

Half Circle



Number 132 - December 2017

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.



VALE – 5715960 LCPL DAVID LAWRENCE STONE. We regret to advise that David passed away in Perth on Saturday 25th November 2017 from complications with pneumonia. Platoon Commander Roger Lambert has offered the following tribute to Stony:

"5715960 LCPL David Stone

Dave, or 'Stony' as he was generally referred to, was a National Serviceman from WA. He was a Rifleman, Platoon Medic and Section 2IC in 9 Platoon, C Coy during the Battalion's second tour in 1969/70. Dave excelled in all three positions and was a well-respected and valued member of the tight-knit 9 Platoon team.

'Stony' will also be remembered for his, at times, wicked sense of humour. Whether in country or post-Vietnam at Platoon Reunions, he could be relied upon to lighten the mood with his innate wit and ability to see the funny side of situations, irrespective of the circumstances.

On RTA, 'Stony' turned to a career as a WA Police Officer and went on to become a Detective in that force.

Dave will be sadly missed by his comrades-in-arms. Our thoughts are with his widow, Margaret, and family.

Rest easy, digger, your duty is done.

Roger Lambert

Platoon Commander, 9 Platoon, C Coy, 1969/70"



Christmas Holiday accommodation? Probably not now, but this was typical of our facilities, Christmas 1969.

When not on operations, sometimes for many weeks at a time, this was what we came home to – a bed, a chair and a locker under mouldy canvas – February 1969 to March 1970. *Photo courtesy of Ian Leis*



AT THE RAP:

Peter Molloy – spinal nerve treatment related to prosthetic leg

Wally Magalas – ongoing oncology treatment

Barrie Taylor – ongoing oncology treatment

Colin Summerfield - medical

LOCATED – 2789917 Pte Reginald Gordon NICOL – 8PL

We are pleased to advise that we have located Reg Nicol, who served in 8PL from June 1969 to March 1970. Reg, who uses his second name of **Gordon**, lives on the NSW Central Coast. Any member who may wish to contact Gordon, may obtain his email details from your editor.



From WO2 Aaron Barnett (son of Wally, Tracker PL 1969): I was down in Canberra last week for some training, and saw the attached on the wall in the RMC SGTs Mess. I remember Col Lee telling me about it at Jack Bradd's wake and how it was up in the SGT Mess at RMC, and still is.

The plaque below the Pace stick reads:

THE STORY OF THE CAMOFLAGE PACE STICK
AS TOLD BY WO1 C.N. LEE, OAM
TO
WO1 J. SELMES, OAM

1. The said stick was presented to DRILL SGT COL LEE by DRILL SGT Jack Bradd on behalf of the DRILLIES of OCS PORTSEA in April 1979 during Exercise FLYING WEDGE at PUCKAPUNYAL.
2. A very flash affair with much pomp and ceremony with starched bush greens and spit polished bush GP Boots in evidence.
3. Only two members were less than impressed about the event:
 - a. WO2 Blue Mulberry, who didn't like being outdone when it came to "Big Noting Oneself"; and
 - b. The QM who thought that Jack had destroyed a perfectly good pace stick.
4. SGT C.N. LEE was ordered by WO1 Ron Cox, the RSM OCS, to present the said Camouflaged Pace Stick to the OCS SGT's Mess.
5. The Pace Stick was made by DRILL SGT Bradd who carved it out of an old tent support from an old Army tent.



DEFENCE TRAVEL PRESENTS:



WELCOME TO THE SUNNY TROPICS OF SOUTH VIETNAM



Air Displays



Highland Retreats



Open Air Dining



Overnight Tent Accommodation



Live Entertainment



Meet Foreign and Interesting People



Fireworks Displays



Recreation and Convalescence



Safe, Sandy Beaches



Kilometres of Hiking Trails



Leech Therapy



Free Taxi and Helicopter Rides



Leisurely 3 Week Cruise Home



ALL COURTESY OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all! Roslyn and I would like to wish all members of C Coy, their families and the families of those who are no longer with us, the very best of wishes for Christmas 2017 and for the year 2018. Thank you to all who helped to keep Half Circle going by sending in your articles. *Don*

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com, 0418 423 313, with help from Ian Leis, Roger Lambert, Aaron Barnett, John Yabsley, behind-the-scenes assistance from Gary Townsend (the Tiger Tales Editor), Ted Harrison (the 5RAR Association Webmaster), **supported by RB Racing, and powered by the Lambs Valley Wine Company, Hunter Valley, NSW.**