

Half Circle



Number 99 - March 2015

(If this is hard to read, try increasing the picture size to 150%!!)

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 - 5716343 JAMES ALBERT REID

24 June 1948 – 14 February 2015

Jim, a stalwart of 7PL has sadly left us following a long illness. Rest in Peace, Digger, you have attended your final parade.

Andy MacDougal and Alex (Hippie) Koppen attended Jim's funeral in a Perth suburb on Friday 20th February. Andy delivered the Eulogy, and has submitted a very fitting tribute below. Jim's son Rob has joined us as a recipient of "Half Circle" Ed

Sadly we have been notified of the passing of Pte **Jim Reid**. Jim was suffering from a long term illness, and died in hospital in Perth, surrounded by family.

Jim joined the Army as a National Serviceman – part of the 14th intake in 1968. After Recruit Training he volunteered for Infantry Corps, and was soon posted to the Reinforcement Unit in Nui Dat, South Vietnam.

Following heavy casualties to 7pl C Coy 5RAR Jim was posted to this platoon in August 1969. He immediately volunteered as the forward scout for 1 Section. He immediately proved himself in this demanding role. Jim had keen

senses, an appreciation of variations in vegetation that didn't fit, sharp reaction times, and above all, courage in spades.

In January 1970, 7PL ambushed a well-worn track in very steep and rugged terrain. The ambush was sprung when heavily laden and armed enemy soldiers moved up the track. Following a fierce fire fight, the enemy withdrew. Jim was part of the clearing patrol, and was shot at close range by a well concealed wounded enemy soldier. His wounds were serious. He soon returned to Australia for further treatment and ultimate recovery.

After being discharged from the Army, Jim trained as an electrician. He spent many years in the Pilbara in WA with his young family, and subsequently lived and worked in a number of countries in South East Asia. Jim's humour was a defining trait of this fine soldier and father.

Jim is survived by his loving wife Chuynyakorn Reid (Chunny), sons Rob, Brad, Jamie, Clay, numerous grandchildren, and his sisters Dot and Ann, and brothers Henry, John and Charlie.

A funeral service was celebrated for Jim on Friday February 20 2015 at Pinnaroo Memorial Park Padbury, Perth. Two of Jim's 7PL mates Alex "Hippy" Koppen and Andy MacDougal attended the service.

Last month it was suggested that we might use Half Circle to compile a list of tributes to our ANZACs – the bravest men in our country's history. We have not had a great response, but please consider sending in three lines, in order that our April 2015 edition of Half Circle can contribute to all other tributes from around the World to remember Australia's finest.



AT THE RAP:

Alex (Hippie) Koppen – Alex travelled from his home in the UK to be able to attend the 5RAR reunion in Tweed Heads. Unfortunately he suffered Deep Vein Thrombosis en route to Perth. Alex is slowly recovering.

Barrie Taylor – still tackling Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.



TRAVELLING ABOUT: To all those who travelled to the 5RAR 50th Birthday reunion, we hope that you had a great time, and celebrated the Battalion Birthday in the best possible tradition.

C COY 5RAR 2015 – The command structure of C Coy 5RAR in 2015 has changed, with new postings recently announced. They are –

OC – Major Jarrod Brook
2IC - Captain Cameron Clarke
OC 7PL – TBA
OC 8PL - LT Mark Wilson
OC 9PL - LT Jacob Malouf (OC 8PL in 2014)
CSM - WO2 Craig Thomson

We congratulate and wish the above officers and the CSM well in their positions, and if there is anything an old and crafty ex digger can do to show them how to find shortcuts, please contact any of the recipients of this newsletter.



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.

THE C COMPANY (2nd Tour, Vietnam) REUNION

Claude Ducker has sent very comprehensive details of the arrangements for the March 2016 reunion of our Company to all known members. Please study the details, and direct any correspondence regarding the reunion directly to Claude at duckden@bigpond.net.au

The “Mushroom Club” is alive and well! The C Company boozier logo, named by our first tour veterans and continued by us in their honour, has once again surfaced in C Coy 5RAR, in Darwin. The current 9PL has resurrected this fine C Coy tradition, and we all thank them for it. *For further information on the origins of the Mushroom Club, follow the link on the 5RAR website –* www.5rar.asn.au

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

I got pulled over the other day. The cops asked me if I had a police record. I told them "nah, just have their CD".

What happens if you drop your iphone and ipad in the water?
They sync

I phoned up the spiritual leader of Tibet and he sent me a large goat like animal with a long neck! Turns out I phoned dial-a-lama.....

Why was the mime incarcerated? He committed unspeakable crimes.

www.awm.gov.au/shop
Shop online at the Australian War Memorial

THE NASHOS' WAR
Australia's national servicemen and Vietnam
MARK DAPIN

The nashos' war: Australia's national servicemen and Vietnam
Mark Dapin
On 10 March 1965 the first birth date was drawn from a lottery barrel at the Department of Labour and National Service in Melbourne. Over the next seven years a total of 63,740 young men would be drafted into the Australian army and face the prospect of being sent to war. Drawing on the accounts of more than 150 former national servicemen, *The nashos' war* tells a more personal and nuanced story of national service and Australian's Vietnam War.
Hard cover, photographs, 470 pages. 9780670077052
\$40.00 plus postage and handling

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS IN ASIA-PACIFIC IN WORLD WAR II
LACHLAN GRANT

Australian soldiers in Asia-Pacific in World War II
Lachlan Grant
Half-a-million Australians encountered a new world when they entered Asia and the Pacific during the Second World War: different peoples, cultures, languages, and religions chafing under the grip of colonial rule. Focusing on the day-to-day interactions between soldiers on the ground and the people and cultures they encountered, Lachlan Grant paints a picture not only of individual lives transformed but also of dramatically shifting national perception, as the gaze of Australia turned from Britain to Asia.
Soft cover, photographs, 276 pages. 9781742231419
\$40.00 plus postage and handling

Gallipoli
Peter FitzSimons

Maestro John Monash: Australia's greatest

Have a good look at the above advertisement regarding books available for sale from the Australian War Memorial Shop. The picture on the left is of our own Bill Hartley! We think it's great that Bill has been featured on such an excellent publication, but what did his mates think? Read on.....

Andy MacDougal – “They didn’t even give him a free copy – he’s been buying all the copies he can!”

John “Buddah” Martini – “They must have chosen the ugliest head in the Battalion!”

*But the final word comes from Bill – “I have read it, a good account of all different Corps and their service . Not much about our tour but I found it interesting especially the statistics of Nashos in Infantry .
PS. Penguin requested a somewhat rugged, handsome digger, not a pretty boy like Andy or Buddha”.*



A Nesting Falcon

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod –
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