

Half Circle

Number 38 - February 2010

(Please increase picture size to 150% for a better read!)

This informal publication is for the members of C Coy 5RAR (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.

C Coy 5RAR 2010.

We have received a communication from Major David French, OC of C Company 5RAR, 2010. He has previously been a Platoon Commander in 5/7RAR, and more recently Adjutant of 5RAR. Dave is very interested in promoting the history of C Company, and wishes to obtain memorabilia from the Vietnam days for display in Company Headquarters, Platoon Lines and lunch rooms (see, things HAVE changed!). He wants to educate his current diggers on the history of the Battalion, and highlight previous hardships, equipment, living standards, periods of leave, the characters, the larrikins, the operations, the stresses, Nui Dat, Vung Tau, and very importantly, the camaraderie of Aussie troops. Dave is looking for a selection of short anecdotes, photographs (hard copy or digital image, with a descriptive caption- names, rough date, place) and military items which are no longer required by our blokes. Dave can be contacted on email david.french3@defence.gov.au or his CSM, WO2 Shane St Clair, on email shane.stclair1@defence.gov.au.

Any items considered suitable may be mailed (after discussion) to Major David French or his CSM, WO2 Shane St Clair at C Company 5RAR, Binh Ba Lines, Robertson Barracks, PALMERSTON NT 0830.



This is how far back we can go: Graduating from Kapooka, 1968. On the left is Steve Locke, third from right is Andy Drummond (B Coy, KIA), second from right is Mike Radwell, and sitting is Eric Gray.

Following last month's story about the RSL, Jim and Lesley Lowry report:

Just check into Google, print "Last Post Ringtone", and check the facts on what the RSL has done.

ALSO, a bit of digging has revealed that the Federal Government has ceased the playing of the Last Post at 5.00pm each day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Apparently it's too expensive, and buglers are required elsewhere.

Since intervention of the private sector and sponsors, this decision may have changed, with a discreet advertisement on the front of the lecturn, but is this REALLY good enough?

As Australians, we are entitled to, **NO**, we **DEMAND** that the heritage of our fallen sailors, soldiers and airmen be preserved.

It was never intended that this newsletter would be political, but take note Mr Rudd - Prime Minister or Minister for Travel - whichever is applicable - you may not be around for very long, but the glory of Australia's War Veterans will be preserved for time immemorial.

Political comment was provided by Don Harrod

Adam Ross (Bill's son) said:

I have been going through some of dad's old letters back to his parents over Christmas and would like to include a few excerpts to contribute to the "Half Circle" newsletter. Hopefully they will be of some use!

"Tuesday 27th May 1969

"It looks as though I will be going on R & R in September sometime, which will be a welcomed break and the bloke from our company I'm going with (xxxxxx) is a real card!

Although the going gets a bit tough now and again, there's one thing that keeps you going and that's the thought of the day you get back home to good old Australia. Also, all the other fella's here with me are in the same boat, so there is no use complaining.

We met a company of Yank infantry while we were up north and going by the way they operate they appear to be a slack mob. Also they are re-supplied with water daily and sometimes receive one hot meal a day which is either driven or flown to them no matter where they might be.

I'm afraid there isn't too much to do about the wet clothes situation however, although we usually get soaked in the late arvo and all our sleeping equipment gets wet, I am always warm. I think if you were living in these conditions back home chances are you would get pneumonia or rheumatism or something, however, it must be different over here"



Russell (Kiwi) Hill said: Talk about opportunists! I found this photo taken in Nui Dat just before we came home. It's hard to read, but in short it refers to Hyde, Kime, Harrod and Fazackerley Real Estate, where they tried to flog off our base camp to 7RAR. They tried to flog it complete with shower blocks, rubbish points, canvas, a mess hall and of course a rubber plantation. As some words are blanked OUT, I feel that Jack Lake may have had the casting vote and canned the sale. The incoming purchasers who took over our lines, B Coy 7RAR, did however see the funny side of it.

LIFE, summarised in four bottles



Bloody Hell, I'm already on the third one!!

A thief fell and broke his leg, which was put in plaster. He became a hardened criminal.

A bloke came up to me today and asked me which was the quickest way to the hospital. I pushed him under a bus.



This month's picture - a very young Ben Oram in a gunpit.



"Half Circle" is supported by the Georges River Golf Club, Henry Lawson Drive, Georges Hall (Sydney). If you are in Sydney, call in for a game, a feed or a beer. All veterans are most welcome. Phone (02) 9724 1615

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod - donharrod@bigpond.com, (02) 6842 4913, 0418 423 313, with help from Dave Wilkins, Mike Radwell, Jim Lowry, Adam Ross, David French, Blue Schafer, the photo gallery and the usual crook humour.

