



# TIGER TALES

5 RAR TIGERS

## NEWSLETTER of the 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

PP 22620210007

APRIL 1995

EDITION 5

### Editor's NOTEBOOK

Parts of Australia received drought breaking rains, including Sydney, on 3 - 5 March, 1995.

However, in spite of the weather, our re-union weekend was a great success. In my view, it was the best weekend since the memorial weekend in Canberra.

Numbers for the harbour cruise reached 70, and from all reports it was a very pleasant evening.

The only problem was the TUDOR INN, where last minute catering arrangements had to be made. Foodwise things did not go according to plan. Those members still feeling hungry, organised a "re-supply" from the local shops.

As for the Re-union Dinner, what can I say? Perhaps in a word (or two) simply marvelous is a modest attempt to describe the feeling shared by all who managed to attend. Some 350 - 400 Association members in fact attended the dinner and must be considered a record turn out for 5 RAR.

The BBQ, although again affected by the weather, went well. After the parade everyone retreated to the wet weather areas and continued with the remaining activities.

### SPECIAL THANKS

To BRIAN BUDDEN who provided the:

1. Place mats
2. Menu
3. Coasters

The quality of these items is outstanding, and they will be cherished by all of us as a memento of our 30th Anniversary Dinner.

### To 5/7 RAR (MECH)

For providing accomodation on Saturday night and

the provision of catering services and staff.

For providing catering services for our dinner, the food and organisation was excellent.

### To 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

For their organisation and hard work both before and during the weekend.

To conclude, it was just great to see old friends and to share our thoughts and reflect on our service. Let us all work towards our next re-union in the year 2000.

Brian London  
Editor

### Editor's NOTE:

5/7 RAR (MECH) will be in DARWIN by that time, and we have been invited to hold our re-union at their new barracks in the year 2000.  
(food for thought)

### MEMBERSHIP 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

The membership fee is \$25.00, which will keep you financial until the year 2000. This fee is necessary to meet the cost of preparation and distribution of "TIGER TALES".

If you have paid your membership fees, the word 'FIN' will appear on your address label of this issue of "TIGER TALES".

If you are not financial, please send your fee to :

THE SECRETARY  
5 RAR ASSOCIATION  
GPO BOX 817  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Membership:  
173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE (Down Under)

From the EDITOR

Carey McQuillan (Secretary) 173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE (DOWN UNDER) sent details of membership and an invitation to join the Australian branch of the 173rd.

All members of 5 RAR who took part in operation 'HARDIHOOD' in May/June 1966 are entitled to join the Brigade.

Carey's letter and application form are in this issue of TIGER TALES for your consideration. If any member (entitled) wishes to join, please complete the application form and send direct to the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (AUSTRALIAN).

Note 1. Members receive AUSTRALIAN newsletter and US publication.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Squadron Leader R. Quinn

Headquarters Training Command  
RAAF Base  
POINT COOK VIC 3027  
21 March 1995

Mr Brian London  
PO Box 422  
Batemans Bay  
NSW 2536

Dear Brian

Enclosed please find some newspaper clippings from the Australian Veterans Vietnam Reconstruction Group which I obtained from the Director, Mr Paul Murphy.

The address and phone number is contained on the first enclosure, and the remaining articles illustrate what the organisation is all about. I think it rates a mention in TIGER TALES as some of our members may not be aware of the existence of this organisation and the work they have carried out in Phouc Tuy province. I think there may be some degree of interest shown, and it certainly appears worthwhile.

In any event, all the best,  
Russ Quinn

J.P.O'Callaghan  
20 First Street  
Warragamba  
NSW 2752

THE EDITOR

On the 18th January 1995, Bill Jarrett, Paul La Forest and myself (all ex 5 RAR 1st Tour) went back to Vietnam.

One of the many things we did was re-visit Nui Dat. After returning to our old Battalion lines and finding the rubber gone but main roads (Noack Avn etc) easily discernable, we walked down to the airstrip. (Still usable by light aircraft) and we were invited to have tea by a local man in his hut. (One of several lining the runway.)

While there his neighbour came in and proudly displayed two items he had ploughed up near the airstrip. They were Australian 'dog tags'. One read 19983 T. D. Blackhurst C.E. O.Pos. The other only 3789754.

From here we climbed to the top of Nui Dat and looking northwards were surprised to see a great lake. Apparently the Suoi Da Bang has been dammed. All traces of buildings have been removed except for one masonry footing which Bill found. In the cement on top of it were several names. Some of the legible ones were Jones, Hopkins, Cerchi, D.L.Morris, Ware.

We would be interested to hear through TIGER TALES anything concerning these people, or write to me.

Hope this is of interest,  
John.



Say "hello" to an old friend - Huey Helicopter  
(MAD) Mortar Air Delivery



# The Fifth Battalion

The Royal Australian Regiment  
Association

## 30th Anniversary Dinner

Celebrating The Raising of the Battalion  
On the 1st March 1965

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### Programme

Under the direction of

Master of Ceremonies: Stan Maizey

1900 for 1930 ..... Assemble, Pre dinner drinks

1930 ..... Welcome to members & guests

1935 Grace ..... Father John Williams

**Dinner • Dessert • Tea and Coffee**

Loyal Toast ..... Brian London OAM DCM

Toast to Fallen Comrades ..... Stuart Smith

Toast to The Battalion ..... John Warr DSO

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All members are to stand while the Queens and Regimental Colours of The Battalion are marched in and out of the dining room.

**T**he Queens and Regimental Colours of The Fifth Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, were presented by Sir Roden Cutler VC, Governor of New South Wales, in 1967 and they are now the oldest Colours still in service with the Royal Australian Regiment.

#### **THE GRACE:**

May we be grateful to you, Lord, for the food of which we now partake.  
May you forgive us, Lord, for the lies and the stories we are about to relate.  
And, as we share this meal, may we be mindful of those who  
cannot share it with us.

**For passing years cause facts to wander,  
And absent friends make hearts grow fonder.**

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

# Healing the scars of Vietnam

By ALISON HOUSTON

**F**OR many nationals and ex-servicemen alike, the Vietnam war didn't end in 1975 — it just took on a new shape and became the battle of a lifetime.

Even for those who consider themselves well adjusted to what took place in the "unwinable war", there's not a day goes past when they don't think of Vietnam.

For Sunshine Coast Newspapers' circulation manager Paul Murphy, of Dicky Beach, these thoughts led to curiosity, and eventually a return to Vietnam in 1990 as part of the press corps.

After two weeks of shaking hands with Viet Cong and North Vietnamese, having been confronted by a country still carrying the scars of war, its people lost, penniless and with no hope in sight almost 20 years on, Paul found himself on the plane home making plans for the Australian Veterans' Vietnam Reconstruction Group.

Now, four years later, the project appears to be coming to fruition.

"All the villages we visited had been absolutely decimated," Paul recalled.

"The people had nothing. All around there was severe malnutrition, and the housing was poor even for a subsistence peasant lifestyle."



The Vietnamese children and their villages ... "The people had nothing. All around there was severe malnutrition, and the housing was poor even for a subsistence peasant lifestyle. They were literally in rags."

"They were literally in rags."

While the country was opening up to the West, Paul said what money was available was being spent on the city centres, and providing infrastructure including rail, electricity, and phone.

The man in the street — the villager — continued to miss out on even what Australians would consider the bare essentials.

And yet the people held no grudges.

"They treated us like brothers who had fought a war against each other — and they'd won. But all they had was praise for the professionalism of how the Australian troops had fought," Paul said.

"It occurred to me that although they'd won the war, they'd lost the real battle. The war ended in 1975, but they still had nothing."

Paul's aim is to redress this, at least to some extent, by encouraging veterans with a trade, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and the like to join the Australian Veterans' Vietnam Reconstruction Group.

Each would donate two to three weeks of their time to travel at their own expense to Vietnam to offer their expertise in various projects identified as vital to the people.

The first such project he proposes would be to replace the roof on the crumbling school in Hoa Long, built by the Australian government during the war years, but now showing the ravages of age.

To date, he said, all the veterans approached had been supportive of the concept, and he was also hopeful of winning the backing of a major Australian steel company to provide materials for the projects.

"There's a huge amount of kudos there for companies who are prepared to get involved in a project like this," Paul said.

"All we need is one project to get up and running and we're on our way to repaying the people of the province."

While many may argue Australians owe the Vietnamese nothing, Paul disagrees.

Back when he had joined up at just 19, the war had appeared like a *Boy's Own* adventure. Even when his company (D Company 2nd Battalion) relieved the famous 6th Battalion, of



The first project proposed by the Australian Veterans' Vietnam Reconstruction Group is to replace the roof on the crumbling school in Hoa Long, built by the Australian government during the war years, but now showing the ravages of age.

Paul Murphy at 20, and his soon-to-be brother-in-law Terry Graham at their Nui Dat camp. Paul introduced Graham to his sister, Dianne, while on leave, and the pair were engaged within a week.

Long Tan fame — it had not appeared real.

The reality of war didn't hit home till he loaded his first live round of ammunition into the breach of his weapon and cocked it.

And while reality too was spending his 21st birthday hacking a fruit cake to bits with a bayonet in an underground bunker with friends, some of whom would not return home, Paul is convinced generations should not

have to keep paying for the actions or mistakes of their forebears.

His goal, though an ambitious one, is to encourage those who took part in the war to do their bit to help the Vietnamese get back on their feet — to combat the ruined buildings, the barren land, and lack of even the simplest medical provisions.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE

AUSTRALIAN (DOWN UNDER) CHAPTER XI

P. O. Box 5 - 173A  
CROYDON PARK NSW 2133  
AUSTRALIA  
Telephone: 02 7998058

President : John McDonough  
Secretary : Carey McQuillan, JP.  
Treasurer : Ron Kelly, JP.



173D ( DOWN UNDER)

AN OPEN INVITATION TO MEMBERS OF 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

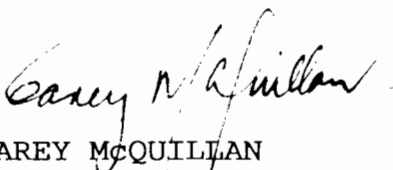
THE AUSTRALIAN (DOWN UNDER) CHAPTER XI OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE HAS RECEIVED INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF 5 RAR WHO TOOK PART IN " OPERATION HARDIHOOD" DURING MAY AND JUNE OF 1966, CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP IN THE AUSTRALIAN (DOWN UNDER) CHAPTER XI.

I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM FROM COLONEL JOHN WARR, DSO, THAT 5 RAR WAS INDEED PLACED UNDER THE OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE DURING "OPERATION HARDIHOOD" AND AS SUCH ENTITLES ANY MEMBER OF 5 RAR TO FULL MEMBERSHIP OF OUR CHAPTER.

IT IS WITH SOME SADNESS THAT I NOTE FROM COLONEL WARR'S CORRESPONDENCE THAT OPERATION HARDIHOOD WAS CONDUCTED TO CLEAR THE NUI DAT AREA OF ENEMY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE BASE, DURING WHICH TIME THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE LOST 23 KIA AND 160 WIA AND 5 RAR WAS TO LOOSE ITS FIRST CASUALTY OF WAR WITH THE DEATH OF ERROL NOACK.

AN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO YOUR EDITOR AND AN OPEN INVITATION NOW STANDS FOR MEMBERS OF 5 RAR TO BECOME MEMBERS OF OUR CHAPTER AS ENTITLED COMBAT VETERANS OF THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE.

DUTY FIRST - AIRBORNE

  
CAREY MCQUILLAN  
SECRETARY  
7 FEBRUARY 1995.

## 1995 RE-UNION

The Executive Committee would welcome your comments on the recent Re-union and suggestions for improvements for future re-unions.

## PROVISION OF A PLAQUE FOR KAPOOKA

The Executive Committee has agreed to provide a 5 RAR plaque for the Army Chapel at Kappooka at a cost of \$400.00. Details of the unveiling will be advised in the next issue of TIGER TALES.

## COST OF OUR RE-UNION

For general information, the cost over and above amounts paid by members, ie, Harbour Cruise, Dinner, BBQ, etc, was \$2 500.00.

## **STATE ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS 1995**

**NSW SYDNEY**  
11.30 am Assemble corner Bent Street and Phillip Street, adjacent to State office block.  
12.45 am At conclusion of march, continue to Tudor Inn, 249 Castlereagh Street. Meet at the first floor bar. Two course lunch \$11.00. Pay cash for the lunch at the Tudor Inn. Drinks at bar prices. Bar open until 7.00 pm.

**WA PERTH**  
5.30 am Dawn Service at Kings Park.  
9.30 am Assemble at corner of St Georges Terrace and Pier Street. After the march, join the rest of the RAR Association at the Regatta Hotel (the old Criterion Hotel) at 560 Hay Street, Perth. Smorgasbord luncheon available at \$18.00. Drinks at bar prices.

**ACT CANBERRA**  
10.00 am Assemble in Anzac Parade adjacent to the Vietnam War Memorial. After the march, the RAR Association members will meet in Olims Hotel, Ainslee. Lunch will be available.

**TASMANIA HOBART**  
After the march meet at:  
GLENORCHY RSL,  
320 Main Road, Glenorchy.  
LINDISFARNE RSL,  
28 Lincoln St, Lindisfarne.  
**LAUNCESTON**  
RSL Paterson Street after the dawn service and upstairs after the march.  
**DEVONPORT**  
RSL Macfie Street.

## **BURNIE**

RSL 36 Alexander Street.

## **VIC**

9.15 am

## **MELBOURNE**

Assemble with the RAR in Swanston Street, (see the newspaper for details.)

After the march meet at The Crest Hotel in Barkley Street, St Kilda.

## **QLD**

10.30 am

## **BRISBANE**

Assemble in George Street, near corner of Mary Street.

At conclusion of march buses will take members to Gona Barracks, Kelvin Grove, for re-union.

Cash payment at Gona Barracks for lunch and drinks.

## **SA**

No information.

## 5 RAR ASSOCIATION STATE REPRESENTATIVES

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