

# Half Circle



Number 117 - September 2016

This informal publication is for the members of C Coy 5 RAR (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



**215548 CPL Warren Herbert (Jack) BRADD**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment**  
**Soldier**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> January 1944 to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2016**



It is with great regret that we advise that Jack died on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2016, at Hervey Bay, Queensland, aged 72. Jack had been suffering ill-health for some time.

With the greatest respect to other Tigers that we have lost, Jack was unique. Many people will be publishing articles, but we shouldn't forget this – Jack was a rogue, **a superb field soldier** (not quite so good in the barracks), a practical joker, a rogue, a consumer of ale and Bundy rum (either or both), totally loyal to his mates, a rogue, able to assume control of any situation, a rogue, extremely generous to those around him, a stirrer, and most of all, a rogue. He could make a bomb out of a weet bix.

Only in the day or so before he died, Jack was visited by two of his diggers, Frank Moore and Neville Hayne. Nothing unusual here, except that they travelled (unannounced) about 2,300km to Hervey Bay to say "Hello".

Jack's closest friends, Barry Baker, Bill Tittley, Andy MacDougal, Dennis Nevins and his family, Brig George Mansford, Mick Sinclair, former diggers at

Hervey Bay, the administration of the Hervey Bay RSL, and many others of whom your editor does not know, all stood by Jack. Goodbye old mate, I hope that you have caught up with LT Ian Hosie, and more exploits are being planned.

*Don Harrod*

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***From Jack's CO at the Battle School, Tully, QLD – Brig George Mansford:***

Vale WO2 Jack Bradd-- True Blue

When warriors leave Planet Earth, be it early or late  
They're content with past deeds and accept their fate  
I wonder where the ghosts of today's Vikings go  
To rest in peace and no longer swords and spears to throw

The man we honour today was a fine warrior proud  
Do not weep and whisper; joyfully shout his name aloud  
Recall the richness and examples of life he left for all  
As his duty to country is told with soft sobs of a bugle call

No matter the trials and dangers that he and his troops did meet  
Always was an open door with his calmness and warm smile to greet  
He and his comrades in arms were always as one  
So many of them were taught by him and so were their sons

He'll be there with each generation marching into its tomorrow  
Urging all that leadership is having those who will readily follow  
Be assured his never yielding spirit will always be near  
Watching all of us going forward in a land he held so dear

George Mansford©August 2016



**AT THE RAP:**

**Jack Lake** – getting more mobile after major ankle surgery.

**John Hellyer** – on the mend after suffering a badly broken leg.

**Barrie Taylor** – ongoing oncology treatment.

**Colin Summerfield** – broken ribs following a collision with a footpath.

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**TRAVELLING ABOUT:** 9PL – Just arriving home from a trip to Singapore, Vietnam – including attendance at Long Tan for the 50<sup>th</sup> commemoration of that battle – and a visit to Jock and Jessie Phillips in the Philippines. Welcome home, and thanks for representing us at Long Tan - politics aside, they got there. Thank you.



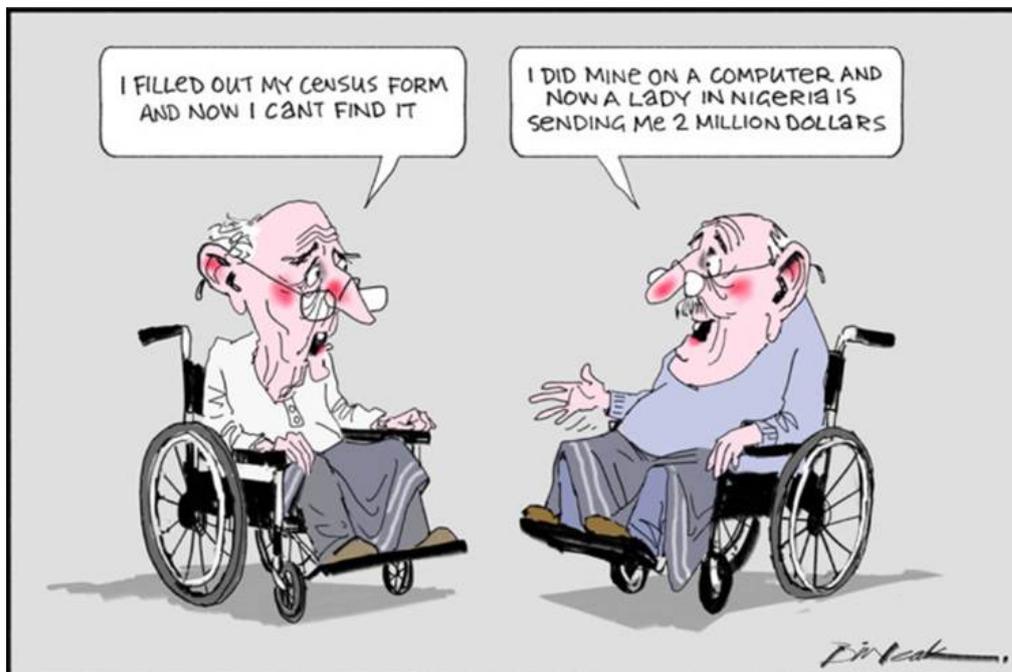
The 9PL group with their wives and friends



From Roger Lambert – February 2016



Vietnam Veterans' Day, Springwood NSW, August 2016. The two characters that we should worry about are Jack Lake (4<sup>th</sup> from left), and Ross Bourke in the grey suit.



**SCRUB BASHING – Dennis Nevins has been off again!**

I had it a bit rugged out west; gale force winds and sleeting cold rain for the first three days. I had to camp in amongst the gidgee scrub for a bit of protection. No taipans or dingos this time but for the third time in my life time I saw an albino (white) euro range roo. I saw my first one on our family station north of Broken Hill around 1958. My father was offered a thousand quid by

Taronga Zoo if it was caught, but of course he wasn't interested; it was hard enough to gallop down woolly jumbucks. I was reading Dave's story about reos and it twigged my memory. We received a reo from BHQ. He was keen as mustard and I would say a little nervous about fitting in, but he didn't have to worry with us. Now I won't mention his name other than to say he had blue eyes and blonde hair. It was his first or second day in the weeds and we were lead section and the pace was good. All of a sudden I could smell Old Spice! I didn't want to believe it so let it go for a while but it was still there. I turned around to Andy MacDougal and asked if he could smell it and he said "No", so gave Jack Bradd a cooee and he said "No" as well and told John Marine to keep pushing on. So we push on and I know I can smell Old Spice so I asked Andy again. This time he has sniffed it and he agrees. I cooee Jack again saying I can still smell Old Spice, so can Andy. Jack questions which bloody drongo would have Old Spice in the weeds. I told him maybe it's the new bloke from BHQ - who knows what they do when it's dark. Jack calls up keen as mustard saying "You got bloody Old Spice in your pack?" the reo says he has – "Well get rid of it now" says Jack, who always had a polite approach. Keen as mustard turned out a good Digger and wasn't afraid of hard yakka. Dave Wilkins is quite correct, once settled in they were part of our team and cobbors for life.

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**THE NEXT HALF CIRCLE** will contain tributes to Jack Bradd. These will include Jack's gopher, Hervey Bay RSL, Burial at Sea for a Thief, Jack the Cat, C Coy 5RAR Crime Statistics, and quite a number of other surprises. Together with any articles members submit, we should have a great Half Circle Number 118.

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – [donharrod@bigpond.com](mailto:donharrod@bigpond.com), 0418 423 313, with help from Barry Baker, Andy MacDougal, Brig George Mansford, Dennis Nevins, a bloke from Trackers, ***and powered by the Lambs Valley Wine Company, Hunter Valley, NSW.***