

Half Circle



Number 70 - October 2012

(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.

DAVE'S DIARY:

Continued from the previous edition of Half Circle.

... It is hoped that a large allied armoured push from the north-east might flush some VC through the valleys down our way, and also towards D Company located in the eastern pass of the Nui Tà Lóc.

24 Jan 1970

D Company last night sprung a VC resupply truck that came down the fire trail (marked as Route 331) and stopped at a regular VC resupply RV (rendezvous) between Nui Mây Tào and Nui Bé. 11 Platoon assaulted the bridge by night and captured it, killing two VC guards, and thus sealed off any escape route for the truck.

My classmate from Clink (Duntroon), *Fred Fairhead*, who has temporary command of B Company 6RAR, is attached to the Armoured push as its infantry element, and so, as he moves closer, it makes liaison so much easier when you know who you are working with. It helps if you have faith in a person you know to be reliable. I didn't know any of the Yanky-tankies he was operating with, so he was my best contact point.

But no major contacts for us so far.

The nights are getting colder and colder. It is still nothing to some of the cold in Australia, but comparatively, with the rest of the year in Vietnam, it is chilly.

Last light is now at 1910 hours. First light at 0655 hours.



From David Wilkins, currently in the US - a photo of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall in Washington DC. It lists the **58,000** Americans killed in Vietnam. It is a sunken wall of two arms, each 75m long. The background is reflective, giving a feeling of bringing the past and present together. A great tribute to their sacrifice.

AT THE RAP:

1. Colin Summerfield -recovering from a broken leg - now walking around without the moon-boot!
 2. Eddie Moon - medical.
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Check out the name of this new hotel in Vung Tau.

Eddie Moon recounts a very funny story – During my time in Vietnam, like all of us, I was caught committing a bit of an indiscretion – and subsequently an appointment was arranged by the Company Commander to meet with the CO (complete with escorts and the RSM barking!). As a result I was fined \$40 and given the usual 14 days CB. It didn't matter because we were going out on operations anyway. Many years later, one ANZAC Day, we ended up in the City of Sydney RSL, and the CO, Colin Khan was also there. After a few more ales, I fronted him and said "Sir, you probably don't remember me, but you fined me \$40 and gave me 14 days CB in Vietnam. Now I'm a pretty fair bloke – if you just gave me back my \$40, I'm prepared to forget the CB, and we'll just call it quits". Genghis took this in good spirit, but didn't give me back my money!

A Young man saved his girlfriend's phone number on his mobile as "LOW BATTERY". Whenever she calls him in his absence, his wife reads the screen, sees "Low Battery", takes the phone and plugs it to the charger.

The Gallery



The Harry Bailey Theatre - the "Walkies"



Peter Commerford and Vince Feenstra



Two young commanders - Ian Hosie and Roger Lambert



Bill Titley and Claude Ducker sending the troops on R&C



The late Ted "Eyes" Suttor

IN THE NEXT EDITION OF HALF CIRCLE:

1. Jack Bradd reveals why he thinks Ho Chi Minh's grave is a communist plot.
2. Dave Wilkins threatens to remain overseas unless the rotten humour in this newsletter improves.

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