

Half Circle

February 2007

A publication for the members of C Coy 5 RAR (2nd tour) South Vietnam, and especially for the families of those who are no longer with us.

5RAR IS BACK:

As of Sunday 3rd December 2006, 5RAR has once again become a battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment in its own right. On 3rd December 1973, the 5th and 7th Battalions linked to form 5/7RAR. Exactly 33 years later, the 5th and 7th Battalions have de-linked to become separate entities once again. I am sure that our friendly rivalry will again emerge, but take this opportunity on behalf of the Tigers to wish the Pigs every success.

Bryan (Blue) Schafer, who got himself to Darwin for the De-linking Parade, reports:

"The de-linking parade was conducted at 1730 hrs after a tropical down pour. It was a small affair and was what is called a Mech Parade. The tracks that were used mainly came from C Coy with B Coy Echelon TLC and Fitters tracks to the rear of 7 RAR.

The parade starts with the tracks (APCs) arriving to the rear of the parade ground in line and on command they stick left and speed at a fast rate to the edge of the hard standing in line in front of the dais, ramps are dropped and soldiers demount and form up on parade as per normal (that's if anything is normal these days).

CO marched on the colours for the last time and then received all the top brass, after that was finished they marched on the 2 new COs of 5 and 7 RAR who took command of a contingent each, then the 2 new RSMs marched on with the battalion flags.

CO of 5/7 then marched off the colours for the last time and CO 5 RAR took command of the parade. After all the top brass left the soldiers remounted the tracks and on command at full power and speed the tracks dispersed left and right off the parade ground.

As the tracks left it was a great thrill to see the flag of 5 RAR flying proudly, the poor digger holding it had a tough time keeping it up and steady as the tracks raced away.

After the parade we when to the battalion museum then to the Garry Holmes club for more speeches and a BBQ. The soldiers were quite sad at the removal of 5/7 RAR from the Regiment as after 33 years they have a lot of history and the battalion has done a fine job".

Ed's Note: Blue had a lot to do with both battalions, and over his career served in 5RAR and 5/7RAR as a Pte, LCpl, Cpl, Sgt, SSgt, WO2, WO1, and Captain. Blue retired as a Major, and is a serving committee member of the 5RAR Association.

5RAR ASSOCIATION:

1. MEMBERSHIP:

If you are not a member of the 5RAR Association, please consider joining. Contact Ron Hamlyn on the above email, or by writing to **31 Kenilworth Street, BONDI JUNCTION NSW 2022**. For a few dollars a year, we maintain our member contact through "Tiger Tales", and there is a great range of 5RAR merchandise for purchase at a reasonable cost.

2. MEMBER CONTACT:

I have had a number of communications with the 5RAR Memberships Officer, Lt Col Ron Hamlyn, who advises that there are a lot of difficulties in maintaining accurate contact address and email details of our membership. Please note that if you change your **postal** address or **email** address, it is important that you notify Ron to update your details. The 5RAR Association will probably switch from posting "Tiger Tales" to an electronic form in the future. This not only means a substantial saving, but also ensures almost instant contact. If you change your address, please advise me, or email hamlyn_rar@yahoo.com.au to ensure that the data base may be updated.

3. TIGER TALES:

Speaking of tiger Tales, the new format is excellent. Well done to all those involved.



MEMBER PROFILES:

Eric Hamlin (known as Ecce or Hammo). Lives Port Macquarie, NSW. Took off from Epping, Sydney, 33 years ago for the mid-north coast of NSW. Retired bricklayer. Interests include soccer, refereeing, golf, beer and family (not necessarily in that order). **The 9PI boys thought it was great that Eric was able to attend the last reunion, and it was great to hear from you again.**

Bill Waters. Lives Walbundrie, NSW. Joined C Coy late September 1969, and allocated to 8PI. Soon after I was appointed PI Sig and worked closely with Peter Commerford, but with no training other than a short session from Alan Miles, away I went. I was completely lost, but Peter was very good. I learned a lot on the job, but I recall that I always seemed to be in trouble with the company 2IC Capt David Wilkins. When 5RAR went home I went to 7RAR and finished my tour with them, in C Coy and Pioneers, then spent the next 4 years at Kapooka in training wing and other areas. After Army life, I went back to the family farm. I now have four wonderful granddaughters, and have settled down on a small hobby farm, where I break in and train standardbred horses. Life is not too bad. On reflection, I was a green-as-grass nineteen year-old when I went to Vietnam, and owe David Wilkins and others like him, a lot. **Ed's note: Apart from changing a couple of grammatical points, Bill's details are exactly as written by him. He is probably typical of many of us at the time, 19 or 20 years old, and not very worldly.**

We heard.....

There was a Scottish tradesman, a painter called Jack, who was very interested in making a quid where he could. So he often would thin down his paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time.

Eventually the Presbyterian Church decided to do a big restoration job on one of their biggest churches. Jack put in a painting bid and because his price was so competitive, he got the job. And so he set to, with a right good will, erecting the trestles, putting up the planks, buying the paint and . . . yes, we're sorry to say, thinning it down with the turpentine.

Well, Jack was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly done, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened and the rain poured down, washing the thin paint from all over the church and knocking Jack fair off the scaffold to land on the lawn.

Now, Jack was no fool. He knew this was a judgement from the Almighty, so he fell on his knees and cried, "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"
And from the thunder, a mighty Voice spoke, "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

We also heard.....

About the tradesman who called his apprentice "The Lamp". Apparently he was fairly dim and had to be carried.



ATTENTION TPIs - GST EXEMPTIONS

The Australian Taxation Office has released a new type of form for TPIs to use, in order to gain exemption from the payment of GST for the purchase of new cars, or for vehicle parts. To obtain copies, follow these steps:

1. Go to www.ato.gov.au.
2. Go to "Forms and Services".
3. Go to "All ATO forms".
4. Click on "Search".
5. Type 3418 alongside "Nat Number"
6. Click on "Go" button.
7. Print your form.

*This information was kindly provided by the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc. The President of the Association is **Jack Lake**. This is a really good Association, they keep the members fully informed, and provide services for members throughout Australia. They are **not** confined to the Blue Mts. Membership is cheap. Contact the Secretary by email on secretary@bmvets.com.au. The Web Site is www.bmvets.com.au.*

THIS NEWSLETTER

I am having trouble getting information from you blokes for this Newsletter. Please remember – **NO INPUT, NO NEWSLETTER**. We'll give it another go, but unless we can get some details from you, funnies, memories, etc., we won't be able to continue. Please contact me if we are to continue.

Until next time, keep your heads down,

Don Harrod