

Half Circle



Number 111 - March 2016

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.

EDITORIAL: *This edition of Half Circle marks just over ten years since Half Circle started and we once again began talking to each other. Just after this edition is published, many of us will be gathering in Canberra to participate in a reunion. There has only ever been one before – when the late Wayne (Rouster) Stephens hosted one in Warren, NSW. We **must** keep our lines open, and record our history. Your articles will always be received, published (if acceptable – referred on if not), and editing will be done for you if required. Our network involves men who served together over 47 years ago. All we have to do is pen a few lines to keep in touch. Over to you! Don*



AT THE RAP:

Barrie Taylor

Geoff Ford

Don Frohmuller

After our reunion, it is possible that this list could contain up to 70 names!

The following pages contain information to those attending the Reunion of C Coy 5RAR (2nd tour of Vietnam, 1969/70). Please read Claude Ducker's letter to you, and if you can convince any others of our group to make a late decision and attend, please ask them to act immediately!

C Coy Reunion 15 – 17 March 2016

Further Information

Dear former C Company colleague,

We have had a very good response from former members of our C Coy 5 RAR, second tour in Vietnam, in regard to attending our reunion in Canberra. So much so that indications are that we are likely to have around 115 at the final dinner. I thought you might be interested to see the enclosed list showing who is attending so far.

Realistically this is likely to be the last time we have such a reunion. Could I therefore ask each of you to please have a look at the list to see if there is somebody not on the list who you knew well in Vietnam who might respond well to a call from you and make a decision to come. I have found in recent weeks that a number of men from our company did just that as a result of such a call. The White Pages on your computer are very useful in this regard. We need to know of any of these last minute inclusions by **Tuesday 4 March 2016**.

Registration

Registration for the reunion will commence at 5.40 pm at a table outside the Rex ballroom. Each paid up attendee will receive a colour coded name tag indicating which functions you are attending.

Program

Because the Reunion program (and other attachments) was sent out ten months ago we are sending you another copy with that document. There is little change to that program.

As a result of the larger attendance, our Meet and Greet function has been moved to the Rex Hotel's ballroom, still starting at 6pm.

AWM Tours

As the luncheon cruise on 16 March 2016 for 80 people is booked out we have organised an additional tour of the War Memorial starting at 1330 on Wednesday 16 March. This tour will mostly be different to the tours on 17 March but they both include the Vietnam Gallery as it was thought this would be of special interest to you. This tour will go ahead provided there are at least five viewers and will commence at the Orientation Gallery. Otherwise join the normal tour starting every 15 minutes.

On 17 March the groups will move off for their 90 minute tour from the forecourt entrance of the War Memorial (near the flags) once there are 15 – 20 people for that group, starting soon after 10.00 am.

Taxis

The hotel staff can arrange a taxi for you at very short notice should you not be able to get a lift from the large proportion of attendees bringing their cars to the reunion.

Lunch at Poppy's Restaurant 17 March

Poppy's restaurant, our luncheon venue for 17 March, cannot take reservations as it has to be available to the public. I have advised them to expect an extra 100 or so for lunch and they are organising extra staff and provisions. Nevertheless you would be well advised to go there straight after your guided tour so that you don't have to queue too long for your food. By the way, the War Memorial has another well patronized restaurant named the "Landing Place" which is situated on the landing above the area where the Sound and Light shows are conducted inside the AWM.

Dress

We have not wanted to be too prescriptive about dress for most functions. Just smart casual. I did not wish to have a situation where somebody felt they could not come to the reunion final dinner because their coat does not fit them any more. I know the problem!

As indicated in my original writing to you the only function where you need to wear your medals will be at the "Last Post" ceremony on 17 March 2016 (wreath layers gathering by 4.30 pm, others at 4.40pm).

Ted Suttor

There is only time at the Last Post Ceremony at the end of each day for the War Memorial to commemorate one Veteran with his story. It has been decided to commemorate, with his story, Ted Suttor on 17 March 2016. His relatives will attend. There will also be a wreath laid for each of the other six C Company fallen at this ceremony. However each of the other veterans will be the subject of another Last Post Ceremony on a date influenced by their families.

Other Canberra Attractions

There are many Canberra attractions, some of which you may want to see. The Tom Roberts exhibition at the National Gallery until late March is one of the finest Australian art exhibitions that has been held in Australia. (Tickets through Ticketek) You might also find the nearby Portrait Gallery well worth a visit. As it will be a Parliamentary sitting week you could visit the public galleries to see the politicians in action!

Wine and Memorabilia

Andy MacDougal has kindly donated the wine to be consumed at the final dinner. There will be commemorative labels on these bottles as well as on some further bottles for sale at the conclusion of the dinner. Also Geoff Pearson has kindly

donated the commemorative place mats to be used at the dinner and which attendees can keep.

Special Dietary Requirements

Please advise Barry Morgan by email (if you haven't already done so) if you have any special dietary needs or food allergies. The hotel can cater for these providing they have 8 days' notice.

Barry Morgan and I look forward to seeing you in Canberra.

With my best regards,

Claude Ducker

See a Map of Canberra and all Reunion Documents at the end of Half Circle.

LATE MAIL: Barry Morgan has advised there has been a change in the accommodation details – *this will only affect those who may be caravanning:*

The **Carotel** has closed down for renovations. The alternate is the Alivio Tourist Park, 20 Kunzea Street, O'Connor, phone (02) 6247 5466,

E: reservations@aliviogroup.com.au

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES – MORE HALF CIRCLE!!



Colonel David Mead



Private Leslie Pettit

Above are copies of two paintings by Peter (Blue) McHugh, 7PL. David of course was the PL COMD of 7PL, and Les was a machine gunner, also of 7PL. On the night of 4th July 1969, 7PL was decimated by land mines. David was very seriously wounded, and Les made the supreme sacrifice. We will always remember and honour these fine soldiers.

FROM THE DIARY OF DENNIS (DIGGER) NEVINS, 7PL – 14/15 JANUARY 1970:

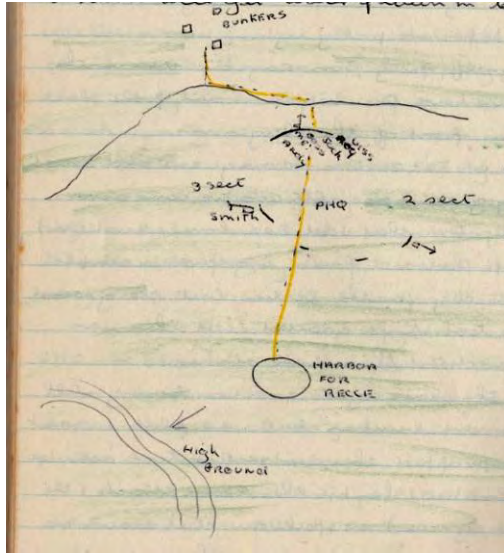
Jack Bradd and John Marine didn't go to 8PL as manpower was very low there. Both Jack and the boss (LT Hosie) had a yarn to the OC and he changed his mind. We had our O Group, we are leaving CHQ at 0830 to go to the Kangaroo Pad where we are being lifted out by Chinook. All our section had to go up to the Pelican Pad as we had too many blokes to get on the last Chinook. We didn't leave Pelican until 1030 and it took quite sometime before we got to FSB Tiger. (I don't mention if it was Chinooks that took us to Tiger but I assume it was.) Once again we had to wait around for the next lift out - we were on the last lift. When the choppers came in they covered us, our gear and weapons with dust. We choppered into an LZ. I was sitting on the floor closest to the door. I could feel the sway of the chopper through my backside. As we lowered the chopper was swinging left to right, lifting and lowering until the pilot found his patch of dirt on the LZ at the base of the May Tao Mountains. In reality we were a few thousand yards from the mountains. As we off loaded I placed the belt onto the gun then I saw movement in front of me, I raised the gun but it was 5 bearded, cammed up SAS blokes running out of the scrub line to get onto our chopper. They had secured the LZ; their commander had been awarded the DCM. (The reason I raised the gun was because I wasn't told of friendly troops so it took me by surprise to see SAS).

We stayed at the LZ for 50 minutes, during that time I cleaned the gun and had a bite to eat. Our section then led out followed by PL HQ then 2 and 3 section. The pace was quite slow as the SAS had said there were buku (lots) of nogs about, also the heat was terrible and it wasn't long before we needed a rest. We are patrolling

along the bottom edge of the May Tao about 2000 yards off them maybe a bit more. The country here is more or less plateau, there are small steep hills along it and it is really working the sweat out of us. There was only one caution today that was when our scout John Marine saw smoke 150 yards away. It seemed it might be a nog camp. We waited around for a while for the boss to get a fix on our location, then we moved up very quietly but found arty had set a log on fire. As we got closer we could sense that it wasn't what we thought earlier on. The PL moved out with 2 Section leading and our section moved back to the rear. We came across a small steep rise; we harboured on it for the night - we were all fairly tired. 8PL is on our right 300 yards away and 9PL is with CHQ 500 yards to right rear. LT Hosie has set up claymores about 30 yards in front of Bowies section on a scrub bashed track but the Platoon remains in harbour.






There are three Fire Support Bases on this OP, Tiger, Pat and Links. There is a section of guns at each base. An A Company Tail Patrol made contact yesterday or last night. They got a blood trail and an AK47, but I'm not sure if they claimed a kill.

15th January 70. Its now 1600 hrs and we (7 PL) are in ambush on a very good track. It goes through an old bunker system which has been destroyed. At least three nogs have used it this morning and they are wearing boots. Also there are C type rations, cigarette butts and packets lying on the track. Our hopes are pretty high. There is myself, Andy, Boss, Roy and Viss in the killer group. We have ten claymores out plus some white phos with the claymores. This morning we moved out at 0830 - 3 Section leading followed by PL HQ then 1 and 2 Sections. 3 Section led at a good pace, and after 400 yards they came across an old bunker system that had been bombed out by air power. We harboured up there and searched. There were four graves which a couple of blokes tried to dig up but the ground was too hard. We took it for granted that they were killed by the strike so the bodies were credited to those who carried that out. On the move again with 3 Section leading. They came across more bunkers that were blown. 3 Section did a sweep then propped, our section then took over the lead. We crossed two more bunkers then hit this beaut track - the one we are ambushing now. Firstly though we followed it for 40 yards, stopped and turned right, then moved another 80 yards into the scrub where we harboured while a recce was carried out on the ambush position. As we sit in position now we all have camouflage cream on and bushes around us as the donga isn't very thick here. The water situation is low, I'm drinking a lot in this weather but have cut back on brews - I think we may get water flown in tomorrow. The ambush is a sort of triangle with the left gun (Smithy) facing the track that curves around to our left.



Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com, 0418 423 313, with help from Peter McHugh, Dennis Nevins, Gary Townsend (Editor Tiger Tales), Barry Morgan and special reunion information from Claude Ducker.

CANBERRA CBD LEGEND

-  Attraction - free admission
-  Attraction - admission charge
-  Canberra and Region Visitors Centre
-  Embassy
-  Fuel station
-  Shopping & food precinct







REX HOTEL

AWM

YACHT CLUB



CANBERRA CBD LEGEND

-  Attraction - free admission
-  Attraction - admission charge
-  Canberra and Region Visitors Centre
-  Embassy
-  Fuel station
-  Shopping & food precinct

Ian	Leis	7 & 8 PI
Terry	Bates	7 PI
Michael	Bolton	7 PI
Michael	Browne	7 PI
Bob	Byrnes	7 PI
Dennis	Cakoliris	7 PI
Eddie	Davies	7 PI
Vince	Feenstra	7 PI
Bill	Hartley	7 PI
Wayne	Herbert	7 PI
Graeme	Hill	7 PI
Bob	Hooper	8 PI
Kenneth	Leggett	7 PI
Jim	Lowry	7 PI
Andy	MacDougal	7 PI
John	Martini	7 PI
Peter	McHugh	7 PI
Sandy	McKinnon	7 PI
David	Mead	7 PI
Peter	Molloy	7 PI
Michael	Kostiuk	7 PI
John	Gardiner	8 PI
Peter	Guyatt	8 PI
Bob	Hooper	8 PI
Bob	Marshall	8 PI
Geoff	Pearson	8 PI
Alan	Riley	8 PI
Ngarie	Stephens	8 PI
Mick	Struchlak	8 PI
Tony	Wass	8 PI
Allan (Blue)	Austin	8 PI & CHQ

David	Bowman	9 & 7 PI
Phillip	Winney	9 & 7 PI
Ross	Bourke	9 PI
Ronald	Dwyer	9 PI
Jean	Findlay	9 PI(Ted Suttor'ssister)
Terry	Fitzgerald	9 PI
Phil	Greenhalgh	9 PI
Eric	Hamlin	9 PI
John	Hunter	9 PI
Peter	Knight	9 PI
Roger	Lambert	9 PI
Terry	Major	9 PI and CHQ
Ben	Oram	9 PI
Jock	Phillips	9 PI
Max	Postle	9 PI
Bryan	Schafer	9 PI
Owen	Schmidt	9 PI
Bill	Sturgess	9 PI
Don	Teichelman	9 PI
Richard	Biele	CHQ
Claude	Ducker	CHQ
Geoff	Ford	CHQ
Don	Frohmueller	CHQ
Don	Harrod	CHQ
Mons	Haug	CHQ
John	Hellyer	CHQ
Alex	Ilyin	CHQ
Jack	Lake	CHQ
Paul	McQueen	CHQ
Alan	Miles	CHQ
Barry	Morgan	CHQ

Kevin	Mulligan	CHQ
Bill	Titley	CHQ
David	Wilkins	CHQ
Robert	Earl	RAE
Neil	Simpson	Sp Coy

C Company 5 RAR 2nd Tour in Vietnam - Canberra Reunion 15 – 17 March 2016

Program

Tuesday 15 March 2016

6 pm: **Meet and Greet** function to be held in part of the main bar area of Canberra Rex Hotel. \$45/head. Finger food - buy your own drinks.

Wednesday 16 March 2016

Boat Luncheon Cruise - \$69/head

Commence seating at 11.30 am for 12 midday departure for three hour boat trip on Lake Burley Griffin. Meet at the Jetty at the Canberra Southern Cross Yacht Club, 1 Mariner Place, Yarralumla. Two-course lunch to be served – buy your own drinks. Commentary to be unobtrusive.

The boat holds a maximum of 80 people for lunch. Therefore places on the cruise will be allocated to the first 80 people who pay for their cruise with the completed Registration and Payment form. In the event that there are more than 80 who have paid their money for the boat trip refunds will be given to the excess people. If this situation occurs there will be suggestions as to an alternative activity.

Evening: **Gatherings under platoon and CHQ auspices**. The Canberra Rex can allocate separate areas if requested.

Thursday 17 March 2016

10.00 – 11.30 am **Guided tour of the Australian War Memorial Highlights** in small groups of about 15. Note that on another day other tours of the AWM e.g. revamped World War I galleries or post World War 2 galleries can be arranged for small groups. This would require at least three weeks notice to the reunion organisers. Otherwise at other times during your stay in Canberra you can also join one or more of the AWM guided tours held daily. Wheelchair access to the AWM is via lift to the left of the AWM front steps; this takes you to the Commemorative Area.

12:00 noon: **Lunch at Poppy's Restaurant** (on the south east side of AWM). Self pay, but an indication of attendance is required so that extra staff and perhaps a separate area will be available.

4.30 pm: Wreath layers gather (others at 4.40pm) for 4.55 pm start of **Last Post Ceremony at AWM**. C Coy attendees will be ushered to the front at the pool edge. C Coy 5 RAR 1969 tour KIA will be acknowledged with wreaths. Medals to be worn. (The Last Post Ceremony is streamed live every day on the AWM site <http://live.awm.gov.au>.)

6.30 pm: **Final dinner in the Canberra Rex Hotel Ballroom**. Three-course dinner (alternating serves) \$72/head. Wines kindly donated by Andy MacDougal. (Some of his wine with commemorative labeling is likely to be for sale after the dinner.) Other drinks to be purchased at bar or ordered from wait staff.

Brigadier Colin Kahn is to give an address at this dinner.

N.B. All functions are “buy your own drinks” (but note donated wines at the final dinner). This is to reduce costs for light or non-drinkers. The total basic cost for attending all functions is \$190/head – see Attachment B.

Accommodation

1. The recommended accommodation is the Canberra Rex Hotel which has offered us the most competitive rates. We are also using this hotel for our evening functions, so staying there will obviate the need to drive after the consumption of alcohol. We are not being charged for the use of the Canberra Rex Hotel's function rooms.

2. "The Rex" is currently a 3½ star hotel but it is in the final stages of substantial refurbishment. (As a matter of historical interest President Johnson stayed at this hotel on his visit to Canberra in 1966).
3. The hotel is situated at 150 Northbourne Avenue on the corner with Ipama St., Braddon, and is about 1,200 metres from the city. If you are approaching Canberra from the north on this main thoroughfare the hotel is on your left (see map at Attachment C). Rooms have free Wi Fi and cable TV. You will also have the use of the indoor heated pool and the gymnasium. "The Rex" is a 5-10 minute drive from the Australian War Memorial. It has 60 car spaces at no charge – "first in first served". Otherwise, seek parking in the streets behind the hotel.
4. The cost for an refurbished executive room with king size bed for reunion attendees is \$128 per night. This includes a hot buffet breakfast for two. (See **Attachment A** for other room and apartment rates. As apartments have cooking facilities breakfast is not included in the price for them.)
5. It is essential when making bookings that you quote the 4 digit code "**5RAR**". Use of credit card reserves the room but money will not be taken out until your arrival. This gives you a lot of flexibility. If you intend to stay in Canberra for more than three nights the cheaper rates will also apply.
6. **Most important: If parliament is sitting the hotel usually books out, so early reservations are strongly advised.** (The parliamentary calendar is usually not released until October.) The Canberra Rex phone number is (02) 6248 5311.
7. If for any reason you cannot obtain accommodation at "The Rex" you could contact one of the Reunion organisers for further information – see contact numbers at Para 12 below.
8. For details of Caravan Parks see also **Attachment A**.

Transport

9. Paid parking is now prevalent in Canberra, but free parking is available at the Southern Cross Yacht Club and the Australian War Memorial. There is no public transport to the Yacht Club. Those of you with a car please keep a lookout for anyone looking for a lift.
10. Those of you coming to Canberra by plane or train might like to consider sharing the hire of a car with a friend for the period of your stay. Aerial Taxis: ph (02) 6202 4300
11. **Attachment C** is a map of inner Canberra showing the location of the Canberra Rex, the AWM and the Canberra Southern Cross Yacht Club, as well as several other points of interest.

Further Information

12. Further information can be obtained from:
Claude Ducker 026253 1753 or Barry Morgan 02 6255 4531

Attachment A: Canberra Rex Hotel Room Rates and Accommodation Types, and details of Caravan Parks.

Attachment B: Registration and Payment form showing costs for each activity. To be submitted by 30 November 2015.

Attachment C: Map of inner Canberra showing the venues for the reunion as well as some other places of interest.

ACCOMMODATION

CANBERRA REX HOTEL AND SERVICED APARTMENTS. Ph: 02 6248 5311

Check-in: Tuesday 15th March 2016 Check-out: Friday 18th March 2016

Room Type	Rate Per night	Number of Rooms
Guest Rooms		
Executive Room (1 king bed, 2 guests maximum)	\$128.00	90
Executive Twin Room (2 single beds, 2 guests maximum)	\$149.00	20
Executive Family Room (1 king bed & 1 single bed, 3 guests maximum)	\$174.00	4
Suite (1 king bed, 2 guests maximum)	\$159.00	3
Spa Suite (1 king bed, 2 guests maximum)	\$159.00	3
Apartments		
1 Bedroom Apartment (1 king bed, 2 guests maximum)	\$159.00	15
2 Bedroom Apartment (4 guests maximum)	\$184.00	4
2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom Apartment (4 guests maximum)	\$199.00	2
Rates quoted are inclusive of hot buffet breakfast (not applicable to apartments)		

CANBERRA CARAVAN PARKS**1. CAROTEL MOTEL AND CARAVAN PARK**Cnr Aspinall & Zelling St., Watson ACT
(off the Federal Highway)

Phone: (02) 6241 1377

Fax: (02) 6241 6674

Bungalows from \$95 per night

Motel Room from \$125.00

2 Bedroom Cabins from \$210.00

2 Bedroom Villas from \$235.00

Powered Caravan Sites for 2 from
\$34.0020 Minutes from the Australian War
Memorial**2. CANBERRA SOUTH MOTOR PARK**

Canberra Avenue, Fyshwick, ACT 2609

Phone (02) 6280 6176

Fax: (02) 6239 2250

Email: csmp@iimetro.com.auWeb: www.csmp.net.au

Powered sites, own caravan: \$38 to \$42

Budget Motel \$85.00 to \$100.00

Cabins (no kitchens) \$150 to \$163

35 minutes from the Australian War
Memorial

C Company 5 RAR 2nd Tour in Vietnam - Canberra Reunion 15 - 17 March 2016
Registration and Payment Form
To be submitted by 30 November 2015.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Partner's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

I/We will be attending: (Please tick the box)

Self

Partner

Tuesday 15 March 2016:

Meet & Greet at Canberra Rex Hotel - \$45/head

Wednesday 16 March 2016

Boat Luncheon Cruise - \$69/head

Thursday 17 March 2016

Guided Tour of AWM highlights (No Charge)

Lunch at Poppy's Restaurant AWM (Self Pay)

Last Post Ceremony & wreath laying (No Charge)

Final Dinner at Canberra Rex (\$72/head)

I/We require Vegetarian Food

I/We need to pay:

A: Meet & Greet \$45/head

(Write amount in box if attending)

B: Boat Cruise \$69/head

C: Final Dinner \$72/head

D: Admin costs \$4/head

TOTAL COST:

A+B+C+D =

Self:\$ _____ Partner:\$ _____

GRAND TOTAL FOR SELF (AND PARTNER): \$ _____

Payment Methods: Make cheque or money order payable to "C & J Ducker & B & K Morgan", copy this form for your records, then attach your cheque or money order and mail to:

B. Morgan, 10 Leven St., AMAROO, A.C.T. 2914

OR use the following details to make a direct deposit into the Reunion Account. (Use your name as the reference):

Bank: St George **Account Name:** C Coy 5 RAR Reunion **BSB:** 112-879 **Account Number:** 468627095

Email a copy of your direct deposit receipt and your completed registration form to b.kmorgan@bigpond.com or post to **B. Morgan, 10 Leven St., AMAROO, A.C.T. 2914.**