

Half Circle



Number 107 - November 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.



AT THE RAP:

GEOFF FORD: Geoff has recently been hospitalised in Canberra for surgery to remove a throat cancer. Radiation and Chemo are now to follow. Geoff is in good spirits, but would like to hear from his old mates. You can contact him on **0417 717 314**.

DON FROHMULLER: Don is still recovering from a serious fall some months ago, where he sustained vertebral injuries. Progress is slow, but going well.

BARRIE TAYLOR – ongoing oncology treatment.

COLIN SUMMERFIELD – medical – ongoing treatment

BRYAN (Blue) SCHAFFER – medical – recovering well

FROM JOHN HELLYER – just back from Vietnam. G'day everyone, just back from a trip with some first tour blokes and two of our sons. We went back to Nui Dat to see if we could locate our old lines. With the aid of maps from the sixties and photos, we were able – to within 99% accuracy to locate BnHQ and C Coy lines. It is once again a rubber plantation (very young). Without our maps, we would never have found it. We also visited Binh Ba. The water tower was intact, but the village is no longer recognisable. Vietnam is no longer our Vietnam. Our memories and photos are our only real links. As a country, Vietnam has progressed so much – so bright and colourful, and a beautiful holiday destination.

Nui Dat is mostly gone now - the airstrip is a single road up to the end with a school as the main attraction....Hoa Long is a huge city as is Baria and Vung

Tau is a central playground with high rises where once the Peter Badcoe VC Club – our R&C centre stood. To see a dual lane highway from Baria to Vung Tau was extraordinary and to be welcomed by locals was so good. The attached photo is of C Coy's area - this is Coy HQ as best I can tell. We were able to locate a variety of areas in Phuoc Touy which were of importance to this group like the Long Hais and the Nui Thi Vies and the area of a first tour explosion, along with a village where we also lost members on the first tour. We had a moving service at Long Tan and laid flowers in memory of those who died in that terrible battle. Regards to all Tigers, John Hellyer.



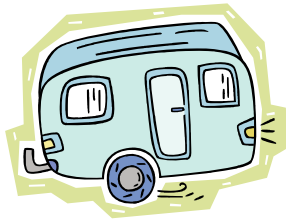
The old C Coy Lines,
Ap An Phu, Nui Dat.
Not a tent in sight!



The Memorial at Long Tan



The school at the end of our airstrip



TRAVELLING ABOUT: No current reports – all perhaps are lying low prior to Canberra 2016.

STOP PRESS: One of our blokes has just returned from South Africa, where he and his wife had a great time. He doesn't want to be identified. OK, P, have it your way!

Some time ago, John Hellyer suggested that we should tell others about who we are. Barry Morgan has taken up the challenge. Here's Barry's story:

Barry Morgan

Before I joined the Army, I worked in a bank while I studied accountancy, at Tech, three nights a week. I enjoyed working in the bank branches but then I was transferred into the Bank HQ, in Martin Place, working in the Overseas Bills Department (imports and exports). After getting bored looking at the wall of the building next door, I decided to join the Army for three years. A number of my uncles had served in the Army during WWII and they made it sound exciting! I departed 32 years later so they must have been right.

After 1RTB Kapooka and Infantry Centre Ingleburn, I was posted to 5RAR at Holsworthy. I arrived as the Christmas holiday period was starting, so I spent the holidays working in the Sergeant's Mess kitchen. At the start of 1968, I was posted to Support Company and attended a Regimental Signals course. At the end of course, I was posted to Signal Platoon.

A month or so later, 5RAR was conducting a promotion course for Corporals who had been promoted temporarily on the first tour of Vietnam (Subjects A, B and C). They needed a few extra, so that they had squads of ten, and I was lucky (or unlucky) enough to be selected along with the guy who topped the Assault Pioneers course.

After managing to pass the course, I was promoted to Lance Corporal. About the same time, the Battalion was raising Charlie Company (C Coy) and so I was told to pack my kit and depart Spt Coy.

I think the first person I met at C Coy was Cpl Bob Marshall, but I was posted to 5 Section in 8 Platoon command by the late John Everett. I spent the remainder of the year on training exercises with C Coy except for a break at Canunga with the 5RAR Cadre team.

While I was on pre-embarkation leave, I had a telephone call that informed me that my Section Commander was not able to make the 5RAR Advance Party and that I would be taking his place. So I reported to Mascot and flew to Vietnam on a Boeing 707.

12 months later I returned to Australia on a RAAF Hercules. So I missed out sailing with the RAN both ways!

Well John that is my story. What is yours?

Apparently 1 in 5 people in the world are Chinese. There are 5 people in my family, so it must be one of them. It's either my mum or dad...or my older brother Colin.....or my younger brother Ho-Cha-Chu.....but I think its Colin.



How to protect your beer fridge.

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com, 0418 423 313, with help from John Hellyer and Barry Morgan.