

Half Circle



Number 164 - August 2020

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 our mates who are not as well as they would like to be. We are advised that Eddie Kime has suffered a stroke and has some loss of movement and hearing. Ed's daughter Rebecca is joining our Half Circle mailing list and will keep Eddie informed of any news. If you would like to contact Eddie by mail, please address your good wishes to:
EDDIE and YVONNE KIME
267 Redwood Drive
KINGSTON TAS 7051
PHONE: 03 6229 2868 (Ed cannot speak on the phone)

WANTED: If you can help, please contact your editor:

1. A photo of the inside of the C Coy Boozier "the Mushroom Club". Roger Lambert needs this as part of an article for the "Phan Rang News", because of the 2 Sqn bombing mission in support of 9 Platoon in September 1969.
 2. Photo of Blue Schafer in Vietnam.
 3. Current email address for Mick Browne, possibly back in WA after living in Vietnam.
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FROM BARRY BAKER: Memories of C Company 5 RAR 1968-70

Age mellows all and as I think of all the great soldiers I served with during the above dates, I have proud memories of those times.

During 5 RAR's tour of South Vietnam 1969-70 a total of 12 officers and 232 soldiers served in this fine unit. One reflects upon all the brave young men who were part of this unit. Hopefully the statistics below are correct.

Of the 12 officers and 232 soldiers who served we had seven who paid the supreme sacrifice and a further 43 wounded. A high price to pay for doing their duty.

Roll of Honour:

217961 PTE LJ Pettit
135494 LCPL PL Smith
2788085 PTE HL Muller
3794377 PTE JC McMillan
218554 PTE RF Connors
218006. CPL HE Suttor
2789920 PTE BJ Thompson

Wounded:

235326 LT IR Hosie
1201164 2LT DJ Mead

217998 LCPL MC Appleby #
5715802 PTE TP Bates
2791611 PTE KT Black
5715815 LCPL MG Brown
217984 PTE RM Byrnes
215608 CPL VM Cameron #
219358 PTE NW Cooper
2789441 PTE RJ Cunningham
3793953 PTE EK Davis
2166889 LCPL JA Faint
315114 CPL DR Fazackerley
313320 PTE WJ Feenstra
44591 PTE MC Hedley
217971 PTE WR Herbert
5715857 GTM Hill
3794269 PTE AJ Hunter
3794085 PTE HB Jackson
2790351 PTE IJ Jackson
1734583 PTE CR Jenkins
3411359. SGT PJ Knight
1201671 LCPL IF Leis

216528 CPL JD Loader
217501 PTE JF Lowry
3795679 PTE W Magalas
167125 CPL WB Maltby
2991987 PTE WA Marshall
3794130 PTE RAJ Martini
2788047 PTE PR McHugh
3793336 PTE S McKinnon (twice)
2789674 PTE PJ Molloy
2790498 PTE PJ Monaghan
217697 LCPL B Morgan
2791197 PTE DF Nichols
1202146 PTE JE Porter
218698 GJ Randall
5716343 PTE JA Reid
5715960 LCPL DL Stone
219120 PTE GK Strickland *
2789546 PTE WJ Sturgess
61547 SGT TE Wass
3795806 PTE Wogan-Browne

NBC

* wounded with 7 RAR

Ed's note: We thank Barry for his research into our history in Vietnam. He has spent a lot of time putting our statistics together. Don

"THEN AND NOW": C Company members would now be aware that David Wilkins has taken on the mammoth task of collecting photos of us all – one from your service in Vietnam, and a current one. Please do your bit by providing two photos – not a big ask – and sending them to Dave. If Dave has not already contacted you or you don't have his email address, please contact your editor and it will be sent privately to you. This project can only succeed with everyone's input. Currently, there has been about a 20% response. Please assist, and do not put it off!

FROM FROM PETER (Fred) McCARTHY: Well done with the concept of the "Then and Now" project. May I suggest that most blokes would not understand the dpi formatting business and it may be helpful for them to use this link <https://convert.town/image-dpi> to convert their photos for posting to David.

DENNIS (Digger) NEVINS' DIARY: The last day of a seven-day ambush

7th Jan 70.

This morning 6 Nog's walked into Call Sign 4-2 [11 PLT] and 2 walked into Call Sign 4 [Delta HQ], this could have been the other way around, I'm not sure. From the 2 contacts 2 Nog's were killed. As for us the Nog's are not being good sports and again there was no movement.

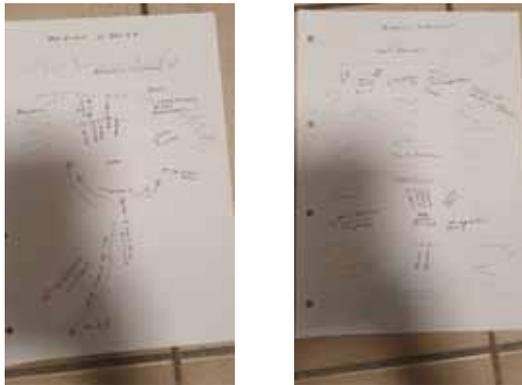
At 1000hrs Jack and Andy came back to the Killer Group, Blue and myself went back to my Gun position on the flank. We then received an O Group, we were to pack up the Ambush and move 5300 yards to Company, if possible. The first leg was 900 yards to a creek, we would halt there and fill up water bottles. At 1100hrs I had lunch covering the track while Jack and the Boss pulled in and packed up the Claymores.

At 1215hrs we moved out to the rest of our Platoon 30-40 yards away, we joined up and pushed out with 3 Section leading followed by PHQ, 2 and 1 Sections. We moved on the track at a cautious pace, after 300 yards the track turned left so we went into the scrub on our bearing. Further on bunkers were sighted, on two occasions 2 Section carried out sweeps but the areas were clear and the bunkers old. At the creek we harboured, filled water bottles and had a wash. The water was running and very clean.

We shook out again on a new bearing heading North with 2 Section leading followed by PHQ, 1 and 3 Sections. The country here was pretty good and easy to get through, later on we came to another flowing creek, around the creek it was very thick with a Lilly plant. We had to be careful on crossing the creek as it was running swiftly and the odds of slipping were pretty good, the water though was only 18 inches deep. We pushed on for another 110 yards and harboured for the night, we had put in some hard yakka and were quite tired, we had covered 2700 yards which is very good for an afternoon.

*This was the longest we had ever been in Ambush, moving in on the 31 Dec and moving out on the 7 Jan. They were long days and nights, it was draining, all eating and crapping was done at the rear. There was no standing around to stretch and any talking was done with soft voices. The days were hot as buggery and there were no moving positions because of the sun. At first and last light when the Enemy like to move, for us it was total silence, looking, listening and hearing the sounds of the jungle which is very noisy at first and last light. Each day and night we hoped the

Nog's would venture our way, it's a waiting game and each day we were certain it was going to be the day but it wasn't to be, that's jungle warfare. The track was a ripper the enemy movement that had been on it before we found it was heavy, it was spotted with Salem Cigarette butts, yes, the Nog's liked Salem Menthol Cigarettes. When we moved out it was like freedom, freedom to move, every bone in my body ached, especially my ribs and hips from lying on them for so many days, the ground was rough hard with little stones protruding above the surface, the ground wherever we were was our mattress. In the end we had to pull out as there were other areas to be patrolled and it was felt that the enemy knew that along that track somewhere there was a group of Diggers lying in wait.



FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020

NEW WEAPON

Aussie virus killer

NATHAN VASS

Surface coating stops spread

AN Australian scientist has created a new surface coating that "inactivates" coronavirus on impact in what may be one of the biggest global breakthroughs yet in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

William Ducker, a Canberra native based at Virginia Tech in the US for more than a decade, has created what is potentially a game-changing copper-based substance that essentially drains the virus of its power.

It can be applied to door-knobs, light switches, shopping carts, dining tables, steering wheels, train seats — any common surface where the virus has been known to live and thrive. And on early indications, the coating has the ability to wipe out the virus on contact for years once applied.

Dr Ducker's invention has already been peer reviewed and he is now looking for commercial support so he can market the coating worldwide.

"This virus is a major problem and we need to take away its ability to infect a human cell," Dr Ducker said.

"Breathing in the virus is the main thing, but we need to be scared of touching things. If someone sneezes on a surface and you touch it and then you touch your mouth, in it goes.

"I wanted to create a coating that if the virus touches it, it will be inactivated. Working with the University of Hong Kong, we put droplets of the virus on a coated surface, then washed it off and tried to infect monkey cells — but the virus was no longer able to infect the cells after being in contact with the virus."

The results of the tests had been outstanding, Dr Ducker said. When the coating was painted on glass or stainless steel, the amount of virus was reduced by 99.9 per cent in an hour.

The coating is made of cuprous oxide, essentially recycled copper pipes and wires. Dr Ducker believes the virus is absorbed into the coating and then "de-natured".

And even better news: the coating seems to work for long periods. "It's great, it does that all day," he said. "The coating will work all day. We think it could even last for years."

nathan.vass@news.com.au

This scientist, Dr William Ducker, is the son of immensely proud parents, Claude and Judy Ducker. Kevin Mulligan saw it in a Tasmanian newspaper.

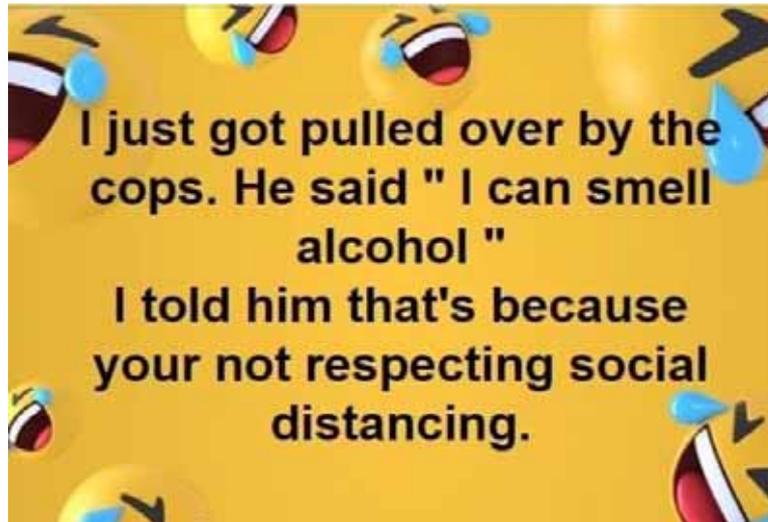
The Diggers Shovel (Submitted by Mike Radwell)

On a Sunday in November every year, The West Australian Golf Club at Yokine hosts the Soldier's Cup, an event that has been conducted continually since 1927, with only brief interruptions over all these years. The event is a competition held between Navy, Army and Air Force teams vying for the Digger's Shovel and bragging rights for the next 12 months. Below is a copy of the "Digger's Shovel", the speech compiled by LTCOL D.S. MacKenzie, DSO, (AAMC) and read out prior to the match.

THE DIGGERS' SHOVEL by LTCOL D.S. MacKenzie, DSO, (AAMC)

Out of the fullness of my heart, and the poverty of my pocket, I have presented this shovel, spade, banjo, or agricultural implement, as a trophy for the best four nett scores compiled by club members in the Soldiers Cup. The number may not seem many but increasing age will make that figure a formidable one as time goes on. The trophy has no intrinsic value [it cost me a dollar (in those days 5 shillings) or these days 50 cents] plus a little for the plating and the hoojahs, but I hope you will regard it as something symbolic of the days we spent together, when we dug out of foreign soil, a name and a reputation for valour and chivalry, that is the admiration of our erstwhile enemies, or perhaps, alas, of the end of our association, when a similar implement will fashion our last trench, and cover over all that is left of our world-weary flesh. As I said before, time is moving on, and we are growing older and stiffer. Too soon for many of us, we must lay aside our golf clubs, and take up in their place some other means of relaxation and form new companionships and associations. As we do, our place in the club will be filled by eager youths, who have missed what the pacifists have called the "demoralising and brutalising experience of war" but where we ourselves found a brave enemy, true companionship and such chivalry as was never surpassed under the knightly flags of the Lion of England, or the Lilies of France. There is no need to refer to our Birdwood's, Monash's, Chauvels and Hobbs, their names are inscribed in history, but in our hearts let us keep memories of the Bills, Berts, Sams, Claudes, Algernons and Montmorencys, true mates and just "Diggers". When the "Last Post" has sounded and our last Soldiers Cup has been played, I hope that this trophy will become, what it symbolises, a means of bringing together in friendly rivalry our sons and grandsons, who will perhaps think back, and catch some faint realisations, of the discoveries we made about our fellow man during our term of service. History alone will show whether the sacrifices we have made have achieved the result we fondly and perhaps foolishly, hoped for.

OCTOBER 1927



Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com, 0418 423 313, with help from Barry Baker, Peter (Fred) McCarthy, Mike Radwell, Dennis (Digger) Nevins, Kiwi Hill, Kevin Mulligan, behind-the-scenes assistance from Gary Townsend (the Tiger Tales Editor), Ted Harrison (the SRAR Association Webmaster), **supported by The RB Co, and powered by the Lambs Valley Wine Company, Hunter Valley, NSW.**