

TIGER



ISSUE N°: 5 December 2003

5 RAR Association Magazine

TALES

President's Christmas Message

In wishing everyone health and happiness for Christmas and the New Year, I would remind you again of our Battalion Reunion to be held in Canberra in 2005 (see details in this issue) and how we want all who can, to attend.

It is now over thirty years since we've returned, and we're not getting younger. We should make every effort to renew the friendships forged in Vietnam. The older I get, the more precious I realize are the bonds we made with each other in war—bonds that only we who were there can understand.

Start saving now and put the time aside for 2005, and in the framework of the Battalion Reunion get your sections, platoons and companies together. Contact your mates to ensure they are coming and let us make this reunion **A BIG ONE**.

It is of concern to me to hear from, and of, the numbers of our soldiers who are experiencing health problems. With time marching upon us all, we should be even more prepared to look out for, and look after, each other and our families.

To all members of the Association, their families, and to the kin whose loved ones have passed on, I wish you "**JOYOUS FESTIVE SEASON**", and if you are traveling away this year, please take care on the roads and return safely ■

Colin Kahn
Brig



Fifth Battalion
The Royal Australian Regiment
Association Website

<http://www.netspace.net.au/~harrison>
Webmaster: Edmund "Ted" Harrison



2005 Battalion Reunion in Canberra

The 5 RAR Association National Executive decided to hold the 2005 Battalion Reunion in Canberra on the weekend closest to the Battalion's 40th Birthday. **Fri. 25th Feb. to Sun. 27th Feb. 2005 has been selected.** A Planning Sub-Committee was formed to explore all options & report to the National Committee. The planning team consists of Terry Duffy, Roger Wainwright, Tim Donnelly, Claude Ducker, Norm Goldspink, Colin Kahn & Barry Morgan. As the implementation phase is entered more Canberra members will be asked to assist.

The committee chose the date as being significant to 5 RAR & not clashing with other major events in Canberra. An Outline Program was formulated to suit such a major reunion & to keep cost down for Members. Suitable venues for the size & budget of the function were also investigated. The ACT Convention Bureau proved very helpful. The Hellenic R.S.L. Club, in Woden was building a Function Centre big enough to cater to our numbers & bookings are in place for both the Welcome Reception on Friday 25th Feb. & Reunion Dinner, Sat. 26th February 2005. Cost to Members for both functions will be between \$100 and \$110. Committee has applied for a Grant from DVA & if successful, subsidies will apply. Details to follow in the next T.T.

Listed are the Coordinators appointed for events & activities.

<i>Welcome, Registration & Reception</i>	-	<i>Claude Ducker</i>
<i>Annual General Meeting</i>	-	<i>Barry Morgan</i>
<i>2005 Reunion Dinner</i>	-	<i>Tim Donnelly</i>
<i>Sunday Church Service at AWM</i>	-	<i>Norm Goldspink</i>
<i>Plaque Presentation to AWM</i>	-	<i>Colin Kahn</i>
<i>Accommodation</i>	-	<i>Terry Duffy</i>
<i>Memorabilia</i>	-	<i>Roger Wainwright</i>

The AGM will be held at The Canberra R.S.L. Club, Moore Street, Canberra City (Civic) & commence at 0930 hours, upstairs in the Gallipoli Room.

Suitable accommodation venues, preferably close to function venues, posed a challenge to Terry. Hotels & motels close to the Woden Town Centre (on the south side of Canberra)- north of the lake near CBD & the AWM have been identified & he has arranged discounts for 5 RAR Members at the nearby Canberra South Motor Park on Canberra Ave. Fyshwick. Hotels and motels who are offering discounts are listed herein. **Please book accommodation by 31st Oct. 2004 to obtain your discounts.** Further information regarding accommodation is available on our web site and details are included in this edition as a separate notice.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the 2005 Reunion Planning Committee ■

Barry Morgan

THE ARMY DOC



2003 is the Centenary of the foundation of the Australian Army Medical Corps (later Royal – the RAAMC).

Tony White (first tour RMO) is seeking stories, yarns and reminiscences from your army days – the good, bad, funny or ugly – of the DOC, the RAP, Company medics and stretcher-bearers.

All will be acknowledged. Anonymity will be assured if requested ■

Contact: **Tony White**
Email: awhite@mail.usyd.edu.au

PO Box 1240
Bondi Junction
NSW 1355

Ph: 02 9399 6442
Fax: 02 9387 2609

“Laying up of the Battalion’s colours”

Gentlemen, whilst we have had no formal advise or details, it is believed that 5/7th Battalion is to lay up the old colours of 5 RAR and 7 RAR at Kapooka, Wagga , NSW.

We had hoped to lay up our colours at the Australian War Museum in Canberra during the Reunion in 2005; however, it appears that this will not happen. With the uncertainty of events, we are unable to plan any major Battalion activity but I urge all members to attempt to attend this historic occasion.

As information on the ceremony in Wagga becomes available, we will advise all State Representatives, post the details on our website, publish and mail out “Tiger Tales” in early March instead of April ■

Brig C. Kahn

HELP: EDITOR URGENTLY NEEDS ARTICLES FOR TIGER TALES

Korea Remembered

Following is a copy of a speech by the Premier of NSW, Mr. Bob Carr.

It may be recalled that many former members of 5RAR had previously served in Korea with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions. The late Col John Warr was a Platoon Commander with 3RAR, in which I also served, whilst Brig Colin Kahn was Platoon Commander in 1 RAR.

It would be appreciated if you could find room in the next issue to print the Premier's speech as a reminder to those that served with 5RAR, of the sacrifices made by their regimental predecessors and the high standards set. Standards carried forward to East Timor, Iraq and more recently, Solomon Islands.

*Regards
Ross R. Burns*

speech by
Premier Bob Carr
Reception for Korean War Veterans
Sunday, August 31, 2003

Some wars are held to be glamorous. But the Korean War was never that. Some are renowned as decisive.

But Korea was not that either.

Some wars evoke vivid images and memorable turns of phrase. But in the conflict we commemorate today, there were few of those. And yet this war was hugely important nonetheless.

You and the 339 comrades who never made it home did something that had never before happened in history.

You fought on behalf of the international community, not a war of aggression and terror, but a quest of liberation under the great Charter of the United Nations signed five years earlier by a world exhausted from bloodshed and genocide to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and "take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace."

Soldiers, sailors and airmen from 21 nations, by their many sacrifices, countless acts of individual bravery and patient courage, upheld that Charter and in so doing, they secured the Republic of Korea in her liberty and set her on a path over five uncertain decades to prosperity and democracy.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the wars end, the day you laid down your arms and counted, at last, the blessings of peace. But we are deeply conscious that 1953 did not heal the enmity between the two Koreas, much less bring them unity. That remains an abiding aspiration for the Korean people and for a vigilant global community.

The story of a reunited Korea is yet to be written, in our time, we dare to hope. But, you have already inscribed the chapter of those three cold, harsh, bloody years -1950 to 1953 - not by historians or writers or politicians but in the legend of Anzac and in the heart of a nation. If we are tempted to forget that - and too often Korea is carelessly called the "Forgotten War", one need only reflect on the achievements of the Australian forces.

For example:

- The decisive role played by the RAAF 77th Squadron in

stemming the enemy advance in the wars first uncertain days.

- The bold inshore patrols of HMAS Murchison that constantly exposed its fearless captain, Allen Dollard and his crew, to perilous fire from shore batteries.
- The Battle of Kap Yong, an Australian feat of arms without peer for audacity and success.

In this great clash, strategically important for the defence of Seoul as well as tactically brilliant, a small group of Australians fought an entire enemy division to a standstill - outnumbered nine to one.

We're vividly reminded of this epic battle in the Korean War Honour Roll Quilt on display here today.

A representation of Kap Yong's tortuous battleground, woven in traditional Korean materials and patterns, forms its centrepiece.

This gracious tribute, like today's reception, is a summons to remembrance. So let us remember these things today:

- That Korea was a necessary war and - unlike many - a just one;
- That it was fought valiantly in the finest traditions of Anzac;
- That those who went there upheld and embellished the honour of their country; and
- That those who died there did not do so in vain.

My friends, a nation makes no higher call on its citizens than the summons to war. In return, the nation vows to sustain its soldiers in the field, to embrace them upon their return, and hold them high in memory and honour.

That is why the Australian people will never let Korea be the forgotten war. Nor you to become its forgotten soldiers.

So long as the Commonwealth of Australia exists upon this earth, and tales are told of men in slouch hats who went through hell and came back unbroken, we will remember you ■

VISIT OF GOODWILL TO VIETNAM

Pte Bill O'Mara served in the sixth Platoon, B Coy for the 69/70 tour.

After the war Bill decided to assist the Vietnamese people and to this end has sponsored a child, at considerable personal financial cost, in the HIEN district near DANANG.

His sponsorship is managed through World Vision and according to letters and photos he receives, his donations appear to reach the child and her family. He has paid for farm animals, books, food, medicines etc.

He Now wishes to assist other local villages in the HIEN District and intends to undertake, a trail bike ride in 2004 from HO CHI MINH city To HANOI, some 2,000 kilometers.

His aim is to help the villagers by obtaining sponsorships for the distance of the ride at \$'s per km. Assistance in any form that you may be able to provide to Bill, in this endeavour of good will, would be greatly appreciated. *Bill may contacted at:*

16 Coota St, Cowra, NSW 2794 or (02) 6342 1274 ■

Trackers 69/70 Tour

A great get together last Anzac Day at Warren NSW, on the Macquarie River. We had not seen each other since Vietnam and it was fantastic to catch up.

I'm looking forward to seeing all "Trackers" at the "Battalion Reunion" in Canberra 2005 ■

All the Best
Neil (Barney) Simpson

Photo below L—R

Neil (Barney) Simpson
Paul (Butch) Baker
Dave (Moss) Barter
Don (Pinocchio) Oakley



REUNION

Tracker Platoon **69/70 Tour**

We are trying to get as many of the boys together as possibly to fit in with the 2005 Battalion Reunion

Contacts:

Peter Chapman
Ph: 08 9724 1461
Email: pchapo@bigpond.com

John Humphries
Ph: 02 4471 3430
Email: humpty@austarnet.com.au

REUNION

12 Platoon D Coy **69 / 70 tour**

Evans Head NSW
12 to 14 March 2004

Contact:

Rod Lees
Ph: 02 6672 3457
Mob: 0438 872 772

**Accommodation must be booked
by 31 Dec 03**

Trainer Profile

LT. Karinya Kosh

DOB: ** *** ****

Position: Pl Comd, 5 Platoon ARTC

Hobbies: Sports, Rollerblading, Reading

Interests: Travelling, Music

Birthplace: Sydney

The Beginnings...

I grew up as the middle child between my brother Barrett (21) and sister Bernessa (25) gaining my HSC at St George Girls High School, Kogarah in 1997. During this time I also played representative hockey, and lacrosse for NSW.

I had been successful in my application to attend the Australian Defence Force Academy and began 1998.

The Training...

Upon arriving at ADFA, I was allocated a foster family, and was lucky enough to receive Ruth and Terry Duffy, who have become a second family.

I studied a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Politics and played the piccolo in the Academy Band. I also participated in many sports, becoming President of the Academy Inline Hockey Club, as well as attending the Gallipoli Battlefield tour and trekking through the Himalayas.

2001 was the tactics and warfighting of the Royal Military College, Duntroon where I was a member of Long Tan Company, and on graduation allocated to RAAOC.



The Career...

I completed my LOBC (Logistic Officer Basic Course) at Bandiana and began my first posting as the Logistic Support Platoon Commander at 10 Force Support Battalion, Lavarack Barracks, Townsville. I was selected as a part of the QLD ADF Women's Hockey Team to play at the Combined Service Championships before deploying on Predators Gallop 02, Rockhampton and becoming OIC Support of the Battalion 4WD and Dirt Bike Ride Adventure Training Activity to Cape York.

I arrived at the Army Recruit Training Centre (ARTC), Kapooka in the heatwave of 01 Jan 03 to begin my Recruit Instructor and Small Arms Coaching Courses before taking over 5 Pl, A Coy. As well as raising 5 Pl and fighting through the Wagga Winter, I completed my LOIC (Logistic Officers Intermediate Course) at

Bandiana, travelled to the UK and Europe with my partner Joel, and managed to score the Mess Committee as my extra regimental appointment.

The Future...

2004 will see me returning to Townsville to take up a Logistic Ops position at 5 Avn Regt, and promoted to CAPT at the end of the year. During 2004, I also plan to begin my Masters of Business Administration at USQ ■

**ADDRESS TO THE 2/5TH
BATTALION ASSOCIATION
17 AUGUST 2003**

I deeply appreciate the privilege of being the guest of the 2/5th Battalion Association today and the honor of being invited to propose the toast to one of the only two Battalions that fought all the Kings enemies. I also welcome the opportunity to draw together some of the threads that help bind the original 5th Battalion 1st AIF, 2/5th Battalion 2nd AIF, and the 5th Battalion RAR of post WWII.

When I read your book, "Forward with the 5th" and of earlier actions in the middle East, Greece and Syria, those of you who fought in these theatres must have echoed the words of C. J. Dennis in "Digger Smith", when he wrote; "We've seen big things, and thought big things, and all the silly fuss, that used to get us rattled once seems very small to us now". Those words had the same resonance for you who fought around Tambu/Komiatum, for there, you did big things. You not only scaled the heights of that mountain but also climbed a pinnacle of personal endeavor and in so doing, wrote one of the brightest pages in history of your Battalion.

You along with other units of 17 Brigade earned the admiration of the army and gave us, a younger generation and a young 5 Battalion RAR an outstanding example to follow 20 years later in Vietnam.

We seem to be in a never ending time of Military Anniversaries and many occur around August.

Some 58 years ago in August the first Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and WWII ended in the Pacific.

On reading your book, I noticed an interesting coincidence. It was on this day 17th August, ninety three years ago that the original 5th was raised in Melbourne with men enlisting in drill halls throughout the city. And on the 19th the first Battalion parade was held at Victoria Barracks prior to marching into the tented Camp at Broadmeadows.

It was also about this time that the 5th would hold their Annual Anniversary to remember the Battle of POZIERES.

It was this month in Vietnam, 34 years ago that 5 RAR had a major engagement against the HQ of the enemy in South Vietnam entrenched in a complex of 800 bunkers (lessons learnt by 2/5th about attacking bunkers on TAMBUR forgotten).

It is fifty years since the Queens Coronation to which we sent four Victoria Cross winners from the Pacific. I was fortunate to have been on the contingent as a Korean War Representative. I cannot remember if the 2/5th was represented.

It is also fifty years since the end of the Korean War. I had an interesting visit to commemorate the end of the war last year and in the light of the current tensions it was significant to see the existing confrontation of forces.

For the 2/5th it is 64 years in November since you were raised in 1939 in Puckapunyal, Victoria and what followed was 3000 men serving in the Battalion which over 6 years fought Italians,

Germans, Vichy French and finally the Japanese and in so doing elevated the Battalion to its place in our Army's history.

TAMBU

To you who fought and to the many who died at TAMBU; you did more than your share in the making of that history.

The offensives by 17 Brigade around TAMBU and KOMIATUM, were as the Commander acknowledged, "the toughest operational problem ever faced by the Brigade. DEXTER in his book "New Guinea Offensives" calls it the near perfect actions, good planning and faultless execution by the troops.

I was personally struck with what could have been a similarity in the actions to the original 5th at Gallipoli in April 1915.

The TAMBU area was in mountainous terrain with steep narrow ridges converging from all directions—put jungle vegetation on the same type of hill at Gallipoli and you have similar terrain.

Both battles reveal instances of single file movement up narrow ridges and numerous small scale actions on narrow fronts with enemy fire from dominating positions - trenches at Gallipoli and bunkers at TAMBU.

The description of final assaults on TAMBU could relate to the heights stormed by the original 5th.

"We assaulted up 70 degree slopes against a semi circle of well prepared defensive positions located 50 ft below the peak of Mt TAMBU which housed a fortress of 10 bunkers with log reinforced firing slits, all inter connected by tunnels and dug into the heart of the mountain". (also reminiscent of 5 RAR in Vietnam).

I read again of the company that held off repeated Japanese attacks on VIALS TRACK, of the two companies that held EASTERN and WESTERN Knolls against four days of Japanese attacks and of the companies at GOODVIEW JUNCTION.

Then I read a poem that an unknown soldier had written about TAMBU which almost says it all—let me in part remind you of the poem.

*"Upon Mick Walters track they stood
And gazed in awe at the task ahead
The hand to hand fighting that occurred
that day
Smashed the nip in no uncertain way
The nip incensed at the toe hold gained
Attacked at night in the pouring rain
Eight times these attacks were all in vain
They had meet their match and became
insane.
The nips attacked again that night
An earth tremor occurred that gave us a
fright
The noise we heard behind our back
Were the nips advancing up the back
track
John Smith filled his haversack with
grenades
And charged the nips up the steep grade
He reached the crest of Mt TAMBU
But was finally wounded in the Blue"*

I read with interest that most of the awards given to the Battalion for bravery were given for Sustained bravery rather than on single act, for the battle continued from July to mid August.

Ladies and gentlemen, would you please join me in a toast to a great Battalion, the 2/5th ■

Brig C. Kahn

**LETTER FROM A FARM KID NOW
AT THE MARINE CORPS RECRUIT
DEPOT IN SAN
DIEGO.**

Dear Ma and Pa

I am well, hope you are too. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before maybe all of the places are filled. I was restless at first because you got to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m., but am getting so I like to sleep late.

Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing.

Fella's got to shave but it is not so bad, t h e r e ' s w a r m w a t e r .

Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food. But tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food plus yours holds you till noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on "route" marches, which the Platoon Sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it is not my place to tell him different.

A "route march" is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks. The country is nice, but flat.

The Sergeant is like a schoolteacher. He nags some. The Capt. is like the school board. Majors and Colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next thing will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and it don't move. And it ain't shooting at you, like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges, they come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, cause they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home.

I'm about the best they got in this except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake. He joined up the same time as me. But I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds and he's 6'8" and weighs near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this game and come stamped in in ■

Your loving daughter
Gail

**It's hard to soar with eagles,
when you work with turkeys.**

But Hey!

**Turkeys don't get
sucked into jet engines.**



Paradox of our time

The paradox of our time is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways but narrower view points, we spend more but have less, and we buy more but enjoy less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences but less time, we have more degrees but less common sense, more knowledge but less judgment, more experts yet more problems, more medicines but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possession but reduced our values! We talk too much love too seldom, and hate too often. We have learned how to make a living but not a life.

We have added years to life but not life to years, we've been all the way to the moon and back yet have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbour. We have conquered outer space but not inner peace.

We have done larger things but not better, we've cleaned up the air and polluted the soul. We conquered the atom but not our prejudice. We write more but learn less.

We plan more but accomplish less, learned to rush but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies, yet we communicate less and less.

These are times of fast food and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses but more broken homes.

These are days of quick trips, disposable nappies, throw away morality and one night stands. Overweight bodies and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill.

It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom.

Remember, spend some time with your loved ones because they are not going to be around forever.

Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe because that little person will soon grow up and leave your side.

Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you because that is the only treasure you can give from the heart, and it doesn't cost a cent.

Remember, to say "I love you" to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it; a kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside you.

Remember, to hold hands and cherish the moment, for someday that person will not be there again; give time to love, give time to speak and give time to share the precious thoughts of your mind ■



A true yarn!!!

About a few guys from 6 Platoon B Coy. June 1969. But the title for this yarn is really about our mate...

“Robbo”

The players...

Pte. Peter **“Robbo”** Roberts
 Pte. **“Trevor”** Carter
 Pte. **“Bill”** O’Mara
 Cpl. **“Pete”** Pezet
 Col **“Colin”** Kahn.

We had only been back at the Dat a few days after the Battle of Binh Ba.

Friday night after the boozier closes Robbo and a few others returned to his tent to continue with the supply in the trunk under his bed.

By late Saturday morning Robbo is in a sorry state, but still alive. Pete suggests that he walk it off and Bill, you go with him. Just as well, as he needed steering along the road past BHQ and of course if I hadn’t been with him I wouldn’t be able to tell you all that happened.

Robbo was determined to get a bet on with one of the bookies. The first bloke we spot was Trevor Carter as he was coming out of the Chapel...I think he had been to confession again.

Robbo yells out to him.. “Hey Trev, got any good tips for me today?” The best tip I have for you Robbo is lunch! replies Trev..

“Lunch?” Robbo says to me. “Never heard of it...must be a bloody 2 year old”.

I suggested we go down to A Coy. And he can look up the bookie. As we near their kitchen, Robbo spots a sign out front that says... “Lunch 12 to 1” Jeez says Robbo, that’s the sorter odds I like.

We couldn’t find the bookie anywhere, so I said “let’s try Charlie Coy”. Robbo readily agrees, and off we go in search of their bookie.

As we get closer to Charlie Coy lines, Robbo spots another sign ...“Lunch 11 to 2”. “Bloody hell” says Robbo, “ their backing the damn thing in, ... maybe Trev knows something”.

“I gotta get a decent bet on, this could be me chance to clean up” says Robbo. Needless to say..not a bookie in sight and Robbo is not happy.

I finally convinced him that if he tries really hard, maybe we could get back to our lines at B Coy without him falling over.

With me, at around 9 stone ringing wet... I wouldn’t be able to carry him, so to his credit we were almost back at B Coy, when we spot yet another sign that says “Lunch 1 to 2”. “Oh no...will you look at that...the bloody thing is at odds on, Jeez their goes me chance to make a fortune” says Robbo.

Sadly, he slides down the sandbags at the boozier and wails loudly of his “loss”. He was abusing, swearing and cursing every bookie not in sight at the Dat, for not being where they should be on a Saturday morning, that is, very conspicuous.

His loud noise attracts the attention of a couple of MP’s who decide to march him

off to front Ghengis for being drunk and disorderly.

Kahn, being a fair minded CO, instructs the MP's to lock him up for a few hours and that he wouldn't charge a man who was in such a state. Robbo asks Ghengis .. "Sir,I want to know about Lunch?". Robbo, "forget Lunch", says Ghengis... "sober up first".

"Sober up first"? says Robbo. That bloody Trevor didn't know what he was talking about...thank God I didn't back lunch.

Who else would, some thirty years later own a race horse and call it "Balmy Bar"? Who else would have twin lambs and call one of them "Binh" and the other "Ba" ?

When I asked him how he could tell them apart he said " I cut the tail off the black one".

Who else would honour my wife Bev by naming another lamb "LB"...as Pete Wardrope referred to her back in 1969 (short for, "little beauty") and then, some months later when my wife enquires as to the health of "LB" Robbo says.... "we ate it". That's our mate "**Robbo**"

To all you guys of 5th Battalion, and for 6 Platoon especially....Thanks for the memories ■

Bill O'Mara



WARNING—Cracks found on military aircraft



Creating the Vietnam Vet

When the Lord was creating Vietnam veterans, He was into His 6th day of overtime when an angel appeared, "You're certainly doing a lot of fiddling around on this one." And God said, "Have you seen the specs on this order? A Nam vet has to be able to run 5 miles through the bush with a full pack on, endure with barely any sleep for days, enter tunnels his higher ups wouldn't consider doing, and keep his weapons clean and operable. He has to be able to sit in his hole all night during an attack, hold his mates as they die, go scout in unfamiliar territory known to be VC infested, and somehow keep his senses alert for danger. He has to be in top physical condition existing on 1 man rations and very little rest. And he has to have 6 pairs of hands."

The angel shook his head slowly and said, "6 pairs of hands....no way." "It's not the hands that are causing me problems....it's the 3 pairs of eyes a Nam vet has to have." "That's on the standard model?", asked the angel. The Lord nodded. "One pair that sees through elephant grass, another pair here in the side of his head for his mates, another pair here in front that can look reassuringly at his bleeding, fellow soldier and say, 'You'll make it'.....when he knows he won't."

"Lord, take a break, and work on this tomorrow." "I can't," said the Lord. "I already have a model that can carry a wounded soldier 1,000 yards during a fire-fight, calm the fears of the new replacements, and feed a family of four on a grunt's pay cheque."

The angel walked around the model and said, "Can it think?" "You bet," said the

Lord. "It can quote much of the MBI's, recite all his Unit Standing Orders, and engage in a search and destroy mission in less time than it takes for his fellow Aussies back home to discuss the morality of the War, and he can still keep his sense of humour. And you know what else? He can make a meal from a can of 'Ham and Beans', a dog biscuit, and maybe a little condensed milk, and feed all the guys in his bunker!"

"This Nam vet also has phenomenal personal control. He can deal with ambushes from hell, comfort a fallen soldier's family, and then read in his home town paper how Nam vets are baby killers, psychos, addicts, killers of innocent civilians."

The Lord gazed into the future and said, "He will also endure being vilified and spat on when he returns home, rejected and crucified by the very ones he fought for."

Finally, the angel slowly ran his finger across the vet's cheek, and said, "There's a leak...I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model." "That's not a leak", said the Lord. "That's a tear." "What's the tear for?" asked the angel. "It's for bottled up emotions, for holding fallen soldiers as they die, for commitment to that funny piece of cloth called the Aussie flag, for the terror of living with PTSD for decades after the war, alone with its demons with no one to care or help."

"You're a genius," said the angel, casting a gaze at the tear. The Lord looked very somber as if seeing down eternity's distant shores and said. **"I didn't put it there," ■**

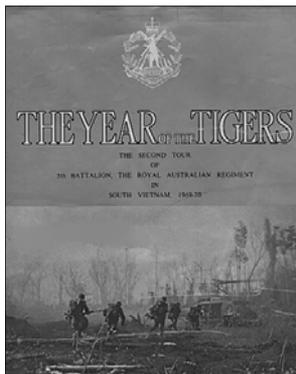
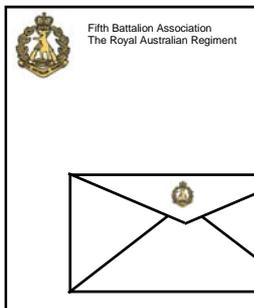
Please remit this form and payment to:
The Secretary
5 RAR Association
PO Box 432
BOWRAL NSW 2576

Please indicate use of this form

Joining / Renewing Membership
 Change of address
 Purchase of Memorabilia

Surname:	First Name/s:		
Address:		State:	P/ Code:
Home Ph:	Mob:	Email:	
Brief history of assoc / link with 5 RAR: (complete this part for membership applications only)			

Memorabilia	Tick Shirt Sizes Below			Price	Qty	Amount
Membership to Feb 2005				\$ 25		
Vietnam Task				\$ 28		
The Year of the Tigers				\$ 45		
Honour Roll				\$ 30		
Car Stickers				\$ 3		
Caps				\$ 13		
Ties				\$ 15		
TAC Plates				\$ 20		
Mini Banner				\$150		
5 RAR Plaque				\$ 45		
Stationery Set				\$ 20		
Polo Shirt Navy	Med	Large	X Large	\$ 28		
Polo Shirt White	Med	Large	X Large	\$ 28		
Chambray Shirt	Med	Large	X Large	\$ 38		
				Grand Total	\$	



New!!!
Fifth Battalion Association
Stationery Set
Badge & Title printed in GOLD
"Year of the Tigers"
Reprint



**“I am not a lazy bum! I am a potential workaholic
with highly developed stress management skills!”**

Your Committee and Representatives

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