Property of
National Vietnam
Veterans Museum

5 RAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

TIGER TALES

March 2002
issue 1 of 02

EDITOR'S DESK

ANZAC DAY EDITION

Inside this issue:

Reg Sutton	2
State Reps	5
Reunions	6
WA Report	7
Steyr Rifle	9
ANZAC DAY 02	12
ANZAC 1915	13

Special points of interest:

- NEW EDITOR.
- WINNER DUST OFF.
- YAMBA SUCCESS.
- NEW EMAIL AND WEB PAGE ADDRESS
- MILTARY WORKSHOP FOR PRINTS.
- COUNSELLING SERVICES.

TO THE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

It is with a great deal of emotion as I write this opening page, to inform you that this will be my last edition of Tiger Tales as your editor. I won't bore you with the details except to say that a chronic spinal problem precludes me from giving Tiger Tales my full attention. Therefore, I reluctantly hand over the editorship to Lou Wagner in QLD who, has kindly offered to take on the job. I wish to thank all Committee members and members in general who supported and encouraged me whilst editor since 1995.

I am sure you, as members of the Association, will give 'Lou' the same support you gave me in producing our newsletter – I am counting on you to help him with contributions for publication.

I can only say it has been and honour and a pleasure to serve the association as your editor. I will of course continue to send out our items for sale and in conjunction with Ted Harrison, look after our web page. Anyway, enough of that, I still this have this edition to do – let's get on with it!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you change your address, try to use the form on the back page of Tiger Tales and post it to **5 RAR Association PO BOX 432 BOWRAL NSW 2576, This will go directly to Lt,Col Ron Hamlyn.** Ron handles all the mail, orders and members'addressess. If you use email to the editor, your information may be lost if a virus hits the system – as it did to me.

So stick a stamp on it and use snail mail.

FEES

There are a number of members who are not up to date with their fees. Mostly this will be an oversight so check your address label to see. If 2000 appears you need to send in $25.00. If UF appears – god knows when you paid?

If you can't afford your fees the Association will not cut off sending you your newsletter – if we know where you are!!!

One carton of beer will get you 5 years membership – **don't send beer** — send $25.00.

To explain it, our last fees were due on 1 March 1995 – if you paid, that would make you financial until 1 March 2000. On the 1st March 2000 our fees were due again to take us to 2005.

5 RAR ASSOCIATION WEB PAGE

Our web server has sold out to a crew in Sydney and I am not happy with their service. Our address after Feb 2002 will be **http://www.users.bigpond.com/brian.london/** once this newsletter goes out I will configure the page. If you have trouble, try or find Ted or me on the search engines.

If you want to put something on the web page notice board – email **brian.london@bigpond.com**

To use search engines type in 5 RAR Association or 5 RAR. one of our pages will come up – Ted Harrison's or the association's.

CONTINUATION OF REG SUTTON'S PAPER WRITTEN SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM VIETNAM

Cordon and Search

There have been many writings on this subject and most of the doctrine is straight forward, however, I do stress that the Australian soldier is not a good searcher of either the inside of a house (which he should only search in association with the Vietnamese) or the exterior grounds. Cordon and Search Operations find our soldiers bored very easily and certainly we are not capable of cordon and search for seven days (which supposedly should he the minimum length of an operation as directed by the American Headquarters).

The second problem area I found was in the positioning of a cordon prior to last light. This is a good method to use, however, a great deal of attention must be paid to tying-up' flanks of platoons and companies and the siting of depth ambushes. Accidents can occur during a night cordon as a direct result of uninvolved troops becoming "edgy" after a contact. If contact does occur during a night cordon then all commanders should immediately brief their subordinates on the situation to prevent undue 'butterflies" occurring.

Search Without Cordon

During many operations along Route 44 companies were required to search all villages down to the coast. No cordon was used and the company would arrive at the selected village in early morning and search throughout the day. "Possum" was used to circle the village perimeter to watch for movement of any VC that may be flushed out. Road blocks were also established to check movement in and out of the village.

After the search a platoon would be left behind to ambush either inside the village or on the outskirts. Platoons did not like ambushing inside the village as their protection was limited and no matter how much stealth they used, they were always sighted by the inhabitants

Airmobile Operations

These are straightforward at company level and our drills are sound. Platoons do, however, tend to "slacken off" in their drills and need to be prodded along at times

Pilots will often change their mind on the direction of approach, actual landing positions and so forth this creates problems for the ground commander who must readjust his plan for securing the area, "re—hash" his loading plan and issue orders all in the space of moments. This is something the company commander must learn to live with as telling the pilot to "get your cab down where I said" does not create friendships nor alleviate the problem and of course we are no angels in this regard.

The RAAF of course have their reasons for changing the plan it is a pity the ground troops are not advised a little sooner.

Convoy Protection

This has proved to be a simple enough task provided communications are established correctly. Companies committed to this task must be given adequate information on convoy nets, air protection nets etc. Task Force should provide this information before the company moves and this may require constant pressuring on the commander' s behalf.

PART 2

RIF OPERATIONS

Employment of Companies

The majority of company operations are RIF and I feel the aim is to move within the allotted AO with three independent platoons, and company headquarters attached to one. Unless it is absolutely necessary movement as a full company should be avoided it is slow, cumbersome, and does not cover the ground.

Platoons are capable of handling any situation provided they have the necessary artillery and air support available and this is the case for most of the time

Movement

Air reconnaissance prior to RIF operations is an advantage provided one could read the vegetation. In a lot of cases the seemingly open country has the most dense ground vegetation. Practice in this aspect when training would not go unrewarded.

Vegetation will dictate the pace and formation to be used. Most movement is in single file, except of course in open country, and also during a sweep when the force must adopt extended line.

"Snaking" is a problem when moving in single file and especially so with a large force. Forward elements will

deviate from a compass bearing for various reasons and here lies the danger, as sometimes they head—off at something more than right angles to the laid down direction of movement. Rear elements see movement or hear noise and can be placed in two minds as to whether it is friendly or enemy activity. Should the forward element be forced to deviate for any reason this information should be passed to the rear.

The sweep is constantly used when clearing likely bunker areas. A sweep of eight hundred metres could take *two* hours or more with platoons and sections leap—frogging every twenty metres. This is slow, but safe and control can he maintained.

Battalions are usually pressed by higher headquarters to cover more ground and so the kick travels down to the forward scout who ends up running. I feel that the platoons will do their best to cover as much ground as possible and the speed at which they travel will be dependent on the 'Sign", vegetation and terrain. A lesson to all is not to press too hard unless there is a sound reason.

I suggest that to stop movement no later than 1530 hours is good idea. It allows time to set up ambush or harbour and more importantly it lessens the possibility of a bunker contact late in the afternoon and the chance of receiving casualties that have to be evacuated in darkness. Bunker contacts are a problem at any time and we are certainly playing into the enemy's hands if we run out of daylight.

Navigation is usually no problem except when the infantry are moving in APC's the responsibility of all commanders does not decrease and certainly the concentration must increase. The lessons of navigation taught in Australia are sound and as long as we use the compass correctly there should be no problem. I consider that commanders at all levels should travel with their compass in their hand "twenty—four hours a day" and refer to their maps continually.

Bunkers

"Sign" is a very important factor in locating systems. Soldiers are well aware when they are in bunker country and their movement rate and state of alertness will quickly change. Once found, the big problem of course, is whether the bunkers are occupied or not and generally, the only way to find out is to have a look. It would be a fair statement that only five percent of the systems encountered are occupied but this five percent causes us all the worry'.

Pepper potting or fire and movement using a single axis are comparatively simple compared with moving an element around to a flank. The old principle of the fire support element being at right angles to the assaulting troops is all well and good in theory. In practice it is very difficult in Jungle, as once the two elements are twenty metres from each other they have lost visual contact. Once they have lost this contact it is very difficult to know relative positions, especially when fire is coming from all directions. I feel that to assault on a wide front is a better answer and the movement of flanking elements, in close contact, is fraught with danger.

Once inside a bunker system all is not over because it may stretch for some hundreds of metres and therefore, whether occupied or not, it is a long painstaking task. There is only one answer and that is careful movement through the system, securing flanks and rear at all times.

Bunkers are a problem and we need to train extensively in all aspects of locating, "taking", clearing and searching bunker Systems.

Ambush

This is an integral part of RIF operations and occupies ninety percent of the time. Company commanders should endeavour to have all platoons in ambush whenever not engaged on active patrolling or searching ground. If platoons are required to ambush almost very night then it stands to reason that if they have been moving by day they will be tired and require adequate time for rest for this reason deliberate ambush of the one hundred percent "switched on" type is difficult to achieve during RIF. Sufficient to say that the platoon should sit astride the track or in linear along side the track with the Machine guns and Claymores being the main weapons sited to cover the killing ground. I realize that this is a slight on the Australian ambush technique to think. that every man is not fully awake all might, ready in a fire position and so forth it is impossible to do this and platoons do need rest after a hard day's walk with possibly a contact on the way.

I have found, in talking to a number of platoon commanders) that they are well aware of the need for flank protection and well versed in present teachings almost too good I think. If the MGs and Claymores are the weapons that do the most damage then why not have the majority of them covering the track along which the enemy will come? And yet there still is a tendency to sight too many claymores to the flank and lose out in the end. No enemy is going to come from a flank against a dug in Australian platoon without prior reconnaissance. I feel strongly that all MGs and the bulk of the Claymores should be sited to cover the killing ground.

Some say that by digging an ambush we defeat the purpose. I disagree. A soldier feels far more confident when his body is below ground level and I consider that shell scrapes are a good thing and should be dug whenever possible. If the threat is greater then dig deeper. Certainly Machine guns should be dug in at all times. Fragments from RPG rounds are continually wounding soldier whose bodies are above ground.

I have also found that the most hazardous time of an ambush is either during the occupation or, when leaving the position. Fate

plays funny tricks after being in a position three days just as you about to leave, along comes the VC or just as you move in and are setting up along he comes again. These are our most vulnerable periods and we need to prepare for the situation.

It is suggested that immediately we occupy an ambush site covering a track that MGs are pushed *up* and down and track and manned by double sentries with an SLR and M79 and two Claymores are quickly positioned forward of the post. The post should remain there until the ambush is fully developed and then withdrawn and the MGs fitted into the ambush site. The MG posts are no more exposed than a single sentry would be and the fire power is far greater. Considering that it is the initial burst in an ambush that does most of the damage I regard this as sound policy. Too often single sentries, posted during an ambush occupation, miss when the enemy does appear. I also consider the morale factor important in having two men out front rather than one they have comfort in having a mate alongside them and this means a lot.

Resupply, when in continual ambush does not present a big problem and the rations can be dropped without too much worry. Similarly water can be lowered through the canopy. At first I was unduly worried about helicopters giving the game away this is not such a worry because once the helicopter is low over the tree tops it is very difficult to pick up even from two hundred metres away, It is also amazing how often the enemy will walk into an ambush shortly after a resupply has been taken.

When leaving an ambush or resupply site it may be a good technique to leave an element behind to ambush the old position. The enemy have a habit of watching an area and moving in to dig up the trash pits once we have left. This of course means the splitting of a platoon but it could be fruitful at times. Certainly HF tasks onto old ambush sites and resupply sites do not go astray.

Ambush operations have been our most successful to date and the figures for the period November 1968 to July 1969 bear out the fact one hundred and forty six enemy killed, seventy five wounded and ten Prisoners of War. Our casualties have been five killed and nineteen wounded. All other types of operations during the same period only produced one hundred and forty—four enemy killed and sixty-four wounded.

The above data makes the ambush figures seem marvelous until we take into account that ninety—nine ambushes *have* produced the one hundred and forty—six enemy killed. An average of just under one and a half per ambush.

I can only suggest that the answer to improved results lies in my previous comments and a more constant use of the linear type ambush rather than the squat astride track type.

Resupply

I have mentioned resupply briefly during ambush, however there are a few other factors, which cause concern during RIF operations The commanding officer and most company commanders hate resupply day hot buns and goffas! all tend to make it a picnic no matter how much you try to hurry, something always goes wrong. To save us ulcers I suggest one half day is written off for MAINTDEMS and this be accepted as a constant interruption to operations. If you hurry too much you end up feeding a *VC* company with the rubbish and unused rations that are left behind. These should without doubt he burned and every tin should be punctured twice less they burst with considerable noise.

How many days' rations should a company carry? Most company commanders have their own ideas on this subject however, I have only one comment to make, and that is over a three-day period someone nearly always visits the company, so if it is security that influences the time gap chosen for reception then forget it. Mail, RMO, Investigating Officers, CMF attachments, reinforcements, Second in Commands coming back there is a constant stream of people trying to get in. Of course, if the company commander does not have a pad, all is okay!!

Reg Sutton.

Brig, Kahn has invited members to comment on Major Sutton's paper– I will "Break the ice" by offering my humble view. As dated as the paper is, there are many valid points in this paper that are still relevant, even in today's **modern army**. Dat Do taught us that flak jackets were essential ; yes they were hot to wear – better hot than dead. I agree on point of ambush and whenever possible ambushes should be linear. We took tremendous risks by simply harbouring astride tracks at platoon level. We relied on INT reports on enemy strengths. A platoon can handle an enemy section if MGs and Claymores are well sited; but astride a track, the platoon is committed to, and will have no choice in the decision to take on a much larger force – an enemy platoon or worse still, an enemy company. (10 platoon soon found that out even with air support – second tour)

Pushing commanders at lower levels (platoon) to reach or achieve objectives that <u>are not paramount</u> to the overall outcome of a mission is pointless. Pushing (Harassing) platoons and sections beyond reasonable expectations degrades security and lowers the sub unit's ability to perform and is potentially dangerous.
Digging in during ambushing would be desirable however the noise factor is a worry – depending on the soil. Camouflage of the spoil would place another chore on the ambush group – carrying lots of green sweat rag to throw over spoil would be needed.? Anyway, my comments only scrapes the surface of the paper – **what do you think.? - Editor**

STATE REPRESENTATIVES
CHANGES and COMMITTEE

Chairman – Brig. Colin N Kahn DSO – 505/7 Marcus Clarke St CANBERRA City ACT 2601- Phone (H) 02 6257 7249

Secretary – Mr. Geoff Pearson - PO Box 432 B0WRAL NSW 2576

Editor – Mr. GL 'Lou' Wagner - PO Box 211 AITKENVALE QLD 4814 – 07 47757554 –Phone & Fax
email louanne@bigpond.com

Web Page – Mr. Brian. London OAM DCM — BATEMANS BAY NSW 02 44725748 –email —— brian.london@bigpond.com

VIC –	Mr. Kerry O'Conner -Mount Gisborne	-03 5428 3249
QLD –	Maj. Warren Burns – The Gap	-07 3300 3082
SA –	Mr.Chris Kuchenmeister – Enconter Bay	-08 85521946
TAS –	Mr. Gerry Coret – Legana –	-03 6330 2056
ACT –	Lt. Col Barry Morgan – Amaroo	-02 6255 4531
WA —	Mr. Peter deMasson – Dungraig	-0894485744

PROFILE ON OUR NEW EDITOR (by himself)

Born in Germany in 1948 and migrated to Australia in 1952.

Having grown up and been educated in this great country, I possess neither an accent or the square headed features of my ancestry (But,I'm great on the jokes)

I was educated in both private and state schools which completed in 1964 and thereafter found it difficult to settle into a specific form of employment - A six year career in the AUSTRALIAN ARMED FORCES. (towhit the Army, towhit the Infantry - The first time in my life I'd been outsmarted by a towhit.)

Joining the armed forces was not entirely my own idea; shall we say it was somewhat influenced my beloved mother who came up to my shoulder height and I was only 5'6" and a judge in the juvenile court who towered way over me. Let me explain.

In early 1968, I fell in with what is usually termed the "Wrong Crowd" and in July we nicked some cigarettes from a kiosk and my part was driving the get away car; i.e. my trusty "Standard Eight" - remember them, 30 mph flat out. Wait it gets better.

Two weeks later through the stupidity of one of the gang members, we were apprehended by the law and driving into Police HQ with an officer beside me in my trusty little ..... (you guessed it), the officer says to me, "doesn't this heap of s.....t go any faster ? (My mind immediately thought "up yours flatfoot" this is the "Get Away Car" - The Machine - How cruel can one be). Wait it gets better.

August I stood in front of the judge, with my mother in toe, and as it was my first offence, the magistrate looked sternly and said "What have you got to say for yourself young man", and before my lips could move, my mother blurted out "He's a good boy your honour and he's been thinking about joining the army". I instantly turned into a blubbering idiot. (Mum, what are you smoking ?). The judge says, "If you can get in, I'll waive the conviction", case adjourned till mid October. Wait it gets better. After making certain arrangements with the judge, my mother puts the old thumb and forefinger grip on my ear (a hold that would stop a heavyweight wrestler) and drags me straight to the recruitment office which, believe it or not, was just around the corner.

Still in August, I sat the entrance examination and received a letter of acceptance. September 5th I was deported to KAPOOKA. (Am I lucky or what ? - Seriously, as I look back, it was the saving of this RJF (Retired Jungle Fighter). From Kapooka to 5 RAR, coming to rest in Mortar Platoon for the next 30 or so months including our 69/70 Vietnam Tour. From there I transferred to 10 MC Group and spent two years in PNG.

After completing my time I moved into a sales career in the hardware industry starting as a counter jumper, then sales representative and over the years to area sales manager and finally running our own company with my wife Anne until we retired due to health reasons in September 2000.

I have two sons from my former marriage who are presently engaged in the Defence Forces and together with Anne share an extended family life including seven grandchildren. I am also very involved in my local church activities and studying theology with a view to ordination.

Here it is some 30 years down the track and of the many things I have achieved, the proudest and most precious memories of my life are that of my time with 5 Battalion.

I feel both humbled and privileged to be able to give something back to special mates who once gave so much to me.

Yours Sincerely

44516
G.L. (Lou) Wagner

From the outgoing Editor,
Lou,
Your qualifications for the position of editor of Tiger Tales are impeccable.
Brian London

REUNION

Subject: reunion

Brian
could the following notice be included in the next edition of tiger tales.

10 pl. D.coy. 66-67 will be having their next reunion in Melbourne over the June long weekend Sat.8th to Mon 10th.
accommodation and dinner has been arranged at the hotel Victoria.
a memorial service will be held for Les .Farren kia 10-6-1966 .
any D.coy person interested can contact Rob. Arnold in Mildura on 0350231113 or
email arnold@ruralnet.net.au
p.s we always have a great time !

Dear Brian,

Would you please enter a notice in the next Tiger Tales and 5 RAR Web Page Notice Board:

A Coy 5 RAR Canberra Reunion 18th to 20th October, 2002

Contacts are listed below to register your interest in attending:

CHQ and 1 Pl Norm (Carro) Carrington on (03) 9725 3536

2 Pl Mick (Chook) Fowler (02) 6040 4765

3 Pl John (Snowy) Morris (02) 4946 8159

Best regards,

Norm Carrington

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dear Brian,

Here is some long overdue news from the Golden West. It is such a long time since we have featured in Tiger Tales that most of our Eastern States members have forgotten that we exist.

The few of us from W A who made it to the reunion in Sydney last year realise how important it is to stay in touch. In compiling these notes, I thought I would concentrate on the activities around Anzac Day as quite a few tigers were to the fore. In Perth we marched behind the RAR Association Banner. In response to the many queries as to why the 5RAR Banner was missing, the (un)official explanation was that it was in the Dry Cleaners (!!). There is only one person we know who could come up with that one.

Participating in the march was yours truly, Bob Armitage, Alan McNulty, Harry Neesham, John (Doc) Halliday, Don (Rip) Couston, Darryl Lovell, Peter de Masson, Dave Stone, Russell Briggs, Gordon Meredith, Warren Gosling, Joe McAllister, John (Blue) Burridge and Graeme Ashton. Welcome visitors were Dave Judd and Mick Wahal, from Queensland and former 5/7 member Robert Cooney, from Canberra.
The after march get together started at the Anzac Club and proceeded on to Rigby's Tavern where the amber fluid was well and truly flowing and the rock and roll music was very loud. Who were the former crack 5RAR fighting troops who arrived at Rigbys in a taxi for the disabled having travelled the full length of St George's Terrace? (about one km)

I have been asked to include some messages and I hope that I have got them right as I was not in the best of condition at the end of the day. Harry Neesham, who has remained in regular contact with his former platoon members, has lost touch with Ken Warren (S A). If anyone can help in this regard I can pass the details on to Harry. Graeme Ashton, D Coy 1st Tour, has been out of touch for some time and would welcome any contact with former inmates of the house on the hill. Graeme can be contacted on (08) 9384 6321. Bob Armitage who finally coughed up his Association fees in Sydney last year is yet to receive a copy of Tiger Tales.

I don't have a great deal of news from the Regional Areas. I did speak to Dennis Rainer who is now President of the Mandurah RSL Branch. Some Tiger names mentioned were Trevor Dunne, George Bullock and Terry Gott.

A significant event was celebrated at Jurien where a new memorial was dedicated. Tigers attending were RAR Association, Vice President Terry Bates. and Bob and Pat Bunting. I believe Pat was a leading light in the establishment of the memorial.
Speaking of the RAR Association, other ex 5RAR members on the Committee are Doc Halliday (hospital visitor) and Bruce Prior (country member).

Although our numbers appear to be down in the Perth march, this could be explained by the fact that Albany was the highlight this year as part of the Centenary of Federation Celebrations. It was from Albany that the first Anzac Convoy of 44 ships carrying 30,000 men and 7,500 horses sailed for the Great War in 1914. Sadly, it was the last glimpse of Australia for a lot of the men. Albany is also credited with holding the first Dawn Service in 1930.

No doubt, in compiling these notes, some significant happenings have been missed for which I apologise in advance. I propose to do an Anzac Day write up each year so if any Regional Areas, or individuals, would like to be featured I can be contacted on Phone/fax: (08) 9349 0323 or Email: harbentk@iexpress.net.au

Regards to all - ken Benson.

EDITOR'S NOTE –

Dear Ken,
My apologies for missing your article (above) in our last issue of Tiger Tales. I either lost it, deleted it by mistake or, it (the article) was lost due to my computer crash last year. You can choose any of the above as my excuse. I am pleased you sent me another copy and although belated it will be of great interest to members. Bob should be getting TT, we send a copy to all members – financial or otherwise – if we know where they are! — Regards Brian London

YAMBA REUNION SUCCESS

NORM CARRINGTON

One Platoon and CHQ Reunion.

Our reunion weekend was a huge success as was commented upon by all that attended. To those who could not be there, our commiserations, you missed a ripper. 39 members and their partners, 5 first tour blokes (inclusive) attended.

List of Yamba Rollcall.

Ross Amos - Brian Almond - Ken Answer - Ross Atkinson - Terry Bateman - Ken Bell - Paul Boyns - Buck Buchanan - Norm Carrington - Norman Chiew - Mick Cross - Ray Curran - Danny Douglas - Brian Dunlop - Gordon Ellis-Flint - John McKenzie - Doug Moules - Zeke Mundine - Kerry O'Connor - Merv Tuckett - Peter Wells - Lance Williams - William Winkel.

It was a somewhat emotional affair as a lot of the blokes where attending their first re-union, some had no contact for 31 years. Most attending took up as if it were only yesterday that they had last spoken to each other. The old camaraderie was instantaneous.

We planned a slide night for the first evening, seven members brought along slides, you would have thought it was the Terry Bateman and Nev Thompson slide night. They appeared in every second slide shown no matter what section the slides came from, we now know it was possible to pose your way through a tour of Vietnam. During the slide show, which was all group or individual shots, a lot of banter and gentle ribbing took place. Many of the wives wondered where the handsome young man with plenty of hair and a good body, they married had gone.

The wives had a good time and seemed to get on very well to-gether, they all appeared to have the same things in common, both joys and worries. They appeared to have struggled with the same problems and have all ended up with a very good sense of humour.

It was agreed by all that they had a wonderful time and that the next re-union should be planned for two years and under very similar circumstances in both location and costs.

We will be sending a letter out to all members we can locate, so we hope that this will only grow. Hoping to hear from you soon.
Regards,
Norm

Norm Carrington
25 Barnard Cres
Nth Croydon
Victoria 3136

Merv Tucket
18 Tait Street
Kelso
Queensland 4815

Nev Thompson
33 Voltaire Cres
Petrie
Queensland 4502

congratulations
to
the winner of the
'Dust off' print
ROBERT BIRTLES
CROYDON VIC

THE MILITARY WORKSHOP

If your entered the draw for the 'Dust off' print and missed out, prints (unframed) are available from Brett Williams at Unit 3/17 Billabong Street Stafford QLD 4122 – phone 07 3356 6961.
Brett has other prints of interest – The Royal Australian Regiment and Diggers in Nam. See them on the net.

brett@milwkshop.bu.aust.com

5/7 RAR
A MESSAGE FOR YOU

I received an email from the U.S. from a Ed Bennett – 1/14 Infantry. He stated he was at Holsworthy in 98? with two other Americans. Ed would like to contact all the friends he made during his exchange/training period with 5/7 RAR.
Does any one know him?
The other US guys with him – Scott Johnson & a soldier named Pore.
Contact Ed on **Eben67921@oal.com**

Brian London

GENERAL NEWS

Wives of veterans may be entitled to a carers allowance if they are caring for husbands. There are two types of allowances – full and part time. There is a certain amount of red tape involved and you will need your Doctor to fill out a form (as usual)
Information from your Centrelink Office.

HOME CARE

Having trouble mowing or house cleaning? Some small assistance can be obtained for both. Your Community Health Centre may be able to help out. Lawn mowing is available to veterans on pensions at 15 hours a year. Not much but a help nonetheless.

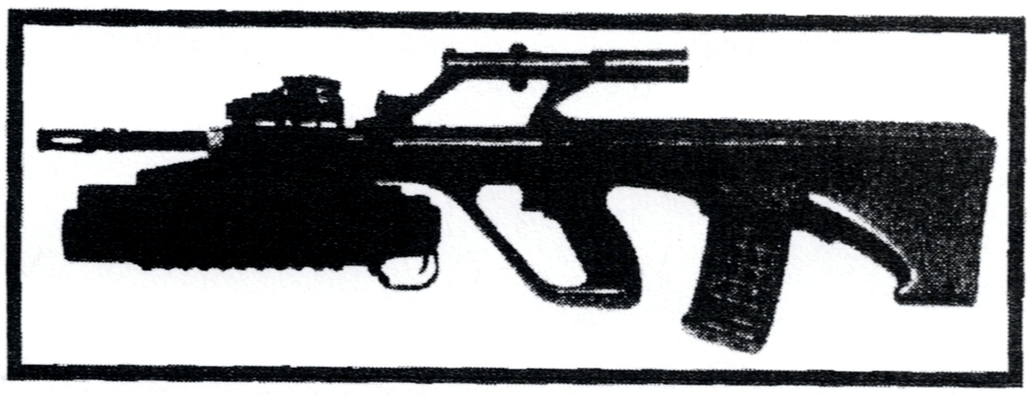
MEDICAL RECORDS

All veterans can now obtain their medical records. Information on how to obtain your records contact DVA or VVAA offices.

COUNSELLING SERVICES

VVCS crisis counselling numbers (toll free)
1800 011 046 – ACT, VIC, SA, NT.
1800 043 503 – NSW
1800 019 332 North QLD
Life line 24 hrs – 13 11 14 – Kids (under 16)
1800 55 1800

THE F88



The old catch cry was "Your weapon was made by the lowest bidder"
Does this apply to the F88?

THE STEYR F88

The ADF says it chose the rifle because the 5.56mm calibre provided "interoperability with Australia's allies" and "allowed the production of lighter, smaller and a more accurate family of small arms weapons that used state-of-the-art technology"

Improvements to the Steyr: such as
Enhanced Optical Sight, the Night Aiming
Device and the soon to be introduced M203P1
Grenade Launcher; will add to the flexibility
and capability of the system.

All the small arms used by the ADF including the Steyr, are intensively managed and are subject to continuous improvement Safety, availability and operational effectiveness are constantly monitored. The ADF claims that the "Steyr is a mature weapon that is safe when operated in accordance with ADF weapon handling and maintenance procedures. It is reliable and performs well in its intended role." Currently there are 75,600 Steyrs being used in service.

While some will continue to blame the unauthorised discharges on the rifle, there is no doubt that the training the soldiers receive has to be monitored and continually improved.

Currently all recruits go through a basic recruiting course, which covers drills,
weapons handling (for rifles and machine-guns) and basic competency and shooting efficiency testing. Once they have completed this course, recruits are then placed in different units and receive specific training as to the tasks they will be required to perform and the guns they will be using. As well as going through this training upon entrance into a unit, soldiers must also maintain their annual basic safety and handling courses throughout the year.

At the recruiting level, the test criteria for firearms training is pass – fail and is in accordance with the Land Warfare 2.4.9 Operation Manual. Recruits must pass a training test, which is conducted to confirm the soldiers' competency to operate the weapon. Failure to achieve competency precludes a soldier from using the weapon.

During the interview with Senator Quirk, AVM Treloar spoke about training given to soldiers in East Timor and the UDs occurring there, saying, "each of the units, as formed units, when they go to East Timor go through a force preparation unit. They go through their own unit training before and then are dispatched to East Timor~ The training is continually reviewed and is considered adequate to the task." According to AVM Treloar, the types of activities being conducted in East Timor, in terms of operational threat,
come with difficulties, which stem from factors such as fatigue, long working hours and general awareness of the situation. "I guess then it comes down to a failure to concentrate on the task at hand," said AVM Treloar.

Each of these unauthorised discharges have been in an administrative sense .they have been clearing, loading or unloading a weapon. When the force itself gets into East Timor, it is fully trained. It is the consequence of adjusting to the general operational environment."

So, as every story has two sides, often one side carries more clout, as is true with the Steyr. The case against the technical capabilities of the firearm seems to fall short when compared to the case against the users of the firearm. Officials within the ADF and those who have experience with the rifle can name few drawbacks to the Steyr and seem to believe that the faults lie with the users of the rifle and their failure to adequately employ the training provided rather than with the rifle itself.

Reference : National Radio – Kevin Wolf editor Asia Pacific Defence reporter & Foreign Affairs Defence & Trade Committee..

Footnotes:

Editor'note – Someone may care to reply from the 5/7 RAR. In Vietnam I was happy to hand in my Owen Gun for a M16. During my second tour my M16 served me very well but it had to be kept well cleaned and oiled. In those days the M16 fired a 55 Grain projectile and back home it would have made a good fox rifle. However it was light and capable of automatic fire and did the job even on semi auto if the shots were well placed. The SLR was a big rifle with a big punch; our national servicemen had no trouble in handling the SLR.and they were drawn from a cross section of the community. The problem now is that the civilian populace is discouraged from owning a fire arm and gaining valuable experience from Cadet training and from Target shooting clubs and hunting. The government cannot "Have its' cake and eat it too"

The thing that worries me about the F88 is the lack of a trigger guard or more to the point, the overly large surround of the trigger. There is potential for the trigger getting 'Hooked up' on equipment or whatever. An artic style trigger guard would go some way in solving any potential accidental discharges.

A soldier must, at a glance, be able to see if his weapon is on safe or otherwise; this was easy with the SLR & M16 style safety catches. A soldier must also be able to inspect the weapon chamber (Magazine removed) the old 1A of Magazine off – Cock – Lock – Look in, worked well. If a soldier can't do this with a F88 then UD's will happen. I suppose it does come down to training however if the barrel has to be removed to inspect the safe condition of the F88 well !!!!!

The Ed.



TECHNICAL DATA STEYR F88

CARTRIDGE	5.56 X 45 mm NATO or SS109
	OPERATION, GAS, SHORT STROKE PISTON, SELECTIVE FIRE
	30 ROUND MAGAZINE.
	RATE OF FIRE 680 – 850 ROUNDS PER MINUTE
	WEIGHT 3.6 kg – Length 790 mm

5 RAR VIDEO

There is very little chance of obtaining the master copy of the 5 RAR Video. The committee is looking into the possibility of re-mastering a copy. This may take some time to achieve – if at all. I suggest members who have ordered a video and not received it, to apply for a refund.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Ron Hamlyn reports that the association membership is just short of 1000. Members can help by encouraging ex 5 RAR members to join the association.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THINGS

A large group of Taliban soldiers are moving down a road when they hear a voice call from behind a sand-dune. "One Aussie SAS soldier is better than ten Taliban". The Talliban commander quickly sends 10 of his best soldiers over the dune whereupon a gun-battle breaks out and continues for a few minutes, then silence. The voice then calls out "One Australian SAS soldier is better than one hundred Taliban". Furious, the Taliban commander sends his next best 100 troops over the dune and instantly a huge gunfight commences. After 10 minutes of battle, again silence.

The Australian voice calls out again "One Australian SAS soldier is better than one thousand Taliban". The enraged Taliban Commander musters one thousand fighters and sends them across the dune. Cannon, rocket and machine gun fire ring out as a huge battle is fought. Then silence.

Eventually one wounded Taliban fighter crawls back over the dune and with his dying words tells his commander, "Don't send any more men, its a trap. There's actually two of them."

A LETTER FROM GRANDMA

The other day I went up to a local Christian bookstore and saw a 'Honk if you love Jesus!" bumper sticker. I was feeling particularly sassy that day because I had just come from a thrilling choir performance, followed by a thunderous prayer meeting, so I bought the sticker and put it on my bumper.

Boy, I'm glad I did! What an uplifting experience that followed! I was stopped at a red light at a busy intersection, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good He is... and I didn't notice that the light had changed.

It is a good thing someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn't honked , I'd never have noticed. I found that LOTS of people love Jesus! Why, while I *was sitting* there, the guy behind me started honking like crazy, and then he leaned out of his window and screamed, 'For the love of God...GO!... GO!...Jesus Christ, GO!'

What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus! Everyone started honking! I just leaned out of my window and started waving and smiling at all these loving people. I even honked my horn a few times to share in the love!

There must have been a man from Florida back there, because I heard him yelling something about a "sunny beach"... I saw another guy waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stuck up in the air. Then I asked my teenage grandson in the back seat what that meant, and he said that it was probably a Hawaiian good luck sign or something. Well, I've never met anyone from Hawaii, so I leaned out the window and gave him the good luck sign back.

My grandson burst out laughing...why, even he was enjoying this religious experience! A couple of the people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started walking towards me.

I bet they wanted to pray or ask what church I attended, but this is when I noticed the light had changed. So, I waved to all my sisters and brothers, grinning, and drove on through the intersection. I noticed I was the only car that got through the intersection before the light changed again and I felt kind of sad that I had to leave them after all the love we had shared, so I slowed the car down, leaned out of the window and gave them all the Hawaiian good luck sign one last time as I drove away. Praise the Lord for such wonderful folks.

Lots of love.

Grandma

ADVICE FROM KIDS

'Never trust a dog to watch you food'– age 10.

'When your dad is mad and asks you' "Do I look stupid?' "Don't answer.'- age 9.

"Never try to baptize a cat", - age. 8.

'Never hold a dustbuster and a cat at the same time.' - age 11.

'If you want a kitten start out by asking for a horse' – age 13

ANZACDAY DETAILS
NEWS FROM THE WEST

ANZAC DAY
This year is looking like being a big one. 5RAR Assoc'(WA Branch) members are asked to support both the 'Branch' and the RAR Assoc' by attending the march in Perth and later at the RAR Assoc's watering hole - **Rigby's Tavern**, - where an area is set aside for the Tiger Battalion. Even if you aren't marching, or are marching at your own sub branch, it would be great to see you at Rigby's to share a laugh a lie and a lager.

Peter deMasson
State Rep' WA

SYDNEY
The after march venue for drinks and snacks will be the same as 2001. The venue will be the '**Crown Hotel.**'

SA

Chris reports that a small group of 5 RAR usually attends the **Buckingham Arms Hotel** at Walkerville SA – The RAR venue is usually the **Old Lion Hotel** north Adelaide.

TAS No formal venue.

ACT
5 RAR will march with RAR contingent. Form up west side ANZAC parade between Korean & Vietnam memorials. After march venue **Olims Hotel** , Limstone & Ainslie Ave. Refreshments available at venue.

QLD
Not available at time of printing. Warren Burns may have details closer to ANZAC DAY.

NT 5/7 RAR will dedicate a memorial wall at Binh Ba Lines. Association members in the area are welcome. The association has no formal arrangements to attend due to short notice and the status of 5/7 RAR 'Ready reaction' duties.

A Tribute to Matthew Linton
KIA 4TH November 1969
Melbourne Cup day

The op was set
The briefing over
Off to Matty's tent
No way we're staying sober
It's going to be booze & cards all night
What about tomorrow
So what, we're not contrite.

There's something about an armalite dawn
With the choppers chompin
To take us to a place
That made us wish we'd never been born.

Push' in through the scrub
Try'in to quicken the pace
Gotta get those clicks up
So we'll be in time for the race
For It's the cup back home
And we don't want to miss out
Too much track hopp'in
Gotta beVC about.

The explosion it was that stopped our run
Hutcho yelled out" what's wrong with the gun"
Donny shouted back - Matty was gone"
The 'Doc' made his way back down the line
Anguish Terror Despair Sadness
His eyes reflected our feelings for all time!

Gunner John (Macca) McMahon
F.O. Party
'B' Coy —5 RAR
Vietnam 1969-70



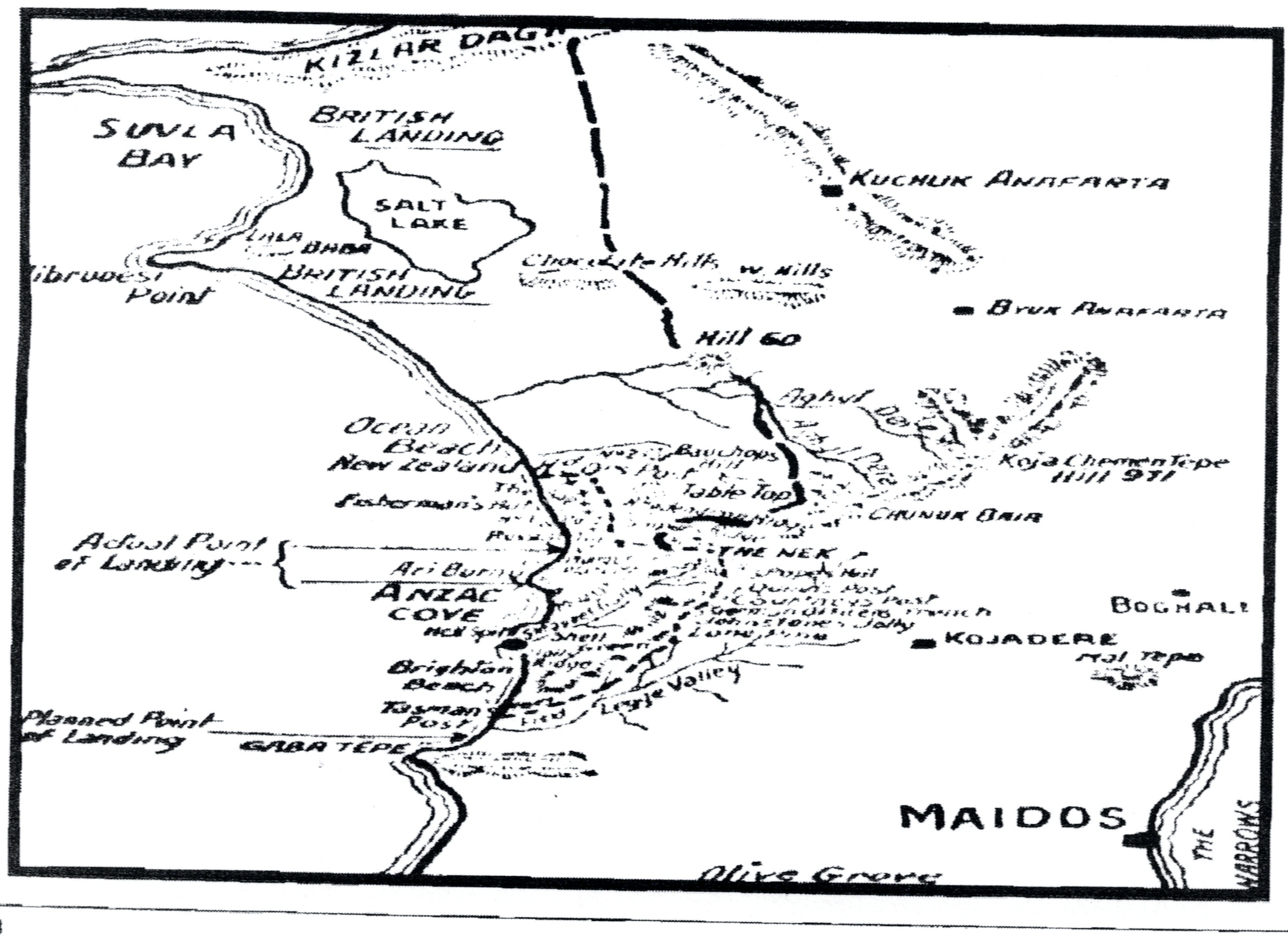
THE ANZACS 25TH APRIL 1915 'LEST WE FORGET'



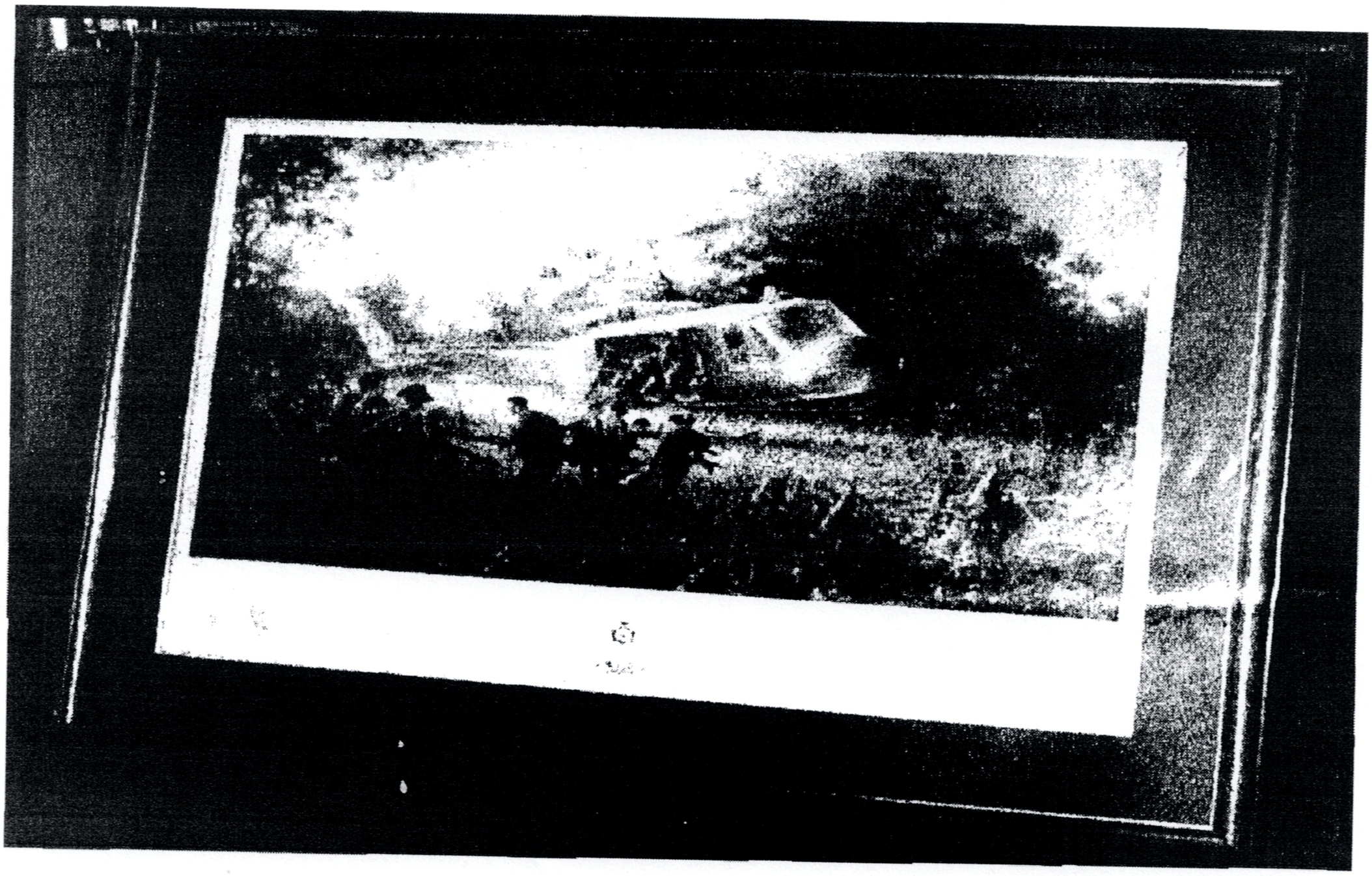
AN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER AND MASCOT

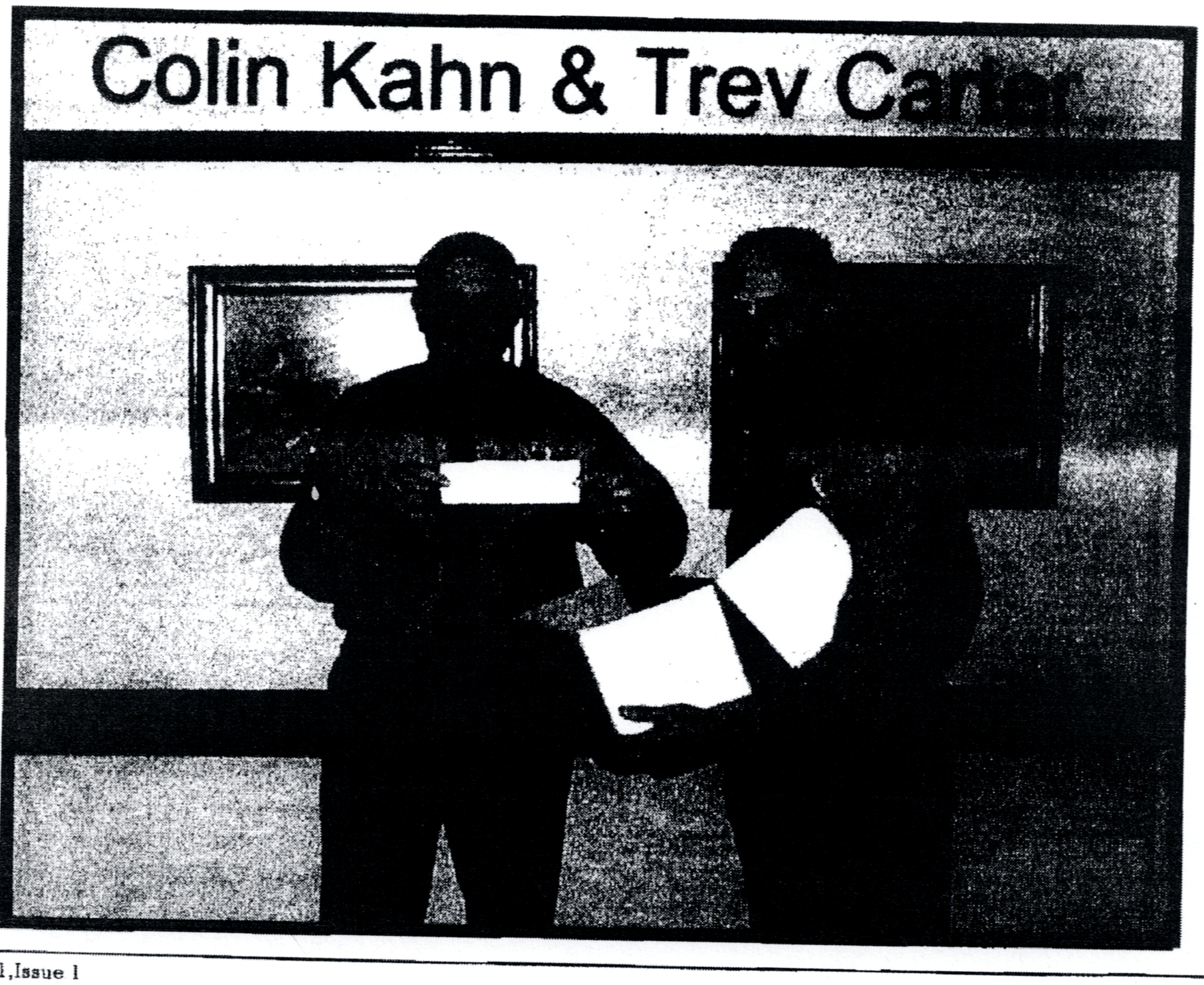


TURKISH POSITIONS



THE PRIZE DRAW BY BRIG, COLIN KAHN DSO





APPLICATION TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP 5 RAR ASSOCIATION
THE SECRETARY – PO BOX 432 BOWRAL NSW 2576

FULL NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....**STATE**.....**POSTCODE**.....

NEW MEMBER ☐ **RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP** ☐

BRIEF SERVICE DETAILS.....

.....

I enclose my cheque or money order for **$25.00.**

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

ORDER FORM – THE SECRETARY 5 RAR ASSOCIATION PO BOX 432 BOWRAL NSW 2576

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....

.....STATE.....POST CODE.....

5 RAR TIE @ $15.00.

VIETNAM TASK. @ $ 28.00.

CAR STICKERS @ $3.00.

HONOUR ROLLS @ $30.00

PLAQUES @ $ 15.00.

.....Tie	$.....
.....Book	$.....
.....Stickers	$.....
.....Honour Rolls	$.....
.....Plaques	$.....
TOTAL	**$**.....

I enclose my cheque or money order for $.....

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS DETAILS

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND SEND TO 5 RAR ASSOCIATION PO BOX 432 BOWRAL NSW 2576

FULL NAME.....

NEW ADDRESS.....

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

PHONE/S.....**H** .....**B**

DATE.....**SIGNATURE**.....

If undeliverable return to
5 RAR Association
PO Box 432 BOWRAL
NSW 2576
Addressed mail only
PP 226202/0007

TIGER *TALES*

DUTY FIRST

SURFACE MAIL

POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA

Col GR Wainwright
15 Johnston Street
NARRABUNDAH ACT 2604

2005