



# 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](mailto:tunnelrats.vietnam@gmail.com) or post to 43 Heyington Place Toorak Vic 3142



## 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 Splitter 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 3 RAR 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 3 RAR 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 ARMoured REGIMENT (TANKS)

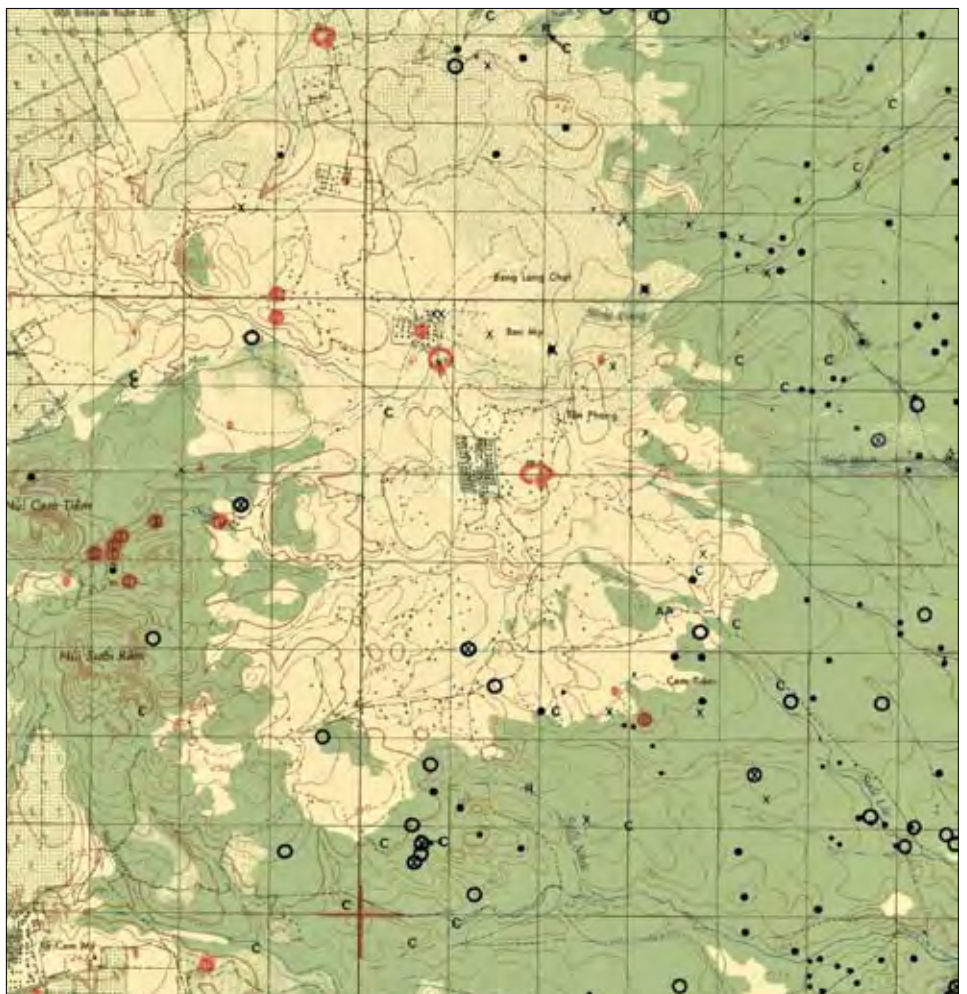
HQ: Sam Collins, Jim Kelton. T1: Dave Briggs, Jock Coutts. T2: Butch Date,  
Leroy Bang. T5: John Cross, Bob Hamblyn

#### 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 Manioloﬀ 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.





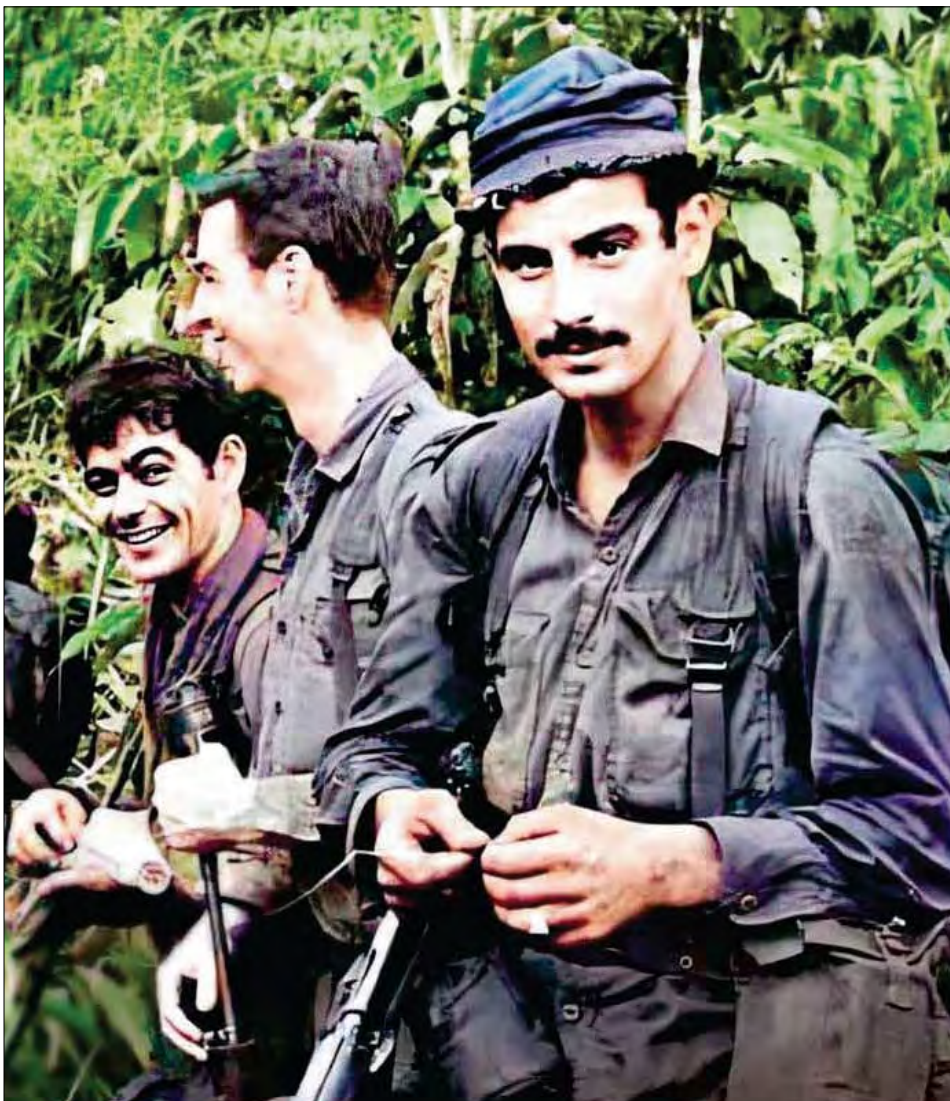
could move forward. And anyway, the tanks could only move as fast as the Infantry and Sappers walking beside and behind them.

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.

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



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

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 Perrin 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 Dai.



# 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."*

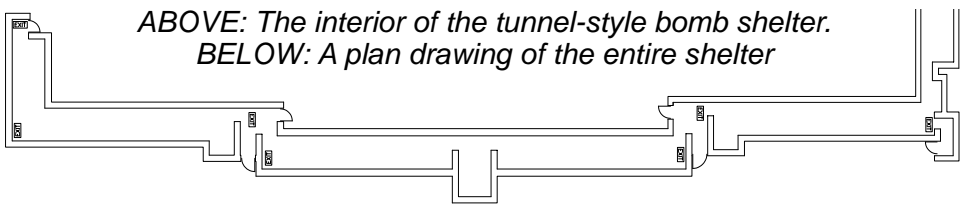
*"RAAF Base Laverton scrambled two aircraft but Warrant Officer Nobu Fujita, the Japanese pilot, was able to complete his reconnaissance flight without coming under attack. He had taken off in the sea plane from a submarine at Cape Wickham on the Northern end of King Island."*

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



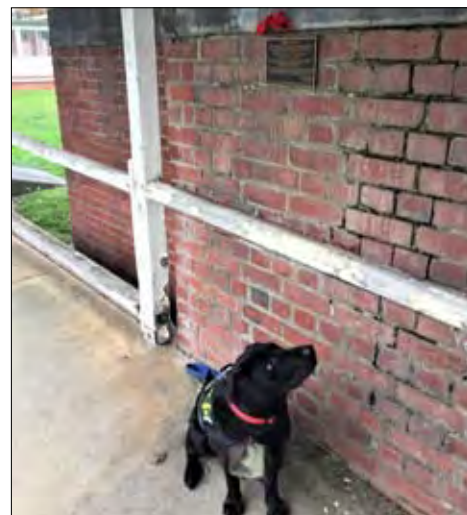
ABOVE: Four WWII wounded Australian servicemen about to have afternoon tea on the lawns while recovering at the Heidelberg repatriation Hospital.  
LEFT: Heading for 'The Repat', Private Ian McMonigle of 5RAR has arrived at Laverton RAAF Base outside Melbourne after being evacuated from Vietnam where 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!



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



*TOP: Blowing stuff up, a favourite pastime of Sappers at 3CER.*

*ABOVE: Sappers at 3CER practicing urban warfare tactics.*

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 boozer, 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.*



"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."





# 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](mailto: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.*

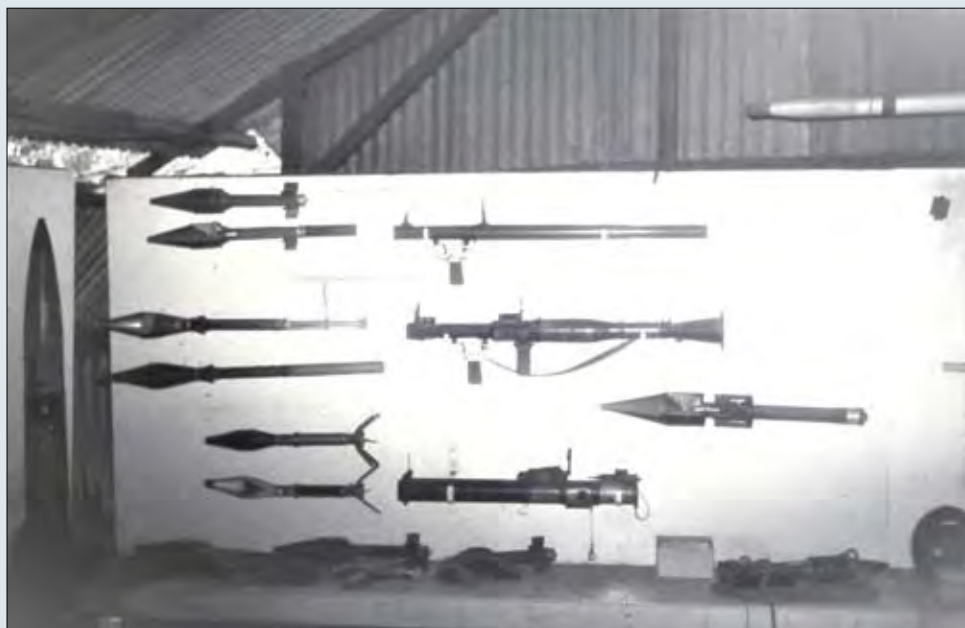


*RIGHT: This extensive parade of grenades covers US and Viet Cong grenades of all types, including shrapnel, tear gas, smoke, and white phosphorous, all of them hand-thrown except the range of M79 grenade launcher rounds seen at the bottom right of the board. Also on the right of the board are a range 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 Kermode 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 Cazey 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 Bagdaley 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 Klopocz 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  
Brian 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 Severyn 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 McClellan 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 McGlinn 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 Cartledge 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 Cartledge 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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FROM THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION  
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