

Half Circle



Number 113 - May 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.

THE LAST POST CEREMONY – AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL **17th MARCH 2016**

Andy MacDougal writes:

Sara Nevins sent me this link of the film taken by the AWM during our reunion. For those who would like to view the tribute to Ted Suttor, please open the following link – either here or on the 5RAR website:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/AWM2016.2.77>

A few days ago a friend dropped in a book that was produced in 1917 by the Returned Soldiers Association. This was the second edition – the original was published on April 25, 1916. The work was undertaken as a fundraiser for the recently formed Returned Soldiers Association. I presume this was a forerunner to today's RSL.

The book names every soldier who died and is divided into various categories.

Unit (e.g. 5th Bn)

Casualties Prior to Embarkation

Casualties Subsequent to embarkation, but prior to hostilities

Killed in Action

Wounded and Missing

Missing

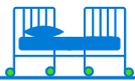
Died of Wounds

Died of Other Causes.

It takes 225 pages to name them all. And bear in mind, the war was still in progress.

Then comes the really interesting part Soldiers' Stories. Just like Half Circle! I noticed that the Lone Pine name was originally "Lonesome Pine". Then follows a summary of General Orders At ANZAC, a summary of the Dardanelles Commission Report, and a summary of The Battle of Jutland.

Ginny and I were in Brisbane last weekend (baby-sitting!). I went over to Digger Nevins place, and we had a good chat about Canberra. He was very proud that his daughters went to Canberra representing him and Jack Bradd. He made a point that we should not forget those who were wounded, and suggested that if a second label is produced we might be able to fit them on as well. Many of these guys suffer daily – look at Peter Molloy who has had untold operations, is in daily pain, and still has shrapnel in his leg. I suppose the only record of those wounded is in the Year of the Tigers. I will have a look at this.



AT THE RAP:

Barrie Taylor – ongoing oncology treatment.

Jack Lake – Jack is undergoing major ankle surgery. More details later.



ANZAC Day 2016 – Hervey Bay Qld. Max Postle, Barry Baker, Russell (Kiwi) Hill, Bill Titley, Ben Oram and the notorious Jack Bradd. Bill complains that this motley lot led him astray, and was outsmarted by these other ranks!
Ed's note: I'd recommend that you charge them, Bill!



ANZAC Day 2016 – Sydney. Peter Commerford, David Wilkins, Paul McQueen and Geoff Pearson at the 5RAR watering hole, the Crown Hotel.

THE 5RAR REUNION SURVEY: If you have not yet completed and returned your survey documents on how regularly and how future reunions may be planned, please complete and return these to Geoff Pearson as soon as possible. ***These are now overdue.*** Your views are most important.

FROM THE DIARY OF DENNIS (DIGGER) NEVINS
16th-17th January 1970

16th January. Much to our disappointment no nogs came into our ambush which really surprised me, we seem to be a very unlucky Platoon for ambushes. Around 0730 Doc Halliday (PL SGT) took out a recce party and they were gone for nearly two hours. During this time they came across water 350yds away, also tracks and old bunkers.

At 1200hrs 3section took over the killer group and our section took over their position. We have a sentry out from my gun position. At 1300hrs Doc got three blokes from each section, who took all the empty water bottles down to the water they found earlier and filled them. They returned at 1500hrs.

This morning the Arty went wild, they were throwing in round after round into the hills, they must of fired hundreds. Some landed about 1000yds from us and occasionally we received dead shrapnel and rock. At the moment I have a swollen wrist, I did it in my sleep, I have a bandage around it to strengthen it. Tomorrow we are moving north to where a 10000 lb bomb was dropped,

there is a large nog camp in the area. The other two Platoons (8 and 9) are very close to us.

17th January. We left our ambush site at 0830, our section led followed by PLHQ, 2 and 3 section. Right from the beginning we started to climb and we didn't stop until at least 1200hrs. It was extremely steep; there were boulders all over the place which at times we had to climb over. It was something like climbing the Warbies. It was hard yakka carrying the gun. There were a few false crests which didn't do much for morale. As we neared the final slope we had a rest for half an hour as we felt buggered - I felt I couldn't go another step. On moving out 2 section took over the lead and our section moved to the rear. Once at the top of the rise we then headed down to come down on the bombed out area where the 10000lb bomb exploded. At lunch time we got to the site and by hell it was a mess. The jungle was totally cleared away everything in a 100yd diameter was disintegrated - it was something to see. We had lunch on the top edge of the blast area (I don't mention this but the blast area was extremely steep). 3 Section carried out a recce with no results. After lunch we were on the move again with 2 Section leading followed by PHQ, 3 and 1 Sections. We patrolled down the edge of the blast area and just below the blast area 2 Section spotted the nog camp. While 2 Section moved in our Section remained on higher ground in case we had to give covering fire, but the camp was clear so we all then moved in and harboured.

Once there we were told 6RAR had been previously and blown all the bunkers, we weren't bloody well told, the skipper didn't even know - all that work for bloody nothing, I've never been so mad. I felt terribly let down as we were ready to hook in - all the others are disappointed as well. Jack Bradd, John Marine and a few others went down the track running down the left side of the re-entrant and found a water point. They heard nogs and returned back as he didn't have my gun. The boss got all our section and we went back down but we found the area clear. We filled up water bottles and returned to the harbour position. The nogs really had a good set up in this camp, a tin shed, large pots, pans and good water. It would have been a good camp to spring but it seems 6RAR got that glory. It's terrific scenery from up here - you can see for miles. The nogs must be nutty if they want to carry supplies up this far. We are harbouring here tonight.

Ed's note: This could be the last article Dennis will be submitting for Half Circle, as he is planning to convert his diaries into book form. We congratulate Dennis on this initiative, and wish him every success. Don

WATCH THIS SPACE: We have heard from Major Tom Green, the current OC of C Coy. His team has been training at Cultana (SA). There will be articles of interest coming to Half Circle in the very near future!

FLASHBACK - FROM HALF CIRCLE NUMBER 23 – OCTOBER 2008:



Bill Evans, John Yabsley, Neal "Dartza" Davis, Peter "Fred" McCarthy, and Mick Dobbs

FLASHBACK - FROM HALF CIRCLE NUMBER 66 – JUNE 2012:

IN THE NEXT EDITION OF HALF CIRCLE:

1. Jack Lake lists the blokes who he actually liked;
2. Mouse McLeod opens his Q Store to the public;
3. The day the Orderly Room Corporal got a regimental number wrong – but was right all the time;
4. A photo of Claude Ducker smiling;
5. A photo of Paul Monaghan and Reg Smith wearing **ironed and starched** greens;
6. Details of a bloke who Blue Schafer **didn't** know; and
7. The recipe for **Paddy's buns!**

None of the above is true, but at least it will make you have a look!

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com, 0418 423 313, with help from Andy MacDougal, Dennis (Digger) Nevins, MAJ Tom Green, Ben Oram, Paul McQueen, Bill Titley, and **powered by the Lambs Valley Wine Company, Hunter Valley, NSW.**