

Half Circle

Number 26 - January 2009

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

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.

G'day - a message from the editor of "Half Circle: Happy New Year! 2009 is a significant milestone in the history of 5 RAR, and C Coy (2nd tour). Its 40 years since we departed Australia to go to war in Vietnam. We have gone through a hell of a lot - firstly loving our Country enough to pull on a uniform, our Nashos, not wanting to be called up, proved to be some of the best soldiers the Regiment has ever seen, their input, professionalism, mateship, and dedication will go down in history, And the Regs did the job they were tasked to do. We worked hard, played hard, and upheld all the traditions of the Aussie Digger. We improvised, we cursed, we laughed, we cried, we fought, we drank, we played music, we wrote home, we got mail, we worked for Australia. We had good officers, some crusty experienced senior NCOs, junior NCOs who thought only of their Diggers' welfare, and the Digger, the rock solid base of our Army. Walk proud my friends, you are all a part of Australia's history, and deserve every accolade that may come your way. Don Harrod

Lost Touch..... The email addresses of the following blokes can no longer locate them - please let me know if you have updated addresses, Don:
Bryan MacDonald, Andy Kakafikas, Len Smith, Greg Dick, Max Aitken

Thanks to those who contacted Helen Keed (Barry Thompson's sister). Helen is most appreciative of all the information that has been provided to her.



Safe..... When John Yabsley was on picquet, everyone slept soundly

The local country cop was out and about in the main street of his town. When asked what he was doing, he told a villager that he was searching for a suspicious looking man with a hearing aid.

"Why don't you use binoculars?" asked the local.

Don't forget to use your computer's ZOOM to enlarge this newsletter to 150% or larger for a better read. Yours EYES aren't so good now. ALL photos are easier to read when enlarged.



Who are these blokes??????????????? They are from 7PI, 1969. On the left is Vince Feenstra. The others??????..... Please let us know.



At the RAR 60th Birthday (Sydney), November 2008: George Szczurko, Brig Colin Khan, Wally Magalas, Greg (Spike) Dwiar (B Coy)

LAST CALL FOR A GAME OF GOLF: As advised in the November "Half Circle", we are planning to hit the little white ball at the Georges River golf Club (Bankstown Airport area) on Tuesday 10th February 2009. So far we have about eight combatants, including two of the C Coy First Tour diggers. Enough for us to go ahead, but if anyone else would like to have a hit, a bit of camaraderie, a bite of lunch, and a good day, please let me know. Don



An impromptu reunion - Tex Cunningham, Leo Moravski (D&E PI), Don Teichelman and Wally Magalas. All photographed just prior to being arrested for enjoying themselves at Greensborough RSL (Melbourne). (Don't worry, Tex talked the authorities out of booking anyone!)



Bill Murphy's 60th birthday. Pictured are Bill, Ken Leggett, Rod Zunneberg and Don Teichelman.



Don't EVER, EVER, EVER question the bravery of a soldier!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

AN INTSUM (Intelligence Summary): *We knew what went on, but this is how it could have been seen by others:*

September 28th 1969 - 0800 hours: A platoon from C Coy 5RAR made contact with, and killed 8 enemy

MP: Two corporals checked an infantry platoon for haircuts, shaves, clean boots etc before departing on operations. 8 enemy KIA

ENGINEER: One sapper from 1 FER watched the siting, laying and firing of a bank of M18A1 Claymore mines by an infantry platoon. 8 enemy KIA

ARMOURED: An APC troop dropped off some crunchies to the north of Nui Dat last night. As a result of dropping them off, 8 enemy were KIA

ARTILLERY: As a result of well-aimed 105mm rounds, 8 enemy were KIA

ORDNANCE: As a result of delivering the correct ammunition and stuff that they needed, 8 enemy were KIA last night

SERVICE CORPS: As a result of dropping off some stuff that the grunts needed, 8 enemy were KIA last night

RAAF: As a caribou flew over some jungle at a great height last night, 8 enemy were KIA

NAVY: As a result of us shipping soldiers to Vietnam, 8 enemy were KIA.

MEDICAL: A medic from 8 Field Ambulance watched the burial of 8 enemy

PADRES: Padres attended the funerals of 8 lost souls

THE NVA then issued their own **INTSUM:** "A large force of Uc-Da-Loi comprising an aircraft carrier, aircraft, MPs, Engineers, APCs, Artillery, Ordnance, trucks, Medics, padres, dogs, and a platoon of infantry were responsible for the cowardly massacre of 8 of our bravest soldiers".

Attention ALL members of 7 Platoon: Terry Bates is planning a reunion of **ALL** 7 PI members for July 2009, in Perth. We all remember that 4th July 1969 was the day of the mine explosion. We lost three of our finest soldiers, and seventeen wounded. July 2009 is the 40th anniversary of this devastating incident. Terry is looking for every member of 7PI to register for this most important commemoration. This includes all members of the platoon, irrespective of when you served - whether under David Mead or the late Ian Hosie. ALL C Coy officers and senior NCOs should also consider attending. The WA hospitality is second to none. Terry can be contacted through his daughter - simply email justna@bigpond.com, for Terry's attention.

9 Platoon Reunion: All systems go for the next 9PI reunion at Victor Harbour, SA, over the ANZAC Day period, April of this year. Any 9PI digger or affiliate is asked to contact Ron (Fred) Dwyer at ronfred@adam.com.au or Bryan (Blue) Schafer at blues@tadaust.org.au if you would like to attend.

This one is CROOK! The question: A soldier, sailor and airman were out in a vehicle. Who was driving? The answer: the soldier of course, he had the khaki (car key). How quickly you buggers forget.

KEEP AN EYE OUT..... FOR THE REVISED EDITION OF "The Year of The Tigers" - our Battalion book - updated by David Wilkins. Coming soon - to **YOUR** bookcase!

WANTED..... A PHOTO OF Jack Bradd, taken during the Vietnam days. Jack has contributed a number of articles for the 5RAR website, and Webmaster Ted Harrison likes to put a face to the story. Any contributions to Don (email below) please.

In the next edition: a further article by Claude Ducker MC, our Company Commander from April-December 1969, some recipes using a hexamine stove, cleaning your boots in the field, the Carbon Reduction Action Program (CRAP), understanding Jack Lake, Oscar nominees, etc. OK, I lied about most of these, but I hope that we have an article from Claude.

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod (rosdon@bigpond.net.au), with help from Jack Bradd, John Yabsley, Vince Feenstra, Barrie Taylor, Don Teichelman, Wally Magalas, an unknown soldier, Terry Bates, Fred Dwyer, Jack Bradd, and some rotten jokes.