



HOLDFAST

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION INC.

THE TUNNEL RATS PLAYED KEY ROLES ON OPERATION OVERLORD



ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF LONG KHANH WE TAKE A REFLECTIVE LOOK BACK AT OPERATION OVERLORD

Nostalgia Pages



Pages of great pics from the past to amaze and amuse. Photo contributions welcome. Send your favourite Vietnam pics (with descriptions, names and approx dates) to Jim Marett by email to: tunnelrats.vietnam@gmail.com or post to 43 Heyington Place Toorak Vic 3142

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Holdfast Magazine

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CAPT Jim Burrough heads into the depths



Following the much quoted leadership maxim "I will never ask my men to do something I wouldn't do myself", CAPT Jim Burrough, Troop Commander 2TP 1FD SQN is lowered into a village well to check it out for enemy tunnel entrances or weapons caches. The drop to water level was over 15ft, so Jim is putting a great deal of trust in the rope supporting his descent (and the Sapper operating the winch!). Most villages in our area of operations had elements of the population who were sympathetic to the Viet Cong, and it was common to find weapons or food hidden for future use by the VC.

Tracking the unmistakable imprint of Ho Chi Minh sandals in the soil



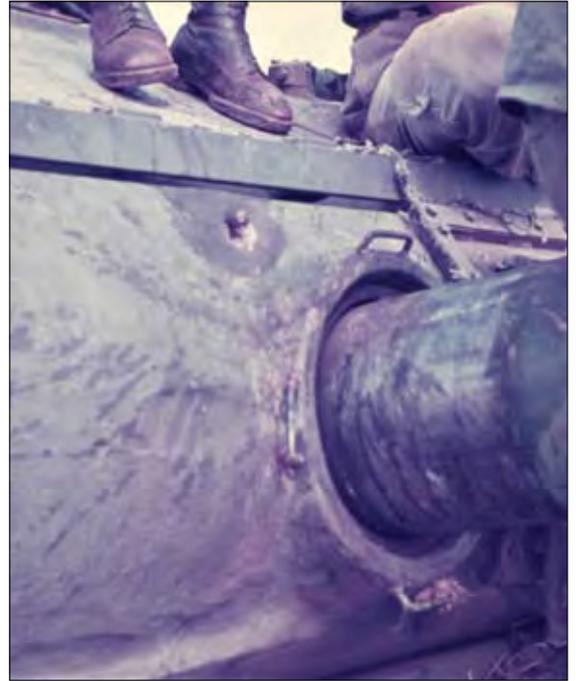
Tunnel Rats attached to Infantry units for operations quickly realised the key aim of most operations was to comb the jungle and plains for signs of the enemy, and to follow those signs, hunting down the Viet Cong. This most often ended up in finding an enemy bunker system, which the Tunnel Rats team would search and then destroy with C4 plastic explosives. The most common signs of the enemy were their footprints in the soil, usually impressed from their trademark Ho Chi Minh sandals which had soles made from old rubber tyres. After a contact with the enemy, another and more macabre sign to follow was the blood-trails left by the wounded.

Blowing stuff up guarantees a Sapper smile



Nothing makes a Tunnel Rat happier than setting up an explosive charge, lighting the fuse, walking away from the scene and hearing the massive explosion right on cue when you have reached the prescribed safe distance. Above, Sapper Bob Ottery (2TP 1969/70) can't keep the smile off his face as he sets up an unexploded bomb for demolition. A Vietnamese ARVN soldier looks on, hoping to learn a few tricks of the trade from Bob.

RPG penetrates tank armour



Tunnel Rats often rode on the top of our Centurion tanks to watch for enemy mines. It was a perilous position if the VC decided to attack the tank with their RPG-7 rockets. These featured shaped charges capable of penetrating the thick armour (see above), and spread a burst of shrapnel across the tank's surface.

Being prepared for unexpected visitors is important in the Army



In Vietnam, every Australian base, Fire Support Base and Forward Operating Base had to be prepared for a full-on frontal attack by the enemy. Regular patrolling and good intelligence information ensured it rarely happened, but any commander caught short in a crisis would quickly find his career in a downhill spiral. This perimeter bunker at 'The Horseshoe' (Approx 7km from Nui Dat) is certainly well prepared in terms of M60 machine gun rounds.

You may not recognise the Back Beach at Vung Tau these days



The Back Beach at Vung Tau in our day (above left) was sparsely populated and often secluded, with swimmers limited to the service personnel from the Korean, Australian and US bases lining its shores. Today (see above right) the beach is often more crowded than a busy summer day at Bondi. And the shores are lined with dozens of high-rise hotels, including the very upmarket Imperial Hotel, sitting exactly on the site once occupied by the Australian Rest and Recreation centre, the Peter Badcoe Cub. How times have changed!

Grim display in our Mines Room



This display in the 1 FD SQN Mines Room features a pair of army boots after going through an M16 mine explosion. It is not known whether the wearer survived, but in M16 mine incidents, the man who stepped on the mine usually lost his legs or his life. This display always left a strong message with the Sappers and Infantry soldiers being shown through the room.

Turning duds into deadly weapons



These M16 mines were found in an enemy bunker system. The mines had deteriorated through time and exposure to moisture, and were no longer operative. The resourceful Viet Cong were removing the explosive content of the mines to reform it into large anti-vehicle mines to be used against our tanks and APCs. While many of their mines were improvised, they were highly effective.

A quick meal break



Squatting at a Vung Tau street stall, this bargirl (complete with a 1960s bouffant hairdo), enjoys a snack and a chat with the vendor before heading back to the bar. No doubt an Aussie soldier is eagerly awaiting her return, to once again hear her promising to "love him long time - no sweat."

The Bad Boy and the Singing Sapper out bush



It takes all kinds to make up a troop of Tunnel Rats, and these two likely lads (seen out bush on operations) are classic examples of the mix that made life so interesting in 2TP 1FD SQN. On the right we have Sapper Frank Denley who famously blew up the Officer Commanding the Squadron's personal dunny, declaring it a far too luxurious amenity in a war zone. And on the left, Sapper Peter 'Roo Dog' Scott who was a superb Sapper out bush, and an equally superb singer back on base. At our troop piss-ups it was always a great moment when Roo Dog grabbed his guitar and entertained the lads with his songs and hilarious ditties. The highlight was always when he broke into our unofficial anthem, the popular song from The Animals, 'We gotta get outta this place'.

Our Nui Dat base camp: Safe haven; real beds; hot showers; and the boozer



There are many aerial photos around of our base camp at Nui Dat, but this is the best we have seen so far. Our 1FD SQN area is shown on the top right of the photo. The Luscomb Bowl is at the top of the runway, alongside the PX.

US spotter plane hit by enemy RPG



This US spotter plane was shot out of the sky on 19th June 1969 by an enemy RPG. The plane was directing US Navy gunfire into the Long Hai Hills when the incident happened, and both the pilot and the observer were killed. Australian tanks, APCs and infantry were nearby protecting a land clearing operation and they quickly moved to the the downed aircraft. By chance a Padre was on the APCs for a familiarisation run and he was able to perform a brief ceremony for the two men who lost their lives.

“Who ya gunna call when you urgently need a landing strip capable of taking a Caribou?”



Operational demands required a Caribou capable landing strip urgently, so these Tunnel Rats working nearby were called in to finish off the work of a Grader operator. The lads filled in the holes, cleared the lumps and oiled down to surface to reduce dust. The plane landed safely minutes later. Seen on the team (left to right) are: Rolly Connor, Dennis Wilson, Frank Denley, unknown, unknown, Bob Smith, SGT Bevan Percival, and unknown. If you can give names to any of the ‘unknown’ lads, let us know.

This felt like five star luxury at the time



It was an absolutely magic feeling to check into the Rest and Convalescence Centre in Vung Tau. You were at the closing stages of your tour in Vietnam when granted this leave. You had checked in your weapon and wouldn't see it again for five glorious days. You were wearing your civvies, you weren't on ready reaction and could totally relax. The food at the centre was exceptional, with lots of salads and fresh fruit. You could wander into town any time you wanted to (within the curfew hours) or you could sit at the well-run bar in the centre with your mates. None of the Australian staff wore uniforms, and the Vietnamese girls working in the bar were great company and never asked you to buy them a Saigon Tea. Paradise!

Charlie is about to have water supply issues!



Tunnel Rats from 1 Troop have set this well up for demolition, with slabs of C4 explosives temporarily held in place by a twig. The well was located within an enemy bunker system. These systems had to be sited near a reliable water supply, which was usually a creek or river, but if this was not possible a well would be sunk to provide water for the troops. By contrast, Australian troops out on operations had water flown out to us by helicopter during the dry season whenever drinkable water could not be sourced from creeks and rivers encountered during patrolling. We dropped water purification pills into our water canteens to clarify the water and eliminate any nasty germs.

Sapper fishing is one of the great traditions of the Engineer Corps



Tunnel Rat Art Richardson (above right) was on Ops with 9RAR near the Song Rai River when tasked with blowing up 40 faulty grenades. By using an Aussie boat working nearby, he was able to drop the whole charge in the river and do a little 'Sapper fishing' at the same time. CAPT Trevor Bawden of 9RAR holds up Art's prize catch from the blast, a 4ft Jewfish, which was later cooked and shared amongst the diggers.

Film of Tunnel Rats Mick Bergin and Eric Thompson blowing up an enemy bunker system



We recently unearthed film footage at the Australian War Memorial showing Sappers Mick Bergin (above right) and Eric Thompson (above left) going through the various stages of blowing up a major enemy bunker system. The lads unpack all the explosives, make up the charges using C4 and DetCord, then place the charges in the bunkers and tunnels. Finally they set up the huge ring-main linking all the charges, light the fuse and walk off to a safe distance to watch the big Boom Boom. Apologies for the poor quality of the photo, but it has been captured off the video. Mick is looking a little hippie-like in his cool bandana, but that was the era rather than Mick's way of life at the time! Mick was a 'Nasho' like many of us, and has been living a somewhat more peaceful life in recent years compared to the Vietnam experience. His life has been centred on his beautifully located self-sufficient farm in the hills near Orbost, Victoria. As could be imagined, his wartime skills have not been wasted and he is a wizard at removing tree stumps by unconventional means! He is also a master at brewing his own bourbon whiskey, creating an end-product amazingly similar to the popular Jim Beam brand.

Operation Overlord and the Battle of Long Khanh

A REFLECTION ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE



By June 1971 Australia had been involved in the Vietnam war for nine years, and the Australians—like the Americans—were reducing their forces as they prepared to pull out of Vietnam. The withdrawal would take time and not be easy. Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army Forces began preparing to move troops from Long Khanh Province back into Phuoc Tuy Province, hoping to lure the Australians into a large-scale ambush in order to inflict a heavy defeat and a propaganda victory.

Aware of the enemy movement, and after receiving special permission from the then Prime Minister John Gorton to allow Australian troops to operate outside Phuoc Tuy Province again, early in June 1971, HQ1ATF (Brig BA McDonald) issued orders for Operation Overlord.

The operation conducted on the Long Khanh and Phuoc Tuy province border, was initiated because the enemy were using the buffer zone between the two provinces to train and equip

There were acts of extreme heroism and courage from all ranks on 7 June 1971 at the peak of what became known as the Battle of Long Khanh. As usual, the Tunnel Rats, the Sappers of 1 Field Squadron's Field Troops were there in the thick of it.

troops before moving them into Phuoc Tuy province to attack and harass the local villages. The Operation was aimed at destroying the enemy forces and preventing them from interfering with the provinces security and the Australian withdrawal. Involving 3RAR, 4RAR/NZ, and a battalion from the US 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade operating from Xuan Loc, the plan of the operation called for the insertion of significant blocking forces which would consist of the US

Tunnel Rats and their Infantry comrades at the site of a destroyed helicopter downed by enemy fire during the battle

2/8 Battalion to block the north east and east along the Suoi Luc River, 4RAR/NZ to block in the south and A Squadron 3 Cavalry Regiment to block along the Suoi Ran River. Meanwhile, 3RAR—under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Peter Scott—and the Centurion tanks from C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment were tasked with driving the PAVN/VC into these positions.

A number of fire support bases would be established with A Field Battery and 104 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery providing indirect fire support in conjunction with American gunners, while 3RAR searched the AO with three rifle companies (A, B, and C), and with Tunnel Rats from 2 Troop attached to provide the mine and boobytrap searching capacity, and to search and destroy any enemy bunker sys-

tems and tunnels found.

The intense battle which took place on June 7 showed yet again that at the platoon level, well-trained and disciplined troops could overcome huge odds. This was the biggest operation 3RAR had been involved in so far on their second tour, and it pitched B Company, with Tunnel Rats from 1 Fld Sqn attached against tough and experienced North Vietnamese troops with long years of combat experience behind them. At the centre of the action was 5 Platoon, and to their credit they were able to hold their ground until support from the other platoons of B company arrived.

3RARs plan was to search its AO with three rifle companies (A,B, and C) with D coy being held in reserve. Two-man Splinter Teams of Tunnel Rats from 2 Troop were attached to each of 3RAR's rifle companies, as well as to HQ in the Fire Support Base (FSB). Two-man Mini-Teams of Tunnel Rats (the difference being the carrying of a mine detector) were also attached to the tanks and APCs supporting 3RAR on the Operation.

The enemy that 5 Platoon met on 7 June 1971 were battle hardened and were suspected to have linked up with D445 battalion for sapper training in preparation for attacks on military installations in Phuoc Tuy province.

As the troops landed into their designated LZs, B Coy was no doubt seen by the VC as they began their search. Captured documents later indicated that the LZ was just 500 metres away from the enemy position.

The heavy weapons company of 3/33 NVA was able to stall 5 Platoon B Coy for almost eight hours as the enemy moved away rapidly along pre-designated escape routes.

Colonel Peter Scott, the CO of 3RAR on their second tour of Vietnam gave his perspective on the Operation when recording for the South Australians at War



**INITIAL 2 TROOP TUNNEL RAT DEPLOYMENT
ON OPERATION OVERLORD**

WITH 3RD BATTALION RAR

A COY: Dave Young, Alex Skowronski. B COY: Ziggy Gnoit, Keith Burley.
C COY: Graham Besford, Dave Roberts. D COY: Ray Fulton, John Belcher

WITH C SQN 1 ARMOURD REGIMENT (TANKS)

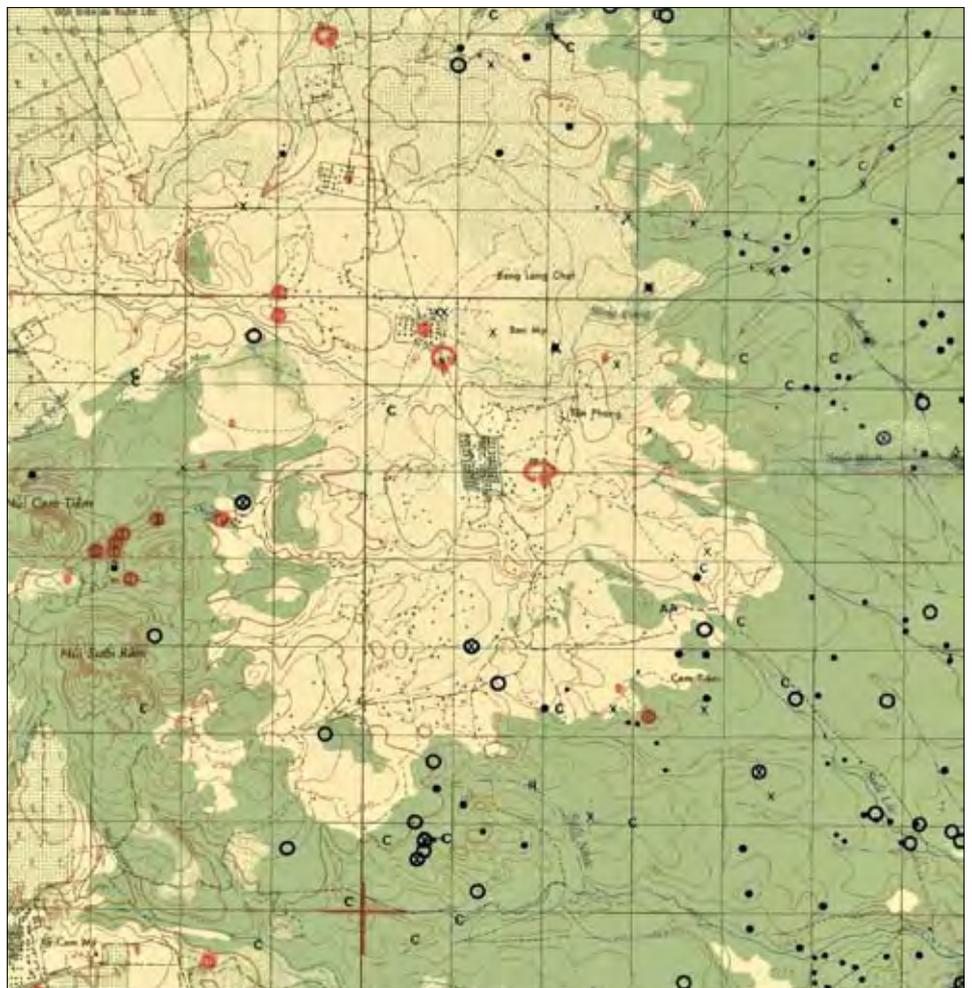
HQ: Sam Collins, Jim Kelton. T1: Dave Briggs, Jock Coutts. T2: Butch Date,
Leroy Bang. T5: John Cross, Bob Hamblyn

ON THE COMBAT ENGINEER TEAM (CET)

Roy Sojan, Ron Heriot, Graeme Skilton, Mick Rasmussen

AT BATTALION HQ

John Tick, John Brady, Ashley Ryan



ABOVE: Map of the area of operations for 'Overlord' indicating known enemy installations and previous mine incidents

Oral History Project 2002:

“Once again, we were operating as a result of enemy wireless intercept, and we were advised that the 3rd Battalion of the 33rd North Vietnamese army regiment was in this location. So this was the first time that we were up against the North Vietnamese. And we found them on the first night (6th June 1971), when 5 Platoon of B Company sighted the bunker system. It was about five o’clock at night and there was no way I was going to get involved in a night operation — so they were pulled back until the next morning.

“It turned out to be the most intensive operational day that we had during the whole period that we were there. The enemy certainly wasn’t running on this occasion. He was sitting in his bunker system, which we found and discovered, and then advanced very, very silently against the next morning, and he fought very tenaciously. I had to bring in the tanks on one flank, the artillery, helicopter gunships, everything that I could produce to

try and overcome this particular enemy opposition. And I think really what happened was that he left a small force there which allowed the rest of the regiment to bug out. We found about thirty bunkers in that area, plus another thirty adjacent to it which had been occupied by D445 battalion. They were obviously assembling there for a major operation against the Task Force in Phouc Tuy Province.

“We had a number of early casualties. One of our officers from the field regiment was killed while he was directing artillery fire. A helicopter was shot down that was trying to drop ammunition. It burst into flames, and a few of my soldiers went into the flaming helicopter and rescued the crew, for which they were

awarded gallantry decorations.”

It turned out that the enemy was waiting in prepared positions for 5 Platoon that morning. At 0600 the platoon moved off towards the bunker system and had only gone 90 metres when all hell broke loose. In the initial burst Pte Hack was wounded and Pte Mitchell was shot through the throat. The platoon was under fire from the flanks as well as from their front.

5 Platoon engaged the bunkers aggressively with their M60 machine-guns but fire from the enemy continued virtually all day, pinning the platoon down. Any withdrawal would have caused even higher casualties, so they had to hold their position while an Infantry and Armoured assault using tanks and

RIGHT: The jungle was so thick in places that even the tanks had to cut the vegetation before they could move forward. BELOW: A crew of 104 Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, fires a 105 mm howitzer gun at Nui Dat in support of Operation Overlord



APCs was assembled. Mounted on those APCs were to be men from D Company plus the Tunnel Rats from 2 Troop attached to D Company and to the tanks and the APCs.

Meantime 5 Platoon was now receiving fire from rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) which the enemy was skillfully firing into the trees above the men, causing the shrapnel to burst down on them from above.

As the tanks were edging their way towards 5 Platoon, they were coming under enemy RPG fire. On reaching the contact point they soon realized the bunker system was so large the tanks were outflanked and were taking RPG fire from all directions.

The tanks let fly with everything, sending a rain of high explosive (HE) and canister rounds into the jungle and into many of the bunkers. RAAF and US gunships were now also flying and firing in support often dropping rockets and gunfire within 15 metres of the troops on the ground. By 0900 CHQ and 6 Platoon had reached 5 Platoon, but Pte Manioloft was wounded in the move and Pte Bob Drinnan and Pte Trevor Sharland were wounded shortly after. At this point a chopper dropped much-needed ammunition, but while distributing this to the men, Pte Peter Fyfe was wounded.

The artillery support was critical to the survival of the men in contact, and they had lobbed in 1,388 rounds during the day from FSB Pamela, plus further support from FSB Trish and FSB Cherie. The artillery forward observer (FO) Lt. Ian Mathers was moving to a better position to direct his fire, when he was killed by enemy fire, leaving Lance Bombardier Peter Maher to direct the fire.

At 1100 another ammunition re-supply by helicopter was taking place when the chopper was hit by enemy ground fire as it hovered over the contact area. The helicopter fell to the ground

behind 5 Platoon and burst into flames, igniting the ammunition on-board. Men from B Company rushed to pull the crew from the burning chopper, getting them all out, but two of them were killed and three were wounded.

Around this time 4 Platoon had also arrived, and the firefight continued. Many of the M60 machine-guns were now jamming because of the over-heating caused by continuous fire. Guns

were swapped between platoons to help ease the problem. The mortars back at FSB Pamela were also jamming and misfiring due to over-heating.

By mid-afternoon D Company with the tanks and APCs and the attached Tunnel Rats from 2 Troop moved into the bunker system in support of B Company. The jungle was so thick in places that even the tanks had to cut the vegetation before they



ABOVE: Tunnel Rat CAPT John Tick, Troop Commander 2 TP 1FD SQN displays a sample of the huge amount of food found in the enemy bunker system which had been stolen from a US Aid shipment



THE ENEMY BUNKER SYSTEM - KEY POINTS

Area: 1500m x 1000m

Purpose: Main enemy base and training camp

Comprised: Up to 100 bunkers plus interconnecting tunnels

Featured: An elaborate mine-warfare training area, unusually deep overhead protection on the bunkers, plus several large bunkers set up for meetings or training classes.



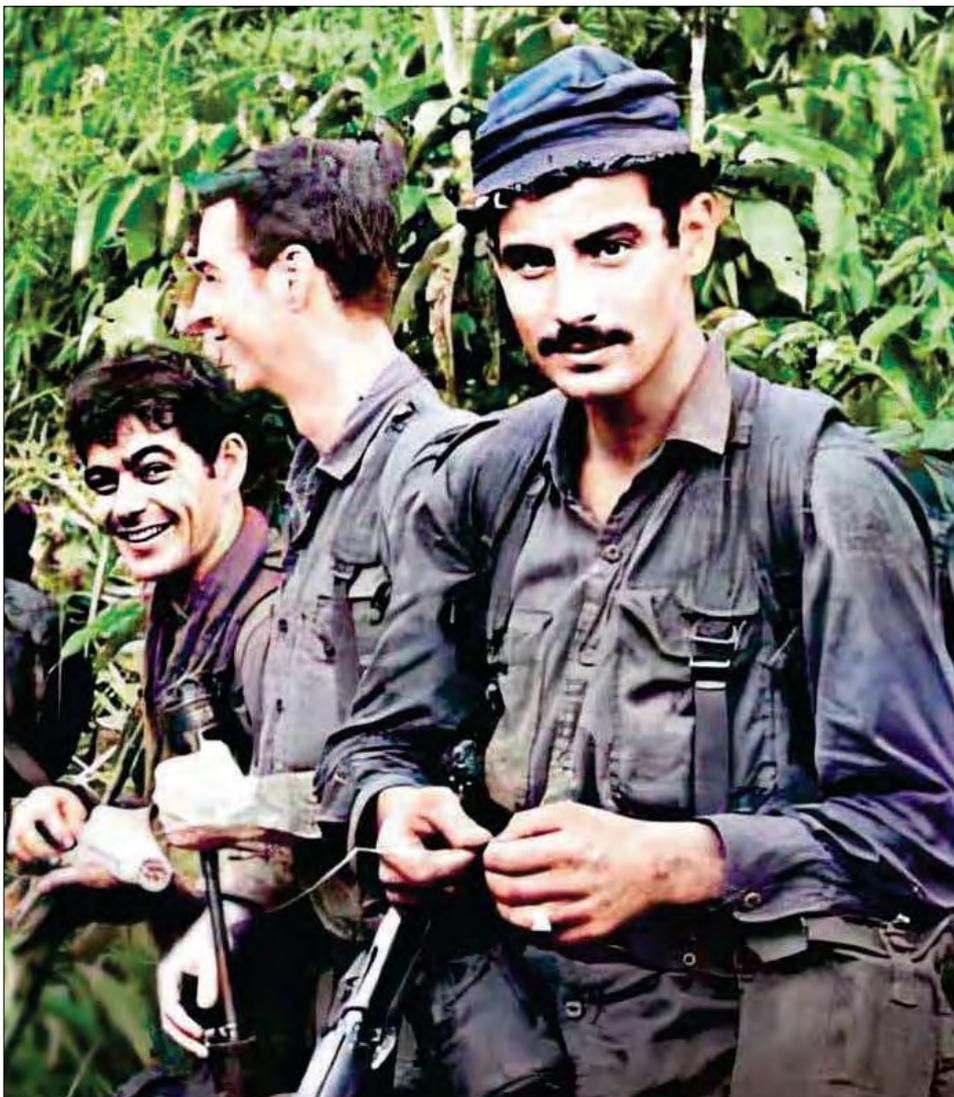
could move forward. And anyway, the tanks could only move as fast as the Infantry and Sappers walking beside and behind them.

Each bunker had to be searched as they moved through the massive system, with the Tunnel Rats checking for mines and booby traps.

Eventually the system was cleared of enemy and 5 Platoon could be relieved and sent back to a safer area for a well-earned rest. They had been in contact for over eight hours.

In the following days, the Tunnel Rats thoroughly searched all the bunkers and the entire camp area before setting charges to blow up the whole system. It was an extensive and well-established enemy camp, with lecture areas, an assault training course, a mine warfare training area, a fresh water well and a graveyard. The camp covered an area 1km by 1.5km and comprised over 100 bunkers, many bunkers with unusually deep overhead protection.

This was one of the last major Operations of Australia's involvement in Vietnam, and fittingly, the Sappers of 1 Field Squadron were right amongst it, as they were throughout the war.



TOP: Group portrait of 5 Platoon, B Company, 3 RAR, at Nui Dat a fortnight after the fierce battle on 7 June 1971. Those wounded on 7 June were still convalescing or had been medically evacuated to Australia.

ABOVE: Members of 1 Platoon, A Company, 3 RAR, wait for word to move out. From Left to right; Keith Harwood., Paul Brudell and Anthony Callus.

The aftermath of war

Sapper Lester Riedlinger was on many operations as a Tunnel Rat with 2 Troop 1 Field Squadron during his extended 18-month tour of duty in Vietnam, including, Operation Overlord in 1971. Nine years after returning home, Lester saw fit to shoot dead his new bride, his dog and himself. Only Lester knows what demons drove him to this tragic point in his life.



ABOVE: Sapper Lester Riedlinger (front left) on operations with 3RAR

The following extract is from the Canberra Times of 29 January 1981, covering the Coroner's inquiry into the tragedy:

DARWIN: A Vietnam veteran who fatally shot his wife and then committed suicide probably had been suffering from some malady of the body or mind that he felt might stem from the herbicide Agent Orange, the Darwin coroner, Mr Alasdair McGregor, SM, said yesterday.

Mr McGregor was inquiring into the death on June 8 last year of Mr Lester Riedlinger, 37, a primary-school teacher of the Darwin suburb of Anula. Mr Riedlinger served as a sapper with the 2nd Troop, 1st Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers, stationed at Nui Dat from May, 1970, to November, 1971.

In handing down his finding Mr McGregor said that on the surface the case was straightforward. The evidence pointed to the conclusion that on the evening of June 8 Mr Riedlinger took a rifle and went to his carport where his new bride, a young Aboriginal girl named Ivy Alinjirwein, sat in their car, and that he shot her from a few feet away. "She was very drunk, possibly unconscious or asleep and

certainly not able to take effective steps to protect herself", Mr McGregor said.

"He returned to the house and later, while sitting at the table, he placed the muzzle of the rifle to his forehead and fired. "Neither death was instantaneous, putting aside 'brain death'. One cannot be certain of exact times, but several hours elapsed between the deaths, his wife being the first to die".

Mr McGregor said the only complication was the consideration of the state of mind of the husband who clearly was sane within the criminal law when he took his wife's life and his own. And he was not drunk. But shortly before his suicide he had called on Mr Frank Alcorta, Darwin representative for the Vietnam Veterans Action Association, and discussed his fears over herbicide contamination.

"I reject the possibility that Riedlinger was never in contact with poison spray in Vietnam", Mr McGregor said. "I am told by Mr John Evans, an organic chemist of some standing, that

in Phuoc Tuy Province the authorities used various mixtures of herbicides known operationally as Agents Orange, White, Blue, Purple, Green and Pink.

"They were used in vast quantities to devastate the countryside. While outside this court argument rages about the effects on men of this spraying, it is certain that many are concerned about the effect the sprays may have had on them." "I see no reason to suppose that the husband was never in contact with the spraying, though I cannot say what particular spray he came up against.

" 'Agent Orange' has become a catchword for the whole range of herbicides. Accordingly, I find that there was a basis for concern by Riedlinger.

"I do not, however, find it likely that mere fear or anxiety that he might have been poisoned in Vietnam would have driven him to murder and suicide. It is more likely that he was suffering from some malady of body or mind that he felt stemmed from Agent Orange".

The 1952 Việt Minh massacre of French soldiers in a Vung Tau military hospital



Maison convalescence de la Casern d'infanterie (the Infantry barracks convalescent home)

During the French War in Vietnam, from 1945 to 1953, the Việt Minh were highly active within Ba Ria Province where Australian forces would be based a little over a decade later.

In 1952 the Việt Minh changed tactics in the South from taking on the French military units in the open to hitting French bases and posts in towns and villages. The objective was to force the French military back into protecting these places to give the Việt Minh the chance to consolidate their political hold on rural areas. The Vũng Tàu massacre was one of these raids.

At about 8 o'clock on the night of 21 July 1952, a group from the Cap City Special Action Unit, took up a position on Núi Lớn, the big hill on the west side of Vũng Tàu overlooking the



Casern d'infanterie where the attack took place. The following extract from the August 1952 issue of Time magazine describes what took place that grim night:

"Cap St. Jacques is the At-

lantic City of Indochina, a city of palms and sandy beaches, at the mouth of the Saigon River. There, a group of sick and wounded French officers dining one evening last week with their families. A war was going on 800 miles to the north, but none of the officers was armed, nor were their sentries. At the entrance to the dining hall, Elysabeth, Nicole, Christian and Michel, children of M. Jean Perrin, vice president of Air Viet Nam, played hide & seek.

"While white-clad Vietnamese waiters served the diners, a column of native soldiers in the green French Union battle-dress emerged from the jungle-covered mountain which overlooks the Cap and marched up to the lighted dining hall in columns of two. They were armed with regulation grenades and

Sten guns and carried machetes. The first grenade, thrown from the kitchen, killed Bartender Tuyen instantly. Vietnamese Cook Nguyen Van Loc played dead, but a green-clad soldier poured boiling water on him, and when he squirmed, shot him. In the hallway other green-clad soldiers shot down the Perin children, caught little Michel running away and hacked him to death with machetes. They hurled grenades and emptied Sten guns into the crowded dining room. Then they waded into the shambles, machetes swinging. After robbing the dead, they disappeared as quietly as they had come.

"The killers were Communists. Wearing stolen uniforms, they were carrying out orders issued by the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam Communist Party from its secret headquarters in the swamps. The order: indiscriminate terrorism. The Communists' aim: to frighten people from supporting the new Nguyen Van Tarn government. In the eight weeks since the government was formed,



ABOVE: The brass sign on the front verandah of the building, declaring it a military convalescence hospital. The Viet Minh were well aware they were attacking sick and wounded soldiers in a hospital facility.

TOP: At the time of the attack, the majority of the wounded soldiers recovering in the hospital were from a mobile unit commanded by Capitaine Jean Ramond, seen here on an earlier operation as he crosses a creek south east of Baria in Phuc Tuy Province. It was common for French officers to have a Vietnamese 'Batman' in the field to carry the radio and prepare meals. ABOVE: French troops call in artillery fire on suspected enemy positions on what we called the 'Warburton Mountains.'



they have committed 67 murders, 87 attempted murders, and nine kidnappings. But no outrage yet matched that at the Cap St. Jacques. When French soldiers reached the dining room, they found eight officers, six children, two women and four Vietnamese servants dead and 23 wounded men, women & children. Only a lieutenant who had rolled into the blood of a dead woman to simulate death and a small boy who had hidden behind a chair remained uninjured.

"Next day, before the coffins of the Cap St. Jacques victims, a French army chaplain, clenching his fists, warned the onlooking soldiery that Christian charity forbade that their vengeance be turned against innocent people. The French grimly noted that no such restraints bound their efforts to run down the guilty.

"A lieutenant who played dead and hid behind a corpse, which got him out of the attack unscathed, gave an account that can be reconstructed as follows:

"The villa which housed the



military rest center is located at the foot of a small hill. The Vietminh soldiers, camouflaged as coolies, entered through the main entrance of the house. Arriving in front of the door of the office, they threw numerous grenades, then finished off the survivors with the machine gun, also attacking the children. One of the four children of a family that was exterminated, having tried to escape by scaling the fence of the mess courtyard, was shot down by a burst of submachine gun, then finished with a cut-up.

"A spokesman for the staff also said that no guard or sentry was ensuring the security of the center. The military authorities, he said, indeed considered

ABOVE: In rice paddies west of Long Phuc Hai, French troops flush a Viet Minh soldier out of a tunnel. Twelve years later Australian troops would be operating in this same area. LEFT: The French military cemetery in Vung Tau.

that it was occupied mostly by wounded, women and children, and was thus protected by the convention on hospitals.

"The military authorities in Saigon believe that this latest action by the Vietminh is part of the terrorist campaign which seems to be gaining momentum. We recall the destruction, on July 10, of a bus of Vietnamese schoolchildren by a remote-controlled mine which left five dead and thirty wounded, and the grenade attack, on July 19, in a cinema in Ving Lie, where five girls and nine adults were killed. Since May, in the region of South Vietnam alone, terrorism has claimed one hundred and fifty-four victims, including sixty-seven dead. In addition, nine people were abducted."

Cap St Jacques - love at first sight for a French soldier

Recollections of a French soldier on his arrival at the port of Cap Saint Jacques (Vung Tau):

"We were anchored at Baie des Cocotiers between the Massif du Lighthouse and the Grand hill and from the rails of the ship we could see the half-moon bay, palm trees and white sands of our destination.

"We were barely anchored in front of the Cape Saint Jacques when a patrol boat began to circle around the cruisers. Armed with 2 heavy 50 machine guns, it was idling and the crew was not looking at the boats but at the sea around us. We immediately understood that the fun was over and that we had arrived in a land where anything could happen.

"However, for the first time that we went ashore in these distant lands which were our destination we were spoiled. Before the war, Cape Saint Jacques was the beautiful sea-side town at the gateway to Saigon. It was a picture postcard landscape where many Saigoneese met after a hard week's work, even in offices that were not yet air conditioned. And if there was war this was not the place to notice it.

"Like Dalat, Cape Saint Jacques was a resting place for the soldiers of the Expeditionary Force and while there were reportedly 20 military establishments, their presence was not conspicuous at all.

"We went ashore. Disembarked at the Lanessan wharf, we walked in the shade of the banana trees growing to the small port of Ben Denh, and if we were not able to go see the two tourist attractions that are the lighthouse and the Villa Blanche, we saw enough landscapes, smelled enough scent to fall under the spell of this stopover."



TOP: French soldiers experience the excitement of arriving in a new land. MIDDLE: French sailors and soldiers enjoying the tropical tranquility of the Front Beach. ABOVE: Vietnamese women grace the streets of Cap Saint Jacques wearing the National Dress, the alluring Ao Dia.

A Sapper's delight: The underground tunnel-like bomb shelter at 'The Repat'

By LT COL Don Hughes (Rtd)

During WWII, particularly after the Japanese bombing attack on Darwin, the submarine attack on Sydney and a Japanese reconnaissance flight over Melbourne, the city was gravely concerned about being next on the target list. Many residents, businesses and government facilities built substantial bomb shelters on their premises.

Housing hundreds of wounded soldiers, the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital was considered a high-risk target. In response they constructed a large and sturdy underground bomb shelter which is still there today.

As part of the ANZAC Day ceremony held at the Hospital this year, a plaque was placed on the bomb shelter, recognising the 80th anniversary of its construction. Fortunately it has never been used as a last line of defence.

As reported by the Herald Sun in early 1942, a Japanese reconnaissance aircraft flew over Melbourne. "On 26 February an unfamiliar plane flew low over the suburbs and industrial areas. Nervous residents saw the unmistakable rising sun of the Empire of Japan emblazoned on the plane's side.

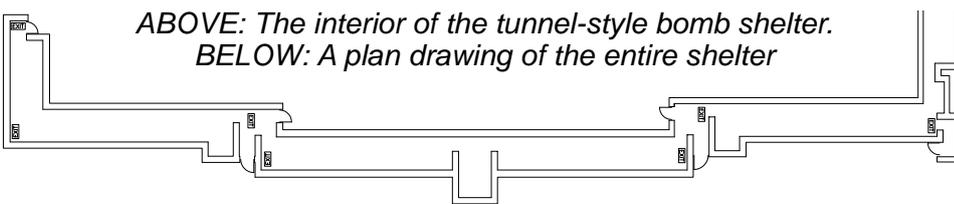
"RAAF Base Laverton scrambled two aircraft but Warrant Officer Nobu Fujita, the Japanese pilot, was able to complete his reconnaissance flight without coming under attack. He had taken off in the sea plane from a submarine at Cape Wickham on the Northern end of King Island."

Numerous submarine and sea plane reconnaissance probes occurred around Australia at this time. This included the devastating attacks in Sydney Harbour.

The Bomb Shelter at the Repat however, had been constructed the year before and were never needed to shelter from attack.



ABOVE: The interior of the tunnel-style bomb shelter.
BELOW: A plan drawing of the entire shelter



ABOVE: Four WWII wounded Australian servicemen about to have afternoon tea on the lawns while recovering at the Heidelberg repatriation Hospital.

LEFT: Heading for 'The Repat', Private Ian McMonigle of 5RAR has arrived at Laverton RAAF Base outside Melbourne after being evacuated from Vietnam where he had spent six weeks in the Army hospital in Vung Tau.





ABOVE: WWII walking wounded alight from the train at Heidelberg station, heading for 'The Repat'. TOP RIGHT: Ethel Frances Hanrahan OBE, Senior Matron of the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. Ethel enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service in 1939 and served in England and the Middle East. BOTTOM RIGHT: Plaques at each end of the 'Repat' bomb shelter complex were unveiled on ANZAC Day by the President of the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria, Don Hughes and the mascot of the Association - Sapper Zeus (seen right).



The gutsy Japanese pilot who flew over Melbourne



Nobu Fujita (Above) was the Warrant Officer pilot of the Imperial Japanese Navy who flew a floatplane from a long-range submarine aircraft carrier, and conducted the reconnaissance flight over Melbourne on 26 February 1942.

Nobu went on to even greater things, conducting the only wartime aircraft-dropped bombing on the continental United States.

Using incendiary bombs, his mission was to start massive forest fires in the Pacific Northwest outside the town of Brookings, Oregon on 9 September 1942. The objective of the bombing was to tie up U.S. military resources to the defense of the mainland, away from the Pacific Theatre.

The strategy was also used in the Japanese fire balloon campaign. These two attacks on Oregon in September 1942 were the only wartime aircraft bombings on the continental United States. Fujita continued activity as an Imperial Japanese Navy pilot until 1944, when he was transferred to the training of Kamikaze pilots.

Fujita would be invited back to Brookings in 1962, and he gave the City of Brookings his family's 400-year-old samurai sword

in friendship after the Japanese government was assured he would not be tried as a war criminal.

Impressed by his welcome in the United States, Fujita invited three female students from Brookings to Japan in 1985. During the visit of the Brookings-Harbor High School students to Japan, Fujita received a dedicatory letter from an aide of President Ronald Reagan "with admiration for your kindness and generosity."

Fujita returned to Brookings in 1990, 1992, and 1995. In 1992 he planted a tree at the bomb site as a gesture of peace. In 1995, he moved the samurai sword from the Brookings City Hall into the new library's display case.

He was made an honorary citizen of Brookings, Oregon, several days before his death on September 30, 1997, at the age of 85. In October of 1998, his daughter, Yoriko Asakura buried some of his ashes at the bomb site.

OUR TOWNSVILLE REUNION AND VISIT TO 3CER IS GOING TO BE A BLAST!



*TOP: Blowing stuff up, a favourite pastime of Sappers at 3CER.
ABOVE: Sappers at 3CER practicing urban warfare tactics.*

Our reunion and visits to 3CER are shaping up superbly. We have fifty of us attending so far, and we are still able to take bookings, so that number may well increase. The members of 3CER have put together an exceptional series of events and activities for us. Dress standard for the entire reunion is casual - no requirement for a jacket and tie. The following is our day by day itinerary:

Monday 16th August

We all arrive in Townsville this day, to be ready to head out to 3CER next morning. After checking in to the hotel, make your way to our designated boozier, The Australian Hotel at 11 Palmer Street South Townsville, a short

walk from Rydges, where most of us are staying. At The Australian hotel the Tunnel Rats will be gathering in the main bar. Here you will receive the latest itinerary for the next four days, plus your reunion name-badge.

Tuesday 17th August

We will be picked up by Army bus at 0830h to arrive at 3CER at 0900h where we will be wel-

comed by the Regiment, followed by a relaxed meet and greet and morning tea at The Dingo (unit boozier) and unit museum.

We will then move to a training centre where the Tunnel Rats will give a presentation on how we operated in Vietnam. Members of the Regiment will then provide a presentation on how they operated in Afghanistan. Both these



presentations will be followed by Q&A sessions.

We will then have lunch at Barry's Place on the base, with members of the North Qld Sappers Association joining us. Following this we will be returned to our hotel by bus. Most will then meet up at the designated boozier.

Wednesday 18th August

The normal Vietnam Veteran's Day service in Townsville is held in the afternoon, which does not suit our schedule at 3CER. The local North Queensland Sappers Association has kindly arranged with the Thuringowa RSL to hold a 1000h memorial service for us to attend. The Thuringowa RSL is 'home' to the North Queensland Sappers and is about a 30-minute drive from Rydges. Our Army bus will pick us up at 0915h. We are preferring not to have any event which requires us carting a jacket and tie with us on the trip, so dress for the



TOP: The Thuringowa RSL will host our Vietnam Veteran's Day service on 18th August.

MIDDLE: The Prime Minister visits the Sappers at 1CER to see what soldiering is all about.

RIGHT: The tucker is tops at our designated boozier, The Australian Hotel, Townsville,



LEFT: Forget about having a bag of crisps with your beer when you can have freshly shucked oysters in the bar at our designated boozier, the Australian Hotel. ABOVE; The outdoor bistro area at the Australian Hotel where we will be having our two organised dinners, with Sappers from 1CER joining us on both occasions

service is casual. It would be nice to wear our medals for the service, perhaps miniatures if they mount better on a shirt. Keep in mind we will be heading to 3CER after the service, so if you can't store them in a pocket, you would still be wearing them at 3CER. Up to you whether you wear medals or not. Toffs can even wear a jacket!

After the service and a few beers at the RSL, we will head to 3CER where the Watsons Challenge will be taking place. This a traditional event designed to challenge teams between 3CER and 3CSR. It will be compulsory for us to be barracking for 3CER!

After the events we will move to the Dingo Inn on base where presentations and awards to the winner will occur. At about 1330h 3CER will host a BBQ and drinks for us and both Regiments. Following this our bus will return us to Rydges.

That evening we have reserved the outdoor bistro area of The Australian Hotel for a dinner for us and for some of the officers and senior NCO's of 3CER. We will individually order our own food and drinks from the bistro menu.

Thursday 19th August

At 1130h our bus will take us to 3CER for the Regiment's Birthday Lunch at 1230h. Lunch is at The Dingo where SNCO's and officers will cater and provide service to the Soldiers in order to show gratitude and appreciation for their hard work. Once the Lunch is finished, we will be taken back to Rydges by bus.

That evening we have our farewell dinner in our reserved area of the outdoor bistro at The Australian Hotel. Around 25 Sappers from 3CER will join us for the dinner, where again

we will order food and drinks individually at our own cost. We will encourage the 3CER Sappers to spread themselves around for the dinner, sitting at tables with us old Sappers. Please make the 3CER Sappers welcome and make sure you buy them a beer or two.

Friday 20th August

Time to head home, though some may stay on longer to spend more time with their mates or to tour around Townsville or the region.

You can still book

I confirm I will be attending the Tunnel Rats Association reunion in Townsville, including the visits to 3 Combat Engineer Regiment at Lavarack Barracks.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

You can text, email or post this form:

To text it, simply photograph the completed form with your phone and text it to: Jim Marett at 0403 041 962. To email it, copy or scan the completed form and emailing it to tunnelrats.vietnam@gmail.com To post it, address it to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak Vic 3142

SAPPER SNIPPETS

A sneak-peak at our Sapper comrades in 3CER before our visit in August



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT; The 3CER patch; Riding the waves on Operation Thunderstrike; Setting charges to blow up a wood and brick structure on Operation Phoenix Strike; 3CER on parade - and looking fully squared away; The 'you can't see me' Sapper; Working Dog Ned with his handler, Sapper Thomas Page.

SAPPER SNIPPETS

Tunnel Rat makes a visit to 1CER and our old home, 1 Field Squadron

Greg Gough (2TP 1969/70) and fifty of his mates from their local RSL in Perth made a visit to Darwin last month. Greg took the opportunity to arrange a visit for them to 1 Combat Engineer Regiment and 1 Field Squadron at Robertson Barracks. The Sappers put the welcome mat out for them, showing off their latest equipment and their unique skills. Greg found his way to the recreation hut of 2 Troop (his old troop in Vietnam). Greg is shown at the hut in the photo on the right: "where's my beer fellas?" The hut is adorned with signs and banners 'borrowed' from other units.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT; Greg Gough in the 2TP Rec Hut; A Sapper probing for signs of mines; Sappers check the road for mines; A bomb-sniffing dog and his handler at work; A Sapper using the latest mine-detector; A Sapper in his element.

SAPPER SNIPPETS

The mateship and unbreakable bonds of serving together in war

This evocative photograph personifies the unique and unbreakable bond created between soldiers who have served together in war. The photo was taken at the Anzac Day March in London in 1919, less than six months after the ending of WWI on 11 November 1918.

An Australian Sapper who lost both his legs in the war is being carried into Australia House by a mate to obtain a position of vantage to view the Anzac Day March as it passes the building.

London newspapers commented glowingly on the men and the march: "The AIF took part in the Anzac Day parade through London, where the troops were afforded the rare privilege of marching through the City with fixed bayonets. A more compact picture of historical achievement was never seen than the mere list of names of Australian battles which decorated the front of Australia House for the ceremony. The crowds had gathered for a double purpose: to celebrate the anniversary of the Australian landing at Gallipoli and to bid God-speed to representatives of the men who had come of their own will 12,000 miles across the sea to fight for an ideal.

"In the guerrilla warfare along the Somme after the great advance of August 8th the German pickets and outposts were no better than helpless and terrified victims of Australian dash and skill. A real terror came to possess them. Finally, the key of Mont St. Quentin fell to a mere handful of soldiers without artillery preparation, We may say without metaphor that Australian athleticism of mind and body amounted to a quality which can only be called genius."



Australia House London

US comrade's pics of Aussie operation 'Enoggera'

A US Air Force veteran who served in Vietnam contacted us again recently after reading a recent issue of our newsletter online. James Metcalf had worked closely with Australian forces in an air support Forward Observer capacity.

"I was a member of a United States Air Force Tactical Air Control Party assigned to the 1st Australian Task Force," says James. "During various field operations for the Task Force a member of our unit would accompany the infantry operations personnel in the field to facilitate air support if needed. I personally worked mostly with 5RAR and 6RAR.

"I am honoured to be an associate member of the 5RAR Association. I have always been drawn to the Tunnel Rats website as after my military service I was a career Police Officer with duties in major case investigation but also had collateral duties as a Bomb technician. Accordingly, things that go boom in the night are always near and dear to me!

"The photos I have provided to you were taken during Operation Enoggera which was the search and clearance of the village of Long Phuoc, completed by 6RAR, and Tunnel Rats from 1 Troop, 1 Field Squadron.

"I hope your members find these photos interesting and many may well be able to identify some of the individuals."

Operation Enoggera

The village of Long Phuoc was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. In 1966 when our Nui Dat base camp was established, the Task Force Commander drew an imaginary circle 4km from the base, calling it "Line Alpha" and declaring no locals could reside within the circle. It was all about minimising the chances of Nui Dat being attacked. Long Phuoc fell within the circle and unfortunately had



TOP: US Air Force FO James Metcalf 'putting on the Ritz' in the burnt-out ruins of Long Phuoc village. ABOVE: Some of the many enemy weapons pulled out of the Long Phuoc tunnels.

to be demolished.

The residents were moved out, essentially against their will and resettled mainly in Hoa Long, which is why that village was never friendly towards Australians. Once empty, the village of Long Phuoc then had to be searched and destroyed. This was 'Operation Enoggera'.

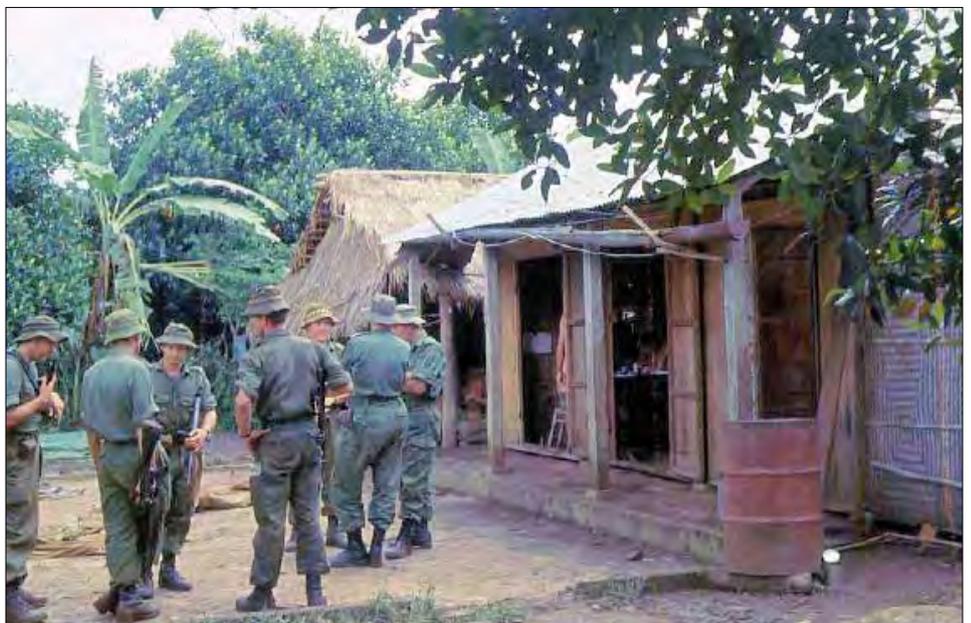
The search revealed that the residents of Long Phuoc had been highly active in supporting the local VC. A large system of tunnels and bunkers was found,

along with huge caches of rice, medical supplies, and weapons. It was a bonanza for the Tunnel Rats, and great on-the-job training for them in search and demolition techniques.

The following photos have all been provided to us by James Metcalf, and if you can identify any of the sappers, please provide the details to us. And if you were on Operation Enoggera and would like to contact James, you can email him at: Metcalf-james@sbcglobal.net



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: A metal-spiked punji trap found hidden in one of the village huts; A Sapper dashes into a burning building to grab items he felt would be important to the intelligence officer with 6RAR; Tunnel Rats take a good look at some of the weapons they recovered from the tunnel - many of the fire-arms would be considered collectors items back in Australia. Sappers and Infantry discuss how to go about the task of destroying the huts and houses of the village.



The mines room at 1 Field Squadron HQ Nui Dat

The Mines Room at 1FD SQN HQ Nui Dat housed a deadly display of the mines, booby traps, grenades, mortar and artillery shells we were likely to come across and have to deal with. These were collected by Tunnel Rats out on operations to create a unique training device for Sappers arriving in Vietnam. The room was also used to introduce Infantry and Armoured soldiers to the hazards they would be facing out in the field. Creating the Mines Room was an incredible achievement by the Sappers.



TOP: This panel displays a range of mines, including US and Viet Cong Claymore mines, US M16 anti-personnel mines, US and Viet Cong anti-vehicle mines, plus a range of more crude 'homemade' Viet Cong devices. There are also several cluster bombs.

MIDDLE: This panel features a range of US and Viet Cong mortar shells, artillery shells, M72 LAW rounds and other rocket rounds. The Viet Cong mortar and artillery shells were made in China and Russia.



RIGHT: This extensive parade of grenades covers US and Viet Cong grenades of all types, including shrapnel, tear gas, smoke, and white phosphorous, all of them hand-thrown except the range of M79 grenade launcher rounds seen at the bottom right of the board. Also on the right of the board are a range of hand-thrown and rifle-fired shaped charge grenades for use against armoured vehicles.



RIGHT: This panel features Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) launchers and rounds, most of them Viet Cong weapons, manufactured in China and Russia. These are the RPG3 and the larger RPG7, capable of penetrating our tanks. At the bottom of the board, in the middle is the US made LAW shoulder fired rocket launcher, which was great in bunker assaults, as long as there was no danger of hitting trees on the way to target which could cause friendly casualties.



RIGHT: These are the big boys, a range of artillery shells (some of them ship-fired) and a few tank rounds, plus a selection of shaped charges on the left. All of the items in the room had their firing devices or detonators removed, but virtually all of them still contained their explosive material. It would have been quite a show had the mines room been hit by an enemy mortar round!



ABOVE: The room could quickly be set up as a class room, not only for Sappers, but also for Infantry and Armoured of all ranks who attended courses held in the room. These courses were run by Tunnel Rats who had spent time in the field and been exposed to many of the treats on display.



ABOVE: The 1 Field Squadron HQ building (centre) at Nui Dat, with the officers mess and the sergeants mess on the left, and the mines room on the right. The 1, 2 and 3 TP lines are unseen and further to the right, past the OR's mess and the all important 1 FD SQN boozier, the cultural centre of the unit!

Tunnel Rats List: If you served in 3FD TP or 1, 2 or 3 Troop of 1 FD SQN in Vietnam and want to be added to the list, send your Troop and year details, phone number and address to Graeme Gartside by mail to 9 Park Street Mt Gambier SA 5290 or by email to: ggart@internode.on.net

Our 35 Tunnel Rat comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice while serving in Vietnam

Cpl Bowtell R.W. 11 Jan 66
 Spr Prowse L. 25 Jul 66
 Spr Deed R.J.P. 9 May 67
 Spr Bartholomew G.T. 18 May 67
 Spr O'Hara J.L. 20 May 67
 Spr Brady G.V. 20 May 67
 Spr Brooks D.L. 22 May 67
 Spr Renshaw T.J. 30 May 67
 Spr Wride D.S. 10 Jul 67
 WO2 Moore B.J. 16 Nov 67
 Cpl Hutchinson M. 16 Nov 67
 Sgt McLachlan C. 18 Feb 68
 Spr Pattison A.G. 18 Feb 68
 Spr Steen D.J. 18 Feb 68
 LCpl Garrett J.E. 18 Feb 68
 Spr Coombs 22 Mar 68
 Spr Tobin V.J. 22 Mar 68
 SSgt Gollagher P.J. 5 Apr 68
 Spr Nicholson K.R. 12 Apr 68
 Spr Le Bherz N.W. 14 Sep 68
 Spr Smith J. 23 Jul 69
 Spr Smillie R.G. 23 Jul 69
 LCpl Hansen B.V. 21 Oct 69
 Spr Duncuff A.L. 25 Oct 69
 Spr Lisle A. 12 Nov 69
 Spr Green J.G. 8 Dec 69
 Spr Hollis A.E. 30 Jan 70
 Cpl Engstrom R.J. 30 Jan 70
 Spr Hubble R.N. 28 Feb 70
 Spr Hurst H.W. 29 Apr 70
 Spr Scott I.N. 14 Jun 70
 Spr Penneystone P. 2 Aug 70
 Spr Wilson R.B. 16 Jul 71

List of Tunnel Rats who served in Vietnam (not a complete list) Those who have passed since the war are displayed in grey

3 Field Troop (1965-66)

Ian Biddolph 02 4472 9434
 Alan Christie 07 5494 6628
 Brian Cleary 0438 239 387
 Allan S Coleman RIP Sapper
 Bill Corby 07 5502 1193
 John "Tex" Cotter 07 4723 1244
 "Meggsie" Dennis RIP Sapper
 Des Evans 07 4128 2390
 Ray Forster 07 3409 1907
 William Gallagher 07 3298 5680
 Geoff Green 03 6272 8167
 Barry Harford 08 8088 4371
 Brian Hay 03 9444 6098
 Keith Kermod 0427 233 063
 Sandy MacGregor 02 9457 7133
 Frank Mallard RIP Sapper
 Thomas Mason RIP Sapper
 Keith Mills 07 4770 7267
 Bill Murray 0497 385 732
 Warren Murray - RIP Sapper

John Opie 0427 280 703
 Bernie Pollard 08 9248 3178
 David Roper 0427 521 304
 Bill Unmeopa - RIP Sapper
 Snow Wilson Jnr 02 6649 3998
Chief Engineer Vietnam

John Hutcheson RIP Sapper
OC 1 Field Squadron

John Kemp 02 6288 3428
 Rex Rowe RIP Sapper
1 Troop (1966-67)
 Ray Bellinger 0407 952 670
 Ray Burton 08 8268 4575
 Ron Carroll 0408 884 327
 Joe Cazeay 07 3710 8102

Allan S Coleman RIP Sapper
 Grahame Cook 02 4390 5159
 Alan Hammond 0423 491 091
 Cul Hart 0439 536 631
 Ken Jolley 0438 616 733
 Barry Kelly 07 4661 2898
 Axel Kraft 0400 975 599
 Peter McTiernan 02 6557 5211

David Martin RIP Sapper
 Gavin Menzies 02 6584 7257
 John Olsen RIP Sapper
 Ron Rockliffe 02 9789 4302
 Sandy Sempel 0419 411 887
 Trevor Shelley 0419 784 954
 Ron Stibble 0447 028 986
 "Jethro" Thompson 0732168906
 Ross Tulloh 0418 223 345
 Graham Zalewska-Moon
 (Poland phone: 48 500366119)

1 Troop (1967-68)
 Billy Adams 03 5974 2916
 Henry Baggaley 0419 902 268
 Reg Bament 02 6948 2524
 Bruce Bevan 0402 334 614

Neville Bartels RIP Sapper
 Col Campbell 0417 658 770
 Dave Campbell 07 4225 6310
 Bob Coleman 0408 519 500
 Ross Comben 08 9535 2273
 Jack Green RIP Sapper
 Norm Hitchcock (Canada)
 1-250-2455137

Ray Kenny RIP Sapper
 Harry Kloplic 84 76 5842041
 (Living in Vung Tau Vietnam)
 Peter Koch 0413 222 046
 Brian Lewis 0427 413 854
 "Paddy" Maddigan RIP Sapper
 Mike McCallum 02 6288 5113
 John Neal 02 9982 6694
 Barry O'Rourke 0409 546 717
 Clive Pearsall 03 9459 4470
 Terry Perkins 0413 343 168

Alan Rantall RIP Sapper
 Ivan Scully 03 9802 0977
 Peter Sheehan 03 9390 2834
 Carlton "CP" Smith 0448 000 334
 Kevin Smith 0407871507
 Colin Treasure 0409 902 980
 Jim Trower 0418 842 744

1 Troop (1968-69)

Phil Baxter MM RIP Sapper
 Adrian Black 0417 756 729
 Mike Bruggemann 0409 441 992
 Peter Carrodus RIP Sapper
 Albert Eyssens 0407 875 287
 Ken Ford 0418 669 689
 Max Goiser 0409 717 143
 Peter Hollis 0487 231 351
 George Hulse 0412 341 363
 Robert Laird 0408 561 748
 Brian Lamb 02 6059 6947
 Kent Luttrell 0408 387 641
 Kerry McCormick 03 6344 5291
 Keith Murley 0429 729 764
 Alan Paynter 03 5975 7130
 Richard Reilly 0408 321 487
 Colin Spies 07 4743 4676
 Garry Von Stanke 08 8725 5648
 Cliff Truelove 02 6495 7844

Ken Wheatley RIP Sapper
 Bob Wooley 03 6264 1485
 David Wright 03 9435 4814
1 Troop (1969-70)
 Kevin Atkinson 0488 411 571
 Larry Batze 07 4033 2025
 Mervyn Chesson 0419 806 323

Allan S Coleman RIP Sapper
 Phil Cooper 0439 955 207
 Gary Degering RIP Sapper
 John Felton 0467 612 342
 Graham Fletcher 0408 822 489
 Brian Forbes 0412 047 937
 Jon Fuller 02 4774 1674
 P. "Guts" Geisel 07 4092 1735
 Terry Gleeson 0458 232 886
 Graham Harvey 0418889739
 Trevor Kelly 08 9538 1184
 Des McKenzie 07 5448 3400
 Anthony Marriott 03 6257 0279
 Doug Myers 0421 904 562
 Paul Ryan 0429 165 974
 Les Slater 08 9361 0603
 Max Slater 0412 772 849
 Vic Smith 0432 916 485
 Dave Sturmer 0422 664 942

1 Troop (1970-71)
 Mick Augustus 07 3205 7401
 Dan Brindley 02 6643 1693
 Ian Campbell 03 9870 0313
 Ray "Brute" Carroll 08 9342 3596
 Raymond Collins 0419 837 833

Phil Duffy RIP Sapper
 Harry Ednie 0408 391 371
 Robin Farrell 0409 265 470
 Bruce Fraser 07 5499 0508
 Garth Griffiths 0435 902 386
 "Paddy" Healy RIP Sapper
 Peter Krause 0427 077 237
 John Lewis 07 3425 1524
 R Loxton 0419 944 755
 Barry Meldrum 03 5427 1162
 Roger Newman 0487 413 854
 Peter North 0427 992 421
 Denis Pegg 0408 024 816
 Bob Pfeiffer 0497 501 960
 John Severny 0407 008 610
 Garry Shoemark 02 6546 6778
 Garry Sutcliffe 07 4684 3229
 Donald Stringer 07 41559 515
 Paul Taylor (NZ) 64 274 372229
 Terry Ward 02 6566 6163
 Jim Weston 0419 260 463
 John Wright 0413 291 110

2 Troop (1966-1967)

Richard Beck 0408 885 788
 David Buring RIP Sapper
 Ron Cain 02 6586 1412
 Graeme Carey 02 6056 0997
 Terry Gribbin 03 9722 9717
 Alan Hammond 0423491091
 Graeme Leach 07 4777 8627
 Ken McCann 0409 938 830
 Rod McClelland 07 3267 6907

Noel McDuffie RIP Sapper
 Bob McKinnon 07 3267 0310
 Peter Matthews RIP Sapper
 Warren Morrow 0418 427 947
 Dennis Quick 0439 786 168
 Mick Shannon 08 8552 1746
 Bob Sweeney 08 9248 4432
 "Taffy" Williams 0423 628 319

2 Troop (1967-1968)
 William Adams 0400 405 751
 M. Ballantyne 08 8298 2515
 John Benningfield 07 4778 4473
 Peter Bennett 0418 915 550
 Dennis Burge 08 8281 2270
 Kenneth Butler 0414 897 889
 Harry Cooling 07 4778 2013
 Garry Cosgrove 02 4845 5153
 Geoff Craven 0447 295 224
 Peter Fontanini 0438 881 940
 Roland Gloss 02 6367 5324
 John Goldfinch 02 6674 0855
 Paul Grills 07 4162 5235
 John Jasinski 0435 799 426

Ron Johnson RIP Sapper
 Eddie Josephs 0417 882 491
 Lew Jordan 03 6397 3261
 John Kiley 02 4228 4068
 David Kitley 02 4735 4991
 Bernard Ladyman 08 9795 7900
 Warren McBurnie 02 6687 7030
 Stephen McHenry 08 9344 6939
 Eric McKerrow (Silent number)
 Dave McNair 08 9725 2821
 Kevin Moon 0423 005 756
 Bob O'Connor 0418 742 219
 Tony Parmenter 0417 856 877
 Gary Phillips 0418 466 859
 Brian Rankin 07 4775 5095
 Hans Rehorn 03 5623 5572

Andrew Rogers RIP Sapper
 Mick Robotham 0439 144 876
 Geoff Russell 02 6342 1292
 Robert Russell 03 5975 5329
 Brian Sheehan 0438 933 631
 Carlton "CP" Smith 0448 000 334
 John Tramy 0428 659 048
 John Willis 03 9363 7878
 "Snow" Wilson RIP Sapper
 Steve Wise 0418841912

2 Troop (1968-1969)
 Bob Austin 02 6644 9237
 Ross Bachmann 07 5495 1443
 Don Beale 02 6971 2424
 Richard Branch 0409 496 294
 Harold Bromley 0417 050 614
 Peter Brunton 0429 953 052
 Jim Castles 02 9639 2941
 Harry Claassen 07 3273 6701
 Peter Clayton 0418 823 266
 John Coe 07 4776 5585
 Rod Crane RIP Sapper
 John Douglas 0433 747 401
 Robert Earl 02 4990 3601

- Brian Forbes 0412 047 937
 Robert Francis 0458 222 844
 John Gilmore 08 9795 6847
 Stan Golubenko 03 9361 2721
 Paul Grills 07 4162 5235
Geoff Handley RIP Sapper
 Ross Hansen 0409 225 721
 Wayne Hynson 0425 720 696
 Ray Jurkiewicz 07 3886 9054
 Brian Lamb 02 6059 6947
Phil Lamb RIP Sapper
 Wayne Lambley 07 3851 1837
 Darryl Lavis 08 8263 9548
 Peter Laws 02 4942 8131
 Bud Lewis 0400 012 255
 Rick Martin 02 6928 4253
 Bill Matheson 0428 959 044
 Bill Morris 08 9384 2686
 Don Nicholls 0407 919 993
 Colin Norris 02 4627 1180
Terry O'Donnell RIP Sapper
 Rod Palmer 0417 672 643
 Jimmy Paiano 0417 984 721
 Allan Pearson 07 3281 1992
 Gary Phillips 07-5474 0164
 Ted Podlich 07 3862 9002
 Daryl Porteous 07 4973 7663
 Mick Weston 07 5444 3307
 Ray White 03 9740 7141
2 Troop (1969-1970)
 John Ash 03 5243 0268
 "Arab" Avotins 0401 344 911
 Bruce Bofinger 02 4872 3175
 Frank Brady 02 6555 5200
 David Brook 03 9546 2868
 Jim Burrough 0400 884 633
 Ron Coman 0487 186 840
 Kevin Connor 0408 748 172
 Garry Cosgrove 02 4845 5153
 Arthur Davies 0412 823 112
 Grumpy Foster 07 4041 2321
 Graeme Gartside 08 8725 6900
 Doug George 0419 475 246
 Greg Gough 0417 911 173
 Brad Hannaford 08 8389 2217
 John Hopman 02 9398 5258
 Chris Koulouris 02 4952 6341
 Bill Lamb 0418 424 208
Phil Lamb RIP Sapper
 Mick Loughlin 07 4060 3039
 Mick Lee 07 5543 5001
 Marty McGrath 02 6059 1204
 Jim Marett 03 9824 4967
 Bob Ottery 0407 681 375
 Bevan Percival 07 5573 6925
 Pedro Piromanski 08 9306 8169
 Ian Pitt 0428 492 018
 Jack Power 07 4955 3761
Colin Redacliff RIP Sapper
 Rolf Schaefer 08 8962 1391
 Brian "BC" Scott 0400 713 994
 Peter Scott 0425 225 836
 "Roo Dog" Scott 0400 799 577
 Les Shelley 07 3264 4041
 Jimmy Shugg 08 9776 1471
 Mick Van Poeteren 0425 749 576
 Gerry Wallbridge 03 9803 4223
 Dennis Wilson 08 8659 1189
 Stephen Wilson 07 5538 2179
2 Troop (1970-1971)
 Bruce Arrow 02 6288 3872
 Mick Bergin 0427 742 175
 Graham Besford 03 9439 2661
- Mal Botfield 0434 536 435**
 John Brady 0437 881 174
 David Briggs 08 9537 6956
 Keith Burley 07 5543 0990
 Peter Cairns 0400 039 446
 Brian Christian 07 4778 6602
 Grahame Clark 0408 533 869
 Dennis Coghlan 0429 938 445
 "Sam" Collins 0400 184 673
 Ron Cook 0414 508 686
 Jock Coutts 08 9279 1946
 Bill Craig 08 9530 1008
 Denis Crawford 03 9497 3256
John Cross RIP Sapper
 Robin Date 03 9783 3202
 Gino De Bari 0450 931 112
 Des Evans 07 4128 2390
Harry Eustace RIP Sapper
 Bruce Fenwick 0408 434 529
 Ray Fulton 03 6288 1176
Ziggy Gniot RIP Sapper
Bob Hamblyn RIP Sapper
 Cec Harris 02 6629 3373
Paddy Healy RIP Sapper
 Kevin Hodge 08 8322 2619
 Paul Jones 02 6231 5963
 Jim Kelton 0488 972 139
 Kevin Lappin 0419 741 239
 Gary McClintock 0428 739 909
 Peter McCole 03 5155 9368
 Bob McGlenn 07 5426 1597
 Ian McLean 0412 431 297
 Jeff Maddock 0438 069 803
 Leon Madeley 0448 467 768
 Bill Marshall 0415 688 788
 Rod O'Regan 0419 431 79
 Graeme Pengelly 0407 138 124
 Des Polden 03 6223 3830
 Keith Ramsay 0439 856 933
 Mick Rasmussen 0428 790 645
 Ron Reid 0427 461 297
 Gary Sangster 0427 224 099
John Scanlan RIP Sapper
 Peter Schreiber 02 6569 3390
 Garry Shoemark 02 6546 6778
Alex Skowronski RIP Sapper
 John Smith 0400 032 502
 Roy Sojan 08 9926 1235
 John Stonehouse 08 9653 1895
 Peter Swanson 0401 392 617
 John Tick 04 3898 7262
Steve Walton RIP Sapper
 Terry Wake 07 4786 2625
 Dave Young 0418 425 429
2 Troop (1971-72)
 Warren Pantall 0417 096 802
3 Troop (1967-68)
 Ken Arnold 02 6974 1181
 Dennis Baker 08 89527281
Chuck Bonzas RIP Sapper
 Bruce Breddin 0418 766 759
 Norm Cairns 0498 765 425
Kerry Caughey RIP Sapper
 David Clark 08 8388 7728
 Bob Coleman 03 5332 0975
 Mervyn Dodd 0408 720 746
 Jim Dowson 03 5662 3291
 Bob Embrey 07 3351 1222
 Peter Fontanini 0438 881 940
 Barry Gilbert 03 5023 6657
 Brian Hopkins 08 9751 4946
 John Hoskin 0417 886 100
 Jack Lawson 0429 798 673
- Peter MacDonald 0419 909 273
 Barrie Morgan 0437 861 945
 Michael O'Hearn 0429 327 509
 Alan Pascoe 07 5463 2152
 Gary Pohlner 0427 172 900
 Peter Pont 07 4095 0150
Tom Simons RIP
 Kevin Shugg 0411 144 500
 Mervyn Spear 0431 212 960
Frank Sweeney RIP
 Brian Thomson 0428 551 68
 Vic Underwood 0429 907 989
 Murray Walker 08 9332 6410
 Glenn Weise 0488 741 174
 Mick Woodhams 08 9459 0130
 Bob Yewen 0435 051 475
 Ken Young 0409 124 096
3 Troop (1968-69)
 Geoff Box 08 9731 2757
 Col Campbell 0417 658 770
 Barry Chambers 0401 119 999
 Neil Garrett 03 5798 1522
 Brian Glyde 02 4455 7404
 Peter Graham 0428 325 182
 Peter Gray 0437711348
 Derwyn Hage 0408 802 038
 John Hollis 0437 711 348
 "Sam" Houston 07 5495 5480
 Ian Lauder 08 9419 5375
 Kent Luttrell 0408 387 641
 John Murphy 08 9493 3771
 John Nulty 02 6927 3535
 Ted O'Malley 0428 243 351
 Barry Parnell 07 4947 1976
Bob Pritchard RIP Sapper
 Art Richardson 0407 505 365
 Greg Roberts 03 5941 2269
 Warren Ross 02 6556 0133
 Walter Schwartz 0439 512 322
 Don Shields 08 8297 8619
 Kevin Simper 0423 5248 84
 Tony Toussaint 0417 249 235.
 Ray Vander Heiden 0410312807
 Wal Warby 0418 240 394
 Ray White 03 9740 7141
Three Troop (1969-70)
 Chris Brooks 0407 186 207
 Jim Burrough 0400 884 633
 Terry Carlidge 0411 252 859
 Bruce Crawford 02 6628 0846
 Greg Cullen 0427 050 208
 Richard Day 08 8088 4129
 Phil Devine 0439 066 012
Bob Done RIP Sapper
 Ray Fulton 03 6288 1176
 Graham Fromm 0429 322 561
 Doug George 0419 475 246
 Graham Harvey 07 5445 2636
 Robert Hewett 0422 165 003
 Trevor Hughes 0419 883 281
 Darrel Jensen 0428 387 203
 Mike King 08 9764 1080
 Rod Kirby 07 4973 7726
 Peter Knight 02 6247 6272
Gerry Lyall RIP Sapper
 Phil McCann 0417 423 450
 Chris MacGregor 02 4472 3250
 Norm Martin 02 4953 1331
 Jock Meldrum MID 0456 002 701
 Roelof Methorst 0411 473 817
 Gary Miller MM 0407 586 241
 "Jacko" Miller 03 6267 4411
 Chris Muller 0458 650 113
- Danny Mulvany RIP Sapper**
 Vin Neale 03 9786 1549
 Peter Phillips 0429 362 935
 G. Rentmeester 03 9735 5236
 Brian "BC" Scott 0400 713 994
 Paul Scott 02 6656 0730
 Gordon Temby 0419 954 658
 Peter Thorp MID 0405 845 787
 "Curly" Tuttleby 08 8953 2335
 Hank Veenhuizen 0407 487 167
 Jock Wallace 07 3882 6513
 "Wonzer" White 02 9833 0580
Three Troop (1970-71)
 Robert Allardice 0439 076 891
Steve Armbrust RIP Sapper
 Errol Armitage 07 5598 8018
 Geoff Ansell 0434 178 696
 Bob Bament 02 6071 3527
 Mike Barnett 02 9869 7132
 John Beningfield 07 4778 4473
 Darryel Binns 0417 170 171
 Trevor Boaden 0448 160 944
 Mal Botfield 0434 536 435
 Ian Campbell 0407 414 767
 Terry Carlidge 0411 252 859
 Brian Christian 07 4778 6602
 Bob Clare 03 5439 5532
 Ray Clark 08 9772 1162
 Graeme Clarke 07 4128 4660
 Ted Clarke 0438 225 844
 Allan J Coleman 02 9838 4848
 Steve Collett 08 9371 0075
 John Davey 07 3378 4316
 Chris Ellis 0409 299 520
 Kevin Hodge 08 8322 2619
 John Jones 08 8357 5226
 Kenny Laughton 0498 566 508
 Garry Lourigan 02 4844 5545
Darcy McKenzie RIP Sapper
 R. McKenzie-Clark 08 9729 1162
 Robert McLeay 0429 861 122
 Jock Meldrum MID 0456 002 701
 Roelof Methorst 0416 834 846
 Carlo Mikkelsen
 (New Zealand) 64 9 3776322
 Ben Passarelli 0411 340 236
Robert Reed RIP Sapper
 Dale Rosengren 0466 244 367
 Paul Scott 02 6656 0730
 Les Shelley 07 3264 4041
 John Steen 0419 772 375
John Tatler - RIP Sapper
 Gordon Temby 08 9757 2016
Peter Vandenberg RIP Sapper
 Brian Wakefield 0427 350 713
 Kevin White 02 8517 3278
 David Wilson 0401 726 090
Three Troop (1971-72)
 Bradley Bauer 0749281152
 Trevor "Zip" Button 0434 332 789
 Ron Byron 0439 910 568
 Jim Dewing 0402 433 776
 Mike Dutton 0438 627 140
 Alan Gorman 0413 063 336
 John Jones 0417 836 538
 Brenton J Smith 0408 806 685
 Peter Weingott 0418 870 496
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(Heaps of it)

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