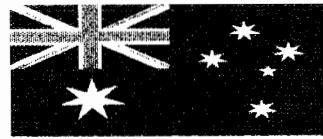




TIGER TALES

ISSUE 1/2000



MARCH 2000

NEWSLETTER of the 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

Editor's Notebook.

Welcome to the year 2000. I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas and New Year period. I would like to remind members that membership fees are now due. If you are not sure if you are financial check your address label. A number should appear in the upper right hand corner. The number should be 2005 or 2010 for members who have paid in advance. No number means you are not financial. The Association needs the support of all members to continue producing our newsletter. At only \$5.00 a year to become a member must be seen as good value. If you wish to renew your membership, complete the application form in this issue and return to the Association.

The Editor

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

I have mentioned this before but I need to repeat it every so often. If you move house please inform the association of your new address. Apart from our desire to keep in contact with members, it does waste your funds in collecting "Left address mail." Each letter returned to the association costs .45 cents. Add that to the postage and we have wasted around .90 cents for each letter returned. So please, use the change of address notice on the back cover of your Tiger Tales. This will ensure you receive your newsletter and save a few dollars as well.

The Editor.

Inside this issue:

MINI REUNION APRIL 2000 SYDNEY

- Sydney reunion 1.
- Return form 2.
- Korean Memorial 2.
- Anzac Day Melb 3.
- Admin Page 5.

The 35th Anniversary of the battalion "mini reunion" will be held on the Easter Monday 24th April 2000. The event will be informal and a luncheon will be held at the South Sydney Leagues Club commencing at 1130 hrs until 1630 hrs. The luncheon will be buffet style at a cost of \$25.00 per head. Drinks will be available at the bar within the function room at members' expense. On the 25th April, Anzac Day, after the Dawn service, breakfast will be available at the United Services Club and the Cricketers Club. Both clubs are located in Barrack Street (off George Street and opposite Martin Place) Post-Anzac day march venue will be at the Civic Hotel 338 Pitt Street - corner Goulbourn Street.

**SYDNEY REUNION
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

1. The address of the South Sydney Leagues Club -- 65 Chalmers Street Redfern. (Luncheon 24th)

2. We need to know if you are coming to the luncheon and to the post march venue at the Civic Hotel.

The South Sydney Leagues Club can cater for up to 300 members and guests but your committee needs to know the numbers. As usual, there is a return form to fill in. If you are coming to the luncheon, please complete the form as soon as you receive this issue of Tiger Tales.

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KOREAN WAR
MEMORIAL**

Sunday 16 April 2000

To

Tuesday 18 April 2000

Korean Veterans attending please register by obtaining the Registration Form from Australian National Korean War Memorial Dedication Committee.

**C/o Office of Australian War graves
PO Box 21 WODEN ACT 2606**

PROGRAM

Sunday 16 April -- Assemble Canberra.

Evening -- Unit 'Meet and greet' receptions arranged by unit associations.

Monday, 17 April

Forenoon -- sightseeing - The Korean War Exhibition will be on display at the War Memorial.

4.30 p.m. -- An ecumenical service at the AWM.

5.45 p.m. -- A reunion cocktail party at the Great hall parliament House -- Korean Veterans and partner.

Cost \$20.00 per head.

Tuesday, 18 April

9.15 a.m. -- Veterans assemble by units on Reid Oval, Limestone Ave,

9.50 a.m. -- Korean War Veterans Parade

10.00 a.m. Dedication of the Memorial.

On completion, unit associations reunions.

DARWIN TRIP

In the last issue of Tiger Tales the committee confirmed that the official reunion in Darwin was deferred. Some members of the association are planning to go ahead with an unofficial reunion in Darwin April 2000. Barry Eccles and other members of A. Coy First tour, will meet in Bourke on 17th or 18th of April. (Billy Maroulis home -- 02 68722416) From there the group will drive to Darwin via Cunnamulla, Charlesville, Longreach, Katherine and to Darwin. This should take a week and the group should be in Darwin by the Anzac weekend. Geoff Conners recommends the " Le Point " caravan park.

The plan is to stay in Darwin for a week or so and travel back via the same route or via Alice Springs. All members interested in joining the party contact Barry Eccles on 035024035. The party will organize a reunion at the nearest RSL or hotel during the stay in Darwin.

8

**REUNION IN SYDNEY 5 RAR
ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 817 GPO SYDNEY 1043**

Full name.....

.....

I PROPOSE TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING
FUNCTIONS AS INDICATED.

LUNCHEON 24 April. —

NUMBER OF Guests. —

CIVIC HOTEL (After
march)

25 April.

I ENCLOSE MY CHEQUE FOR \$25.00 PER
HEAD FOR THE LUNCHEON 24th April.

Signed

Date.....2000

Tick or number the boxes where applicable.

8

NEWS IN BRIEF

WORK BEGINS ON NEW SITE

Work on the new site Anzac Commemorative site for the dawn service at Gallipoli began in October 1999. It is 300 metres north of Ari Burnu and where the 9th and 10th Battalions were the first to set foot on the peninsular on the 15 April 1915.

VETERANS HEALTH STUDY

Validation of the Vietnam veterans health study will be released shortly. Once released, the findings can be found on the DVA Internet site and in published form. The 5 RAR web site has a link to DVA.

AUSTRALIANS AT WAR

A Sydney television company will commence producing a new series of TV documentaries. The project will consist of eight one-hour episodes. The series will cover all conflicts including the Malaya Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation and Vietnam. The production company will be looking for new material for the series. Of special interest are early movies from WW2 and the Korean war. Diaries, letters, card, audio tapes from the Vietnam war. If members have any material of interest, write to the DVA with a description of the item. **Do not send any material to the DVA unless asked to do so.**

The above brief news items were taken from the Vetaffairs newspaper December 99



ANZAC DAY MELBOURNE

Geoff Levey reports the reunion in Melbourne after the march will be held at the Duke of Kent Hotel 293 Latrobe St Melbourne, hosted by the Victorian branch of the RAR Association. Members of 'Charlie Company' first tour are gathering at Sunbury for an ANZAC Day service commencing at 1000 Hrs. Geoff advises to consult the local news papers as parade form up areas will be changed this year. Geoff can be contacted on the **Sunbury activity on 03-97444078**

WEB SITE AND E-MAIL

- **5 RAR association web site**
- [Http://www.sci.net.au/londonb](http://www.sci.net.au/londonb)
- E – Mail.....londonb@sci.net.au

TIGERS REUNION 3 Platoon A, Company

On the 21st of August 1999, 30 years to the day of the contact at 'Hat Dich' of 3 Platoon A, Company, "Snow" Morris organized a reunion of 3 platoon at Newcastle. In attendance, a chopper load master and a door gunner, involved in the contact and a CMF officer wounded later that year. With photos and slides and other souvenirs of '69, which amongst the laughter and jeers, gave a lot of pleasurable memories. Our 'Skipper' sergeants, corporals and of course the 'backbone' of it all – us 'baggyarses' with long standing wives and partners totaled 51.

We thank you "Snow" for all your efforts for creating this day and God willing, there will be more in the very near future.

"The men and families of 3 Platoon"

R. Chivers

3 Platoon A, Company.

Editors Note.

3 Platoon A Company and other elements of 5 RAR had engaged a very strong force of enemy in the Hat Dich area. 3 Platoon sustained heavy casualties in this operation. 5 RAR lost 3 killed and 62 wounded.

3 PLATOON A COY

RECCE PLATOON RECENT REUNION 1999



RECCE PLATOON 1966

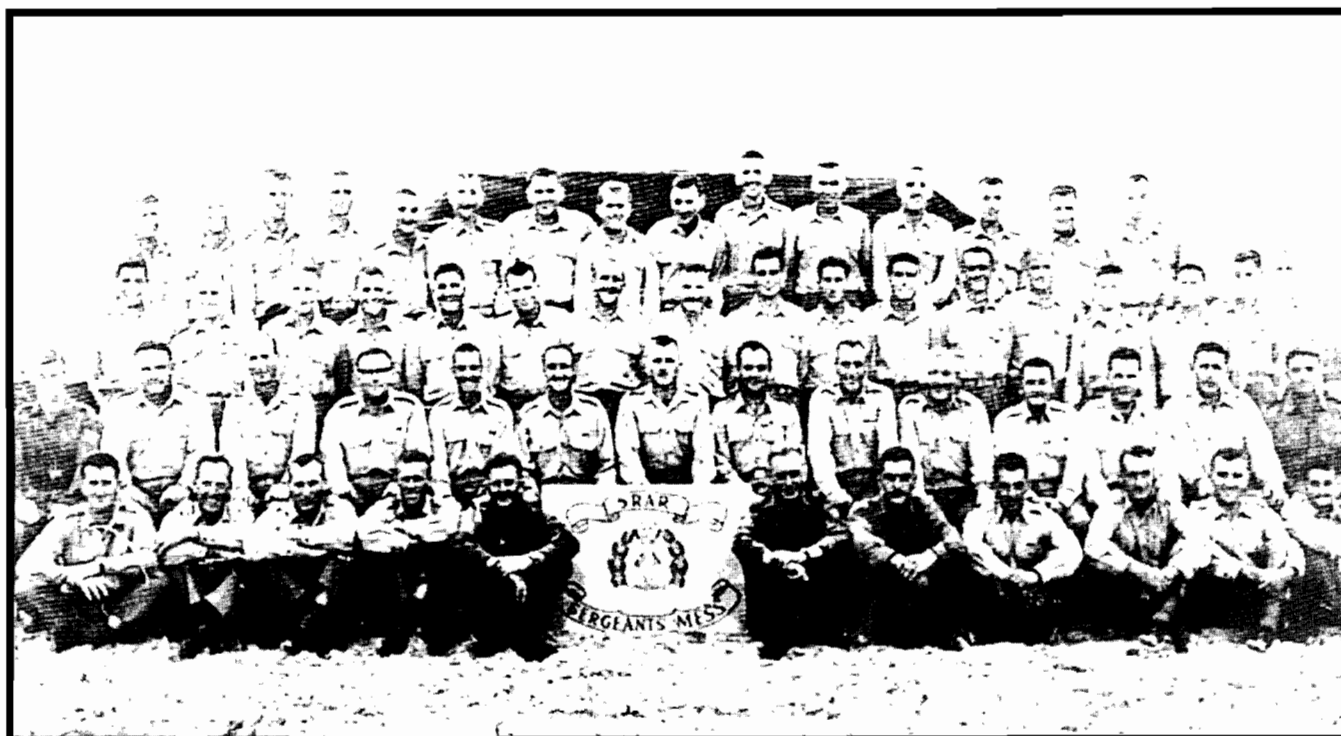


SOME OF THE LADS AT THEIR REUNION 99'

RIGHT PHOTO

BACK – J. SCALES. J. EDWARDS. D. MARRONEY. J. SCAYSBROOK., A.TWAITS.
NEXT – B. SEARL. B. CARNEY. B. GOMBOLD. W. PAGE. P. FRAZER. W. BRENNAN.
SECOND FRONT – R.FERRIER. J.WILLIAMS. M. DEAK. D. AITKIN. D. MILLS
FRONT – B. BRANT. W. HARVEY. J. MULBY.

THE SERGEANT'S MESS 5 RAR FIRST TOUR



ADMINISTRATION PAGE

APPLICATION TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP 5 RAR ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 817 GPO SYDNEY 1043

LAST NAME.....FIRST NAME/S.....

ADDRESS.....

STATE..... POST CODE..... HOME PHONE.....

BUSINESS PHONE..... FAX..... E-MAIL.....

5 RAR OFFICE USE

5 RAR ASSOCIATION ITEMS FOR SALE
5 RAR ASSOCIATION GPO BOX 817 SYDNEY 1043

1. 5 RAR VIDEO @ \$40.

FULL NAME.....

2. 5 RAR TIE @ 15.

3. CAR STICKER @ \$3.

ADDRESS.....

4. CAPS @ \$13.

5. VIETNAM TASK @ \$28.

STATE..... POST CODE.....

6. PLAQUE @ \$20.

7. HONOUR ROLE @ \$30.

I enclose my cheque/ money order for:
\$.....

TOTAL AMOUNT \$.....

Signature.....

Date.....

* Please note stock items in this issue.

Very Old News

Hark back to say, April 1969. What were the news topics at that time? According to Tiger Rag printed on the 9th April 1969, the headlines of interest were printed in the following manner.



**TIGER
RAG**



FORECAST: The AP AN PHU weather bureau has predicted that the situation will be rather calm, until , in a couple of week's time there should be a lot of activity and unsettled conditions in Phuoc Tuy Province.

AUST NEWS

NSW: A RAAF aircraft plane flew a 2,000 mile round trip to bring an injured man from Norfolk Island to Sydney for hospital treatment. He was rushed to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital as soon as the Hercules landed.

The first of two luxury liners for the UK, Australia run arrived in Sydney. She is the "Arawa", her sister ship the "Aranda" will arrive early in May.

VIC

In Melbourne yesterday (6 Apr) the deputy leader of the opposition, Mr. Barnard, put proposals forward for boosting Australia's foreign aid program. He said Australia should allocate another 1 per cent of GNP to about \$215 m per year aimed at SE Asia. He pointed out that the government spends about \$70m annually on the task force in SVN but only \$3m on civil aid.

WORLD NEWS

SVN: In SVN government forces supported by armoured cars and air strikes, smashed

a VC force defending a large weapons cache near the Cambodian border. Eighty VC were killed in the battle which took place 60 miles west of Saigon.

B52 bombers have focused their attention on the Ho Chi Minh trail rather than the routes around Saigon.

APA says that 2,000 trucks per month move along the trail to bring in supplies and troop replacements.

SINGAPORE

Briefly stated at a stop over in Singapore:

India's deputy prime minister will meet with Mr. Gorton and others leaders in Canberra to discuss matters of finance and India's role in SEA.

INDONESIA

The chairman of Indonesia's Congress Party has criticized foreign bases as sources of subversion and intervention. He said that Indonesia must be firm in opposing foreign military pacts. He further stated

that Indonesia had experienced many revolts but were put down without outside assistance. Indonesia must rely on its own strength.

ISRAEL:

Arab commandos have killed and wounded a number of Israeli troops in a mortar attack south of the Dead Sea. The Arabs belonged to the PLF. They destroyed several buildings and military vehicles in the attack. In Tel Aviv Israel said the big four powers meeting in New York were trying to gain advantages for the Arabs which they were unable to gain for themselves.

SVN:

President Thien has announced a 6 point plan aimed at bringing peace to the country and a re-unification by free election. The plan calls for North Vietnam to withdraw its troops from SVN and also Laos and Cambodia. If the fighting in SVN subsided, SVN would ask its allies to withdraw their forces.

President Thieu said he hoped after free elections, North and South Vietnam would become united. **He said that South Vietnam would never surrender to the communists nor hand over the people to communist rule.**

At the same time he said he would lead an united group of parties. Those who opposed him could form an opposition party.

In Saigon police seized a large stock of weapons including 81 AK47 rifles, 13 cases of ammunition and 150 hand grenades. Another big weapons cache was found near the Cambodian border.

USA:

In the US 25 seamen were hurt in a spectacular accident in the centre of the Mississippi River in New Orleans. A large cargo ship collided with a string of barges loaded with oil. The leading barge split in two and exploded setting the cargo ship on fire. Fire fighters took 5 hours to bring the blaze under control.

SPORT:

Jack Brabham won the main race at Bathurst. Brabham set a new lap record for Mt Panorama. Unfortunately, the race was marred by the death of a driver, David Gibson.

SHOOTING:

NSW marksman Andrew Tomitch has won the Australian Pistol Shooting Championships at Albury.

VIC:

About 1200 NS recruits finished their training at Puckapunyal on the week end. They will have several days leave before continuing their military training.

ACT:

The Federal and State governments have been asked to lower the age of majority. This would include voting and signing contracts.

FOOTBALL

Carlton defeated St Kilda, Hawthorn defeated Collingwood and Nth Melbourne defeated Sth Melbourne.

EDITORIAL

Welcome home, the "Tigers" after a very successful outing. It is good to hear voices and see movement at the Dat once more. It is hoped that you will give us some articles for the paper. We hear that 7 Platoon were after a tiger or vice versa, we are not sure who won!! What's the story?

As it is migration time, we bid farewell to the "Little Black Duck", "Skull" and "Dogs"



Well, that was the news in April '69. Just change a few names and dates and it could be to day's news – not much has changed really has it? Certainly "Tiger Rag" (Tales) is still with us and Australian troops are still serving. A few other interesting news items in 1969.

- June 5th – American planes make first raid over North Vietnam since Nov 68.
- June 8th – America begins to withdraw 25,000 men from VN.
- September 4 – The death of Ho Chi Minh.
- December 15 - Withdrawal of 50,00 US troops planned.

5 RAR STOCK ITEMS

The following items are available for immediate delivery:

- ◆ 5 RAR CAPS
- ◆ 5 RAR TIE
- ◆ 5 RAR CAR STICKERS
- ◆ VIETNAM TASK

The Association wishes to advise members we are out of stock on all other items. At the recent meeting of the committee, special note was taken to acquire more stocks as an urgent/priority task. The Association regrets the long delay in filling outstanding orders on Plaques and the 5 RAR Video. All outstanding orders are recorded and will be filled as soon as new stocks arrive.

The Editor.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

5 RAR President	Brig. C. Kahn DSO 507/2 Marcus Clarke Street Canberra ACT 2601 Home – 02 6275 7249
NSW	Mr. Brian London OAM DCM PO Box 422 Batemans Bay NSW 2536 Editor Tiger Tales 02 44725748
QLD	Lt. Col Ron Shambrook AM 57 Lade St Enoggera 4051 – 07 38554055 B 33541706 H
VIC	Mr. Geoff Levey 40 Brook St Sunbury 3429 – 03 93391229 B 97444079 H
SA	Mr. Bob Naismith 33 Martin St Morphett Vale 5162 08 83261813 H
TAS	Mr. Colin Illman 3 Blackstone Rd Launceston 7250 03 63449716 B – 63430999 H
ACT	Mr. Greg Negus 3 Daplyn Close Weston 2611 – 02 62431029 B H 62882070
WA	Mr. John Burrridge 88 Watkins St Dalkeith 6009 08 93866826 B 93841218 H



It is with deepest regret that I inform members of the 5 RAR Association of the passing of Terry Southwell. Terry was the 2IC of Support Company during the second tour of the battalion in Vietnam. We extend our deepest sympathy to Terry's family, relatives and friends.

"Lest we Forget"

A PROPOSED STUDY OF MEMBERS OF 5 RAR

Dr. David Adams (PhD,MPH,) in the US is in the process of completing a statistical study on the 496 Australians killed in Vietnam. David is very keen to do a further study on the members and families of the battalion. His research interests are to educate his students and alert the American people to the involvement of Australia in the Vietnam war. This project, if launched, will be on a voluntary basis. The aim is to do a profile on members of 5 RAR and their families. Basically, to describe either by letter, tape recording or e-mail, experiences in Vietnam, life after the army and so on. Families of the deceased members of the battalion are of special interest to David. In his last communication with me-- 29 February 2000, he stated "I would like to put a face on 5 RAR, not just a bunch of numbers"

I have seen David's work on US soldiers and he tells it as it is. There will be no need to identify your self if you feel a need for privacy-use a first or middle name if you wish. All details submitted will be treated as per your instructions. Interested members can contact me with expressions of interest. – Brian London.

A BRIEF LOOK AT HISTORY. THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

In line with Australian Foreign Policy to contain and stop the spread of Communism in South East Asia, Australia committed troops to Vietnam. The first dispatch of troops began in 1962 with 30 members of the Australian Army Training Team (AATTV) arriving in July of that year. This was in response to repeated requests from the government of South Vietnam to the United States and its allies, for military assistance. By 1965 it had become clear that South Vietnam could not hold out against the stronger North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong infiltrators. The US commenced a major insertion of military aid to Vietnam and by the end of 1965 committed 200,000 troops to the Vietnam conflict. The US government requested further assistance from Australia. As a consequence, Australia allocated the First Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR) to serve with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Bien Hoa province.

The concern of the Australian government was that a sustained and meaningful presence in Vietnam would require a major reorganization of the Australian army. It was painfully obvious that with only three regular battalions "a meaningful presence" in Vietnam was impossible. In 1964 the Australian government introduced "conscription." The National Service Act required young men of military age to register for service in the defense forces. In 1966 the Australian government replaced the First Battalion (1 RAR) with a task force of two battalions and support services. This task force consisted of both regular and national service soldiers. The Australian task force was given its own area of operations in Phuoc Tuy province and with the assistance of US forces, secured a base for operations at Nui Dat. The introduction of conscription provided the necessary manpower to raise nine battalions. Eight of the nine battalions served two tours in South Vietnam.

Public support for Australian troops being committed to Vietnam was initially favourable notwithstanding minority groups actively protesting against any involvement whatsoever. The "Tet" offensive in 1968 brought about a change of attitude in Australia. The scale of the offensive was perceived as a victory for the North Vietnamese Army and the anti war movement in Australia gathered momentum and support. This movement, fuelled by vivid television images of the war, began to sway public opinion and by 1969 there was almost total opposition against further involvement. The effects of this ground swell were felt by Australian troops engaged in action with the enemy. Waterside workers refused to load supply ships and politicians in opposition to the elected government openly supported the north. In 1970 some 200,000 people gathered throughout Australia to protest against the war in Vietnam.

With the US decision to commence a phased withdrawal, Australian forces began to wind down its military role in Vietnam. The last battalion left Nui Dat on 7 November 1971. The last of the Australian Army training Team left in December 1972.

A total of 49,708 Australians served in Vietnam (Army, Navy, and Airforce)
496 were killed in action and almost 2,400 wounded.

The Australian forces in Vietnam received 422 USA awards. D, Company 6 RAR received The US Presidential Unit Citation (Army) 30 May 1968. The AATTV received The US Army Meritorious Unit Commendation 31 August 1969.

Footnote

Centuries ago a Chinese Warrior and Philosopher Sun Tzu wrote on the art of warfare "Break the will of the enemy to fight and you will accomplish the true objective to war. Exploit and aggravate the inherent friction within the enemy country"

The failure to bring the war in Vietnam to a swift and successful conclusion must rest on the shoulders of those responsible for the conduct of the conflict. The US administration and to some extent, the Australian government, failed to learn the lessons of history. General Westmoreland wrote in part,

“President Johnson was determined to keep the war limited. This locked American forces into a defensive strategy. This decision prolonged the war and contributed to the success of the borrowed strategy from SunTzu.”

The Australian forces on the other hand, conducted offensive operations and achieved relative success in Phuoc Tuy province. Moreover, the Australians were answerable to the Australian government and not tied to US strategy. Nonetheless, the Australians were small in number and relied upon US airpower and firepower to supplement the Australian supporting units. The Australian success in Vietnam could not have been achieved without the full support of the forces of the United States. Australian and American soldiers formed a very close and lasting relationship, which is as strong to day as it was in Vietnam.

“LEST WE FORGET”

“For those who fight for it, life has a flavour the sheltered never know”

Notice board khe Sanh

“Nothing is dearer than independence and liberty”

Ho Chi Minh

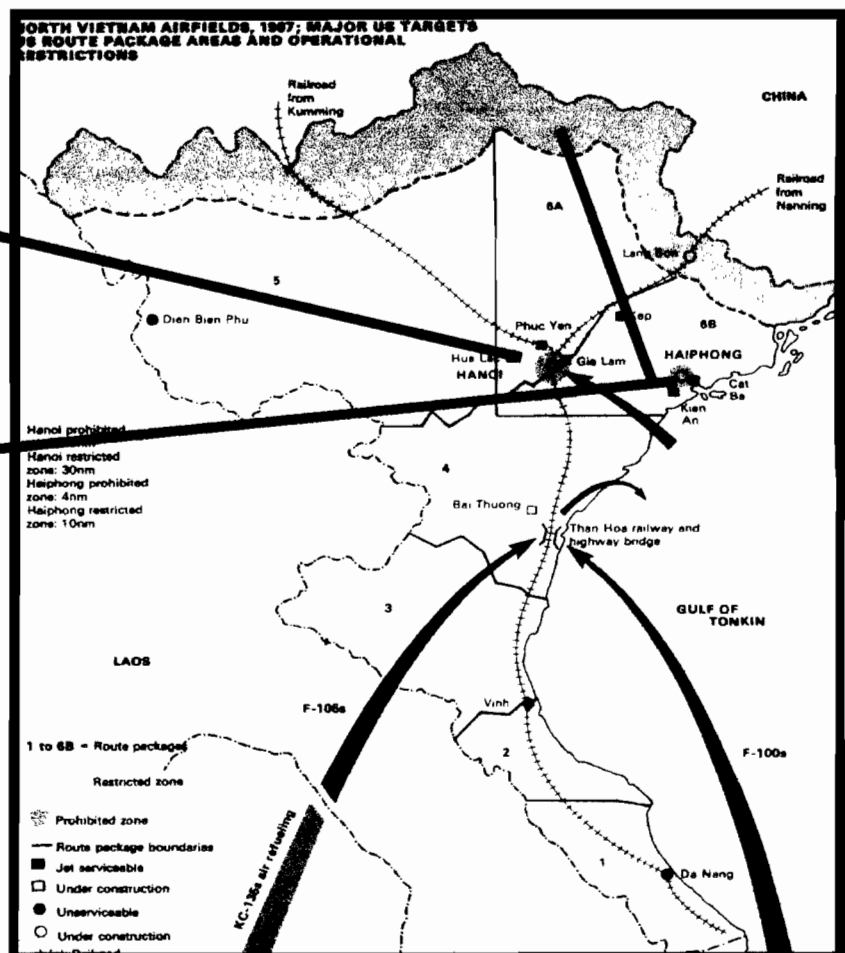
Brian London OAM, DCM Vietnam 1966/67 – 69/70

Ref: 1. AWM Archives.

2. Salamnder books :Vietnam War

North Vietnam showing airfields and restricted areas. The US Administration refused to engage targets around Hanoi and a large buffer zone around the city and outlying areas restricted air attack.

Haiphong and harbour area were also protected from air attack and a very large buffer zone extended around the area and from the North Vietnamese border into China.



INDEPENDENCE DAY – JULY 1969

The 4th of July 1969, just on sunset saw 7 platoon C. Company dropped off by APC, s near Long Phouc Hai for a short patrol into a night harbour -- ambush position.

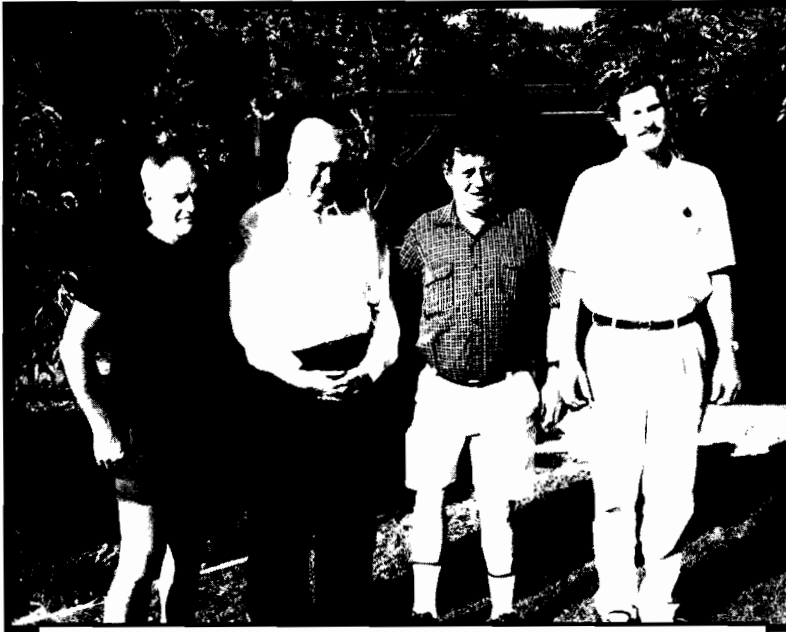
Not long after the APC,s had departed the first of two mines exploded, almost wiping out the whole Platoon, with 3 KIA and the majority remaining being wounded. Medivac aircraft were called in and the Platoon was airlifted to the First Australian Field Hospital at Vung Tau.

The majority of Doctors were off duty celebrating the U.S. Independence Day, leaving the hospital duties to a young English surgeon, Dr. Peter Anderson.

One of those wounded was Peter Molloy from Tamworth NSW, who was operated on that night and eventually evacuated back to Australia. The battle to save his right leg failed and Peter's leg had to be amputated above the knee.

Last year Peter went Wayne Herbert's was the 7 Platoon attendance on the was responsible for Peter being one of must prior to Peter of the 7 Platoon who lives in Perth, Doctor Peter routine consultation, surprised to learn Anderson the the wounded on the remembered the his personal Molloy.

Terry kept this until Peter attended they all met.



Terry Bates - Dr. Peter Anderson - Peter Molloy - Wayne Herbert

to Perth WA to attend 50th Birthday -Wayne Medic and was in 4th of July 1969, and attending the wounded, them.

going to Perth, another wounded, Terry Bates, was referred to a Anderson. During a Terry was very that not only was Dr, surgeon that attended 4th of July 1969, but he situation very well, and attention to Peter

information to himself Wayne's Birthday, where

Editor's Note.

The details and photo kindly submitted by Geoff Pearson

**OPERATION
"CAMDEN"
WOUNDED
BEING
MOVED TO
THE LZ FOR
EVACUATION**



**OPERATION
'CAMDEN'
AUSTRALIAN
LOSSES:
3 KIA
61 WOUNDED**