

LEST WE FORGET



*Rest ye O'warriors
You'll battle no more
No longer to live the horrors of war
Your duty was done with honour and pride
Farewell O'brother
Until we march by your side*

Ode of the Royal Australian Regiment

from **THE PRESIDENT'S quill**

The year 2006 is an important year in the history of the Tigers. As you read this April 2006 edition of *Tiger Tales*, exactly 40 years ago, the battalion was in peak preparation mode for its 1st tour of Vietnam. A young battalion, green in terms of operational experience, but highly enthusiastic and with a wealth of talent at all rank levels. The initial 5RAR Commander's Diary was opened on 9 March 1966 with the first entry at 0900 hrs being: "CO attended conference at 1TF. Unit warned for service in South Vietnam as part of 1ATF. Operation codenamed HARDIHOOD".

Elsewhere in this edition you will find some other dates and key activities taken from the Commander's Diary and Operational Logs over the period March to May 1966. Both Ted Harrison and Lou Wagner are looking at ways to highlight those important events of 1966-67 on our website and in coming editions of *Tiger Tales*. This is an area where we can all help. I encourage those who have stories to tell of that era, to pass them to Ted & Lou. I must emphasise however, that we are one family and that an equitable balance in displaying the activities of both tours of active service will occur.

In February, several members of our Association were invited by the 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion Association to attend a plaque dedication ceremony at the Australian War Memorial. It was a moving ceremony where the extraordinary exploits of our senior generation were on display. The relationship between our Associations remains friendly and strong and we will continue to support the 2/5th Battalion in whatever way we can.

I have been invited to join a committee to plan national level activities to commemorate the Vietnam conflict on August 18 this year. This date coincides with the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and considerable focus will be given to that battle. There will most likely be a national commemorative ceremony (but no national reunion) with some government funding provided for regional commemorative activities.

I hope you all have a memorable ANZAC Day with your mates and families. I am sure you will all join me in sparing a few moments to reflect upon those Tiger's that did not return or have since left our ranks.

Roger Wainwright
President

**Cut Off date for August 2006 Issue
15th July 2006**

ANZAC DAY 2006

NSW FUP—Cnr Bent & Phillip Sts (with RAR Association) FROM 10am onwards- Our position within the March sees us start approx midday.
AFTER MARCH DRINKS/REUNION—Crown Hotel, Cnr Elizabeth & Goulburn Sts (Phone 9267-6793).

ACT **Dawn Service** - commences at 05.30 am on the steps at the front on the Australian War Memorial.

ANZAC Day March - Members of the 5 RAR Association march with the RAR Association in Canberra. March participants form up from 09.45 am and step off 10.30 am. The RAR Association usually forms up between the Korean and Vietnam Memorials on ANZAC Parade. Seating is available for all in front of the Australian War Memorial at the completion of the march past.

Post March Drinks - The RAR Association has informal, self funded drinks at Olims Hotel in Limestone Ave. Lunch can be purchased from the hotel's Bistro.

WA Once again we will be marching with the Royal Australian Regiment Association in Perth. A post March social function will be held at the Bar on Barrack commencing at 1200 hrs.

VIC 5RAR, as part of the RAR Association - Victoria Branch, will form up in the vicinity of the Baptist Church in Collins Street, Melbourne (between Swanston & Russell Streets) at 1100 hours for the ANZAC Day Commemorative March to the Shrine of Remembrance in St Kilda Road. The contingent from 5 Battalion will be led by Russell Quinn. The annual reunion will follow immediately after the march at the Duke of Kent Hotel, 293 Latrobe Street, Melbourne (opposite DVA). All former 5RAR members and families are welcome. No pre booking required.

Bob Richardson
State Secretary RAR Assn - Victoria Branch (03) 9434 2231

TAS An expression of interest is sought from members wishing to march under our own 5 RAR Banner this ANZAC Day in Launceston. Please contact: johnsmee@bigpond.com ♦ Phone: 03 6343 4243 ♦ Mob: 0407 830 264

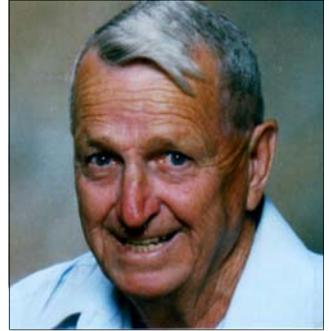
John Smee, State Representative:

**N.B. 5 RAR Association change of address
PO Box 344 BOWRAL NSW 2576**

IN MEMORIAM

VALE BOB GODFREY

We were all saddened to learn of the passing of Bob (Dogs) Godfrey on January 20, 2006. Bob was a 5RAR legend. We extend our condolences to Wendy and family at this sad time. The large turnout of the Tiger family at Bob's funeral on Jan 25 was a fitting tribute to a much-admired member.



"Would you please thank 5RAR Association and the boys who walked beside his coffin. I had to keep looking back at them as I was so very proud of them and honoured to see them walk my Bob to his final farewell"

Wendy Godfrey



John Richard "Bluey" Hush

"Bluey" Hush passed away on 2nd March 2006. He served in the Army for 24 years which included service in Japan, Korea, Vietnam and PNG. The infantry units Bluey served with were 4RAR, 1RAR, 5RAR and 1/19 RNSWR. Bluey served with the Tiger's Mortar Platoon in Vietnam in 1966 and was recognised as a tough professional soldier, an outstanding Mortar Fire Controller and a good mate. The Chapel at the Leppinton Lawn Cemetery on 6th March was overflowing as many relatives and friends gathered to farewell Bluey. Eulogies were given by Bluey's children and Norm Goldspink with an RSL Service also being conducted. The

Association extends its sympathy to His widow Nola, his children Carol & Graham and their families."

Lest We Forget

BINH BA PLATOON VISITS CANBERRA

For many years the 5RAR Association has sponsored a platoon of recruits at the Army Recruit Training Centre at Kapooka. The platoon is known as the Binh Ba Platoon and on march out, the “most improved” recruit is presented with a 5RAR plaque. Traditionally, the platoon has been 5 Platoon of A Company but due to organisational changes at Kapooka the last two Binh Ba Platoons have been 36 Platoon. It is hoped that with the coming extension of the recruit training course back to its previous length of about 11 weeks that we will again sponsor 5 Platoon.

In December, a few weeks before march out, the platoon visited Canberra to tour the city and the Australian War Memorial. The platoon was accompanied by our man in Wagga Wagga, Nev Smerdon. Nev has done a fine job over many years as our point of contact with the Binh Ba Platoon and visits them frequently during their training. Thanks for your efforts Nev. Neville served with the Pioneers on the first tour. He is also a long time leader in veteran activities in Wagga Wagga. Another 36 Platoon visited Canberra in February.

The platoons were met at the Vietnam Memorial by Roger Wainwright, who spoke about soldiering, the significance of the Vietnam Memorial and the history of 5RAR. A presentation of the DVD “The Doc’s Movie” was made



Binh Ba Platoon at the Vietnam Memorial.
Roger Wainwright is on the right of lower group
Nev Smerdon is second from right in upper group

to the recruit of each platoon who was deemed the “most consistent” recruit throughout the training course. Our thanks to Mick Henrys and Tony White for providing the DVD’s.

The platoons will view their DVDs when they return to Kapooka ■

5/7 RAR REAR GROUP REPORT

The operational tempo set by 5/7 RAR over the recent years has shown no sign of slowing as we move into the New Year and a new deployment. November 2005 was a significant period for the Tiger Battalion seeing B Company return home from seven months of service in Iraq with the Al Muthanna Task Group (AMTG), relieved by a 5/7 RAR lead AMTG 2 comprising of the Task Group Headquarters, C Company and a significant support and logistic group.

Just less than three hundred officers and men remain in the Battalion Rear group, distributed amongst two mechanised rifle companies, a support company and a logistics company. The Battalion Rear has the principle task over the next few months of consolidating, both administratively and in training and courses, and also to prepare the Battalion for the arrival of the first company of upgraded M113 Armoured Fighting Vehicles, the M113AS4, expected in the latter part of the year.

D Company, at full strength, forms part of the 1st Brigade's Mechanised Battle Group under command of the 1st Armoured Regiment for training. The 1st Armoured Regiment have set a demanding training program that will keep the D Company Diggers busy throughout both the wet and dry seasons.

B Company is lightly manned at the moment, but will receive the majority of the Battalion's reinforcements this year. With two new platoon commanders currently undergoing their initial mechanised training this year, this company will have a heavy focus on courses and other in-house training, with the expectation they will be the first to convert to the new APC later in the year.

In addition to the two mechanised rifle companies, Support Company is on the verge of seeing some significant capability increases. With the introduction of the new Javelin Medium Guided Anti-Armour Weapon, the re-raising of Anti-Armour Platoon, and the introduction of a new ground surveillance radar into Reconnaissance Platoon, Support Company is currently maintaining their focus on courses and specialist training. Reconnaissance Platoon and Mortar Platoon and elements of Signals Platoon are preparing to support the Royal Military College – Duntroon's annual Exercise Beersheba at Mount Bundy through May, followed by a Battlegroup level exercise in July and August with D Company in the 1st Armoured Regiment's Battlegroup. It goes without saying that the training and maintenance cannot occur without the command and logistical support provided by the skeleton Battalion Headquarters and the newly raised Logistics Company, an amalgamation of Technical Support Company and Administration Company.

As the AMTG 2 organisation continues to contribute to the greater coalition effort in Iraq, life has not stopped for those remaining in the rear. It is an exciting time to be part of the 1st Brigade. The Hardened and Networked Army concept that many of you will have read about in the papers sees our Battalion receiving a long overdue increase in manning, and significant increases in armoured vehicles, weapons and equipment ■

EXTRACTS FROM 5RAR
COMMANDERS DIARY AND OPERATIONS LOGS
MAR –MAY 1966

These extracts are randomly taken from official Australian War Memorial records and are a brief summary of activities that occurred between 5RAR being warned for active service at Holsworthy NSW and deploying on Op HARDIHOOD from Vung Tau. It does not include lead up exercises, sub-unit trg at JTC Canungra or mine warfare trg at SME Casula that occurred in Jan–Feb 1966.

5RAR OPERATIONAL DOCUMENTS
(Issued at Vung Tau prior to deployment on Op HARDIHOOD)

Trg Directive 2/66 dated 2 May 66

Aim: to finalize training of 5RAR for operations. Directive details training to commence two days after arrival of each draft at Vung Tau. Coordinated by Lt R.G.Thompson. Covers hel trg, clearing ops, APC trg, M16, M72, M79 trg and live firing, voice procedure trg, vehicle counter ambush drills, SA trg, house clearing. Many new procedures resulted from experience of 1RAR gained by 5RAR advance party. (13 page hand written document)

Operation Order 1 (OpO 1)Mission: 5RAR is to clear the Nui Hoa Sup/Nui Vung Mai area of VC & VC caches 12-13 May. (This was a practice search & destroy operation)

OpO 2-Ex PIN FEATHER

Mission: 5RAR is to practice the securing of an LZ and subsequent extraction during the period 14-17 May.

Departure LZ south of ROK R&R Centre GR 291430 to LZ Park1 at GR 334493. (Some dates for this ex changed due to operational priorities of 68 Avn Coy in support of 173 Abn Bde)

OpO 3-Ex PIN FEATHER 2 (dated 17 May 66)

Mission: 5RAR is to practice clearing operations on the Vung Tau Peninsular 18-20 May

Ex VEILED SPEECH

Aim: To practice offr in the current SOI's & SOP's (22 May). This Ex aimed to overcome differences in Aust & US voice procedure prior to deployment.

OpO 4 (Op HARDIHOOD) (brief extracts only issued at Vung Tau on 22 May 66)

Mission: 5RAR is to destroy the en in the TAOR allotted as a preliminary to the estb of 1ATF in the area. Execution/Gen outline (Annex P-Map):

- (1) Depart Vung Tau Snakepit commencing 240630H by hel for LZ Hudson arriving 240700H,
- (2) Clear the AO in the following priority:
 - (a.) A Coy: Area 1 then Area 5
 - (b.) B Coy: Area 4 then Area 7
 - (c.) C Coy: Area 2 then Area 6
 - (d.) D Coy: Area 3 then Area 9

Coord Instr:

Timings: (Regrettably Annex A, the detailed timings and outline of events was not in the Comds Diary. However notes from C Coy orders show timings on 24 May as Reveille 0400, Breakfast 0445, Parade 0530, Depart Beach Rd 0610, Lift off from Snakepit (Vung Tau airfield) 0703, H Hr 0718.

Order of fly in: A Coy, C Coy & CO Tac Party, B Coy, D Coy. 770 tps were airlifted on thirty UH-1D ac (Four lifts of 30 ac, each chalk of 6 men) A Coy & C Coy each carried 130 x 81mm mor bombs

Intelligence Estimate No 1-Phuoc Tuy Province (dated 21 May 66)

Attached to OpO 4 and written by Capt D.Willcox, the initial IO 5RAR

(Continued on page 8)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Content</u>
<u>9 Mar</u>	0900 hrs. CO (Lt Col Warr) attended conference at 1TF. Unit warned for service in South Vietnam as part of 1ATF. Operation codenamed 'HARDIHOOD'.
<u>11 Mar</u>	5RAR departed aero paddock by caribou ac for Ex BEN TIGER and Ex IRON LADY to be held in Putty trg area.
<u>24 Mar</u>	Bn returned to Gallipoli Barracks at conclusion of Ex IRON LADY
<u>7 Apr</u>	Bn less 2IC, AAdjt & IO commence pre-embarkation leave
<u>18 Apr</u>	Advance Party returns from leave
<u>19 Apr</u>	Bn returns from pre-embarkation leave
<u>19 Apr</u>	2015 hrs. Advance Party commanded by Maj J.F.Miller departs Gallipoli Barracks for South Vietnam
<u>20 Apr</u>	5RAR Advance Party u/c Maj J.Miller arrives Bien Hoa
<u>20 Apr</u>	Bn Parade and Beating of Retreat. Reviewed by Minister for the Army, Mr J.M.Fraser
<u>21 Apr</u>	Bn marches through Sydney. Salute taken by Sir Roden Cutler VC, KCMG, CBE
<u>22 Apr</u>	C Coy(-) and Bn transport and freight depart in HMAS Sydney
<u>28 Apr</u>	CO party and 8 Pl C Coy depart Richmond
<u>29 Apr</u>	1130h. CO 5RAR, LT Col J.Warr arrives Saigon and assumed command of 5RAR tps in South Vietnam. Departs for Bien Hoa. 36 members of C Coy (8 Pl) and elms of BHQ accompanied CO, but flew to Vung Tau by C123.
<u>1 May</u>	Spt Coy & Admin Coy arrive Vung Tau
<u>4 May</u>	OC Spt Coy (Maj O.M.Carroll) participated in Op DEXTER with 2/503 rd Bn, 173 Abn Bde. Ceased 6 May
<u>4 May</u>	1500h. HMAS Sydney arrives Vung Tau with 130 5RAR pers. mainly C Coy
<u>12 May</u>	Last 5RAR flight departs (Flight 10)
<u>13 May</u>	114 members arrive from AS to complete Bn concentration
<u>14-15 May</u>	Hel trg by 68 Avn Coy (US)-Ex PIN FEATHER.
<u>16 May</u>	Bn sports competition
<u>17 May</u>	Coy trg & vehicle ambush trg
<u>18-20 May</u>	Practice of clearing ops on Vung Tau Peninsular-Ex PIN FEATHER 2
<u>19 May</u>	LT Col Warr and Brig Jackson visit 173 Abn Bde on Op HARDIHOOD in area vic Nui Dat.
<u>20 May</u>	Offrs dining-in night at Pacific Hotel. Members of 68 Avn Coy (US) invited as guests.
<u>21 May</u>	BC & FO's 105 Fd Bty arrive
<u>22 May</u>	Signals Ex for Coy/Pl Comds -Ex VEILED SPEECH
<u>23 May</u>	Orders for Op HARDIHOOD issued after Bn church service conducted by Padres Williams & Bennett.
<u>24 May</u>	5RAR deploys from Vung Tau on Op HARDIHOOD in accordance with OpO 4

2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion,
17th Brigade, 6th Australian Division,
Australian Imperial Force
Plaque Dedication Ceremony
At the Australian War Memorial
Tuesday 7th February 2006

The 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion was one of only two Australian battalions which fought in the Second World War which fought against **“All the King’s Enemies”**: Italy, Germany, Vichy France and Japan. On Tuesday 7th February 2006, the 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion Association (NSW and Victorian Branches) presented a plaque to the Australian War Memorial which was dedicated to the memory of their fallen comrades.

The 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion was raised at Puckapunyal, Victoria, in 1939. The battalion fought in Greece, Crete, Libya in North Africa, Syria and Lebanon in the Middle East and in Papua New Guinea before being disbanded in 1946. The next Australian battalion to be titled the “5th Battalion” was 5 RAR; continuing the legacy that started with the 1st AIF.



The Plaque Dedication Ceremony was held in the Western Courtyard of the Australian War Memorial on a beautiful sunny Canberra morning. The Members of the 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion Association (NSW and Victorian Branches) were welcomed by Ms Nola Anderson, Assistant Director of the Australian War Memorial. She invited Lieutenant Cyril Miles, MC (Retired) to deliver the Commemorative Address. Lieutenant Miles served with 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion during all their campaigns and he summarized the history of this famous battalion during his address. At the conclusion, he received a spontaneous and prolonged ovation from those present.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Stuart Barnes, the Master of Ceremonies, then invited Mr Ivor White, President of the 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion Association (Victorian Branch) and Mr Fred Hoare, President of the 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion Association (NSW Branch) to unveil the Plaque.



Chaplain Carl Rutley, Australian Defence Force Academy, dedicated the Plaque. Piper Arthur Haldane, 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion Association Honorary Member, played the Lament. Mr John Peart, Secretary 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion Association (NSW Branch) recited the Ode. Musician Louise Horwood, a bugler from the Band of the Royal Military College, played the Last Post.

After the National Anthem and the Closing Prayer, Ivor White and Fred Hoare thanked all those involved. It was clearly an emotional and a special time for both Presidents.



After the Plaque Dedication Ceremony, the Members of the 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion Association and their guests had morning tea before being escorted on a tour of the Australian War Memorial.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion Association Plaque Dedication Ceremony was attended by a number of 5 RAR Association Members, including:

- a. Brigadier Colin Kahn, Patron 5 RAR Association
- b. Colonel Roger Wainwright, President 5 RAR Association
- c. Colonel Paul Greenhalgh (Company Commander 1st Tour)
- d. Lieutenant Colonel Claude Ducker (Company Commander 2nd Tour)
- e. Blue Schafer,
- f. Norm Goldspink
- g. Zeke Mundine
- h. Barry Morgan, ACT Representative 5 RAR Association.

As Zeke and Blue had travelled from Sydney for the Ceremony, most of the 5 RAR Association members had lunch with them before they returned to Sydney. The 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion Association Members, families and guests also shared lunch together before returning home.



The Plaque Dedication Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial was a moving and special occasion which remembered a famous Australian Battalion which had fought “**All the King’s Enemies**”. Next time you are in Canberra, seek out the Plaque on your walk from the car park to the Australian War Memorial and remember those who served under the 5th Battalion banner before us ■

*Story by
Lieutenant Colonel B. Morgan
ACT Representative
5 RAR Association*



5/7 BATTLE GROUP TIGER

IRAQ TOUR UPDATE

LTCOL PJ Short

Commanding Officer

We have just crossed the half way mark of Battle Group Tiger's tour of duty in Iraq. Our mission sees us responsible for enhancing the security of the Japanese forces noting their Constitutional operating limitations and for training and mentoring the Iraqi Army. In all, the mission is going exceptionally well and this has reflected through the professionalism of the force and a culturally sensitive modus operandi.

The threat in Al Muthanna Province is real. The operating environment is relatively stable but highly unpredictable. The threat is from extremist militant groups and our force protection is drawn from projecting a professional, highly capable combat capability that both deters attacks and denies opportunities of attack by acting with restraint and in support of the local authorities.

The key for Battle Group Tiger has been a proactive engagement with the local community at all levels. We have made it our business to educate the Iraqi people as to who we are, why we are here and to present ourselves as decent, honourable Australians who have come here to help the Iraqis as friends. We have been well received by the local Iraqis, a pleasing outcome considering the misinformation about Westerners they have been exposed to for generations.

We have witnessed noticeable progression in the security situation and the living standards of local Iraqi's since the deployment of the Al Muthanna Task Group. Al Muthanna is one of the largest Provinces within Iraq and has been traditionally neglected since Saddam Hussain's Baathists came to rule. Understandably, the people are impatient for reform and concerned



(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)



all return home to our loved ones. The Tiger tradition of belonging to a unit that prides itself on a no-nonsense, tough and professional approach to soldiering is alive and well. That being said, the support we have received from home, higher command and senior leaders has been magnificent and appreciated.

We are, without doubt, the envy of all other troop contributing nations with regard to our equipment. We are somewhat bemused about the claims of poor equipment occurring back home. Our equipment and combat capability could not be better. How the wheel has turned!



for the future but realise it will take time to reap the full benefit of undertaking the road to democracy. I am constantly thanked by local Iraqis at all levels for Australia's efforts in assisting them achieve a democratic way of life. There is no doubt our contribution is appreciated by everyday Iraqis.

Life at Camp Smitty for most of us is considered to be comfortable. The below 0 degrees nights, ankle deep mud and roving feral dogs inside the camp are par for the course as is the long days and constant need for vigilance to ensure we



We trust that all Tigers back home, young and old, are well and in good spirits. Our return from Iraq can only be complete with a fitting reunion of sorts with our old mates from Tiger days of past, something we look forward to as always ■

LEST WE FORGET

We moved to the Mid North Coast area of NSW back in 2002 and I transferred my RSL membership to the Taree Sub Branch. I must admit initially I took little interest in the local RSL scene apart from ANZAC Day March.



Photo: Terry Tommasi

Bob Milligan crossing the Equator "Onya Bob"

I had noticed that the town War Memorial, in keeping with the practise for rural memorials included the names of all the locals who saw active service in the various conflicts. Those killed in action in WW1 had a separate plaque/s and KIA in later conflicts had the appropriate symbol of a cross after their names.

On the Vietnam Memorial, were a

number of names including K.P. Rinkin. Kerry had recently assumed duty as PI Comd, 4 PI, B Coy, 5 RAR, replacing Jack Carruthers who died from his wounds. Kerry was KIA 7th Apr 1967.

I was puzzled to find that the name R.B. Milligan, 5 RAR, KIA was not listed. I had known Bob since 1961 and he was always loud in his praises of Taree, his home town.

After much investigation I discovered that the RSL had installed "Rising Sun Crested Plaques" at the two schools Rinkin and Milligan had attended and that a wreath laying ceremony was conducted there every Vietnam Veterans Day.

Here's the scenario. The 'eligibility policy' of the RSL Sub Branch at that time states, "The serviceman must have either enlisted from and/or been living in, or his NOK be

living in Taree District Post Code 2430.

Bob was born, educated and worked in Taree, however, his enlistment in the ARA was in Sydney and he went to Portsea for training.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Six years later, after Bob's death, his NOK was listed as his fiancé who was resident in Sydney. As a result, the then RSL Committee ruled that Bob Milligan was ineligible to have his name on the memorial.

I am pleased to report that after two years of lobbying, the current president and secretary (both Vietnam Vets) have been able to review and change the policy so that Bob Milligan's name is where it rightfully belongs.

Incidentally, Bob Milligan and Kerry Rinkin are the only two soldiers killed in Vietnam that came from Taree ■

Lest We Forget
Max Carroll



“LONG TAN DENTAL CLINIC”

Gentlemen

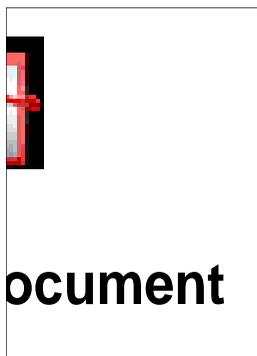
Our thanks for the Association's donation to the “Long Tan Dental Clinic Project”.

We went down to Busselton RSL where the final luncheon was being held on the 4th February. 5RAR had great representation, two tables full, the largest turn out of any of the battalions.

I presented the cheque to Bob Woods as the representative of 5RAR and on behalf of all 5RAR Members. Bob wished me to pass on his thanks to the Association for their kind donation.

I am pleased to report that the amount raised has exceeded all expectations and the building of the clinic will now go ahead and hopefully completed in time for the Long Tan Anniversary in August. Bob Woods will be up there working as a volunteer, doing odd jobs, and making sure the money is all spent on the clinic ■

Regards
Alan Mc Nulty



Book Signing
Sgts Mess
Keswick Bks
Adelaide
1830 hrs
12th April 06

Proudly published by Random House Australia in April 2006

Write Home for Me – A Red Cross Woman in Vietnam
By Jean Debelles Lamensdorf

**A rare and heartfelt memoir of life in a war zone,
Write Home for Me is written with self-deprecating good humour, a dash of *M*A*S*H*
and an overwhelming generosity of spirit**

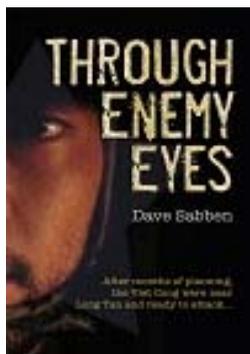
Working as a journalist at the *Adelaide Advertiser* in 1966, Jean Debelles yearned to be involved in the biggest story of the decade—the Vietnam War. But only male journalists in Australia were being sent to cover the escalating conflict. Instead, she volunteered to work in Vietnam for the Red Cross to tend to the non-medical welfare of the sick and wounded ANZAC forces. Jean had planned to report on the war in spare moments—but there were none. For one year she lived in the spotlight: a young Australian woman among 5000 men.

This intimate personal account is told from the rare and compassionate perspective of a young woman living close to the battlefield. Jean tells of the resilience of the soldiers in the face of daily atrocities and of the international medical personnel fighting to save lives and to rebuild shattered bodies and minds. It is also the story of the Vietnamese, struggling to maintain not just their traditions but their very lives in the face of brutal hardship.

With infectious humour, Jean tells of striving to be like a sister to the men when sex was in the very air they breathed. She experienced stark terror when she faced a crazed gunman, had a close call in a minefield and was caught in the midst of a Vietnamese skirmish. Jean also offers an unvarnished look at the Australians' worst battle in Vietnam, Long Tan, and their worst landmine disaster. With unblinking candour, she writes of the harsh realisation that after nine months in Vietnam she had grown cold to the unrelenting horror of war.

From diaries, letters and Red Cross reports, Jean Debelles Lamensdorf has researched and written a story not only of tragedy but also of hope and humour. It is a compelling adventure story — and one of love.

Available in all book stores from 3rd April 06



“Through Enemy Eyes”
by Dave Sabben

Dave Sabben was OC 12 Pl D Coy 6RAR at the Battle of Long Tan. He is a graduate of the first class from OTU Scheyville with our own 5RAR 1st tour comrades, Melford (Finnie) Roe, John Dean-Butcher, Harry Neesham, Ted Pott and Terry O’Hanlon. Dave has written a book titled “Through Enemy Eyes”. It recounts the story of the arrival and build up of 1ATF from May 1966 to the conclusion of the Battle of Long Tan. The book is largely written from the perspective of our former foes.

Dave describes the book as “faction”; a combination of facts over disposed with some fiction. I found it extremely interesting and he is quite accurate in his portrayal of the early days at Vung Tau and Nui Dat during Op Hardihood. Throughout, he gives good press to 5RAR activities and alludes to the “Binh Ba 10 000” of June 1966 when the 1ATF base was first seen to come under major threat. Naturally, his main emphasis is the battle on 18 Aug 66 in which he was a key player. He details the enemy plan to overrun the fledgling 1ATF base and does this from the perspective of the enemy commanders of 5 VC Div, 274 Regt, 275 Regt, D445 Bn and other units. Naturally, due to the lack of Vietnamese historical records this is where much of the fictional part is portrayed. He has however researched the official histories to provide the basis for the enemy battle plan to decimate 1ATF. This will be of interest to 5RAR members.

The question has always been asked “What were the enemy intentions if they had not encountered D Coy 6RAR on the afternoon of 18 Aug 66”. This book provides some potential outcomes and will be of interest to all those who served at Nui Dat.

The book was first published in 2005 by Allen & Unwin. Price is \$29.95. Further details and book reviews can be found on the author’s website at:
www.through-enemy-eyes.com ■

Roger Wainwright



**We all get heavier as we get older
because there's a lot more information
in our heads. So I'm not fat,
I'm just really intelligent
and my head couldn't hold any more
so it started filling up the rest of me !**

**That's my story
and I'm sticking to it**

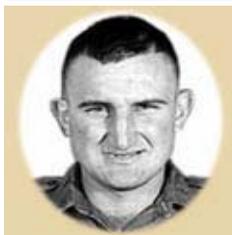
UNFINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP

At its last meeting on 6 Mar 06, your committee reviewed the membership of our Association. We currently have **1124 members**, but disappointingly **335 veterans, or 30% of our membership are unfinancial**. This is despite several requests through Tiger Tales for dues to be paid.

Your member contributions are the key source of income to produce Tiger Tales and to keep our Association running. In comparison to other Associations, 5RAR fees are cheap, being just \$30 for three years. Simple arithmetic shows that with 335 unfinancial members, the loss of income to the Association is over \$10 000.

If the envelope enclosing this edition of Tiger Tales shows "UF" (meaning "unfinancial") would you **please** forward your dues to **The Treasurer, 5RAR Association, PO Box, BOWRAL, NSW 2576**.

MARINKO (TITCH) TOMAS' 40th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL



Memorial Service
11 am Saturday 8th July 2006
at
Nannup, Western Australia
by the
Memorial Statue



The service will be followed by a meal, drinks and an opportunity to meet some of Titch's family

Accommodation can be booked via
www.nannupwa.com.au _ or _ Ph. 08 9756 1211

or through any W Aust Tourist Bureau

There are numerous Chalets situated in and around Nannup

The Nannup Hotel which has rooms and Motel units
Ph: 08 9756 1080 Fax: 08 9756 1164

Caravan Park Ph: 08 9756 1211

If you are attending please advise us ASAP
(contact details below)

There is a charge of \$ 15 per head for the meal
and must be paid by 1st May 2006

All meal money to be sent to:
R.C. Briggs _ 23 Colwyn Rd _ Bayswater _ W Aust 6053

Drinks will be Bar prices

Any and all enquiries should be directed to one of the members here under

Alan McNulty	alanmarian@4u.com.au	Ph: 08 9304 1333
Terry Bates		Ph: 08 9296 4132
Russell Briggs	russaud@bigpond.net.au	Ph: 08 9279 6976
Joe McAllister	joemc@webace.com.au	Ph: 08 9332 6920

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Robert “Dog Ears” Kearney

In 1963 “Dogs” Kearney marched into my section in 1RAR as a young 18 year old to discover the world of soldiering. The Railway Hotel and Gards Hock Shop were all favourite haunts frequented by Dogs to sustain him in more ways than one. In between these hectic extra curricular activities Dogs was selected for Airborne Platoon based at Williamstown. When 5RAR was formed Dogs was posted to C Company and at 20 years of age became one of the Battalions youngest section commanders. In October 1966 in South Vietnam he volunteered to serve in the newly formed Reconnaissance Platoon where he served with distinction. Upon returning to Australia he was posted to the Jungle Training Centre, Canungra and then to 2 Commando Company in Victoria. Itching to have another crack at the Cong he was posted to 3RAR as a Platoon Sgt but for the greater part of this tour he was the Platoon Commander of the “Goon Platoon” as he affectionately dubbed them and is still in touch with them today. Upon returning to Australia after his second tour of Vietnam he had various postings including a stint back with Commandos but the one that gave him the biggest buzz was as Instructor at the Officer Cadet School Portsea where he helped to develop some fine officers.

He joined the South Australian Correctional Services and progressed to manager of B Division which is the maximum security division and home to some of the States most violent criminals. On the 6th of May 1996, Dogs Kearney was involved in an incident where a number of prisoners in B Division took over a part of the prison and held many Correctional Services officers hostage. The 72 hour siege was the most serious incident in the history of the prison and many officers were almost beaten to death. Dogs despite pleas from Star Force Police and prison management calmly went up the back stairs of the division and entered the siege area without a weapon on his own and negotiated the release of the officers and ended the siege. His original award of a commendation for bravery has recently been upgraded to a Star of Bravery awarded by the State Government.

Now the Manager of Leadership and Management training of the SA Country Fire Services he is also a Captain in the ARES as a company commander with 10 RSAR. Dog’s early military career was interspersed with many social indiscretions (which are now folklore) which he attributed to the love of a beer.

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

He has been a teetotaller for over 25 years and in the twilight of his working life has found a new beginning as an author where he co-wrote *Crossfire* and *Flashback* and last year launched his solo writing career through *Silent Voices* the story of the 10th Battalion AIF during the Great War. He is currently immersed in his second book which will be launched next year.

He is also involved in the Flinders Foundation which takes young offenders into the outback to help them get their head straight and Trojans Trek which is a similar activity but for Vietnam Veterans who are still living with the ghosts of their past. Dog's is a guest speaker at many conventions and conferences and still has the same wicked sense of black humour that he had as a young digger. He lives with his soul mate and partner Liz in Adelaide with 2 dogs, an apiary full of birds and a goldfish.

Bob's surprise 60th birthday was celebrated recently which included a BBQ at our house and it was great to see so many of his old mates in town some whom he had not seen since 1967. Dogs marched into my section as a young wild man in 1963 and I was proud to be his platoon commander on his first tour in Vietnam and his Adjutant in Commandos. We are still mates today and I am both delighted and proud to see what Bob is doing as an author, but more importantly the way that he has developed as a remarkable individual and the work he does for various segments of the community.

Mick "Deak" B. von Berg MC



↑ Old mates together



→ "Dogs" conducts the Band

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES



Tribal wisdom of the Lakota Sioux, passed on from generation to generation, says:

"When you discover that you are riding a dead horse,
the best strategy is to dismount."

However, in today's government, more advanced strategies are often employed, such as:

1. Buying a stronger whip.
2. Changing riders.
3. Appointing a committee to study the horse.
4. Visiting foreign countries to see how other cultures ride dead horses.
5. Lowering the regulatory standards so that dead horses are allowed.
6. Reclassifying the dead horse as living-impaired.
7. Hiring outside contractors to ride the dead horse.
8. Harnessing several dead horses together to increase speed.
9. Providing additional funding and/or training to increase the dead horse's performance.
10. Doing a productivity study to see if lighter riders would improve the dead horse's performance.
11. Declaring that as the dead horse does not have to be fed, costs less, has lower overhead and therefore contributes substantially more to the bottom line of the economy than do other horses.
12. Rewriting the expected performance requirements for all horses.
And of course....
13. Promoting the dead horse to a supervisory position.

Sam Hilt _ Lakota Sioux
2005 Reunion in Sydney of US 173 Airbourne Brigade
who served with 1 & 5 RAR in South Vietnam.
We asked them for words of wisdom and this was the reply.

Submitted by Barry Morgan

Please remit this form and payment to:

The Secretary
5 RAR Association
PO Box 344
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 new membership applications only)			

Membership	1 Mar 2005 - 28 Feb 2008	\$ 30
-------------------	---------------------------------	--------------

<u>Memorabilia</u>	Price ea	Qty	Amount		
Vietnam Task	\$ 28				
The Year of the Tigers	\$ 45				
Honour Roll	\$ 30				
Car Stickers	\$ 3				
Caps	\$ 15				
Ties	\$ 30				
Stubby Coolers	\$ 6				
TAC Plates	\$ 20				
5 RAR Plaque	\$ 45				
Mini Banner	\$ 150				
	<i>Tick Shirt Sizes Below</i>				
Polo Shirt Navy	\$ 28				
<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Med</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Large</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">X Large</td> </tr> </table>	Med	Large	X Large		
Med	Large	X Large			
Polo Shirt White	\$ 28				
<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Med</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Large</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">X Large</td> </tr> </table>	Med	Large	X Large		
Med	Large	X Large			
Chambray Shirt	\$ 38				
Grand Total			\$		

NEWS FROM THE WEST

TITCH TOMAS MEMORIAL SERVICE – NANNUP – JULY 8 AT 1100 HRS

Please contact Russell Briggs at russaud@bigpond.net.au (note new address) for further details. Following the service lunch and drinks will be available at the Nannup RSL.

FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 19

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY – FRIDAY AUGUST 18

We have traditionally supported the Mandurah-Murray Vets service at Mandurah. This is in the planning stage and details will follow later.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH FRIDAY 15 DEC 2006 AT 1130 HRS

The Christmas Lunch will be held at the refurbished Anzac Club this year. Unfortunately we have outgrown the Bar on Barrack hence the move back to the RSL. We have made an early booking to ensure that we have a venue available.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2006 April 10 _ July 10 _ October 9

Committee meetings will be held on the above dates at the Anzac Club, Perth commencing at 1130 hrs. Visitors are welcome to come and witness democracy in action ■

Your Committee and Representatives		
President Col. Roger Wainwright Ph: 02 6295 6204 roger.w@netspeed.com.au	Secretary Mr. Geoff Pearson Ph: 02 9524 3177 rbimports@surfthe.net.au	Treasurer & Membership Officer Lt Col. Ron Hamlyn Mob: 0407 669 221 hamlyn_rar@yahoo.com.au
Memorabilia Officer Maj. Bryan Schafer Ph: 02 9605 5841 blues@ispdr.com.au	ACT Representative Lt Col. Barry Morgan Ph: 02 6255 4531 bkmorgan@bigpond.com	VIC Representative Mr. Kerry O'Connor Ph: 03 5428 3249 wartoc@bigpond.com
TAS Representative Mr. John Smee 03 6343 4243	S.A & N.T. Representative Mr. Chris Kuchenmeister Ph & Fax: 08 8552 1946 kitchy@inet.net.au	W.A. Representative Mr. Alan McNulty DCM Ph: 08 9304 1333 alanmarian@4u.com.au
QLD Representative Mr. Kel Ryan Ph: 07 3818 4042 keljan@optusnet.com.au	NSW Rep Members of the National Committee Sydney	Tiger Tales Editor Lou Wagner PO Box 211 Aitkenvale Qld 4814 Ph & Fax: 07 4775 7554 louanne_wagner@aapt.net.au
5 RAR Association Website http://www.5rar.asn.au Webmaster: Edmund "Ted" Harrison		