

Half Circle



Number 86 - February 2014

(If this is hard to read, try increasing the picture size to 150%!!)

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.

DAVE'S DIARY:

10 March 1970 was a fine, sunny autumn day in Sydney. All ranks, dressed to the nines in starched greens, slouch hats and gold lanyards on the left shoulder, stood shoulder to shoulder, lining the top deck as we proceeded through Sydney Heads until docking at Woolloomooloo. It was wonderful to be met by such an excited and emotional crowd of family and friends. My father was there together with my brother Phil, his wife Jeanette, as well as Tim and Pamie Britten. Tim had of course flown back to Sydney a few weeks earlier with the Battalion Advance Party. Also there to meet his old company was Major Claude Ducker MC, who had returned to Australia in December. If my memory serves me correctly, also there to meet us and march with us was the former 7 Platoon commander, LT Dave Mead, who had been wounded in action and repatriated home in July 1969.

The Sydney lunchtime crowd, several rows deep, lined either side of Martin Place and George Street to loudly cheer, applaud and wave flags for the returning veterans of 5 RAR. Spectators crowded their office windows to get a better view from above. It was a friendly and welcoming crowd with ticker tape floating down from the office buildings either side. It was a moment of pride for us all.

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The 5RAR Colour Party during the march through Sydney streets. It was a ticker tape reception from an appreciative and enthusiastic crowd.

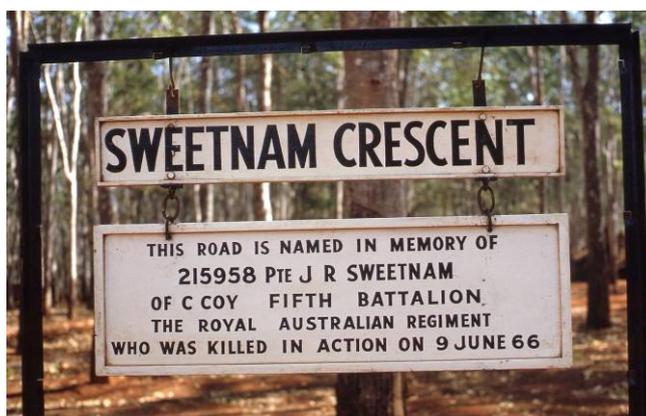


C Company Officers marching past the Sydney Town Hall. The previous OC, Major Claude Ducker MC, met us at the wharf and took the lead for C Coy during the march.

The photo below marks Sweetnam Crescent, and I'm sure that all C Coy personnel will remember this:



CHQ tents are in the background. If you look closely at the above picture, open-air seating for the first picture theatre, together with speakers in the trees, can be seen. The photo below shows a tribute to Pte John Sweetnam. This sign was produced by Brian Budden, the C Coy Int Rep on the first tour:



Thanks are extended to Roger Wainwright, Brian Budden and Gary Townsend for their contributions. These men have worked tirelessly for our Association - Roger being the President of the 5RAR Association; Brian, as the principal of Rebel Graphics, for all his artwork in the production of flags, banners, plaques and printed material; and Gary for his magnificent work in the production of Tiger Tales, the Mushroom Club website, and C Coy history. These three men served with C Coy (first tour of Vietnam).

FROM ANDY MACDOUGAL:

Do you remember the lack of Aussie beer at Christmas in 1969?

I remember getting a letter from the Waterside Workers Federation saying we should lay down our arms and embrace our "comrades" from North Vietnam. I chucked my copy away but it would be great to see a copy if anyone managed to bring one home.

SOME DEFINITIONS: BEAUTY PARLOUR - a place where women curl up and dye;
DUST - mud with the juice squeezed out; MANIOKLEPTIC - a person who walks into a shop and leaves things; RAISIN - a grape with sunburn.



AT THE RAP:

Barrie Taylor, who writes: "Over the past 12 months I have been on a Plasma infusion program for treatment of NHL Waldenstroms, this infusion is a 3 week basis and thankfully has rebuilt my strength back to a reasonable level of ability to climb stairs and back on the golf course.

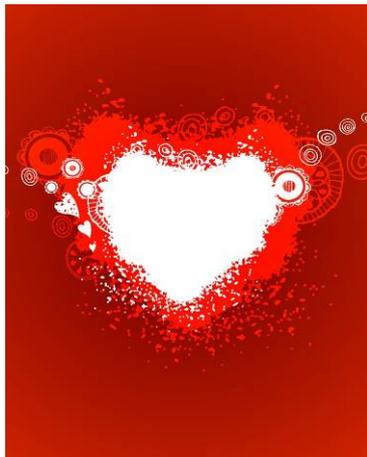
This form of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma is not on the list of DVA support, so if any other comrades has similar issues I would appreciate hearing from them. Don Harrod has my contact details.

I know many are suffering and I hope 2014 brings a better outcome to those in need".

Wally Magalas - oncology treatment

Jack Bradd - hospitalised, Maryborough Qld

STILL WANTED - we are still looking for a picture of the OCs hut ("Yarralumla"), located over the Company CP at Nui Dat during our tour. Can anybody please help?

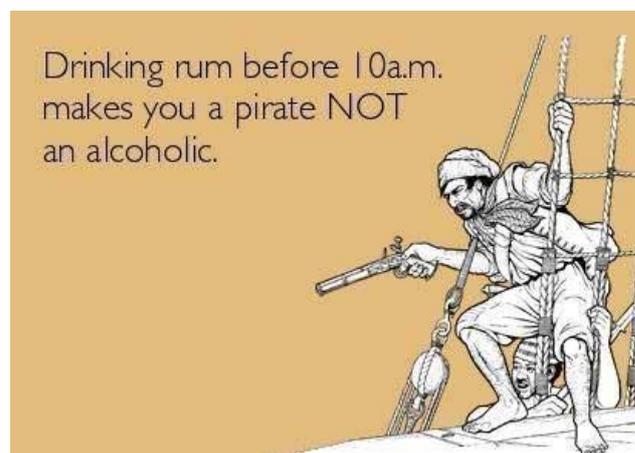


A very prestigious cardiologist died, and was given a very elaborate funeral by the hospital he worked for most of his life...

A huge heart... covered in flowers stood behind the casket during the service as all the doctors from the hospital sat in awe. Following the eulogy, the heart opened, and the casket rolled inside. The heart then closed, sealing the doctor in the beautiful heart forever.

At that point, one of the mourners just burst into laughter. When all eyes stared at him, he said, 'I'm so sorry... I was just thinking of my own funeral...I'm a gynaecologist!

IN THE NEXT EDITION OF HALF CIRCLE: Same as this month - no idea!



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