

Half Circle



Number 47 - November 2010

(Please increase picture size to 150% for a better read!)

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: It is with much sadness that we record the passing of Glenys Guyatt, wife of Peter Guyatt (8PL), on 17th October 2010. Glenys was a supporter of the WA group of 5RAR, and attended most functions with Peter. Glenys will be sadly missed, and we extend our sincere condolences to Pete and family.



Member profile - Ian Leis continues his profiles on members of 8PI - this month -
61857, Gregory Charles (Hickory) DICK:

Greg had completed Kapooka and Ingleburn and was settled into Holsworthy when I arrived. He came from Tasmania, had signed on for six years as a Regular soldier. He was younger than the rest of us; I believe he was one of the youngest members of the battalion. He had his 20th birthday in Vietnam in September 1969.

It was easy to become friends with Hickory as he was a happy easy going digger who completed his share of the tasks given to 8 Platoon. I can recollect a few "heavy" nights spent with Hickory in Liverpool at the "Railway". He was also capable of consuming his share of alcohol.

After having completed a radio-operators course Hickory became the 8 Platoon radio man. A job that he excelled in. Hickory could mimic our then platoon leader a Canadian Lt Chuck Stamp "Yeah-eh" I believe Hickory was also responsible for putting a few

episodes of "chicken man" to air on the company radio net in SVN. Whilst in SVN on his first tour he also carried the M60 (He completed a second tour with 3RAR 1971-72)

During his military career (ten years) he had a number of postings, serving with two infantry battalions, did a stint in Singapore, was attached to C.M.F. Unit at Woodside SA, went to Bandiana and finished his time whilst attached to the "Staff Cadets" in Canberra.

Hickory was a determined individual who achieved a high standard at everything he entered into during his military career. On discharge Hickory like many other Veterans endured a few years of isolation floating around Australia not knowing where to go or what to do. "just not fitting in". A sad period of life.

Finally he joined BHP and this led to another successful career until his self funded retirement (with a little government help).

Today Hickory enjoys the farming life. Having set up his olive growing property "Hickory's Run". This was all done with the help of his partner, Marie. Together they are trying to enjoy a more relaxed life.

I had not had any real contact with fellow veterans until attending the opening of the Vietnam Memorial in Canberra in 1992. I realised then what I had been missing. The camaraderie was so supportive. Whilst in Canberra it was a pleasure to once again be in Hickory's company. "Nothing had changed" the 20 odd years didn't exist.

These few lines do not do credit to Hickory's walk through life. Many others would be able to give further credit to the goals he has set and achieved. For me it has been a privilege to have known and shared a part of my life with Hickory. I look forward to the time when our paths in life will cross again.



MEMBER PROFILE: Ian Leis has come up with another member profile - 1733479 Pte Peter John McCarthy (known as Fred or Freddie)

Peter was a 10th intake national serviceman who had his civilian career interrupted when his marble fell. At this time he had completed Grade 12 at Terrace Boys' College in Brisbane and he was employed as a trainee accountant with the Brisbane Taxation Office. He had his nickname from an early age. It was a habit for him to call everyone "Fred", in return he became known as "Fred/Freddie". It also may have been because of the resemblance to Fred Flintstone.

Fred feels that National Service certainly interrupted his early life and career. However, he admits that the military was an experience he is proud of. Discipline, determination, self belief and a will to succeed assisted him to pick up where he left off

in his civilian life. Later he became a very successful, self employed accountant owning his own firm. He also had many advisory positions with large corporations.

The camaraderie and friendship of those he served with continues today. My personal friendship with Fred started before the military; our paths had crossed on the sporting field and socially. It was a shock to both of us to meet at 5RAR and to be in the same section of 8 Platoon. I am proud to say that our valued friendship continues today.

Fred went to Singleton with John Yabsley (Skippy) and Mick Bolton (Bolts), completing rookie and corps training before being posted to 5RAR at Holsworthy.

Fred was hoping that the leaders at 5RAR would be a little more helpful than those at Singleton.

(Note) When at Singleton Fred received his kit from Q Store and he was given two left shoes - when he pointed this out to the platoon leader he was told "Well don't wear em!!!! Helpful.

His training continued at 5RAR completing an M60 gunners course, a 16mm film projectionist course and also a basic Vietnamese language course (this was of great assistance to him whilst on R&C in Vung Tau!!!). Fred's jobs in SVN were as forward scout & rifleman. He also relieved me on the gun (M60) occasionally.

Like many of us after our military service Fred didn't have any trust of most people. He disliked all leaders in general especially Politicians etc. He withdrew from life in many ways except his career. He became a workaholic. This lifestyle led to many health problems that he experiences today. These are currently being managed.

Fred's girlfriend, Mary (before the military) became his wife not long after discharge. They have now enjoyed 40+ years together, had 5 Children who have currently produced 15.5 grandchildren. Their family was close knit, this continues today especially with their grandchildren.

Today he is retired - semi self funded plus a little help from the government. He and Mary have just moved from Queensland to Tasmania, where they are busy setting up house. When this is completed they hope to relax a little more, enjoy their family and religious interests.

*A bloke was at the Melbourne Zoo when he noticed a little girl near the lions' cage. Suddenly a lion grabbed the little girl and tried to pull her into the enclosure. The bloke jumped up, belted the lion in the nose, allowing the little girl to escape. A journalist witnessed the incident and said "I'm going to write about your bravery in tomorrow's paper, you are a great Aussie hero" The bloke replied "I'm only an ordinary bloke, but I'm proud to say I'm a Vietnam veteran" Next day's Herald Sun read **"Ex soldier assaults African immigrant and steals its lunch"***



Dennis (Tex Nevins): The above pictures show (1) Tex in 1969, (2) Tex in 2010, and (3) Tex sporting the earring that Jack Bradd gave him to go with his tattoo. If you enlarge the picture of the earring, it shows six rounds of ammo and a hand grenade. You've still got it, Jack!



HOMECOMING 1: The officers of 5RAR as HMAS Sydney entered Sydney Harbour on 12th March 1970. Pictured are: (Front:) MAJ Fred Spry, MAJ Reg Sutton, MAJ Ray Haring, 2LT Pat Clague, 2LT Roger Lambert, CAPT Laurie Ganter, CAPT David Wilkins, CAPT Bill Titley, CAPT Terry Southwell, (rear:) Obscured, Obscured, LT Maurie Neill, 2LT Keith Van Den Belt, 2LT Bob Brett, LT Chuck Stamp, Unknown, Obscured (possibly LT Ian Hosie), 2LT Jim Pattison. With thanks to Roger Lambert, and his brother Mark.



HOMECOMING (2): The 5th Battalion marches through Sydney (note the age of the vehicles!)

AT THE RAP: We have just been advised that Barry Morgan is suffering a health challenge, and will shortly undergo surgery. Barry has been a tireless worker for C Company and the 5RAR Association, and is the ACT Representative. Whilst Barry is convalescing, Bernie Pye will temporarily assume his role (bernie.pye@bigpond.com). We all join in wishing Barry a speedy and full recovery.



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.

Police arrested two youths in my town recently. One had a car battery and the other a box of crackers. They charged one and let the other one off.

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod, donharrod@bigpond.com, (02) 6842 4913, 0418 423 313, with help from Geoff Pearson, Barry Morgan, Col Roger Wainwright, Sarah Nevins, Jack Bradd, Roger and Mark Lambert, Ian Leis, Bob Hooper and a terrible attempt at humour.

PS: This King Parrot has decided to move in to our place, and now comes into the shed to have his meals. Some cruel bugger suggested that I should teach him to sit on my shoulder, and maybe I can become a REAL pirate. **Very, very** cruel.

