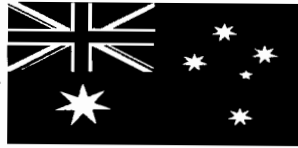


TIGER TALES

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



On behalf of the Association Committee, I wish all members and families of the 5 RAR Association, a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

I would like to thank the members who supplied information on our lost members. All we can do now is to send our Newsletter to them and hope they respond. It is very important for members to forward a new address to the Association if they change their address. It is a shame to lose contact with members through a failure on their behalf to notify the association. All it takes is a note to the association to keep the mailing list up to date.

Due to a need to inform members of the 5/7 RAR details, this issue is early. The next issue will be in January 1999. Up to date news can be found on our web site until then.

Brian London
Editor

5 RAR WEB SITE

In concert with Ted Harrison (B Coy 5 RAR) the Association now have a web site on the net. The site is made up of two home pages. The first is the main admin page and Ted's Page which is centre piece of the project. The

Association's page mainly deals with advertising and news. The 5 RAR site covers both tours of the Battalion, lists of members, articles, photos and much more. The purpose of the site is promote the Battalion and to add another dimension to our communication link.

Members are invited to submit articles of interest for inclusion on the site. Ted Harrison and I are committed to making this web site one of the best.

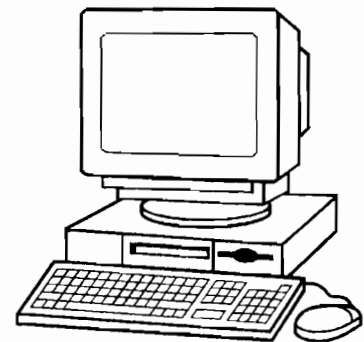
ADDRESSES

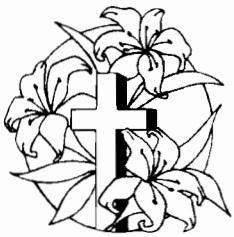
- **5 RAR ASSOCIATION**
www.sci.net.au/londonb
- **5 RAR**
www.netSPACE.net.au/~harrison

E-MAIL

5 RAR ASSOCIATION
londonb@sci.net.au
Ted Harrison
harrison@netSPACE.net.au
Both of these pages are linked i.e. finding one will find the other.

The Association page is now linked to 5/7 RAR (Mech)





REST IN PEACE



THE 5 RAR ASSOCIATION OFFER OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO KEN'S FAMILY

MAJOR KEN MALLISON PASSED AWAY AT HIS HOME ON THE 7 JULY 1998

He was born in Newcastle in February 1932. Ken always wanted to join the Army since the age of 13. Ken's father insisted he gain qualifications which would assist him in later life. Ken gained his leaving certificate and went on to complete his apprenticeship as a fitter and turner. In 1952 he was accepted to attend the Number 4 course at OCS Portsea.

Ken was commissioned as a 2Lt in the RAASC and was posted to Puckapunyal, 19 Infantry Training Battalion and later to HQ 2 Div. Ken transferred to CMF and accepted a position with the British Motor Corporation in 1955. In 1957, he transferred to The Royal Australian Infantry Corps and in 1964, he served on full time duty as QM with the Sydney University Regiment, 3 Trg Bn and Inf Centre. Ken joined 5 RAR in Vietnam as Mortar Platoon Commander during 1966/67.

On returning to Australia, he served a adjutant SUR before being posted to 1 RAR to serve in Malaya. He was later appointed as 2IC 1/19 RNSWR and later as Admin Officer, HQ Liverpool Area.

In 1973 he transferred back to the CMF and accepted a position with a civil engineering firm. He retired from the CMF in 1973 and was transferred to Singapore in his civilian job. Ken eventually retired in 1985. His service with the Army Reserve has been recognized with the award of The Efficiently Decoration and The Reserve Forces Decoration.

John Warr spoke of Ken,

“ Service with 5 RAR in Vietnam was demanding, exciting and dangerous, but it was a very efficient, professional battalion due to the dedication, loyalty and hard work of its members such as Ken. He devoted the past 13 years to working ceaselessly for several organizations relating to returned soldiers. As the secretary of the 5 RAR Association, Ken was always a tremendous help to me. He was enthusiastic, cheerful, hard working and constantly coming up with proposals to improve the association. The greatest memorial to Ken will be his family. He relied very much on June, they were a great team and justly proud of his daughters, Cherlanne and Christine, their husbands, his six grandchildren and one great grandchild. Let us not mourn the passing of Ken but rejoice and give thanks for a full and productive life and for the fact that Ken, through his many activities had such a beneficial affect on the community and so many people”

COL JOHN WARR DSO

‘LEST WE FORGET’

FAREWELL PARADE TO 5/7 (MECH)

A Farewell parade of 5/7 RAR (Mech), including the Beating of the Retreat is to be held at Tobruk Lines at Holsworthy on Friday 16 October ,98 commencing at 1530 hours. This will be last time we will have the opportunity to see 5/7 on parade before their move to Darwin in early 1999. Refreshments will be provided after the parade at a nominal cost of \$5.00. Members, family and friends are invited. As usual, we need to know how many will attend the parade. **Please fill out the form and return to the association by 30 September 98.**

**FAREWELL TO 5/7 RAR
RETURN FORM 16 October 98
I WILL BE ATTENDING**

**THE SECRETARY
5 RAR ASSOCIATION
GPO BOX 817
SYDNEY NSW 1043**

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

POSTCODE.....PHONE.....

I WILL HAVE GUESTS WITH ME AND ENCLOSE CHEQUE/

POSTAL NOTE FOR \$.....@ \$5.00 per person

Signature.....date.....98

5 RAR ASSOCIATION OFFICE USE

**MEMORIAL DEDICATION SERVICE
SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER 1998**

Fifty members of 5 RAR gave their lives in the service of their country in Vietnam and it is essential that their sacrifice be remembered.

The 5 RAR Executive Committee has therefore established a suitable memorial at Holsworthy, where most of the training was carried out prior to Vietnam service. The history and traditions created by the Battalion has become part of 5/7 RAR (Mech) and it is therefore fitting that memorials for 5 RAR, 7 RAR and 5/7 RAR (Mech) are established at Holsworthy before 5/7 RAR moves to Darwin.

The dedication of these memorials will take place at Holsworthy on the 5 December 1998 commencing at 1400 hours. Medals to be worn.

All members of 5/7 RAR (Mech) are to be present and the Queens and Regimental Colours of 5 RAR with a 100 men escort will be provided. Members of the Association, families and friends of members who died in Vietnam are invited.

- ◆ Official Guest will be Brigadier A.G. Warner LVO , Commander Liverpool Military Area
- ◆ Afternoon tea provided.

MIXED DINNER FOR 5 RAR SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER 98

LOCATION...The Sunnybrook Hotel Convention Centre....355 Hume Highway Warwick Farm 2170

TIME 1900 HOURS

COST \$45.00 PER HEAD (3 course meal with wine/juice)...Drinks before/after at members expense.

DRESS Coat tie

PLEASE COMPLETE THE RETURN FORM IF ATTENDING

SECRETARY
5 RAR ASSOCIATION
GPO BOX 817 SYDNEY 1043

**ATTENDANCE MEMORIAL DEDICATION
AND DINNER 5 DECEMBER 98**

NAME.....ADDRESS.....

.....POST CODE.....PHONE.....

I will be attending the Memorial Dedication with guests

I will be attending the Mixed dinner alone

I will be accompanied by a partner

Enclosed is payment for \$.....@ \$45 per head

Signature.....Date.....98

MARCH OUT KAPOOKA 3 JULY 98

Col Max Carroll (Rtd) reported on the march out parade at Kapooka of our sponsored platoon.

Pte N.A. O'Keeffe took the honours and was presented with the 5 RAR shield.

Max was vocal in his disappointment with the 'The powers that be' for failing to see the need for recruits to be issued winter dress during their time a Kapooka. Kapooka in July is hardly sun tan weather, some things never change.



MAX CARROLL PRESENTING THE SHIELD

ROBERTSON BARRACKS DARWIN

The new home of 5/7 RAR (Mech) will be Robertson Barracks in Darwin. The battalion will move in early 1999. The area to be occupied by 5/7 RAR will be called:

BINH BA LINES

Other names of roads and streets

* TEELING STREET

NUI THI VAI PLACE

LONG HAI PLACE

INFANTRY PARADE

* In honour of Pte Teeling killed at Binh Ba



REST IN PEACE ALLEN BEST

I received a letter from Geoff Levey Tasmania informing the association of the passing of Robert Allen Best on the 17 June 98. Allen

served with the battalion on the first tour in Vietnam. Allen was the first intake national service and after training, was posted to Admin Coy as a driver. Allen was well known through out the association and will be sadly missed by us all.

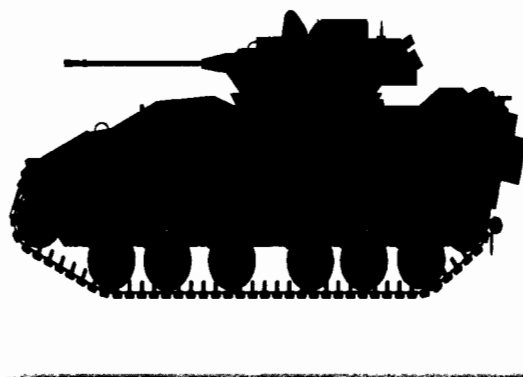
The association extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Allen.

'LEST WE FORGET'

OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE

Due to the need to have this issue of Tiger Tales in the mail by September 98, articles planned for publication will have to be held over until the next issue. In the meantime members on the net can visit the 5 RAR web site...www.sci.net.au/londonb or use the search engine ALTRA VISTA or ANZWERs.. search with 5 RAR ASSOCIATION or 5 RAR.

Editor



MEMBERS ARE REMINDED OF THE CELEBRATIONS IN BRISBANE ON 20-22 NOVEMBER 98. ALL OF THE RETURN FORMS ARE IN THE LAST ISSUE OF TIGER TALES. IF YOU ARE ATTENDING AND HAVE NOT COMPLETED THE FORMS, PLEASE DO SO NOW.

**APPLICATION TO JOIN THE 5 RAR ASSOCIATION
THE SECRETARY 5 RAR ASSOCIATION
GPO BOX 817 SYDNEY 1043**

FULL NAME.....ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

BRIEF SERVICE HISTORY

PHONE NUMBERS.....

ENCLOSED IS MY PAYMENT FOR \$ 25.00 JOINING FEE

ITEMS FOR SALE

FULL NAME.....ADDRESS.....

.....P/CODE.....PHONE.....

- 1. **5 RAR VIDEO @ \$40.00**\$.....
 - 2. **TIES @ \$15.00**\$.....
 - 3. **CAR STICKERS @ \$ 3.00**\$.....
 - 4. **CAPS @ \$13.00**\$.....
 - 5. **HONOUR ROLLS @ \$30.00.....**.....\$.....
 - 6. **PLAQUES @ \$20.00**\$.....
 - 7. **VIETNAM TASK @28.00**\$.....
 - 8. **THE YEAR OF THE TIGER**
@ 68.00\$.....
- TOTAL \$.....**

**THE SECRETARY
5 RAR
ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 817
SYDNEY 1043**

**ENCLOSED IS THE AMOUNT
FOR ITEMS ORDERED**

\$..... CHEQUE N0/POSTAL ORDER.....

SIGNATURE.....DATE.....

A Tiger's Long Trip to Hanoi

Mick Henrys

The First Attempt

In 1965 when I was posted from the SAS Regt to 5RAR it did not take me very long to realise that I had joined an extraordinary group of people. Within a few weeks I was set on a path as part of a team that trained and worked better than any that I had come across before. Now with the benefit of thirty three years of hindsight, I can say that that team was also the very best that I have ever worked with since.

Call it naive if you must, perhaps idealistic, or ill informed but I thought that I was going to be part of something that was going to make a real difference to the world. I had visions of great positive achievement that would somehow have us arriving at the gates of Hanoi to cheering crowds welcoming their liberators. Well, we all know that my vision did not come true, not, I might add, through lack of individual and team effort and sacrifice by many people.

Like all of those of us who were fortunate enough to return, I had to put this behind me and get on with the rest of my life (with the thoughts of Hanoi fading into the back of my memories). I went on to study Engineering, was commissioned in RAEME and worked throughout Australia and had some five and a half years seconded to the PNG Defence Force.

I resigned from the Army in 1985 and then took up a number of Government positions in the ACT and NSW, mostly working with heavy engineering equipment and construction and maintenance teams. Many of those skills that I had learnt when I was working with the Infantry continued to serve me extremely well over these years.

Now economic rationalism has lead me to an early retirement and at age fifty five a chance to do something totally different and perhaps finally put a few ghosts to bed. I have recently completed a Cambridge course in TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages) and I have been offered a position as a volunteer teacher at a college in Hanoi starting on 4th August 1998. I expect to be doing it fairly rough, working and living with a Vietnamese family and later backpacking to various parts of the North.

After a three month teaching stint my intentions are to travel by train to Saigon and then spend a week or so looking around some of the areas that I knew previously in the South. Time permitting I will send some notes to Brian London.

From Armourer, to Engineer, to Public Servant, to Teacher, the trip of life goes on. So thirty three years later my dreams of reaching Hanoi are finally coming true, albeit under different circumstances.

The Second Attempt : Preparing For Hanoi and The First Few Days

My preparation consisted of a visit to my GP and then a large chemist bill, some very limited language study and reading a few tourist and business books

These books were :-

Vietnam by Lonely Planet
Where To Go in Hanoi
Vietnam Phrase Book by Lonely Planet

The Lonely Planet books were particularly good. I had used them before on a visit to Japan when my wife was teaching there. They contained a good up to date background as well as incredible detail for the backpacker type traveller -- how to get from place to place, which small hotels to use and which to avoid as well as advice on dealing with the socialist bureaucratic administration. They also contained some very interesting advice on drugs which was probably aimed at a younger target group in the backpackers.

Buying the ticket to Hanoi was an interesting exercise in itself. I initially went to the major carriers and finished up with a quote of \$1580.00 from a number of them including Qantas. On the off chance, whilst in Sydney, I dropped into the agent for Vietnam Airlines and was given a price of \$1120.00. Being an extremely cautious flier (always avoiding Garuda and Aeroflot), I expressed an interest but asked the obvious question : "What type of planes do you use for that trip ?". The reply was : "Actually its a seat on a Qantas flight." An experience that I'm sure has taught me something, I'm just not sure what at this stage.

My visa was issued in Hanoi by arrangement with the college that I will be teaching at, IVN Vocational Language Centre. It all seemed very easy and the four month visa only cost \$30.00. I picked it up from the Sydney consulate in New South Head Road, Double Bay (an appropriate address for a socialist consulate ???).

The Director of IVN, Mr Le Duc Nhuan, has faxed me a number of times with various information and has organised a family to provide me with accommodation. He seems very friendly and helpful. Some years ago he completed an MBA at Sydney University and still has regular contact with colleges in Australia.

When I sent him my CV it included mention of my service with 5 RAR in 1966/67 but that has not drawn any comment from anyone with one minor exception. I had been getting some assistance with the language from a young Vietnamese doctor who was in my wife's English class at Newcastle University. He is in his early thirties, from Hanoi and now doing post graduate medical studies here. He had a great deal of knowledge about the various AustAid programmes in Vietnam. When we first met me asked he if I had been to Vietnam before and of course I answered 'Yes in 1966'. His next question, 'What aid programme were you working on ?', was not so easy to answer. The lessons are continuing on a very friendly basis and I expect to meet his family in the next few days in Hanoi.

For obvious reasons, most of my preparations have been focused on the North. However I could not resist reading the Baria / Vung Tau section of the Lonely Planet book. I found this quote had a certain “deja vu” about it :-

“Vung Tau has long competed with Saigon to attract foreign “sex tours” to Vietnam - massage parlours are ubiquitous. However, the AIDS epidemic has caused some soul searching and there has been a half-hearted crack down on this most lucrative industry.

Another negative - watch out for the kids around the kiosks along Front Beach. Some may try to pick your pockets or snatch a bag.”

The more things change, the more they remain the same.

To be continued