



“CHARLIE”

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FAMILY JOINS CHARLIE COMPANY

Back in September last year I received an email out of the blue from a Jodi Hufer, she was seeking information about her uncle. She had been given my email address by Harry Pooley, a member of the Association of First Infantry Battalions, Harry told her I may be able to assist her to find out details of her Uncle who was killed in Vietnam. Her email started: “I don’t know if you can help me, but I’m trying to find out information about my Uncle, John Kalma”

The hair on the back of my neck stood up, because as many of you know John was one of my best mates. I replied immediately to young Jodi and asked what she wanted to know.

She replied: “I would love to know all about John, his personality, what he did in the army and anything else you know. My Grandfather died about 15 years ago but didn’t talk about John at all. My Grandmother died 4 years ago but also had a hard time talking about John. Must be terrible to bury one of your children. I hope I never experience it. While Mum was 21 when John died, his life was not discussed afterwards. I am absolutely stoked that I found you Ray, helps makes the huge bridge between a man I never knew and myself seem a little shorter. I have no idea why it is important to me to know about John, I’ve asked the question a thousand times but still have no answer. I know how important it is to Mum, maybe that’s what’s driving me.”

As Jodi and her Mum, Els, live in Brisbane I invited them down to our place for the day.

What a wonderful day that was. We talked, shared memories, photographs and many stories. During the day I invited them to join us at our Charlie Company reunion in Grafton I didn’t have to twist any arms They jumped at the chance.

John had served on both tours of Vietnam, He Joined 9PL as a reinforcement during the first tour and quickly became a popular member of the platoon. He returned to Vietnam with the COY and was transferred into A COY. John was killed on the 19th December 1968 by an enemy mine.



Julie, Me, Jodi and Els on my patio.

Jodi and Els left my home that day and both Julie and I felt that we had known them for years. They attended our reunion and quickly established themselves filling the gap in our ranks left by John and many of the gaps in their lives.

Since that time we have come together a number of times and met Jeff, Els’s husband, who provides strong support. I, like many other members of Charlie value their friendship and feel that it is even



John Kalma

more important that we continue to gather and share what we have with the families of our mates

CHARLIE REUNION 2005 - TOWNSVILLE
10th - 16th OCTOBER 2005

CHARLIE COMPANY 1RAR “RE-TASKED”

Well folks the official terminology is “RE-TASKED” in fact the Battalion manning level is so critical that C COY has ceased to be a Combat Rifle Company for the time being. All physically fit members will be transferred out of the Company to reinforce under strength platoons within the Battalion. Until manning levels are raised, C COY will be the rehabilitation company, for injured 1RAR soldiers.

All this happened while I was overseas for six weeks. On my return I contacted the CO, LTCOL Chris Field with a number of questions and concerns. His reply follows:

Ray,

Ref C Coy. The Coy is not closed. MAJ Nick Thomas has discharged with effect 14 May 05. This leaves 1 RAR without an OC C Coy.

In addition we are short Diggers across the Battalion, so reducing our Rifle Coy manning requirements helps ensure that the remaining Platoons / Sections are strong.

C Coy will be commanded by CAPT Mick Spruce and the CSM will be WO2 Rod Rootham, who was CSM C Coy in 2004. C Coy will be manned by NCOs / Soldiers who are temporarily injured and need rehabilitation.

C Coy will therefore continue to provide 1 RAR with valuable service in ensuring that our injured NCOs / Soldiers, can be returned to work ASAP.

Your C Coy Association will be hosted by C Coy during our Birthday Week. This gives you some advantages over members from other Rifle Coys:

1. Mick Spruce and Rod Rootham are hand selected to ensure that C Coy provides capability to 1 RAR. They are the perfect hosts for your Association in October.

2. The C Coy NCOs / Soldiers are great people, who were unlucky enough to get injured doing Duty First. They are keen to host you and your Association, and I am keen for your Association to help the rehabilitation of these Soldiers. Your Association will be able to embrace our C Coy NCOs/ Soldiers as your own. You can make them feel special in that your Association is the strongest and best organised in the Big Blue One. You can give these NCOs / Soldiers some more hope that they can get back to work and continue in the great traditions of the Big

Blue One that you inspire.

3. The C Coy HQ and Soldiers DP1 cages / showers / lockers are central to Coral Lines. Mick Spruce and Rod Rootham will ensure that your Association can gain access to the C Coy facilities, including the Ray Payne Room, for any activities you need during October. This option is not available in the other Rifle Coys or Support Coy.

I am looking forward to honouring our 1 RAR Veterans, including the magnificent C Coy Association, in October this year as we celebrate our 60th Birthday and commemorate our Battalion as the First to Fight 40 years ago.

C Coy remains central to maintaining the capability of the Big Blue One, and they will be honoured to host you and your Association this October.

Duty First

Chris Field
Commanding Officer

The Battalion has been suffering from manning shortages for sometime. The outcome is a choice that nobody wants to make or see happen to any company in the Battalion. As you can well imagine I, along with the current members of the company are extremely disappointed. But having expressed that disappointment I have come to realize that we all have a role in this chapter in the history of Charlie Company.

Our support of the diggers can assist during this time. We need to ensure that we demonstrate that we are willing to accept this as a minor setback and work to maintain the heritage and traditions. Our strength and support will help to see that these diggers who pass through C COY return to their platoons understanding more about the people, the heritage and traditions, about why we have the strongest and longest standing Company Association in the whole Royal Australian Regiment.

In October, by popular request we are returning to our Battalion and our Company for our annual reunion. We will be hosting to diggers of C COY at our reunion dinner at the Townsville RSL. The CO and the OC Charlie have promised that we will be host in a special way by the members of C COY. We will hold them to that.

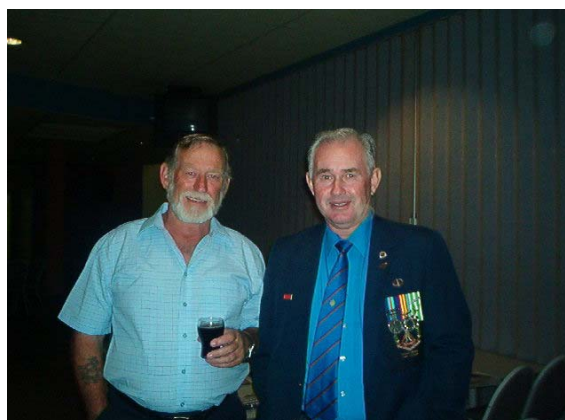
To the members of C COY who have moved to other Companies, we truly know how you feel. You have had the privilege of serving in the best Now take that with you, show that special strength, use the opportunity to your advantage and work like hell to get back to Charlie when it again comes on line. And remember, you will always have the support of this Association.

REUNION 2004 REPORT

The South Grafton RSL was again the venue for our 2004 reunion. This has proved to be the most popular venue with our members. While numbers were along way down on past reunions those who attended had a great time. We had a couple of 'first-timers' in John Ewing (1st Tour) and Brian Whyte (2nd tour). John and Judy Ewing drove from WA to attend his first ever reunion. It was truly wonderful to catch up with them both. John Ewing's wife, Judy, is the sister of Billy Carrol who was killed on the 26th June 1965, so it was also a special occasion for her.



Jane Lally & Hank Snow



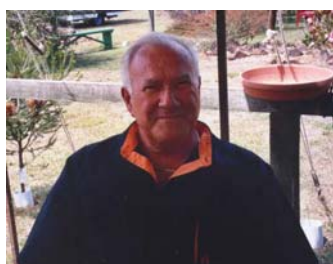
John Ewing & David Hamill



Noel Bredhauer and Terry Hippisley



Surfie Piper & Jodi Hufer



Brian Whyte



Rose & Keith Pratt



John McNamara, Dave Griffiths and Ron West



Alan Smith, Jodi Hufer and Surfie Piper

The annual reunion dinner went well, with some good fun and live entertainment. As usual the South Grafton RSL Club made sure our every need was attended to with diligence. The following day we were all picked up by the bus and taken out to Arthur and Lorraine Burt's property at Coutts Crossing for another great day and night. The ladies from the Clarence Valley PVA prepared a delicious lunch and there was a wide choice. We can be thankful that as usual we had perfect weather for the whole period. On the Sunday night Arthur lit the bonfire and we sat around chatted, sang songs, had few ales till it was time for the bus to return at around 9pm. Our annual golf game was on the itinerary for Monday morning and surprise, surprise everyone turned up. The ladies went off and had a great time playing and learning how to play croquet. I understand that there were some ladies who showed some real talent. At lunchtime we adjourned to the Coutts Tavern for lunch followed by farewells as we headed to our respective homes. Before we left everyone promised that they would see us all in Townsville for our 2005 reunion in October. So I'll see you all in Townsville.

TWO C COY MEMBERS HONoured IN STREET NAMING



David Griffiths, DCM.
&
Thomas Aitken, DSM.



During the last Battalion Birthday week I, along with Arthur Burt and David Hamill accompanied Dave Griffiths back to the battalion. Dave had been invited back to witness the naming of one of the streets in the new Coral lines in his honour. Also to be honoured was another former Charlie Company member Tom Aitken. Unfortunately, due to unit commitments Tom could not attend.

We flew to Townsville immediately following our reunion. We were met at the airport by members of C COY and extremely well hosted by them throughout our stay. The acting OC Capt. Rob Calhoun and CSM Rod Rootham made sure that we were well looked after.

The Street dedication service was conducted in the presence of the members of the Company. With the citations for their awards being read. In Dave's case the Citation was read by L/Cpl Tim Glover, who did an outstanding job. Tom's Citation was read by a Sgt who was one of his diggers in Somalia, unfortunately I didn't get his name.



L/CPL Tim Glover - Dave Griffiths, DCM - CAPT Rob Calhoun - Members of C COY

Also named in special honour were other buildings and streets: Gillson-Parker Unit Training Facility. Named after LCPL 'Tiny' Parker and Peter Gillson who were presumed killed during Operation Hump in November 1965, their bodies have not yet been recovered. In attendance was Peter's son Robert Gillson. I hadn't see Robert for quite a few years and it was truly great to catch up with him; Dean Drive. Named after SSGT Frank 'Dinky' Dean, BEM former member of 65th Battalion, 1AR and 1RAR. Frank was 1RAR's longest serving member. I spent some time talking to Frank during our trip, sadly he died suddenly in February. I look forward to walking down Dean Drive again soon; Walter Lane. Named after PTE J.A. Walter, NSC who received the NSC for his dedication in the performance of his duty as a Company Medic in East Timor during Operation Citadel in 2003. Listening to his citation he should have had the main street of Townville named after him; O'Sullivan Court. This was named after SGT E J O'Sullivan, Intelligence SGT 1RAR and previous member of 65th Battalion. He was responsible for designing the RAR 'Skippy' Badge; Munday Road. Named after LCPL Dave Munday who was awarded the Military Medal in July 1965 for his extreme courage and devotion to duty; and Septimus Drive. Named for the 7th Division, 2nd AIF from where volunteers for 65th Australian Infantry Battalion were drawn in 1945. As we attended each of the naming ceremonies it was noticeable that the diggers were interested and gained greatly from being part of the naming of the new Coral Lines. Hopefully they will pass on to the new diggers who join 'The Big Blue One' the stories associated with the buildings and the streets that they use each day.

As the afternoon worn on it was time to hit the Booza. We were joined that evening for the celebration by Paul Goddard who lives locally. It was truly great to catch up with Paul. He didn't surface the next day, so we can all assume that he had a great time.

There is really something special about returning to IRAR and spending time with the members of Charlie Company. They always extend a truly welcome hand and assure us that we are home again. The young soldiers of today are fitter, better educated, better equipped and better supported than we ever were. However, in each of them I can see former members of our era, young men who want to do their job to the fullest and also play to their hardest and do both with gusto.

During the afternoon the Company was called together and to my absolute surprise the Acting OC CAPT Rob Calhoun announced that the new Company Conference Room was to be named after me. It is now called 'The House of Payne'. You have no idea the overwhelming feeling that came over me, to be honoured in this manner.

The plaque placed on the conference room reads:

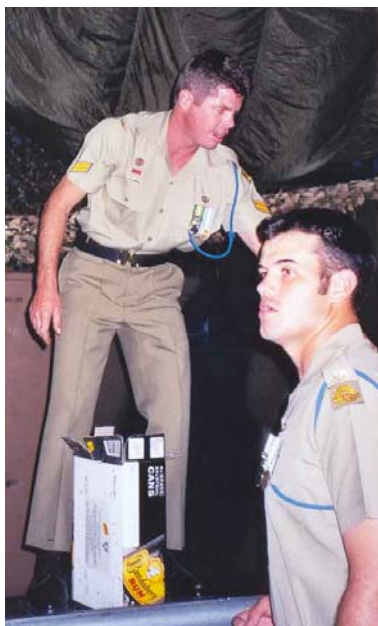
C COMPANY CONFERENCE ROOM
"THE HOUSE OF PAYNE"
IN APPRECIATION OF CONTINUED DEDICATED SERVICE TO PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF C COMPANY BY
RAY PAYNE - 9 PL
SOUTH VIETNAM 1965-66



Back Row L-R: PTEs Paul Davy / James Prascevic / James Long / Clint Pearce / LCPL Tim Glover / PTE Trent Ollis / PTE Dan Challis / PTE Leigh Smith
 Front Row L-R: PTE Brent Mitchell / SGT Craig Yates / PTE Paul Hutchison / PTE Travis Ward

The Birthday parade was carried out with the professionalism we expected and finished with a spectacular fireworks display that started with the march off order and continued with only the RSM standing on his parade ground. Held at last light it was one of the best birthday parades I've seen.

During the parade an award was made to the 'JNCO of the Year' again a time for the chest to fill with pride as it was announced that this prestigious award was made to CPL Ben Cook, 8 Sect, 9 PL C COY. Extra special for me as it was my old section while I served in Charlie Company.



Cpl Ben Cooke seen here shouting the bar - something he did more than once that night. Thanks Cookie.

The boozier still remains the meeting place and we gathered each night with the members of the Company they were only too willing to share their stories and adventures. They were extremely proud of their Company and it's traditions. They are always interested in how platoon names came about 'Body Snatchers and Lepers' are titles that they wear with pride. I told them that with a bit of luck the Platoon Commander who was responsible for 8PL getting the title, Kevin Lunny, may turn up in Townsville for the 60th Birthday celebrations.

Our next reunion is to be held back at the Battalion, over the period 10th to the 16th October. Why not make a special effort, come back and join with the lads and make this something special. More details later in this edition.



CHARLIE COMPANY
ENJOYING A BEER

COMPANY PHOTO PROJECT

Your help needed.

Currently, Pat Mann is working on putting together a photographic history of Charlie Company and the members of the 1st tour. His intension is to create a CD that will be made available to mem-

bers and IRAR. He commenced before Christmas and has already received some photos from members. To make this project work it needs everyone to contribute by sending your favourite photos to Pat. For those on email you can forward them over the net. Others please post your photos, Pat will copy them and return them to you.

If you have Section photos like the one below, please try to name each person left to right. If you are not sure of their names just include a question mark like the example below.

I am also looking for members from the second tour, Somalia and East Timor who are willing to put together a CD of their tour. If you are willing to step forward and take on the task please let me know, I'll give you all the support you need.

We really need to capture the history and present it to the Company so that it is available for the future soldiers who join Charlie Company. We the former members are the history of the Company, 60 years has passes since the Company was formed, yet if we look at what has been recorded of that history it is very little. Sure there are



some photos of operational periods; there is a photo album that we put together and donated some eight or nine years ago, and a few other things. Of the estimated 1000's of photographs that would have been taken between us all, there is very little available. There is also very little of those who served between operational tours.

We now have the opportunity to take advantage of today's technology by placing the photographs on CD's not only will this provide a captured history to Company it will enable the rest of us to have a photographic history of our time as a member of the Company.

Please don't put this aside to do later as I know only too well We don't seem to find the time later. Pat Mann's address details are as follows:

? - ? - Surfie Piper, Dick Muller, Pat Mann, Gary Bland, Ken Cheers

Pat Mann 21 Avondale St Toowoomba Qld 4350 Ph: 07 4633 1022 Email: pathildamann@optusnet.com.au

CHARLIE COMPANY REUNION 2005

The CO IRAR, LTCOL Chris Field and the OC C COY, CAPT Mick Spruce have invited us all to return to the Battalion in Townsville to celebrate IRAR's 60th Birthday and the 40th Anniversary of the 1965 Deployment to South Vietnam. The Birthday week will cover the period 10th - 16th October. A full programme of events is being planned by the Battalion and other outside events are being planned to ensure that everyone has a great time.

At our last reunion it was decided that our 2005 Reunion would be held in Townsville. I have booked the Townsville RSL Club's function room for Tuesday, 11th October. This room holds 200 people. It is my intension that we invite the current members of Charlie Company to join us at our reunion dinner.

I am going to require numbers in advance and I'm looking for a really good response this year. I realize that Townsville is a great distance for many of you, but with airfares now a lot cheaper it can work out cheaper than travelling to Grafton. Check it out!

The week of celebrations will finish on the Saturday night with a 'Battalion Birthday Ball' at the Townsville entertainment centre. Those of you who attended the 50th Birthday Ball in 1995 will remember what an outstanding night this really in was.

A number of our members have already booked accommodation. It is hoped that some single male accommodation may be available - this will be first come first served.

If you're interested in receiving more information please write me a note ... or if you prefer you can ring or email me.

MAIL CALL



Unfortunately, there will be no letters in this edition as 'this' idiot copied and typed them all to a file on my computer and in a late night 'Brain Explosion' deleted them all. I was even asked if I was sure I wanted to delete them! You would not believe how angry I was Everything gone! My apologies to about twenty members who sent me letters and emails. I have now introduced a foolproof system All I have to do is train the fool.

FIRST TOUR MEMBERS IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR THE 173RD AIRBORNE REUNION IN SYDNEY.

Already some 300 have, including many C Coy members. You do not need to be a member of the Society of the 173rd Airborne to attend. If you need a registration form simply contact me. This reunion will commemorate the 40th Anniversary of our Deployment.. It's our History!

BABY FOR TWO 1RAR SOLDERS

For the first time in the history of 1RAR two soldiers have been blessed with their own baby daughter.

CPL Jay Campbell, Charlie Company, and his wife PTE Melisa Jane Campbell, 1RAR Band, are to be congratulated on the birth of their baby daughter Zoe, who was born on the 27th October.

Another bit of Battalion history created by a member of Charlie Company. Well done both of you.

VALE

215699 Robert Richard Brown
2 - 2 - 1943 - 15 - 4 - 2005

*Bob deployed to South Vietnam with 7PL
C COY 1RAR on 5th June 1965.*

He was wounded in action on 13-10-1965 receiving multiple shrapnel wounds. He was repatriated back to Australia on 29th October 1965.

Bob lived in Villawood in Sydney and was a member of the Chester Hill RSL. He kept to himself and had little contact with former mates. He told me once he enjoyed reading 'CHARLIE' but didn't want to see anyone or go to reunions

HE WILL BE REMEMBERED

LATE MAIL

From Karl 'Griz' Adams,

Just a short note to let you know that I am currently posted to Tom Price, WA. I have just put my discharge in after 22 years service and next year will be moving back to my farm in wet Tully N'QLD.

I am already an active member of the RSL there and we are trying to inject some more young blood into the RSL. Last year the majority of the committee were serving members and we got a lot done.

I suppose by now you are aware of the disbanding of Charlie Company. HOW DISGUSTING!!!! Should never happen!!!! Just shows that there are some major problems with retaining Soldiers these days. We need to get some conditions of service back in. We are not public servants. If they treat us as public servants then we will act like public servants!!

Anyway sorry about that....Hope you have a good ANZAC day and enjoy yourself.

Griz Adams

Late Mail Continued page 9

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you have an email address and I don't already have it, email me at: raypayne@netspace.net.au

CO 1RAR AWARDED BRONZE STAR

LTCOL Chris Field has been awarded the US Bronze Star for exemplary service on operations with the Coalition. He was a planner with the Coalition's land component of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chief of the Defence Force, General Peter Gosgrove, after inspecting the soldiers on parade on March 7th, called the CO forward and made the surprise presentation for his excellent service as an intergrated member of the US staff.

LTCOL Field was humbled and surprised by the presentation, he commented, "The honour is that my American colleagues recognized me"

The award's citation read that LTCOL Field made direct and significant contributions to the success of the Coalition forces, the defeat of the enemy and the restoration of the country of Iraq to its people.

I'm sure you'll all join with me in CONGRATULATING the CO.



LTCOL Chris Field, CSC.

By any yardstick, Lt Col Field's operational experience is quite impressive, UN Military Observer in Israel, Syria and Southern Lebanon 1996-97. Operation Interfet, East Timor 1999-2000. The US Marine Corps Command Staff College 2000-2001. The US Marine Corps Command School of Warfighting 2002. Operational Planner 3rd Army Coalition Forces, Kuwait and Iraq 2002-2003, and of course the Solomon Islands 2004-2005.



Bronze Star Medal

The Bronze Star Medal was established by Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944 (superseded by Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962). The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy; or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. Awards may be made for acts of heroism, performed under circumstances described above, which are of lesser degree than required for the award of the Silver Star. The Bronze Star Medal may be awarded for meritorious achievement or meritorious service.



L-R: Trevor Hagan, OAM - Brig I R W (Lou) Brumfield, CBE, DSO (Retd)
Ready to step off in the Brisbane ANZAC Day march.

A Tribute to ANZAC Day

Ken Bunker

*With their hair a little whiter, their step not quite so sure
Still they march on proudly as they did the year before.
Theirs were the hands that saved us, their courage showed the way
Their lives they laid down for us, that we may live today.*

*From Gallipoli's rugged hillsides, to the sands of Alamein
On rolling seas and in the skies, those memories will remain.
Of airmen and the sailors, of Lone Pine and Suvla Bay
The boys of the Dardenelles are remembered on this day.*

*They fought their way through jungles, their blood soaked desert sands
They still remember comrades who rest in foreign lands.
They remember the siege of old Tobruk, the mud of the Kokoda Trail
Some paying the supreme sacrifice with courage that did not fail.
To the icy land of Korea, the steamy jungles of Vietnam
And the heroic battle of Kapyong and that epic victory at Long Tan.*

*Fathers, sons and brothers, together they fought and died
That we may live in peace together, while at home their mothers cried.
When that final bugle calls them to cross that great divide
Those comrades will be waiting when they reach the other side.*

LATE MAIL CONTINUED

From Jack Panossian

I don't know if you know that a few of the IRAR boys got together a few months ago and formed the IRAR Group over here in WA. The man in charge is Ivan Phelps. On this ANZAC Day we are laying wreaths in three different places. I'll be at the dawn service in Perth, Ivan will be in Armadale and Muff Murray will be in Mandurah. Every memorial we have gone to in the past and at the Vietnam Memorial in Kings Park we see names like Penn, Van Valen and so on. So I decided a couple of months ago to remember the boys with a wreath. If I get any photos of the day I'll send them across. Take care mate, love to Julie. I will be thinking of all the guys on ANZAC Day.

ED: I'll see you in Sydney in July Jack.

**NEXT REUNION TOWNSVILLE
10th - 16th OCTOBER 2005**

RE: CORAL REUNION

Thank you for your email and offer to keep me in touch with the CHARLIE COMPANY ASSOCIATION.

I would appreciate the newsletter and any information relating to the reunion. Up until the last 15 months I have had no contact with any ex IRAR mates for 30 plus years. It only started when couple old mates contacted me on two separate occasions and late last year I ended up going to a small get together of 9 Platoon mates (2nd Tour). So I've come out of the "woodwork".

They suggested I should go to the next reunion, so I thought I should make the effort. I have enjoyed rekindling the old mateships and am looking forward to attending the reunion.

At this stage, I won't be arriving until the Saturday so might see you then.

Thank you again. Rob Petrie

BLUE LANYARD - RED BANNER

Author Lex McAulay

Lex has written a book on Operation Crimp (HoBo Woods) January 1965. He has been reseaching this book for the last couple of years. This is a 'not for profit' book and will likely only have one print run so be quick to place your order. Lex has provided me with ordering details:

From Lex McAulay: *The book is in the final stages of production and is expected 'soon' after Anzac Day from the book binders in Victoria. Now is the time for us to ask for payment so we can pay the printers. Do NOT send cash in the mail.*

If you do not wish to send credit card detail via the Internet, please fax, telephone or mail the form below to: Banner Books, 122 Walker Street, Maryborough QLD 4650; phone 07-4123-0255; fax 07-4123-0199.

Each credit card use will be confirmed with a receipt giving details of the purchase and the bank authorisation number for the transaction. Remember that this receipt can be used as a basis for a tax deduction for 'professional library' if you maintain one. Be assured that we do not retain credit card details in our computer, nor do we archive them there. Emails with card detail are printed, and then the email is deleted. If paying by cheque or money order, it should be to 'Banner Books', not Lex McAulay.

We do not provide detail of customers to any other organisation.

For delivery, we are happy to send the book/s to a home or business address as convenient to you. The book/s will be sent in a 3kg Australia Post satchel or carton. This will be delivered by the parcel post contractor and if no one is home to accept delivery, a card will be placed in the letterbox.

Finally, I will send a complimentary copy of the book to the NOK of those men we lost on the operation, so if you thought of doing so, thank you, but there is no need. They already have paid a high price, against which the cost of the book is nothing.

I also have some copies of my book on the Kokoda campaign, 'Blood & Iron', and this is listed below for those interested.

The paperless office is a myth, so please complete this form and send it by your chosen method.

Name:..... telephone: (.....)

Delivery Address:.....

.....State Post Code:

Please supply ... copy/copies of BLUE LANYARD, RED BANNER @ \$42.00 each

Please supply ... copy/copies of BLOOD & IRON @ \$10.00 each

I enclose cheque/money order for \$.....

Credit Card detail: Mastercard, Bankcard, Visa, Amex (no Diner's Club facility)

Name on card (block letters).....

Card Number

Expiry Date Signature.....

Signed by the author: Yes No

Banner Books, 122 Walker Street, Maryborough QLD 4650; phone 07-4123-0255; fax 07-4123-0199.

PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY - DON'T MISS OUT

ANZAC DAY REPORTS

FROM GRIZZLY ADAMS

G'day Ray and fellow members of "Charlie",

For you guys who do not know, I am currently the Training Warrant Officer of BTP the Pilbara Regiment in Tom Price WA.

ANZAC day was a booming success for us with about 100 people turning up for the Dawn service. After the Service everyone was invited back to the Depot for the gunfire breakfast where we raised \$845.00 for Legacy.

Prior to the 2 minutes silence at the dawn service, I explained to the towns people that we use this time to think about our grand fathers, fathers, brothers, other relations and friends who have died while serving this country.....and that I will be using this 2 minutes to remember Chris (Camel) Ahmelman who was killed in Iraq last week. Chris was in my Section for a brief time while I was the Support Section Commander in Charlie Company when "Charlie" was deployed to Malaysia in about 1990-91.

I could not believe it when I was told that Charlie Company was getting disbanded!! I still do not understand why disband the best Company in the Battalion (Am I bias?)

No doubt you, Ray would have spoken to the CO about the matter and may have gotten a good reason?

Hopefully this will not be for long. Ray...will you be preparing a package for when Charlie will be added into the Orbat again, letting them know about the Platoon names and the stories behind them?

Well guys I am finally pulling the pin at the end of the year. I will be moving back to the farm in Tully and have been promised work as a Reservist at the Jungle Training Wing where I will be again working with Alex Tesserri who is another ex Charlie Coy member who, by the way made up the sniper pair with Chris Ahmelman in my Section in Malaysia.

Well guys that is enough from me for now.

STAY LOOSE - Grizzly Adams

FROM GRAHAM CRICK

G'day Ray,

This years Anzac Day was rather unique. Arthur (Bluey) Olson (ex 5 RAR and 9 Platoon CCoy 1RAR 1974-75), myself and our wives Ruth and Irene were at 80 Mile Beach, an isolated piece of heaven midway between Pt Headland and Broome doing a bit of fishing.

After our dawn service Artie and I marched up the beach barefoot with stubbies, T shirt and dorky straw hats wearing our miniatures, Irene and Ruth took the

salute and the spectacle was watched by 48 seagulls, two Oyster Crackers, 3 nice salmon and a large Queen fish. The highlight was a fly-past by a squadron of pelicans, followed by smoked Queen fish, BBQ Salmon, drinks & drinks etc etc. A day to remember.

STAY LOOSE - Graham Crick

FROM PETE LINDWALL

G'day Ray,

Here is my ANZAC day report. I visited an old Airborne Platoon mate who lives out west in Queensland at a place called Nannago, its about a two hour drive from Mooloolaba. Des Schirmer moved from Adelaide to Nanango for a quite country life and he certainly found it out there. We formed up at 9:30am in the main street of Nanango and marched down to the War memorial, we were led by a guard of honour from the Signals unit from Cabarlah, near Toowoomba. We were then invited back to the RSL who then put on a free lunch and drinks till 1:00pm. The Signals detachment has an annual commitment with the RSL, they supply the food and the RSL supplies the drinks, not a bad arrangement and it is a positive way of keeping the ANZAC day marches alive and well in the country. All in all a great day was had by all and it is wonderful to receive the hospitality and friendship of a small country town.

Cheers. Pete Lindwall

FROM ADRIAN HODGES

This is not so much a 2005 Anzac Day account of such but a quick narrative on a small portion of Townsville's Anzac Day commemorations.

The morning was spent with individuals attending dawn services and street parades not only in and around Townsville but also as far as places such as Charters Towers and Normanton for those current 1 RAR soldiers. This year it was decided that the Townsville RSL Club be the location for the Somalia lads to convene and come lunch time, familiar faces started to appear.

In attendance on the day to name a few were John Wells, Mark Retallick, Chad Hughes, Scott Allen (Worm), Andrew Skinner, Miles Salom (Tuna), Kiwi Lowry, Blue Hilbourne, Peter Abdul-Rhman, Richard Heard (Head), Peter Vigar, Mick Johnson, Adam Coll (Bull), Ben Barrett, and Peter Angus. John Pickett and Craig Yates would have been certain shows however they were on duty in Normanton on the dry.

I'm sure all who attended will agree that a great day was had.

At every reunion there is someone there who came along in the hope that you'll be there.

ANZAC DAY REPORT FROM PERTH

FROM DAVE LEAMAN

Our Perth ANZAC Day started with fine clear and cold morning. We headed off with the Arab (Jack Panosian) to lay a wreath in KINGS PARK MEMORIAL there must have been two thousand people attending. After the service we went to the Vietnam memorial on the other side of Kings Park. There was a good turnout, much larger than last year. We then headed home for some rations, then back into town met up with the troops, 26 in all, but slowly growing. Ivan Phelps had a banner made also hats. Everyone looked very smart. The march finally got under way, with us following 5RAR; someone blamed that on the marshals. Very hard to keep in step let alone in line. After the service it was back to the RSL for revival drinks, and then we legged it up to the Emporio Bar & Cafe ended up with 28 men and women. We had lunch, lies and laughter plus a couple of beers? A great day had by all. A toast was made to the REGIMENT and fallen COMRADES. Kindest regards to everyone from the SAND GROPERERS.



Sand Gropers on the March with their new banner

ANZAC DAY REPORT FROM BRISBANE

FROM RAY PAYNE

I have not marched in Brisbane for three years.... But this year my whole family decided to travel up with me on the train and watch the march. I asked my son, Glenn to march with me and join me for the day.

When we arrived in Brisbane I found that the usual form up point had been changed. So we wandered up and down looking for the 1RAR Banner, a guide told us that the form up point was in George St Wrong! In our wanderings I found our former OC, Jim Tattam, former 8pl Commander, John McNamara with Bill Giles former 11PL D Coy, they too were temporarily misplaced.

Finally we located 1RAR down a side street in the shade. Already there was former 1st tour CO Lou Brumfield, and a number of the 1RAR Association committee members, Jock Bennett, Bruno Flemetti, Trevor Hagan and co. John Dwyer, former Commander 7PL 1st tour, arrived and advised that he was well and over his bout of unwellness. We were soon joined by Peter Arnison, former Governor of Queensland, as always he was sporting a beaming smile and a warm handshake.

Attendance was along way down from the last time I marched Brisbane. The only C Coy marchers were; Jim Tattam, John McNamara, John Doorley, Snow Hawkins and me. Others like John Dwyer rotate around each year between other units they served with.

The march was well supported by a wonderful crowd, my guess is that it was much larger than the last time I marched in Brisbane. Having my son marching with me after his twelve month away working overseas was truly great. Having my whole family, including eight grandchildren wanting to support the march was great.

Following the march we boarded buses, provided by the RAR Assoc. these took us out to the 6RAR Sgt's Mess. The setup out there is great with huge tents and plenty of seating. BBQ lunch for \$2:00 and beer at \$1:50 a stubbie. Arriving after marching with their other units where Tom Smith, Bernie LeSeuer and Al Miranda, to swell to C Coy ranks.

After a few beers in the Sgts Mess Al, Snow and I, with Glenn in tow, went over to the OR'S Booza. Now this was where the real action was! They had a 'Mechanical Bull' and quite a number of very attractive young ladies who were determined to tame this Bull. Very Interesting!!!

Our day finished with a train trip home to the Gold Coast from Enoggera. It gave Glenn and I plenty of time to reflect on what was a most enjoyable and memorable day.

ANZAC DAY REPORT FROM MELBOURNE

FROM RAY RAINES

Firstly, I draw your attention to the photograph of John Arnold, Mary Lehr and myself taken prior to the march in Melbourne. I met Mary that morning purely by chance and as it turned out she is Michael 'Stony' Bourke's sister.

I had travelled to Melbourne from my home on



John Arnold, Mary Lehr, Ray Raines

Macleay Island off the coast of Brisbane, on my arrival at the form up point I noticed a lady standing by herself holding one of the Australian Flags that were presented to the NOK of those who lost their lives in Vietnam. I approached her and asked her who's flag she was carrying. She replied, "Michael Bourke's". With a lump in my throat and tinkle throughout my body I replied, "Stony Bourke who was killed in the grenade accident in June 1965 at Bien Hoa" She replied "Yes".

I introduced myself and told her that I had never met Stony, because I was one of the many reinforcements who replaced C Coy's casualties, I didn't arrive till November 1965.

Meeting Mary that morning was the strangest thing and I was quick to relate a story of another chance meeting that involved her brother.

I took her back to the march through Sydney on 9th June 1966 following our return from Vietnam. We were all sent on leave Kevin Gudgeon, Graham Dundy and I, caught a train home to Adelaide via Melbourne. On our arrival at Flinders Street Station we were departing our carriage when we were confronted by a TV crew and a journalist. We were asked if we were Vietnam veterans, when we all said yes he asked if we knew Stony Bourke as his sister Dianne was standing near by. Our answer was, yes we knew of him, as we had all served in the same company. We spent a short time talking with Dianne. Now by sheer chance I'd met another sister.

While Mary and I were standing at the form up point a journalist from the ABC approached us and asked if he could record our view and thoughts on ANZAC Day and our one in a million chance of meeting as we did. The ABC used our story during the Melbourne parade.

John Arnold has taken Mary under his wing and will ensure that she is kept abreast of the happenings in C COY and in the 173rd Airborne - Chapter 27 in Melbourne.

The following poem was written by Denise Guiton. Denise is the sister of Allan Hansen who was killed in South Vietnam 25th October 1965.

Brothers

Denise Elizabeth Margaret Mary Guiton (nee Hansen)

You went full of cheer to a war torn land
a great adventure we thought, you and I,
I waved you off and you were gone -
You wrote, I read the letters fond...
I did not see the coming dread.
And then no more would letters come,
the adventure lasted a very short time,
then you were gone, you were not mine.
I tried to weep but anger came
my world was truly not the same
now no one left, just me alone.
My brother

For all these years my secret kept
to all but few who guessed I suspect,
and they kept quiet for my sake
but deep inside my heart would break
of emptiness until I found
a kindred spirit in my man
his gentleness would lead me on
to better things and then beyond
to pray for you and let you rest
with all your mates who loved you best.
Your brothers
Some of the men who did come home
no peace of mind, they did but roam
an empty land no love for them
and worst of all their mates now gone.
Their brothers

We pray for them for peace of mind
O gentle angel please be kind
give them love and company
respect and treat them tenderly.
Mary enfold them in your cloak
and pray to the Lord for healing and hope.
Our brothers