

Half Circle



Number 91 - July 2014

Vale – 54458 SGT GEORGE BULLOCK We are sorry to advise that George Bullock, the SGT Medic of 5 RAR 1969/70, passed away on 9th June 2014. George was a very professional and decent man, and will be sadly missed.



AT THE RAP: Barrie Taylor – ongoing oncology treatment.
Wally Magalas – ongoing oncology treatment.



From the Wall of Remembrance, Hervey Bay RSL, Qld – a perpetual tribute to Les Pettit, Paul Smith, Hans Muller and Jim McMillan, all of 7PL, who lost their lives in July 1969 in Vietnam.

Lest We Forget

“Combat soldiers are an exclusive set, and if they want to be that way, it is their privilege.”

■ William H. Mauldin, *Up Front* (1945)



On 16th June, your editor and wife Roslyn travelled through Bingara NSW. We stopped at the cemetery to pay our respects to Reg Smith, and took this photo of his very well maintained gravesite. We thank Reg's brother Terry for all his efforts in providing such a fitting tribute.



TRAVELLING ABOUT:

Not yet – but very close. John Hellyer and his wife Hazel have decided to downsize, have bought a small unit, a SUV and a caravan, to realise their dream of travel. What is different about John and Hazel is that they have fostered some **300** children since 1975, brought up ten as their own, and now have eleven grandchildren. By the time they visit all these, it'll be time to start visiting again! Congratulations Hazel and John, and enjoy your retirement with the best wishes of all in C Company. *Ed's note – I don't know how Australians of the Year are selected, but Hazel and John should be right up there.*



C Coy SUT Tully and Adventure Training

Date: 18 May 14

Author: LT Daniel Kirkham

From the 21st of April to the 9th of May 2014 C Company of the 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, with attachments from Support Company as well as Engineers from 1 CER and Gunners from 8/12 Regt, conducted training at the Jungle Warfare Training Centre in Tully, North Queensland. The training was delivered by Jungle Training Wing (JTW) and focused on mastering core soldier skills needed to survive and thrive in the jungle environment. Core skills taught included survival and operating amongst various jungle flora and fauna including leeches, snakes, mosquitoes and the notoriously painful 'Wait-a-While' thorn vine and Gympie plant.

The Company tested its skills during the conduct of Section and Platoon fighting patrols, clearances and ambushes conducted both day and night at very close ranges of as little as 10 metres. The jungle warfare training culminated in the military skills competition Exercise True Grit where Sections competed in a pre-dawn 5 km pack march following by a webbing run, stores carries and concluded with the Tully obstacle course and Bayonet Assault Course. First place was awarded to 31B Section of 7 Platoon under CPL Gluck whose names are now etched into the infamous Tully log records. The uniquely challenging environment of Tully served to strengthen Section and Platoon bonds by emphasising fundamental skills and teamwork within C Coy.

Following Jungle Warfare Training C Company conducted adventure and pre-deployment training in Townsville from the 12th to the 15th of May 2014. As a key part of C Company's preparation for EX GOLDEN EAGLE (RIMPAC 14), members conducted Helicopter Underwater Escape Training at the Lavarack Barracks Facility. Members were taught sea crash survival techniques, including the operation of life preserving equipment and escape from a variety of airframes in simulated water crashes. Additionally C Company members were forced outside of their comfort zones during their adventure training climb and abseil off of Mount Stuart in Townsville. Many fears were faced, both voluntarily and involuntarily, as C Company soldiers mentored each other over cliffs above the 584 metre long drop off Mount Stuart, experiencing the terror of falling and the relief of being saved by a mate.

From the 19th to the 23rd of May 2014 C Company conducted a High Explosive (HE) Week live fire range activity to practice the application of fire using various weapon systems at the individual and team level. C Coy commenced the week with multiple small arms ranges focusing on instinctive shooting practices such as sneaker lanes and gallery shoots to gauge individual application of speed, accuracy and fire positions. This was followed by continuation training on the Company's HE weapon systems. Soldiers practiced the precise destruction of vehicle and dismounted targets using the 40mm Grenade Launching Attachment (GLA), 66mm Light Direct Fire Support Weapon (LDFSW) and 84mm Karl Gustav, with various ammunition natures, at ranges up to 500 metres. Finally C Company conducted field firing ranges where soldiers proved their ability to seek out and close with the enemy, manoeuvring as a Section utilising live ammunition to engage multiple and dynamic targets. This preparation in addition to C Company's experiences from JTW, HUET and adventure training have positioned C Company well for its future multinational amphibious operations in Hawaii as part of RIMPAC 14 where C Company will be operating with the militaries of the United States, Mexico, Canada, New Zealand, Indonesian and Tonga and Korea.

Ed's note: Please refer to the August 2014 edition of Tiger Tales, and to the 5RAR website for more information, including pictures on the C Coy Sub-Unit Training.

SOME NEW NAMES ON OUR ADDRESS LIST: We are pleased to advise that MAJ Ryan Leadbeater, OC of the current C Coy 5RAR has asked to add his officers to our mailing list. Welcome to CAPT Anthony Silva, LT Tavis Harling, Lt Daniel Kirkham, LT Jacob Malouf and LT John Moulton. We sincerely hope that you have as much trouble handling the troops under your command as did our officers some 45 years ago! That's Charlie Coy.

ALPHABET PUB VISITS – 1968 AND 1970

During the years prior to and following our Vietnam service, diggers had the odd Saturday off. Ways to fill the days in included sitting in the Maxwell VC Club, going in to Liverpool (always risky late at night due to chance of being locked up due to excessive liquid intake) or finding something else to do.

Then the idea was hatched – we would pick a letter of the alphabet, find a suburb with a corresponding first letter, and head there for a beer. For instance, if the letter “P” was picked, we would head for Pymont, have a beer in all the pubs, and head for the next suburb commencing with “P”. That of course would lead us to Pydney, Purry Hills, Palexandria, Potany, Paroubra, Palabar, etc. The next week, we would pick (example) “B” and head to Burwood, followed by Brathfield, Bashfield, Bummer Hill, Betersham, Etc.

Dave Wilkins, always willing to help his diggers, sent in the following:

“Since moving to live in Pymont in recent times I have had occasion to drop into the Dunkirk & Quarryman pubs on opposite corners of Harris St and Pymont Bridge Road. These pubs were of course occasional old haunts of many C Company diggers from 1967-8 and the early 1970s. I was amused at their somewhat pristine look and the loss of all signs of blood on the tiled walls from the stoushes of those days. And there was not a sniff of stale beer spilt on the floor. How things change, eh?

As a bit of a nostalgia kick for the blokes, I attach a couple of photos of those pubs today”.



The Quarryman's, Pymont, Sydney



The Dunkirk, Pymont, Sydney



In Sydney and want to hit the little white ball? Then head for the Georges River Golf Course, Henry Lawson Drive Georges Hall. Geoff Grimish and his team will make you most welcome. Geoff is a Vietnam vet (RAA), and is a great supporter of this newsletter. Phone (02) 9724 1615.



A SON'S TRIBUTE:

Peter Moon (son of Wanda and the late Eddie) always wanted to carry a tribute to his mother, father and his family. That set the thought process in motion, and the artwork shown here is the final result. Peter and Eddie were always very close, so it was only fitting that Peter could not only remember his Dad, but also his service. Well done, Pete.



Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com, 0418 423 313, or (02) 6842 4913, with help from Dave Wilkins, Jim Lowry, Peter Moon, John Hellyer, MAJ Ryan Leadbeater and Officers of C Coy 5RAR 2014, and Alan McNulty DCM (C Coy 1st tour)

A working dog