7 RAR (Mech)
- Saturday, 17 October- AM Memorial Regimental Square.
- Saturday, 17 October- PM Activities TBA
- Sunday, 18 October- Unveiling of memorial at Holsworthy, followed by a BBQ lunch for families.

This revised programme is necessary due to the delay in the movement of 5 7 RAR to Darwin by several months.

DISBANDING of 8 and 9 RAR

On the 30th June this year, 8 RAR and 9 RAR were disbanded.



Flags at all Army establishments were flown at half mast on that day.

ANZAC DETAILS FOR APRIL 1998

If State Representatives wish to have their state Anzac Day details published in the next issue of *Tiger Tales* please send your details to the Editor;
PO Box 422 Batemans Bay
NSW 2536.

Phone (02) 44725748

Details must reach me no later than the last week in February 1998.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS

All members should advise the Association of their change of telephone numbers without delay.

FEATURE ARTICLE

THE BAND OF THE FIFTH BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

Since the end of World War 2, the French Army had been operating in Vietnam to retain that country as a colony, but resistance by the Viet Minh had been growing. On the 7th May 1954, the French Army surrendered after its defeat at Dien Bin Phu. In October of that year, the country was divided at the 17th Parallel into North and South Vietnam pending the outcome of elections.

The national elections were never held and by 1960, operations by the Viet Minh from North Vietnam into South Vietnam had begun.

In order to support the Government of South Vietnam, Australia, in 1962 provided an Australian Army Training Team of 30 officers and senior NCO instructors to assist the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

On the fifth of March 1965, The Fifth Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, was raised at Holsworthy from members of The First Battalion and two months later, 1 RAR was committed to operations in Bien Hoa Province in Vietnam.

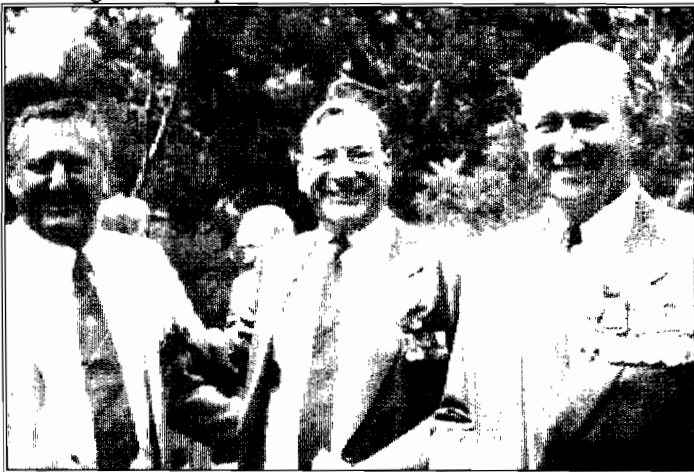
In January 1966, 5 RAR was brought to full strength with the addition of over 300 national servicemen

and 200 regular soldiers who had completed their basic training. It was generally expected by members of the Battalion that 5 RAR would replace 1RAR in Vietnam when it completed its service in Vietnam in May 1966. It was about three months from that time until 5 RAR was in action in Vietnam.

During this time of preparing for active service, the 25 members of the band were required to meet the training requirements of the battalion to work six days a week, often from early morning until late at night. This training included fieldcraft, weapon training, mines and booby traps, night movement, lectures on Vietnamese history, culture and customs, exercises in the mountains at Gospers, special training at the Jungle Training Centre at Canungra and familiarization in helicopter movement.

In addition to this training, the band members spent considerable time on first aid, musical training and playing as a band on special occasions.

The pressure of these constant activities and encouragement and firmness of leadership of Bob Taylor and the Drum Major, Ken Benson began the bonding of this special team within the Battalion.



MEMBERS OF 5 RAR BAND AT A RECENT RE-UNION THIS YEAR.

RON SHOEBRIDGE PETER TUCK BOB TAYLOR

On 8 March 1966, the Australian Government announced an increase of the Australian forces in Vietnam to a task force of 4,500 men, based on 5 RAR and 6 RAR with supporting arms. This was the first official announcement that 5 RAR would serve in Vietnam.

Early in April 1966, the band performed publicly for the first time when the Battalion carried out the ceremony of the beating of the retreat at Holsworthy. A few days later, the band led the Battalion when it marched through Sydney as part of 1 Australian Task Force before departing for Vietnam.

During April and May, the Battalion moved to Vung Tau, either by aircraft or HMAS Sydney, after which the Battalion had about three weeks to become acclimatized and to complete helicopter and other special training.

At this time a close friendship developed between 5 RAR and the American 68 Aviation Company, which had been providing helicopter training for the Battalion. The friendship was further cemented when a dinner was arranged for the 68th (Known as Top Tigers) at which the band played the Regimental March of 68th "Those Daring Young Men in Their Flying Machines" and other appropriate tunes. From that time onward, the 68th would do anything required to provide maximum possible support to 5 RAR.

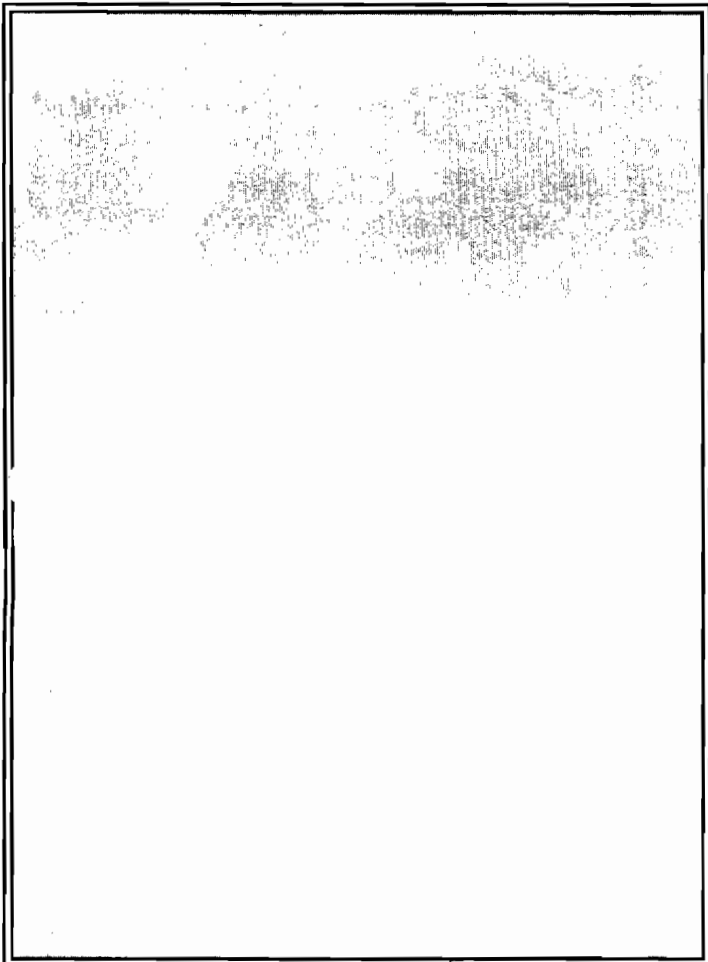
From the time he joined the Battalion, Bob Taylor had been thinking about a Regimental March for 5 RAR and he concluded that the most appropriate march was "Dominique." He arranged the music and then suggested to the CO that "Dominique" be accepted as the Regimental March. Colonel Warr was not convinced as he had never heard the tune. Bob Taylor, with the aid of Major Max Carroll, the operations officer, then proposed that the band play Dominoque and two other marches for the 800 members of the Battalion who would be asked to vote for the march they thought would be the best.

Dominique received an overwhelming vote from all ranks and so it became the march of the Tiger Battalion.

By early 1966, the Viet Cong had established two main force regiments (274 and 275 Regiments) each of three battalions, in the North-East and North-West of Phuoc Tuy Province. These forces were in addition to the Provincial Battalion D445 and numerous village guerrilla platoons. Almost all of the Province of Phuoc Tuy, except for the major towns of Xuyen Moc, Duc Thanh and the provincial capital of Ba Ria were controlled by the Viet Cong and even these towns were heavily infiltrated by the Viet Cong. The total number of enemy in the province was estimated to be 4,800. They were well armed, knew the country in detail, received considerable support either willingly or by coercion, from the local people and it was often impossible to determine who was the enemy and who were not. The support received by the Viet Cong from the local people made it easy for them to know the movement of our forces, which could be quickly reported.

It was into this situation that 5 RAR was launched in May 1966 in Operation HARDIHOOD, which was aimed to clear Nui Dat for the establishment of the Australian Task Force. During the next eleven months, 5 RAR conducted 23 Battalion sized operations and between such operations no less than one company was always outside the base area. Because, on operations the bandsmen were deployed with one of them to each platoon as a stretcher bearer, they contain the collective experience of all the enemy contacts and incidents, some of which resulted in battle casualties. The total numbers of casualties in the battalion during its service were 25 killed in action or died of wounds and 79 wounded in action. The band's casualties included Private Michael Poole killed in action, three wounded in action (including the Drum Major while acting CSM

B. Coy) in addition to three members evacuated to Australia as a result of serious accidents or illness.



**PRIVATE MICHAEL POOLE
KILLED IN ACTION 21 FEBRUARY 1967**

Whenever the Battalion returned to its base after an operation, the band would immediately reform and play in company lines as a morale booster. In the base

area when the situation permitted, the band played retreat in the evenings and everyone appreciated the significance of this ceremony. A major problem facing the Task Force in 1966 was that, in Phuoc Tuy Province the Viet Cong had been able to replace Government control with their own administration in most villages and hamlets. This had been achieved by creating a cadre in each village. These cadres were usually composed of dedicated communists, whose tasks were to discredit the Government, indoctrinate the villagers with communist propaganda and build an organization to support the Viet Cong in the field with food, medical aid, recruits and money.

The methods used to obtain the co-operation and support of the villagers was brutal but effective. The head man, school teachers and local administrators were either eliminated or their families killed or tortured if they failed to co-operate. The cadres also recruited young men and women into the Viet Cong forces and provided labour when required.

It was clear that, if the village cadres were eliminated and the people were protected from the influence of the Viet Cong, the advantages enjoyed by the VC would disappear. If the VC were unable to use the villages as operational bases, they would be isolated and their military effectiveness reduced. In addition, the VC would not be able to visit their homes and families and their morale would be reduced accordingly. Therefore as the first step in returning control to the government, the VC Cadres must be eliminated.

5 RAR developed techniques to cordon and search villages to find cadre members. These techniques required a night approach march to the selected village and then to surround and seal off the village before any of its inhabitants could leave. The people were removed and questioned by Government officials. During this interrogation period, medical and dental aid was provided for the people and food was distributed. In order to create the best possible atmosphere, the band played appropriate music.

The bandsmen were therefore required to accompany their platoons as stretcher bearers during the night approach and then, when the questioning took place, they would assemble at a designated area and resume their role as bandsmen. Their instruments, music and chairs would be brought in by either APC, trucks or helicopter if necessary. While the music was well received by the villagers they suggested that they would appreciate hearing their own Vietnamese tunes. By the time of the next cordon and search,

Bob Taylor had prepared the necessary music and the band was playing tunes requested by the villages.



BOB TAYLOR CONDUCTING THE BAND IN BINH BA VILLAGE DURING A CORDON AND SEARCH

The total effect on the villagers of these cordon and search operations were quite noticeable and the band played an increasing important role in winning the hearts and minds of the people. In addition, the band would usually intersperse its playing with assistance to the medical aid programme.

On several occasions, the band at short notice, provided protection for disabled APC's at night and provided ambush parties. The band, like all other platoons, were required to provide clearing patrols around the base and to provide sentries at night.

Bob Taylor commanded a rifle platoon on several occasions or acted as CSM of a rifle company.

In the seven month's period, July 1966 to February 1967, 5 RAR carried out nine village cordon and search operations which resulted in 14 VC killed, 5 wounded and 224 prisoners.

The 5 RAR band was the only effective Australian service band in Vietnam and was always in demand to play at church and memorial services and parades.

The band gave concerts to;

- US 36 Casualty Evacuation Hospital.
- 2 Field Ambulance.
- 1/83 US Artillery Battery.
- A Battery 2/35 US Artillery Battalion.
- 805 Transport Company.
- The US R&R Centre at Vung Tau.
- The Fourth of July celebrations at Ba Ria.
- In addition, provided music for the visit of; Marshall KY.

General Johnson US Army Chief of Staff.
DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

MILITARY MEDAL

Corporal Peter Fraser MM

MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES

Private Laurie Lewis MID



THE BAND 22 FEB 97

BACK ROW J CURTIS P FRASER MM G LOWE
J BOUSE* J REID K EDMUNDS F BACKER
CENTRE N HARRIS G PHILLIPS T GADD P LAPKO
P MALONEY* N SIMS B McINTYRE R SHOEBRIDGE
FRONT L LEWIS MID K BENSON* P TUCK B TAYLOR
MBE
M DWYER*

MISSING MEMBERS- C JOHNSON* (TAS)
B PEMBERTON (NSW)
N GRAHAM (QLD)

* WIA



Editor's Note

My thanks to Geoff Lowe for the details and photos that were a great help towards putting this article together and, to Col. John Warr, whom I believe, wrote the main article on the history of the band. The editor has condensed areas of the original document for publication purposes.

Brian London.

Editor

Membership of the Association

As the editor of our newsletter, I have received several letters on the subject of who can actually join our Association. That is, can a service member who was not on the posted strength of 5 RAR, join the Association.? For example, can a member of The

Corps of Signals who was attached to 5 RAR become a member.? The same applies to other arms and services. I have put this question to the 5 RAR Committee and have no doubt that a resolution will be advised shortly.

Editor.



Letters to the Editor

W.K. LEADBEATER - WINGHAM NSW

Dear Bill,
Thank you for your letter (27.5.97) advising your change of address. I wish everyone would do that so that the Association could keep track of members changing their address.

I am pleased that you are enjoying our newsletter and thank you for your kind remarks.

I am unable to help you with locating Bob Boyle Amin Coy. Transport Platoon (66/67). Perhaps someone knows the address of Bob or knows where to contact him. (If anyone has any information please call or write to the Association.)

Regards
Brian London

SID DAVIS - TAMWORTH ENGLAND

Dear Sid,
Thanks for your letter. I am pleased to hear that you are in good health and that Tiger Tales is reaching you in the UK. The mail seems to be getting through in good time, you said that you received your copy on the 14 July, which is great as the issue was posted in about the first week in July.

Thanks also for your donation of \$50.00. towards the RAR Memorial Walk. Your donation has been sent to the Walk Trust Fund.

Regards
Brian London

Note: Sid sends his regards to everyone.

TOM BRAND - BALLARAT VIC

Dear Tom,
Received your letter and thanks for your comments on our Newsletter. Tiger Tales is produced as a team

effort by the Association and I am pleased to say things are improving with an increase of contributions by members.

I saw the photo of the haircut given to you by Brian Budden on the first tour. You should demand your money back. From the results, I am pleased to say, Brian Budden has gone into another line of business.

Sorry Tom the Photo Didn't turn out.

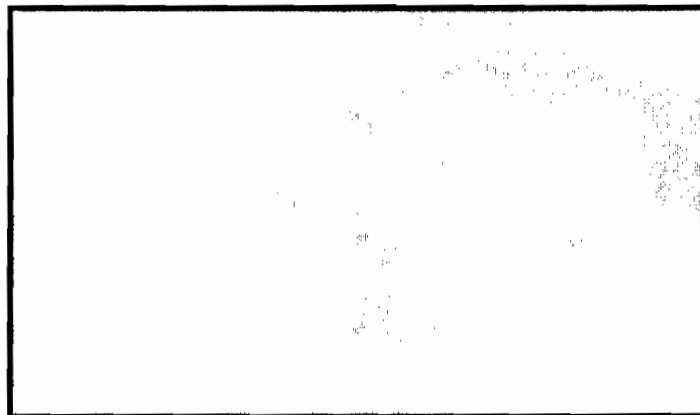
All the best
Brian London

DON HARROD - SYDNEY

Dear Don,
Received the article and will comply with your request. I thought it was just fine.
Not much more I can say, please keep in touch.
Regards
Brian London

RON CHIVERS - MIRANI

Dear Ron,
Pleased you found us again. Don't forget to advise us if you change your address in the future.
The Year of the Tigers book is available now. You can order the book by completing the order form in this copy of Tiger Tales.
Keep in touch,
Brian London



ANZAC DAY 1997

GRAHAM DUNLOP, CHRIS EXINDARIS, IAN WARD, BOB HUNTER- ADELAIDE

SPECIAL REQUEST

Colonel Commandant RAEME Association Southern Region and Tasmania, Ron Bade, has asked the 5 RAR Association for assistance in locating a suitable photograph of Lt. Jack Carruthers, killed in action on

the first tour of the Battalion. The RAEME Association in Victoria has established a display case in Oakleigh Barracks in Melbourne as a memorial to Jack Carruthers. Unfortunately, the display does not include a photo of Jack and Ron Bade is eager to obtain one for the memorial display. The 5 RAR Association will pursue all avenues available to obtain a photograph however, perhaps a member has a photo from the first tour. If association members would like to help, please contact the association.

Editor's note.

Ron Bade served with 5 RAR on the first tour as 2IC A Coy, 2IC Admin Coy and OC Admin Coy.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

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57 Lade St ENOGGERA 4051
Tel- (07) 32529866 (B) 33541706 (H) Fax
32524488

VIC Mr Geoff Levey
40 Brook St SUNBURY 3429
Tel- (03) 93391229 (B) 97444078 (H)

SA Mr Bob Naismith
33 Martin St MORPHETT VALE
Tel- (08) 83261813 (H)

WA Mr John Burrridge
88 Watkins St DALKEITH 6009
Tel- (08) 93866826 (B) 93841218

TAS Mr Colin Illman
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Tel- (03) 63449716 (B) 63430999 (H)

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WESTON 2611
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PO Box 422 BATEMANS BAY 2536
Tel- (02) 44725748
Editor Tiger Tales

5 RAR ASSOCIATION ADDRESS

The Secretary
GPO Box 817
SYDNEY 1043

AT REST



It is with sadness that I inform the members of the 5 RAR Association of the passing of friends and comrades:

† WILLIAM 'Lofty' CUNNINGHAM.
† JOHN LOGAN.
† COLIN MOONEY.
† JOHN SLATTERY.

The 5 RAR Association offer our deepest sympathy to the families of our late comrades.

Lest We Forget



"On Eagle Wings I will Carry you"

MICK DWYER 5 RAR

Life wasn't meant to be easy but sometimes it wasn't meant to be so difficult either, but talk to Mick Dwyer and you will realize that life is full of challenges. His positive attitude that there is always someone worse off than him is what keeps him going. Mick has incomplete quadriplegia and is confined to a wheelchair. He has syringomyelia -- a cyst in the spinal cord -- which needs to be drained constantly by a shunt at the base of the skull. If or, when this blocks, Mick loses a little more movement in his arm (of which he has hardly any) and another operation must be performed. Yet in spite of all his physical handicaps Mick manages to drive a car and a motor home both of which have been fitted out with special hand controls for him. Mick was injured when he hit by a jumping jack mine, and that was the beginning of his real battle for survival. Taken by 'chopper,' first to the Australian hospital in Vung Tau and then to an American hospital in Saigon, Mick was told by specialists that he would not walk again, but with perseverance and determination, he learnt to walk again--first on a stick and then without although with a pronounced limp. Gone were the days of landscape gardening that he loved so much and was sent to Mt Wilga, a rehabilitation centre in Hornsby NSW. He completed a three year apprenticeship and became a qualified cabinetmaker.

One of his great loves was bike riding and together with a side car he was able to take up this pursuit as well as small bore shooting.

After his first marriage ended in divorce he remarried and another goal was to build his own house became a reality. This was no mean feat for someone who had great difficulty climbing a ladder because of his stiff leg and its lack of feeling. Often he would be stuck on the roof for hours trying to position himself the right way to get on the ladder to climb down again.

Another love of his was sailing, and he purchased a sixteen foot Hartly trailer sailor which he loved

sailing around Pittwater. Unfortunately, in the early 80's, his condition began deteriorating. Mick had greater difficulties walking and was in considerable pain, so doctors suggested a double laminectomy on his back. This was supposed to cure him instead it made him worse. He entered hospital using a walking stick and came out on crutches. Unable to work and because Veteran Affairs, in their, so called better judgement would not give him a TPI pension it was back to Mt Wilga for more rehabilitation. Every day a

commonwealth car would be sent to transport Mick to and from Mt Wilga. There they tried to re-educate him in Maths, English and typing. Every day Mick fell asleep through boredom and after six months it was decided that Mick could not be rehabilitated and his trips to Mt Wilga were terminated.

In 1987 Mick began to lose the use of his right hand, and went back into hospital and was diagnosed with syringomyelia. After another laminectomy, this time on the base of his neck and two more operations to place a shunt in his head to drain his spinal cord. Mick came out of hospital -- not on crutches -- but in a

wheelchair with the complete loss of use of his right hand.

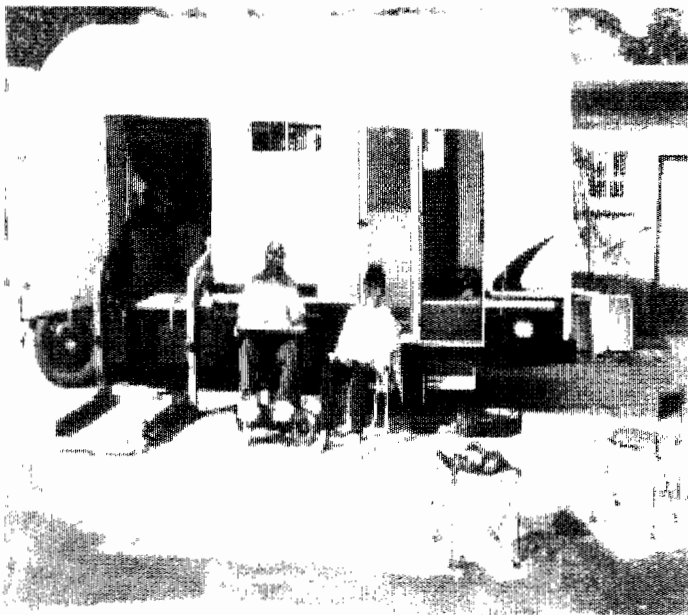
It was at this time that the 'Welcome Parade' was being organized and Mick was determined to be-----

Mick Dwyer at band re-union 1997



Mick with family prior to service

there. Pushed by his elder son, he was able attend the parade-- meeting up with old mates who thought he had died years before in Vietnam. Always keen on travelling, in 1990, Mick bought a V.W. transporter and together with his wife fitted it out as a campervan complete with stove, fridge, bed and shower. Tying the wheelchair on the back of the kombie, Mick and his wife set out to drive around Australia -- first to Tasmania -- then to Perth for Anzac Day 1991 with his WA mates. Where he couldn't drive, his wife pushed him -- where he couldn't climb she took videos so Mick could see what it was like. Up the west coast to Darwin -- Kakadu -- across Queensland to Cairns, Cape Tribulation and back down the east coast 23,000K in total, driven all the way by Mick-- he didn't want his wife to hog the wheel. Numerous short trips followed and then again in 1994 Mick's condition deteriorated. After seven weeks in Concord Hospital and a further four months in Morang Rehabilitation Centre Mick returned home. Mick still wanted to travel and now with a motorised wheelchair, traveling in the Kombie was impossible. Back to the drawing board, this time to design a motorhome. Together with Swagman Motor Homes a 7m motor home was built on a 250 NPR Isuzu base. In June 1996 Mick headed for Darwin. This may seem easy, but for Mick it was not because he had to be near a hospital each month for treatment--sometimes more often if infection set in. Some fellows do a pub crawl--Mick does a hospital crawl. Mick travelled from Darwin to Kakadu and then to Ayer's Rock which he circumnavigated in his wheelchair----a distance of 9.4 Kilometers taking 3.5



Mick and Dale Dwyer outside their motor home

hours. While people complained of blistered and sore feet, Mick laughed and said he had a blister on his thumb from pushing the knob on his wheelchair. He journeyed on to Adelaide, the Barossa Valley and back to Sydney-- a total of 18,000k driving all the way himself. After attending the 30th re-union of the 5 RAR band Mick set out on a 3 month's tour of Western Australia and is again on the move. This time to a new house in the foot hills of the mountains, he won't be building this one but has spent many hours designing a wheelchair friendly house to meet his needs.

Mick's philosophy on life is one we can all take a lesson from--life is too short. Get out and enjoy yourself while you still can and, remember there is always someone worse off than you.

Mick is very fortunate indeed to have constant support, understanding and encouragement from wife Dale and this partnership is a great inspiration to many other people.



Mrs Poole and Norm Harris at the graveside ceremony for Mick Poole killed in action. Mick Dwyer was wounded and others either killed or wounded in the same action

Editor's Note My thanks once again to John Warr for the details on Mick Dwyer for the previous article.

OBITUARY

WILLIAM NOEL CUNNINGHAM

1928 - 1997

Lofty was born at St. Leonards, Sydney on the fifth of August 1928 and joined the AIF early in World War 11 by altering his age. As soon as the Army became aware of his real age, he was discharged.

As soon as he became 18 in 1943, Lofty joined the AIF and served in New Guinea and Borneo and with the British Commonwealth Forces in Japan. In 1949 Lofty returned to civilian life but when the Korean v commenced, he re-enlisted and served with 3 RAR in that conflict.

He returned to Australia in May 1953, married Betty and they had two daughters, Margaret and Judith. He continued to serve with 3 RAR where he was very active in football, cricket, athletics and rifle shooting. At one time he elected not to play football because some of the opposing team complained. Due to Lofty's size, they could not bring him down and the games were too one sided.

Lofty served with 1 RAR in Malaysia and Holsworthy before being transferred to 5 RAR when the Tiger Battalion was raised in March 1965. He served with 5 RAR as COMS Support Company during the first tour in Vietnam in 1966 - 67.

Max Carroll, the OC Support Company during the first tour writes;

"It was with sadness that I heard recently of the passing of Lofty Cunningham. He died suddenly whilst on holidays in Central Australia. I last saw Lofty at the re-union in 1995 at Holsworthy, when we had a few beers together and caught up on activities over the years since 1966 - 67.

Lofty was the COMS when I took over command in January 1966 and I could not of asked for a better Q bloke. At that time there was no establishment for a 2IC of Support Company(not rectified until late 1966); so he carried a pretty heavy load, both competently and cheerfully. He served the Company well as he knew he way around. He was an accomplished scrounger and Support Company rarely missed out on anything, in either Australia or Vietnam. He was also an experienced infantryman

with previous service in World War 11, BC'OF, Japan and Korea. He had been a Rifle Platoon sergeant in 1 RAR before joining 5 RAR in 1965. He therefore knew soldiers well, both those who were fair dinkum in what they needed and also those who were on the con."

Lofty's brother Bernie, who also served in the Australian Army in Vietnam, writes;

"Lofty married Enid in 1967 and they lived in Smithfield. He retired from the Army in the following year and in 1975, Lofty and Enid moved to Taree. They enjoyed travelling around Australia and it was while they were in Alice Springs on one such trip in August '97 that Lofty suffered a heart attack.

Lofty had three brothers and three sisters of which two served in the ARA, one in the AWAS, one in the WRANS and one in the RAAF."

Max Carroll remembers Lofty as a loyal friend and a good bloke. Max is certain that at this moment in time, Lofty is renewing arguments with his cobber Hughie Hughson, CSM Support Company (also deceased)

John Warr says that he was delighted that Lofty joined 5 RAR when the Battalion was raised, because he was a very experienced, hard working soldier. Lofty cared for his soldiers and his company and always went to great lengths to provide everything they needed. Lofty served 5 RAR and Support Company very well indeed.

VALE OLD MATE

OBITUARY

JOHN MCKENZIE LOGAN

1 AUGUST 1945 - 22 JULY 1997

John McKenzie Logan was born on 1 August 1945 in Warwick. His family then moved to Adelaide where he attended primary school and later completed his secondary education at the Croydon Technical school. John also completed his apprenticeship as a builder prior to joining the Australian Army in 1964. After recruit training at Kapooka, he was allocated to infantry and completed his corps training at Ingleburn.

John was posted to 1 RAR at Holsworthy and joined 5 RAR on the formation of the Battalion.

He completed two tours of Vietnam (1966 - 67 and 1969 - 70) ; John served as the Platoon Sergeant of 1. Platoon A. Company on the second tour with 5 RAR. In 1970 after returning from active service, John elected to take his discharge and return to his home in Adelaide.

John was well known throughout the Battalion and will be sadly missed.

REST IN PEACE JOHN

EULOGY

COLIN TERENCE MOONEY

20 AUGUST 1946 - 9 OCTOBER 1997

Farewell to Colin Terence Mooney aged 52 years young. It is with deep regret that I advise fellow Tigers of the passing of Col.

Colin completed two tours of Vietnam. With 1RAR he served six months, six months with 6 RAR and twelve months with 5 RAR in 1969 - 70.

I first met Col when I marched into 7 Platoon as a 'Reo' in 1969 and although Col went to D. Company, we struck up a bond especially in his later years. Colin to me will always be remembered for his dry sense of humour, his quick wit and his ability to get on with people. He was a down to earth grunt, 'A Digger's Man.'

Col leaves behind a daughter and a large family, especially within the Regiment. Col you will be deeply missed mate and I will see you up there one day. You were a great jungle fighter.

Always remembered

John Porter.

Colin served with 1 RAR 2 RAR 5 RAR 6 RAR

OBITUARY

PETER SLATTERY

Peter passed away in June 1997 after a serious illness which was only diagnosed midway through 1996. Aged just 52.

Peter was the first intake National Serviceman and completed his recruit training at Puckapunyl. He was posted to 5 RAR and served in Vietnam in 1966 - 67.

Peter had the added responsibility as an infantryman to provide communications for his Platoon. He will be missed by us all. Peter is survived by his wife Robyn and sons Dean and Lee.



Lest We Forget

THE AUSTRALIAN ACTIVE SERVICE MEDAL

The Australian Government announced recently, the creation of a new Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) 1945 - 75.

The purpose of the medal is to recognize war service between 1945 - 1975.

Eligibility for the AASM 1945 - 75 will be limited to personnel who received or have an entitlement to the Korean Medal for service in the Korean War 1950 - 53, a General Service Medal for service in either the Malayan Emergency 1948 - 66, the Indonesian confrontation 1962 - 66 or the Vietnam War.

Also to those who received the Vietnam Medal or the Vietnam Logistic Support Medal.

Application forms are available from the RSL or by contacting:

Jennifer Eddy

02 - 6277728002 - 0416266120

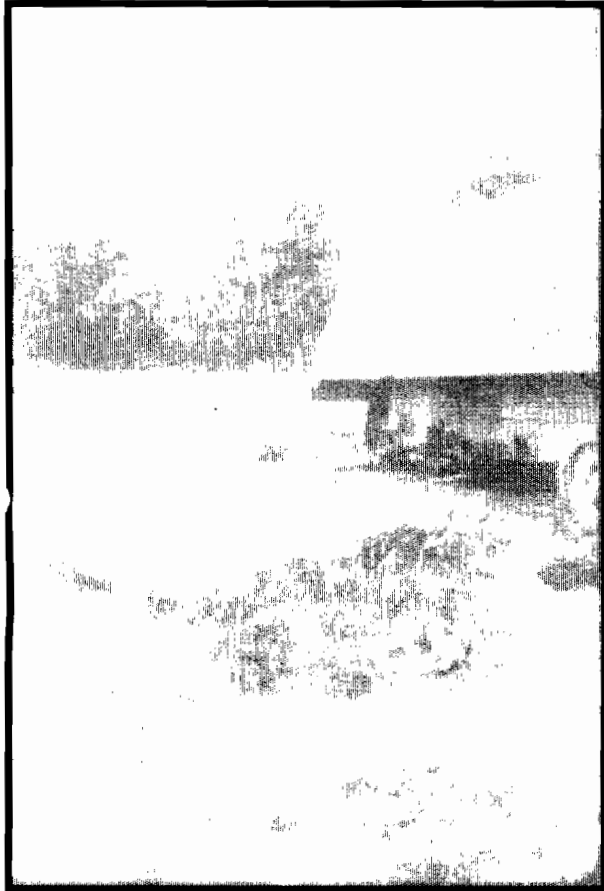
**B. COMPANY RE-UNION ANZAC DAY
1998 (SECOND TOUR)
24-25-26 APRIL 1988**

Errol Garland is organising a re-union for B Company on Anzac Day 1998 on the Sunshine Coast Queensland for the 24-25-26 April 1998. For further details contact:

**Errol Garland
07- 3556968**

THE LONG HAI HILLS

In the July issue of Tiger Tales the article by Tony White was Published detailing the contact involving B Coy 5 RAR. Neil McKenzie obtained from Dave McMillan photos of the mine contact with B. Company on the first tour. I believe that these photos are the only ones in existence.



APC WITH REAR DOOR BLOWN OFF

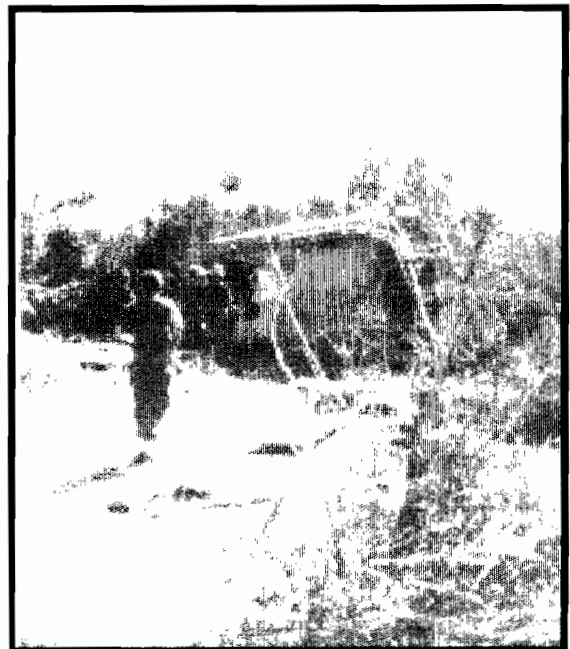
The Company lost the OC Bruce McQualter, Lt Jack Carruthers and Pte Poole and several wounded in this contact. The driver was killed instantly.



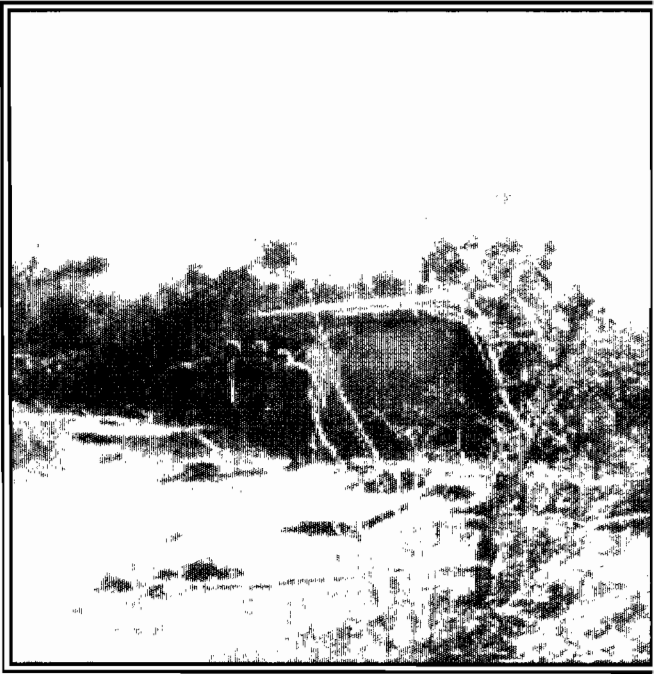
M113 with lost track



Hole from mine explosion



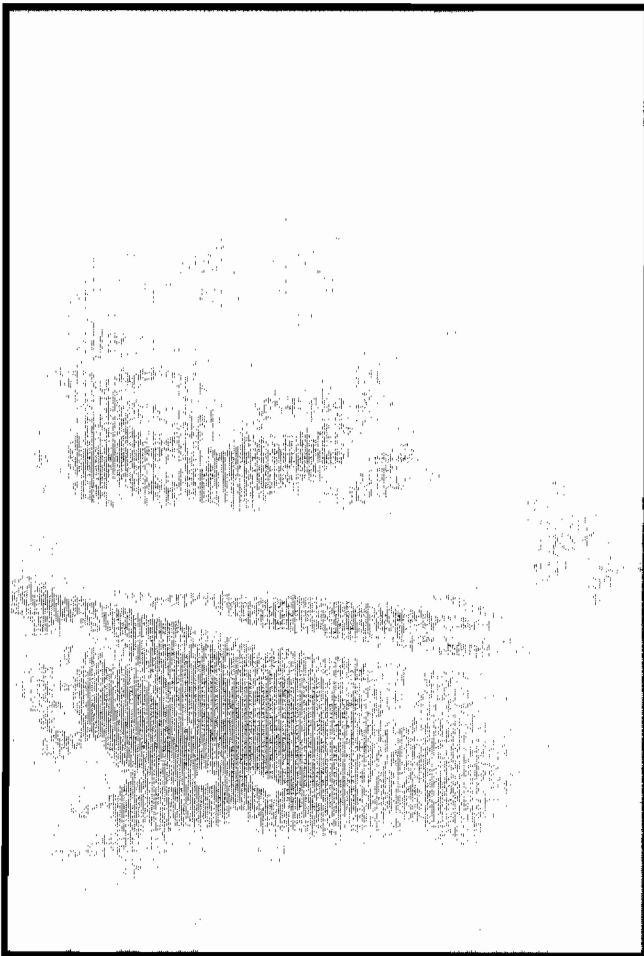
APC blown onto it's side



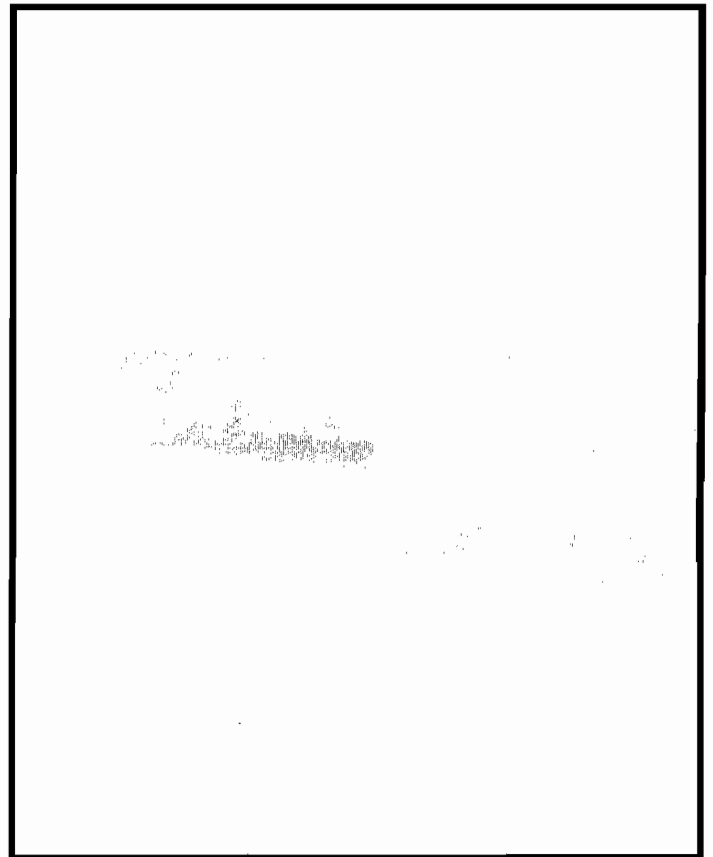
APC on side soldier trapped underneath



Collecting parts of APC



Front of APC after explosion



APC showing damage to tracks