

Half Circle



Number 126 - June 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.



AT THE RAP:

Wally Magalas - medical



TRAVELLING ABOUT:

Ross and Liz Bourke – caravanning from the Newcastle region to the inland region of the mid-north coast NSW – to Bonny Hills, Dorrigo and to the Pub with No Beer at Taylors Arm.

No Slim Dusty, but they DID have beer (see picture). You can stay with your Vans for 2 nights & 5.00 a night, Camp fire & all. Great food in the Pub. Great local people to yarn with!!!! We left Taylors Arm, and on to Uralla where we stayed a week ...Sniffed around there ...The Girls Shopped the boys did the Pubs & Clubs!!!! On the way home we came Down Thunderbolts Way that takes the sleep out of your eyes – using first gear all the way down the 10km road. A great trip, and I recommend it to any caravanners. Roscoe



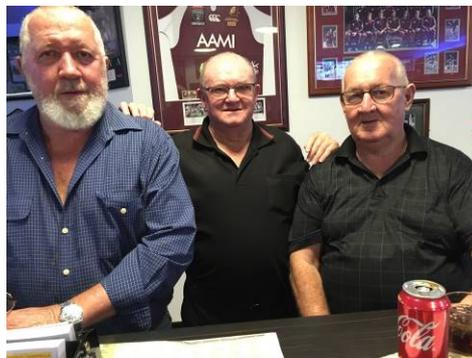
The Pub with no beer – Taylors Arm NSW



At Uralla

Carolyn and Don Frohmuller – recently visiting family at Mendooran NSW, and calling in to Coonabarabran to have a cuppa with the Harrods.

Pam and Eric Hamlin – spending some time with the Orams at Hervey Bay Qld. Pictured are Ben Oram, Eric Hamlin and Barry Baker.



FROM DENNIS (Digger) NEVINS: A note for my C Company mates – Typical of many of us in the bush, communications aren't so great. As a result. My internet and landline are being shut down and my daughter Sam (the Kookaburra) is taking over my technical work for me. I might be out of comms for a short while, but will let you all know when I'm back on net. In the meantime, I'm off to the scrub again. It's about 2,500km to get there and then the hard yakka begins. I'm good at what I do, but I know that it's coming to an end. In the meantime, the re-writing of my Vietnam Diary is now complete, so there's now the checking and proof reading to be done. One more thing, the flag from Jack Bradd's funeral is flying in my back outdoor area. It's known as Jack's flag.

Remembering the Cups, Canteen, Troops for the Use Of ... What a useful piece of equipment this was in country.



The plastic water bottle (canteen) carried vital water supplies which fitted neatly into the canteen carrier. The cloth carrier could be attached to one's pistol belt using the attached clips or suspended from the belt itself using the hooks.

I preferred the latter method of attachment where I could suspend a water bottle at the sides of each bum cheek. For me, it was comfortable and importantly, allowed ready access to my trouser map pockets.

The Cups Canteen could be used for cooking a hot meal, boiling water for a brew (tea or coffee) and boiling water for shaving. One very quickly learnt to acquire a second Cups Canteen as food and shaving water with lather residue don't mix; one canteen was strictly for cooking and brews, and the other strictly for shaving.

I always carried two water bottles on my basic webbing. During the dry season, I carried an extra three water bottles attached to the light weight Special Forces A Frame that I used as my back pack. **Roger Lambert.**

Speaking of Roger Lambert, who is this young officer, photographed at our farewell parade at Holsworthy on 24th January 1969?



A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR: For many months, Ian Leis submitted articles on the profiles of our C Company diggers. This month, Mike Radwell has stepped up to the plate and listed his most impressive achievements. Ian still has a few irons in the fire, but this should not stop you from listing your own achievements and personal details. This is what Half Circle is all about. Thanks, Don.

MY JOURNEY SO FAR

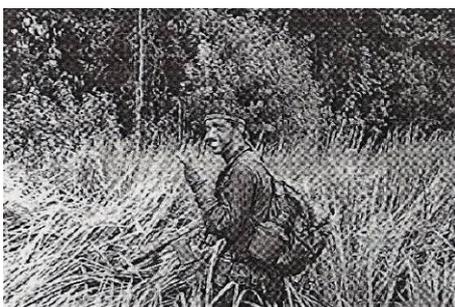
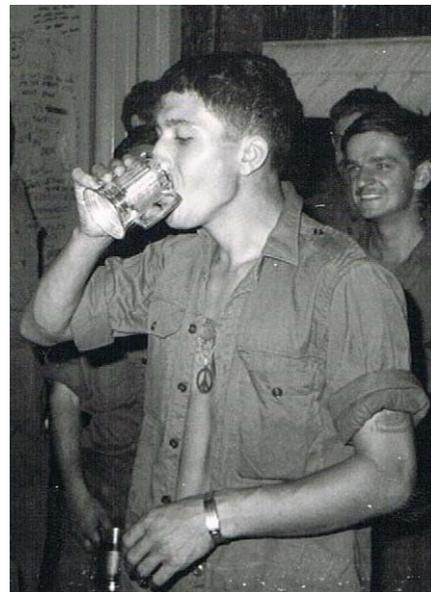
PRIVATE TO MAJOR, MICHAEL JOHN RADWELL

Born Winslow, Buckinghamshire, England 4th August 1948. Exported to Australia 1966. Enlisted into the Australian Army November 1967. Survived and graduated from the First Recruit Training Battalion January 1968. Qualified as an Infantry Warrior at Ingleburn NSW and subsequently posted to the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment May 1968.

Operational service in South Vietnam with the 5th Battalion 1969 to 1970.



Left:
Somewhere on the Indian Ocean either on the way to or from South Vietnam on HMAS Sydney
Right: Farewell drinks at the boozier in the C Coy lines. I still have the pewter at my residence.



Selected for the Special Air Service Regiment May 1970. Operational service in South Vietnam with 2 SAS Squadron 1971. Served from Trooper to Warrant Officer with SASR.

Commissioned as a Captain 1990 and posted to the eastern seaboard to gain some worldly experience. Appointments since commissioning include Executive Officer, Officer Commanding Administration Company and Adjutant 31 RQR, Townsville in North Queensland. Quartermaster and Operations Officer at 42 RQR Rockhampton in Central Queensland.



Trials Officer of the Army 21 Project at 13 Brigade, Deputy Director Army Personnel Agency Perth thereafter appointed the Staff Officer for Administration, Personnel and Logistics at the Regional Training Centre Leeuwin Barracks Fremantle.



Deployed on Peacekeeping Operations in Bougainville April to August 2001.

As a result of two Reserve postings, studied and awarded a Diploma of Administration and a Diploma of Management. Currently a member and Past President of Perth Legacy. A former President of the Army Golf Club of WA and currently the Club Captain.



Married to Janine for 47 years with two grown daughters: Amanda and Julie and four grandchildren ranging from 9 to 18 years of age.



Throughout a 36 year military career Major Radwell has received the following awards Australian Active Service Medal, Australian Service Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal, Defence Force Service Medal with Four Clasps, Australian Defence Medal, Vietnam Medal, Infantry Combat Badge, Chief of General Staff Commendation and Divisional Commanders Commendation.

Retirement November 2003

FROM DAVID WILKINS: Many of you may not be interested in what I'm doing at present but some might be. So here goes.

Since 2013 I've been involved as one of the coordinators, writers and editors of a series of books for the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society (KHS) in northern Sydney called *Rallying the Troops; A World War I Commemoration*.

We have already published two volumes and are now working on the 3rd of four volumes.

This is our way of commemorating the centenary of the Great War by remembering and honouring the local men and women of Ku-ring-gai who served in 1914-18.

The result has been a small group researching and writing short commemorative biographies of the over 1,750 men and women who had connections with the nine suburbs of Ku-ring-gai. Of those, nearly 300 died or about 1 in 6. More than 165 were decorated, about 1 in 10, and a similar number were recommended for awards but were not granted.

Volume I (432 pages), with a foreword by Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the AWM, contains the war stories of approximately one quarter of all those who volunteered. It also includes chapters on Ku-ring-gai as it was at the outbreak of war, on recruiting, enlistment, the rifle clubs, pre-war training, the early battles in which our veterans were involved (New Guinea and Gallipoli), information on our local memorials and a guide to the memorials and cemeteries overseas where our dead are commemorated.

Volume II (414 pages) contains a foreword by Major General Gordon Maitland AO, OBE RFD ED (Ret'd), a distinguished military historian and doyen of the veteran community. This volume contains the biographical entries for another quarter of the Ku-ring-gai veterans along with other chapters on the extensive training undergone both in Australia and overseas, the Engineer Officers Training School at Roseville and our veterans' participation in the major campaigns and battles in the Middle East (the light horsemen and cameleers), and on the Western Front at Fromelles, Pozières, Mouquet Farm and Bullecourt.

Appendices to each volume include the Australian military structure in World War I, an illustrated glossary, lists of those who lost their lives and where they are buried or commemorated, and a list of our decorated.

Publication of Volume III is proposed for about July this year and Volume IV is to be completed by the centenary of Armistice Day on 11 November 2018.

We have been honoured by Volume II receiving the prestigious Mander Jones 2015 Award for the best publication that uses, features or interprets Australian archives.

The citation for the award says:

A remarkable work bringing together so much information from a multitude of sources into a coherent local, yet universal, work of sound research. It utilises a range of resources from both government and private archival collections, from Australia and overseas, to create a great local and general history of WW1. The writing, layout, photography and captions were all high quality. We look forward to Vol 3 in 2017!

This year on 26 January we were also awarded a Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council 2017 Australia Day group award, for *Outstanding Service to the Ku-ring-gai Community*.

Detail of our project may be seen on the Society's website at:

http://www.khs.org.au/rallying_the_troops.html

So there you have it. That's what's been keeping me off the streets for quite some time now.... And will for the next 18 months.



Dave Wilkins with the Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council 2017 Australia Day Group award, for outstanding service to the community.

FROM IAN LEIS: Do you blokes remember when we were in Vietnam, we all had these little Panasonic radios? Forty-eight years on this one and it is still operational. It sounds good and finds many more stations than we managed to get in the Funny Country. Even has the old ear plug/speaker. The leather case has also faired reasonably well, however the stitching has rotted and it is slowly falling apart. The crevices in the leather go mildew and grow "mushrooms" when it rains for a few days. Here are a couple of reminders:



**Mary had a little lamb
Its fleece was white and wispy
Then it caught foot and mouth disease
And now it's black and crispy**

SPECIAL MENTION: There is a bit that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that our Half Circle is published each month. The editor of Tiger Tales and 5RAR Association Membership Officer Gary Townsend (C Coy first tour) reviews this publication and assists with formatting etc each month before it is published. Gary also runs the "Mushroom Club" website, dedicated to those of C Coy who served on the first tour of Vietnam. Thanks Gary, your services are much appreciated. *Ed.*

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com, 0418 423 313, with help from Roger Lambert, Mike Radwell, David Wilkins, Ross Bourke, Ian Leis, Eric Hamlin, Don Frohmuller, Dennis Nevins, **and powered by the Lambs Valley Wine Company, Hunter Valley, NSW.**