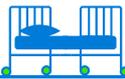


Half Circle



Number 136 - April 2018

This informal publication is for the members of C Coy 5 RAR (2nd tour), South Vietnam, 1969/70, and for the families of those who are no longer with us. It is non-political, and is designed for us to have a laugh at ourselves, re-live our memories, and maintain camaraderie. Formal advice, when needed, should be sourced from Veterans' Organisations.



AT THE RAP: We send our best wishes to **Barry Morgan, Claude Ducker, Colin Summerfield, Barrie Taylor and David Bowman** – “Bowie” has written to his C Coy mates, who now know his current condition. Knowing Bowie, he’ll be doing burnouts in his wheelchair within weeks!



This picture is self-explanatory – Greg “Hickory” Dick standing by his ute, with Wally Magalas providing security.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS – KEVIN MULLIGAN. Kevin and Lynette Mulligan have a new email address - Mudeyes95@bigpond.com . Please note that the address starts with a capital “M”.

GOT A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE? Google the New York Times/my life as a tunnel rat. There is an excellent article on the above role, and refers to the mine incident of 4th July 1969. It also pays tribute to our mates Robert "Yogi" Earl and Rod Lees. Thanks to Rod Lees (PL SGT 12 PL) for this information.



TRAVELLING ABOUT:

Bob Hooper – heading south from Sydney to the NSW/Vic border to visit an old digger mate at Yackandandah.

Andy MacDougal – from the NSW Hunter Valley to Adelaide to visit Dave Bowman.

Bill (Blue) Douglas - has returned to live in Thailand.

Greg Dick – from Laura (SA) to Adelaide and on to Tasmania to visit his 95 year old mother.

FROM DENNIS (DIGGER) NEVINS: Recently my mate Susie and I went to Hervey Bay (Qld). We called in to Barry Baker's to drop off a copy of my completed daily account of our tour in Vietnam. This has taken me a full year to write. It's a personal story – not only about me, but those with whom I served in Tracker PL and 7PL. Barry finished reading it the first night, so it must have gained his attention. He is mentioned a lot in my diary and no bad things were said about him, thank goodness. I asked Barry to write an article for Half Circle as I wanted an independent overview, so I'll look forward to the next issue. We went and paid our respects to Jack Bradd at his resting place, and photos are on the way.

Susie and I also had dinner with Barry one night. I was hoping that Barry would tell Susie what a fine, outstanding and disciplined soldier I was, but all he would say was that I took a lot of looking after – how crook is that?

BARRY BAKER WRITES:

Had a most welcome visitor during the week, Dennis "Digger" Nevins. Digger, during his tour of Vietnam kept a diary, I was in 7 Platoon from July- November and vaguely recall that Digger was quite often writing something, however, I never had an inkling that it was a diary. Many members would have read inserts from his diary in Tiger Tales.

Digger, over the past 12 months has rewritten his diary, from his note books and various other recordings he made, the result 267 pages of text and 74 sketches. I was given the privilege of reading this diary, which I believe is an important and historical record of his time in South Vietnam.

The diary, contained a daily account of what Digger and the soldiers experienced from his time with Trackers and his time with 7 Platoon from August to the time he arrived home. Being written in a timely manner it accurately records contacts and

other incidents during his tour of duty. The diary contains detailed records of daily life, e.g. timings of moves, ration resupplies, distances patrolled, and hand drawn sketches of defensive positions, ambushes and other information.

I found his writings from his time with Trackers was most interesting, I was brought up to speed as to their role within the battalion (e.g. road runner, extra rifle platoon etc). Being in a rifle company we were fairly isolated from the roles and tasks of our support element.

Our memories fade over the years, however a diary, which was written during the tour brings back memories which I had forgotten and reinforced other incidents which were a little hazy. The diary contains humour, along with some more serious events which Digger was involved with. He apparently really enjoyed his times on R&C at Vung Tau.

To Digger, thank you for the privilege of being allowed to read your diary.

Barry Baker



Dennis Nevins and Barry Baker at Jack Bradd's memorial site, Hervey Bay Qld

I called in unexpectedly on an old mate and found him speaking into an envelope and then sealing it. When I asked him what he was doing he said "I'm sending a voice mail".



What is the status of your membership of the 5RAR

Association? If you are unfinancial, please consider renewing your membership! \$50 for three years equates to about 35 cents per week. Not bad value when we consider our bond, past service, and keeping in touch with our old mates. Contact Gary Townsend - garyt.5rar@gmail.com



The HMAS Sydney at sea, carrying an infantry battalion, late 1960's
(Photo courtesy Roger Lambert)



Terry "Fitzy" Fitzgerald, 9PL, 1969

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com,
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Bill Douglas, Roger Lambert, Rod Lees, behind-the-scenes assistance from Gary Townsend (the Tiger
Tales Editor), Ted Harrison (the SRAR Association Webmaster), **supported by RB Racing, and powered
by the Lambs Valley Wine Company, Hunter Valley, NSW.**