

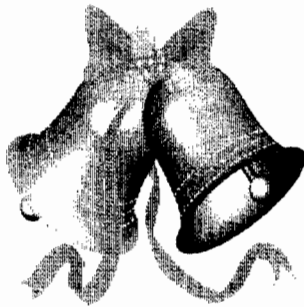
TIGER TALES



NOVEMBER 1999

ISSUE 17

Newsletter of the 5 RAR Association



Wishing members and families of the 5 RAR Association, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the 5 RAR Committee.

SPECIAL EDITION DARWIN REUNION 2000

Editor's Notebook

LATEST UPDATE ON THE REUNION IN DARWIN APRIL 2000

The reunion in Darwin has been deferred to a date to be announced. The 5 RAR Committee has reluctantly reached this decision due to the situation in East Timor. The plain facts are that 5/7 RAR will not be in Darwin to host the reunion. There is a potential problem with accommodation as well. The influx of organizations with interests or roles in East Timor will make accommodation difficult to secure. The deferment of the reunion will cause some inconvenience to members however, the association had no other choice but to put the event on hold. 7 RAR is of course, in the same boat.

The committee held a meeting on the 27 October and Brig, Colin Kahn announced that a reunion in Darwin was not possible in the year 2000.

On the home front, we need to look at our own administration. Members have paid money for the dinner and perhaps accommodation and airfares.

THE DINNER

Members have two choices:

- Leave the money in trust to the association as payment towards a future reunion in Darwin at a date to be announced.
- Request a refund from the association. If you decide on a refund, use the REFUND FORM in this issue

AIRFARES

Try for a refund of your airfare. You should contact the airline of your choice and explain the situation. The association will endeavour to help you if you experience difficulties in this area. Our president Brig Colin Kahn has provided a letter to be presented to the airlines and is attached to this issue.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation industry usually charges a fee for cancellations. Again, explain the situation and try for a refund of your deposit.

SUMMARY

I know how disappointed members will be at this outcome but it is out of our hands. It does highlight how things can change in such a short time.

I am sure all members will join with me in wishing our troops every success in their mission and hope for a speedy conclusion to the hostilities in East Timor and safe return home for all.

*The Editor
Tiger Tales*

THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 OCTOBER 1999.

The committee has informed 5/7 RAR that the Association is behind them all the way in their efforts in East Timor. Brig C. Kahn has advised the battalion that the Association will participate in a reunion at 5/7 RAR at a time suitable to them. This could be well into 2001. It was agreed that the focus should now be on Sydney for a mini reunion during April 2000. The Committee is mindful of the expense that could be placed on members at this time however it was agreed not to let the opportunity to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the 5th Battalion pass without some form of celebration.

PROPOSED OUTLINE

Mixed Battalion luncheon on the 24th April 2000.
Venue (TBA)

ANZAC DAY 25 APRIL 2000

- a. Regimental Square service - 0830am
- b. 5 RAR to lead the RAR Association in the order of march.
- c. 5 RAR reunion after march. Possible venue, Paddington RSL. (TBA)

The possible areas of interest and entertainment for members wishing to spend time in and around Sydney during the Easter/Anzac Day weekend.

- WEEKEND MARKETS & THE ROCKS
- TARONGA ZOO
- OPERA HOUSE
- VICTORIA BKS MUSEUM
- CENTRE POINT TOWER
- FERRY TOURS
- OLYMPIC PARK TOURS
- DARLING HARBOUR
- NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
- ART GALLERY
- HARBOUR BRIDGE CLIMB

Next of kin of deceased members are most welcome and are invited to attend all activities.

**REUNION IN SYDNEY
APRIL 2000**

**Send to: 5RAR Association PO Box 817
GPO Sydney NSW 1043**

Full Name.....

I propose to take part in the following activities during our reunion in April 2000

LUNCHEON 24 APRIL

Number attending

Regimental Square

Anzac Day march

Post march reunion

Number attending

Place a tick or number in the boxes above where applicable

Signature.....

The return form above will assist the committee to plan a suitable venue. Please take time to complete the details and send to the Association. Costs will be advised later.

Note 1. The payment for the Darwin dinner is refundable. You may apply for a refund or leave in trust to the Association for a future reunion in **Darwin. It will difficult to administer a transfer of Darwin funds to the Sydney mini reunion.**

ACCOMMODATION

A list of suggested accommodation and contact numbers are listed at the rear of this issue for members wishing to make bookings.

REST IN PEACE

**THE HON KEVIN NEWMAN AO.
SOLDIER AND FEDERAL
MINISTER.**



A long illness finally claimed Kevin Newman on the 17th of July 1999. Kevin was, in his distinguished career, the CO of the Fifth Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment for two years prior to the amalgamation with 7 RAR. Kevin Newman graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1955. His commission was received from The Governor General, Field Marshall Sir William Slim, with the words. " You have been chosen to lead our countrymen into battle, and in return for that great honour, dedicate yourself to the service of our country" Kevin embraced this challenge by commanding a mortar platoon in Malaya during the emergency in the late 50's and was credited with the first brush with communist insurgent forces. His rise through the ranks was steady:

Operations officer 2 RAR in Vietnam.

Instructor with the British Army.

Commanding Officer 5 RAR.

Commander of the 6th Military District Tasmania.

Kevin Newman entered Parliament in 1975 as the member for Bass and within a few months became a Minister in the Fraser Government and held no less than five ministries - Repatriation, Environment, Housing and Community Development, National Developments, Productivity and Administrative Services.

The Prime Minister, The Hon John Howard MP in the Eulogy for Kevin said in part " *I never found him to be other than unfailingly honest. I never found him to be other than a loyal and dedicated member of a ministerial team. He was a passionate advocate of the people of Tasmania for whom he felt a special affinity and a special responsibility.*"

Major General Peter Phillips, AO MC Retd in his tribute to Kevin said " *It was a privilege to have known Kevin for over 47 years. He never sought the limelight. Yet history will remember him as a great Australian, a man of honour. His Army friends will remember him for his indomitable courage, his compassion and the zest he brought to everything he tackled*"

Claude Ducker who visited Kevin just before his death wrote. " *He had his usual smile when he read the card which I had brought on behalf of his class*" Claude in his written report to Kevin's classmates who could not attend, stated that the Funeral had a fitting RMC influence as Kevin and his family would have wanted it. RMC Cadets were the casket bearers and classmates lined the road in front of the chapel.

VALE KEVIN

The 5 RAR Association offer our deepest sympathy to Kevin's family

"Lest We Forget"

DARWIN DINNER REFUND CLAIM
SEND TO:
5 RAR ASSOCIATION PO BOX 817 GPO SYDNEY 1043

FULL NAME

Address

.....**State**.....**Post Code**.....

I wish to apply for a refund of \$..... being payment for the dinner in Darwin.

My method of payment was (Money order/cheque).....

Remarks (If any).....

.....

Signature.....**Date**.....

Send a message to the members of 5/7 RAR in East Timor
Visit the 5 RAR Association Web Page at <http://www.sci.net.au/londonb>
E-Mail to the Association: londonb@sci.net.au

5 RAR ITEMS FOR SALE

The book 'The Year of the Tigers' has been sold out. There is a possibility for a reprint at an increased cost. If members are interested please write or E-mail the association with expressions of interest. No obligation but we need to know if it is worthwhile to go for a reprint.

The 5 RAR Video has sold out. More are being produced. Plaques/ Honour rolls have sold out and again more are on the way.

All other items are available

now

Ties

Caps

Car Stickers

Vietnam Task (Book)

State Representatives

- QLD** Lt Col Ron Shambrook AM
57 Lade St Enoggera 4051
(07)38554055 B 33541706 H
- VIC** Mr Geoff Lavery
40 Brook St Sunbury 3429
(03) 93391229 B 97444078 H
- SA** Mr Bob Naismith
33 Martin St Morphett Vale 5162
(08) 83261813 H
- WA** Mr John Burr ridge
88 Watkins St Dalkieth 6009
(08) 93866826 B 93841218 H
- TAS** Mr Colin Illman
3 Blackstone Rd Launceston 7250
(03) 63449716 B 63430999 H
- ACT** Mr Greg Negus
3 Daplyn Close Weston 2611
(02) 62431029 B 62882070 H
- NSW** Mr Brian London AOM DCM
PO Box 422 Batemans Bay 2536
(02) 44725748

HISTORICAL NOTES THE COLOURS

The Fifth Battalion was presented with the Queen's and Regimental Colours on Sunday 29th October 1967 by His Excellency, The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler, V.C., K.C.M.G., C.B.E.

ORIGIN OF THE COLOURS

The Colours are the focal point of all that made the regiment great. They are consecrated symbols embodying the loyalty, spirit and traditions of the Regiment to which they belong.

The origin of the symbols can be traced back to the dim beginnings of history. Over 5000 years ago in India there was the "Cult of the Standard". In the time of Julius Caesar standards were made of metal, but with the advent of the Christian era they were made of cloth, silk or damask.

Early Military flags were of two types: the personal flag borne in the feudal armies when service was rendered to the immediate overlord, and the national or standardized flag as borne by the National or standing armies. George III abolished the personal aspect in 1743 when a warrant stated "No Colonel shall put his arms, crest device or livery in any part of the appointments of his Regiment". The same warrant directed the number of the Regiment to be painted in the centre of the Regimental or second colour inaugurating the Regimental aspect. Varying colours were carried by Regiments until 1751 when it was decreed that only two colours would be carried in future - The King's (or Queen's) and the Regimental Colour.

The purpose of the standard was to serve as a rallying point in the field of battle. When the distinctive insignia was held aloft the troops knew the position of their leader. To lose the standard often meant that one's leader was lost. Therefore the importance of "Keeping the flag flying" was very great. With the introduction of modern weapons the casualty rate among Colour and Standard Bearers was very high. So high

was the mortality rating of colour bearers during the Crimean War that in subsequent European wars British Colours were not carried. The Colours were last carried into battle at Laings Nec on 26 January 1881, in the first Boer War.

The Queen's Colour is a reminder to all ranks of their loyalty and duty to their sovereign and their Country. The Regimental Colour is a symbol of Regimental tradition and of the duty owed by each member to the Regiment. Battle Honours are emblazoned on the Colours

In earlier days the colours were trooped through the ranks prior to an engagement so that they could be recognised by all ranks as a rallying point during the battle. To day the Trooping of the Colours through the ranks of the Regiment is continued as a Ceremonial Movement only.

Before being presented, the Colours are always consecrated at a religious ceremony on parade where God's blessing on them is asked. This dates back to the Battle of the Standard in 1138 when the Yeoman of Yorkshire took with them consecrated banners from York Cathedral, and fought so fiercely to save the banners that they defeated heavy odds.

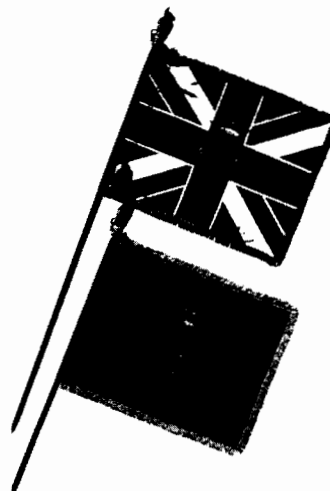
HISTORICAL NOTES

Regimental Motto - Duty First

Regimental March - "Dominique"

Alliance - Her Majesty's Welsh Guards

The Fifth battalion was formed on 1 March 1965 from officers and other ranks from the First Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment.



**THE QUEEN'S AND REGIMENTAL COLOURS OF
THE FIFTH BATTALION**

In the last issue of Tiger Tales I mentioned the sad news that Ian Sherwin-White was killed this year in a Gyrocopter accident. The news was passed on to me via normal mail and by E - Mail. A brief note in Tiger tales asking for details of Ian's service was not long in coming. Ian did not keep records of his service and spoke very little of his time in Vietnam to his family. His family had little knowledge of his service and therefore now , that he has gone, there is a void in their lives. What was this man like?

His Platoon Commander can now shed some light on the life of Ian Sherwin -White at least in his time in 5 RAR.

Dennis Rainer MC

I was Ian Sherwin - White's platoon commander in South Vietnam. Ian came to 10 platoon D Company 5 RAR in July 1966. He was a quiet man and was quickly nicknamed 'Chalky'. He was a very good soldier and came under heavy enemy fire on several occasions. He never shirked his duty and was brave and resolute in our battles with the enemy.

Dennis Rainer



Colin Lee

Ian Sherwin - White

'Doc' Docherty

'LEST WE FORGET'

LT DENNIS RAINER MC HAS WRITTEN TO IAN'S FAMILY AND SUPPLIED PHOTOGRAPHS OF IAN AND HAS OFFERED TO BE OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE.



CARTOON AND POET'S CORNER



RED ANTS

A large green bush, there is no fuss,
 it's standing right in front of us.
 Here's something new, every one has said,
 and stupid me....didn't use my head.
 On every branch red ants run wild,
 I stare in wonder, like a child.
 Their nests are baskets made of leaves,
 on second thoughts the whole tree seethes.
 I still don't know why I did that,
 curiosity it was, that killed the cat.
 But bright red ants are a sight to see,
 I touched the branch and, they're on me.
 From the tip of my boots to the tip of my hair,
 the bloody things are every where.



My pack comes off and my clothes go flying,
 they're crawling all over, I think I'm dying.
 I jump and scratch with all my might,
 yet all they do is bite and bite.
 All my mates all around, just laugh like mad.
 The bastards know that I've been had.
 But I've learnt my lesson and learnt it well.
 Red ants in trees can go to Hell.

Terry Tommasi
 5 RAR 1966



Colonel John Arnold Warr DSO

15/9/1925 - 9/5/1999

John Warr was born in Coburg, Victoria, the only son of Ben and Irene Warr. His father was active in local government and was mayor of the City of Brunswick on two occasions. He died when John was fourteen years old and Irene was left to educate John and his sister, Mildred. John attended Scotch College in Melbourne and later gained a bachelor degree from Melbourne University.

In 1944 he enlisted as a private in the AIF. He gained selection for the Royal Military College at Duntroon, entering on the 24 February 1945 as staff Cadet No 1007. After graduating in 1947, he was posted to the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. There he served as a platoon commander in the 67th Australian Infantry Battalion, the forerunner of 3 RAR, until 1949. It was as a platoon commander in 3 RAR that he was posted to Korea where he was badly wounded in a mine blast in 1951.

In 1957 he attended the Australian Staff College, Queenscliff. This was followed by service as an exchange officer with the Canadian army (1959 - 62). On return to Australia, John Warr was posted to 1 RAR as a company commander and, later, senior staff officer. The Fifth Battalion was formed on 1 March 1965. Its core was made up of members of 1 RAR. The (then) Major Warr was given the task of organising the split from 1 RAR and administering the fledgling battalion until he assumed command in that September.

The months remaining until the first elements of 5 RAR embarked for Vietnam were hectic indeed. Training was carried with a sense of urgency. 5 RAR was the first battalion to be composed of a mixture of regulars and national servicemen. Conscription was an intensely controversial issue and the presence of conscripts produced complex political overtones which required sensitive handling. The major share of the credit for preparing this new battalion for active service in such a short time must go to John Warr. A big factor in fostering morale at this time was the adoption of a tiger as the emblem for 5 RAR. This was controversial but John Warr correctly sensed the mood of the troops and gave his full support to the move.

The Distinguished Service Order was awarded in recognition of John Warr's command of 5 RAR on its first tour in Vietnam.

Colonel Warr summarized his beliefs and experience of the Vietnam War in a meticulously crafted paper published in the *Australian Army Journal* shortly after returning to Australia. The paper, detailing the battalion's cordon and search methods earned him the prize for the best article published in that journal since 1967. It was reprinted in *Duty First* thirty years later.

On returning to civilian life in 1972, he served as Assistant Registrar at the University of New South Wales for ten years. During that appointment, he spent twelve months on exchange with the University of Toronto. While there, he took the opportunity of serving in the Canadian army reserve. John was always intensely interested in travel and international affairs. In 1972/73 he was appointed Advisor to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense. While that committee considered the future role of the Australian army. He visited China in 1974 as a member of a delegation sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs. He lead a number of study tours for the Australian Institute of International Affairs to South East Asia, the Middle East, Indonesia and Africa to study matters of interest between those countries and Australia. These tours included discussions at ministerial level with the likes of Palestinian leader Yaaser Arafat and Egypt's foreign minister, Boutros Boutros Ghali who was later to be secretary General of the United Nations. In South Africa he met Dr Motlana who was Nelson Mandela's physician but who later became head of the Council of Ten in Soweto and kept the flame burning for the African National Council whilst Mandela was in prison. From 1981 to 1987 he was the Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Australia, an organisation formed to get the best out of private enterprise. No doubt spurred on by this experience, he and his younger son, Mark, went into the swimming pool business together. Over ten years, the business was to become the largest private swimming pool servicing company in Australia with three shops seventeen vehicles and twenty four staff. John was active in all aspects of the operation right up to his untimely death.

...What was the character of the man? Universally he was described as a gentleman. He was transparently decent and honest. One aspect of his fundamental decency was that he always looked for the best in people. His most hell-raising platoon commander, one who had been in a number of disciplinary scrapes, said that John was the most forgiving of commanders. He was willing to give people the benefit of the doubt.

He was passionate about his soldiers. Those around him were often surprised at how much he knew of his soldiers and their families. He went in to bat for them on innumerable occasions and fought tenaciously for their welfare, at times perhaps to the detriment of his own career. Casualties hurt him deeply. His energetic concern was expressed in so many ways - by visiting his soldiers in hospital whenever possible, by writing to their families and by his constant approachability. Not uncommonly he would be waiting to meet a filthy and exhausted platoon coming back through the wire after a week on patrol. He would share a chat and a brew with the 'digs' around the Red Shield vehicle. His obvious concern for his soldiers was reciprocated in spades - they loved him. One officer commented that he had never known another C.O. who was so universally liked and respected by his troops. His nickname with the digger was Wingy, an allusion to the results of wounds he had sustained in Korea. But the name was used always with affection, never with malice.

John was flexible. He was receptive to ideas and prepared to take advice. If a soldier came up with a better way of doing things, John would look at its merits and implement it rather than sticking to the book. However it would be quite wrong to take these caring, flexible, forgiving aspects of John's character as weakness. He could be extremely determined, even stubborn. Indeed, when the situation demanded, he could be as hard as nails. He drove those around him hard and himself harder.

Bob O'Neill, 5 RAR's Intelligence Officer and now Chichele Professor of the History of War at Oxford, said that John had a powerful and astute mind. He was interested in the intellectual complexity of problems. He always wanted to hear the counter side of any argument. He made good decisions.

Problems, for John, were for solving, he was not one for hand - wringing. He would confront a problem head on and work at it until it was solved. This quality stemmed from his consistently optimistic *CAN DO* stance. His energy and enthusiasm were prodigious.

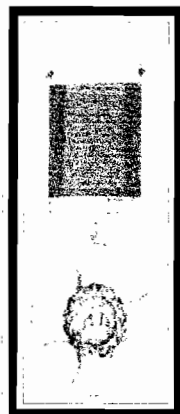
John's constant care and concern for his men continued unwaveringly during the thirty two years following the Battalion's first tour of duty in Vietnam. He was the heart and soul of the 5 RAR Association. We must all ensure that the Association continues to flourish as one way of remembering him.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley, whom he married in 1951, and his children, Peter, Anne and Mark.

Tony White - RMO 5 RAR 66/67

Extract from the Eulogy given by Tony White at John Warr's funeral

The Distinguished Service Order (DSO) was instituted in 1886 and awarded to those holding commissioned rank in the Navy and Army. "for meritorious or distinguished service in the field



or before the enemy" Extended to the Air Force in 1931 and awarded only "for distinguished service under fire"

5 RAR ASSOCIATION APPLICATION TO JOIN AND RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

**SEND TO:
THE SECRETARY 5 RAR ASSOCIATION PO
BOX 817 GPO SYDNEY 1043**

I wish to renew my membership to the 5 RAR Association

I am a new member

Surname.....

Given Name/s.....

Address.....

State..... Post code.....

Phone (B).....

Phone (H).....

Brief details of service if a new member.
.....
.....

I enclose my cheque/money order for \$ 25.00
No.....

Signed.....

Date.....

5 RAR Office use

5 RAR ITEMS FOR SALE

**SEND TO:
THE SECRETARY 5 RAR
ASSOCIATION PO BOX 817 GPO
SYDNEY 1043**

1. 5 RAR VIDEO @ \$40

2. 5 RAR TIE @ \$15

3. CAR STICKER @ \$3

4. CAPS @ \$13

5. HON ROLL @ \$30

6. PLAQUE @ \$20

7. VIETNAM TASK BOOK @ \$28

TOTAL OF ORDER \$.....

FULL NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

STATE.....P/C.....

I enclose my cheque/money order for
\$.....No.....

Signature.....

Date.....

**ACCOMMODATION GUIDE FOR THE REUNION IN
SYDNEY**

APRIL 2000

Classified as Budget

Guide only

- **HYDE PARK PLAZA (02) 93316933**
- HOLIDAY INN (02) 93317728**
- CASTLEREAGH INN (02)92841000**
- METRO INNS (02)92909200**
- TRAVELODGE 1300728628**
- ASTOR(02)9295000**
- PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL 1800224584**
- REGENCY HYDE PARK (02)92838811**



5 RAR WEB SITE

<http://www.sci.net.au/londonb>

e-mail

londonb@sci.net.au