



TIGER TALES



Issue 64 August 2023

Newsletter of 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association (Inc)

We are all Tigers together.

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BUSHMASTER COURSE REINFORCES TIES

Soldiers from the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) Peacekeeping Centre proudly stood on parade at the Gary Holmes Centre at 5 RAR, after completing comprehensive training on the Bushmaster PMV.

Originally announced in 2021, the Parliament of Indonesia formally accepted the gift of 15 Bushmaster PMVs in April.

Within a matter of weeks, 25 TNI soldiers touched down in Darwin to begin a comprehensive training package on the patrol vehicles, covering basic operation, challenging 4x4 operations, vehicle maintenance and communications equipment, provided by Thales Digital Systems.

MAJ Matt Breckenridge, seconded to the TNI Peacekeeping Centre, was in Darwin overseeing the training.

In the driver portion, students started in the vehicle simulator where they covered basic PMV operation before moving onto the real thing and into the training area to tackle complicated terrain and water crossings.

The TNI soldiers then covered off on maintenance and basic servicing.

Interpreters provided translation, as TNI students were selected for their mechanical proficiency rather than their ability to speak English. This meant the training was able to tackle more in-depth and skilled maintenance issues.

“The purpose was to give these soldiers the skills they need to safely operate and maintain the vehicles and associated communications equipment in austere environments,” MAJ Breckenridge said.

“The Bushmaster is particularly well suited to missions where there is an increased risk of ambush, mines or improvised explosive devices, which are common to the mission areas where TNI conduct peacekeeping operations.”

MAJ Breckenridge noted the TNI were the seventh largest contributor to global peacekeeping operations in terms of personnel and equipment, with more than 2500 members deployed at any one time.

Two of the PMVs used in the training were already sporting their internationally recognisable United Nations livery, which Maj Breckenridge said was an important reminder of the work they were doing.

“We’re very proud to be able to support them in developing that peacekeeping capability,” he said.

There was also a vital integration piece to the training, in keeping with the Defence Strategic Review’s emphasis on Indo-Pacific partnerships.

The TNI soldiers got the chance to experience the Top End, while building relationships with their hosts at 5RAR.

MAJ Breckenridge even took the TNI contingent fishing, where they hauled in a very respectable catch.

“The more exposure we can give TNI and Australian soldiers to working with each other, the better we understand one another and work together,” he said.



TNI soldiers conduct vehicle maintenance on a Bushmaster PMV under the guidance of 5 RAR personnel.

28 FEBRUARY 2023 WAS THE END OF THE MEMBERSHIP PERIOD!

Please see page 19 for more details.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

G'Day to all members of the Tiger Battalion Association, families and friends,

There is a lot to report on in this issue of Tiger Tales so I will get straight onto it.

As you will see in the pages that follow, the current Officers and Soldiers of the 5th Battalion are incredibly busy both in Australia and a variety of overseas locations. If they are not the busiest unit in the Australian Army at the moment they would be bloody close to it. I encourage you all to read those stories in their words and see the breadth and depth of what they have been up to.



Dave French

I was fortunate to visit the Battalion for Binh Ba Week with a number of other Association members and families. To see the Battalion in action first hand was absolutely brilliant. The members of the Battalion are fit, motivated, dedicated and able to apply their soldierly skills in a variety of different combat situations. The friendships established between the visiting Association members and soldiers were excellent and I hope that many of those bonds are maintained in the coming months. Our thanks to the CO, RSM and everyone involved for looking after us so well.

On the commemorative front there are a number of major activities coming up in the next month. The 50th anniversary of end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War will be commemorated on 18th August with a National Service at the Vietnam Memorial in Canberra. Geoff Pearson will be our official representative for the occasion and for anyone else making the trip to Canberra we will secure a function room close for afterwards.

In the same month I will attend the Royal Australian Regiment Association National Council Meeting. At this meeting we, along with the 5th/7th Battalion Association, will present initial plans for that Association to be integrated into ours. This follows on from our AGM last year where the motion to conduct planning and preparation for this merger was passed and we intend to formalise this at our AGM later this year.

The notice for the AGM is enclosed in this issue. This will be the most important one for some years as we will be discussing the above merger, website update and other membership issues. I urge all who are able to attend to do so in person and for those who can not travel, to request the dial in link so your voice can be heard and your vote counted. There is no point in anyone not making an effort for either of those issues and then complaining afterwards if you disagree.

We are currently updating our website to modernise it's appearance, management and storage of our collective history. This is a necessary but expensive step that has been offset by a grant from DVA thanks to the hard work of Ted Harrison. Ted and I will be working with the web developers to ensure the best user experience for our members. Part of this update will include the development of a membership portal where only our registered, financial members can access. This will become the key loca-

tion for the storage of Tiger Tales and much of our history. If you do not have an active email address then you will need to get one to access this area.

In addition, as our membership slowly declines before the next tranche of modern veterans joins the Association we need to reduce costs. Our current biggest operating cost is the printing and production of Tiger Tales. We have reduced this slightly in the past couple of years but need to take larger steps here. We can not allow this cost to continue at a time our income is decreasing so I plan for us to move to a fully online production of Tiger Tales within the next 12 months. This will require our members to have an active email account as above. While this may be an unpopular move it is a necessary one. For those who do not believe they have the technical know-how to receive the report in electronic form we will look to assist you with programs to help you set up and account and access to the portal.

Finally, Don Spinks the Repatriation Commissioner has ended his term 12 months early. As an interim measure DVA has appointed Glen Ferrarotto as the interim Commissioner for a period of three months. Glen is a veteran of 5/7 RAR and served in the Middle East as a vehicle mechanic. It would be a great step for DVA if his position was made substantive in the coming months. We will wait and see.

Take care and I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Duty First.

Dave French



MTF-2 AFGHANISTAN 2010-11

Officer Commanding (OC) of Mentor Team Delta, Major Roy Henry (left) shows the Commanding Officer of the Mentoring Task Force - Two (MTF-2), Lieutenant Colonel Darren Huxley around a patrol base in the Chorah Valley region of southern Afghanistan.





G'day Tigers,

It is again my privilege to write to the Tiger Community and provide you with an update from the Battalion on what we have been up to, some of the Tigers achievements and what we are doing for the remainder of 2023. Since I last wrote you before ANZAC Day, the men and women of the Tiger Battalion has been doing an outstanding job representing all of you who have proudly served in this fighting battalion.



LTCOL Chris Gilmore

To provide an overview, our Tigers have been keeping busy across the Northern Territory, the near region and the globe, placing their Duty First in their every endeavour. The Tigers have participated in named operations, security cooperation activities, and ceremonial activities for Binh Ba Week, individual training and collective training. We have been able to welcome home the first rotation of Operation Kudu from the United Kingdom just before ANZAC Day, and their efforts under the leadership of Major Greg Sargeant are to be commended; I hope that it is a matter of pride for our original Tigers that the Fifth Battalion had the honour and privilege of again being the Vanguard into an operation of national significance.

With the return of the first rotation of Operation Kudu, we also had the opportunity to farewell the second rotation of Operation Kudu under the command of Major Sam Hand. The team for the second rotation followed in the outstanding foundation set by rotation one, executing their mission with sense of purpose and were proud to represent the nation in this important mission. Whilst the second rotation were deployed, they also participated in a number of ceremonial activities for ANZAC Day, supporting the Australian High Commission. They were recently welcomed home to Darwin just before Territory Day (01 July 23) to be reunited with their loved ones and mates in the Top End, prior to taking some well-earned leave. We farewelled the Third rotation of Operation Kudu recently, also drawn from the Tiger Battalion, and they are currently on the ground in the United Kingdom continuing the work of their mates deployed before them.

Aside from Operation Kudu, the battalion has been training in conventional warfighting, firstly with the successful completion of the Section Commanders Battle Course, where Bravo Company took the lead for training the next group of soldiers for the most important command in the battalion – Section Command. The course was rigorous, competing with a prolonged Darwin wet season, but the determination of the course enabled its successful completion. Concurrent to the Section Commanders Battle Course (Sub 2 CPL), Charlie Company completed an Advanced Small Craft Operators Course, enhancing the ability of our Tigers to operate across the waters of the Northern Territory. As important as some of our individual and small team training was, we also had the opportunity to participate in Exercise Pacific Kukri with our teammates from C Company, 1st Battalion, the Royal Gurkha Rifles out of Brunei, and we were able to welcome the Gurkhas to Darwin just in time to ensure they were a part of the Battalions ANZAC Day commemorations.

Our key collective warfighting activity occurred across the month of May with Exercise Pacific Kukri/ Exercise Tigers Run, where the Battalion deployed to Mount Bunde Training Area with the Gurkhas, US Marines of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin (MRF-D) and our brothers and sisters across the First Brigade, namely 103 Battery and the 9th Field Squadron of Combat Engineers Regiment (1 CER). The activity was an opportunity to conduct blank and live fire multi-national combined arms training up to Battalion level, with the exercise culminating in a Battalion level live-fire assault supported by two Batteries of 155mm Artillery (103 Battery and Kodiak Battery USMC), two platoons of 81mm Mortars (5 RAR and MRF-D), the MRF-D Combined Anti-Armour Team (CAAT), Direct Fire Support Weapons (DFSW) Platoon and point fire support from Snipers of all participating units.

With the training that has been conducted so far, the Tiger Battalion has also completed two key ceremonial activities, ANZAC Day and Binh Ba week over 5-8 June 2023. ANZAC Day was an excellent opportunity to share the commemoration with the Gurkhas and to invite the Marines of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment to join us for the Dawn Service, the march through Darwin and later for lunch. We were very fortunate that the Gurkhas were able to offer a cultural exchange, providing Nepalese Curry for lunch, melon carving and a ceremonial display of their Kukri drill.

Binh Ba week was a great success this year, where we were able to welcome a number of past veterans on the Tiger Battalion, and also veterans of the 5th/7th Battalion that also proudly soldiered under the Tiger banner during their service. The week commenced with a welcome for all past members of the Battalion, with the Soldier and Veteran Dining-In Night being excellently supported. There was a small amount of parade rehearsal prior to the Army Combatives afternoon, and we concluded the week on the Thursday with a ceremonial parade, professional military education and an evening reception at the Darwin Sailing Club.

It was an honour to be able to invite the veterans of the battalion to form up and march off the parade with the Battalion, and a number of acknowledgements need to be made for making the week what it was. The efforts of the RSM, WO1 Brad Foster, could not have been more in making it the week that it was, and the presence of the veterans of the battalion enabled the current custodians an opportunity to listen, learn and talk with those who have gone before us. I am beyond grateful that our Head of Corps, Brigadier Dave McCammon, DSM and Bar was able to review the Binh Ba parade; and for the professional education, the presentations made by Mr David Abols, DCM and Mr Jeff Moorcroft on their experiences of War in the Falkland Islands. The presentation on soldiering by Major Dave Allen OAM, and the overview of the Battle of Binh Ba, supported by Brian Bamblett and Steve Mackie, veterans of the battle made the experience of the week something to remember. Lastly the support of the Army Amenities Trust Fund was absolutely essential for the success of the week and their continued support is deeply appreciated.

The Tiger Battalion is currently on a period of reduced
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CO'S DESPATCH - Cont.

(Continued from page 3)

tempo for the Northern Territory school holidays as the team take some leave before we return and complete the remainder of the training season. We have Support Company courses about to get underway, and we will then pivot into Exercise Predators Run, our keystone activity for the year.

As always, we are very grateful for the continued support of the 5 RAR Association, and it was great for Dave French to be able to address the battalion and highlight the work of the association during Binh Ba week. I wish all Tigers a safe and successful second half of 2023, and I hope to see as many past members of the Battalion return next year.

Duty First!

Chris Gilmore

FROM THE BATTALION

OPERATION KUDU ROTATION 1 TRAINING TEAM



A British and Australian soldier at a UK Training Area, deployed on OP KUDU ROT 1, train Ukrainian recruits in patrolling.

The first half of 2023 saw members of Support Company execute the first rotation of OPERATION KUDU. This operation is the Australian contribution to the UK led training Mission to support Ukraine in training members for its war with Russia. Our rotation worked with the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU), The Irish Guards and New Zealand Defence Force to train civilians in basic field craft, urban warfare, trench warfare, Section level

FROM THE BATTALION - Cont.

OPERATION KUDU ROTATION 1 TRAINING TEAM - Cont.

offensive and defensive warfare, and tactical care of the combat casualty.

The training was delivered to around 400 AFU personnel, through two 5-week courses. Working with the AFU and learning about their fight was truly humbling. The training allowed us to develop our experience in training delivery, understanding of modern war and develop relationships with international partners.

We also had the opportunity to celebrate St David's day with the Welsh Guards at Elizabeth Barracks, in the historic town of Windsor. We were able to join the Welsh guards on parade and share in the day's festivities, which included a lunch, rugby match and dinner.

Looking forward, we in Support Company are getting back to our main role in delivering specialist effects to the Tiger Battalion during Exercise PACIFIC KUKRI, PREDATORS RUN, and running basic courses.

LT Luke Gollschewski

OPERATION KUDU ROTATION 1 - LIAISON OFFICER

2023 started with a bang for the 5 RAR members deployed on the inaugural rotation of OPERATION KUDU. While for many of the more senior members this was not their first hit out at an operational training task, for the current generation of junior soldiers and officers this was their first time working overseas on the behalf of the Australian Government. After a quick stopover in Dubai where the contingent generously stimulated the local economy, they found themselves in the very cold and very grey south of England. After a quick orientation into the mission, the team was set to work. The task provided to the Australians by the British was not a simple one, train 400 Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) recruits over two, five week courses so that they might support upcoming summer offensives.

This was no easy undertaking as the training teams would discover while dealing with the language gap, freezing cold and unfamiliar terrain, however they were not alone. In support they had a fully manned CHQ, a logistics cell, a training cell and medical embeds supporting training and the welfare of both trainers and trainees. Finally, they also had had a Liaison Officer (LO) spun up from within the unit. The role of the LO is really quite simple and split into



OP KUDU ROTATION 1 Training team members – 5RAR Soldiers, UK Army soldiers and Ukrainian recruits.



OPERATION KUDU ROTATION 1 LIAISON OFFICER - Cont.

two components. Firstly, there is the fulfilment of an existing OPS role within the HQ. In this case the role in question was identified by the series of numbers and letters, SO3G4. Broken down this just means Staff Officer 3 (read OPS Captain) Ground 4, the latter of which is the NATO nomenclature for describing the cell responsible for logistics operations within the HQ of any ground element.

Secondly and vastly more importantly is the actual liaison function. This boils down to the LO having a complete understanding of both their organic element and also the operation as a whole. For example, when the OC of the contingent asks what brigade's intention is regarding the introduction of night firing serials to the training, it is on the LO to be able to answer this immediately. In the same way, when the One Star asks what the Australian Relief In Place (RIP) plan is 2 months out, the LO has to be able to respond. While this is the tactical effect of an LO, ensuring that Australia has a voice at the centre of the operation while enabling the day to day running of the mission through the filling of OPS roles, it could be said that there is a larger and more valuable effect from this position.

By working within the coalition HQ, the LO exposes Australian values and standards to a wide demographic of partners. For example, with the Operation Interflex HQ (the One Star HQ under which OP KUDU is deployed) there are 7 partner forces including the Kiwis, Dutch, Danes, Norwegians, Canadians, Maltese and Ukrainians. Not to mention the members from other British Services including Royal Marine Commandos, Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy. This results in a vast cross section of military professionals from around the world who now have a better understanding of what the Australian Army is all about and we, likewise have working relationships with and better understanding of many partner forces. The relationships developed through this position are truly its biggest strength outside its tactical role.

LT Timothy O'Mahony

SECTION COMMANDER BATTLE COURSE

'Can Tiger's Swim?'

Twelve Zodiac Combat Rubber Raiding Crafts, all carrying the future section commanders of 5 RAR, are cautiously navigating around the Beagle Gulf right off the coast of Gunn Point at around 0200 hours. They are still some six kilometres from the beachfront, where they are supposed to launch their silent assault for their final mission. The dazzling lights of Darwin City's coastline set against a background of total darkness, as well as the thankfully clear night sky filled with glowing stars and a crescent moon, both serve as useful navigational aids. However, the Coxswain of the leading Zodiac uses a compass and the Fusion Night Vision System (FNVS) to steer the convoy.

In order to signal the convoy to adopt a new formation, the bowman from the leading Zodiac grabs hold of two cyalumes (military grade glow sticks), one green and one red, and straightens his arms upward into a V-shape.

SECTION COMMANDER BATTLE COURSE

- Cont.

Each boat's bowman imitates this action to show that they acknowledge the command. To move the craft into place, the engines of every vessel roar and stir the surrounding water. This new formation marks an assault formation, postured to close in to the beach front.

Each soldier aboard the boat makes their final preparations. One puts his hand across his body armour to make sure each magazine is still in position, that his helmet is on properly, and that his weapon, which was placed between his legs for the insertion, has not moved. He is confident and prepared to make the landing.

The bowman calls out, "Ten minutes!"

The coxswain gives an easy thumbs up.



Charlie Company rehearse boat procedure during daytime, prior to SCBC night time infiltration.

When a military unit lands on a beach by boats and begins defending the area until reinforcing troops arrive, this temporary line is known as a beachhead. In a littoral military assault, landing and establishing a beachhead is a critical step. Once a sizable unit has been formed, the assaulting force can start moving inland. During this exercise, a small reconnaissance element made a clandestine land infiltration to find the threat, feed the information back to the commander and determine where the landing force should set up their beachhead using illuminating cyalumes hidden in the sand, camouflaged in the enemy's direction.

Three infrared lights are emitted from the beach front at a distance of around one km, side by side. The coxswain makes an effort to keep the centre lights on our axis aligned with one another so they can guide the boat's axis of advance towards the beach. The central lights are spaced about ten metres apart from one another ensuring the force lands precisely and accurately where they need to be.

The bowman pulls an oar out of the boat's floor and spears it into the water as the boats are one-hundred metres away, trying to gauge the depth. The boat's engine becomes quieter as it gently approaches the beachfront.

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FROM THE BATTALION - Cont.

SECTION COMMANDER BATTLE COURSE

- Cont.

(Continued from page 5)

The Bowman murmurs, "One metre."

As the engine is shut off, the final advance is made using the inertia of the boat.

The Bowman signals that he can safely escape the craft as he raises his weapons. He leaps from the boat and drags the vessel to land by wafting through the sea.

Each craft's occupants disembark as it touches down, unclipping the necessary gear for the operation and establishing security. The boats move to a staging place after everything is ready, where they will wait for the attack to end. The landing force moves closer to the tree line, around two-hundred metres from the water, with rifles raised. The platoon commander spots a reconnaissance soldier trying to draw his attention with an infrared light as he crosses the beach.

This was the insertion component of the 2023 Section Commanders Battle Course, which culminated in a full mission profile consisting of an assault on Gunn Point. The task was to NEUTRALISE an enemy section, dug-in in vicinity of the beachfront.

In the modern operating environment, infantry section commanders are trained to command a section comprised of two fire teams in various terrain types, including the littoral space which has become an important part of 5 RAR operations. The section commander is taught to have a thorough understanding of mission command and be able to carry out the commander's intent. This activity was a way to assess the future section commander's ability to participate in a platoon attack in a relevant battlespace.

The Section Commander's Battle Course was managed by Bravo Company from the 30th of January to the 7th of April. Members from across the Tiger Battalion participated in the demanding curriculum of instruction that included rigorous physical training, leadership assessments, warfighting theory, and section administration in order to achieve the standards of an Infantry Section Commander.

In order to teach, test and improve on these skills, trainees were subject to a number of assessments. The first of which being their ability to deliver section level orders, which saw trainees conduct tactical exercises without troops (TEWTS) for offensive, defensive and stability actions. This assessment sees trainees being delivered a set of orders from their platoon commander. From this, they will take this information and conduct an appreciation of their instruction, write up a set of orders and disseminate this to their section. This is an essential skill for a section commander, as this determines their ability to plan, prepare and rehearse their section prior to stepping on task.

The next assessment is on their ability to command and control their section in the field environment, making up the practical component of the battle course. This saw the trainees conduct full mission profiles in and around Robertson Barracks, and the Close Training Area. This allowed them to understand how their tactical planning,

SECTION COMMANDER BATTLE COURSE

- Cont.

preparation and rehearsals from the TEWTS phase supports their command and control in the field environment.

The trainees completed a full mission profile outside of a typical training area and into an unfamiliar environment as the battle course's culmination. In a platoon urban raid of the Darwin Showgrounds and a following littoral assault onto the beaches of Gunn Point, three trainees serving as section commanders tested their knowledge and ability to command their sections. This involved a 6-hour infiltration using Zodiac small watercrafts from C Company. This exposure to platoon operations, as well as larger operational planning, allows the trainees to understand how their sections fit into a larger task.

The course of instruction was a huge success, with PTE McClure receiving the Senior Instructor's Award and PTE Cotter receiving the Student of Merit Award for demonstrating the highest and most outstanding qualities of an infantry section commander during the course's conduct.

LT Harrison Blain

EXERCISE PACIFIC KUKRI 23



Battlegroup Orders prior to the final trench system assault. Pictured left to right sitting on chairs: OC 'Lone Star' Lima Company USMC MAJ Dunlevy, OC Charlie Company 1 RGR MAJ Millar, OC Charlie Company 5 RAR MAJ Moulton.

As we reach the halfway mark of 2023, the members of Charlie Company hold their heads high, having successfully completed Exercise Pacific Kukri. Running over the April and May period, the exercise saw Charlie working alongside international partners turned friends from the 1st Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles Regiment (1 RGR) and United States Marine Corps (USMC) through the conduct of a littoral to urban Full Mission Profile (FMP) activity, field exercise, and live fire progression culminating in a combined arms battlegroup trench clearance.

After training the Gurkhas and Marines in the skills and drills needed to safely operate as passengers on board the F470 Zodiac, the small boat operators of Charlie Company kicked off Ex Pacific Kukri with the urban littoral FMPs. This activity saw Charlie providing littoral manoeuvre for the foreign forces, transiting by Zodiac from Larrakeyah Defence Precinct for an insertion at Elizabeth River under the cover over darkness. Once there, the foreign



EXERCISE PACIFIC KUKRI 23

- Cont.

force married up with Protected Mobility Vehicles (PMV) that would take them to objectives to be cleared, being non-defence training areas at the Darwin Showgrounds and Northern Transportable facility. Never ones to rest and let the glory be hogged, Charlie subsequently completed these tasks themselves in an opposed blue bolt clearance that demonstrated the Company's versatility in being able to provide both littoral manoeuvre and an urban raiding force, all organic to the Company.

Just a few short days following the conduct of the back to back all-nighter urban littoral FMPs, the Company moved back to the fundamentals of infantry soldiering, deploying to the ever harsh Mount Bundy Training Area for the field and live fire components of the exercise. During the field component, integration and interoperability was pushed even further, with 7 and 8 PL from Charlie Company 'swapping' with 1 RGR and USMC platoons respectively in a unique highlight opportunity for all. For the soldiers of 8 PL working as part of USMC 'Lonestar' Company under MAJ Dunlevy, the relentless enthusiasm and aggression of the marines proved infectious. Meanwhile those in 7 PL, working with Charlie Company 1 RGR under MAJ Millar, witnessed firsthand the sheer toughness and professionalism of their Ghurkha counterparts. The opportunity to integrate and work so closely with foreign counterparts truly was a highlight of the exercise, and the bond formed between soldiers was on full display through; the constant banter surrounding proper employment of the English language, the trading of cigarettes and ration packs, and relishing in the shared hardship that Mount Bundy Training Area brings.

With the field component concluded, it was time for another shift in effort, as the Company conducted a full live fire progression. Commencing with individual sneaker lanes, the Company's shooters moved all the way through pairs, fire teams, platoons, and finally culminating with company live fire attacks. During the culminating activity, soldiers partook in a clearance of a fully dug in trench position (courtesy of 1st Combat Engineer Regiment [1 CER]) that showcased the awesome firepower available to the 1st Brigade. Pre-H fire from 8/12th Regiment and both 5 RAR and USMC mortar platoons rained



Charlie Company 5 RAR crewing F470 Zodiacs to move Charlie Company 1 RGR soldiers to a Beach Landing Site.

EXERCISE PACIFIC KUKRI 23

- Cont.



Soldiers pose for group trilateral group photo during rehearsals of urban clearance training. Two soldiers from 1 RGR, two from USMC and two from 5 RAR.

down on the objective, as Charlie crept in to its Form Up Position (FUP) under the cover of darkness. As the Company closed with the objective, heavy machine gun fire from Direct Fire Support Weapons platoon combined with long range precision fires from 5 RAR and 1 RGR snipers further enabled the advance. An explosive breach from 1 CER cleared a lane in the enemy's defensive obstacles. Then it was over to Charlie, breaking in to the trench supported by a hail of 66mm rockets, 40mm grenade launcher rounds, hand grenades, and good old fashion aggressive fire and movement. Once in the trenches, hand grenades and close range shooting was joined by the faithful old bayonet in dispatching of the simulated enemy. To top it off, a live FGM-148 Javelin missile dissuaded an enemy counter attack. The all-encompassing nature of the clearance made it one that the soldiers of Charlie Company are unlikely to forget any time soon!

Exercise Pacific Kukri tested the soldiers of Charlie Company, calling on them to employ both the nascent small boats capability, as well as their standard conventional infantry skills in both urban and green role environments. As is always the case, the soldiers met the challenge head on, performing to an admirable standard and standing tall alongside equally professional allies from the Ghurkhas and USMC.

LT Dan Cahill

WEEPING POPPIES

*While walking by some flower beds,
I noticed how they bowed their heads,
Was it to say remember when,
We lost brave women, boys and men?
So long ago and yet today,
The poppy buds still seem to say,
We bend to show our sadness still,
And pray that people always will,
Remember those that gave their lives away,
Their lives for us to live today.*

Joan Mahony



BINH BA WEEK PHOTOS



The veterans who attended the weeks activities with Karen Patterson (Daughter JJ Kennedy).



The Harvey family visit the 5 RAR Museum and staff.



Shades of Canungra!



The Combatants Night.



Vets and soldiers at the Dining Night.

THANK YOU TO THE BATTALION

I have heard from most of the veterans and partners who attended the Binh Ba Week's activities in Darwin and Binh Ba Lines, Robertson Barracks and all of them have asked me to extend a 'thank you' to the Battalion.

The officers, other ranks and especially the 'Host Soldiers' made everything so easy, inclusive and enjoyable for the visitors, and they really appreciated it. The organisation of all the events held, was entertaining and excellent, as was the arrangements made to provide the buses when needed.

The Editor

BINH BA WEEK PHOTOS

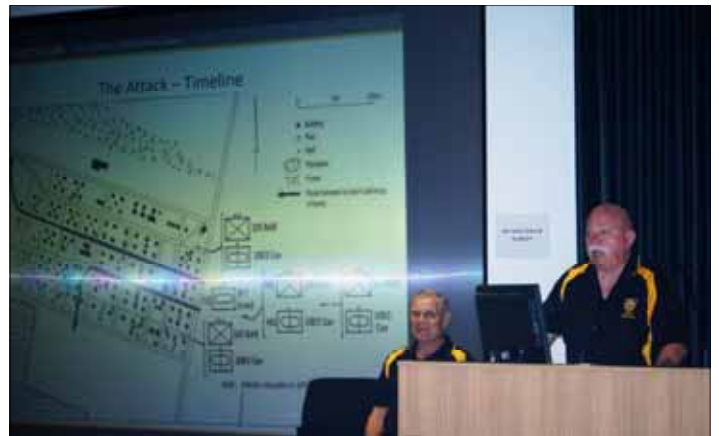
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The Battalion Parades with the King's and Regimental Colours while two Blackhawks do a 'fly-over'.



The 'Old Tigers' march off with 5 RAR.



Binh Ba presentation with S Mackie and B Bamblett.



Above are two groups of visitors enjoying the Cocktail Party and below shows how the dinner tables were set.





MTF-2'S OFFICIAL HISTORY



COL Darren Huxley DSC.

Dear MTF-2 Tigers,
 This month (June) I had the privilege of reading the draft chapters of MTF-2's tour that will form part of Volume IV of the Official History of the War in Afghanistan. This privilege is being extended to each of the commanding officers of the rotations by the Australian War Memorial project team. Our story is being written by the eminent historian Dr

Steven Bullard and is based on extensive interviews and archival research. As it is an official history it is necessarily less of a personal story of our tour and more of a summary of events that place our activities in the context of the overall war.

The chapters contain an overview of the issues and decisions that generated our battlegroup, our training regime and the tensions we dealt with while completing it and highlight the shifting currents of strategy both in Canberra and in-country that surrounded the development of our operational focus. It discusses the activities of each of the combat teams in their valleys but only in the broadest sense; describing each major operation and touching on framework patrolling very lightly. It also looks at the efforts of mentoring and liaison teams, the combat support team and the various logistic support efforts. Rightly, it touches on the circumstances around the tragic deaths that occurred during our tour and whether they may have been preventable or not. Finally, it finishes by discussing two of the issues we raised with higher command at the end; discipline in austere environments and the nature of counter-IED patrolling. Both are important subjects that we reflected on at the time and should rightly be part of the ongoing conversation about how we fought this war, and what that says about how others might fight future ones.

As I said, it is not a war story. There are few anecdotal stories of what life was like in a patrol base or how resilience and courage were on display across the battlegroup every day, and it mentions few people by name. It is a summary of the battlegroup's place in the complete picture of the Australian war effort rather than a detailed look at the stories of individuals. Regardless, it is a great summary and brought back some rewarding memories for me. From here it will move through a final editing and approval process before going to the printers; and I am told that we can expect to start seeing the published official histories in 2 or 3 years. If you are able, please pass this small update on to non-association MTF-2 colleagues.

Duty First

Darren Huxley,
 CO MTF2 2010-11.

B COY 1966-67 REUNION

The reunion has been held annually for some years on 24 May, the anniversary of Errol Noack's death in Vietnam in 1966 - he was the first member of the Battalion and the first Nasho to die in the war. Next year's reunion will be at Coolangatta/Tweed Heads. The photo, by an anonymous passer-by, was taken near the Manly War Memorial which coincidentally has the name of Bruce McQualter, the B Company OC who was killed in Vietnam. At this year's B Company (1966-67) reunion was at Manly NSW and the photo shows (from left - rear) Bob Harbour, Bev and Nev Bryant, Geoff Luck, Barry Campbell, Kerry White, Warren Binney, John O'Callaghan, Tom Griffiths, John Murphy; and (front) Marcelle Griffiths, Kev Butcher, Max Morrow, Kev Borger, Lou O'Dea, Ivan Kustreba, Brian Murphy, Kay Murphy (wife of John) and Carmel O'Dea.



Guests were Brian Murphy, a Reserve Captain with 2 Commando who spent a couple of days with 5 Platoon as part of a Commando visiting group; and Barry Campbell, an Artillery FO (Lieutenant) with D Company.

Kerry White

MUSEUM CONTRIBUTION

Hayden 'Goldie' Gilbank (both Tours) presents LTCOL Chris Gilmore with a tin of ANZAC biscuits, which has a photo of Goldie from Vietnam on it to the Museum. (See article TTs April, page 19.)



2023-24 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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Income and Expenditure Statement - July 2022 to June 2023

<u>INCOME</u>	2022-23	2021-22
Membership Subscriptions	20,811.00	2,500.00
Sales/Memorabilia	5,694.00	1,713.00
Postage	10.00	0.00
Donations	1,896.22	254.15
DVA Grant - STS. (Note 1)	10,000.00	4,150.00
Term Deposit Interest Income	202.92	282.59
Total Income	38,614.14	8,899.74
<u>COST OF SALES</u>		
Memorabilia	2,932.25	1,108.10
Total Cost of Sales	2,932.25	1,108.10
GROSS PROFIT	35,681.89	7,791.64
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Bank Fees	0.00	1.51
Donations - to other ESO.	0.00	3,000.00
Donations - Miscellaneous	200.00	
DVA Grant - STS	7,535.00	4,020.01
Floral Tributes	200.00	
Fees/Licences/Registration	100.44	48.21
Internet/Website	259.00	278.90
Postage & Stationery	1,225.07	539.98
Miscellaneous Expenses	4,302.45	300.00
Tiger Tales (Print & Post)	10,869.85	9,079.73
Total Expenses	24,691.81	17,265.32
NET PROFIT (LOSS)	10,990.08	9,473.68

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023

<u>ASSETS</u>		
General Cheque Account (Old)	892.00	49,553.97
General Cheque Account (New)	26,792.53	
5 RAR Reunion Account	50.30	50.20
TERM DEPOSIT 50296157 (Note 2)	50,148.56	\$21,095.82
TERM DEPOSIT 50296165 (Note 3)	25,260.38	\$22,110.20
Stock on Hand	19,524.40	\$18,867.90
Total Assets	122,668.17	111,678.09
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Trade Creditors. (Note 4)	8,525.00	0.00
Total Liabilities	8,525.00	0.00
NET ASSETS	114,143.17	111,678.09
<u>EQUITY</u>		
Retained Earnings	111,714.48	121,188.16
Current Earnings	2,465.08	9,473.68
Historical Balancing of Reunion Account (O/Balance brought on to Balance Sheet)	36.39	36.39
TOTAL EQUITY	114,143.17	111,678.09

- Notes:**
1. Saluting Their Service (STS) Grant for upgrade of website
 2. Maturity date 4 Nov 2023. Interest Rate 3.35%
 3. Maturity date 4 Feb 2024. Interest Rate 4.00%
 4. Balance of Invoices ex Positive Design - To be paid on completion.



IN MEMORIAM

3786823 JOHANNES GERHARDUS NYHUIS
9 March 1945 - 2 April 2023

PTE Johannes 'John' Nyhuis died on Sunday 2 April, in his local hospital.

John was a member of the 1st intake National Service, he completed his recruit training at 2 RTB. In late 1965 he was transferred directly to 7 PI, C Coy, 5 RAR to undergo his Infantry Corps training. He then joined the Band, as a drummer, and was attached to 4 PI as a stretcher-bearer. On 21 February 1967 he was involved in the Long Hai mine incident. In this occurrence 7 men were killed, died of wounds and 22 men were wounded in action, including John.

**2789735 LINDSAY FRANCIS HARROLD**
21 October 1947 - 4 April 2023

PTE Lindsay 'Mitzu' Harrold died peacefully on Tuesday 4 April, exactly 54 years after his being wounded-in-action.

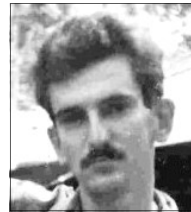
Lindsay completed his recruit training at 3 RTB and was transferred to 5 RAR to receive his Corps training. He deployed to Vietnam as a member of 4 Sec, 11 PI, D Coy in Feb 1969. After a little over two months in country, he was severely wounded-in-action on 4 April 1969. This occurred while involved in a bunker contact during Operation Federal Overlander in Long Khan Province. Lindsay was medivaced to Australia on 21 April 1969.

**335113 ROBERT JOHN O'NEILL**
5 November 1936 - 19 April 2023

CAPT Robert 'Bob' O'Neill died peacefully on Wednesday 19 April, in hospital.

Bob graduated from the RMC-D in 1958. He deployed to Vietnam in May 1966 as 2IC of B Coy. He deployed to Vietnam on 12 May 1966 as 2IC of B Company. In early August Bob was appointed as the Intelligence Officer with BHQ, he retained that position until he RTA'ed with the advance party on 27 April 1967 and was Mentioned in Despatches.

Professor O'Neill AO had an illustrious career as an author, historian and internationally renowned academic.

43217 JOHN DAVID KLOSE
27 October 1945 - 31 May 2023

LCPL John Klose passed away on Wednesday 31 May in South Australia.

John enlisted in 1963, did his recruit training at 1 RTB and then attended Infantry Centre, Ingleburn. In December 1963 he was posted to 2 RAR until Jan 1966. John was transferred to ADM Coy 5 RAR, in the QM's area and deployed to Vietnam in May 1966 and remained there until May 1967. John deployed to Vietnam with the Battalion on 10 May 1966 and remained there until 9 May 1967. John had two other postings and discharged from the Army in April 1978.

212984 ALAN GEOFFREY EVANS
21 June 1930 - 9 June 2023

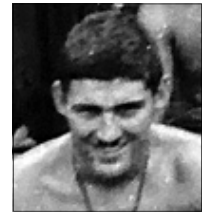
CPL Alan Evans passed away on Friday 9 June, he passed peacefully at Calvary Hospital in Wagga Wagga.

He was a member of Australian Army Catering Corps and deployed to Vietnam with A Coy 5 RAR on 8 May 1966 returning on 3 April 1967. Alan served overseas in Japan, Korea, Malaya and New Guinea. He also had been a member of 1 RAR, 2 RAR and 3 RAR over his 31 years he served with the Citizens Military Force, Regular Army Special Reserve and the Australian Regular Army.

**4717402 ROBERT HAMILTON NAISMITH**
28 January 1945 - 25 June 2023

LCPL Robert 'Bob' Naismith died on Sunday 25 June in Adelaide.

Bob was called up in the first national service intake and underwent basic training at 2 RTB, Puckapunyal. Upon completion of basic training, he was posted to 5 RAR to complete his Corps Training with 9 PI, C Coy. In November Bob was transferred to Mortar PI, ADM Coy, where he served for the duration of his time with 5 RAR. He returned to Australia, with the Battalion, aboard HMAS Sydney and docking in Sydney on 12 May 1967.

**16039 LLOYD NOEL ROYAL**
27 November 1941 - 27 June 2023

LCPL Lloyd 'Snow' Royal passed away on Tuesday 27 June in Queensland.

Snow first enlisted in the ARA for 6 years in 1961, after his discharge he re-enlisted in 1968. He deployed to Vietnam, in January 1969, as Genghis Khan's batman, the position that he served the full tour in. When Murray Blake, as a LT, joined 3 RAR in 1961 Snow was appointed as his batman. Snow had also served in 2 RAR, 3 RAR, 6 RAR, 8/9 RAR and 9 RAR as well as other postings. He took his discharge from the ADF in November 1996.

5715800 RONALD TREVOR BAMFORD
19 July 1947 - 27 June 2023

PTE Ronald 'Ron' Bamford died on Tuesday 27 June in Perth Hospital.

Ron was a National Serviceman (NS) who was a member of the 1 May 1968 NS intake. He received his recruit training at 2 RTB, Puckapunyal. He was then transferred to 5 RAR to complete his Corps Training. Ron deployed to Vietnam with the Battalion in February 1969. He served as a rifleman with 3 Section, 10 Platoon, D Company. Ron was returned to Australia on 5 March 1970, due to his term of NS about to be completed.

IN MEMORIAM - Cont.

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55071 GREGORY NORMAND NEGUS 26 October 1939 – 13 July 2023



LT Gregory Negus passed away on Thursday 13 July in the Joondalup Health Campus, Perth.

Greg joined the CMF in May 1959 and in May 1965 transferred to the ARA, when he joined 5 RAR. Greg deployed to Vietnam as OC of 11 PI, in April 1966 with the Advance Party. In he moved to TPT PI, and completed the 1966-67 Tour. Greg returned to Australia on 12 May 1967. He rejoined 5 RAR in 1972 as OC of C Coy. With forming of 5/7 RAR in 1973, he joined as OC of ADM Coy. He completed 27 years of ADF service.

61759 PAUL STUART CAIRNS 17 November 1949 - 21 June 2022

We have belated been notified of the death of PTE Paul Cairns, who passed away on Tuesday 21 June 2022.

Paul deployed to Vietnam, with the Battalion, on 8 February 1969 as a member of 3 Sec, 10 PI, D Coy. He was medically evacuated to Australia on 1 October 1969.

OPERATIONAL MENTORING AND LIAISON TEAM - 2010



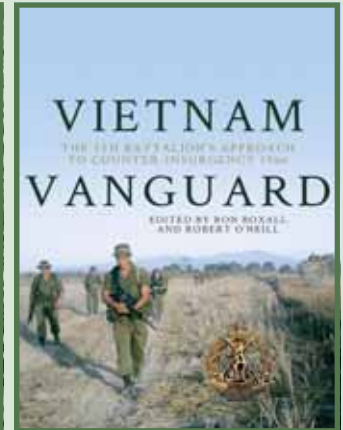
PTE Tom Jane (MAG 58 gunner) takes a knee during an unpartnered security patrol lead by WO2 Trevor Lynch (Troop Sergeant Major 33D) in the village of Yatimak. The patrol denied Insurgents the freedom of movement and gave Combat Team Charlie (CTC) a greater understanding of the human terrain in that area of the Deh Rawud District, Afghanistan.

PTE Tom Jane would have a very close call whilst in combat employing that same weapons system in the Tangi Valley only a few months later. "A round hit the side of my barrel and it split the side of the flash suppressor." PTE Jane said. (See page 10 *Tiger Tales* issue 28.)

An Operation Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) or "Mentor Team" consists of 2 infantry sections and attachments from Combat Engineers, Artillery - JTAC (Joint Terminal Attack Controller) and JFO (Joint Fire Observer) as well as a Combat Medic.

'VIETNAM TASK' AND 'VIETNAM VANGUARD'

Discounted hard copy printing is now available for 5 RAR Association Members for the following.



Having solved arrangements with a new contracted printer, our publisher ANU Press, have advised that hard copies of both '*Vietnam Task*' and '*Vietnam Vanguard*' are now available for purchase at a discounted rate for 5 RAR members via their shopping cart.

Members are reminded that this Third Edition of *Vietnam Task* has been enhanced with improved maps and a new Appendix C which is a nominal role of all who served on the 1966-67 tour of Vietnam. This makes this new edition an important family keepsake.

The RRP for '*Vietnam Task*' is \$44.95 and with a 20% discount is \$35.96. Go to the shopping cart at website at <http://doi.org/10.22459/VT.2022> and apply the discount code **5RAR20**

The RRP for '*Vietnam Vanguard*' is \$79.95 and with a 20% discount is \$63.96. Go to the shopping cart here <http://doi.org/10.22459/VV.2019> and apply the discount code **5RAR20**

AN UNKNOWN DEPOSIT

On Friday 2 December, 2022, a member of the association transferred \$70.00 into the Association bank account with the reference 'Membership and stickers', but without a name. We would like to credit the payment to the individual's records, but it is very hard to do so without a name.

Please contact Gary Townsend on 0412 767 975 or at garyt.5rar@gmail.com and inform us which bank the money was transferred from so that we can correct your record.



QLD



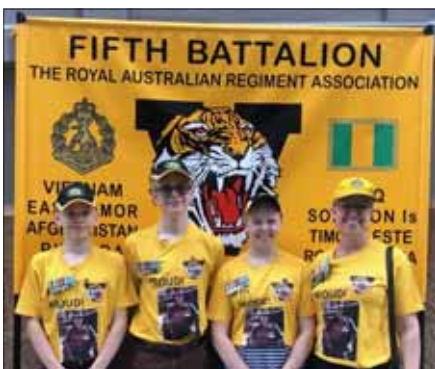
There have been several events and activities occurring around the state, and further abroad. In April, Tigers from all over the state congregated with mates to attend dawn services and participate in local parades. The streets of Brisbane were filled with onlookers all paying tribute to the memory and sacrifices of our Anzacs and were very rowdy in cheering the parade groups as they passed by. A big thank you goes out to all the services that combined to make the event safe for all. On the 5 RAR Association front it was an amazing day with Tigers, young and old, meeting up to represent the Battalion. A big shout out goes to the Stamp family who led the parade carrying our



They are all Tigers together in Brisbane.

banner. In June, Tigers converged on Darwin to honour and remember the Battle of Binh Ba, being hosted by the Battalion CO and RSM. Kerry Owen and his wife have mentioned how wonderfully all were treated. For those of us that were unable to attend it has been great to see the memories shared across different social media platforms. On behalf of the QLD Tigers, I pass on a sincere thanks to all members of the 5th Battalion for hosting a memorable parade and dining evening. Moving into August there will be national commemorations marking the 50th Anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Important information on official commemorations can be found on the DVA website.

On other matters, QLD Tigers will be standing by to attend the next association AGM to discuss a number of very important matters, and there will be a period of over-



The proud banner bearers were the grandchildren of Chuck Stamp, Nicholas, Thomas and Olivia, shown here with their mother, Rachel Vivian.

watch on the Defence and the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal for the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation. Lastly, Darren Huxley, Commanding Officer Mentoring Task Force 2 (MTF2) recently wrote to the association advising that he has had the privilege of reading the

QLD - Cont.



draft chapters of MTF-2's tour that will form part of Volume IV of the Official History of the War in Afghanistan. This privilege is being extended to each of the commanding officers of the rotations by the Australian War Memorial project team. Our story is being written by the eminent historian Dr Steven Bullard and is based on extensive interviews and archival research. As it is an official history it is necessarily less of a personal story of our tour and more of a summary of events that place our activities in the context of the overall war. The Official History of the War in Afghanistan is planned to be published in the next two to three years.



Kerry Owen, Bill Tittley and Dave Thompson on the Gold Coast.

In closing, QLD membership remains strong with work continuing to reengage lapsed memberships. To any of the current serving Tigers that originate from QLD or plan to relocate to QLD after service, we encourage you to get engaged with the association to be connected and continue the legacy of our Vietnam veterans. On behalf of all, take care and stay safe.

Jason Johnson

WA



Although it looked like raining on our parade, this did not eventuate and so the 5 RAR contingent marched down St Georges Terrace, Perth, for our ANZAC Day commemoration, without any rain.



Some of the WA men marching in Perth.

This year perhaps for the first time our younger veterans from East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan, outnumbered our older members from Vietnam. This was a wonderful sight and three of these younger members marched in front of the banner, with Ivan Leach carrying a photo of all those who have died on operation with the Battalion, including our loss in Afghanistan. The banner itself was carried by two of the younger veterans and demonstrates a chang-

AROUND THE STATES - Cont.

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WA - Cont.

ing of the guard for our Association here in WA.

The March Organising Committee accepted our request by positioning a band closer to the 5 RAR contingent for the march along St Georges Terrace.

Following the march there was a large gathering at our usual place of 43 Below. Our members were joined by many family members which made it a wonderful and enjoyable day for all.

Our next event will be Vietnam Veterans Day on 18th of August 2023, and will be held at 43 Below.

Ray Ward



TAS

Congratulations to Terese Binns (wife of Wayne Binns, Mortar PI 2nd Tour) for the award of the OAM in the King's Birthday Honour List.

This was for services to the veteran community. Terese drove the Veterans' Community bus in the north of the State for 20 years.

Wayne and Terese are excellent members and always attend State association activities.

Once again congratulations Terese.

Kevin Mulligan



NSW

Sydney Anzac Day march numbers were down a fraction but the men were all ready to go. After the march we moved on to our watering hole. It was good to see some family members there to give us old-timers a healthy support.



The Sydney men awaiting march off and were to be led by David Wilkins (2nd Tour) and Tony White (1st Tour).

Our pre-Christmas function will be held on Friday 1 December, same place, same time, as last year.

Barney Ruttle



SA



Tim Karasoulos, Greg Dwiar, Allan Tuckfield carrying Australian Flags for our members KIA in SVN.

Ron Gaskin led 35 elder Tigers in Adelaide for this year's ANZAC Day march, a good turnout as a few attended reunions interstate, with Blue Schafer joining us from NSW.

Greg Dwiar

LEGACY RELAY GRAFTON

This photo below shows my daughter Sjane (pronounced Shauna) and myself in Memorial Park, Grafton on 26th of June 2023. Sjane had happily been selected to carry the Legacy Torch for one of the legs through the streets of Grafton.

Ron 'Shoey' Shoebridge
The Band 1966-67





OPERATION KUDU-5 RAR'S ROTATION 2

The third rotation of Ukrainian recruits has commenced initial training with Australian Army soldiers as part of Operation Kudu in the United Kingdom.

The early wake-up calls and uniform checks are not dissimilar from any Australian initial military training course.

The difference? In just five weeks' time, the recruits will graduate from the course with skills to defend their home country in a real conflict.

They are being made ready by skilled Australian Army instructors, who are teaching weapon handling and firing, rural and urban fighting, trench warfare and medical survival skills.

Each lesson is built from the experience of the Ukrainian troops, who have fought hard over the past year.

Many of the recruits are university students and everyday employees.

"From the first time they picked up a weapon, their commitment was obvious," one of the Australian platoon commanders said.

"They are eager to learn."

In one week, recruits learnt the basics of how to assemble their field pack, and mastered the complexities of rifle, grenade and anti-armour weapon systems.

They were soon ready to march into their first field exercise, where they learnt how to live and survive in a tactical field environment.

The weight-loaded march was a first for some recruits, and some found the patrol skills and formations challenging.

But they successfully completed the training exercise.

"What has surprised me is how quickly the soldiers have learnt skills," an Australian Army instructor said.

"I reckon they are performing much better than we were one week into Kapooka.



"They are already strong teams and are keen to perfect their drills."

This contingent of Australian Army instructors is the second rotation to deploy on Operation Kudu and they are proud to play a part in such an important mission.

"When I heard I was deploying on Operation Kudu, I was



very proud," one Australian officer deployed on Operation Kudu said.

"It's a mission that I believe in wholeheartedly.

"Operation Kudu is something that's really important to myself and every member of the contingent.

"We all believe in the mission.

"We all believe in providing the best training we can to the Ukrainians."

Courtesy Defence Website

OUR PATRONS' ANZAC DAY



On Anzac Day our Patrons took the opportunity to share the day with their families. In Canberra, a small 5 RAR contingent marched under our banner. BRIG Colin Khan was determined to be present and was at the head of the group in his chair which was ably navigated by his son Nicholas.

In Brisbane, MAJGEN Jake Ellwood marched with his son LT Samuel Ellwood who is currently serving with the 5 RAR Mortar Platoon.

Sam had recently returned from the UK, where he had been training Ukrainians recruits as part of Operation Kudu.



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.

PLAQUE DEDICATION FOR PTE TOM HALLORAN

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On Thursday 20 April I received a telephone call from John Halloran asking me to attend a Plaque Dedication Ceremony the next day. John is the father of PTE Tom Halloran, of 8 Platoon 5 RAR, who tragically lost his life on 26 April 2022.

On 12 May 2022 a full Military Funeral was held for Tom, at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera. The then RSM, WO1 Sean Casey and most of Charlie Company 5 RAR were in attendance. Bill Titley and I were honoured to be asked to represent the 5 RAR Association at the funeral.

John apologised for the late notice but explained that he had been dealing with the Runaway Bay RSL Sub-Branch, Gold Coast. The Sub-Branch were allowing a plaque, in memory of Tom, to be placed on the right hand Sentinel, of the two Sentinels that guard the start of the path to The Cenotaph. John stated that originally it was to be a small, simple event but that it had grown into quite a much larger one, including 5 RAR's CO LTCOL Chris Gilmore, Charlie Coy OC MAJ John Moulton and 8 PI OC LT Raffaello Boccabella attending.



The ceremony was held at 15:00 hours Friday April 21 and I agreed that I would attend. I contacted Bill Titley to see if he was able to come along also, but unfortunately he had a prior appointment. I then telephoned Dave Thompson and he agreed to meet me there, he also told me that Kerry Owen (both B Coy 1969-70) would be there as Kerry was a Committee Member of the Sub-Branch. In all we had 5 or 6 members of the 5 Association in attendance.

The ceremony was well organised and respectfully conducted by the RSL Sub-Branch, it lasted for about 30 minutes. Tom's sister, Annie Halloran placed the memorial plaque at the base of the Sentinel. The 6 RAR Padre, Chaplain James Hall, dedicated the plaque and said a prayer. Chris Gilmore said a few words, including the fact that the plaque on the left hand Sentinel was in memory of SIG Sean McCarthy, a member of SASR. Sean was killed by an IED, while deployed in Afghanistan in 2008, Chris was also a member of that deployment. John Halloran then thanked all who were there for being part of the service and the RSL MC closed the service.



The Halloran family, John, Robyn, Annie and her partner Connor were happy that we had been able to attend. John is a member of the association as a NOK and, along

with Robyn, attended Binh Ba Week 2023 as they did last year.

The family have also presented submissions to the Royal Commission on Veteran's Suicide.

Gary Townsend

AVCAT SCHOLARSHIPS

AVCAT scholarships, including the Long Tan Bursary, are tertiary scholarships for the children and grandchildren of Australian ex-serving veterans. Scholarships are \$4,000–\$6,000 per year, for up to three years.

Applications open on 18 August 2023, Vietnam Veterans' Day, and close at midnight AEST on 31 October 2023.

Apply online at avcat.org.au

Applicants must be:

- Enrolled or planning to enrol in a full-time course for one or more academic year's duration at a university, TAFE, or RTO in 2024
- The child, stepchild, foster child, or grandchild of an Australian ex-serving veteran
- An Australian citizen or permanent resident
- In receipt of, or eligible to receive, a means-tested Commonwealth educational payment – Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY, Austudy or Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES) in 2024

The Long Tan Bursary is sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs. View the complete list of AVCAT Scholarship sponsors at avcat.org.au/sponsors/

Find information about scholarships, the application process or scholarship eligibility at avcat.org.au.

Len Russell
CEO AVCAT

VIETNAM50 COMMEMORATIONS

Three key activities are being held in 2023 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Details are contained in the following links:

3 August - The Vigil. A voluntary vigil is being held on this day when veterans and family members are encouraged to pay their respects at the gravesite or resting place of the 523 Australians who died in Vietnam. Full details including all internment locations are available at [Vietnam Veterans Vigil \(vvv.org.au\)](http://vietnamveteransvigil.org.au)

18 August - National Commemorative Ceremony. This is being held at the National Vietnam Memorial in Canberra commencing at 10.00 AM. The ceremony will be broadcast nationally live by the ABC and streamed online. Over 6,000 participants are expected and attendees must register for attendance. Registration and ceremony details are on the DVA website at [National Commemorative Service | Department of Veterans' Affairs \(dva.gov.au\)](http://National Commemorative Service | Department of Veterans' Affairs (dva.gov.au))

Commemorative Medallion and Certificate. These can be obtained by veterans, widows and family members of veterans. Details for application are shown at the website portal.nationalmailing.com.au/DVA/Account/Login



GURKHAS JOIN AUSTRALIAN ARMY AND US MARINES FOR AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK TRAINING

Gurkhas joined forces with the Australian Army and US Marines to take on the tough training conditions of the Australian outback.

Deploying from their base in Brunei, C Company 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles (C Coy, 1 RGR) is on the five-week-long Exercise Pacific Kukri.

The Gurkhas have swapped platoons with the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5 RAR) and the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines (3/1) to train as multinational companies on the extensive Mount Bunday training area near Darwin.



The Gurkhas practised fighting street by street and building by building through an urban complex. Photo: Army MOD).

The Gurkhas, who are used to the jungles of Brunei, were put to the test in the contrasting open bushland environment of the Australian outback.

Their full range of infantry skills was able to be tested.

Mounted in 5 RAR's Bushmaster-protected mobility vehicles, the Gurkhas practised manoeuvring with the support of live mortar and machine-gun fire to concentrate force against an objective and then dispersing to avoid becoming a target themselves.

With temperatures soaring to 38°C, the troops have also practised fighting street by street and building by building through an urban complex, supported by Australian combat engineers to blow entry into buildings and dismantling booby-traps.

Major Jack Millar, Officer Commanding C Coy 1 RGR, said: "I'm unbelievably proud because every single person deployed in this exercise has grafted from start to finish and worked so hard to learn to be better soldiers and to mix with our counterparts here.

"We've had mixing of platoons in the companies, so we've swapped a Gurkha platoon with an Australian platoon, and likewise with the US Marine Corps, and that's to really develop our mutual understanding.

"What can we learn from each other? What do we do the same? What do we do differently and how can we be better together?"

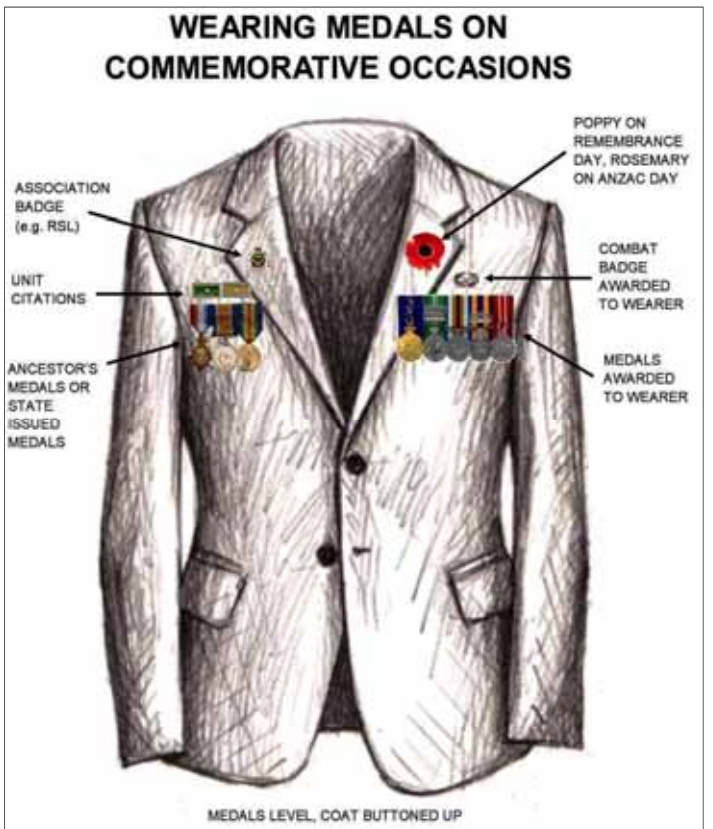
"It's been interesting to work with fellow professionals who are also regional specialists in the Indo-Pacific, and we've learnt a lot," he added.

The Army says: "The training demonstrates the Army's commitment to build relationships and the ability to operate alongside our allies in the Indo-Pacific as part of the

Government's defence and foreign policy 'tilt' towards the region."

Major Millar added: "1 RGR has got troops all around the region and will be deploying to Japan, Indonesia and Fiji, both on our own and with our allies. So for us the busy-ness continues, and it's exciting!"

1 RGR is based in Brunei as the Army's specialist jungle infantry; it rotates with its sister battalion 2 RGR to be based in Shorncliffe, Kent, as part of 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team, the British Army's global response force.



RARA INFANTRYMAN'S MUSTER



The Infantryman's Muster has been running for about 8 years. It is organised by the RAR Association and is held at Amamoor State Forest near Gympie, and runs for 4 days featuring food, light entertainment and tall stories. The dates for the 2023 Infantry Muster are 23-26 November.

The photo to the left shows Ralph Ackermann and David Judd (10 Platoon 1969-70) at the 2022 Infantryman's Muster.

\$100.00 for attendance only;
\$130.00 for attendance, shirt and stubby holder.

Registration is open NOW at 'Infantry Muster' on Facebook.

A SHORT HISTORY OF TIGER TALES

19



Tiger Tales has been the communication life blood of the 5 RAR Association since its formation in the 1980's. Whilst modern electronic communication is progressively taking over, hard copy editions still remain the preferred version for many veterans and members. These five volumes contain all copies of *Tiger Tales* published by the association since its inception.

The very first edition was published by the battalion intelligence section in Vietnam on 10 September 1966, about three weeks after the Battle of Long Tan. The cover story recounted the vast losses by the enemy and its diminishing influence in Phuoc Tuy Province over preceding months as a result of the battle and other 1 ATF operations.

Subsequent editions were spasmodic perhaps due to the tempo of operations and other means of communication. Although informal gatherings of 5 RAR veterans occurred in the immediate post-Vietnam era, it was not until the 5 RAR Association was officially established in the 1980's that *Tiger Tales* became a regular publication. The very early editions were mainly focused on reunion plans as well as general news.

Over the years, *Tiger Tales* went through a number of iterations in style, size and content. Most certainly the early editors put in many hours of dedicated voluntary work to get each edition to our members. Email had not been invented, home computer and printing equipment was rudimentary; and editors personally printed, collated, stapled, addressed and posted copies to all members. Since 2006, *Tiger Tales* has been printed and distributed by *The Pack Factory*, whose principal Graeme Tooth, is a veteran of 5 RAR's 1969-70 tour of Vietnam.



Tiger Tales can be largely credited with maintaining the high membership and success of the association through the camaraderie and esprit de corps which we enjoy. We should therefore recognise the editors who have volunteered so much time for the benefit of us all. They are:

April 1987 to December 2001 – Brian London OAM, DCM
March 2002 to April 2007 – Guido 'Lou' Wagner
Aug 2007 – John 'Bluey' Edwards
December 2007 to current – Gary Townsend

In recent years, the contributions from the CO, the RSM and battalion sub-units has been excellent and provides an important link between the current and older members of the Tiger family.

All copies of *Tiger Tales* contained in these five volumes can be downloaded on the 5 RAR Association website at [Tiger Tales Archive \(5rar.asn.au\)](http://TigerTalesArchive(5rar.asn.au))

Over the years Roger Wainwright, who wrote this history, had retained every copy that had been published including the very first copies printed at Nui Dat in 1966. As part of decluttering his study and rather than disposing of them in his recycling, he placed them in new folders and donated them to the battalion.

On the 26 May 2023, while he was visiting Darwin, he presented the five volumes to the 5 RAR Museum for safekeeping.

5 RAR ASSOCIATION DUES

The 5 RAR Association triennial membership period ended on Tuesday 28 February 2023. To the right of your name on the address sheet of this *Tiger Tales*, you will find a date or text shown. This will tell you to when you are financial to. If this date is shown as 2023 you will need to pay \$50.00 to extend your membership to 28 February 2026.

If the date shown is later than 2023 or text, you have nothing to do. Currently there are 38% who have not renewed this year.

Payment can be made by Bank Transfer, cheque or Money Order, for details see the form on page 20, please note new Bank Account details.

If you are not sure about your membership please contact Gary Townsend, details on Committee Page.

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

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 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.

B COY 1969-70 - NEXT REUNION

The next reunion of B Coy 1969-70 will be held in the Yarrowonga/Mulwala area, from 22 to 26 April 2024 over 5 nights. For more information please contact Pauline Frauenfelder, at paullineray@bigpond.com or 0428 284 282.



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Remit this form and payment due to:

The Secretary
5 RAR Association
P O Box 698
CARINGBAH NSW 1495

Current at 1 August 2023

Please indicate use of this form

Joining/Renewing Membership

Change of Details

Purchase of Memorabilia

Form with fields for Surname, Christian Names, Known As, Partners Name, Regimental No, Rank, Home Ph, Mobile, Business Ph, Address, Suburb/Town, State, P/Code, Email, and a table for Membership and Memorabilia items with columns for O/S, Price, Qty, and Cost.

The Association has limited stock of 'Vietnam Vanguard' and 'Vietnam Task' or they are available on the ANU Press website at: http://doi.org/10.22459/VV.2019 and http://doi.org/10.22459/VT.2022 respectively. Code to obtain discount - 5RAR20

Complete all sections of this form and remit it, with Cheque or Money Order made payable to 5 RAR Association, to the address above, or, email this form and Internet Deposit Receipt/CBA Deposit Slip to gp@therbco.com.au please include your Surname and Initials as the reference. Bank details: Account name: 5 RAR Association. Bank: CBA. BSB: 062-136 Account: 1048-1883 (Please note new account details.)

Your Committee Members and State Representatives.

Patrons: BRIG Colin Khan DSO AM (Ret'd) Ph: 02 6257 7249 - MAJGEN Justin Ellwood (Ret'd) DSC AM CSC Ph: 0439 831 805

Table with 4 columns: President (David French), Vice President (VACANT), Secretary/Memorabilia Officer (Geoff Pearson), Treasurer (LTCOL. Bill Titley OAM), Membership Off/TT's Editor (Gary Townsend), Webmaster (Ted Harrison), Committee Member (Brian Budden), Committee Member (SGT Chris Hayden), Committee Member (Terry James), Committee Member (Geoffrey Luck OAM), Committee Member (Barry Ruttle), Committee Member (MAJ. Bryan Schafer OAM).

Submissions for Tiger Tales to 82 Lake Hills, 117 Palm Meadows Dve, CARRARA, QLD, 4211 or garyt.5rar@gmail.com

Table with 4 columns: ACT Representative (Chris Appleton), NSW Representative (Barry Ruttle), QLD Representative (Jason Johnson), SA/NT Representative (Greg Dwiar), TAS Representative (Kevin Mulligan), VIC Representative (Doug Bishop), WA Representative (Alan McNulty DCM).