

Half Circle



Number 134 - February 2018

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:

Claude Ducker, Barry Morgan, Max Hedley, Barrie Taylor, Wally Magalas, Colin Summerfield, Russell Hill, David Wilkins

Beware the Sting in the Tail

South-East Asia is renowned for having some of the most diverse varieties of wildlife and creepy-crawlies on the planet. During an operation in 1969, I had a very personal and unpleasant encounter with one of the local beasties.

Having received fresh orders from the OC, Major Claude Ducker MC, I called my Platoon Sergeant, Peter Knight, and Section Commanders in for an O Group to brief them on the changing plans. I lay out my map on the ground and placed my M16 rifle alongside it.



At the conclusion of my orders, the Section Commanders went off to brief their troops before we 'saddled up' to recommence our patrolling. I folded my map and placed it in my trouser side pocket. As I picked up my rifle, I felt a sharp sting on my index finger. Looking down, I was greeted by the sight of a scorpion near the trigger guard.



Now this thing was smaller than my little finger but boy, did he/she pack a wallop! Within seconds, my finger went numb followed by my hand. The pain was excruciating. The numbness soon extended up my forearm until my entire right arm was deadened.

Great! I'm right-handed, my trigger finger and right arm were useless and we're in a combat zone! Thank goodness that we didn't have any enemy contacts over the next few hours as that's how long it took for the effects of the scorpion sting to wear off. After this incident, I made doubly sure that there were no nasty critters within cooe of any of my kit.

Roger Lambert

Platoon Commander, 9 Platoon, C Coy, 5 RAR, 1969/70



TRAVELLING ABOUT:

No reports this month.

FROM THE DIARY OF DENNIS (DIGGER) NEVINS:

I made this diary entry on 28th July 1969 at Nui Dat –

“There was a battalion parade this morning at Tiger 5 Airfield. I really like these parades. I can't explain why, but when the CO gets out there and explains things it makes you feel great and proud to be a part of the battalion”.

I submitted this diary entry because I thought that the CO might like to read the words that one of his private soldiers wrote on that day I am sure that all of our diggers would agree with my comment. *Dennis.*

NEW OC C COMPANY 5RAR:

We advise that Major Tom Green has completed his tenure as the OC Coy, and has been replaced by **Major Andrew RAVEN**. We convey to Andrew every good wish on assuming this command, and if any advice is needed, please feel free to contact any one of us.



Darts Davis, Ray Fitzpatrick, MK Smith, Fred McCarthy + Ian 'Leisy' Leis

FROM BILL TITLEY: I was browsing a Legacy Australia Chairman's Newsletter and came upon this gem:

Chickenman

"Bawk-bawk-bawk-baawwwwwkkkk, Chicken-mannnn!" "He's everywhere! He's everywhere!" Throughout the Vietnam War, CHICKENMAN was broadcast over American Forces Radio and is now fondly remembered by veterans both in Australia and in the US. Dick Orkin, the creator of the Chickenman series, has kindly given his blessing to help raise funds for Legacy. Buy your CD set NOW from Grace Gibson Radio by contacting this website:

<http://gracegibsonradio.com/chickenman-2/>

I thought that there might be a few who enjoyed Chickenman (when they could get it – we all know that radios were not taken on ops, don't we???) and would like a copy for old time's sake. And Legacy would benefit.

FROM YOUR EDITOR'S DESK: Today (26th January) is Australia Day 2018. On Australia Day 1969 we were ten days away from boarding HMAS Sydney to commence our thirteen-month tour of duty in Vietnam. The Advance Party had or was just about to fly to Saigon, and be transferred to Nui Dat.

Although half of us were National Servicemen and the other half Regular Soldiers, we were one group. Nobody knew which enlistment status his mate was unless he asked him. We were made up of Greeks, New Guineans, Canadians, Poles, Italians, Pommies, Scots, Dutchmen, Russians, Chinese, Germans, Aussies, Kiwis and probably many other nationalities I can't recall. There were different skin colours. It didn't matter – we were all C Coy and we were all 5RAR. There was no racial hatred or discrimination. There was, however, a lot of sledging which was compulsory!

We are all very proud Australians. We are proud of what we have done, and are proud that we had the opportunity to serve our Country. May that pride never diminish. *Don*

Yesterday I got my permit to carry a concealed weapon. So, today I went over to the local Gun Shop to get a rifle for personal use.
When I was ready to pay for the pistol and ammo, the girl at the checkout said, -"Strip down, facing me."
Making a mental note to complain to my Local Member about the gun control wackos running amok, I did just as she had instructed.
When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card reader!
As a senior citizen, I do not get flustered often, but this time it took me a while to get my pants back on.
I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.
They need to make their instructions to seniors a little clearer. I still don't think I looked that bad! Just need to wear underwear more often.

During training exercises, the Lieutenant who was driving down a muddy back road encountered another car stuck in the mud with a red-faced Colonel at the wheel. "Your jeep stuck, sir?" asked the Lieutenant as he pulled alongside. "Certainly not," replied the Colonel, coming over and handing him the keys, "Yours is."

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com,
0418 423 313, with help from Roger Lambert, Dennis (Digger) Nevins, Ian Leis, Bob Hooper, Bill Titley,
behind-the-scenes assistance from Gary Townsend (the Tiger Tales Editor), Ted Harrison (the SRAR
Association Webmaster), ***supported by RB Racing, and powered by the Lambs Valley Wine Company,
Hunter Valley, NSW.***