



TIGER TALES

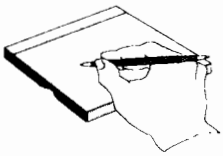
5 RAR TIGERS

NEWSLETTER of the 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

JULY 1997

EDITION 11

PP 22620210007



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

I wish to thank all members who sent in articles and photographs for this edition of *Tiger Tales*. Please keep on contributing in the future as it makes my task less demanding if I do not have to scout around for stories and news. Local news from the states is an important aspect of *Tiger Tales* and I am sure all members will look forward to an improvement in state news reporting.

The association has a problem with **Plaque Stocks**. The dyes have been misplaced by the manufacturer. Brian Budden is looking into the problem and hopes to have new stocks in the near future. If you have ordered a Plaque and have not received your order bear with us, your order will be filled when stocks are available.

My apologies to John Burrige {State representative} WA. I was unable to print your details on Anzac Day 1997. The newsletter was being printed when I received your details. Depending on the information received for publication in *Tiger Tales*, it takes me about 14 days to type {at my speed} and organize the printing and to fold over 800 copies of our newsletter to reach the mail in time. Therefore, all items for publication must reach me at the latest, by the end of **February, June and November** of each year. If all goes to plan your *Tiger Tales* will be in the mail during **March, July and December** in the year of publication, providing we {The association} have on **file** your current address. Ron Hamlyn has the daunting task of keeping track of all members of the

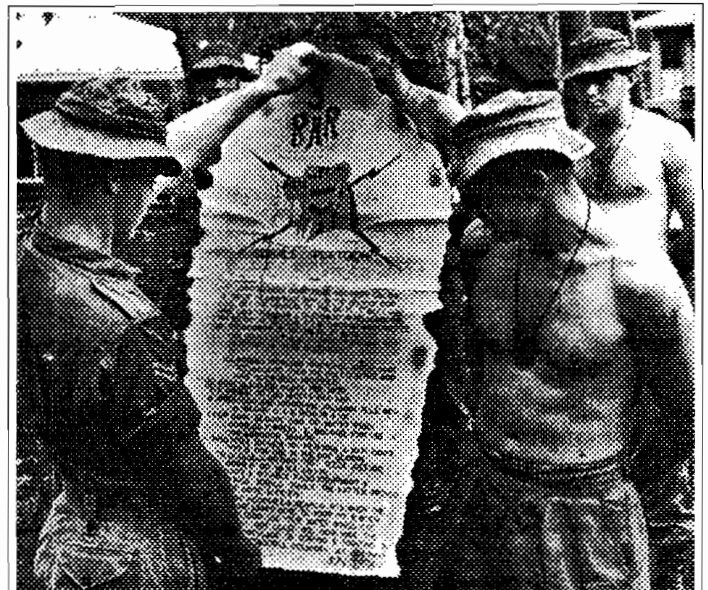
association. Ron prints all the address labels and sends them to me in time for mailing of *Tiger Tales*. The mailing list is constantly being updated. Members moving houses please write to the association and let us know your new address. We do not want to lose contact with you.

The Editor.

DVA TO PAY VETERANS AGE PENSION

Veterans who receive an Australian disability pension can have their age pension paid by DVA as from the July 3 this year, down the track members should keep this in mind. Do not get too carried away by this as there are a few strings attached, ie.

1. Males 65 years of age.
 2. Partner of veteran 61 years of age and.
 3. The veteran partner not in receipt of a service pension or other income support pension.
- For anyone in this category, contact DVA for advice.



Cpl Peter Knight handing over forward control to 7 RAR in 1967. Signal platoon.

FEATURE ARTICLE

THE LONG HAI HILLS

B. Company First Tour.

This article was taken from an interview by Tony White the RMO of 5 RAR 1966/67. The article appeared in the Canberra Times dated 22 February 1997. The article describes the landmine incident that killed nine soldiers and wounded several other soldiers of the Battalion. I was the Radio Sergeant with BHQ at the time of the incident and can bear witness to the carnage that took place on that day. Many owe their lives to the medical officer, medics and stretcher bearers who without hesitation, went forward to render assistance.

The Editor.

It was hot and dusty, the height of the dry season. After nine months in country and with three months to go, the troops weary. They had effectively been on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week apart from five days R&R { Hell raising somewhere else in Asia}

They were also intensely wary. Wary from the sporadic inconclusive firefights and encounters with mines and booby traps. The jokes were more sardonic. "Lets get a shot of you where you still have two legs" were to be heard from diggers lined up for a photo shot before setting out on patrol. The boys were only half joking when they talked wistfully about getting a "homer," a wound decent enough to ensure their evacuation to Australia but not resulting in any great permanent incapacity.

On this day's patrol there was to be a sweep through the Long Hai hills, a Vietcong stronghold known to be full of bunkers and well defended with mines. Mounted on APCs, the Battalion HQ group and B. Coy 5 RAR ground out of the village and halted on a gravel road to "bolt" down a quick lunch and finalise plans. Around us stretched rice paddies, grey-brown and quivering with heat haze. Six months ago they were green and brimming with water.

B. Company set off across the paddies, into the scrub at the base of the hills. Fifteen minutes later, just as we were about to follow, we were startled by the sound of a massive explosion. A dark mushroom had formed over the bush in the direction of B. Company's line of

travel. Four minutes later there was a second, smaller explosion. A radio report of casualties followed but there was no clear picture as to what had happened.

By chance, an army Sioux helicopter was in the area. The Battalion CO called me over, "Tony, get over there and see what you can do." I grabbed my medical backpack and climbed into the perspex bubble of the Bell 47 helicopter. It was a two minute skim to catch up with B. Company. Banking to find a cleared area to land, we saw the astonishing sight of the lead APC on its side. I jumped out on touch down and the sound of the rotor blades faded. Only to be replaced by a soundtrack of suffering, groans, cries and mutterings. I was led over to Major Bruce McQualter, OC B. Coy. He had a head wound. With a rifle in one hand and a map case in the other, he was appealing for a hand to help him to his feet, but his eyes were closed and *he could not respond to either questions or instruction*.

Close by, also with a head wound, lay the lanky form of Lieutenant Jack Carruthers. He was unconscious, stretched out on his side. His trademark ginger moustache was drenched in blood.

The third member of the group was Sergeant "Tassie" Wass, sitting propped up against his backpack in great pain. Both arms outstretched, both elbows were smashed and his forearms dangled from the butchered joints. Acutely aware that I had seen only a fraction of what lay around, I made him as comfortable as possible, with dressings, splints and morphine.



Evacuation of wounded after the mine incident

Ten meters away the APC lay on its side. The back door had been blown off and nearby lay what at first glance seemed to be a pile of discarded uniforms blackened and dusty. Getting closer I realised that the heap was composed of dead and wounded soldiers. In amongst the carnage, I came across the body of Mick

Poole. He had just turned 20 and was a favourite of village kids because of his cheeky good humour. He played the tenor horn in the Battalion Band. On patrol bandmen acted as stretcher bearers and provided first aid. I caught up the B. Coy medic and three more stretcher bearers, all dazed and wounded but getting on with the task at hand.

The task was to make a rough order of priority, identifying those in need of first aid and those not in acute need. There was a third group, those mortally wounded and beyond any help. The situation was out of control. The number of casualties was overwhelming. Horror was piled on horror. Close to the APC lay the torso of its driver. The lower part of his body was missing. Protruding from under the APC was a detached arm, its hand still grasping an M16 rifle.

While moving around this slaughter house, I was powerfully aware that we were stalled in a mine field. At any instant I could find myself joining the dead or, even worse, the living mutilated. At one time I spotted the three pronged wires of a "Jumping Jack" mine close to my foot. My heart stopped and I felt a bitter chill despite the stifling dusty bush around us. Pathetically I found myself moving among the wounded with one hand protectively over my balls even though I knew these mines could ablate not only the genitals but the legs and more.

I was amazed by the torrent of weird thoughts that surfaced as I worked. People who are dying or are terrified are said to see their past life rushing by like a speeded up movie. My mind raced with a stream of images of childhood, home and family. Mixed with these were other *bizarre* reflections. I thought of "Tassie" Wass and his shattered, dangling forearms. The absurd line "Look Ma no hands" kept revolving through my head. I had recognised the distinctive features of Barney Gee, the only soldier of Chinese extraction in the Battalion. He was quite calm as I got him to press on a dressing I applied to the spurting artery on his arm. His skin was blackened by the explosion. "Red on black ----- very Chinese" I thought.

I recalled a movie that I had seen as a child in which the minister was trying to halt alien invaders. With his congregation cowering behind him, he advanced with open Bible, reciting Psalm 23. He had just mentioned "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil" when he was carbonised by the alien ray gun.

After an eternity, sappers were choppered in. They quickly went to work with mine detectors, laying white tape on cleared pathways through the mine field. One sapper spotted me "Do you want to get us all killed ? for fuck sake stick to the cleared areas" he screamed ! I had to bite my tongue to avoid pointing out that I had been walking around there for the previous half hour or so.

A landing zone was cleared for the "Dust off" choppers. The critically wounded were shipped out first, then the lesser injured and finally the dead. The evacuation included a macabre audit, matching up corpses with missing parts as they were retrieved. Some parts were never found. **Jack Carruthers died three days later and Bruce McQualter after two weeks. Neither regained consciousness.**

I remained with the shaken remains of B. Coy for a short while. On one afternoon's outing they had lost their Company commander, a Platoon commander and numerous comrades. It had been entirely a passive event, with no trace of the enemy and no opportunity to strike back. A more potent prescription for anger and despair could not be imagined. On getting back to BHQ I was too shaky to hold a cup of coffee. I tried to describe the scene and discovered the futility of words for communicating such an experience.

What had happened? It appears that the lead APC had detonated a mine of enormous destructive power. There was a crater 2m wide and 1m deep. The 12 tonne vehicle had been tossed 3 m away and onto its side and there was a large hole in the hull under the driver's seat. The patrol halted and prepared for an ambush. The officers dismounted and summoned the company medic and stretcher bearers. As they walked towards the wounded, there was a second explosion. One of the party stepped on a M16 mine causing more casualties to B. Coy.

For years, like a diminuendo drumbeat, February 21 was to spook most of those who had participated in this calamitous and futile episode.

Did any good emerge from that afternoon? I would offer three positive observations.

First, the way the medics and stretcher bearers went forward to provide help for the first group of casualties. Their response was immediate and selfless, as evidenced by the fact that all of them were wounded. Second, the tattered remains of B. Coy continued to function in the immediate aftermath. Junior officers stepped in to fill the gaps.

Morale and discipline were maintained. All this reflects very well on the quality of their training.

Finally, 30 years on, most of the survivors are getting on with life and contributing to the community.

These surely are the qualities that Australia needs now.

The editor has made minor changes to the article appearing in the Canberra times

5 RAR Band Thirty Year Reunion Dromana. 22 February 1997

Address by Tony White RMO 5 RAR 66/67

Gentlemen of the Band, Mrs. Poole, guests.

So here we are, thirty years on -- more wisdom, less hair!

I am very grateful and honoured to have been invited to join you at this reunion. This get-together would be one of the most important weekends of our lives. For me, and I suspect for most of you, there has not been another year in our lives like the one we shared all that time ago.

I congratulate Bob, Geoff and all the others for conceiving this reunion. The organisation and execution have been superb.

From time to time, we all are asked about our time in Vietnam. My response is to say that I would not have missed it for quids. Mind you, I also rush to add that once was plenty! In fact, I would have been happy to quit after about three months. People who went back for a second or even a third tour must have had something wrong with them.

Christopher Koch, in the preface to his novel, *Highways to a War*, expressed it well. He wrote: "Being in battle, like being in love, is one of the fundamental human experiences."

A bit of the blowtorch to the belly is good for a young man. Ever after, you have a world view which stands you in good stead for the rest of your days.

But, sadly, you can have too much of the torch. You can be scarred for ever, mentally, physically or both and live out a blighted existence. Some like Mick and twenty four fine young men of the Battalion, can lose their lives.

We in the Medical Platoon and the Band had a privileged duty and sacred duty -- to look after the physical well-being of our comrades.

So, how did we do? Like me, I'm sure, all of you fretted over how we managed this or that casualty. Of course, there is nothing in life we couldn't do better

with hindsight. But I know in my heart that everyone did their very best that their training and often impossible circumstance's permitted. It was '*Duty First*' and there were no shirkers.

An ambulance man called to a big motor accident on the highway is in for a distressing time. However, unless he is extremely unlucky, it will be strangers who are bleeding or dead. For you the casualty was someone you knew very well, someone with whom you shared the highs and lows of life in the bush and many a beer and joke back in the base. This puts a very much tighter twist on the emotional dimension.

Of course our training could have been better. For my part, I was straight out of my intern year. I was supposed to have six weeks indoctrination at the school of Army Health but was high-jacked after *six days* to join the Battalion. I knew little about medicine and less about the army. There was a frantic scramble and we were away to war.

Things are a lot better now. In the 5/7 Battalion, the Pipes and Drums, a pale successor to our wonderful Band, still provide the first aid. But they now have three weeks, full time combat first aid course run by the Parachute Surgical Team with regular refreshers. They are proficient at putting up an intravenous drip. Their equipment is lighter and better. 5/7 RAR is of course a mechanized battalion so the lucky fellows do not have to lug all of this on their backs.

In Israel, I was able to visit the centre where they train their army medics. As you would expect, they have an impressive set up with a room full of Macintosh computers and terrific software to simulate battle casualties. Students can kill or cure their patients without a drop of blood being shed. Their practical field training is also excellent, by the end of their basic course, each medic will have both given (and been on the receiving end of) twenty intravenous drips. With that sort of background, your confidence in the field increased immeasurably.

I have had a very soft spot for the Band. You were on deck around the clock, in your triple roles as infantrymen, medics and musicians. No one should underestimate the powerful effect of music in the harsh and spartan lives of servicemen at war. William Congreve knew all about it when he wrote:

*'Music hath charms to soothe the savage beast,
To soften rocks or bend the knotted oak'*

I wonder how many of you realise how much your music you created touched the souls of your comrades-at-arms? What wouldn't I give to experience again the sight and sound of the Band swinging down a dirt

road, rubber trees on either side and playing *Dominique!*

I know that many Diggers will be eternally grateful to you. At the very least, you provided comfort and a distraction from what were fairly bleak surroundings, at the other end of the spectrum, you were responsible for saving the lives of your fellows.

I salute you and I thank you.

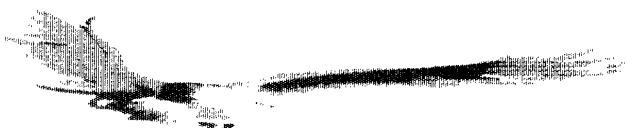
Tony White

Editor's Note. Dear Tony,

Your comment on going back to Vietnam for a second time is understandable. Regular soldiers posted to a unit on notice for a second tour, found it difficult to say "No." For me it was a difficult choice to leave my family for a second time. That cap badge we wore said 'Duty First' and that is the way it was in the days. I thought I would just throw that in as a general comment. Having said that, if I could have looked into the future to see how it would all turn out, I would have probably demonstrated! Not for going, but for the way we all packed up and left the South Vietnamese to fend for themselves!. But I digress.

SPECIAL NOTICES

OBITUARY



"On Eagle's wings I will carry you"

IAN ROBERT HOSIE
22 March 1946 to 2 April 1997



REST IN PEACE.

It is with sadness that I inform the members of the Association of the passing of Ian Robert Hosie. After a long illness, Ian passed away in the early hours on Wednesday, the second of April 1997.

Ian Robert Hosie was born on the 22 March 1946 in Wagga Wagga NSW. He was educated at Tamworth High School and entered The Royal Military College Duntroon in 1964.

On graduation, he was posted to 5 RAR and served as a platoon commander on operational service in South Vietnam in 1969/70. Ian cherished his time as platoon commander and was always concerned for his men.

After Vietnam, Ian served as an instructor at the Infantry Centre and later returned to his Battalion as a Company Commander and then served as a Staff Officer.

Other postings included;

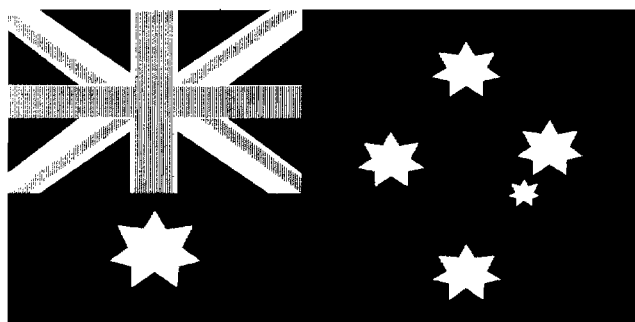
- Land Warfare Centre
- Army Reserve 1/ 19 RNSWR
- 2ND Training Group

Ian Hosie resigned his Commission because of ill health in 1988, even then he was called back on a part-time basis as author of a Platoon Pamphlet on Platoon and Section Leadership.

The Eulogy delivered by The Chief of the General Staff - Personnel stated in part, "He was courageous, as was demonstrated on war service where he was wounded. On the rugby field, the boxing ring or on the athletics track, he was determined to succeed, often in the company of much larger opponents."

Ian was made a member of the Military Division of the Order of Australia in 1984 for his leadership, dedication to duty and example in training.

The 5 RAR Association offers our deepest sympathy to Ian's family.



New Phone Numbers

All members will be aware of the change to our phone numbering system. For example, my new number, as from August 1997, will be (02) 44725748. Even though a six month period will occur during which you will be able to contact me {Editor} on the old number (044) 725748, all members should send their new numbers to the association when numbers change. The association will have to change all the data base to keep in contact with members in 1998. State representatives should do this without delay to allow *Tiger Tales* to be updated by the December issue.

All members please use the *Order Membership* form in this issue to notify the association of any changes to your details.

Editor.

BINH BA VILLAGE

The village of *Binh Ba* is well known to the members of 5 RAR on the second tour in 69/70. On the 6th of June 1969, D. Coy was reacted to an incident in *Binh Ba* Village. The operation {HAMMER} is well documented in the 5 RAR Book "The year of the Tigers" and there is no need to go into the details of the battle that lasted for two days.

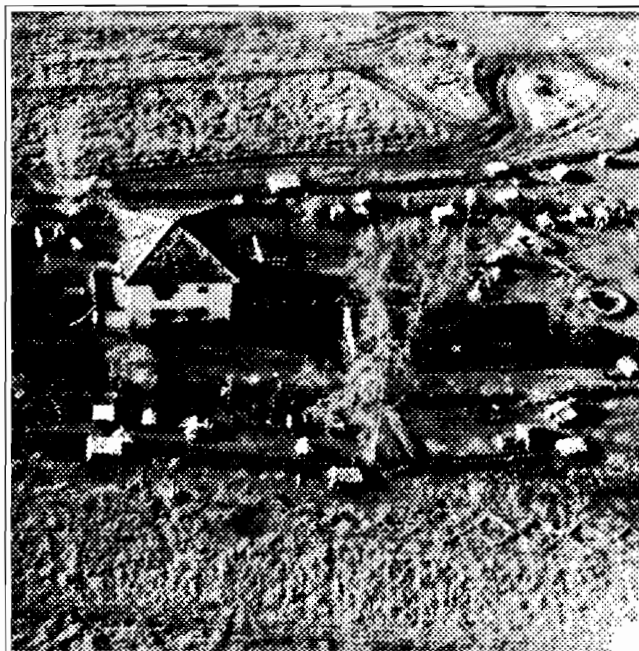
What is noteworthy is that in hindsight, { A wonderful thing, hindsight} the battle of *Binh Ba* would probably not have happened if the commitment as described below, was carried on beyond 5 RAR first tour.

During the first tour, as part of operational tasks, 5 RAR provided protection on a regular basis to the village of *Binh Ba*. The protection consisted of:

- A Rifle company
- A Section of mortars

The task was to give support to the ARVN forces in the village and to patrol during the day and ambush at night. The Rifle company and Mortar section were rotated each 4 to 6 weeks. The defensive position was located away from village and was protected by wire.

This commitment placed a great strain on the operational resources of 5 RAR during the first tour and is probably the main reason this practice was not carried on when 5 RAR was relieved in 1967.



5 RAR Company position showing Mortar positions near *Binh Ba* Village in Feb 1967

*My thanks to Ken Mallison {Mortar Platoon} for the photo and information on *Binh Ba*. Also to our co-chairman John Warr for the confirmation and details of 5 RAR's commitment*

The speculation is the editors own work.

Editor.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

QLD	Lt Col R T Shambrook AM 57 Lade St Ennogerger Qld 4051	Ron Tel (07) 33541706
VIC	Mr. G. Levey 40 Brook St Sunberry Vic 3429	Geoff (03) 97444078 B 93391229
SA	Mr. R H Naismith 33 Martin Rd Morphett Vale SA	Bob 5162 Tel (08) 83261813
WA	Mr. J D Burrige 88 Watkins Rd Clairmont WA 6010	John
TAS	Mr. C Ilman 20 Blackstone Rd Launceston TAS 7250	Colin
ACT	Mr. G. Negus 3 Daplyn Close Weston ACT 2611	Greg (06) 2431029

SPECIAL NOTICE

TREVOR LYNCH

OBITUARY

It is with sadness that I inform members of the passing of **Trevor Lynch**. Trevor passed away in April of this year.

Trevor Lynch served with the Battalion as a member of the Assault Pioneer platoon. He was badly wounded in October 1966 and as a result of his wounds, lost the sight in both eyes.

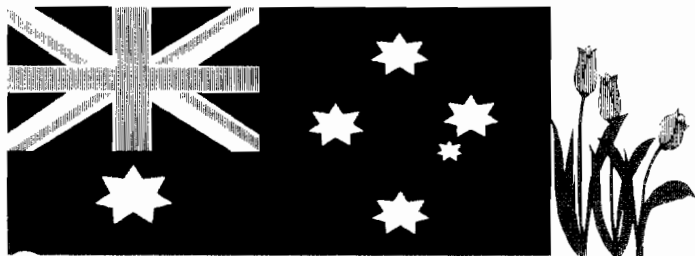
Trevor developed a serious illness and was admitted to Concord Hospital Adelaide earlier this year. He requested during this period, for members in the area to pay him a visit. I thank John Warr and all the members of the Association who provided assistance and comfort to Trevor during his illness. In particular, Wayne Clark and Chris Kuchenmeister and their families who provided great care and support for Trevor.

- Graduated from the Army School of Health.
- Posted to 2MD hospital
- Posted to 1 RAR ; helped to re-form 1 RAR Band ; after leaving the army;
- Worked for the Quarantine Department.
- Gained a diploma as an operating theatre technician.
- Employed with St. John of God Hospital.
- Diploma in Environmental Health.
- Appointed health surveyor WA.
- Organised and formed the Wanneroo City Challenge Band (1987)

Peter's band is highly acclaimed and sought after by numerous organisations for its fine performances.

Peter's commitment to music, through his involvement with the Wanneroo Challenge Band earned him the 1992 Western Australian Citizen of the year award in the category of Arts, Culture and Entertainment.

REST IN PEACE TREVOR



PETER TUCK WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Peter enlisted in the Australian Army as an apprentice musician in 1961 and after two years at the Army School of Music he was posted to the RAE band as a tuba player.

In January 1966, he joined 5 RAR as a bandsman. As Peter described it "1966/67 were years of almost instant maturity" when he served as a stretcher bearer and medical assistant in Vietnam, usually with the Assault Pioneer Platoon.

Perhaps it was at this time that he decided to become involved more with the medical side of soldiering than the musical aspect for example;



Peter Tuck with his award

If you have misplaced or, given away your book on the second tour of 5 RAR you are in luck. The association has reprinted a limited number of

THE YEAR OF THE TIGER.

The cost of this excellent publication is \$65.00 including postage. {See order form}

ALL SALES of 5 RAR ITEMS

Sales of items must be made through the Secretary
5 RAR Association
GPO Box 817
SYDNEY NSW 1043

COMING EVENTS

MEMORIAL SERVICE BLUE MOUNTAINS
17 AUGUST 1997

Our association has been invited to participate in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day at **Springwood** in the Blue Mountains on Sunday 17 August 1997.

Programme

0930 Hrs. Pre-parade drinks at the Royal Hotel
220 Macquarie St. {opposite station}
1330 Hrs. Parade along Macquarie St. 5 RAR to
march as an association under the
association banner.

Service at War Memorial. Guest speaker Brig Colin Khan DSO.

1645 Hrs. Beating the retreat.

Members wishing to attend please contact:

Geoff Pearson
PO Box 698
CARRINGBAH NSW 2229

or;

phone, Bus 95243173
Home 95243561
Fax 95243272

**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN
REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**

**49TH REGIMENTAL BIRTHDAY
DINNER
FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER 1997
VICTORIA**

Each year the Victorian Branch of the RAR Association honours a Battalion of the Regiment. This year 5 RAR is the focus Battalion.

Special guest and speaker will be **Colonel John A. Warr DSO. CO of the Battalion {First Tour}**

Members of all the Battalions will be in attendance. The dinner will be held at the **NAVAL & MILITARY CLUB MELBOURNE.**

DRESS; lounge suit or jacket and tie. **Medals or Miniatures to be worn.**

COST; \$45. 00 payable in advance. { No admission on the night}

CONTACT Geoff Levey
03 97444078 or 0412018795 for Bookings

WARNING ORDER

From: 5 RAR Association

To: All members 5 RAR Association

SUBJECT FUTURE ACTIVITIES

All members are advised of the following dates importance.

50th Anniversary of RAR Association BRISBANE.
Re-union 5 RAR to be held on Friday 20 November 1998 in Brisbane.

Saturday 21 November march through Brisbane City.
Lunch and drinks at Convention Centre. This will be followed by a mixed Regimental Dinner in the evening at the Convention Centre Brisbane.

Sunday 22 November, dedication of memorial walk and church service {AM}; Barbeque lunch to follow.

March 1999; Re-union in Melbourne.

March 2000, Re-union in Darwin.

Details of the above will be advised in later issues of Tiger Tales.

Farewell to 5/7 RAR (MECH)

The farewell will now be held at Holsworthy

BIN BA DAY 6 Th. June 1998.

Further details to follow.

THERE IS A BOOK IN ALL OF US

EDITOR'S NOTE.

As detailed in this issue or **TIGER TALES** A MEMORIAL SERVICE WAS HELD FOR MICK POOLE at Dromana VIC on the 27 May 1997. Among the many association members to attend was Michael Seats. Michael was, as we all know, the RAP Sergeant during the first tour. Members noticed that Michael was wearing the Atlantic Star and Pacific Star WW2 medals. John Warr in particular urged Michael to tell his story of his time at sea. The article submitted by Michael Seats makes very

interesting reading and I hope that it will encourage others to follow.

Life at sea for six years was no pleasure cruise and over 35,000 British seamen which included several hundred Australians were killed and thousands were wounded and disabled. One factor remains hard to bear, if attacked and sunk, the minute the ship disappeared, so did the pay. Merchant ships were armed with the 4 inch gun on the stern and the anti-aircraft weapons were manned from the galley boy to the mate.

In June 1940 I was evacuated from Hong Kong to Australia, along with thousands of others and my family ceased to function as a unit from that date. My father died in Hong Kong and I was under the guardianship of a friend of the family, a merchant ship deck officer from the China coast run. In June 1942 he arranged for me to sign on a British ship in Sydney as general "dogsboddy" I was aged 13. The ship was the largest refrigerated vessel afloat at the time and loaded to capacity with much needed food for Britain. Six weeks later in the middle of the north Atlantic the ship was torpedoed at 0230 hrs. the torpedo hit the stern blowing off one of the two screws and jamming the rudder. We were steaming in a circle but in no danger of sinking. An hour later a second torpedo struck amidships and the ship went down in three minutes. I was on the bridge at that time. I managed to scramble over the bodies of a group of seamen who were killed whilst loading stores into a lifeboat. They had received the full blast of the second torpedo. On reaching the rail, I jumped overboard. After a couple of hours I was dragged into one of the two lifeboats that had not been destroyed.

The boat U-754 surfaced and came in quite close to us and the commander actually apologised for sinking such a fine ship and asked for our Captain {he was not in our boat}. The German crew grappled a few cases of butter and carcasses of frozen meat and within moments disappeared.

Our boat was overcrowded with 53 survivors and the weather was turning foul with rising seas. After a harrowing few days, we were sighted by a little Norwegian ship and rescued. The ensuing gale would have meant the end of our small craft. {the officer in command of our boat received a decoration for his seamanship in keeping us afloat} It should also be noted that all ships had as many "lookouts" as possible even passengers, took a turn to search the sea for life

boats and rafts such as ours. {No radar on merchant ships}

Only last year I learnt of the fate of **U754**. She was sunk with all hands by a RCAF aircraft off Newfoundland exactly one month after sinking us. Our rescuers took us to New York where we joined thousands of other survivors waiting to be shipped out. Some of them had been sunk three or four times, ending up in New York time and time again. On the day the US entered the war the Germans commenced a well-planned assault on allied shipping concentrating on the American East coast, code named "Operation Drumbeat." They sank over 440 ships in six months, scores of them within sight of land. The beaches along the Eastern seaboard were awash with oil, debris and bodies. Because of the recalcitrance of Admiral King C&C US Navy a confirmed Anglophile, {he would not take advice from the British who had been sinking U-boats for two years} it took until April before the US Navy sunk their first U-boat. Until then the coastline was a blaze of light making navigation and the sighting of targets quite easy. One U-boat actually surfaced in the outer harbour of New York, the crew admiring the lights of Manhattan. Given the full complement of U-boats, Admiral Doenitz would have won the Battle of the Atlantic.

Because of my tender age I was more or less compelled to stay ashore for some months at a very comfortable boarding school in the New Jersey countryside. I eventually signed on another ship, this time loaded with ammunition and war supplies for Australia. She was a survivor of the First World War and was straining to do 7 knots, consequently we joined a slow convoy to Panama and the Pacific. The US Navy had gotten their act together and it was a very noisy couple of weeks however, they could not prevent all the sinkings. We watched ships similar to ours disappearing in enormous explosions. It took over a month to cross the Pacific to Sydney where I was paid off and was incarcerated in a Catholic boarding college in New Norcia WA. I did not last the distance and in late '44, I was back at sea witnessing the enormous convoys across the Atlantic.

During my conversations with members of the Allied Merchant Seamans Association here in Perth, I was urged to apply for WW2 medals. I did and all records were intact, and were sent the correctly inscribed "Gongs." I must mention that I was not on my own as for as age was concerned. Within the association we have Max Wallington who signed on a Norwegian ship in Fremantle when he was 12 years of age and

spent the war mostly on tankers. He then served in D Coy 3 RAR at Kapyong. Another 3 RAR veteran is Peter Cousins who sailed when he was 14 and had 3 ships sunk under him.

Michael A Seats



MARCH OUT PARADE 5 PLATOON MARCH 1997

The 5 RAR Association Most Improved Soldier award was received by Andrew Studaris at Kapooka on the 12 March 1997



Former United States Army Colonel Ken Studaris and his wife Ann witness son Andrew receive the 5RAR Association award

Association members attending the parade were Paul Greenhaul, Norm Goldspink, Nev Smerdon, Kev Watson "Blue." Hush and Ernie New.

From reports received, it would appear the number of soldiers training at Kapooka is set to increase from 4,000 to between 5,000 and 7,000 this year. This will mean as many soldiers will be trained at Kapooka as there were during the height of the Vietnam War. Under the new system both Regular and Army Reserve will train together. Once the new system is in place, Kapooka will hold at least one passing out parade a week.



TOP SOLDIER. Tracy Treadaway 5 Platoon's most outstanding soldier with parents Graeme and Glenda Burr and husband Chris Treadaway

MEMBERS IN HOSPITAL

"Blue" Hush is in hospital {8 June 97}. We all hope that "Blue" make a quick recovery and is back on deck soon.

Brian London

Editor

At 2300 hrs 8 June 1997 "Blue" is in intensive care at Campbelltown Hospital and on the mend. He should be home in a week or so.

C, Coy ANZAC DAY 1997 Warren NSW

Anzac Day 1997 saw a group of "C" Coy visit Warren NSW at the invitation of "Rouster" Stephens (8 Pl 69/70) and his wife Ngarie. With wives/partners attending as well, the group totalled over 40. The first roll call on the Thursday was at the local Bowling club where Club President "Barney" Simpson (trackers-69/70) gave us a warm welcome, joined by half the town.

The Warren United Services Club put on a light breakfast prior to the Dawn Service. The C, Coy group was later treated to a hearty breakfast at "Rousters" and Ngarie's home.

The whole town turned out later that morning to give the FIFTH (led by Claude Ducker, OC C. Coy) a very warm welcome. After a touching service at the Cenotaph, a wreath was laid on behalf of the Association. Attending the Club Anzac Day Luncheon Claude Ducker thanked the Club and the Sub Branch Committee for their hospitality.

The next day "Rouster" and Ngarie arranged for a 'hands on' inspection of the local cotton industry which was a truly fascinating and informative day. The weekend wound down with a country B-B-Q at "Rousters" and Ngarie's river property. The locals all turned out again in force bringing salads, cakes pies and desserts, all washed down with endless amber direct from kegs.

The 'troops' presented "Rouster" and Ngarie with a Lilli Pilli Cherry Tree to mark our visit to Warren. A plaque was also presented to fix near the tree which read:

**Ngarie & Rouster
ANZAC DAY 1997
Thanks for a great weekend
"C" Coy - 5RAR**



C Coy Group prior to march



C. Coy forms up- Claude Ducker lead the group at Warren NSW



Ladies group at Warren Anzac Day Re-union C. Coy

Details and Photos by Geoff Pearson

TIGER TALES

Queensland Branch Supplement

Edition 1

Page 1

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT **NATIONAL MEMORIAL WALK**

AIM:

To raise \$3000 towards the Memorial

INVOLVEMENT:

All Unit Associations from 1 to 9 Bn are involved in fund raising, including The Royal Australian Regiment Association.

50 Years:

In November 1998, The Royal Australian Regiment will attain its Fiftieth Anniversary and therefore it is only fitting that we have our own Memorial to Honour our Fallen. This is the only known Memorial for the R.A.R.

Theatres of Conflict:

The RAR was involved in conflicts from the Occupation of Japan, to Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Malaysia, Vietnam and Somalia.

Stage 1:

1000 Australian Native Trees, adaptable to the various soils of Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, have been planted with minimal loss. The trees planted follow a 400 metre walkway 2 metres wide and will have a concrete kerbside filled with road base of decomposed granite. Each tree will bear the name and details of a Fallen Soldier of the Regiment

Perpetual Templates:

Each of these brass cast templates have the RAR Badge, centred and on top, followed beneath by raised lettering denoting the Fallens information and embedded in concrete with only the template showing above ground level.

Contemplation Building:

This building will house the Roll of Honour of all the fallen in Battalion order of the Regiment. For visitors who wish to take part in contemplation, seating will be available. In addition, toilet facilities and a drinking fountain will be on site.

Casualties:

Our Battalion had two tours of Vietnam, with 51 casualties. The least we, the living, can do is raise the funds to cover the cost of the Perpetual Templates. The cost is \$50 per plate and this will consist of the name plate, inscription on the Roll of Honour and a certificate naming the person who made the donation. There will be only one certificate issued per template. As there are approximately 570 financial members of our Association, this works out to a small amount per head, keeping in mind that our aim is to raise \$3000 as are the other Battalions.

The 9 RAR Association raised \$536.00 from a raffle on ANZAC DAY, for the Memorial.

Cheques can be made payable to:

"R.A.R. Association National Memorial Walk,
Trust Fund"

1 The Royal Australian Regiment Ass
Post Office Box 10454
Brisbane 4000
Qld

Alternatively I will accept all donations on behalf of the RAR Ass (Queensland Branch). Should you choose to send the donations to me, make them payable to the above Trust Fund. I will produce a Financial Statement of all donations and present it to the National Treasurer for publication in following editions of Tiger Tales.

2. Steve Gage
Secretary 5 RAR Association
Queensland Branch
10 Linthaven Dr
Rothwell 4022
Qld

History of the Regiment:

The 3 RAR Ass is currently developing the publication of a magazine on the History of the Regiment which will show; the formation of the Regiment; a brief history of the Regiment since its inception in 1948; Battle Honours won by the Regiment; awards earned by the Regiment; awards earned by members of the Regiment; Colonel Commandants, Commanding Officers and RSMs of the Regiment, casualty list of the Regiment.

This Magazine should be available in most newsagencies and book stores by late August 1997.

"Available at a low cost of \$5.00"

Veteran Affairs up date:

Broadening of the Veterans' Entitlements Act will include the overseas service of 10,500 service people who will be eligible for benefits. Twelve new areas of service from the Far East Strategic Reserve and Ubon Air Base in Thailand to the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan.

Other previously disallowed service, ranges from the DMZ between North and South Korea from 19 April, 1956, to Embassy Guards and RAAF evacuation personnel in Vietnam from 12 January, 1973, to 29 April, 1975.

Veterans who served in these areas at the appropriate time will be eligible for a disability pension and treatment for their war-caused injuries or illnesses. Eligibility for a Defence Service Homes Loan is also extended.

Landmine Commitment:

The new British Labour Government promises to destroy all Britain's anti-personnel landmines by 2005, pursuing its pledge to put human rights at the centre of foreign policy.

Labour has stressed the need for action on landmines, blamed for killing 25,000 people a year and maiming many more. The Red Cross estimates there are 120 million mines in the ground across the world, many of them in war-torn countries such as Angola and Cambodia

Disbandment of 8/9 RAR

By now most of you will be aware of the above fact and the emotional passing into history of 8/9 RAR. Their Colours are to be layed up at The Infantry Centre, Singleton.

The 9th Bn, Royal Queensland Regiment, will move into their buildings at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, as part of the newly formed Task Force. The new Task Force will form up in its Motorised capacity on Sunday 6th of July, 1997, whereby a Muster will be conducted. They anticipate 3000 service personnel to take part between 10am and Noon.

In Finishing:

We anticipate the Dedication of the Memorial to coincide with the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Regiment, in November 1998. More information will be available about accommodation, functions, reunions and timings in further editions

There are 676 Fallen in the Regiment.

Project Manager is Mick Serves and he can be contacted on 07 3265 4654.

I hope to see or hear from you in the near future.

Steve Gage
D Coy