



TIGER TALES

ISSUE 2

JULY 2000

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



My first and very pleasant task is to extend a very warm welcome home to all members of 5.7 RAR (Mech). The members of the 5 RAR Association sincerely hope you enjoyed your well deserved leave period after your tour of duty in East Timor. Perhaps in the near future we can get together after the dust settles and at an appropriate date.

A small detachment from 5 RAR along with a good roll out from 7 RAR spent the Anzac Day weekend in Darwin. The main purpose of the visit was to give in some small way, support to the families of 5.7 (Mech)

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members of the 5 RAR Association know only too well the tremendous pressure placed on soldiers and families alike in times when duty calls.

Thank you for a job well done.



UH-60A Black Hawk

BACKGROUND IMAGE
Lt. Col. J. A. Warr directing
helicopter operations in Vietnam

**REPORT ON KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL
DEDICATION IN CANBERRA**

**BY
MAJOR PAT BROOK MBE**

Ex servicemen and women from all countries involved in the Korean War attended the dedication and functions involved with the Australian National Korean War Memorial on the 18th of April 2000. It was estimated that in excess of 2,500 veterans marched and over 5,000 spectators attended.



D. Candow Pat Brook Reg Hughes Graham Stewart Rob Hitchens

On the 17 April the Ecumenical Service was well attended however there were insufficient chairs and the service programmes did not arrive. It would appear that the organizers were not aware of the numbers attending. Despite these 'hiccups' the two days went extremely well.

Following the service, all went to The Great Hall at Parliament House for the cocktail function. It took a while to gain entrance and to get a drink and a bite, but after the initial rush every thing went well. Met up with many old friends in fact, from 7 Platoon C. Coy 2 RAR was the PL Comd, PL Sgt., PL SIG and a rifleman – see photo.

There were several speeches and Korean dances in National Dress

On the 18th the veterans formed up on Reid Oval and marched to the Korean Memorial. The order of march was – Disabled, the National Flags (one for each veteran KIA) RAN, RAR, RAAF and overseas visiting veterans.

Following the parade groups moved to watering holes around Canberra.

1 RAR and 2 RAR to Duntroon – 3 RAR to Olims Hotel.

In summary a good time was enjoyed by all. Pat Brook.

Editor's note

KOREA

Before midnight the Chinese began their attack on the Australian positions. Charging enemy soldiers furiously attacked the Australians. Chinese dead piled on top of each other and time and again the Australians drove the enemy back. Heavily outnumbered by the attacking Chinese division and napalmed in error by allied planes the Australians held their ground. 3 RAR 1951



Between 1950 and 1953, Australia lost 293 soldiers, 5 sailors and 41 airmen. Another 1216 were wounded and 30 POW.

When the UN forces crossed the 38th Parallel in pursuit of withdrawing Korean troops, China entered the war.

Chinese casualties were estimated at 900,000.

North Korean casualties at 520,000. The US lost 32,629 KIA. South Korea lost 47,000 KIA.

GOLF AND WAR

During the Battle of Britain damaged aircraft often landed on golf courses. Not to be deterred the golfing community issued a temporary rule book. It would seem that even total war could not stop the game.

Temporary Provisions

- **Players are asked to collect bomb and shell splinters to save damage to the mowing machines.**
- **In competition, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take cover without penalty for ceasing play.**
- **The position of 'delayed action bombs' are marked with red and white flags placed at reasonable but not guaranteed safe distances.**
-) **A ball laying in a crater may be lifted without penalty.**
- **A ball moved, destroyed or lost due to enemy action may be replaced without penalty.**
- **A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb or shell or machine gun fire may play another ball - penalty, one stroke.**

Very keen golfers indeed.

The Ed.

BEST WORST NEWSPAPER HEADLINES of 1999

As the editor of Tiger tales I freely admit to the odd mistake or two in the production copy of our newsletter. I hope I have not committed "Bloopers" such as listed below.

- **INCLUDE YOUR CHILDREN WHEN MAKING COOKIES.**
- **SOMETHING WENT WRONG IN JET CRASH, EXPERTS SAY.**
- **POLICE BEGIN CAMPAIGN TO RUN DOWN JAYWALKERS.**

- **IS THERE A RING OF DEBRIS AROUND URANUS?**
- **PANDA MATING FAILS, VETERINARIAN TAKES OVER.**
- **CLINTON WINS BUDGET: MORE LIES AHEAD.**
- **PLANE TOO CLOSE TO GROUND, CRASH PROBE TOLD.**
- **STOLEN PAINTING FOUND BY TREE.**
- **TWO SISTERS REUNITED AFTER 18 YEARS IN CHECKOUT COUNTER.**
- **MAN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING FACES BATTERY CHARGE.**
- **TYPHOON RIPS THROUGH CEMETERY; HUNDREDS DEAD.**
- **WAR DIMS HOPE FOR PEACE.**
- **LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS CUT IN HALF.**
- **MINERS REFUSE TO WORK AFTER DEATH.**
- **KIDS MAKE NUTRITIOUS SNACKS.**
- **TEACHER STRIKES IDLE KIDS.**
- **BRITISH LEFT WAFFLES ON FALKLAND ISLANDS.**
- **IF STRIKE ISN'T SETTLED QUICKLY, IT MAY LAST A WHILE.**

From: Lieutenant Colonel S.C. Gould

5th/7th Battalion (Mech)
The Royal Australian Regiment
BALIBO
EAST TIMOR

March 2000

V/VII

A LETTER FROM EAST TIMOR TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

A short note to keep you up to date of the activities of the Battalion since I last wrote in October 1999. The Battalion is enjoying its work and would like to think that we are achieving many successes. We have been fortunate that our responsibilities have been varied, challenging and well suited to a mechanized infantry organisation.

Up until the very last days of 1999 we were deployed to provide security in Dili (Bn HQ, C and D Coys and the Echelon), Emera/Gleno (Patrols or Support Company) and Liquisa/Maubara (B Coy). The Dili based work required the Battalion to provide in excess of 30 patrols per day and get to know the workings of the 130 000 people who called 'the city' their home. The utility of the M113s provided us the ability to 'be everywhere' but the bulk of the close security work was done on our feet. The Companies were variously involved in cordons, searches and rummages, route control, vital asset security, food distribution, information gathering and response activities. The population quickly developed a rapport with the soldiers and were well pleased with our work, despite some of the rhetoric of the CNRT leadership that didn't like the 'little tanks'.

In the outer AOs, the work involved constant patrolling and initiating Humanitarian Assistance in areas that were deemed inaccessible. In Gleno/Ermera the climate was considerably cooler and a number of patrol tasks were inserted by helicopter. Liquisa was right on the beach and a former Portuguese resort town, so you can imagine that the boys enjoyed the work here. Unfortunately, the area was particularly bad for dengue fever, which took its toll.

Just prior to Christmas, C Coy handed their responsibilities over to a Kenyan Company made up from three Kenyan Rifle Battalions. The OC, Major Rozzoli and his team did a great job introducing our African friends into the INTERFET family. Many joint patrols were conducted, which saw tall smiling Kenyans working alongside young, but now experienced and confident, Tigers. D Coy handed over on Boxing Day to an Italian Company and so all look set for a great New Years Eve. Unfortunately, information received indicated that there could be trouble and so the Battalion was stood to again and resumed responsibilities for various areas in Dili. That the Battalion was able to regroup, redeploy a company from GLENO and patrol throughout the night, is a testament to the attitude of the lads and their commitment to the task at hand. New Years Eve passed without significant incident.

Of course it was not all work over the festive season. Christmas Day was celebrated in fine style, with Catering Platoon providing the most incredible lunch that any of us could have expected. C Coy had their breakfast under the palms of the beach outside the former Governor's Residence, D Coy entertained MAJGEN Cosgrove (Of course he is an old OC D Coy 5/7 RAR from the mid '70s and loves his modern day boys), and Patrols Coy conducted a serious iron man competition before tucking into their prawns and traditional Christmas fare.

Over the New Year period the Battalion conducted a relief in place with 2 RAR who had been providing security to the

northwestern border region since early October. The operation went very smoothly and I think it was an eye opener for The Second Battalion. As the 18 A vehicles of C Coy drove through BALIBO, a young 2 RAR digger asked one of our Regimental Policemen, 'How **big** is your Battalion! It was probably the first time that Townsville based soldiers have seen the Mech Battalion in all its glory! Most of the vehicles came in by sea over the beach at BATUGARDE, with soldiers flying in, utilising Russian MI26 helicopters or Blackhawks. The MI26 can hold about 75 passengers – they are huge. It must have been a bewildering sight to our sister battalion on the other side of the border, 432 Airborne Battalion.

Of course we could not have tackled the security job the same way as 2 RAR, the Battalions just have to be different! We have divided the AO up into large sub-unit AOs and then overlaid the reconnaissance and surveillance assets over the top. This allows Company Commanders great scope to get out and find out what is happening in their areas of responsibility. The terrain is such that the companies are utilising a mix of M113, helicopter, foot and Timor pony inserted patrols! Population numbers are significantly less than Dili but still present a challenge. The people here are not dissimilar to 'country folk' back home and they are certainly very friendly (Well those with nothing to hide are!). I have included a small schematic diagram to give you a picture of where we are. Again we have named the AOs after old COs. The AO names in former Dili locations have also stuck, so the Italians are in AO KHAN and GREY, Kenyans in AO SMITH and WARR!

We have received excellent support from our Direct Support Gunners, 103 Medium Battery, and from 2 Field Troop (Mechanized), 1st Combat Engineer Regiment. Both groups have worked tirelessly to enhance the reputation of the Battalion. The Gunners have provided our expert Civil Military Liaison Team, with detachments down to Company level (as with normal FO parties). They spend the bulk of their day energising humanitarian assistance organisations, assisting with refugee resettlement, liaison with local political leaders and the church. They have also been responsible for such diverse activities as the distribution of 'care' packages from back home and teaching English in schools that they have established. The Engineers have assisted with road maintenance, bridge building and infrastructure repair for the locals but are now fully committed to maintaining the Battalion's mobility, given the wet season and the state of the roads.

The Battalion also works closely with SASR (named Response Force over here), Field Intelligence, light observation helicopters and other information specialists. Suffice to say that it is a unique experience for the Battalion to work with so many agencies and to enjoy the priority of effort that comes with the responsibility. 1st Battalion, The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment is to our south and we get on famously. They are to become 'motorized' in LAV III in the not too distant future and so are always keen to gather ideas from us.

On 21st February 2000 we become a UN organisation and will be known locally as AUSBATT. I think we will be the first Australian UN battalion for over 47 years! The boys are looking forward to donning the blue beret. Of course it is not as simple as that and I am already spending too much of my day at meetings with UN Military Observers, District Coordinators, Non Government Organisations and local leaders.

This will be par for the course from now on. That said, people are outcome focussed and cooperative, so there are promising signs.

We have just read that the Minister has announced that 6 RAR will relieve us in late April. This is disappointing in some ways, as we are enjoying 'our time in the sun'. There is no doubt that we will be ready for a rest by then and there are always things to do back in Australia. We are now talking about this experience being a chapter in our collective lives, not the defining moment per se. So we will need to keep an eye out for the future, whilst maintaining our operational focus here. My intent is to gather all our kit and safely return to Darwin early in May, spend a couple of weeks unwinding in Binh Ba Lines and then take six to eight weeks leave.

You may have noticed that our old RSM, WO1 Dave Siggers was awarded an OAM for his services to the Battalion in the Australia Day List. This is a most appropriate recognition for a man who has given this Battalion his all, over 16 years. It was a very sad day as we promoted him to Captain and farewelled him off to the waiting helicopter at LZ BUNKER. He is now an instructor at Canungra and back under command of Colonel Wayne Bowen. Our new RSM is WO1 Rod Speter, whom I know very well from previous postings in 8/9 RAR and 2/4 RAR. He is just the man for the job and has quickly settled into his new home.

That is my abridged version of our tour to date. Should you be in Darwin after our return, we would love to tell you

more Our training program post June has not been finalised but I will keep you informed of visit opportunities, parades etc that may be of interest

Lieutenant Colonel S.C. Gould.

5 RAR ASSOCIATION WEB SITE & E-MAIL

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

e-mail londonb@sci.net.au

The association web site is linked to our Operations and History web site hosted by Ted Harrison – 5 RAR first tour.

LOST MEMBERS

We have lost contact with several members. The association would like to establish contact again with the following members. Perhaps someone knows the whereabouts of these 5 RAR guys and could pass on our concerns. LAST KNOWN ADDRESS

G.B. CONNERS	- SEVEN HILLS
A.G. HUNTER	- BLACKTOWN
G. DEKKER	- KELLYVILLE
L.F. HARROLD	- SPEERSPOINT
R.J. STUART	- MEDOWIE
R.J. SMITH	- COOPERNOOK
B.J.CORK	- BALLINA
I.D.HAYWOOD	- BARGO
R.R. BROWN	-ST MARYS
M. LEAHY	- FERN TREE GULLY (VIC)
B.A. McKEON	- RODLAND BAY (QLD)
B.R. BURGE	- BUNDABURG
J.R. CONNERY	- TOWNSVILLE
P. SHARP	- VALE PARK (SA)
D.S. ARNOLD	- ROXBY DOWNS
C.B SHAWCROSS	- PARABURDOO (WA)
W.D. HANSON	- GEILSTON BAY (TAS)

THE 5 RAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

The RAR Association is a very strong association and speaking as your editor, I hope it remains so. There is still room for improvement and you can help. If you know someone who is not a member, encourage him to join.

If you change your address please use the 'change of address form' on the rear page of your Tiger Tales.

Our newsletter is a great way to communicate with your mates so feel free to submit an article, a letter or any information you feel may be of interest.

Perhaps you may be thinking of or, in the process of organizing a reunion at Section, Platoon or Company level. Let me know the details and I will include them in Tiger Tales. Our Newsletter is published in March – July – November.

The Editor.

THE AUSTRALIAN VETERANS VIETNAM RECONSTRUCTION GROUP (AVVRG)

Paul Murphy, 2RAR, conceived an idea of officially doing something to help people in the old Phuoc Tuy province. After four frustrating years of negative bureaucracy he was granted a license to operate as a Non Government Organisation (NGO), in 1994 and hence the Australian Veterans Vietnam Reconstruction Group was established. A Vietnamese official, whose father had been shot by Australian soldiers, helped him in his quest. At that time she and her mother fled to the other side.

Paul enlisted the support of like-minded veterans and began raising money. The first project to be completed was a complete rebuild of the Hoa Long Elementary School. This was accomplished in just two weeks. A team in Ho Chi Minh City organized all the stores and equipment, some of which was donated by Australian companies in Vietnam, and a group of volunteers flew in from Australia to complete the task.

Since then the AVVRG has continued to flourish. It has been involved in providing clean water and sanitation facilities throughout what is now known as Baria Vung Tau province. This has included the rebuilding of the complete reticulation system for Hoa Long village. Perhaps the jewel in the crown of achievements was the construction of an orphanage in Baria in 1997. Tim Fischer, the then Deputy Prime Minister, did the groundbreaking ceremony.

In its latest project the AVVRG has just, this month, completed a USD 50 000 extension. The two new buildings will provide me extra accommodation to house about 90 children. Moreover, they also include classrooms where the children can learn vocational skills. These include computers, sewing, domestic electrical wiring, music, art and small-scale farming. The AVVRG presented the equipment to enable all this to occur.

The AVVRG is also engaged in health and welfare and has facilitated programmes to include doctors dentists. They have come as volunteers from Australia to offer their services at both the orphanage and throughout the province. Currently, the AVVRG is undertaking a small business scheme project to help vulnerable people break the poverty cycle.

The AVVRG, which has four members in Vietnam, has undertaken to manage the upkeep of the Long Tan Cross. It has recently persuaded the Australian Consulate to pay for the maintenance costs. Even so the AVVRG still does the gardening and weeding. The AVVRG would now like to provide better access to the site, and to a village beyond. Consequently, the AVVRG would like to build a 1.8km gravel road. This is likely to cost between 25 000 and 30 000 USD. There is no prospect of Australian Government support and the AVVRG will soon begin a fund raising appeal.

Membership of the AVVRG is open to anyone who would like to join. Subscription is 20 AUD. There is also a scheme to sponsor children at the orphanage. This costs 200 AUD. The money goes to improving diet and the general running of the center.

The AVVRG would welcome anyone travelling to Vietnam and arrange calls at the orphanage. Some of the tourist companies that specialise in group tours for veterans include a visit as part of the package. There is also a possibility, from time to time, that volunteers can stay and work at the orphanage. Last year, when HMAS Perth and Arunta came to Ho Chi Minh City many members of the ships company spent a day at the orphanage. HMAS ANZAC will be here between 18th and 23rd May and one of the first requests was an offer of help.

The AVVRG is also registered in Australia. It is properly constituted and subject to audit. Since 1994 it has raised over 250 000 USD. Any money donated goes to projects. Administration fees are minimal. Funds are sometimes used to pay postage or official customs duties on imported items (Often donations made in Australia attract duty here). Otherwise, the members both here and at home pay their own out of pocket expenses.

If you want to help, know more about the AVVRG or need assistance with travel arrangements or would simply like information about life or working in Vietnam then please contact either:

Paul Murphy - President

pmurphy@saigonnet.vn.vn

Or
michelson@hcm.fpt.vn
For letters;

Author: Peter Michelson

Peter Michelson
Ho Chi Minh City Bag
Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Kingston ACT 2604

Peter, 1 RAR, 5 RAR, 6 RAR and 5/7RAR
He has lived in HCMC, Vietnam for three years and works for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) He manages a range of projects in the area stretching from Danang to Ca Mau. He is also involved in disaster relief and he was dropped in to a beleaguered Hue by the Vietnamese Air force during the devastating floods in November 1999. He travels frequently, often off the tourist track, and is sometimes the first foreign person that Vietnamese meet.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY GEOFF PEARSON – MINI REUNION SYDNEY

Around 65/70 members of the Association attended the 35th Anniversary “mini reunion” at the South Sydney Leagues Club on the Anzac weekend. Those who attended conveyed their thanks for a very pleasant luncheon and afternoon. The venue was low key, providing quality food and inexpensive drinks which was appreciated and commented on by the majority.

The Anzac Day saw a reasonable Association attendance at the march and the Civic Hotel afterwards, but again, not as large as we would have liked. The Civic Hotel seemed a good idea at the time, but there were many complaints from members, which I felt were justified. The hotel promised much at the outset but on the day did not deliver.

Previous functions of this type have shown that we need a long “lead in” time with plenty of advertising. We have always enjoyed excellent support from our members but on this occasion we are unable to assess whether the drop in support was due to the short lead in time and inadequate advertising.

The committee would appreciate some response from the State representatives as to the direction the Association should take in relation to future reunions – any suggestions or feedback will help the 5 RAR committee to be resolute in future planning.

REPRINT “THE YEAR OF THE TIGER”

At a previous meeting it was discussed briefly to give some consideration to putting the “Year of the Tiger” back into print, as many members are still asking for copies. It would be in the interest of members to indicate to the committee some direction in this regard. Substantial costs will be involved however I feel we have an obligation to make this record of the second tour available to members.

TIGER TALES

Members are encouraged to contribute to our journal “Tiger Tales” It is important to ensure that the 5th Battalion Association maintains continuity of association and contact through our medium Tiger Tales. I would like to see more personal input from members about individual get togethers and experiences.

5/7 RAR IN DARWIN

The association members at our recent reunion indicated they are keen to participate in another attempt to get together with 5/7 RAR in Darwin. This would of course, be on invitation from the Battalion and the letter from the CO in this issue suggests when things settle down, a future activity in Darwin is on the agenda. *GP*

**APPLICATION TO JOIN or RENEW MEMBERSHIP 5 RAR ASSOCIATION
And
5 RAR ITEMS FOR SALE ORDER FORM**

APPLICATION TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP to the 5 RAR ASSOCIATION
5 RAR ASSOCIATION PO BOX 817 GPO SYDNEY 1043

Last Name.....First Name/s.....

ADDRESS.....

STATE.....POST CODE.....PHONES (B).....

HOME.....E-Mail.....FAX.....

I am a new member Renewal of membership

I enclose my cheque or money order No.....for \$25.00 for 5 years membership.

Signed.....Date.....

5 RAR OFFICE USE

5 RAR ITEMS FOR SALE : 5 RAR ASSOCIATION PO BOX 817 GPO SYDNEY 1043

- 1. 5 RAR TIE @ \$15.
- 2. CAR STICKER @ \$3.
- 3. CAPS @ \$13
- 4. VIETNAM TASK @ \$28.

\$.....
\$.....
\$.....
\$.....
\$.....

I enclose my cheque / money order for \$..... No.....
5 RAR OFFICE USE

Total of Order

LAST NAME..... INITIALS.....

ADDRESS.....

STATE.....P/CODE.....

Signature.....Date.....

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

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08 93866826 (B) - 93841218

PROPOSED STUDY ON
MEMBERS OF 5 RAR

Members may recall in the last issue of "Tiger Tales" David Adams PhD, MPH, asked if members would like to participate in a study of 5 RAR.

David's proposal is, in his words, "I would like to put a face on 5 RAR, not just a bunch of numbers." He is interested in your experiences in Vietnam, life after the Army and so on. He stressed there is no need to identify your self, you can use a false name or what ever. I can attest to his sincerity as he has completed a study on the 496 Australians killed in action in Vietnam. This completed work will be statistical no names. When I receive the report, I will publish it in our newsletter. You may ask why is he doing this.? As David is a teacher in an U.S. University, he is endeavoring to educate his students (some are US Veterans) that the United States was not the only country to fight in Vietnam. To date, I have received only 4 replies from members willing to have a go. Think about it again and let me know if you would be willing to participate. ED



OUTSTANDING ORDERS

By the time this issue of Tiger Tales reaches your mail box, I expect all back orders of Plaques to have been filled. We are still working on the new stocks of the 5 RAR video and again I can only apologize for the long delay in filling orders. We are in the same situation with honour rolls and membership badges. I can assure members that your orders of 5 RAR items are accurately recorded and will be sent when stocks arrive. Ties, caps, car stickers and Vietnam Task are available now. The Editor.



MEMBERSHIP FEES

A reminder to members that fees were due on the 5th of March 2000. Members are asked to complete the application form on page 9 to remain a member of the association. The address label of Tiger Tales will show if you are financial or otherwise. The numbers 2005 or 2010 will appear on the address label to indicate financial members. The letters UF means you need to pay your fees. The Editor.



NEXT GENERATION

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

I have been approached by a group called "Next Generation" asking if we (the Association) would assist in giving some publicity to their scheme to form a state wide support group to assist veteran's children who may be in need of support. Having read the document sent to me, I can see no harm in publishing some brief details of the scheme. *B.H.L*

NEXT GENERATION

The Next Generation group has been established to provide support and information for the children of war veterans.

Research has shown that children of war veterans can be affected in many ways as a result of their parent's war or peacekeeping service.

CURRENT AIM for the NEXT GENERATION

- Form a state-wide network of people who can help co-ordinate the formation of smaller groups to provide a social, emotional and physical support.
- To provide up to date information on the status of veteran's children.
- To increase awareness of the effects of war on the "Next Generation."

KEY POINTS

- ♦ Extending access to VVCS to include veterans' children up to the age of 35 – conditions related to the war veteran's service.
- ♦ Extending eligibility for Veterans' Children Education Scheme – those in need.
- ♦ Providing 12 month bursaries to assist disadvantaged children of veterans and much more.

Contacts – Hunter Region – Rae Phelps (02 49383566)

**Taree / Manning – Helen Holliday
0408238035**

Newcastle – Helen Hall (02 96237126)

**Sydney – Maree Johnson
(0247352323)**

Members may wish to assist or, know someone in the veteran community who may benefit from this extra assistance.

BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS & ASSOCIATED FORCE SUNDAY 20 August 2000

The Blue Mountains Vietnam veterans Association has extended an invitation to the 5 RAR Association to participate in the 2000 Memorial Day at Springwood, NSW

The day will commence with a parade at 1130 hrs. On conclusion of the parade, a service will be held to honour those servicemen who gave their lives for their country. Geoff Pearson (our secretary) will be taking our banner and will gather as many members of the association as possible to take part in the ceremony. The Guest speaker will Major General Peter Cosgrove AC MC

At 1645 hrs "The Beating of the retreat" will close the day. The Minister of transport has consented to free transport on City Rail and State Transit for veterans wearing medals, or in uniform.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Tiger Tales will be in late November or early December 2000.

All submissions for publication to be sent to the Editor by the first week in November.

Postal address: PO Box 422 Batemans Bay NSW 2536.

e-mail– londonb@sci.net.au

e-mail attachments help with the typing (I'm a two finger typist)

5 RAR REUNION IN DARWIN

BY
BRUCE PRIOR

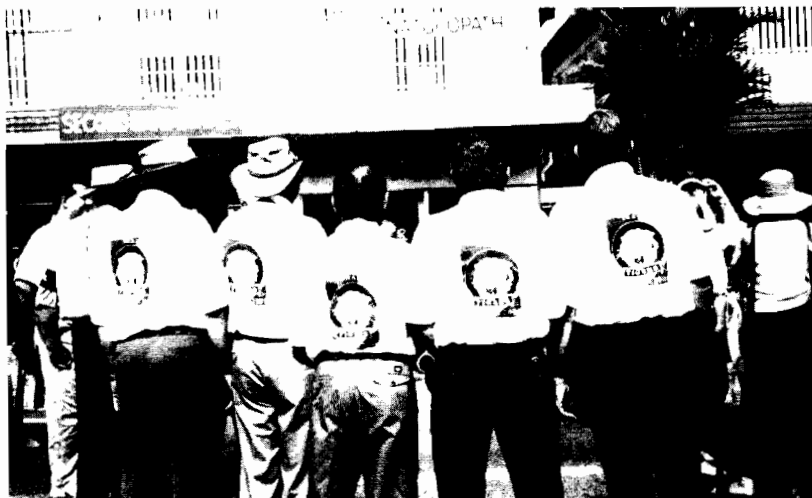
The reunion in Darwin started with a small convoy leaving Perth on the 9th of April going via Port Augusta and Alice Springs; Linking up with other old Tigers coming from the Eastern Seaboard at Three Ways.

On arrival in the Northern Capital we made our FSB at Howard Springs Caravan Park. Recon parties were sent out to find friendly forces. We found an almost full strength 7 RAR (Pigs) in the same AO also holding their reunion in Darwin. We were invited to attend their reunion dinner, but declined the offer as 5 Tigers mixed with 350 to 400 Pigs just doesn't go.

'Doc' Holiday and 'Rip' Couston came up with the idea that 'T' shirts would be in order for the Anzac Day activities and what was produced was a great shirt complete with a Tiger head front and rear.

Anzac Day started by attending the Dawn Service which was the largest Darwin has ever had. The 7 RAR and the 5 RAR contingent helped to significantly swell the numbers.

*The
Lads
in*



*Tiger
gear*

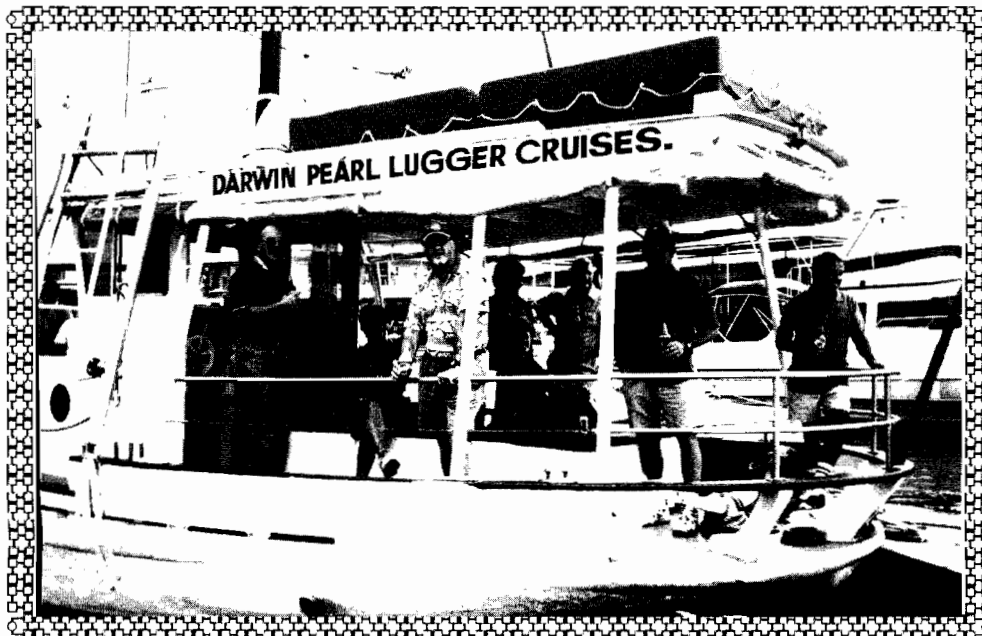
We joined the Pigs for breakfast at Larrakeyah Sergeant's Mess, some had heart starters of Bundy and eggs (What a mix) After breakfast, we relocated ourselves to the LD joining with the RAR Association and more Tigers for the march – swelling our numbers to 15!

At the conclusion of the march we continued our fellowship back at the Mess, catching up with some of the members of 5 RAR who stayed on in country to serve with 7 RAR. An excellent day was had by all. Retiring back to our FSB a toast to the Regiment, 5 RAR and Departed Comrades was in order and the rest is history.

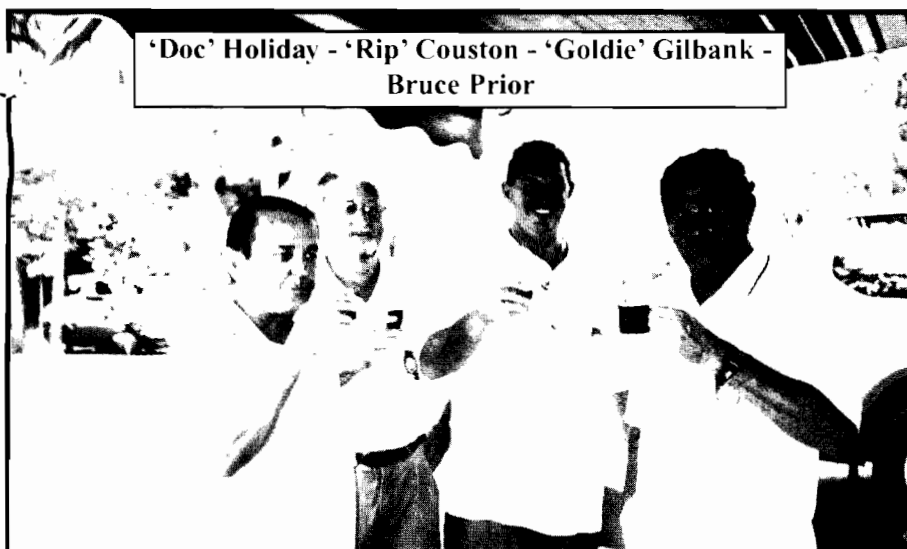
Other activities carried out by this small band of Tigers are as follows:

- ◆ A sunset harbour cruise on an old pearling lugger —(IT RAINED)

...Those on board were 'Doc' Holiday – 'Rip' Couston – 'Goldie' Gilbank – 'Blue' Schaffer – 'Lumps' (Bruce) Prior, all under the guidance of our ever tolerant wives ; Maureen – Mary – Gwenda – Aileen and Ina.



- ◆ A visit to the beach side markets and Mindil Beach just near Casino were also visited. Both were very interesting to say the least.
- ◆ Some of the 7 RAR contingent organised a fishing trip which we joined along with some 'Barking logs' (Salt Water Crocs) in the same stretch of water – Guess what? - no one on the boat caught a thing!
- ◆ A tour of the Aviation heritage Centre revealed a B 52 bomber on display, being the only one of its kind in Australia; together with various other types of aircraft and vehicles used by the services over the years.



We also checked the Fuel Storage Tanks that were dug out by hand during WW2 but discovered they were not actually completed until after the war ended and consequently were never utilised.

- ◆ Our visit to the Adelaide River Cemetery was very moving and well worth the visit. It is beautifully set up and maintained. A credit to those responsible.

The front view of the lads in their Tiger Gear

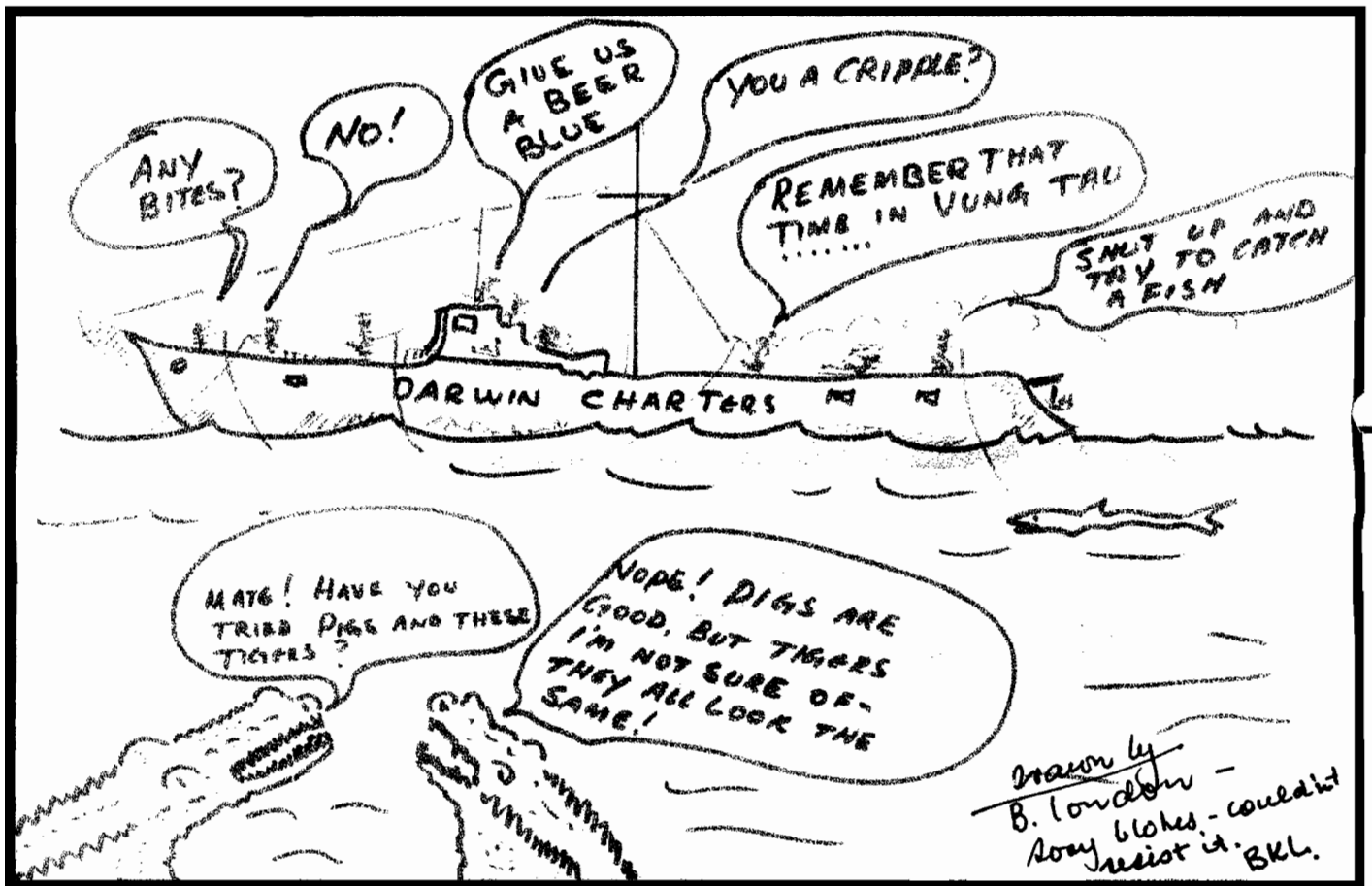


Left to right
 George Gilbank
 Doc Holiday
 Rip Couston
 Bruce Prior
 Blue Schaffer

Dismantling of our FSB began on the 28th April with members heading off to new locations to continue their holidays or heading for home.

A great time was had by all who made it to Darwin.

Bruce Prior.



THE LONG MARCH TO GALLIPOLI

For an 85 year old veteran being at Gallipoli for this year's Anzac Day dawn service was to have been a trip of a life time.

The former RAAF Warrant Officer seconded to the RAF as a Pathfinder in WW2, he didn't quite make it. Instead, just after 4 am on the 25th April , he was faced the prospect of walking 5km in pitch darkness to the new Anzac Memorial site. It was the closest his tour bus could get to the site.

After travelling thousands of kilometres to Turkey he had to make a agonizing decision – He could not make it due to health reasons.

This man was one of several thousands Australian visitors ; many elderly returned servicemen who paid up to \$5,000.00 for a package deal, saw nothing of the service.

The long route march from the line of 250 parked coaches came about because the Turkish security police arbitrarily closed the main road to the site.

Approaches are being made to the Australian Government and DVA to ensure space is set aside for veterans next year.

The new site was designed to accommodate 15,000. Officials expected a turnout of 10,000, instead 16,000 crowded every possible vantage point.

Officials in Canberra said there were a number of things we will need to do and we will attempt to do them.

Some say the new site is badly positioned and built 'back to front'

Many young people attending were disappointed at being unable to see or hear properly .

The Editor.

WAR DIARY EXCERPTS

15 Th September 1969.

Our section led out today and led most of the day. Before lunch a suspected cache was found – the platoon harboured, our section did a search but found nothing. In the afternoon we came across a river that was flowing pretty well. It was chest high so all our ammo got wet plus the bottom half of our packs.

Once across the other side, we harboured and proceeded to empty the water out of our packs, boots and wring out hutchies, silks etc.

We moved out again with our section still leading. It was a bugger of an afternoon as we did nothing but trudge through water 12 inches to knee deep and occasionally crossing gullies waist deep. Not only that at one stage it came down in blinding rain which made visibility terrible. We just stood in it as navigation and communication between 'Bazza' our forward scout and Jack our section commander was too difficult.

We continued on and some time later we hit a mine field, there was a track to the left and I noticed sticks floating on top of the water that were arrow shaped.

This is the first part of War Diary excerpts from Dennis 'Digger' Nevins 5 RAR.