

## BINH BA WEEK IN DARWIN



The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion is led onto the 'Beat the Retreat' Parade by the band of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade.

There are two sides to every coin. The same holds true at 5 RAR, and as the battalion trains in preparation for current and future threats, we also make time to return to our roots. Named for one of the battalion's largest battles in Vietnam, Binh Ba Week is a commemoration of service rendered by all Tigers, past and present. Veterans joined current soldiers for a Dining in Night, Combatives Night, Parade and Cocktail party.

The week kicked off with a Soldiers and Veterans' Dining in Night. For many, this was their first Dining in Night in the battalion, and the first unrestricted event in three years for everyone else. Fortunately, the rust scraped off quickly, and between the senior Tigers and the *senior* Tigers, everyone was brought up to speed. With the Band of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade and Catering Corps in support, each trying to outdo the other, everyone was treated to a night

of revelry. It has been a chaotic start to a year full of international cooperation and domestic operations, and a well-deserved evening to finally enjoy the other side of the coin – and keep those port glasses topped up!

Tuesday was the 5 RAR Combatives Night, the culmination of the battalion's Army Combatives Program (ACP) training. Soldiers demonstrated physical and technical prowess in a series of competitions, with C Company clinching overall victory. ACP has changed with the times to meet the requirements of modern warfare, and the Combatives Night is a visible indicator of how our training has evolved. But while the content may change, one thing remains consistent – comradery. Win or lose, young or old, the Combatives Night was a celebration of a fair contest and getting behind your mates.

As veterans reminisced about hangovers on the parade ground, soldiers spent the week enduring them. Come Thursday, the Tiger Tribe reassembled to 'Beat the Retreat' as the sun set over the Darwin Cenotaph. Friends, families and special guests witnessed the battalion on

*(Continued on page 8)*



MAJGEN Jake Ellwood affixes Timor and Iraq Streamers to the Regimental Colour, held by his son, LT Samuel Ellwood.



5 RAR on Parade at the Darwin Cenotaph.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

G'Day Tiger Battalion Association Family,

I hope this issue of Tiger Tales finds you and yours well. As you will see in the following pages, the Association and Battalion continue to work hard at their respective core roles, supporting our community and defending the nation respectively. It was fantastic to see these come together during the recent Binh Ba Week celebrations where new and old veterans were able to return 'home' to the Battalion to help commemorate our common history.



Dave French

And the Battalion remains 'home' for many of us, despite the passage of time and the inevitable greying of the hairs. . .those that are left anyway. Despite that, we saw the spirit of 'once a Tiger, always a Tiger' as the Association members and families were able to enjoy visiting the current Tigers, viewing some of their net kit and take part in ceremonial and social activities. No doubt, there were a few 'warries' told as well just to keep the young Tigers on their toes.

A massive thank you to the Commanding Officer, LTCOL Chris Gilmore, and the RSM, WO1 Sean Casey, among many others for their efforts to make us feel welcome and valued. The strength and importance of the relationship between the Association and the Battalion cannot be underestimated. It means we are able to support each other when needed. This was the case recently where the Association was able to support the family of a deceased current serving member in Brisbane. At a difficult time, Gary Townsend and Bill Titley were able to offer some solace and comfort to grieving parents and I thank them for this.

Our Association has a great responsibility to keep operating, and operating well, so we can continue to support our members and ensure our incredible history is not lost. Brian Budden is leading the charge in the latter case, refurbishing a number of the Battalion's artefacts to ensure they remain in good order and available for all who follow. Thank you to him also.

You will see opposite a notice for an AGM. For the first time since 2020 we will be able to hold this AGM in person and I encourage as many of you to be there as is possible. We will continue to investigate providing a virtual link for people to observe the meeting, but voting issues must be decided at the venue. Please come along and support your committee!

As part of that support, and with our membership period approaching it's end in early 2023 I would like to ask you all to reach out to a mate who may have dropped off the list and see if they can re-join. Maybe they forgot to submit a form last time, or have changed email, or something else; we are keen to get in contact with those who may be 'MIA' and bring them back into the fold. This effort begins with all of us reaching out to someone. We will also include a list of those still MIA in our next issue.

Finally, Major MB 'Bruce' McQualter, OC B Coy 1<sup>st</sup> Tour, who was WIA on 21 Feb 1967 and DOW on 5 Mar 1967 will be commemorated at the Australian War Memorial on 18 August. If you can not attend in person you can watch it at this link; [www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony](http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony)

Until then, stay safe, stay healthy, and for those who are young enough, stay dangerous.

Duty First!

Dave French

### NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To All Members

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association Incorporated, will be held at 2:00pm on Friday 21 October 2022. The venue will be FDM Group Offices, Level 21, Tower Three, International Tower, 300 Barangaroo Ave, SYDNEY 2000.

#### AGENDA

1. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held in Sydney on Friday 22 October 2021.
2. To receive and consider reports from the Office-Bearers pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution:
  - a. President
  - b. Secretary
  - c. Treasurer
  - d. Membership Officer
3. To elect Office-Bearers and ordinary committee members of the Association.
4. To receive and consider any other business and notices lodged with the Secretary.

Members who wish to nominate for committee positions are to complete the form on the insert contained in this Tiger Tales and ensure it is received by the Secretary no later than 22 September 2022.

Geoff Pearson  
Secretary and Public Officer



## FROM THE BATTALION

### CO'S DISPATCH

G'day Tigers,

It is great to get the opportunity to write to the 5 RAR Tiger community and provide an update on what has been going on around the Battalion. The last few months have seen our Tiger teams employed across a vast array of security cooperation activities, training serials, courses and the commemoration of the Battle of Binh Ba (Binh Ba Week) here in the Battalion. Whilst the Companies and Headquarters have been busy, these Tigers are in great shape and continue to impress everyone they come across with their professionalism and humility.



LTCOL Chris Gilmore

I write this having come off an excellent month of June for the Tiger Battalion, where we have completed two key events; Binh Ba Week over the period 6-9 June, and then Exercise Norm Womal over the period 10-23 June. Additionally since I last wrote, we have had D Company redeploy after a successful rotation #135 of Rifle Company Butterworth in Malaysia, and the team from B Company have successfully completed their mission on the Joint Australian Training Team – Philippines (JATT-P), a four month deployment supporting one of our most important partners. Both of these activities were of significant importance and the respective Company's will provide a more detailed overview and update of their activities in their articles. Our Support Company formed the training team currently providing instruction to the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor Leste (F-FDTL) in Timor Leste and C Company are preparing to deploy to Garuda Shield in Indonesia. In July - September, we will form BATTLE GROUP TIGER to conduct EX PREDATORS RUN 22 in the Northern Territory, and then pivot straight into Support Company courses. One thing is certain – we are not bored!

Binh Ba Week was an opportunity to commemorate and reflect on the history of 5 RAR and commemorate not only Binh Ba, but all of the combat actions the Tiger Battalion have been involved in from Vietnam to Afghanistan. Most importantly for the current generation was the opportunity to host a number of Veterans of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and the 5<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion for the week. The energy, enthusiasm and stories of actions past provided us with sense of pride in what the Tiger Battalion represents, and the effort of a number of past veterans to travel to Darwin was brilliant; we will look to build on this again next year and make it even better. I must also extend my gratitude to MAJGEN Jake Ellwood for reviewing the Binh Ba Parade at the Darwin Cenotaph, MAJGEN Caughey, the COL COMDT of the RAR for hosting the parade, BRIG Mick Garraway (Head of Corps) and WO1 Rob Munro (former RSM 5 RAR and current Corps RSM) for their attendance. Most of all, I think it should be noted that the week would not have got off the ground without the tire-

less work and dedication of the RSM, WO1 Sean Casey. The Binh Ba Week article will be included in this Tiger Tales, and we hope that as many past Tigers as possible can join us next year.

We executed Exercise Norm Womal 22 at Mount Bunday Training Area over the period 10-23 June 22, with the focus being live-fire Support Company training and live fire platoon operations for C Company and the rear elements of B Company. It served as an excellent opportunity to shake off some of the dust and get back in the field and fire the weapons that make being in the Army special. The efforts of Recon and Sniper PL, Mortars and Heavy Weapons was excellent, and the opportunity for Heavy Weapons to live fire a Javelin missile was a highlight.

With everything the Tigers have already achieved this year, there is no slowing down – and as always these men and women of the Tiger Battalion continue to represent the battalion, the RAR, the 1st Brigade and the Army outstandingly. We have taken some time off over the Northern Territory School Holidays, and we are straight back into it in late July. Thank you to the Tiger Community for your continued support of the Battalion, and I look forward to hosting you in Binh Ba lines at the next opportunity.

Duty First!

Chris Gilmore

### BRAVO COMPANY

The first half of 2022 has been flat out for the members of Bravo Company, 5 RAR. In addition to supporting Operation Covid 19 Assist, 28 members of Bravo Company prepared for, and deployed on, the Joint Australian Training Team – Philippines (JATT-P). This activity saw members of Bravo Company, and attachments, work with the Special Forces Regiment Airborne (SFRA) in the areas of combat shooting, urban tactics, techniques and procedures, urban breaching and tactical care of the combat casualty (TCCC).

*(Continued on page 4)*



B Coy, 5 RAR soldiers demonstrate methods of entry (MOE) to PAF soldiers during JATT-P.



### BRAVO COMPANY

The training conducted on the activity saw members of Bravo Company, take around 400 SFRA students and badged members through the JATT-P training continuum over four rotations of training blocks. We had a great time working with the Philippines Armed Forces (PAF). The PAF displayed a high degree of professionalism during the training as well as enjoying a similar sense of humour and developing strong comradery.



B Coy, 5 RAR soldiers demonstrate enhanced combat shooting drills to PAF soldiers during JATT-P.

Looking forward, Bravo Company has a busy six months ahead. This will include the conduct of Exercise Koolendong 22, where Bravo Company will form the core of an Air Assault company operating out of USMC MV-22 Ospreys, as part of the USMC Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force (SP MAGTF) with the Marine Rotational Force – Darwin (MRF-D).

From August onwards, the company's attention will shift towards platoon and company level training during Exercise TIGERS RUN and the 1 Brigade Exercise WARFIGHTER. These two exercises will definitely put the company through its paces, and provide numerous opportunities for development and the refinement of skills. Before



A soldier from B Coy, 5 RAR, provides instruction to PAF soldiers in the application of skills during an enhanced combat shooting course.

the end of the year, Bravo Company can anticipate supporting international engagement objectives with the Indonesian Army, as well as taking the opportunity to upskill its members through the conduct of specialist courses.

### CHARLIE COMPANY

Life is always busy in the Battalion, and that has again proven to be the case for Charlie Company as we reflect on the first six months of 2022. Having only recently returned from a well earned break, it was not long before the entire company was committed to Domestic Operations by early March. As the COVID outbreak ravaged Aged Care facilities across Queensland and Northern NSW, 50 members of Charlie with company headquarters flew by C-130 to Brisbane. Once at Gallipoli Barracks, we formed small teams led by our junior NCO's which were tasked to provide support to overwhelmed and understaffed Aged Care Homes from Mareeba in Far North Queensland to Grafton in Northern NSW.

Over a six week period, the company provided support to over 30 different homes, and as flood waters rose supported the evacuation of over 200 aged care residents. Whilst the work differed greatly from the traditional role of the infantry, our soldiers and junior leaders continued to distinguish themselves. They formed small teams that travelled vast distances, entering into what were often foreign environments, where they were required to quickly build relationships with stakeholders and determine how they could best provide support. Working



Members of 8 Platoon (Small Boats) conduct riverine training in support of growing 5 RAR's littoral manoeuvre capability.

independently and at times in difficult conditions, they unfailingly demonstrated initiative, teamwork, and most importantly, the greatest of respect to our elderly.

The remainder of the Company deployed on Operation Flood Assist with the rest of the Battalion, supporting the response, clean up and recovery of the flood affected communities of Casino and Lismore. With the Company Sergeant Major performing the role of Camp Commandant, the company worked with soldiers from across the 1st Brigade, Navy and Air Force. Disaster response is dirty work and a long way removed from battle training



### CHARLIE COMPANY - Cont.

many expected we would be doing. Being able to provide direct support to our community in its time of need though is something of which we can be proud.

Having only recently consolidated after Easter and celebrated ANZAC Day, it was with heavy hearts that the company learnt of the passing of PTE Thomas Halloran. Tom had been a valued member of 8 Platoon, where his small boats qualifications and experience had been invaluable to the development of the capability. Tom's willingness to help his mates, sense of humour and positive attitude were just some of the attributes that his friends both in Charlie and across the Battalion will miss so much. Tom's family visited the company over Binh Ba week, where they were able to meet our veterans and connect with Tom's friends. They are now also Tigers for life.



A member of C Coy manoeuvring towards cover whilst participating in a Live Fire Platoon Attack as part of Exercise Tigers Walk 22.

Throughout June and July, 7 and 8 Platoon have been preparing to undertake Exercise Garuda Shield in Sumatra, Indonesia in August. This has seen us return to our core soldiering skills – conducting platoon live fire attacks, and getting back to basics in the field environment. The team will depart for Indonesia in late July and partner with our friends from the Indonesian, Singaporean, and US Army in what will be a significant multi-national activity that will culminate with a Brigade live fire activity. Concurrently, 8 platoon has continued to grow its littoral capability, undertaking small boats training in and around the Darwin harbour. The team have been steadily building our qualifications and experience in preparation to support the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade in our major training activity of the year – Exercise Predators Run, which will test Army's Littoral Operations concept.

With another trip to Indonesia scheduled for October and more small boats training planned for November, I look forward to reporting back to you in December with tales of our adventures in Indonesia and the continued development of the littoral capability.

**Quote: "Of the Australian General Sir John Monash. The only general of creative originality produced by the First World War."**

**"AJP Taylor, The First World War (1963)"**

### DELTA COMPANY

Rifle Company Butterworth has a long and storied history, dating back to the 1970's until today. The names of all those who have rotated quarterly there adorn the walls of 2<sup>nd</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> Battalion headquarters and the local watering hole "Hong Kong Bar". Delta Company, 5 RAR, had the extreme privilege of deploying on the 135<sup>th</sup> rotation (RCB135) from February to May 2022.

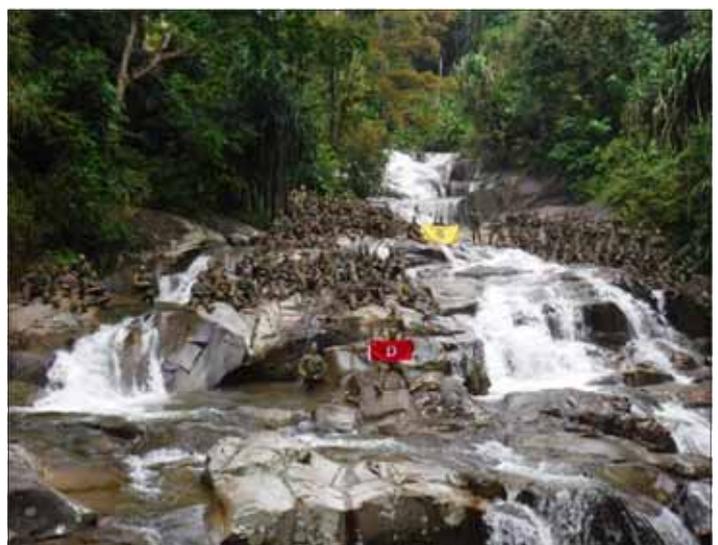
The deployment can be broken down into four distinct parts; First, the painful introduction to the jungle that Soldiers experienced, the reprieve of conducting Ranges at the Malaysian Army Combat Training Centre (PULADA), followed by Cultural Immersion Activities and ANZAC Day, before concluding with another stint in the jungle mixed with an urban training package.

The six day Jungle training package at Sik National Park was a rude introduction to the jungle and, for many members of Delta Company, their first field exercise in the Battalion. Many slaved away, fighting off hordes of leeches, waterborne diseases and mosquitoes to come out the other side weary and dehydrated, but ultimately stronger for it. The exercise focused solely on section tactical tasks, providing the section commanders with excellent opportunities to train junior soldiers, as well as grow as commanders.

Post this exercise, the rotation travelled eight hours south to PULADA. Whilst en route, Delta Company was able to conduct a battlefield history tour, which focused on the actions of the 2/30<sup>th</sup> Battalion in Malaysia during World War II. Whilst in PULADA, the rotation conducted a series of high explosive, combat shooting and manoeuvre ranges in order to upskill junior soldiers in the application of different weapon systems and interlaying of effects.

On return from PULADA, the rotation was fortunate enough to participate in ANZAC day activities at Hellfire Pass, Sandakan, Kuala Lumpur, and Penang. Following this, the rotation was afforded two weeks to conduct cultural immersion activities. Groups participated in adventure training, as well as visiting culturally significant sites in Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur. LT Ellwood and CAPT Etheridge were even fortunate enough to complete Ramadan

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Delta Company poses for a photo.



### DELTA COMPANY - Cont.

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with 1000 Muslims at the National Mosque.

With impending return flights to Australia, we were able to complete one last activity in the nick of time. The rotation completed a 10 day peer on peer Full Mission Profile at Kulim National Park, off-set by section and platoon level urban training with new man marking munitions. This was the highlight of the trip, and successfully rounded out the experience for the rotation.

### SUPPORT COMPANY

Support Company has been busy over the last few months. The Platoons have worked hard to train within their specialisations and get back on the tools following return from OP FLOOD ASSIST in mid-April. The specialisation training and development culminated with Exercise NORMAN WOMAL 22, with the Company executing a series of ranges at Mount Bunday Training Area in mid-June. Support Company also focussed on regional security cooperation, hosting a shooting competition with teams from the East Timor Defence Force and United States Marine Corps.

#### Recon and Snipers Platoon (RS)

RS returned from OP FLOOD ASSIST and underwent a period of qualification upskilling, with the conduct of an Image Capture and Transfer System suite of courses, and G-Wagon conversion courses. With these new skills under their belt, RS Platoon sent a contingent of nine patrolmen to Western Australia to take part in a mobility activity across the outback throughout the entirety of June and into July. Lead by LCPL Katen, the patrolmen gained experience with long range Surveillance Reconnaissance Vehicle (SRV) movement and recovery. PTE McGowan managed to nearly fully submerge his SRV into the depths of the Salt Plains, as seen below.



PTE McGowan demonstrates vehicle recovery techniques in WA.

The sniper cell looked at its next generation of snipers, with the conduct of a Basic Sniper Pre Selection Course. They then took part in Exercise NORMAN WOMAL 22, conducting a series of live fire field firing at Mount Bunday Training Area over six days, alongside their US Marine

### SUPPORT COMPANY - Cont.

counterparts. The field firing encompassed both 7.62 natures and .50 serials over the last few days. The range culminated with a moving target serial, to which PTE Cotter and LCPL Nguyen had no issue hitting at 1,400m with the .50.

#### Direct Fire Support Weapon Platoon (DFSW)



An FGM148C Javelin Rocket in flight after engaging a light armoured combat reconnaissance vehicle at 800m.

DFSW returned to the NT following FLOOD ASSIST and set its sights back on its trade. After a few weeks of barracks training and preparation, DFSW conducted Exercise NORMAN WOMAL 22 across a series of ranges, incorporating many weapon systems. They managed to fire 71 HE, 22 HEAT, and 22 HEDP with the 84mm Carl Gustaf in the first 2 days. All 84mm firing was conducting using 1 man loading drills onto a 1m steel target at a range of 700m, with devastating effects on the target area.



PTE Whitney and PTE Hyland from DFSW PL in their Javelin observation post after stalking in and occupying earlier in that after-

The Mag58s got a sufficient workout in the Sustained Fire Machine Gun (SFMG) role, firing 40,000 rounds of 7.62mm. Heavy Machine Gun and Automatic Grenade Launcher were also fired. I64C and I64E [Nodes of DFSW PI] worked hard, going on various tactical tasks including tank stalks, SFMG attack by fires, and Javelin observation posts. PTE Whitney fired the Javelin on the last day of the range, in front of the CO and a crowd. After a tactical ingress to an aggressive OP, he kept his cool and succeeded in destroying his target on the verge of dusk.



## SUPPORT COMPANY - Cont.

### Signals Platoon

This year, Signals Platoon has supported a number of exercises and operations in and out of Australia. Of note, soldiers from Signal Platoon deployed to Malaysia as part of Rifle Company Butterworth 135, Joint Australian Training Team - Philippines, to Brisbane for Aged-Care Assist, and Casino (regional NSW) in support of Operation Flood Assist 22. More recently, Signal Platoon returned from Exercise NORMAN WOMAL 22, where the platoon completed a mix of signals and live-fire training. The OA [a node of Sig Pl] detachment supported CO 5 RAR running Director of Practice at Mount Bundy Training Area, while the other detachments established, maintained and collapsed company through to battalion command posts through a range of scenarios. The exercise culminated with a live-fire platoon attack, before a return to barracks in preparation for a busy July. Over the next two months, soldiers from Signal Platoon will support Charlie Company on Exercise GARUDA SHIELD in Indonesia and on Mobile Training Team-B in Timor-Leste. Those still in Australia will stay busy —Exercise KOOLENDONG, TIGERS RUN and PREDATORS RUN will see Signal Platoon shake out in support of the Battalion.



Signals Platoon practice soldiering in the field environment.

2022 has been characterised by a focus on integrating signals training and individual soldier skills. As soldiers promote and return to rifle companies, Signals Platoon continues to increase the versatility of the Battalion's communications, increasing signals literacy throughout the Battalion and promoting communications as a basic soldier skill.

### Mortar Platoon (MP)

MP returned home in early April after 5 weeks of Domestic Operations in South-East Queensland and Northern NSW. The month of May saw our NCOs travel to Puckapunyal to complete their Officer/NCO Mortar Course, in which they performed to a high standard, enhancing the Battalion's reputation as a cut above the rest. Upon their return home, the platoon had a short turn around before we deployed to the field for our first live fire shoot of the year, the long awaited Ex NORMAN WOMAL 22. The end state was for the Platoon to achieve Live Fire Stage 2 for the 81mm Mortar. The three day live fire exercise saw the Platoon engage targets out to 4500m in a link shooting formation. With an ammunition allocation of over 630

rounds for three days of firing, the platoon were able to refine their skills, build Platoon cohesion and develop Platoon SOPs, in particular night shooting and link shooting.



Mortar Platoon 5 RAR engaging dismounted threats at 4,200m with a PRAC round on charge 4 during a Platoon link shoot, achieving Army Training Level 2B as part of their annual progression of training. (From the left: PTEs Murphy-Riddel, Payne and Kilgour.

## LOGISTICS COMPANY

Logistics Company deployed on OP Flood Assist on 08 March 2022 to Northern NSW to assist in the clean-up efforts in Casino and Lismore, following the NSW Floods. The company performed exceptionally under the command of MAJ Adamson, and conducted themselves to a very high standard. This was the company's first time operating outside of the barracks setting as a sub-unit as a part of Task Unit TIGER, which culminated with a parade

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Logistics Company marches through the streets of Casino, NSW.



## FROM THE BATTALION - Cont. LOGISTICS COMPANY - Cont.

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through Casino. This deployment also saw a notable act of courage from CPL Jose, CFN Rae and PTE Dowdney (Support Company), when they recovered a PMV and crew in the flood waters late in the evening.

Since returning from Lismore, Log Company has assisted in the return of Rifle Company Butterworth 135 and Joint Australian Training Team – Philippines (JATT-P), supported 1 Combat Service Support Battalion (1 CSSB) in running several key logistical courses, marched on ANZAC Day and much more.

The workshop has been exceptionally busy, conducting repairs, supporting courses and assisting with Battalion activities such as Binh Ba Week. As 5 RAR prepares to deploy on exercise, the workshop tempo has picked up and the craftsmen are working overtime to ensure the companies are all ready to step off.

**Quote: "War itself is, of course, a form of madness. It's hardly a civilised pursuit. It's amazing how we spend so much time in inventing devices to kill each other and so little time working on how to achieve peace."**

~ Walter Cronkite

## OBG (W) - IRAQ 2007

Overwatch Battle Group (West)'s main role was to provide support to Iraqi Security Forces in a crisis if requested by the Iraqi Government and the Multi-National Force - Iraq. Whilst it was never called upon to act in this role, the Battle Group did conduct combat and security operations within the cities of An Nasiriyah and As Samawah, the provincial capitals of Dhi Qar and Al Muthana respectively, extensive patrolling within rural areas and on Main Supply Routes (MSR's) to counter the indirect fire and improvised explosive device threat, training and mentoring of the Iraqi Army and Police, support to strike operations undertaken by United States Special Forces, and construction and re-construction work. The Battle Group's training team was responsible for providing basic training to Iraqi Army personnel at the Basic Training Centre in Tallil.



A of Over Watch Group—West's Sabre TAC enroute to a local engagement.

## MAJ McQUALTER REMEMBERED



The Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on 18 August 2022, being Vietnam Veterans' Day and Long Tan Day, will remember MAJ M.B. "Bruce" McQualter. As OC B Coy 5 RAR, Bruce was gravely wounded in a mine incident in the Long Hai Hills on 21 February 1967 and died of his wounds on 5 March. He was to have been remembered

last year but the ceremony was cancelled at a peak Covid time.

MAJ McQualter's widow, sister and other family members will be attending. Attendees should arrive by 4.30 PM. On line free bookings are required and can be obtained on the AWM website. The ceremony will also be live streamed via the AWM website. The 5 RAR Association will lay a wreath. Local ACT tigers are encouraged to attend. Go to Last Post Ceremony | Australian War Memorial [www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony](http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony) for bookings and online streaming.

The annual Vietnam Veterans' Day ceremony at the National Vietnam Memorial on Anzac Parade will also be held that day commencing at 10.00 AM. The Governor-General will deliver the commemorative address.

## BINH BA WEEK IN DARWIN - Cont.

(Continued from page 1)

parade, with Major General Jake Ellwood, DSC, AM, CSC, attaching Honours for Iraq and Timor to the Regimental Colours. As the sun set, veterans joined soldiers on parade for the march off. Some things will never change, so after a quick shower, change and move, Tigers relocated to parliament house for a cocktail party. Dressed to the Darwin nines, the battalion and their loved ones mingled in a less formal environment, with Tigers taking one last opportunity to let their hair down before heading up to Mount Bunday the following week.



Once a Tiger, always a Tiger, Veterans join current 5 RAR members during the march off.

Binh Ba Week is only one part of 5 RAR's commitment to keep veterans integrated with the battalion. As we move into the second half of the year, we'll keep you updated on further events to ensure all Tigers can enjoy what the battalion has to offer. **Once a Tiger. Always a Tiger.**

LT W Petersen

## BINH BA WEEK IN DARWIN -Cont.

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On the 6th June, 2022 the CO of 5 RAR invited the old boys of the Tiger Battalion to visit the Battalion in Darwin to commemorate the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Binh Ba. A dozen of the old Tigers manage to make it and they were warmly welcomed by the young diggers.

On arrival on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> June, we were shown all the modern equipment that the diggers use today and weapons that they now carry.

In the evening we attended a Soldiers and Veterans Dining-In-Night under the stars. What an experience, I will never forget it. The colours were marched in and the soldiers stood like statues in total respect to the Battalion they serve in. (400 attended).

On the next day we were invited to an Army Combative Night, however I was unable to attend, but I was informed by Shorty Jenkins that it was an exciting night. He advised he was now too old to participate.

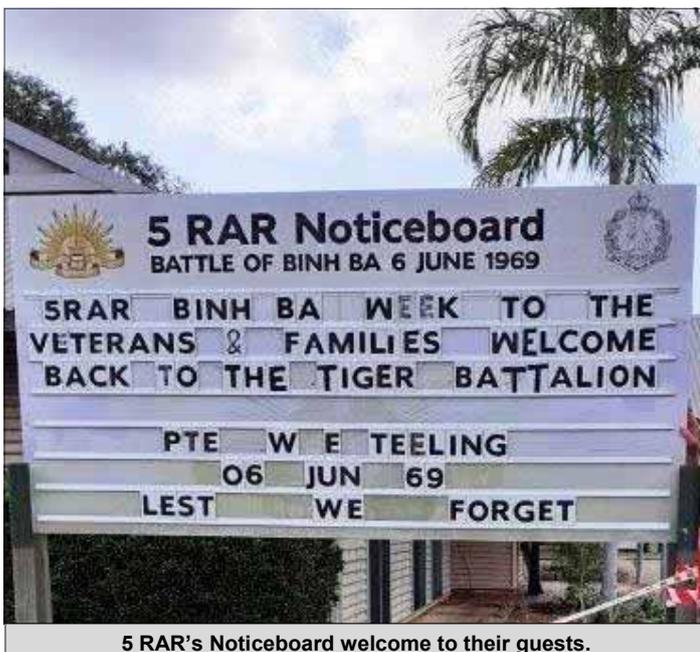
Wednesday was a lay day for us as the Battalion had to rehearse for the parade the following day.

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 18:00 hrs until 19:30 hrs was the 'Beat The Retreat' parade at the Darwin Cenotaph. The reviewing officer was Major General Jake Ellwood a previous CO of 5 RAR. At the conclusion of the parade all the Old Tigers were asked to march off with the Battalion, which we all considered a great honour. We all then proceeded to the Chan Lawn, Government House, for a Cocktail Party with all the Soldiers also attending. The evening was most enjoyable with lots of conversation amongst the Diggers.

I would like thank the CO and RSM for their hospitality.

THE TIGER BATTALION IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL!

Errol Garland  
(An Old Tiger)



5 RAR's Noticeboard welcome to their guests.

*Editor's Note: This page and the following pages show captioned photographs supplied by members whom attended and also from the Battalion's Facebook page, my thanks to all who contributed.*



A 5 RAR digger shows Geoff Jenkins (4 PI '69-70) some of the armament and webbing that the soldiers now use.



Mike Nettleton (5 PI + ADM Coy '69-70) in one of newly acquired inflatable Zodiacs which Battalion members, who have completed the Advanced Small Craft Operators Course, have been trained to use by day, by night and in potentially rough seas.



Two of the younger Middle East veterans, CPL Jakin Gale and PTE Dylan Clayton, enjoy the evening.



An aerial view of the setting for the 'Dining-in-Night'.



The family of CPL J Kennedy before the dinner l-r; Vickie and Warwick Barnes, Brian and Karen Patterson, Lisa and Rodney Kennedy, with Rod May (D + ADM Coy '66-67) between Karen and Lisa.



Rob Smith (1 PI '66-67) and his wife, Marlene, at the dinner under the stars on the Monday night.



Steve Taylor (4 PI '69-70) and Errol Garland (6 PI '69-70) appreciated the enjoyable meal and good conversation at the very pleasant evening of the 'Dining-In-Night'.



The Halloran family, Robyn, John, Annie and her partner, Connor Boyd, with Charlie Company's OC, MAJ John Moulter and CSM, WO2 Michael Prestedge.



At the Combatives Night, soldiers from each company competed in the lightweight, middleweight and heavyweight contests, with C Company taking overall honours.



Some of the 5 RAR and 5/7 RAR Associations members who attended the Combatives Night in the Gary Holmes Club, the CO Chris Gilmore, is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row wearing a yellow T-shirt.



The CO, LTCOL Chris Gilmore and the parade salute the presiding Officers at the 'Beat The Retreat' Parade.



The Tigermobile arriving to carry the Commanding Officer from the Parade.



A current C Company Sergeant, Bradley Congerton, with Geoff Jenkins and Steve Taylor (both 4 PI '69-70) at the Cocktail Evening.



Mike Nettleton (5 PI + ADM Coy '69-70) standing at the themed entrance to the Cocktail Evening.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

To be confirmed at the AGM on 21 October 2022

**Income and Expenditure Statement - July 2021 to June 2022**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
Membership Subscriptions	2,500.00	11,300.00
Sales/Memorabilia	1,713.00	7,708.00
Donations	254.15	351.10
DVA Grant - STS. (Note 1)	4,150.00	0.00
Term Deposit Interest Income	282.59	440.42
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,899.74</b>	<b>19,799.52</b>
<b><u>COST OF SALES</u></b>		
Memorabilia	1,108.10	5,743.50
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>1,108.10</b>	<b>5,743.50</b>
<b><u>GROSS PROFIT</u></b>	<b>7,791.64</b>	<b>14,056.02</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
Bank Fees	1.51	0.00
Donations - to other ESO. (Note 2)	3,000.00	0.00
DVA Grant - STS	4,020.01	0.00
Floral Tributes	0.00	80.00
Fees/Licences/Registration	48.21	0.00
Internet/Website	278.90	259.00
Postage & Stationery	539.98	1,248.66
Miscellaneous Expenses	300.00	0.00
Tiger Tales (Print & Post)	9,079.73	11,379.48
RAR Corporation Subscriptions	0.00	0.00
Reunion Expenses	0.00	0.00
Travel & Accommodation	0.00	1,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>17,265.32</b>	<b>13,967.14</b>
<b><u>NET PROFIT (LOSS)</u></b>	<b>9,473.68</b>	<b>88.88</b>

**Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022**

<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
General Cheque Account	49,553.97	58,202.29
5 RAR Reunion Account	50.20	50.10
TERM DEPOSIT 50296157 (Note 3)	\$21,095.82	20,959.58
TERM DEPOSIT 50296165 (Note 4)	\$22,110.20	21,963.85
Stock on Hand	\$18,867.90	19,976.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>111,678.09</b>	<b>121,151.82</b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b><u>NET ASSETS</u></b>	<b>111,678.09</b>	<b>121,151.82</b>
<b><u>EQUITY</u></b>		
Retained Earnings	121,188.16	121,099.33
Current Earnings	9,473.68	88.88
Historical Balancing of Reunion Account (O/Balance brought on to Balance Sheet)	36.39	36.39
<b><u>TOTAL EQUITY</u></b>	<b>111,678.09</b>	<b>121,151.82</b>

- Notes:**
1. Saluting Their Service (STS) Grant for reprint of Vietnam Task
  2. Donation to RAR Corporation Legal Fund
  3. Maturity date 4 Nov 2022. Interest Rate 0.25%
  4. Maturity date 4 Aug 2022. Interest Rate 0.30%

# IN MEMORIAM

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## 3794425 JOSEPH STASIEWICZ 15 September 1946 - 20 April 2020



PTE Joseph 'Joe' Stasiewicz died in hospital on Thursday 20 April, he had not been well for quite some time, suffering from various complaints.

At the age of 21, even though his birthday was not drawn, Joe volunteered for the National Service scheme and completed his recruit training at 2 RTB Puckapunyal. He

was then transferred to 3 RTB (Infantry Corps Wing), followed by Infantry Centre (Reinforcement Wing). On 18 March 1969 he deployed to 1 ARU in South Vietnam, serving there until he joined 2 Platoon A Company on 30 April. He served as a machine gunner with 2 Platoon until his return to Australia with the Battalion on 5 March 1970.

We were not advised of any of the funeral details for Joseph.

## 1202552 RONALD EDWIN BRIAIS 15 June 1948 - 15 May 2022

PTE Ronald 'Ron' Briais died early in the morning of Sunday 15 May, he had not been in good health for quite some time.

Ron enlisted in February 1969 and completed his recruit training at 1 RTB and Corps training at Infantry Centre (IC). He then joined IC (Reo Wing). Ron was with 1 ARU Vietnam from 22 October to 18 November 1969. He transferred to 5 RAR on 19 November and joined 12 PI D Coy. When 5 RAR returned to Australia in February 1970, Ron transferred to 7 RAR to complete his tour of duty. Later in his career he joined 8 RAR, still later he became RSM of 8/9 RAR and had many other postings to different units.

A Funeral Service was held for Ron at Albany Creek Memorial Park on 26 May 2022.



## 2412442 KENNETH GEORGE YOUNG 11 February 1949 - 22 June 2022



PTE Kenneth Young died peacefully at Mercy Health, Albury, on Wednesday 22 June surrounded by his family.

Kenneth joined 1 ARU on his deployment to Vietnam on 18 September 1968, remaining there until 21 October. He was transferred to 1 RAR until their tour ended. On 14 February 1969 Kenneth was posted to Support

Company, 5 RAR, where he served as a cook. While at FSB Thrust on 8 July 1969, he was wounded-in-action, during a mortar attack on the FSB. Due to his wounds Kenneth was returned to Australia on 14 July. He served 20 years in the ADF, retired with the rank of WO2, and also served in Papua New Guinea and Malaysia.

A funeral Service was held for him at Sacred Heart Church, Wodonga, on 30 June with a burial to follow.

## 27234 JOHN FREDERICK MILLER 19 September 1930 - 21 April 2022



MAJ John Miller died on the morning of Thursday 21 April at the age of 91.

John was a foundation member of 5 RAR on 1 March 1965. He served with 3 RAR, 1 RAR and HQ Australian Army Force during the Malayan Emergency. John deployed to South Vietnam as OC of Admin Coy in April 1966, early in the 1966-67 tour he

was transferred to OC of Charlie Coy. He RTA'ed in command of the Advance party to prepare for the Battalion's return to Holsworthy, and to find a tiger cub to greet HMAS Sydney as it docked. John also served with 4 RAR. He was instrumental in the formation of the 5 RAR Association and also wrote its original constitution.

A Funeral Service was held for John on Tuesday 3 May, at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium, North Ryde, NSW.

## 44573 OLUF BROCKENHUUS-SCHACK 16 August 1940 - 28 May 2022

PTE Oluf Brockenhuus-Schack died on Saturday 28 May in NSW.

Oluf enlisted in the ARA in November 1967. He completed recruit training at 1 RTB and Corps training at Infantry Centre. Oluf was posted to 5 RAR in May 1968 and deployed to South Vietnam in February 1969. He served as a rifleman with 4 Platoon and later with CHQ of Bravo Company for the Battalion's full 1969-70 tour of duty. When 5 and 7 RAR linked, Oluf became a member of 5/7 RAR and later served with 2/4 RAR and other postings. He continued his service with the ADF until 20 November 1989 attaining the rank of Corporal.

A Funeral Service was held for Oluf at St Barnabas Anglican Church, Ingleburn, on Tuesday 14 June. Oluf was laid to rest at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Leppington.



## QUEENS BIRTHDAY HONOURS

### Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia

Phillip John Winney, Merewether NSW 2291

For service to veterans and their families.

Phil served with 7 Section, 9 Platoon, C Company during the Battalion's 1969-70 tour of Vietnam.

We extend our congratulations to Phil on his receiving this well deserved award.



**DISCLAIMER:** The 5 RAR Association, the National Committee and the Editor take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies contained in this newsletter. Nor do they accept any liability for any loss or damage suffered directly or indirectly from use of information contained in this newsletter. Nor do they warrant that articles or opinions published in this newsletter are necessarily the opinions held by the Association, the National Committee or the Editor.



# AROUND THE STATES

## WA



The 5 RAR Members have been on tenterhooks waiting to see if our ANZAC Day March would go ahead as the Government put a limit on only VIP guests would be attending the dawn service in Kings Park, which was crazy as we had 41,500 attending a football match at Optus Stadium.

The WA Government cancelled all the restrictions, RSL said they could not make any changes, but the march will go ahead. It was a lovely sunny day in Perth and we had thousands of people lining the streets and cheering on the marchers

The 5 RAR Banner was carried by Benjamin Dawson and Shaun Martin both members who served in Afghanistan and John 'Doc' Halliday lead the march and Ivan Leach carried a photo frame with photos of the 50 members who lost their lives in Vietnam plus the 3 members of 5 RAR who lost their lives in Afghanistan (see photo below).

Thanks again to our national President, Dave French, who rang Perth RSL, DISPUTING WHY WE COULD NOT CARRY THE PICTURE FRAME on the march. Dave finally got the decision overturned AND WE CARRIED IT, well done Dave. So when we ever have a function our deceased members will always be given a place of Honour with us.



5 RAR HQ WA, 43 BELOW, opened at 08.00hrs for breakfast and beer. Sandra put on bacon and egg hash brown rolls and chips for \$15.00, she always looks after us.

5 RAR had the whole front bar we booked for 150 but only gave out 105 tickets to members and guests. It was good to see Lionel Morris marching after his illness and major operations

I gave out membership forms to the 15 young Tigers but have received none back at this stage.

It was a great day lots of stories told and lots of noise, because members did not wear their hearing aids.

Sandra Gastev had tears in her eyes as I left, saying it is less than 12 months since her husband died. Steve used to love ANZAC Day he always liked the old days with everyone happy, laughing and never any trouble. She is going to sell the hotel when the lease comes up, so we will have to wait and see who new the owners are.

## WA - Cont.



I thanked Sandra, her son Chris, bar staff Red, Anna, Grace and the kitchen staff for really looking after us.

Alan McNulty



The WA members, with Ivan Leach carrying the KIA frame and John Halliday leading the March.

## VIC



On Thursday, 21 April I went to the Western Hospital in Sunshine to visit Joe Stasiewicz who served with A Coy, 5 RAR on the second tour. I'd been told the day before that Joe wasn't travelling too well and might appreciate a visit. But when I got there was advised that he had passed away during the night. That same day I was also advised that John Frederick Miller had just passed away – he was my Company Commander for most of my tour in Vietnam – OC C Coy, 5 RAR first tour, an excellent officer and a thoroughly decent fellow who was 91 years old; so Anzac Day this year was a day of mixed emotions, more so than most.

This year we were told that the FUP was to be in Swanston Street, and then we were moved back to where we always form up, but it wouldn't be the Army without a bit of 'Great coats on – great coats off'. 5 RAR can always be relied upon for a good turn up, and this year was no exception. It was good to catch up with Neil Selleck (9 platoon) who'd come down from Swan Hill to join us.

Doug Bishop



Some of the Victorian members at the Regimental Memorial Tree after the march.

NSW



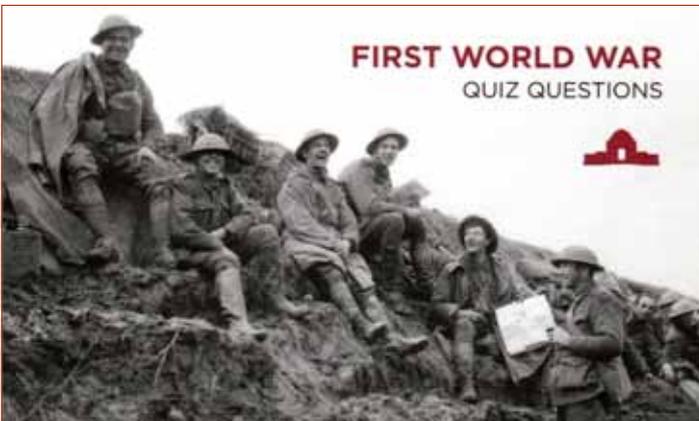
It was great to finally have an unrestricted Anzac March this year. Numbers were slightly down, but still probably the largest group of all the Battalions.

It was great to see some family members at the reunion. Not sure that we will ever get back to our old watering hole, they are still renovating.

Next get together will be Xmas drinks as usual the first Friday in December. It would be great if we could get a larger attendance. We are not getting any younger. Venue will probably be again at the Barracks on Barracks in Barrack St, Sydney.

Have a great Christmas for you and yours

Barney Ruttle



Q. Who was Mustafa Kemal Ataturk?

A. January 1A. The commander of the Turkish 19th Division during the first months of the Gallipoli campaign and the 1st President (1924-1938) of the Turkish Republic916.

**Quote:** *“Be an example to your men, in your duty and in private life. Never spare yourself, and let your troops see that you don’t, in your endurance of fatigue and privation. Always be tactful and well-mannered. Avoid excessive sharpness or harshness of voice, which usually indicates the man who has shortcomings of his own to hide.”*

– German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel

8 PLATOON 1966-67

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022, at high noon, there was a small reunion at Doug Bishops ‘Ponderosa’ out west in Sunbury, Victoria.

A small, but nonetheless, elite group of 8 Platoon and C Company 1<sup>st</sup> Tour Vietnam veterans were invited namely, Doug Bishop, Robert Birtles, Daryl McCombe, Syd Shore, Holger ‘Curly’ Koblitz, Richard Criss, Roger Wainwright and Dave ‘Stretch’ Bryan.

Covid restrictions have curtailed reunions during the past two years, so Doug decide to trial a small lunchtime gathering at his home.

Doug cooked a delicious array of meats and vegetables which were accompanied by a few good reds and beer.

It was decided to ban three topics of conversation, Religion, Politics and personal health issues.

There were lots of laughs, stories and memories exchanged.

It was great to catch up again with old mates.

Days like these are pure gold, priceless, something money can’t buy.

As a trial it was gauged to be such a great success that we will do it again, only next time in warmer weather.

‘Stretch’ Bryan



Around the table from the left are; Syd Shore, Doug Bishop, Dave (Stretch) Bryan, Holger (Curly) Koblitz, Daryl McCombe, Richard Criss, Roger Wainwright and Robert Birtles.

WORKING TOGETHER

Soldiers from Timor-Leste and 5 RAR have spent the last 10 days developing their combat shooting and marksmanship skills together. The activity concluded with the awarding of the ‘Arafura Champion Shot’, with soldiers recognising each other with gifts of ‘Tais’, a traditional Timorese garment, and 5 RAR patches.

In June, soldiers from 5 RAR will be travelling to Timor-Leste to continue training and building relationships with soldiers from Timor-Leste.

Haree to 'ok imi (See you soon)

Courtesy 5 RAR Facebook Page



The Timor-Leste and 5 RAR Group



## UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

What does Anzac Day mean to a young veteran? It's a very loaded subject and one I've struggled to put into words.

I grew up the son, great grandson and godson of veterans of Malaya, WWI & WWII. Many of my dad's mates were Vietnam vets. All these quiet unassuming men had one major thing in common, they never talked about it. As I grew older, I always wondered why but never wanted to ask. Perhaps that and other unanswered questions were part of what inspired me to enlist.



I was an Infantry soldier and served as part of Combat Team – Charlie, deployed to Afghanistan in late 2010 in order to help mentor the ANA soldiers in the Tangi Valley. By the time Anzac Day 2011 had arrived we'd lost Australian and ANA soldiers. On that still, cool morning we had a gunfire breakfast and conducted a small, short ceremony before heading out on patrol.

As we paused to reflect, I looked down at the band on the wrist of one of my mates that had the details and in larger letters the nickname of one of the Combat Engineers we'd lost. I thought about his cheeky smile and about how, at the lowest of times he could pull out a quick, smart one liner that would crack up everyone in earshot. I then thought about how we'd never have that again. One of the best of us was gone.

To shake that thought off I looked around at the rest of the platoon. All of them I trusted with my life and knew



they had my back, no matter what. We then geared up and headed out to do our job. It wasn't until years later that I realized how good it was to patrol alongside those blokes. They came from all walks of life but wouldn't hesitate to give you their last smoke, last bit of tucker, last dollar, last breath.

I guess in a small way that sums up what Anzac Day means to me. Great pride that I once wore our country's uniform and had the honour of serving alongside some of the best I ever had the privilege of meeting. To reflect on the stories of great heroism and also the simple acts of mateship that, as we listen to, make us all proud to be Australians.

But also, great sadness. That many of our best have never returned and many more who've left a large part of themselves behind when they returned home. They gave more than they had to give, not for glory or praise but for their mates and their country.

So, on Anzac day in many towns and cities we gather together. To honour all who've served and are still serving. Countless volunteers put in huge amounts of effort to enable this day to happen. Most of us aren't very good with words or showing our gratitude but I want you all to know that it means more than we could say.

Maybe that question has finally been answered.

Sean Starling

Courtesy of Soldier Tales website [soldiertales.com](http://soldiertales.com)

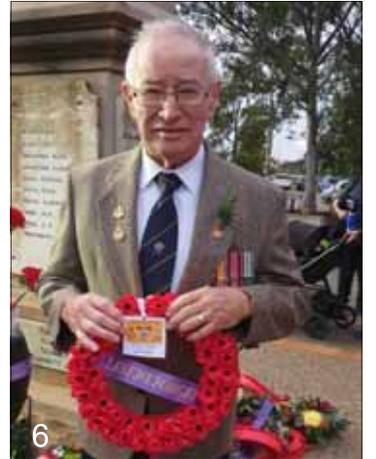
## THE TIGER'S HUEY

Why were our Hueys in Vietnam not painted in this style of livery? It is camouflaged, even if it is in the same manner as the tiger who is almost invisible in the jungle.



*Tiger Tales is printed and distributed, for 5 RAR Association, by The Pack Factory, 169A Penshurst St, BEVERLEY HILLS, NSW, 2209. Graeme Tooth, the principal of The Pack Factory, is a veteran of 5 RAR's 1969-70 tour of South Vietnam.*

# 5 RAR ASSOCIATION'S ANZAC DAY AROUND AUSTRALIA



1/ Sydney-Banner Bearers Darren ? and Nick Watman (new member), with Alan Miles. 2/ Hervey Bay-Barry Baker and Bennie Oram. 3/ The Perth members. 4/ Gold Coast-Bill Titley and neighbours. 5/ Melbourne-John Hunter, Legs Leggett and Phil Greenhalgh. 6/ Brisbane-Ken Davis. 7/ The Melbourne contingent. 8/ Sydney-Wreath at Regimental Square. 9/ Darwin-Bob Alexander. Robertson Barracks, 10/ Sydney-Post March gathering.





**Guitars for Vets**

*"where words fail, music speaks"*

Are you a Veteran from any war, conflict or policing action and, like many veterans, have struggled with PTSD?

Would you like to learn how to play the guitar?

Don't have a guitar, don't worry, we'll give you one.

..... and we'll give you ten free lessons to start with

..... with a teacher who understands your situation

Contact: Jim Mavromatis 0458843254 or [jim@mavromatis.com.au](mailto:jim@mavromatis.com.au)

**G4V**

[www.guitarsforvetsaustralia.com](http://www.guitarsforvetsaustralia.com)

Guitars for Veterans Australia (G4VA) is a non-profit, registered charity that commenced in Australia approximately 4 years ago. This new initiative is helping Australian veterans and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who are experiencing the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to express themselves through the power of music.

G4VA's mission is to provide these veterans with music lessons, guitars, a forum and an environment to learn how to play the basics of guitar. They do this by seeking donations of used or new guitars, together with financial support for lessons. G4VA co-ordinates and delivers a structured and professional guitar training program of 5 x One Hour lessons and a free guitar. G4VA's objective is simple: to assist veterans to discover the joy of music in the form of a simple guitar. We strongly believe: **"Where words fail, music speaks"** and have many testimonials from veterans that the introduction of music into their lives has greatly improved their mental health.

***"It really does help me 'tame the beast', as it were."***

***"This has been tremendous for me. Exactly what I needed to turn a corner in my life."***

***"Well.. I've stopped drinking and started picking up a guitar instead, which is much better for my health, haha!"***

Our primary focus is using the healing power of music to help our veterans. Whether we agree or disagree with the decision to go to war, one thing is for certain, there are men and women who bravely fight for and honourably represent our country. As a consequence of war, many of our soldiers come home with physical and emotional inju-

ries. They need our help, our aim is to complement the clinical support of veterans through music.

We seek out guitar instructors that can gently assist the Veteran to learn the basic chords and to play at least three songs. The private lessons are taught by paid or volunteer instructors and are then followed by group sessions, wherever possible, that provide a forum for the Veterans to talk and play music with like-minded individuals, many of whom have had similar experiences, emotions and trauma. The music sessions can provide a communal atmosphere. Music has proven to be a catalyst that helps the Veteran continue on their road to recovery and well-being.

The Veterans can be of any age or from any service or conflict zone.

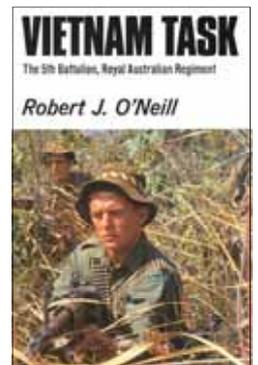
Guitars for Veterans Australia relies on the community for donations whether it is cash, guitars or a location for tuition.

Please visit our website; [www.guitarsforvetsaustralia.com](http://www.guitarsforvetsaustralia.com) or our Facebook page, 'Guitars for Vets Australia', or contact me directly; Jim Mavromatis on 0438 843 254.

*Editor's Note: Jim served with 1 Section I Platoon Alpha Company from 8 May to 6 July 1966, before being medivaced to hospital in Australia.*

## VIETNAM TASK REPRINT

The association has received a 'Saluting Their Service' Commemorative Grant from the government to re-print and digitise 'Vietnam Task'. First published in 1968 by 5 RAR veteran Robert O'Neill, this important history of 5 RAR's first tour of Vietnam and the early days of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War is still used as a teaching text in many military and tertiary institutions in the study of counter insurgency operations.



Publishing is being undertaken by ANU Press, with whom the association successfully partnered to publish 'Vietnam Vanguard' in 2020. The two books will become companion volumes with the same physical dimensions. The same photographs from the original edition will be used with high resolution copies of most being obtained from the Australian War Memorial to ensure they are of the highest quality.

A key addition to the re-print of 'Vietnam Task' is the inclusion of a new appendix, being the nominal role of all who served with the battalion on the 1966-67 tour of Vietnam. This will therefore make it a valuable keepsake for veterans and family members.

As the book will also be digitised, it will be available for future generations in a similar manner as 'Vietnam Vanguard'. It will be able to be downloaded for free on the ANU Press website or purchased in hard copy.

The project is now underway with publication to approximately be in September of this year. Further details of availability will be advised when known.

## B COMPANY 1969-70 REUNION

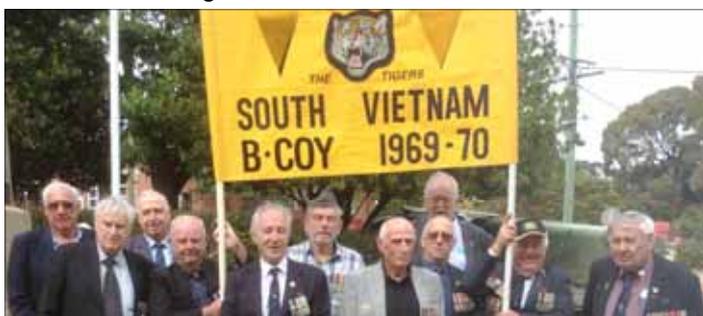
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B COMPANY TIGERS 2<sup>nd</sup> tour had a reunion in Margaret River WA. The reunion commenced on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April and concluded on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>. Reunion organisers Wally and Leonie Sanday said it was a great success, even though numbers were down due to COVIDSafe.

The Margaret River RSL and the District Club made everyone very welcome. The Dawn Service was well attended with approximately 500 people. At the morning service both sides of the Main Street were packed with cheering spectators. The main address was given by Margaret River Police Sergeant Simone Taplin. It was an excellent tribute to those who paid the supreme sacrifice for this wonderful country we live in.

Tigers attending were from Qld, NSW, VIC and SA and we appreciate the Diggers and partners for making the commitment to travel to WA for the reunion, we had a fabulous time together.



From left: Al Brooker, Lyal Mitchell, Peter Roberts, Jack Fenton, Mick Cox, Gary Coleman, Jim Chalker, Greg Dwiar, Blue Witford, Wally Sanday and Barry Ryan.

## B COMPANY 1966-67 REUNION

This year's B Company (first tour) get-together was attended by ten people at the Hamilton Hotel, Brisbane.

We held a short service in a park, on the river, opposite the hotel which was attended by John Reister, Kylie and Chris Hall (children of Jim Hall B Company and died in 1997), Bill Jarrett, Kerry White, John O'Callaghan, Max Morrow, Warren Binney, Kevin Butcher and Geoff Luck.

The park is the site for a stone that has a plaque attached for the Gateway Memorial. This plaque commemorates the first joint operation in 1941 between the RAAF, USAF and Qantas. A Qantas flying boat, Centaurus, landed on the river near the site with 27 US pilots who had come from the Philippines to train other pilots.

Next year's get-together will be held at Manly (Sydney) on 24 May, which is the anniversary of the death of Errol Noack, the first Nasho and first 5 RAR Digger killed in Vietnam.

Kerry White

## MORTAR PLATOON 1969-70

On the ANZAC Day weekend of this year, Mortar Platoon 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour members, held a reunion at Port Macquarie in NSW.

The photo below from left are; Peter McCauley, Doug Rattray, Guido Wagner, Peter Mitchell, Ian Harty, Ian Little and Lindsay Carlyon.



*Quote: "War is a fearful thing, but not so fearful that we should submit to anything in order to avoid it."*

*Polybius, Histories, IV*

## NOTICES

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES AND ENQUIRIES

All enquiries regarding membership, or changes and amendments to your contact details should be forwarded to:

Membership Officer, 5 RAR Association,  
82/117 Palm Meadows Drive, CARRARA, QLD, 4211.  
07 5594 4780 or [garyt.5rar@gmail.com](mailto:garyt.5rar@gmail.com)

### 5 RAR DARWIN VISITS PROCEDURE

If you are going to Darwin and would like to visit the Museum, please email [5rar.welfare@defence.gov.au](mailto:5rar.welfare@defence.gov.au) with your available dates and one of the team will get back to you with arrangements.

The Battalion will strive to arrange security requirements, if it is at all possible, to suit your travel time frame for you to visit Binh Ba Lines and the Museum.

### D COY 1969-70 – NEXT REUNION?

D Coy 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour has planned the next reunion, We currently Wauchope/Port Macquarie area. The timing will be from 2 to 5 May 2023.

For more information, please contact Bob Fenwick 0417 471 172 or [sendfenwick@bigpond.com](mailto:sendfenwick@bigpond.com)

### 2 PLATOON 1969-70 REUNION

A 2 Platoon 1969-70 reunion is to be held in Bright, Victoria, on the 18-19-20 of October, 2022. The venue will be the NRMA Bright caravan park. If any other Association members wish to attend they are most welcome.

For further information please contact Jeffrey Dennis on 0428 394 707 or by email at [rar05@bigpond.com](mailto:rar05@bigpond.com)



Max Morrow, Warren Binney, Kevin Butcher and Geoff Luck at the Memorial Stone.



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## RETURN TO VIETNAM 2022

### NATIONAL SERVICE RESEARCH PROJECT

#### INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Between 1965 and 1972, 63,740 young Australians were called up under the National Service scheme. 15,381 of them saw operational service in Vietnam. Of these, 200 died and 1279 were wounded.

The history of this period has been extensively chronicled in the Australian literature, but very little research has been conducted into the choices offered to these soldiers, and their attitudes to service.

Their service, like that of all soldiers, sailors and airmen, deserves to be thoroughly researched, remembered and chronicled.

In an effort to address this anomaly, I am working on a master's thesis supervised through the University of Southern Queensland. If you are an ex-national serviceman, you are invited to participate.

I am seeking to recruit two groups of ex-national servicemen for interview.

The first group are those who volunteered for national service after reaching the age of eighteen years and nine months (early registration).

The second group are those who had their birthdates drawn in one of the sixteen ballots held between 1965 and 1972.

If you would like to participate, please make contact using the following email address – [nashosearch@gmail.com](mailto:nashosearch@gmail.com)

Please indicate which group you belong to. Detailed information, including a more comprehensive outline of the project will be provided to respondents. Deadline for completion of the project is July 2023.

*Editor's Note: Robert Whittaker is a National Serviceman who served in Vietnam with 7 RAR, from February until December 1970.*

### 2/5<sup>th</sup> BATTALION 1945

Sergeant Clyde Regan and Corporal Reg Shoesmith, both of the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, observing an air strike by RAAF Beauforts on Japanese positions in New Guinea, July 1945.

Note the .303 Vickers in the foreground with "black beauty" written on the water jacket.



With the passing of less Covid restriction laws I was able to head back to South Vietnam to do my annual poppy run. Those who know me will know that each pre-Covid year, I travelled back to SVN to honour my young brother Richard Wayne Sandow, B Company 1966-67 Tour.

Richard, or Dick as he was known, along with six other 5 RAR members and two members of 3 Cav came to grief in the Long Hai hills on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1967.

What I have done now for several years pre-Covid, is rather than fight my way into the ever changing jungle to what we think was the actual site is to place my 9 poppies in the Long Hai Temple. The temple people have only been too pleased to allow me to do that and one year actually opened the place up for me to do my poppy tribute.



The red poppies located on the altar decoration.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June the temple people took my poppies and placed them high up on the temple altar, rather than placing them in the Ceremonial Urn with the smouldering incense sticks.

The main man approached my Vietnamese mate and said, "We remember this man from other years but we haven't seen him for two years now".

My guide replied, "Thanks to Covid".

"You tell him that he is very welcome to bring his poppies here every time." he answered.

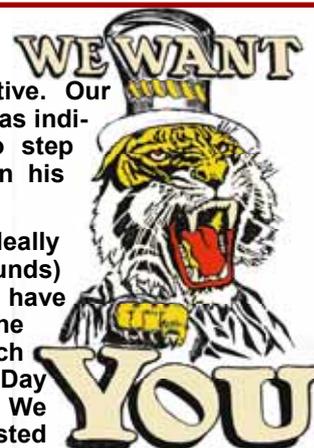
It actually bought me a little undone, as I have often wondered what the temple staff thought of this foreigner who keeps putting poppies in their urn with sand.

Perhaps it is the respect and the wanting to move on that we share.

Bob Sandow

The Association has a vacancy on the Committee for the Queensland Representative. Our current Rep, Vince Feenstra has indicated that he would like to step aside, as he concentrates on his ongoing health matters.

The man we are seeking ideally should be Brisbane (or surrounds) based, as that person would have the responsibility of being "the keeper of the banner" which should be on call for Anzac Day Marches and similar events. We ask that any persons interested in taking on this role to contact the Association Secretary, Geoff Pearson, either on 0417 223 001 or by Email at: [secretary@5rar.asn.au](mailto:secretary@5rar.asn.au)





5<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
The Royal Australian Regiment Association Inc



**NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2022-23**

In accordance with Clause 18 of the 5 RAR Association Constitution nominations are called for committee membership for the year 2022-23. All current office holders retire in accordance with the Constitution and are eligible for re-election.

**Nomination Form**

**1. Nomination of Candidate**

Name of Nominee: [please print] ..... is nominated for the position of [specify as appropriate - President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, 8 ordinary committee members.]

[position].....for the year 2022-2023

**Nominator:** [signature]: .....

Name: [please print] ..... Date: .....

**Secunder:** [signature] .....

Name: [please print] ..... Date: .....

**2. Acceptance by Nominee**

I accept this nomination.

..... Date: .....  
[Signature of Nominee]

OFFICE USE ONLY  
Noted as received by Secretary  
..... Date: .....

Nominators and seconders are to be financial members of the Association. Completed nomination forms should be with the Secretary before **22 September 2022**. They may be posted to **5 RAR Association, PO Box 698, CARINGBAH, NSW 1495** or scanned and emailed to the Secretary at **secretary@5rar.asn.au** Further copies of the nomination form can be obtained from the Secretary at the above email address.

