

TIGER



ISSUE N° 6 April 2004
5 RAR Association Magazine

TALES

Laying up the Colours



DETAILS: PAGE 2

“LAYING UP 5 RAR COLOURS”

This matter generated comment from a number of members, mainly against the 5/7th Battalions decision to lay up the colours at Kapooka. However, the support for Kapooka over the Australian War Memorial (AWM) was just as strong.

In early 2003, the CO 5/7th Bn, who, as the current CO of the unit holding the colours and by army policy, has the right to decide where the colours are laid up, wrote to the President of the 5 RAR Association asking for views on the laying up location.

Our National Committee did not agree with the initial thoughts of 5/7th Bn to lay up the colours in that Battalions current location of Darwin. We proposed Canberra, as a central location where our members and the general public may, in the future, have better access.

Canberra was also the site of the AWM, the National Vietnam Memorial, and the site of a major reunion in 2005 as well as a possible site for future 5 RAR Reunions.

Several locations in Canberra were examined and the committee finally determined the AWM as the appropriate location. It was felt that the AWM was the main, national repository of Australian war and military history and the most visited war memorial in the country.

The Director AWM was approached and almost a year ago agreed to accept our colours. There was no guarantee that our colours would be permanently or immediately on display, but we expected at least our turn of display in an AWM Vietnam War Display. We also intended to propose a future “Colours Room” where all units colours could be laid up on mass display.

The CO 5/7th Bn has decided the colours would be laid up at Kapooka. It is believed that the 7th RAR Association had previously accepted Kapooka as the location for their colours.

The President of the 5 RAR Association wrote to the Colonel Commandant of the RAR, but his reply confirmed Kapooka as the site.

On 9 February 2004, the CO 5/7th Bn wrote to our president with the information detailed in *italics* on page 3.

“Thank you for your letter of 11th November 2003 requesting information on the laying up of the colours. As I canvassed with you earlier last year I have decided that the old colours of the Battalion will be laid up in the Soldiers’ Chapel at Kapooka.

The final resting-place of the colours was a matter that I devoted considerable attention to last year. I noted your Association’s wish for the 5th Battalion colours to be laid-up in the Australian War Memorial, however as in many things it is not always possible to satisfy everyone.

I stated in my original correspondence to you my preference (and that of the Battalion’s) was to lay up the colours in the Battalion’s home in Darwin. However, I believe that the Soldiers’ Chapel will provide a greater opportunity for veterans from the 5th, 7th and 5th/7th Battalions to view the colours, given that in the main they live in the South of the country. The Soldiers’ Chapel to my mind is the most appropriate location. The Chief of Army agrees and has directed that the Chapel is to be their laying up location.

In regard to the laying up of the old colours, this will occur at the Soldiers’ Chapel Kapooka on Friday 23rd April 2004. The ceremony will commence at 1100hrs and is expected to last for an hour.

As a part of the laying-up it is my intention to make available from around 0800hrs the 5th Battalion colours for those members of your Association who may wish to have their photograph taken with them. For the information of your members, there is also a march-out parade of around 150 recruits occurring on the same day. This means that there will be a premium placed on accommodation within Wagga Wagga so any accommodation bookings that your members may wish to make should be done at the earliest opportunity”.

In conclusion, our Colours will be laid up at Kapooka on the date and time mentioned above and those members of the Association who wish to attend are encouraged to do so and make their own arrangements ■

President's Message

I wish to send a warm “Thank You” all the members who sent “Get Well” messages following my recent stroke. Rest assured that with Pat’s care, I’m getting better every day.

Sincerely
Colin Kahn

2005 Battalion Reunion in Canberra

Friday 25th February to Sunday 27th February 2005

Program of Events

Date	Event	Venue	Start Time
25 Feb 05	Registration	Hellenic Club of Canberra 1 st Floor Function Centre	1830 hours
25 Feb 05	Welcome Reception	Hellenic Club of Canberra 1 st Floor Function Centre	1900 hours
26 Feb 05	5 RAR Association Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.)	Canberra R.S.L. Club Gallipoli Room	0930 hours
26 Feb 05	Free Time	Various	After A.G.M.
26 Feb 05	Reunion Dinner	Hellenic Club of Canberra 1 st Floor Function Centre	1900 hours
27 Feb 05	Remembrance Service and the Presentation of a Plaque	Australian War Memorial (AWM) Canberra	1000 hours
27 Feb 05	Sub-Unit Functions	Various	1200 hours

Venues

The Hellenic Club of Canberra is an R.S.L. Club located in Woden. The Welcome Reception (including Registration) and the Reunion Dinner will be held at the Hellenic Club of Canberra, Matilda Street, Phillip. Telephone number is 02 6281 0899.

The Canberra R.S.L. Memorial & Citizen's Club, 13 Moore Street, Canberra City (Civic) will host the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will commence at 0930 hours (9:30 am), upstairs in the Gallipoli Room. Telephone numbers are 02 6247 9109 and 02 6248 6171.

The Australian War Memorial (AWM) is located at the northern end of ANZAC Parade, at the junction with Limestone and Fairbairn Avenues. The church service and presentation will take place on the Western side of the AWM at 1000hrs on Sunday the 27th.

Accommodation

Terry Duffy has arranged a discount for 5 RAR Members at the closest Caravan Park, which is Canberra South Motor Park on Canberra Avenue, Fyshwick.

Canberra South Motor Park provides easy access to Woden, Civic Centre and the AWM. The hotels and motels, which have offered a discount, are shown separately. Members must book their accommodation by **31st October 2004** to obtain a discount. The accommodation venues will open bookings to the general public after 31 Oct 04.

If you have any problems with the accommodation providers listed, then please call Terry Duffy 02 6244 2407 (A.H.) or email: tduffy@netspeed.com.au.

Free Time

Based on the Survey responses, the Committee has programmed 'free time' on Saturday afternoon. Options for enjoying your free time in Canberra will be provided in the 2004 editions of Tiger Tales and on the 5 RAR website. In additions, a Canberra package will be available at the Registration Desk on Friday 25th February 2005 at the Hellenic Club of Canberra outside the Welcome Function venue.

Remembrance Service

Sunday morning has been devoted to Remembrance ceremonies at the Australian War Memorial (AWM). Those activities include a parade, church service and the presentation of a 5 RAR Plaque to the AWM. More details will be advised later.

2005 Battalion Reunion in Canberra

Sub Unit Reunions

Sunday 27th February 2005

Sub Unit Reunion Functions

Due to the large response on the Survey plus the number of emails about Sub-Unit activities, the Committee has programmed time on Sunday afternoon for Company or Platoon activities. We suggest that Sub-units book the venues as soon as possible as many functions bookings are taken 12 months in advance. Suitable venues include:

- Ainslie Football & Social Club, (02) 6248 8422;
- Canberra Labour Club, Belconnen, (02) 6251 5522;
- Canberra R.S.L Club, Civic, (02) 6247 9109 or (02) 6248 6171;
- Hellenic Club of Canberra, Phillip, (02) 6281 0899;
- Southern Cross Club Woden, Phillip, (02) 6283 7200;
- Southern Cross Yacht Club, Lotus Bay Yarralumla, (02) 6273 1784; and
- Southern Cross Yamba Sports Club, Phillip, (02) 6273 7300.

Please book your accommodation as soon as possible.

A SALUTE TO OUR AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS AND DEFENCE PERSONNEL

I sat in my seat of the Boeing 767 in Sydney Airport waiting for everyone to hurry and stow their carry-ons and grab a seat so we could start what I was sure to be a long, uneventful flight home.

With the huge capacity and slow moving people taking their time to stuff luggage far too big for the overhead and never paying much attention to holding up the growing line behind them, I simply shook my head knowing that this flight was not starting out very well. I was anxious to get home to see my loved ones so I was focused on "my" issues and just felt like standing up and yelling for some of these clowns to get their act together.

I knew I couldn't say a word so I just thumbed through the magazine from the seat pocket in front of me. You know, it's really getting rough when you resort to the over priced, useless sky mall crap to break the monotony. With everyone finally seated, we just sat there with the cabin door open and no one in any hurry to get us going although we were well past the scheduled take off time. No wonder the airline industry is in trouble I told myself.

Just then, the attendant came on the intercom to inform us all that we were being delayed. The entire plane let out a collective groan. She resumed speaking to say "We are holding the aircraft for some very special people who are on their way to the plane and the delay shouldn't be more than 5 minutes". The word came after waiting six times as long as we were promised that "I" was finally going to be on my way home.

Why the hoopla over "these" people?; I was expecting some celebrity or sport figure to be the reason for the hold up. Just get their butts in a seat and lets hit the gas I thought. The attendant came back on the speaker to announce in a loud and excited voice that we were being joined by several Australian Soldiers returning home from Afghanistan!!!

Just as they walked on board, the entire plane erupted into applause. The men were a bit taken by surprise by the 340 people cheering for them as they searched for their seats. They were having their hands shook and touched by almost everyone who was within an arm's distance of them as they passed down the aisle. One elderly woman kissed the hand of one of the Soldiers as he passed by her. The applause, whistles and cheering didn't stop for a long time.

When we were finally airborne, "I" was not the only civilian checking his conscience as to the delays in getting "me" home, finding my easy chair, a cold beverage and the remote in my hand. These men had done for all of us and I had been complaining silently about "me" and "my" issues. I took for granted the everyday freedoms I enjoy and the conveniences of the Australian way of life. I took for granted others paid the price for my ability to moan and complain about a few minutes delay to "me". These heroes were going home to their loved ones after several months of fighting against the terrorists that haunt our society.

I attempted to get my selfish outlook back in order and minutes before we landed I suggested to the flight attendant that she announce over the speaker a request for everyone to remain in their seats until our hero's were allowed to gather their things and be first off the plane.

The cheers and applause continued until the last Soldier stepped off and we all rose to go about our too often taken for granted everyday freedoms..... I felt proud of them. I felt it an honour and a privilege to be among the first to welcome them home and say "Thank You" for a job well done I vowed that I will never forget that flight nor the lesson learned. I can't say it enough, THANK YOU to those Veterans and active servicemen and women who may read this and a prayer for those who cannot because they are no longer with us.

Author Unknown

Submitted by: Terry James (J.P.) 11 Pl D Coy, 2nd Tour

NOTICE TO PEOPLE WHO VISIT MY HOME

The dog lives here, but you don't.
 If you don't want hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture
 Yes, he has some disgusting habits. So do I and so do you. What's your point?
 It's his nature to try to sniff your crotch. Please, please feel free to sniff his.
 I like him a lot better than I like most people.
 To you he's a dog. To me he's an adopted son who is short, hairy, walks on all four and doesn't speak well; I have no problem with any of those things.
 Dogs are better than kids. They eat less, don't ask for money all the time, are easier to train, come when called, never drive your car or go out with drug-using friends, don't drink, don't worry about wearing the latest fashions, don't wear your clothes, don't need a gazillion dollars for college, and if they fall pregnant, you can sell the pups.

The following was forwarded by Ross Burns (5 RAR) and will be of interest to members on DFRDB

16th January 2004

Hon. Jackie KELLY
Member for Lindsay

Dear Jackie

**SUBJECT: DEFENCE FORCE
RETIREMENT and DEATH
BENEFITS SCHEME**

As you represent me, and our local members in the House, and I am a recipient of a Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefit (DFRDB) Pension, I wish you to raise the following matter in parliament, in order to rectify the following inequitable situation.

In 1997 the Government legislated to index Social Security Pensions and Veterans Affairs Service Pensions to "male total average weekly earnings" (MTAWE) or CPI, whichever is the greater. Our Pensions DFRDB on the other hand has remained **Indexed to CPI**, which was legislated for in 1972.

In the six years since 1997 the increase in the wages index as compared to **CPI is 14%**. Further, since 1985 the **wages index has increased by 23% compared to the CPI**.

In December 2002 the Senate Select Committee on Superannuation in reviewing Commonwealth funded pensions recommended the Government index Superannuation Benefits to **MTAWE or CPI whichever is higher**. The same committee in 2000 made a similar recommendation as to the **inadequacy of the CPI as a measure of preserving living standards**.

Despite these recommendations the Government's latest advice, Dec 2002, is that **the Government is not considering any change to Military Superannuation indexation arrangements**, even though **Defence accept that the CPI is not a measure of community living standards**.

The 60,000 retired servicemen and women, who served in the armed forces for 20 years or more, and their widows/widowers, **are therefore being discriminated against in a monstrous manner**.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Pensions are wages indexed and the Commonwealth Bank has recently moved to a wages based formula.

Thanking you in advance for your support in this matter.

Sincerely,
Mr Norm ANDREWS
Secretary / Vice President
Australian Armourers' Association.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is not that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light and not our darkness, that frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented or fabulous ?

Actually, who are you not to be?..You are a child of God.

You're playing small doesn't serve the world.

There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We we're born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fears, our presence automatically liberates others ■

Nelson Mandela
1994



PIONEER STORY

5 RAR ASSUALT PIONEERS
VIETNAM
1969/70

A copy of this CD of pictorial memories is available by contacting
VVCS
On
1800 019 332

NEW SONS & DAUGHTERS WEB SITE

A research team from the Queensland University of Technology in co-operation with DVA is developing an interactive web site to promote the mental and physical health of sons and daughters of Vietnam Veterans in Australia.

The site aims to provide opportunities for sons and daughters to:

- Interact, network, provide and receive support.
- Access a broad range of relevant information

The skeleton website can be found at:
www.sonsanddaughters.net.au

Please have a look and send your feedback by either:

- Adding your comments to the forum "web suggestions".
- Completing the online survey ■

9th Platoon "C" Company 2nd Reunion

We held our second reunion in Newcastle on the weekend of 10/11/12 October, 2003. This followed on from the very successful first reunion at Hervey Bay in August 2002.

Twenty former members of the platoon attended over the three days, with nineteen at the dinner on the Saturday night.

Attending were Ross Bourke, Noel Conroy, Fred Dwyer, Eric Hamlin, Chris Jenkins, Roger Lambert, Dennis Manhood, Eddie Moon, Ben Oram, Jock Phillips, Steve Porter, Max Postle Tony Samuel, Blue Schafer, Owen Schmidt, Reg Smith, Euston Swan, Phil Winney and Greg Blair (Friday night only).

Friday night's gathering was at West Leagues Club, where we all finished in the "Irish Pub," the venue was great and old friendships were renewed.

Our official dinner on Saturday night at Adamstown RSL was a night to remember; great venue, delicious food and the staff couldn't do enough for us. Some of the boys brought along old photos albums and we had a collection of slides taken in the 'funny country' which we displayed on a wall after dinner.

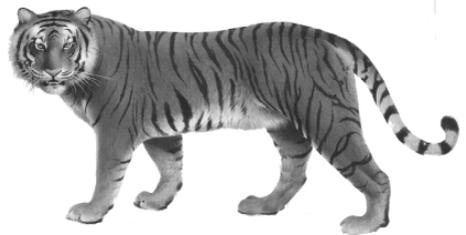
Pat and Ben Oram always have a surprise and this year they excelled themselves when they unveiled a special "9 Platoon Banner".

The banner titled "Rogers Raiders", was named after our skipper, Lt. Roger Lambert includes a picture of Andy Capp which was on a board outside his tent in Nui Dat.

We plan to use the banner at all future reunions as a rally point and all ex-members of the platoon are welcome to sign it. Thanks again Pat & Ben.

The band played great music from the sixties & seventies, and everybody was on the dance floor at some stage during the night. The dance award went to "Twinkle Toes" Reg Smith.

Sunday was a quiet lunch on the beautiful Newcastle Foreshore, with most in recovery mode. Everybody had a great time and it was agreed that the next reunion would be held in Canberra in 2005 to coincide with the Battalion reunion ■





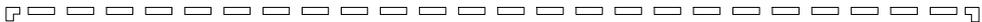
RODGERS RAIDERS

(L—R)

Back row: Dennis Manhood, Owen Schmidt, Jock Phillips, Eddie Moon, Blue Schafer, Euston Swan, Chris Jenkins.

Centre row: Noel Conroy, Ben Oram, Ross Bourke, Steve Porter, Max Postle, Eric Hamlin.

Front row: Phil Winney, Reg Smith, Roger Lambert, Fred Dwyer, Geoff Storm, Tony Samuels



An elderly Irishman lay dying in his bed. Suddenly he smelled the aroma of his favourite cheese scones wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength, and lifted himself from the bed. Gripping the railing with both hands , he crawled downstairs.

There, spread out on upon waxed paper on the kitchen table were dozens of cheese scones. Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of love from his devoted wife of 60 years, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man?

He crawled to the table, his aged hand trembled as he reached for the nearest scone. Suddenly, his hand was smacked with a spatula held by his wife, "Don't touch!" she said, "they're for the funeral".



Why do???

MEN DIE FIRST

If you put a woman on a pedestal and try to protect her from the rat race, you're a male chauvinist.....If you stay home and do the housework, you're a pansy.

If you work too hard, there's never any time for her.....If you don't work enough you're a good-for-nothing bum.

If she has a boring repetitive job with low pay, this is exploitation.....If you have a boring repetitive job with low pay, you should get off your lazy behind and find something better.

If you get a promotion ahead of her, that is favouritism.....If she gets a job ahead of you, it's equal opportunity.

If you mention how nice she looks, it's sexual harassment.....If you keep quiet, it's male indifference.

If you cry, you're a wimp..... If you don't, you're an insensitive bastard.

If you make a decision without consulting her, you're a chauvinist.....If she makes a decision without consulting you, she's a liberated woman.

If you ask her to do something she doesn't enjoy, that's domination.....If she asks you, it's a favour.

If you appreciate the female form and frilly underwear, you're a pervert.....If you don't, you're gay.

If you like a woman to shave her legs and keep in shape, you're sexist.....If you don't, you're unromantic.

If you try to keep yourself in shape, you're vain.....If you don't, you're a slob.

If she has a headache, she's tired.....If you have a headache, you don't love her anymore ■

MEN DIE FIRST.....BECAUSE THEY WANT TO!!!

"Thuong Tiec"

(Love and Regret)

Lance Corporal Marinko (Tich) Tomas was, the first Australian National Service Conscript to be killed in Vietnam. Born at Nannup of Yugoslav parents on 6th January 1945, he was the youngest of six children. His schooling at Nannup was finished off with two years at the Harvey Agricultural High School, where he graduated with honours.



In 1965, his call-up for National Service interrupted a full life of farm work and community involvement. At the completion of six months basic training at Puckapunyal, Tich came home on Christmas leave. The timing was fortunate - it allowed him to celebrate his 21st birthday with his family and friends.

By April of 1966, Tich was in Vietnam, an infantryman in Charlie Company 5 RAR. On July the 8th, during a battle with the Viet Cong in Phuoc Tuy Province, southeast of Saigon, shrapnel wounds from mortar fire killed him. His parent's first

inkling of the tragedy came when Tich's dog started howling in the night.



A fortnight later he was accorded a funeral service with full military honours at the Nannup Cemetery. Almost without exception, the whole township of Nannup turned out to welcome him home and to grieve with his family.

In March of 1988, the "Marinko Tomas Bicentennial Park" was opened in Nannup, and the statue of Tich unveiled. The statue, a very life like representation, was the work of Van Khoat Nguyen, one of South Vietnam's top sculptors. It was the donation from the Republic of Vietnamese Veterans Association of W.A. and was named by them "Thuong Tiec" (Love and Regret) ■



Extract from the "Sydney Legacy Bulletin" submitted by Ross Burns.

CHANGING THE GUARD AT THE TRUST

On 15 September, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Danna Vale, appointed Admiral Michael Hudson, AC, RAN (Rtd) as Chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Trust. He replaces Vice Admiral David Leach AC, CBE, LVO, RAN, (Rtd).

The Trust's CEO, Brigadier Patrick Gowans said that the Trust has now changed its name to Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (or AVCAT). It will continue the work of helping with tertiary education costs for children. However, instead of only children of Vietnam veterans benefiting, selected children and grandchildren of Australia's veterans of all wars are now covered.

Currently, the Trust runs 16 grant schemes using money from government, the ex-service organisations and private sponsors. About 50 new grants are offered each year. Most of these are the 30 national Long Tan Bursaries funded by the Repatriation Commission for Vietnam veterans' children. Of the remaining grants, some are national and others for NSW, QLD and SA applicants only, as their funders have specified. Money received by the Trust for grants is tax deductible.

Admiral Hudson said:

"The Board of Trustees is particularly proud to announce that the Governor General, Major General Michael Jeffrey, whom we met in October has honoured the Trust by becoming its Patron. I look forward to being at the helm for the Trust's new beginning. More sponsors for grants are needed in all States. Such help is now more important than ever, with the rising costs of higher education."

He paid tribute to the work of Vice Admiral Leach and the Trustees, volunteers and staff of the former Vietnam Veterans' Trust in managing the distribution of the Australia share of the Agent Orange funds.

Admiral Hudson further said:

"Since the distribution of those funds started in Australia in 1989 until that task ended on 30 June 2003, nearly \$8.5m was paid to Vietnam Veterans and their families in need. Over five and a half thousand of them received payments. As well, nearly 400 young adults received grants to assist with their tertiary educational costs. The Trust received \$6.4m from the Court. Only \$2,000 was left at the end, an excellent result" ■

For more information contact:

Brigadier PTF Gowans (Rtd), CEO.
PO Box K978
Haymarket NSW 1240
Ph: 9281-7077 Fax: 9281-9164.

Email: vvt@accsoft.com.au

Internet: www.accsoft.com.au/~vvt

Please remit this form and payment to:

**The Secretary
5 RAR Association
PO Box 432**

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 05				\$ 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						\$



**Fifth Battalion
The Royal Australian Regiment
Association Website**

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





IN MEMORIUM

Private Neil Finney

Served with the Battalion's 1st Tour 66

Passed away in Ingham Nth Qld January 2004

The Association extends it's sympathy to family and friends

STOP PRESS

A special thanks to L.S. (Bluey) Jackson for his keen interest in memorials and the article **“Thuong Tiec”**. Bluey, a former member of 3 RAR returning from Malaya Borneo in 1965 was posted to Holsworthy to help raise 5 RAR as a SSgt. Unfortunately, he was unable to tour with the Battalion due to medical reasons.

My thanks to Roger Wainwright for supplying a digital image of our Battalion's colours.

My sincere thanks to our President, Colin Kahn for his effort in preparing the article **“Laying up 5 RAR Colours”** during his recent illness. Just goes to show, you can't keep a champion down.

NB: Editors new email address: louanne.wagner@bigpond.com

Lou W.

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