

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COLOURS OF 5 RAR

Presented at the 2015 Commemorative Service
by PTE Ryan Lee - 5 RAR Champion Soldier 2014

To trace the origin of the custom of carrying Colours, one must go back to the days of early man, who fixed his family badge to a pole and held it aloft in battle. This was for the dual purpose of indicating his position and as a rallying point should the occasion arise. To lose the standard often meant that one's leader was lost. Therefore to "keeping the flag flying" was a very great need.

It was said by Sir Edward Bruce Hamley in the 1800's:

*"A moth- eaten rag on a worm eaten pole,
It does not look likely to stir a man's soul,
'Tis the deeds that were done
'neath the moth eaten rag,*

When the pole was a staff and the rag was a flag"

The Queens and Regimental Colours of the 5th Battalion were first presented to the Battalion by the His Excellency, the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler VC, KCMG, CBE in October 1967.



Upon the linking of 5 and 7 RAR on 03 December 1973, 5/7 RAR paraded with both sets of colours. On 03 December 2003, the unit was presented with a single set of colours. The Battalion's original Colours were secured in the Soldier's Chapel at 1 Recruit Training Battalion, Kapooka. After the de-linking with 7RAR and on an exercise at Cultana, South Australia, the original Colours were paraded and re-dedicated. The 5th Battalion being the first Battalion to rededicate itself to their original Colours.

On 5 JUNE 2008 on return from IRAQ, the Battalion paraded, farewelled and marched off the original Queens and Regimental Colours. The Administrator of the Northern Territory Tom Pauling AO, QC then presented the new Queens and Regimental Colours to the Battalion. The original Colours were returned to the Soldiers chapel at 1RTB.

Ladies and Gentlemen please be upstanding

Ladies and Gentlemen as I stated earlier the Colours act as a rallying point and as an indicator of the location of its leader, I present to you the Queens and Regimental Colours of the 5th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment.

(Curtains open – Colours spot lighted and Dominique played)