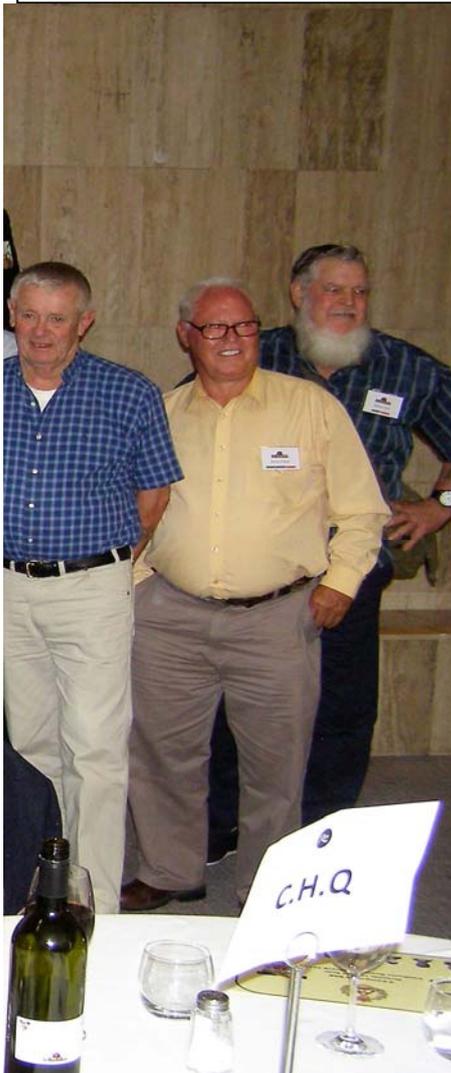


Half Circle



Number 121 - January 2017

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.



**VALE – 3175767 PRIVATE RICHARD
LEIGH (AUSSIE) BIELE**
27-04-1947 to 03-12-2016

It is much regret that we advise of the passing of our colleague, Richard (Aussie) Biele, who died suddenly on Saturday 3rd December 2016.

Aussie was an integral member of CHQ during our Vietnam tour, and will be sadly missed by all.

We pass on our condolences to Aussie's partner Ally, and his family.

Rest in Peace.

Aussie (centre), flanked by Jack Lake and Robert Earl, Canberra, March 2016



The cake at Aussie's funeral. Dave Wilkins, Bryan Schafer, John Hellyer and Brian Budden attended on behalf of 5RAR.

Ed's note: What a great likeness of Aussie. Goodbye old mate.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, AND SPARE A THOUGHT:

As we settle from the Christmas and New Year festivities and time with our respective families, the current C Coy 5RAR is doing it a bit differently. They have recently deployed to Iraq for a tour of duty, so Christmas and New Year will have been a lot different for them. The OC, Major Tom Green, has undertaken to keep in touch with us as operational circumstances allow. If you would like to support a C Coy digger – as others supported us - please refer to the latest edition of Tiger Tales. Thank you. Ed's note: Alan McNulty has just sent in the following from his group in WA: HELLO FELLOW TIGERS . FOLLOWING OUR XMAS PARTY WE WOULD JUST LIKE TO CONGRATULATE EVERYONE WHO HAS SENT PACKAGES TO OUR BOYS OVERSEAS . WE HAVE A TOTAL OF 86 PACKAGES FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE LET US KNOW HOW MANY WERE SENT .

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU . THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS .

THE OC's MESSAGE:

This is the first of three articles, written by our senior officers in Vietnam – Claude Ducker, Bill Titley, and David Wilkins. These articles will give the thoughts and views of our leaders. The first – by Captain (later COL) David Wilkins appears hereunder:

Pirate has asked for my thoughts on how I prepared for my command of C Company. As some of you knew then and some have come to know since, I was the battalion Adjutant for all of 1968 and first half of 1969 and as such had a detailed knowledge of how the battalion worked during operations as well as the intricate functioning of the Battalion Command Post. As 1969 progressed the Boss had various contingency plans prepared, one of which was to have me on stand-by as a replacement company commander in the event of one being absent, wounded or killed and after the Company 2ic had taken over in the immediate instance. For example, I stood in as OC B Company while Major Ray Harring was on R &

R. Then in anticipation of Claude's returning to Australia in December 1969 I moved to C Company in October and took over as Company 2ic from Chuck Stamp. In addition to attending to the Company administration I observed and noted the Company procedures during operations and how the Company worked. I was impressed. It was working just fine under Claude so that made my job so much easier when my time came.

I have said this to you before but will say it again. It was a great honour for me to have commanded the men of C Company on operations. It is a memory I cherish.

I wish all my old comrades-in-arms that your 2017 is a fruitful one. And may it be as healthy as you can hope for.

Dave Wilkins
Captain
OC December 1969 - March 1970



AT THE RAP:

Barrie Taylor - ongoing oncology treatment
Colin Summerfield - medical
John Hellyer - broken leg



TRAVELLING ABOUT:

Jack and Susan Lake have just returned from a trip to Norfolk Island.

SOME GOOD NEWS! Colin Summerfield has contacted us to pass on his thanks to Jack Lake. Jack assisted Colin to successfully apply for a Long Tan Bursary for his son Evan to attend university. Evan has now not only attained his degree in psychology, but did so with First Class Honours. Well done, Evan!

FROM HALF CIRCLE NUMBER 120 – Christmas 2016:

John (Buddah) Martini has advised that the other characters on the 1969 Vietnam Christmas card with Bill Titley and Buddah, were Andy MacDougal, Jock McLean and Lance Reeves. *Thanks, Buddah!*

Lt COL David French, who led Combat Team Charlie (C Coy 5RAR) in Afghanistan, has advised that he has left the Army. We acknowledge David's distinguished career and service to Australia, his leadership and support of our C Coy, and we take this opportunity to thank him and wish he and his family every success in the future. Dave has advised that he will keep in touch with us.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: Kevin and Lynette Mulligan have a new email address - kmccoy5rar@gmail.com. Please adjust your records. Thanks!

I went to the doctor to tell him that I have trouble with my hearing. He asked me to describe the symptoms. I told him that Homer is a fat bloke and Marge has blue hair.

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com, 0418 423 313, with .help from David Wilkins, Colin Summerfield, David French and John Martini.