



# TIGER

## TALES

5 RAR TIGERS

### NEWSLETTER of the 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

FP 22620210007

FEBRUARY 1994

EDITION 1

#### Editor's NOTEBOOK

Hello, and welcome to TIGER TALES. This is my first edition as your new editor. GEOFF PEARSON, our previous editor, has managed in the past to produce our newsletter under very difficult circumstances. On behalf of the 5RAR Association, I would like to thank you Geoff for all your hard work and hope that you enjoy your R&R from editorial duties.

My first request is for members to assist with the editorial content. This is essential if our newsletter is to be entertaining, interesting, and above all ....INFORMATIVE.

It makes a difficult task easy if we all contribute a little now and then. A letter to the editor, news from other states, a photo perhaps, or news about members in your area ..... anything of interest to the association members. .... It's your newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 5 RAR VIDEO

Our video has been on sale since October 1993. This 10 minute video commences with a short history of the Fifth Battalion in Australia from 1885 until the raising of the 5th Battalion in March 1965.

The video gives a good general coverage of both tours of Vietnam during 1966-67 and 1969-70.

I doubt if anyone will be disappointed with this film. (Cost per video \$40.00. Order form on rear page of this edition.)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### ON TOUR VIETNAM with BLUE and SPUD

Blue and Spud are two fictitious characters doing a tour of duty in VIETNAM. I am sure that most members will be able to relate to the situations that Blue and Spud find themselves in during their time in VIETNAM. If members would like to see Blue and Spud in future editions, along with TONY SPEELMAN's cartoons, let me know.

BRIAN LONDON

EDITOR

#### COMING EVENTS

##### ANZAC DAY 1994

##### SYDNEY ANZAC DAY RE-UNION

A new and permanent location has been arranged for 5 RAR Re-unions following Sydney ANZAC Day Marches.

Beginning on ANZAC Day 1994, the Re-unions will be held at the TUDOR INN HOTEL, 249 Elizabeth St Sydney, immediately after the march.

The Tudor Inn is one city block from the end of the March. Just stay together, turn right into Liverpool St and right into Castlereagh St and you're there.

5 RAR will have exclusive use of the upstairs lounge, bar and bistro and a substantial lunch will be served.

David Mooney, the licensee of the Tudor Inn, and an ex-serviceman himself, has not opened the Hotel on recent ANZAC Days. However, provided that 5 RAR can guarantee at least 50 starters, David will open and provide a substantial lunch for members.

Cost of the lunch will be \$12 per person and drinks will be available at the upstairs bar at usual hotel prices.

The function must be self-supporting. Association funds cannot be used as a subsidy. We also need to let David know in advance how many to cater for. We have guaranteed him 50, we will plan on 100.



ANZAC Day Re-union CONTD

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO TELL US IF YOU WILL BE THERE.**

Admittance to the Re-union will be by ticket. Tickets cost \$12 which will be the cost of your lunch. Payment in advance is desirable, however tickets will be available in the Assembly Area.

Please fill in the rear page of TIGER TALES and send to:

Hon Secretary  
5 RAR Association  
GPO Box 817  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

*On ANZAC Day let the Tudor Inn  
become the Tiger Inn*

\*\*\*\*\*

### 5 RAR REUNION 1995

Our 1995 reunion is not far away! And once again we must plan ahead. The dinner will be held at 5/7 RAR on Saturday night with the church parade and family day on the Sunday.

Some of our members have asked for a mixed function on the Friday night. The committee will organise a venue if THERE ARE SUFFICIENT NUMBERS.

What do you think about a HARBOUR CRUISE? ... or a club or restaurant, it's up to you to decide.

And yes, WE NEED TO KNOW .... Yes there is ANOTHER FORM TO FILL IN.

Editor.



## LETTERS

A MESSAGE FROM GARCIA  
OR

### TIGER SIGHTINGS IN THE NORTH

Your correspondent has the pleasure to report that a number of ex-members of the Fifth of Foot have been sighted in the far North of sunny Queensland and are listed thus:

Rod (Spook) BURFORD (Spt and B Coy 2nd tour) was finally discharged last year as a WO2 and immediately enlisted as a Chocko. He and his better half are enjoying the good life in Townsville. The Spook is employed by the Townsville Harbour Board and is probably the reason why that particular spot of sheltered water is subjected to such chaos. Rod still has a problem with radio communications, he has found that the small hand held radios he now uses are easier to lose than ANPRC 25's.

Mike RADWELL (C Coy 2nd tour) was last seen sporting Captain's pips and hanging around the Townsville TAFE carpark (After dark). Motives unknown.

Allen COLLINS (A Coy 2nd tour) is also a Chocko in the Townsville based 11 Bde and looks like a million dollars. Understand he completed his twenty years and shows no visible signs of his nasty facial reconstruction inflicted on 21 August '69.

Merv TUCKETT (A Coy 2nd tour) has been flogging the midnight oil at James Cook University studying Psychology and still finding time to slap a bit of paint on houses as well as providing invaluable volunteer work with the local VVA office. Merv's daughter is also a Chocko in 11 Bde.

Moot DENCH (A Coy 2nd tour) bought back his previous service and snatched it after 20 years and a couple of months. He thought it was prudent to stay in for a couple of months after the 20 to cover any non effective service that may have been recorded. On discharge in July '78 he also became a chocko in 11 Bde and, just before he succumbed to nature's sucking chest wound (his 55th birthday) he finally made it to the rank of sergeant. Moot's eldest lad completed 10 years in the Navy and then headed out to Mt Isa and joined (you guessed it) the Chockos. He is now a corporal in 35 Fd Sqn, RAE. Working Mt Isa Mines, Rob has been taken under the wing of none other than Jim Malloney (B Coy 2nd tour, I think, and of course, Mortar Pl 7 RAR). I don't know why, but I get a wa feeling down my leg whenever I think of Jim.

Denchy and Spook Burford served in the same Chocko outfit, 8 ARR, better known as the 8th Chairborne Rangers. They were previously known as the 8th Remington Raiders until they lost their typewriters. Spook is still with them, he can often be seen jogging along the strand chanting the unit's song "I wanna be a chairborne ranger, don't wanna live a life of danger".

Moot was made redundant from his prison job early '93 and has folded up his shelters individual and shifted camp to the Brisbane area.

I regret that I can shed no further light on any ex-Tigers in the north, but this may prompt others to crank up their typewriters.

I'll close now with this motto, "You can take the boy out of the Fifth, but you can't take the Fifth out of the boy."

\*\*\*\*\*

PO Box 743  
NUBEENA TAS 7184  
28 OCTOBER 1993

Dear Editor

I felt that I should write to give you another perspective on the Memorial Dedication parade and in order to put it into context I should perhaps explain the background from which I make



I am, was, a Gunner and as a member of 103 Fd Bty, 1 Fd Regt, served with the Battalion for about four months as an FO. My knowledge of the members of the Battalion was necessarily less than it would have been if I had been a member myself, but like you, I also respond to 'Dominique' and I am proud to have been in Direct Support at both the gun end and also forward.

On the morning of the dedication I flew into Melbourne after an all-night flight from Jakarta and tired and decidedly crumpled, I intended to use the two hours or so that I had before my connecting flight to Hobart left to have a shower and a rest. When I entered the lounge however, I noticed the TV set in the corner. It was tuned to the ABC and the parade coverage had just started. For the next two hours I sat there - clutching my towel - and watched as various units and individuals marched. For those in the contingent who were faced with that long 'bandless' trek, all I can say is that for me it was a moving experience and it didn't detract from the occasion. To see members of my regiment and 'my' battalion so unexpectedly was gripping in a way that is hard to describe.

I write, therefore, to record one person's impression and to say that despite problems that those who were there had to deal with, the impact of the dedication and the parade was very powerful and reinforced my feelings about that time and the Battalion with which I and the members of my party lived and worked and served.

Yours sincerely,  
MIKE LANGLEY

Brian GREEN from Melbourne wrote, thanks Brian, glad you liked the car stickers and badge. I'm sure you will be happy with the 5 RAR video as well. I haven't any news on Jack KENNARD, I'm sorry to say. Thanks for your donation and the news on Gavin HARVEY. Brian said that Gavin is in Cairns, and if anyone is in the area, and knows Gavin, to say, "Hullo" from 'Greenie'.

I also received a note from T. CASE (1 P1 A Coy Pucka/ 5 RAR Sigs) seeking information on Mick DWYER. I'll do some checking for you and thanks for your donation.

Brian LONDON  
Editor

The Editor  
Tiger Tales

Dear Sir,

I was sorry to hear about the mike and the port during the dinner in Canberra. I am enclosing a cheque for \$48.00 which I hope will offset your loss somewhat.

On a brighter side, I had a great time in Canberra and would like to thank everyone that made it possible.

I met people I had not seen since the formation of 5 RAR.

My wife and I moved to "Tassie" from Melbourne and were surprised to find several 5 RAR people here. Colin ILLMAN and I were in "D" Company and we often speak of our times in 5 RAR. I have enclosed a photo of Colin and myself at the Vietnam Veterans' bush retreat in Tasmania.

The retreat is booked out all year round by the vets and they claim that the best fishing in the world is to be had there.

Once again, thanks, and I'm looking forward to 1995.

Kind regards

GERRY CORET

The photo to which Gerry refers is at the top of this page.

Editor.



The 5 RAR Association regrets to announce the passing of the following members of the Fifth Battalion Royal Australian Regiment:

- |              |              |     |
|--------------|--------------|-----|
| B CUNNINGHAM | Woonona      | NSW |
| T G SMITH    | Ingleburn    | NSW |
| R VINES      | Batemans Bay | NSW |

LEST WE FORGET

# LOST

We have lost contact with those members listed below. If anyone has any information that could assist us to re-establish contact, let us know, or ask the member to notify the Association on change of address.

J P	BUZELIN	Gravesend	NSW
A	CLARKE	Ballina	NSW
E W	CLARKE	Ridgehaven	SA
D F	COLEMAN	Capalba	QLD
D	COUSINS	Puckapunyal	VIC
S J	DAVIS	Terrigal	NSW
J	FITZSIMONS	Victoria Barracks	
		Granville	NSW
J	GARDINER	Bumundi	QLD
D D	GOURLAY	Summer Hill	NSW
N J	HARTLEY	Tamworth	NSW
N	IMLAY	Westlake	QLD
A E	JACKSON	Fraser	ACT
P	JOYCE	Singleton	NSW
R M	KEEN	Yeoval	NSW
T J	KELLY	Randwick	NSW
P J	LOCHRIE	Guys Hill	VIC
I	MACKAY	Marian	QLD
S	MACKRILL	Everton Park	QLD
M G	MASSIE	Werribee	VIC
K J	MASTERTON	Palmerston	QLD
P J	MCKENNA	Balga	WA
K A	MIDLSON	Launceston	TAS
T	MONAGHAN	Mt Waverley	VIC
F	MOTT	Watsonia	VIC
R	MUSGRAVE	Doon Doon	
		via Uki	NSW
J	NOLAN	Swanbourne	WA
D W	OAKLEY	Doncaster East	VIC
B	ROGERS	Five Dock	NSW
D J	ROSE	Jimboomba	QLD
D	SHANNON	Parmelia	WA
R	SHOEBRIDGE	South Grafton	NSW
S	SMITH	Cardiff South	NSW
I	STUART	Redcliffe	WA
R	TOBIN	Swanbourne	WA
E A	TRAPPER	Coogee	NSW
K W	VANDENBELT	Corinda	QLD
J H	WALKER	Dean Park	NSW
G M	WEEKES	Rosemeadow	NSW
A J	WILES	North Rocks	NSW

# NEWS FROM ALL STATES

At the time of publication, most state representatives had nothing to report from their states. Members living outside NSW can send material of interest to their state reps for publication in TIGER TALES.

## 5 RAR ASSOCIATION STATE REPRESENTATIVES

**QLD** Lt Col R T Shambrook AM Ron  
57 Lade Street  
ENNOGERA QLD 4051

Tel : B. (07) 252 9866

**VIC** Mr P K O'Connor Kerry  
"Kallam Stud"  
Riddell Road  
SUNBURY VIC 3429

Tel : (03) 744 2659

**SA** Mr R H Naismith Bob  
16/A2 Harrison Road  
PENNINGTON SA 5013

**WA** Mr J D Burrige John  
88 Watkins Road  
CLAREMONT WA 6010

**TAS** Mr C M Illman Colin  
20 Blackstone Road  
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

**ACT** Mr G Negus Greg  
3 Daplyn Close  
WESTON ACT 2611

Tel : (06) 243 1029 H  
(06) 288 2070 B.

### TASMANIA

Colin ILLMAN (State Representative)  
There are 28 known ex 5 RAR members in Tasmania. There are 11 in the Hobart area, 10 in Launceston and 7 in the northwest of Lees. If other members are interested in further details, you can contact me and I will be glad to pass on names etc. I am enclosing a brochure on the bush retreat at Lake Sorrell that may be of interest to other state members. Bookings can be made through:

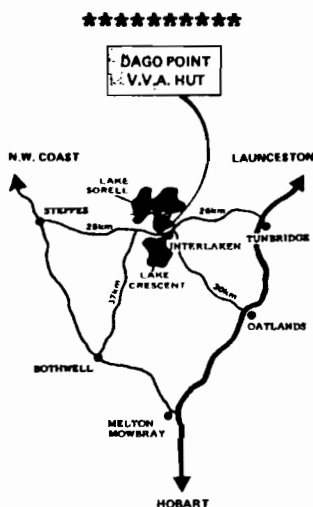
LEA MCKENZIE  
C/O RSL BUILDING  
70 DAY STREET  
HOBART TAS

Tel : (022) 236050 (Tue, Thur, Fri)

All the best for 1994.  
Colin ILLMAN

(Editor's Note)

Thanks Colin for your report. I will contact the committee in Sydney and get the information you requested.



## AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM FORCES MEMORIAL

*The address by Brig. C N Kahn DSO was published in the last issue of TIGER TALES. However, due to problems with the printing process, the speech was unreadable. Therefore, I feel that the address should be included in this issue.*

EDITOR

### DEDICATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM VETERANS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

This is the dawning of a highly significant and memorable day in Australia's military history, and in particular in the history of the war in Vietnam - for those 50 000 who served, suffered and died in our longest and most controversial of all wars.

Five years ago during our memorable parade in Sydney, many surviving Vietnam Veterans made their most significant step in the healing of their wounds of war and in merging proudly back into a welcoming and grateful 1987 society - a society which is healthily putting the dissension of the war away. Today, we are asking that society to join with us again, when our memorial is dedicated as a unique witness, a monument in stone, to immortalise what we did, for all to see. In veterans, it will today evoke sadness, pride and humility; in the future, it will remind society of Australians sacrifice in a war which personally touched so few, but evoked such strong feelings in so many. It will help the nation to understand the value of the Vietnam Veteran's service at that time. It will help above all to ensure that those who died, rest higher, than any achievement we who remain, may have attained.

Now twenty years after the war, at this, the most allowed of all shrines throughout the country, for our war dead, we put further to rest, the remaining phantoms from which some of our colleagues and next of kin still suffer. It is entirely fitting that our ceremonies take place here, in front of the Australian War Memorial. For it is here, in this place, above all others, and especially, at this time of day, that the ghosts, the spirit of soldiers past are honoured and revered by the Nation.

We have been with the ghosts of veterans from all wars in this place for many years; today, we and the nation walk with the particular spirits of the more than five hundred veterans who died and the thousands who suffered and those who served in places like the Hobo Woods, Long Tan, Balmoral, at Coral, on the gun line, in the skies and in mine infested Province of PHOU C TUY.

Of those five hundred, who do not ask for praise, just the recognition they so richly deserve, the Army will in particular honour the ghosts of the more than four hundred and seventy five soldiers, regulars and national servicemen, who died in that war,

commencing with the death of a member of the Australian Army Training Team in 1963, and Warrant Officer Conway, killed in action in July 1964.

Dawn, to the serviceman and woman has always been a time of preparation and a time of reflection.

It was in Vietnam: -

- \* the end of a sleepless night, of peering into the blackness, looking for the invisible and listening for a sound you did not want to hear
- \* a time to leave the fold in the ground which had, for a time, become home
- \* a time for the ships company to square away the activities of the previous night and prepare for the coming bombardment of the day
- \* a time to leave that wet paddy or bamboo forest ambush and trudge thankfully back to the protection of a friendly perimeter
- \* a time for helicopter crews, RAAF and RAN, to be briefed for air assault operations and for Caribous and Canbernas to prepare for missions all over South Vietnam
- \* a time to clear the battlefield to see what had been done in darkness by spooky, puff the magic dragon artillery, tank and M60
- \* it was a time to gather and send back the few belongings of that mate killed or wounded during the night
- \* it was a time when nurses, after a nighttime of tending the wounded waited again in anticipation of the wail of the siren warning of the arrival of dust - offs, of casualty helicopters bringing wounded diggers to the pad at VUNG TAU. A time to be ready to cut through more boot laces to get to wounds, the time to listen again to the call of the wounded - "don't worry about me, look after my mate"
- \* it was a time to thank God for getting you through another night, to see another "wakey". It was a time to barter with God, to promise him anything to get you through the coming day.

And so, on this dawning; those who bartered successfully lived through an experience that was for most, the most momentous event in their lives, and in so doing crossed a gap that those who were not there can never fully understand.

It was a gap that taught us, as it has servicemen and women before, that it was not who you were that mattered, but what you were; it taught us to pay respect to the person more than the rank; that it was not one's position but one's professionalism that mattered. We learnt that it was not a sign of weakness to show kindness and love; that selfishness had to be transcended at all times by teamwork, a teamwork that has been aptly described as the, "barbed wire bonding of men under fire"; and we learnt that when we called for help, we knew it would come.

We learnt that despite its uniqueness in many ways, in particular the divisions that the War caused within the country, it was a war that was predictably the same as most other wars, in the contrasts that the War seemed to throw up in the starkest of relief. For we experienced cruelty, but at the same time unbounded compassion and love; fear, yet unequalled courage; the realisation of the fragility and the impermanence of life, at the same time the desire to preserve one's own life. We learnt aggression, but unashamed tenderness, particularly towards each other. We saw the comparisons of other ways of life with our own, and the realisation that despite our imperfections, Australia really was God's own country.

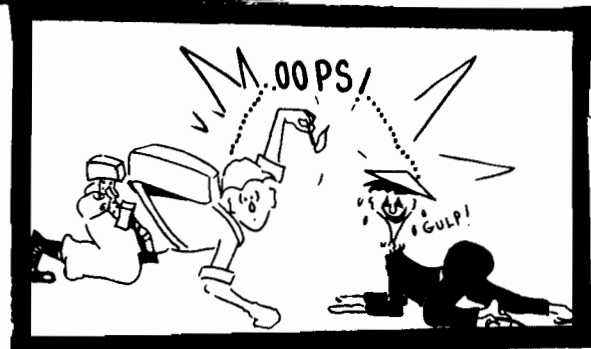
From 1962 - 72, with forces from the United States, South Vietnam, New Zealand, Korea, the Phillipines, 50 000 Australians stood guard, at times desperate guard, on one of our then frontiers, Vietnam.

Our men and women, did what men and women have done in al our wars, and the things that wars do to people happened to them. They fought for country, for family, for love of mates, frequently trying to save mates. They fought well because of mutual respect, of love for the team, the unit to which they belonged. The invisible threads that pulled and bound the unit together, pulled at everyone, and you couldn't or wouldn't let the team down. And while the Vietnam veteran in most cases learnt about death at an age when they should have been living life to the full, and they progressed from youth to middle age in one year, sometimes in several minutes, they above all learnt the lessons of courage and fear, of suffering and comradeship. As we look around this gathering at this dawn, it is clear that the invisible thread of comradeship from our service in Vietnam remains alive, as strong as ever. To the loved ones of those who died, let this day give meaning to the lines -

'Memory will paint this day with colours that can never fade'.

To those who served, let us at this time remember our colleagues who fell, for whom time and tide ran out and for whom there are no more dawns. Let them once again be one with us, and let us hope, in the words of a poem about LONG TAN, that -

Role call today may hear an answer from ghosts patrolling past'.



**STOP PRESS:  
MAILING LIST 5 RAR ASSOCIATION**

*We are having trouble with our mailing list computer. We think we have lost contact with those members listed on page 4 of this edition. If you are on the list and receive this edition of TIGER TALES, no further action is required on your part.*  
Editor

Hon SECRETARY  
5 RAR Association  
GPO Box 817  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

**ORDER FORMS/RETURNS**

- 1. ANZAC DAY 1994
- 2. HISTORY/5TH BAT. (VIDEO)
- 3. 5 RAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
- 4. 1995 RE-UNION
- 5. ASSOCIATION ITEMS

**MEMBER'S DETAILS**

SURNAME WAINWRIGHT  
 GIVEN NAMES S. ROGER  
 ADDRESS 15 JOHNSTON ST  
NARRABUNDAH  
ACT  
 POSTCODE 2604  
 1ST/2ND TOUR 151  
 COMPANY C PLATOON 8  
 PHONE H. 06-2756204  
 B. 06-2653592

RETURN THIS COMPLETE PAGE (PLEASE PRINT)  
DELETE FORMS NOT APPLICABLE TO YOU.

Please **ENSURE** your details are complete before mailing.

1. ANZAC DAY 1994

AMOUNT

I will be at the TUDOR INN on Anzac Day  
A cheque for \$12 is enclosed.  
or I will pay on Anzac Day.

\$

2. HISTORY OF THE FIFTH BATTALION (VIDEO)

Please send me ..... copy/ies of the 5 RAR video  
(Cost per video \$40.00)

\$

70

3. 5 RAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to renew my membership

I am a new member

MEMBERSHIP FEE . . \$25.00 (5 Year period)

\$

4. 1995 RE-UNION

I am in favour of a mixed function on the FRIDAY night  
prior to our re-union dinner.

I WOULD PREFER the function to be held at:

a) A CLUB

b) A RESTAURANT

c) A HARBOUR CRUISE

NOTE: Cost per head will be notified once returns are received.

5. RAR ASSOCIATION ITEMS (FOR SALE)

- Please send me ..... 5 RAR Tie/s @ \$15.00 each
- ..... 5 RAR Car stickers @ \$3.00 each
- ..... 5 RAR Caps @ \$13.00 each
- ..... 5 RAR Honour rolls @ \$30.00 each

\$  
\$  
\$  
\$

TOTAL AMOUNT  
ENCLOSED

\$