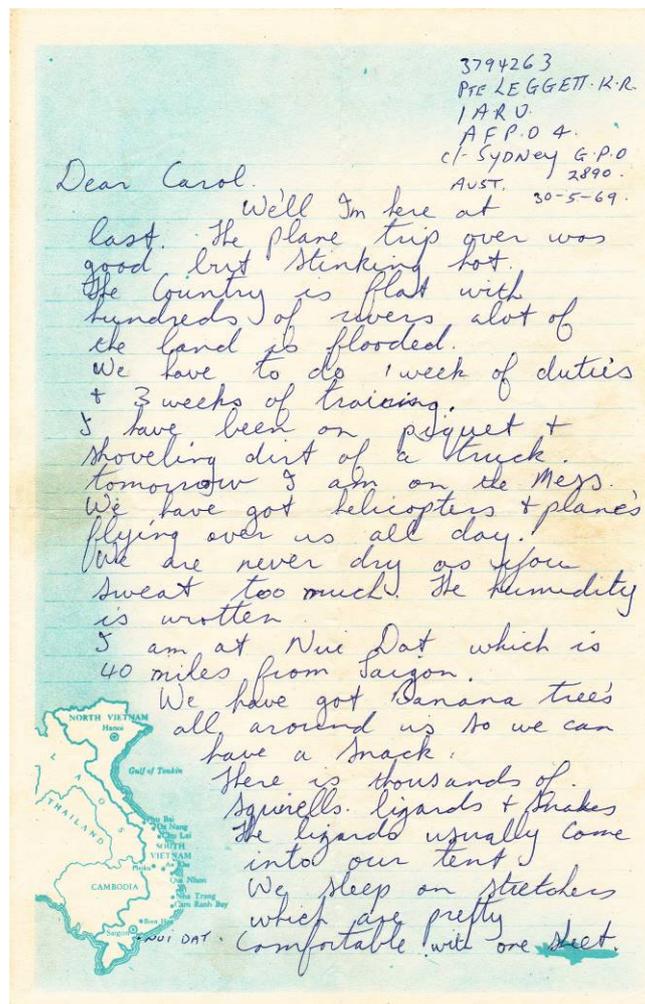


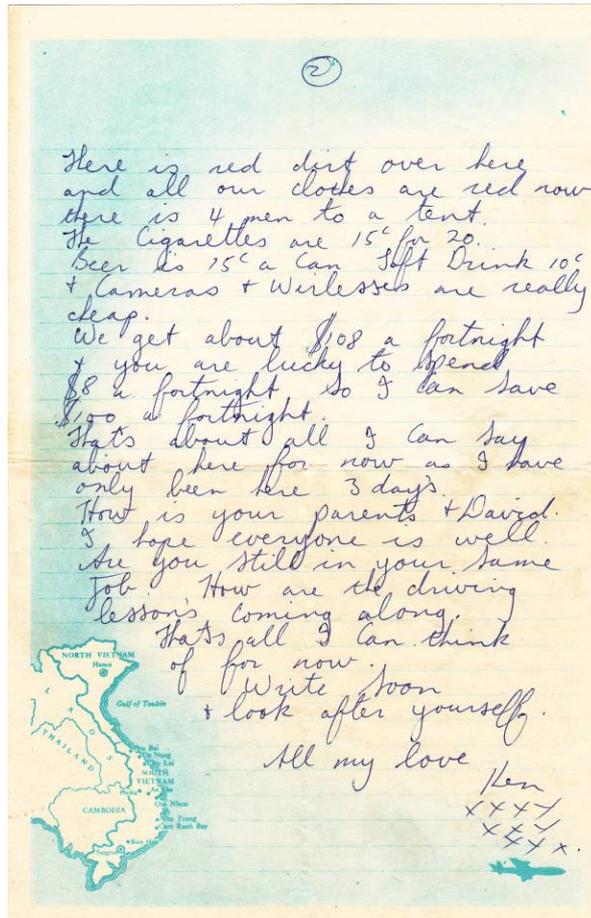
Half Circle



Number 138 - June 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.





This letter is when I first got to Vietnam and wrote to my Ex-Girlfriend who ended up as my Wife 13 Years Later. Ken Leggett.

FROM BARRIE TAYLOR: An update on 2018 March Melbourne. I have marched the last 40 years under 5 RAR and this year I found an old 7 Platoon member in the name of Bluey Schafer down from Sydney and some new 5 RAR members who served in Afghanistan.

So we hit the start point which is Flinders Street and took off 10 mins a head of time. We get about 100 metres from the start and suddenly 6 guys jump the barriers on the left hand side railing. Just like the old diggers of yesterday, they were in the taxi bar thinking they had 10 mins time on their side. This reminded me of John Faint who I had a great relationship with albeit only 4 months. I had a lot of fun with him both in the Bush and on leave at Vung Tau.

This was a special march with these 5 RAR Afghanistan guys chatting about their time o/seas. One digger was about to join the police force, and another digger off to University. Really great bunch of young men who are proud to be a Tiger battalion member and carry forward our traditions.

Finish the march, and chatting to Doug Bishop, he mention's Bluey Schafer was marching. A little bit of searching and located him and enjoyed a 20 min chat as we walked back to the start point at the same time nothing changed with Bluey except his wife was down for her birthday and staying with her sister. During the walk back

to the start line Bluey still issuing commands to the 3 grand kids to behave. This topped my day off running into Bluey and his 3 grandsons.

At long last my post op issues are resolved, the Spanish dancer still plagues me , although my Oncologist (Miles) is optimistic with so many developments breaking thru with a cancer cure will come sooner than later. I said to Miles recently what is going to come first, a St Kilda Grand Final or the escalator to heaven, his response, let me worry about the escalator to heaven and you will see the Saints win a Granny. Geese I luv his positive attitude.

FROM PHIL GREENHALGH: On ANZAC Day this year, Marion and I along with other close friends found ourselves in Sandakan, Borneo where we attended the dawn service. We were all unaware of the horrific death marches from Sandakan to Ranau, a distance of 250 kilometres through mud and jungle, 2700 were forced to march, only six survived, their survival solely due to escaping their capturers during the march and being hidden and cared for by local Borneonians. If other C Company members wish to investigate this horror, Google - Keith Botterill Sandakan Death march.

Back to the dawn service, without a doubt one of the most moving I have ever attended, with speeches given by descendants of the fallen during the death march, the assistant Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia and many other dignitaries. Seating was provided for all those who attended the service, the catafalque party came from the Australian Army Rifle Company personnel based at Butterworth. The gunfire breakfast was unlike any ever experienced in the past, almost a 3 course meal.

I attach a couple of photos, below:



FROM STEVE PORTER: Anzac Day in Forster was very low key this year due to the weather. The Dawn Service and the mid-morning march were cancelled due to the rain.

Trouble was there was no rain after 0800. Very disappointing for the spectators and of course my Grandchildren who came from Sydney to march with me. There was a service in the auditorium of the RSL with about 1000 people attending, not the same though.

FROM BILL TITLEY – Thursday 10th May: Attached is the photographic evidence that C Coy 5RAR Tigers enjoy a night out together.

We had a lovely night with the "tourists" at the Hervey Bay RSL Club tonight. Very couth, with drinks (quite a few) followed by dinner (and a couple more drinks) and a lot of laughs!

Always up for a bit of Regimental hospitality, we welcomed Pat's and Ben's guests, Fran and Bill Taylor, with open arms. It just happened that Bill was in 2RAR in SVN. Lots of high level discussion and a bit of friendly inter-battalion banter (? fire). A very pleasant evening.

The tourists are meeting up with Pat, Ben, Fran and Bill again tomorrow - I have other commitments - before heading further north on Friday.



Stretch Bryan, Bill Taylor, Doug Bishop, Ben Oram, Fran Taylor, Barry Baker, Pat Oram and Bill Titley at the Hervey Bay RSL

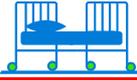


TRAVELLING ABOUT:

Bob & Margaret Hooper flying to Adelaide. Next day boarding the Ghan to Darwin spending a week touring around. Hoping to visit the Memorial wall. Flying back to Sydney.

Phil and Marion Greenhalgh – to Borneo and China.

FROM TERRY FITZGERALD - The story on the bush hat (Half Circle number 137) was very good and brought back many memories. One thing that was missed though - the shape of the hat and how it was worn was a really ideal way to identify the wearer in poor light and darkness. The shape was able to identify who was under the hat. The photo of Bowie in the last issue is a great example.

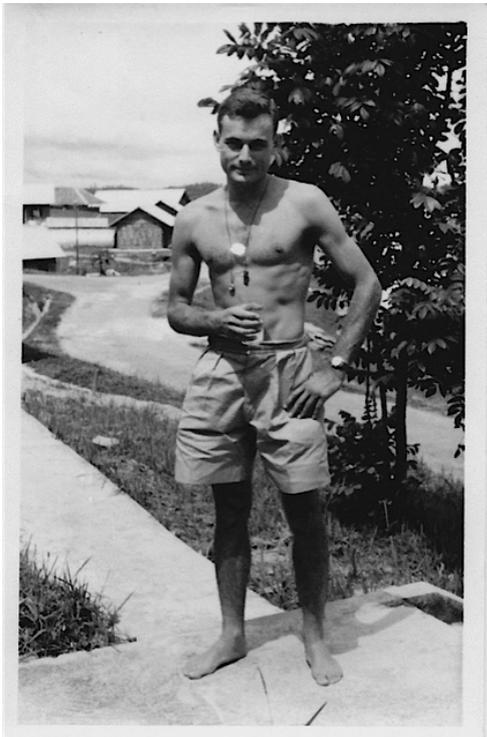


AT THE RAP:

Barrie Taylor, Barry Morgan, Peter Commerford



Geoff Pearson, Vietnam 1969



Claude Ducker in Malaya



The weeds – Vietnam 1969

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