

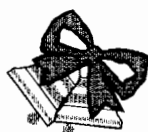
# TIGER TALES

NEWSLETTER OF THE 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 5 ————— NOV / DEC 2001



## THE EDITOR'S DESK



### Inside this issue:

NVA 33 Regt 2  
fax

Reg Sutton's 4  
paper on ops

State reps and 3  
contacts

Reunions 8

Dust Off tickets 9

Application - 11  
order forms

On behalf of the 5 RAR Committee, may I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Once again I would like to thank all committee members and especially those members who wrote letters and helped in the production of Tiger Tales.

I also wish to thank The Fifth Seventh Battalion (Mech) for their kind donation of \$100.00 towards the cost of producing our newsletter.

A special mention to Brett Williams of The Military Workshop for the donation of print number 5 "Dust Off" taken from Brian Wood's painting. This magnificent print which, will be framed by the 5 RAR Association, is offered as a prize draw after the 31st December. I wish every one good luck on the day of the draw.

Unfortunately there can only be one winner however, prints will be available for sale for a limited time. Brett's address is PO Box 2127 Mansfield DC QLD 4122. The Military Workshop web site is <http://www.bu.aust.com/milwkshop> and can be found on our web page under What's New.[notice board]

Our web page is <http://www.sci.net.au/londonb>

Our email address is - [londonb@sci.net.au](mailto:londonb@sci.net.au)

### Special points of interest:

Members are reminded that this is the last chance to enter the 'Dust Off' draw. Tickets are in this issue and they must reach me by 31 December 2001.

Members may reproduce the tickets in this issue if more tickets are required. please ensure all tickets are filled out correctly. The winner will not be disappointed with the quality of this prize.

## **REST IN PEACE**

I regret to inform the members of the 5 RAR Association of the passing of  
Robert W. Meridith

Robert passed away on the 9th August 2001 at home in Surfers Paradise. Bob was a first intake national serviceman and served with 'C' Company first tour. Robert went on to serve as a Sergeant in the NSW Police Service. Robert is survived by his children, Karen and Janelle. The 5 RAR Association extends our deepest sympathy to Robert's family and friends.

---

Robert Chestnut - Passed away 14 Oct 01. Robert joined the Bn in September 1969. The association extends our deepest sympathy to Robert's family.  
'LEST WE FORGET'

---

### **CONTACT FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND COMMITTEE**

**PRESIDENT. BRIG, C. KAHN DSO – 507/2 MARCUS CLARK ST ACT 2601 – (H) 0262577249**

**SECRETARY. MR. GEOFF PEARSON – PO Box 432 BOWRAL 2576**

---

**EDITOR TIGER TALES – B. LONDON – PO Box 422 BATEMANS BAY 2536 – 02 44725748**

**ACT.— BARRY MORGAN— 02 625545319**

**QLD. — RON SHAMBROOK— 07 33541706**

**VIC. — KERRY O'CONNER— 03 54283249**

**SA.— BRIAN [Moose] DUNLOP— 08 83708214**

**WA.— JOHN BURRIDGE— (w) 08 93841218 (H) 08 93866826**

**TAS.—GERRY CORET— 03 63302056**

### **ANZAC DAY 2002**

Could State reps (or any member) advise the editor on their Anzac Day arrangements in their city or town . March timings and location of after march venues will be of special interest to members.  
Brian London. Editor

## WAR VETERANS

### LIAISON COMMITTEE E33 (A57) - VIETNAM

### SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM Independence - Freedom - Happiness

Vung Tau, October 24, 2000

To: **The Australian War Veterans  
The Returned and Services League of Australia  
Cairns Sub-Branch R.S.L. and Club Ltd.**

Dear Sir/Mdm

On the opportunity Australian War Veterans are coming back to Vietnam for visiting the old battle field in Ba Ria Vung Tau on Road No 2, at Nui Dat Minh Dam, on behalf of the War Veterans Liaison Committee of Regiment 33 (A57), we send you our salutations and best wishes for those of your families which had lost their son in Vietnam during the War, the families of your war invalids with our most profound sympathy and understanding.

Dear Friends, the Regiment 33 was the motorized unit of South Vietnam liberation Army regularly in charge of your fighting area, and was fighting against you from the beginning of 1969 until the total liberation of the South.

Now our country knows peace but the War has left extremely heavy consequences and pains, spiritual as much as physical and these are not only the pains of some isolate families, but of hundreds of families of both sides having lost their husbands, sons, or fathers as well as innumerable families having to bear the conditions of invalidity or hereditary defects caused by the War

We still remember big battles such as those of Kim Long, Ba Ria, Nui Dat causing great number of dead and wounded to both sides - and many a man of both sides have forever lied down on this land, in particular the battle of June 06, 1969 in Binh Ba on Road No 2.

Dear Friends, we understand and share your feelings and state of mind when you had to bear arms and come to Vietnam to take part into the war while our country was Living in peace.

We cannot tell everything in this letter, but we are convinced that you also agree that we may talk about the past while looking at the future; on this basis, we may understand one another better, unite and help one another to

Overcome war's consequences, stabilize our life, build close and friendly relationships between yourselves and ourselves

On this opportunity, our War Veterans Liaison Committee would like to invite you to come and visit *Vietnam*, we may make together a visit to the old battle fields, we shall request Vietnamese authorities to create favorable conditions for us to meet and make exchanges with one another and together take our responsibility towards those who have disappeared among whom hundreds have not been clearly determined

At the present moment, we are building the commemorative houses and memorials for those who sacrificed themselves in the war in general and in the battle of June 1969 in Binh Ba when we encountered you we lost 50 men, probably you still remember this battle.

On behalf of our comrades in Regiment 33, we wish you good health to you and your families on the territory of Vietnam.

Yours faithfully,  
Representative of the War veterans  
Liaison E33 (A57)

Vo Xuan Thu

**My Thanks to Peter Turner for the above copy of the fax from Vo Xuan Thu – it is certainly a blast from the past.** ( Peter remarked that a number of Veterans have contacted Thu while visiting and have received a warm welcome) - Editor Tiger Tales.

**COMPANY OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM**  
**BY 235192 MAJOR R.F. SUTTON**

**Introduction**

The following quotation by Field Marshall Sir William Slim appears on the first page of Infantry Training Volume *Four*, Part Two. The Platoon '... four best commands in the Service. A platoon, a battalion, a division and an army.' Being biased and not having been in a position to command the latter three I feel strongly that Slim has underrated the first missing link the company.

The company commander in Vietnam has a great deal of flexibility in the command and control of his three platoons. When he is allotted a task in an A.O, he can normally operate his three platoons without undue interference from his battalion commander unless a certain pattern develops, normally based on intelligence, which necessitates the CO thinking "two down" and "buying in" to enable him to implement his plan.

A company is capable of operating independently of the battalion if necessary and this has often occurred. This supports the view of Sir Robert Thomson who has stated "The Army should operate in units of platoon and company sizes, although there may be a few occasions when battalion operations are necessary." This is of course generally how battalions do operate in Vietnam the company commander being given a task to perform within the framework of the CO's overall plan.

**Aim**

The aim of this article is to discuss the techniques and associated areas connected with company operations in Vietnam, stressing those aspects considered to require the most attention and in some cases, revision.

The article is written in three parts:

- PART 1.                    TYPES OF OPERATIONS. The types of operation a company must be prepared to undertake during its tour in Vietnam and a brief discussion on associated problems.
- PART 2.                    RIF OPERATIONS. The primary role of a company during its tour. Emphasis has been placed on the conduct of ambush operations.
- PART 3.                    CONSIDERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

**TYPES OF OPERATIONS ; Major Reg Sutton**

**General**

The types of operation a company can be expected to participate in during a tour of duty are:

- Defence
- Defence of NDP
- Protection of Land Clearing Teams
- Cordon and Search
- Village Patrolling and Searching
- Search without Cordon
- Village Fighting
- Air Mobile Operations
- Convoy Protection
- RIF, which includes attacks on bunker systems and concentration on ambush positions.

**Defence**

Battalion lines in NUI DAT, The horseshoe, and various operations conducted in Bien Hoa, Long Binh all depict the need for a thorough knowledge of the conduct of defence.

Our procedures as written in the "Infantryman's Bible" are good, however, with constant *RIF* we tend to forget the need for range cards, mutual support, the art of sandbagging and wiring and the many other associated aspects.

Defence should still be a high priority subject during our training in Australia and not allowed to become integrated with harbour drills or ambush techniques.

**Defence of NDP**

The company commander responsible for the defence of the NDP must site and supervise the construction of this position or otherwise things may get out of hand. No two NDPs are the same and it is suggested that a 'doughnut' is the best solution to the problem – not a bare plot of ground with a bund surrounding, as many have turned out when the American Rome Ploughs are let loose without our knowledge.

My point being that the company commander is burdened with the overall security of the NDP and he surely should site the position so it can best be defended.

Our soldiers must be made aware of the problems facing the Americans in maintaining their machinery during the night the noise and lights are unavoidable and we must tolerate this To avoid unnecessary embarrassment the company commander and the senior American should discuss aspects of health and hygiene to obtain mutual agreement on policy

#### Protection of Land Clearing Team

The company providing protection is normally associated with the defence of the NDP, however, on some occasions different companies did have individual roles in this regard. The Americans have a tremendous capability for work during land clearing operations and concentrate solely on clearing the jungle by day and working on their machinery by night. We have been required to give the overall protection to the Rome Ploughs. I feel the problem area in this type of operation is in the command and control aspect who controls the tanks and APCs which are normally integrated with the platoons to provide adequate protection? It seems an easy question to answer for the inventor and the solution is no worry provided "Arms" jealousies do not exist

On numerous occasions troops have been injured by trees being felled by the armoured vehicles or the Rome Ploughs. There is a requirement for detailed siting of all protection elements to avoid any "clash by fire" or injury by misjudgment



**Major Reg Sutton talking to his troops over the AN/PRC – 25 Radio directing his platoons during combat operations.**

The ever-present threat of mines affected the soldiers even though they used mine detectors and wore flak jackets and steel helmets.

The other problem was that the District Chief was warned of the operation the day before it commenced to enable Field Force Police, National Police, Interpreters etc. to be “warned out” This loss of security was unavoidable and was reflected in the poor results during the searches. This type of operation, however, certainly restricted VC movement in the area..

### **Village Fighting**

The need for training in this type of operation does exist as shown by operations conducted in Baria, Dat Do, Hoa Long and other villages.

After Action Reports show that the problem of moving civilians from the battle area and obtaining the permission of the District Chief to destroy property if necessary are two factors of paramount importance.

Preparation for village fighting should include the issue of grenades on a large scale and the prior stocking of back—up grenades for OPDEM requests.

### **Village Patrolling and Searching**

This has now become a normal task allotted to companies during operations. At the time of construction of bunkers and a wire fence around Dat Do Village a company was used to protect the engineer effort while at the same time patrolling and searching the village by day and patrolling and ambushing by night. Areas of the village were allotted to the company for all these activities after a bid was made to Sector Headquarters twenty-four hours ahead. Everyone knew just where the company would operate at any given time. The only answer to this problem was to bid for very large segments of the village and then choose the “hot” areas to operate in.

#### **At least some security was achieved**

Mines were always a problem and constant vigilance was necessary including the precautionary measures of wearing steel helmets and flak jackets and the methodical and continual *use* of mine detectors.

Obvious advice is to keep away from Police Posts, Compounds and bunkers manned by the Vietnamese. Apart from their ‘itchy fingers’ the dreaded booby traps they lay with gay abandon pose a big threat to our safety.

Major Sutton’s paper will continue next issue.



**REUNIONS**  
**4 PLATOON 5 RAR 66/67**

VENUE: YARRAWONGA – MULWALA  
NSW – Border towns

DATE: 22nd and 23 February 2002.

CONTACT : Faye McKensie 02 4358 1546

Bev Bryant 03 5968 1249

General ; The wives have called for and are running the reunion. The thought is to keep it inexpensive and to have the reunion at a caravan park with onsite bungalows

Questions to Neville (Bluey) Bryant 0412 349 955, or above numbers.

**THANKS**

Thanks to the members who sent in photos of Binh Ba. I will send to the Company at Wagga Wagga a selection of photos.

Editor

**RECRUITMENT : DATE 30AD**

Memo

To: Jesus of Nazareth

From: Perfect Outcome Consultants.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for using our Company. We have studied closely the resumes of the 12 men you have picked for management positions in your new organization. All have been tested and the results put through our computer and the report is attached.

It is our considered opinion that most of the candidates are unsuitable for the task you propose. They have neither the background education nor the vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. We recommend that you search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability. We trust our extract from our report is of assistance.

Simon Peter – emotionally unstable, Andrew has no leadership qualities. The two brothers, James and John, sons of Zebedee would place personal interests above loyalty. Thomas demonstrated an overly questioning attitude and would undermine team morale. Thaddaeus has radical leanings and we must warn you that he scored very high on the maniac-depressive scale. One of the candidates however, does show potential. He is a man of ability, resourcefulness, and meets people well. He also has a keen business mind. He is motivated, ambitious and responsible, we recommend **Judas Iscariot** as your right hand man.

Yours Sincerely

Perfect Outcome Consultants.

**CHANGE OF POSTAL**  
**ADDRESS 5 RAR**  
**ASSOCIATION**

**5 RAR ASSOCIATION**  
**PO BOX 432 BOWRAL**  
**NSW 2576**

**Members please make note of**  
**our new postal address**

**REUNION**

**B, COMPANY SECOND TOUR**

The quiet achievers and our supporting arms and partners will meet for the third time since our return from SVN in 1970. We have chosen the Athens of the South –**ADELAIDE –ANZAC PERIOD 2002.**

**CALL ‘MOOSE’ DUNLOP**  
**08 83708214**

**EMAIL**

**moose@olis.net.au**

**135 Upper Sturt Rd UPPER STURT 5156**



**APPLICATION TO JOIN THE 5 RAR ASSOCIATION**  
**THE SECRETARY – PO BOX 432 BOWRAL NSW 2576**

**FULL NAME**.....

**ADDRESS**.....

..... **Post code**.....

**Phone**..... **EMAIL**.....

I am a new member

I wish to renew my membership

I enclose my cheque / money order for \$25.00 Signed.....

Brief details of service.....

**ITEMS FOR SALE ORDER FORM – SECRETARY 5 RAR ASSOCIATION PO BOX 432**  
**BOWRAL NSW 2576**

**NAME**.....

**ADDRESS**.....

..... **POST CODE**.....

1. **5 RAR TIE @ \$15.00**  \$.....

2. **VIETNAM TASK @ \$28.00**  \$.....

3. **CAR STICKERS @ \$3.00**  \$.....

4. **5 RAR CAPS @13.00**  \$.....

5. **HONOUR POLLS @ \$30.00**  \$.....

**TOTAL \$**.....

**I ENCLOSE CHEQUE/ MONEY ORDER FOR \$**.....

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