

ISSUE 4

July 2001

# TIGER TALES



## NEWSLETTER OF THE 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

<http://www.sci.net.au/londonb>

### EDITOR'S DESK

for the help of our volunteers.  
*Brian London - Editor.*

As this is the year of the volunteer I feel it is appropriate to thank all of our volunteers for their dedication and hard work in making our association a success.

We are fortunate to have a Committee and a number of members who are willing to go above and beyond, so to speak, to ensure the 5 RAR Association continues to be one of the strongest of the Regimental Associations.

I would like to thank personally Ron Hamlyn and Ted Harrison for their invaluable assistance in helping me publish our newsletter. Tiger Tales is our main link with nearly 900 members and I would find it impossible to maintain the pace if it were not

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#### Background Image

The background image was painted by Robert Keen. Robert served with Pioneers in 1966 with the battalion. His art is on display with the Vietnam Voices Exhibition touring Australia.



**WANT TO WIN THIS FRAMED COLOUR *DUST OFF* PRINT?**

The print is from an original oil painting by a RAR member Brian Wood. Brett Williams of 'The Military workshop' Brisbane has donated print number 5 to the association valued at \$274.00. and will be framed by the association so it can take pride of place in the winner's home. The winner will need a fair space to display this magnificent print as it measures over 800 mm by 600 mm. The print is signed by the artist and distinguished members of The Royal Australian Regiment i.e. Keith Payne V.C., Tim Fisher MP, Maj Gen 'Digger James and other notable persons {depending on print number} Print number 5 will come with a Certificate of Authenticity, decorative wooden frame, acid free backing and be incased in glass – delivered to the winner by registered post. It will be difficult to put a value on the finished product except to say, it will be a collectors item.

The 5 RAR Association invites members to purchase tickets at **\$5.00.** per ticket. A page of tickets will be printed over July and November issues of Tiger Tales. Members can purchase one or as many tickets as required. Each edition will carry a page of four tickets, or reproduce as many as you want. **Please ensure you fill in the details on each and every ticket.** Make the cheque or money order out to the **5 RAR Association** and send to me Brian London PO Box 422 Batemans Bay NSW 2536 -All proceeds will be returned to the association's fund. All tickets will be sent to the committee for a draw January 2002.

I have a sample copy {Marked as such} and I can assure members you will be proud to own print number 5 – Brian London Editor.

Note 1. Do not make cheques payable to me.

Please print clearly **DUST OFF TICKET DRAW** **\$ 5.00.**

**FULL NAME**.....

**ADDRESS**.....

..... Phone ..... Signed.....

Please print clearly **DUST OFF TICKET DRAW** **\$5.00.**

**FULL NAME**.....

**ADDRESS**.....

..... Phone ..... Signed.....

Please print clearly **DUST OFF TICKET DRAW** **\$5.00**

**FULL NAME**.....

**ADDRESS**.....

..... Phone ..... Signed.....

Please print clearly **DUST OFF TICKET DRAW** **\$5.00**

**FULL NAME**.....

**ADDRESS**.....

..... Phone ..... Signed.....

- Your check list – a. Have I filled in every ticket sent? ( Remember, you can purchase 1, 2, 3, or 4 tickets as well as reproducing as many as you like BUT YOU MUST COMPLETE EACH TICKET )**
- b. Have I sent the correct amount of money?**
  - c. Have I sent my tickets and cheque to – B. London PO Box 422 Batemans Bay NSW 2536 ?**
  - d. Have I made my cheque payable to the 5 RAR Association? – Not made out to B. London.**

Battalion Headquarters  
5<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
The Royal Australian Regiment (08) 8935 3014  
Binh Ba Lines  
Roberston Barracks  
PALMERSTON NT 0830

## **5/7 RAR UPDATE FEB – MAY 01**

The battalion welcomed back LT COL M.G. Tucker, MBE (a previous PL COMD and ADJT) to take up the reigns as the Commanding Officer and the previous Commanding Officer, LT COL S.C. Gould, DSC was posted to the UK to assume an instructor position at the Staff College in Camberley.

The significant event for the Tiger Battalion so far this year has been the ADF HQ directed Single Entitlement Document (SED) Review. The SED Review scrutinised every manpower position and item of equipment that the unit believed it was entitled to and if it wasn't justifiable it was removed. All units across the Army will eventually undertake the process and it has been designed to remove hollowness from units. The positive outcome from the review has been the increase from 553 ARA positions to 607. The increase in personnel has mainly occurred in the area of RAEME support to the battalion's 85 A vehicles.

Currently part of the battalion is on exercise in Shoalwater Bay for Tandem Thrust with US forces and will be joined by the rest of the unit for the 1 Bde exercise Predators Gallop and return to Darwin by a combination of land, sea and air by early July. So for some a ten week stint in the field.

The B Coy group is currently at Rifle Company Butterworth and will undertake a number of live fire exercises with the Malaysian and Singaporean forces and are due to return to Darwin early August.

The unit recently held a reception in the area museum to showcase the battalion's history and memorabilia. The activity was well attended by representatives from government, local business and local 5 RAR and 7 RAR association members. A substantial amount of work has gone into the research and presentation of the collection and if you are ever in Darwin please feel free to drop in during work hours to have a look and pass any comment.

The battalion participated in the recent Darwin City ANZAC Day parade. The CO led the battalion and directly behind him were members of 5 RAR and 7 RAR heading the rest of the unit. It was great to witness a good turn out of the olds and bolds and the significance was not lost on the younger soldiers.

Presently an ambitious plan is on the drawing board for the battalion and that is the creation of a Memorial Walk similar to the one at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, in memory of those soldiers from 5 RAR and 7 RAR who died on active service. The unit believes it is important to have a local focal area in order for the newer soldiers to understand a little more about their unit history. Liaison with the QLD Branch of the RAR Association has been established to gather information and the plan is to officially open the Memorial Walk on ANZAC Day 2002, prior to the unit's second tour to East Timor.

An invitation to the Memorial Walk opening will be extended to all RAR members past and present and it is certainly anticipated that a number of family representatives will take the opportunity to unveil their family members memorial plaque.

The current plan is to conduct a dawn service within the unit area, participate in the Darwin ANZAC Day parade and hold a lunch for all battalion members their families and all RAR members and their families. Expressions of interest will be passed separately to the 5 RAR and 7 RAR associations.

The CO would like to thank the RAR Foundation for its kind donation of \$200 for the 2001 RAR Foundation Prize. CPL Greig was presented with a number of military history books for achieving the student of merit award on the recent unit sponsored Subject 2 CPL course. Part of the donation will be used for a similar award for the CPL promotion course towards the end of this year and will include a copy of the recently released 5 RAR book 'Crossfire'.

'Willy' the pig is not the only one to go feral on the odd occasion in Darwin and recently was witnessed head butting two dingoes out of her pen and still refuses injections from the local vet. Due to the tyranny of distance the unit uses a local Sumatran Tiger 'Sabre' from Crocodylus Park for some ceremonial duties and 'Sabre' will see his next outing during the battalion's Freedom of Darwin parade in conjunction with unit birthday celebrations later in the year.

The Tiger battalion continues to grow in strength in the frontiers of Darwin. Joining the expanded Ready Deployment Force and the revision of the unit's degrees of notice to move for Military Support and War Fighting operations has attracted resources to train and the culture of being a short readiness organisation has been adopted by all.

2IC  
5/7 RAR

**REUNION REMINDER**  
**TRACKER PLATOON SECOND**  
**TOUR**

Tracker Platoon is arranging a reunion for second tour members on Anzac Day 2002 – Sydney at this stage. Members interested please contact;

**Peter Chapman 20 Pickworth  
Retreat, Pelican Point Bunbury WA  
6230 – pchapo@bigpond.com**

or;

**John Humphries  
PO Box 3168 Batehaven NSW 2536**

**02 44727387**

**A. COY**  
**1 PLATOON**

Reunion of 1 platoon and CHQ – both tours.

Location – Yamba north coast NSW.

**Weekend 24 –26 August 2001.**

**Contact**

**Norm carrington  
03 – 97253536**

Information by Ted Harrison



**STATE REPS**

Due to a change of state reps in two states, no list will be published in this issue until the association can find replacements.

**LOST MATE**

John E. Bilston is looking for a lost mate. His name is Robert E.Box – C. Company first tour. Last known to be in the Ferntree Gully area in Victoria. John can be contacted on – 039 338 9596

**BATTLE BINH BA**

Has anyone photographs of Binh Ba.? A platoon in Wagga Wagga would like photos of the village and soldiers involved. I will ensure their return or, pay for copies. Please send to Brian London PO Box 422 Batemans Bay NSW 2536.



Major Mick Randal Crystal Boland ( Daughter of Garry Boland ) and John Burrige

The draw for the 'Dust off' framed colour print will close on the 31 December 2001. All tickets must reach me – Brian London PO Box 422 Batemans Bay NSW 2536, before the above date. Be sure to make out your cheque to the 5 RAR Association. The print as shown in this issue is only a sample as there is signature section below the main picture, together with the RAR & RAAF Badge. Don't miss out on this opportunity to own print number 5 of 400. Ed.



Tony Bates, Claude Ducker, Sandy McKinnaon, Barry Morgan – Anzac Day Canberra 2001  
Tony was wounded by mines in July 1969. Sandy was wounded twice, on the 4 July and again on 31 July 1969. Barry was seriously wounded on the last operation. Served on to become a Lt, Col only recently retired.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT – AND VISIT TO KOREA

Your Committee again in early April and discussed a number of matters including a reprint of book 'The Year of the Tiger' and the question of a new Association Plaque. Both these matters need needed further investigation. We mainly discussed the holding of an AGM, possibly later this year, to which State Representatives would be assisted to attend to represent state members. We are still waiting a response on this from some Representatives.

The main activity over our recent months was Anzac Day and although I was away overseas at the time, I hear most gatherings were well attended by members; numbers were a little down on the previous year. Members will be pleased to hear, that after a long battle, and thanks to Kerry O'Connor of Victoria, Reg Sutton was made a T.P.I. I visit Reg, who is now in a nursing home in Canberra, and while he remains in a very poor condition he is least in a position to be better cared for and his wife assisted.

I was fortunate, over the Anzac Day period, to have been invited to join a group of 30 Korean War Veterans to return to South Korea for the 50th Anniversary of the war. The 30 veterans consisted of primarily an Army group of 1, 2, and 3 Battalions and proportionate representation from the Navy, Air Force, Nurses, and widows.

Of the 17,000 Australians who served between 1950 – 53, - 339 were KIA {293 soldiers and 41 RAAF} 1200 were wounded and 29 become POW's. Over 4 million people were killed during the war mainly Korean & Chinese but 37,000 U.N. troops died, mainly US, from the 22 countries that went to help South Korea.

Our trip of some 10 days included:

- A ceremony at the Korean National War Cemetery and War memorial – Seoul.
- A major UN service at the UN Cemetery -- Pusan where all Australian KIA are buried and the missing commemorated.
- A dinner attended by 2000 South Korean Veterans where we were presented with Korean War medals.
- A visit to PANMUNJOM in the Demilitarized Zone between North & South Korea. Although the war had finished in 1953, no peace treaty had been concluded. I was amazed at the high-level state of war readiness that existed on the South Korean side, which we could see and obviously on the North Korean side we were told. Troops, tanks, and guns face each other in a constant state of combat readiness. At Panmunjun {where truce negotiations take place} we could photograph South & North Korean guards who face each other unarmed, but in the aggressive 'Tae Kwan Do' of readiness to attack! Even though the war is over, someone has not yet got the message.
- We visited another site in the Demilitarized Zone very close to the heart of the Australian soldiers, the battlefields of MARYANG SAN, 355, and the HOOK. Many of us present had been WIA on these features and it was memorable to see the same ground 50 years later.

We also spent a day the battlefield of KAPYONG where 3 RAR made military history in 1951 holding a major Chinese attack. We walked down the old Company positions {and still found South Korean Army units still dug in guarding the approach to SEOUL} Unfortunately, the hill where 'A' Company 3 RAR, who took the main brunt of the attack, had been bulldozed away to make room for a factory—such was progress evident in South Korea. Indeed none of us could equate the war torn cities and landscape of the 1950's with the modern, high rise, economic society of the modern South Korea.

Despite there being no peace, we left the country feeling satisfied that we had done our part in fulfilling our Government's intentions and requirements of that time—exactly as we in 5 RAR did to fulfil our Government's in South Vietnam in 1969 – 70.

## **NEXT ISSUE OF TIGER TALES**

From the Editor,

In the next issue of Tiger Tales, an article will be published written by Reg Sutton, the Commanding officer of 'A' Company 5 RAR 69/70. There is insufficient time to include, in this issue, the commencement of Reg Sutton's comprehensive overview of the operations in Vietnam. Our President has requested that I introduce the document to be published: - editor.

### **'OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM'**

In the hope to encourage others to submit articles on operations in Vietnam, what will follow over the next editions of Tiger Tales is a paper written some years ago by the then Major Reg Sutton, the officer commanding 'A' Company during 69/70.

Reg was an outstanding soldier and Company Commander and I commend his paper to all who served in Vietnam.

I also encourage members of the Association to comment over any matters raised— I know Reg would welcome all views. I have asked the editor to attempt to publish the comments received.

Colin Kahn.

### **A LETTER FROM Vo Xuan Thu Representative of the war Veterans Liaison Committee Member of the 33 Regiment South Vietnam Liberation Army October 2000 – Vung Tau.**

In 1999 Merv Hains, ex 7 RAR and president of the Cairns RSL Sub Branch went on a holiday to Vietnam.

During the trip he visited the White Palace in Vung Tau and meet a guide Vo Thi Hoa. She was of great assistance in showing Merv around Vung Tau and Phuoc Tuy Province. On his return to Australia, Merv suggested that we sponsor her to learn English at a school in Cairns.

She subsequently arrived and was billeted out to a number of Vietnamese families. We found out that her father was in the NVA and still lived in the north.

She currently lives with her Uncle in Vung Tau who had fought against us in Phuoc Tuy.

Peter Turner has sent me a fax from Vo Xaun Thu and I will publish it in the next issue of Tiger Tales.

Because of deadlines, I was unable to hold Tiger Tales to include the above articles in the July issue.

Brian London – editor – email – londonb@sci.net.au — web pages <http://www.sci.net.au/londonb>



REST IN PEACE

The 5 RAR Association regrets to inform members of the passing of three of our comrades.

**William Murphy.  
Michael Ridgeway.  
Allan Walker.**

**William Murphy – served with ‘A’ Company during the first tour.  
Michael Ridgeway – served with ‘D’ Company first tour.  
Allan Walker – served with Support Company Signal Platoon first tour.**

**William Murphy passed away suddenly in June 2001**

**Michael Ridgeway passed away on the 1/7/01 in Adelaide and was an active member of the Port Lincoln Vietnam Veterans Federation for many years. His wife Bridgette died a few years ago. His children, Nick, Kelly and Matt and a grandson, Cane, survive Michael. Greg Negus spoke highly of him as a soldier.**

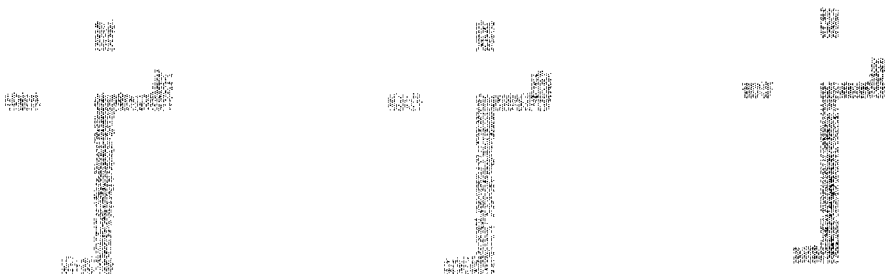
**Allan Walker passed away on the 25th June 01. Allan was a National Serviceman and served with distinction as a member of Signal Platoon. Tom**

**Case, who was a good mate of Allan, wrote:**

**‘I lost a mate today, and he’s taken part of me away,  
But as I grow older, I’ll always remember,  
He’s there beside my shoulder’**

*The Fifth Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association extends our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of William, Michael, and Allan.*

**“Lest We Forget”**



**APPLICATION TO JOIN & RENEW MEMBERSHIP TO THE 5 RAR ASSOCIATION**  
**PO BOX 817 GPO SYDNEY 1043**

FULL NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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

PHONE.....E-MAIL.....

I am a new member.

I wish to renew membership

I enclose my cheque-money order for **\$25.00 for 5 years membership.**

Signature.....Date.....

5 RAR OFFICE USE

**5RAR ITEMS FOR SALE**

**5 RAR ASSOCIATION – GPO BOX 817 GPO SYDNEY 1043**

1. 5 RAR TIE @\$15.00.  (Number) \$.....

2. CAR STICKER @\$3.  \$.....

3. CAPS @ \$13.00.  \$.....

4. BOOK  
VIETNAM TASK   
@ \$28.00. \$.....

TOTAL \$.....\*

FULL NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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

I enclose my cheque for \$.....\* Signature.....Date.....

5 RAR OFFICE USE