



# HOLDFAST

FEBRUARY 2009

NUMBER 14

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION INC

WHAT ARE TODAY'S SAPPERS  
FACING IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

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HISTORIC DOCUMENT ON THE  
TUNNEL RATS IN VIETNAM

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MILITARY MEDAL WINNERS

OUR COVER: Corporal John Cannon 1st Combat  
Engineer Regiment works with his Explosive  
Detection Dog "Storm" to search for insurgent  
weapons and explosives caches in Afghanistan

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# Nostalgia Pages



Pages of great pics from the past to amaze and amuse. Contributions welcome. Send your favourite Vietnam photographs by mail to: Jim Marett 43 Heyington Place Toorak Vic 3142 Or by email to: tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au



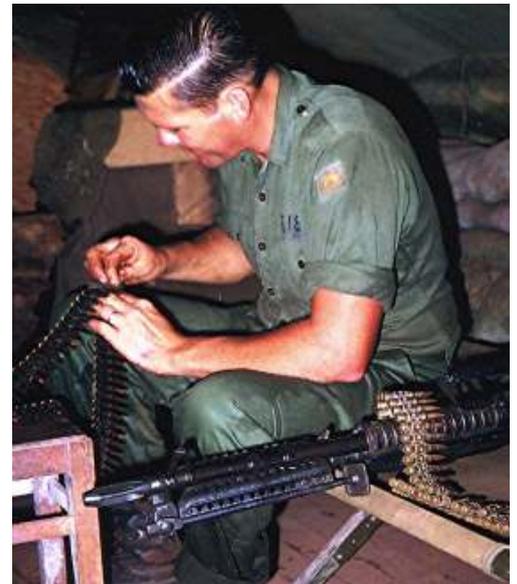
## Heading North

On 18 May 1966 Col. Ian Cameron, Chief Engineer at Headquarters Eastern Command, inspects the troops on a farewell parade at the School of Military Engineering, Casula, for 1 Field Squadron, RAE which was due to arrive in Vietnam two weeks later, on 1st April 1966. With Col. Cameron on the inspection is Major Warren Lennon, Officer Commanding the squadron. The Tunnel Rat's reunion in Hobart commencing 1st April this year commemorates this arrival date. Judging by the hat badges above, it looks like some RAEME lads have snuck into our ranks.



## "Am I in the right war?"

If you hadn't been in-country long and you saw these swastika signs you'd begin to wonder whether you'd gone into a time warp and were there to fight Nazis instead of Viet Cong communists. The signs are on a Buddhist school in Phouc Tuy Province and the swastika has been used as a good luck sign by Buddhists for centuries - though their image is a mirrored-reverse of the one the Nazis adopted.



## Ready for action

We're 90% sure this is a photo of Jonah Jones on his first tour in 67 with 1 Troop. It sure looks like Jonah - and meticulously cleaning every round in an M-60 ammo belt is certainly the "serious soldier" stuff that Jonah used to enjoy.

## Wet landing

A 9 Squadron, RAAF, Bushranger helicopter gunship, hit by enemy ground fire was forced to make an emergency landing on the beach about seven miles north east of Vung Tau. The helicopter was hit late on the afternoon of 20 June 1970, but due to fading light and rapidly deteriorating weather conditions, it was impossible to attempt recovery until the following morning. By that time the heavy surf and unusually high tides had swamped the machine. A Chinook helicopter later lifted the Bushranger helicopter to Vung Tau airbase for repairs. The men in the water are recovering the helicopter's 2.75 inch rockets.



## Woolley counting sheep

Sapper Rob Woolley served as a Tunnel Rat with 1 Troop 68/69, and is seen here taking a nap in the shade while on operations and harboured up on the perimeter of an old rubber plantation. Two M-60 machine guns can be seen at the ready in front of the fighting pit behind Rob. Note the peace symbol around Rob's neck, which may have been Rob's attempt to keep the enemy at bay while he had a snooze. Rob is now actively involved with the organisation "Mivac" and their mine clearing operations in South East Asia.

## Viet Cong anti-vehicle mine

The pressure switch trigger for this crude, but highly effective device is the part shown wrapped in plastic and secured with tape to keep it waterproof. The pressure switch comprised two strips of bamboo separated by blocks at each end. When pressed together, electrical contact was made via a nail in the top strip and a metal plate in the bottom strip. A battery provided the charge required to set off the electric detonator which in turn set off the primer charge (the small block in the centre), which set off the main slab of explosive material. The name 'Millar, 1 Trp' has been written in chalk on the mine, which indicates the device was probably found by Sapper Michael Millar who served with 1 Field Squadron from Nov 1967 to Nov 1968. Photo was provided to the Australian War Memorial by John Kemp, OC 1 Fld Sqn 67/68.





## Soldier Sailor

In July 1970 Sapper Bruce Staples, a Tunnel Rat with 1 Fld Sqn adjusts the outboard motor of an assault craft. He was with 2RAR patrolling the mangrove swamps of Phuoc Tuy Province, checking fishing boats and ID cards of the crews. The enemy often moved supplies through the swamps by sampan.



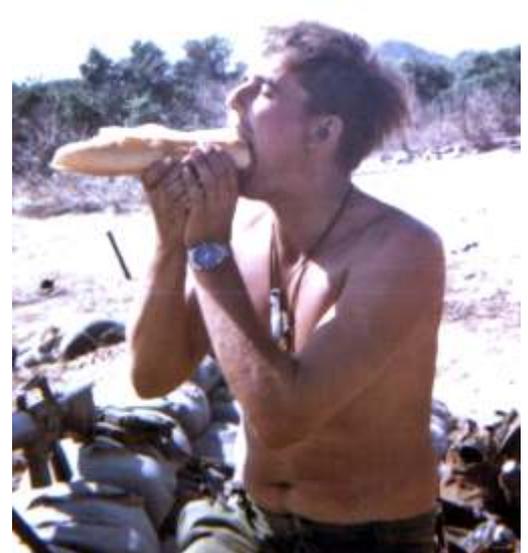
## "Amongst thieves and vagabonds"

The expressions on the faces of these three Tunnel Rats say it all. Lt. John Hopman (centre) the Troop Officer of 2 Troop 69/70 is surrounded by Sappers Jock McMullen (left) and Bruce Bofinger (right). It's obvious the Sappers are up to no good and it's obvious Lt. Hopman is letting them get away with it - at least for the moment. The unusual tasks and methods of operating of the Tunnel rats, created unique and strong bonds between the Sappers and the officers who led them. Those bonds still hold true today and are part of the great comradeship we enjoy and treasure.



## Early days of the tragic barrier minefield

The beginnings of the Dat Do Minefield in May 1967, with a Chinook helicopter in the background, delivering more M-16 mines. These men are in John Hutchisons's arming team (left to right): Terry Renshaw (killed during mine laying on 30th May 1967), unknown, Al Hammond, Lothar Sempel (injured in a mine incident 31st May 1967), unknown. We apologise for not being able to provide all names in some photos. Can anyone help with the above names?



## Suicide Mission

Sometimes you got so sick of C-Rations you'd eat anything, including a "Heppo" (hepatitis) roll purchased on the street or from a passing vendor. The bread roll contained salad and meat of dubious origin, probably a local variety of "Spam". Tunnel Rat Peter Scott (69/70) ignores the dire warnings and bites into a big one.



## All mod cons

Sapper Norm Buttimer, a Tunnel Rat with 1 Troop 68/69, is out with the Infantry, and enjoying all mod cons. His tent is air-conditioned (sides open to the breeze) and solar heated (very heated). Norm is cooking a brew and probably heating it with C4 plastic explosive to speed up the process.

## Could you fly a "Huey"?

The "Huey" choppers were a blessing on operations in Vietnam, providing transport, fire support, supply of water, rations and ammunition, and of course "dustoff" evacuation of the wounded. While flying with them, the thought probably crossed your mind that you could maybe grab the controls if the pilots got zapped, but one glimpse at the dashboard of a "Huey" helicopter (seen right) pretty quickly dismissed that heroic thought. So you just hung on, hoped for the best and enjoyed the ride with the RAAF.



## Theatre of war

The theatre in Baria took a real thumping during the 1968 Tet offensive. It was eventually patched up but the damage was still always obvious. Baria is now massively developed, with shopping centres, highways and traffic lights. The old theatre has disappeared under all the development.



## Bar Heaven in Vung Tau

The bar second from the right is called "Kim" on the sign on top, but just below that (difficult to see in this photo) is a smaller sign labelling the place as the "Blue Angel". This is the name we knew the place by, and it was a real gem. Right next door was a tailor shop where you could do a quick illegal currency exchange to finance your drinking and debauchery. Right out front (for the brave and foolish) was a food stall selling soup noodles and satays. And inside of course was everything a young soldier on leave could hope for - cold beer, some of the most beautiful women in Vung Tau (perhaps the world), and a bunch of mates to enjoy it all with.

## King of the kids

There was an orphanage in Baria which the Australians serving in Vietnam took to their hearts and supported as best they could. The orphanage was run by a Roman Catholic French Order, with both French and Vietnamese nuns on staff. It was a heart-wrenching place to visit, but the smiles on the kid's faces softened the blow. In January 1971 our Chaplain from 1 Field Squadron, Chaplain Roy Cosier is seen surrounded by children from the Orphanage after he had presented them with a rocker.



## Clean greens and a cold drink

The Australian Army units based at Nui Dat had their laundry done at various laundries in the nearby town of Baria. It was good business for these little shops, with thousands of sets of Army "greens" needing cleaning every week. It was quite a treat also for the lads who did the run picking up and dropping off the clothes. It was a chance to mix with the locals and enjoy a treat or two. To cater for the regular visits by Aussie soldiers, the laundries added small shops selling cold drinks, souvenirs, and in some cases "dirty pictures". One drink stand became extremely popular, offering a drink mixed up by a "Vitamiser" comprising bananas, condensed milk and shaved ice. It's not known how many lads got "Baria Belly" from this drink, but there was always a queue of Land Rovers out front.

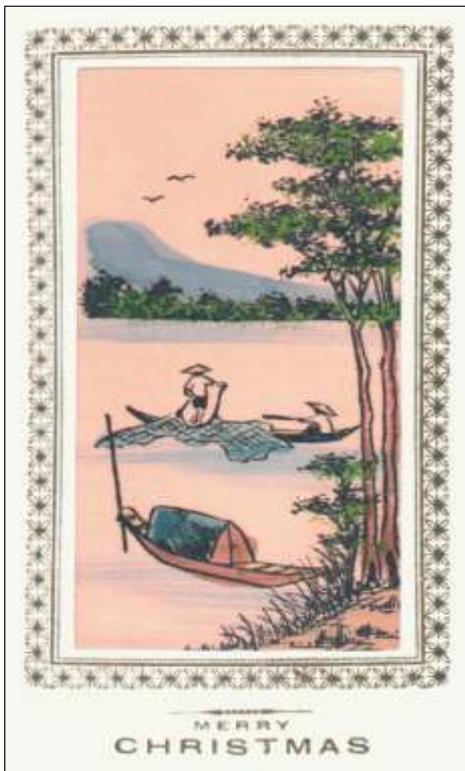
## All dressed up and somewhere to go

Could there be a better feeling than that feeling of heading home to Australia after surviving your posting in Vietnam? You're proudly wearing your ribbons, your folks are waiting at home, your mates are farewelling you at Luscombe Field, and you've got weeks of leave up your sleeve. No wonder these two Tunnel Rats can't wipe the smiles off their faces. Les Rinkin (left) and Dave Carroll arrive at Luscombe Field air strip, Nui Dat on the first leg of their long trip home.



**"Now this is a gun!"**

The Americans had an artillery unit based at Nui Dat with massive 155mm and 175mm guns. Changing barrels on these beasts was quite a job. In this photo (provided by Jack Green, 1 Troop 67/68) there are seven men involved in the task. These guns were extremely loud, but somehow your body and mind adjusted and eventually you could sleep through their barrages while back in base camp off operations.



**Remember these?**

Christmas cards you could buy from Baria or Vung Tau to send home for the festive season. The illustration on the front was actually painted or printed onto real silk which was embedded into the card. It was a good chance to send something from the exotic East to the folks back in Australia. They only cost a few cents each and postage was free for servicemen in Vietnam.



**Remember these?**

A trio of Vung Tau ladies. How many hearts did they break? How many wallets did they empty? How many visits to the medical centre did they cause? And how many times did they whisper those magic romantic phrases such as: "I love you big time, no sweat", or perhaps the more direct: "I boom boom you number one, OK?" These rich interactions with the locals were priceless.



**Remember these?**

There were giant spiders in the rubber plantations. Really big buggers. They were so big they made their web across the huge span between two rubber trees. The spider itself was a big as your hand. If you felt their web hit your face while riding through the rubber on top of an APC, your immediate thought was; "where's the bloody spider?" Mayhem and much bug spray followed.



### The Boss out of uniform

At Vung Tau on 19 February 1972 a final parade for the Australian Task Force was held. The Force Commander, Colonel P. J. Greville (right), dressed in traditional Vietnamese clothes for the event, and is seen here receiving an award from the Mayor of Vung Tau, Nguyen Van Tinh.



### Don't mess with these girls

In September 1966 Flt Lt David Marland, a pilot with No 35 Caribou Squadron explains the RAAF procedure for parachutists jumping from Caribou aircraft to the members of the Vietnamese Women's Army Parachute Team, who are kitted up ready to take part in a parachute jump over Vung Tau airfield.

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# Our Sappers Today

What are our Sappers faced with in the Middle East?



It's interesting to see that the Australian Sappers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan today face explosive devices very similar, though more sophisticated than the devices we faced forty years ago in Vietnam.

The following information from Army sources reminds us not only of our past, but also of the dangers these lads face right now. Today. In every way they carry on the traditions of Australian Sappers who've served before them. They do us proud, and we thank them for their service.

## **Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)**

Definition of an IED: A device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals or explosives and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass, or distract. It may incorporate military stores, but is normally devised from non military components.

IEDs have become the Insurgent and Terrorist "Weapon of Choice" within Iraq and Afghanistan and are being used in unprecedented numbers against Coalition Forces, indigenous Security Forces and civilian personnel.

*ABOVE: In January this year (2009), Corporal John Cannon and his Explosive Detection Dog "Storm" search for insurgent weapons and explosives caches during a mission in southern Afghanistan. Corporal Cannon and Storm are from the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment.*

## **Components**

There are four major components of all IEDs; the power source, the trigger or switch, the detonator and the main charge.

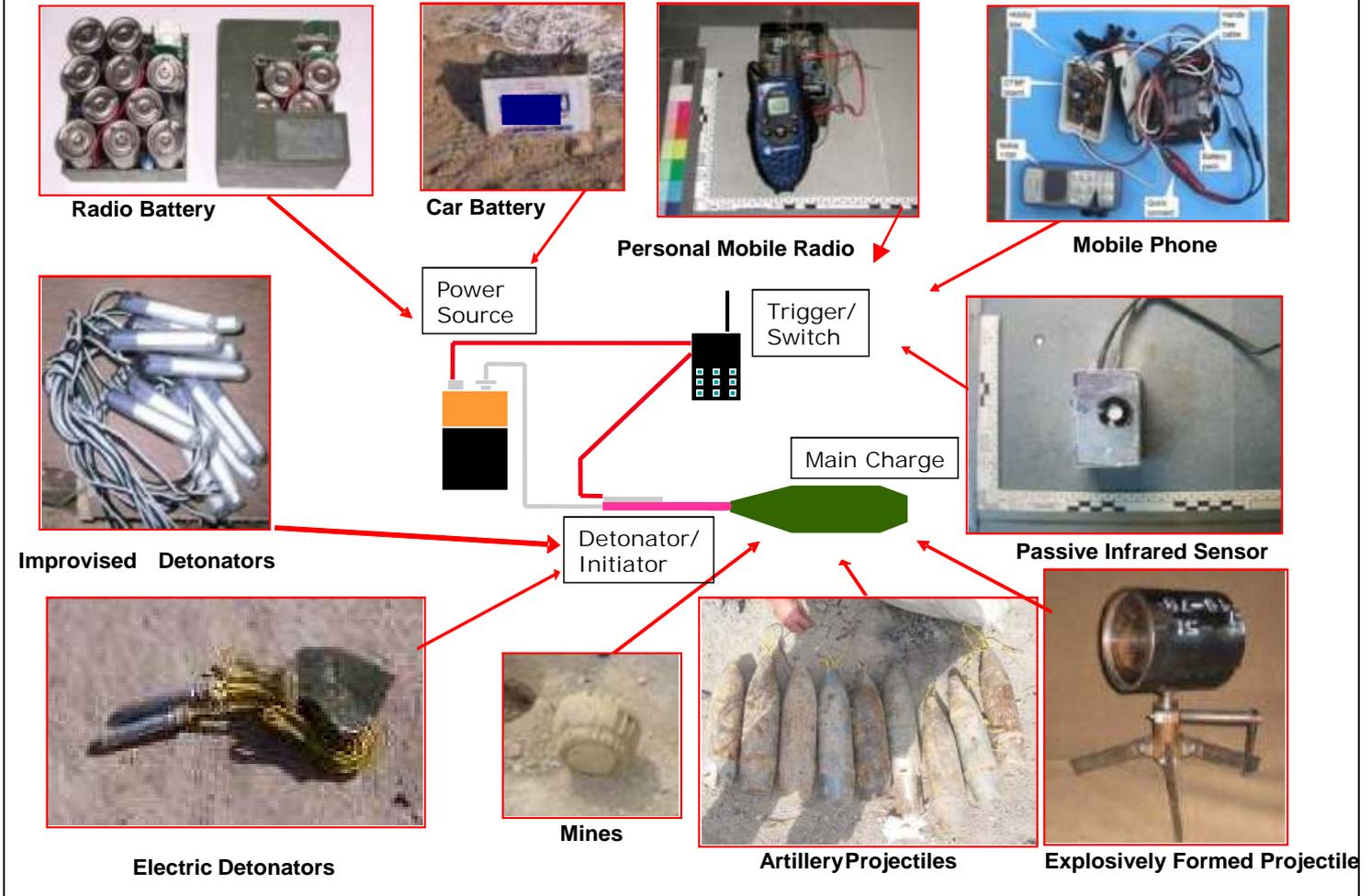
The power source applies energy to the IED, and commonly takes the form of a battery.

The trigger, or switch, is the mechanism by which the IED is detonated. This can take the form of a radio control (RC) device, a command wire (CW), a timer, or a victim operated (VO) switch – such as a pressure plate.

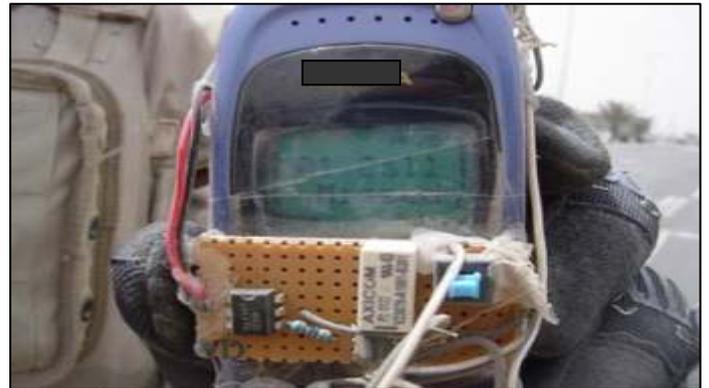
The detonator is a small explosive charge used to initiate the larger, main explosive charge, following an output from the initiator.

The main charge for IEDs in the Middle East area of operations normally take the form of conventional military munitions – such as artillery projectiles – used in an unconventional manner.

# Components of an IED



*Command Wire IED (CWIED) - an IED initiated using a long wire and strong power source, and may include a switch.*



*Radio Controlled IED (RCIED) - electronically initiated using a wireless transmitter and receiver such as a personal mobile radio (PMR), cell phone, cordless phone or pager.*



*A Victim Operated Switch (VOIED) - a device designed to be set off by the victim, usually by standing on it, moving it or removing an object from it.*

# Our Sappers in Tarin Kowt Afghanistan

Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force - 1 (MRTF-1) commenced operations in Afghanistan in October last year. As part of the ongoing stabilisation and rehabilitation of Afghanistan, MRTF-1 is continuing the ongoing success of reconstruction, and in addition is providing training and mentoring support to the Afghan National Army. MRTF-1 engineers are also engaged in the winterisation of patrol bases throughout the Province in order to better protect personnel during Afghanistan's harsh winters. Australia's contribution to Afghanistan is among the 10th largest of the 40 contributing nations and the largest of any non-NATO contributing nation.



*Tarin Kowt Afghanistan - Clockwise from top right:*

*Sapper Jake Ruane gets into the Christmas spirit.*

*Sapper Chris Burdon, a plant operator with the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force - 1 poses next to an excavator arm.*

*Plant Operator, Lance Corporal Wayne Cook, tightens the nuts on the bucket of a front end loader.*

*Combat Engineer, Lance Corporal Isaac Williams, leans out from an armoured skid-steer loader.*

# Sapper Snippets

## “Phuc Dat, I’m not staying there”

Aussie Veterans returning to Vietnam and visiting Vung Tau are amused these days to find a hotel with the incongruous name “Phuc Dat”. It’s not a flash hotel, the rooms are quite small and it’s a few blocks away from the Back Beach, but some of our lads have stayed there - simply to be able to say they have. One Veteran tried to explain the “problem” of the name to the hotel manager but it all seemed to go over his head. There is another hotel nearby, called the “Dic Hotel”, but we won’t go there!



## Things have certainly changed at Long Hai



During the war the Long Hai area (above), was known to the enemy as the Minh Dam Secret Zone. It was a nasty place peppered with mines and booby traps and heavily defended by the Viet Cong.

Australian units, including the Tunnel Rats suffered many casualties every time they went near the place. On one day alone

(February 28th 1970) Australia suffered 35 casualties there, including seven Tunnel Rats.

Today, things are a little different. Incredibly a luxury beach resort and casino has opened there. Known as the Long Hai Beach Resort, it proudly proclaims itself to be an International Deluxe Resort harmonizing luxurious scenery with Vietnamese traditional Style. “Situated on an unspoilt beach and located in the Ba Ria Vung Tau Province on the outskirts of the quaint little town of Long Hai we are nestled at the foot of the Minh Dam Mountains on one side and the South China Sea on the other,” says their website.



*Welcome to the Long Hai Beach Resort*

You can take a look at their website on:

<http://www.longhaibeachresort.com>

Or give them a call, they might want a few old Sappers on staff to guide the guests through any mines and booby traps left over from the war.

Tel: (84-64) - 3661.351



# The Sappers and 7RAR - an historic document

*A fascinating insight into the way we operated with the Infantry Battalions, written at the time, in the field by a Tunnel Rat Troop Commander*

In 1971 while he was Troop Commander of 2 Troop 1 Field Squadron in Vietnam, Captain Ian McLean was asked to write a detailed report on how the Sappers in the Field Troops worked with the Infantry Battalions. He covered their tasks, their skills, the gear they carried, and how they interacted with and melded into the Infantry in the field. The document is all the more fascinating and insightful because it was written at the time rather than from fading memories forty years later.

Though written about 2 Troop and 7RAR, the content applies equally to 1 Troop, Three Troop and Three Field Troop and the way that all of us operated with each of the Infantry Battalions.

The document is evidence again of the extraordinary role the Tunnel Rats played in Vietnam. Read it with pride lads.



*Charismatic, tough, but fair, the CO of 7RAR, Lieutenant Colonel Ron Grey (right) discusses tactics in January 1971 with the OC of the battalion's C Company, Major Geoff Skardon. Behind them is Captain Denis Byrne, forward observer with 106 Battery. In the field, Sappers on the Splinter teams found themselves bypassing normal chains of command and dealing directly with the Infantry Company Commanders on Tunnel Rat tasks.*

## Notes on Operations

### With 7th Battalion

### The Royal Australian Regiment Vietnam 1970 - 1971

#### **ENGINEER SUPPORT OF 7 RAR**

**1. Introduction:** During 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment's 1970 - 71 tour in South Vietnam, 2 Field Troop of 1 Field Squadron RAE has been the affiliated combat sapper troop to the battalion.

**2. This report covers:** Operations of the battalion since Jul 70, from a sapper viewpoint examining some of the problems encountered and possible solutions.

General

**3. Troop Organisation:** 2 Fd Tp is a sub unit of 1 Fd Sqn and our organisation has been modified from the standard TW establishment for operations in Vietnam, For practical purposes the troop now consists of two officers, two sergeants and 51 other ranks. Generally plant operators have been removed from the field troops and centralised under a separate plant troop. From this organisation one officer, one sergeant and ten

other ranks are not normally available for battalion support. They are required for administrative, training and centralised squadron projects. Examples of this are:

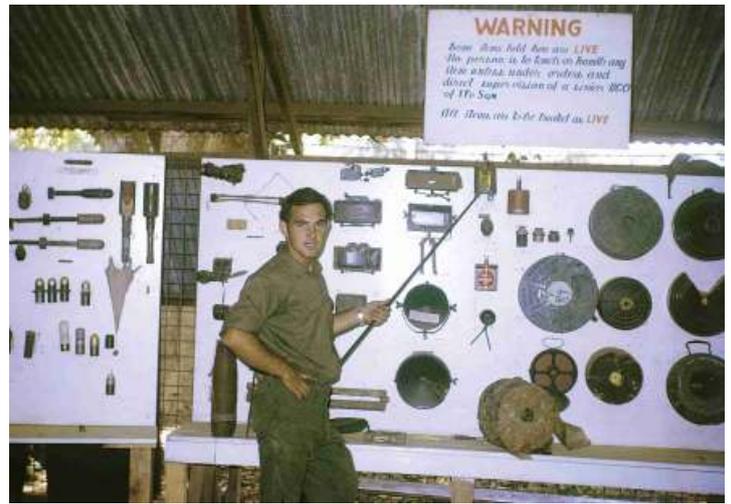
- a. Mine clearing team.
  - b. Civil Affairs projects.
- Liaison staff duties.*

**4. The troop organisation is designed to:** provide engineer support to the battalion down to company level and consequently consists of four sections. In Vietnam it has been found necessary to reduce the basic engineer group to below a section. This has resulted in the formation of splinter teams (ST) and mini teams (MT). Rarely are section tasks carried out and one of the few times that sections function as such is when the troop returns to Nui Dat for retraining periods.

**5. Role and Tasks:** The role of the troop is to provide intimate combat engineer support to 7 RAR. Because of the nature of Australian operations in Vietnam this support makes use of a very limited range of the traditional sapper tasks. As offensive operations in depth become fewer, the range of these tasks is again reduced. This trend is further accentuated by the continued operation of 7 RAR



ABOVE: 7RAR lads depart their base at the Horseshoe for a patrol in the immediate area (no sleeping gear being carried), accompanied by a Splinter Team of 2 Sappers from 2 Troop



Sapper Kevin Lappin of 2 Troop providing high quality instruction to 7RAR troops in the excellent 1 Fd Sqn Mines and Booby Traps Classroom at Nui Dat.

out of the same fixed bases.

**6. Current operations provide four basic sapper tasks. They are:**

- a. Mine and booby trap detection and neutralisation.
- b. Bunker search.
- c. Bunker demolition,
- d. Destruction of UXBs, blind and misfire ammunition.

**7. Despite the restricted nature of operations:** It is still necessary for the troop to retain the capacity to undertake the full range of sapper endeavours. Consequently a normal complement of tradesmen is retained in the troop. Also the troop must retain equipment and experienced personnel to undertake such tasks. Frequently none of the above personnel, experience or equipment is used in Vietnam and this creates a morale problem when those involved cannot see the reason for their presence here.

**SAPPER GROUPINGS**

**8. General:** Where the battalion is mentioned in this report it refers more accurately to the battalion group, including the tanks, APCs and artillery. This section covers the engineer groupings used in support of the battalion, their capabilities and their limitations.

**9. Splinter Teams:** A splinter team (ST) consists of two sappers. The first is relatively experienced and is referred to as the Number One. He is responsible for all engineer advice given to a company commander in the field and also for the command of the ST when engaged in engineer tasks. The second member of the team is called a Number Two and may have very little practical combat engineering experience. The No2 is

expected to assist the No 1 in all tasks and by so doing should eventually acquire sufficient skill and experience to assume the role of No 1.

**10. Equipment of Splinter Teams:** The ST normally travels with the company headquarters and will remain with the company for the duration of the phase of the operation. Their equipment consists of:

- a. Personal weapon and ammunition.
- b. Personal equipment.
- c. Bayonet (used in prodding for mines).
- d. Demolitions equipment, including sufficient explosive and accessories to carry out immediate demolitions of bunkers, blinds, mines and UXBs.
- e. Pulling cord (for pulling mines).
- f. Current minefield data and mine incident map for the area of Operations.

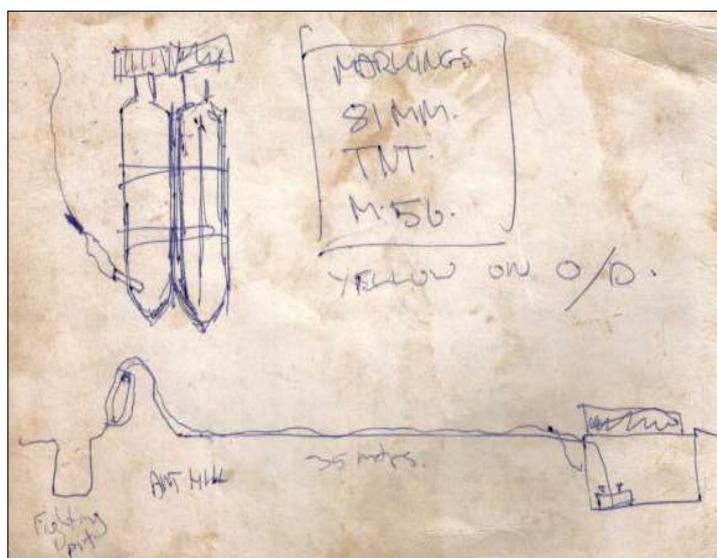
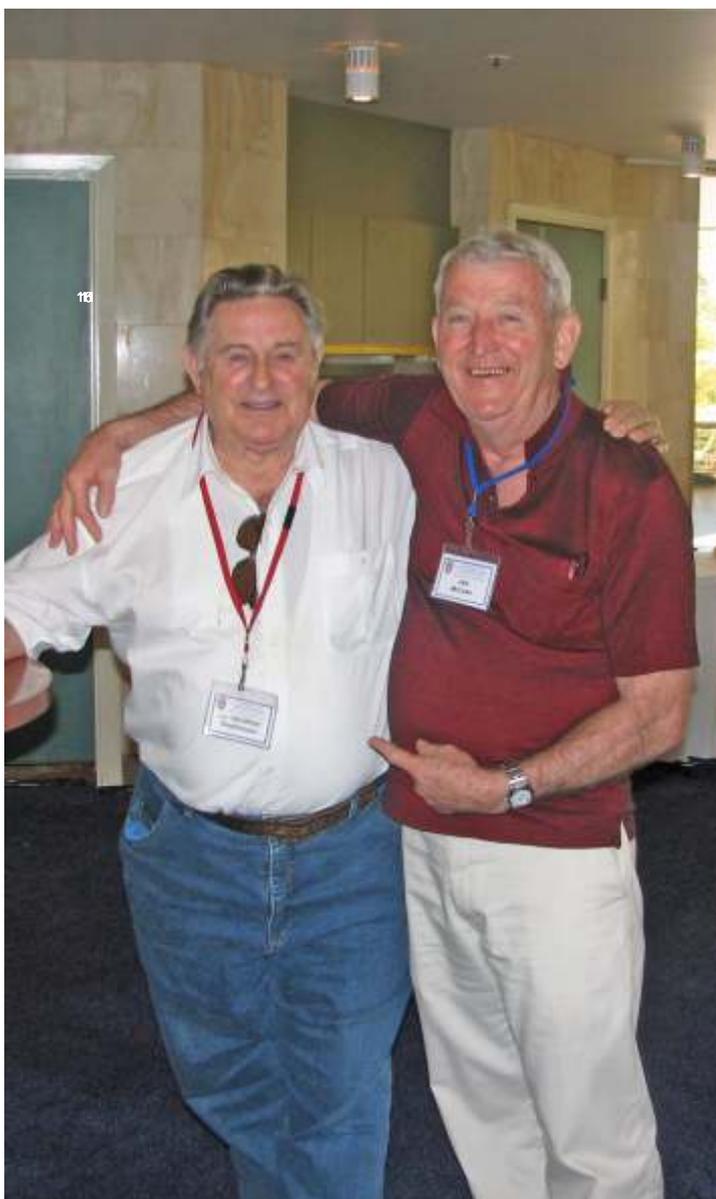
**11. Mini Teams:** A mini team (MT) is a ST carrying more counter-mine equipment and normally operating in support of tanks or APCs. The variation in designation refers only to this different role and a team employed as a MT today may be used as a ST tomorrow.

**12. Equipment of a Mini- Team:** A Mini Team carries all the equipment of a ST plus:

- a. One mine detector.
- b. Flak jackets.
- c. Steel helmets (rarely).

**13. Skills of Splinter Teams and Mini Teams:** STs and MTs are trained in the following skills:

- a. Detection of mines and booby traps by manual or electronic means.
- b. Neutralisation of mines and booby traps.
- c. Visual detection and recognition of enemy mine and booby trap signs. This skill is retained even when the team is moving on tanks and APCs.



LEFT: Seen in 2007 at Banora Point, on the right of the photo is Ian McLean, who as Troop Commander of 2 Troop in 1971, wrote this extensive piece on how the Sappers operated and integrated with 7RAR. With Ian is Geordie Stephenson, who served with 2 Fd Tp in Malaysia and with 21 Engr Spt Tp and 55 EWPPS in Vietnam.

ABOVE: Typical tasks and findings: While attached to 7RAR, Sapper Jim Marett of 2 Troop made this field sketch of a command detonated explosive device he'd found on the fringes of an enemy bunker system

**d.** Detection of tunnel, bunker and cache openings.

**e.** The ability to thoroughly search tunnels, bunkers and caches.

**f.** To plan and execute the demolition of tunnels, bunkers and caches.

**g.** To destroy blinds, UXBs and misfires in situation. However they are not qualified to move or otherwise tamper with blinds or UXBs

**h.** To prepare helicopter LZs, although for this task they require manpower assistance.

**14. Protection:** In all of these operations the ST and MT require protection which should be provided by the group that they are working with.

**15. Combat Engineer Teams:** A combat engineer team (CET) is made up of one NCO and six sappers. The six sappers may be used as three STs, MTs or a mixture. A CET would normally be deployed for a specific task which was judged to be beyond the capacity of the ST or MT normally allocated. Suitable tasks for a CET would be the clearance or destruction of a large bunker system or tunnel complex.

**16. Limitations of Splinter Teams and Mini Teams:** Normally the No 1 of a ST or MT is a private soldier. This means there is a marked rank gulf between him and the commander that he advises. With understanding on the commander's part this gulf can be bridged to obtain maximum benefit from the sapper's special knowledge. However do not expect the No 1 to make all the adjustments to ensure communication. He was rapidly trained to be a skilled sapper but the Army did not have time to train him in diplomacy. Basically he has a private soldier's attitude to the Army and to those who lead it. Frequently he will take pleasure from placing the command group in an embarrassing situation. However this does not normally affect the accuracy of his sapper advice, it simply makes it a little less palatable to accept.

#### **EMPLOYMENT OF SAPPERS**

**17. Previous Allocations:** In the past it was normal for an entire battalion to deploy in depth for a period of time with companies operating independently about a central Fire Support Base



*The mine-damaged APC in which Sapper Ian Scott (inset) of 2 Troop was KIA on 14th June 1970 while working with 7RAR.. WIA in the same incident were: Trooper Roy Davies and Corporal Ray Piper of B Squadron, 3 Cavalry Regiment, and Private Bruce Flockhart of 7RAR*



*ABOVE: A Memorial Service held at The Horseshoe for Lt. Robin Pothof of 7RAR who was KIA in an APC mine incident beside the barrier minefield on 26th April 1970.*

*BELOW: Sapper Bob Ottery of 2 Troop who prodded into the barrier minefield at night in the recovery of Lt. Pothof during the mine incident*

(FSB). Under such conditions it was normal to supply one splinter team with each company Headquarters, one mini team with the tank troop Headquarters and one with the APC troop Headquarters. If the situation warranted more sapper support a combat engineer team was held at the fire support base. This system does not economically employ the sappers in the current situation.

**18. Current Allocations:** It has been necessary to revise sapper allocations to fit the pattern of 7 RAR operations given below:

- a. Battalion Headquarters and two companies based at Horseshoe Hill and conducting extensive night ambushing from the base.*
- b. One company based at Brigid and patrolling and ambushing the area.*
- c. Two companies operating in depth with platoons operating independently*

**19. The ideal sapper support:** This would be to allot one ST/MT to each group operating independently from its superior headquarters. This plus MTs for the tank troop and for each section of the APCs is far beyond the manpower resources of a field troop. Consequently a compromise has been reached and this is detailed in subsequent paragraphs.

**20. Companies Operating in Depth:** It is generally possible to assign two STs to each company operating in depth. One team will travel with company Headquarters and the other will move with the platoon operating in the area where immediate sapper assistance is most likely to be required. The team traveling with the company



headquarters may carry a mine detector although this is not normally a necessity.

**21. Lie-up Ambush Positions:** Lie-up ambush parties usually are of half platoon strength and such a small force would not normally expect sapper support. However lie-ups are placed close to enemy base areas where the mine threat is high. Therefore a MT is provided to clear a path into and out of the area. This is an expensive use of sappers because while the lie-up is in for four or five days the sappers only perform their skills on the move in and out. To counter this it is necessary to obtain the maximum possible benefit from them. Before the ambush party sets out for the lie-up position it should be decided what areas of the route require proving by mine detector before passage over them. Mine detecting is a slow process and as a result an abbreviated method is used when



*On 7th June 1970 Sapper Ian Pitt (above left) was wounded by Friendly Fire when two 7RAR patrols clashed. Just days prior to the incident, Sappers Ian Pitt and Ralph Schaefer of 2 Troop prepare demolition charges (above) at an enemy bunker system while attached to 7RAR*



*On 27th October 1970, Sapper Peter Piromanski (above left) was wounded in another Friendly Fire incident when two 7RAR patrols clashed. Four months prior to the incident (above) Sapper Piromanski of 2 Troop and 7RAR's padre, Father Keith Teefey contemplate a UXB found on patrol*

moving to and from lie-ups. When an object is detected that may be a mine it is not proved but rather the party moves around it. This saves considerable time especially in areas with high shrapnel density. It also obviates the need to blow mines in situation and so retains secrecy of movement. While the ambush party is in position the MT should be used to accurately position claymore mines and to daily check their condition. Both the ambush position and the lie-up position should be checked for mines if in a suspect area.

**22. Brigid Company:** Generally the company at Brigid will have a Section of APCs in support, so it is necessary to provide one base ST and one base MT. When activity is low one team may be used to carry out both roles. Further teams may be allocated to cover groups patrolling in depth from the base and for lie-up ambush parties.

**25. Horseshoe Force:** No definite allocation of sappers is made to companies, tanks and APCs operating from the Horseshoe Hill. The Headquarters of 2 Field Troop operates from the Horseshoe and maintains a pool of all spare teams. These teams are tasked on an "as required" basis and return to the pool when the task is completed. One of these teams is always on fifteen minutes notice to move.

**24. Ambush Operations:** Normally sapper teams will be available to support night ambush parties moving to areas most likely to be mined. Allocation is decided after considering the number of teams available, the relative mine threat and the

frequency of previous ambushes to the area. This last aspect becomes more ominous the longer that we continue to operate in the same area. Unfortunately there are not unlimited good ambush sites available, but the risk of the VC exploiting our habits is high. Again in ambush sites it would be profitable to make use of the sappers in detailed siting of claymore mines.

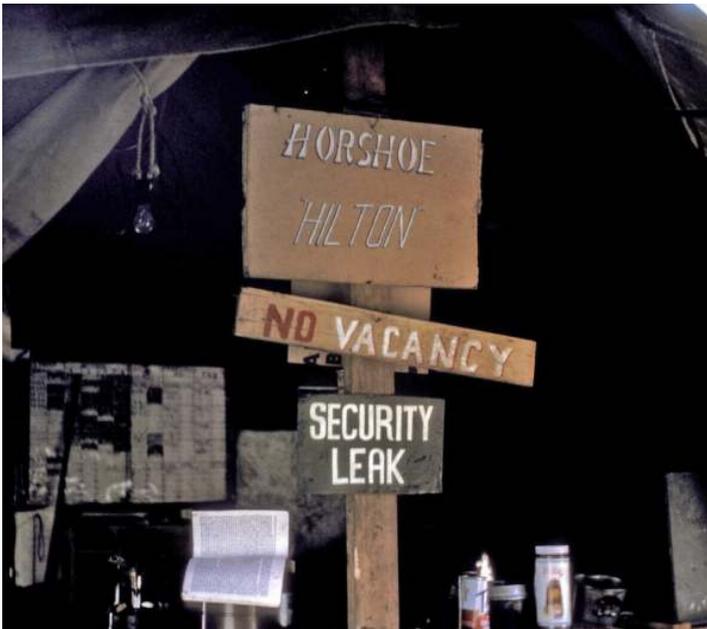
**25. APC Operations:** MTs are provided for all APC movements away from a sealed road unless they are unavailable. The allocation is on the basis of one MT per group of APCs moving by themselves. MTs are also available to travel with the APCs in the evening drop-off and early morning pick-up of infantry ambush parties. When APCs hold night ambush positions MTs will again be made available. It is imperative that when MTs travel with tracks, the No 1 and No 2 travel on separate APCs. Also infantry passengers must leave room for each member of the MT to sit directly behind the APC driver. This enables him to stop the driver immediately a mine sign is seen.

**26. Tank Operations:** Whenever the tanks are deployed from the Horseshoe they are accompanied by a MT.

#### **POINTS ON THE USE OF SAPPERS**

**27. Briefing:** The No 1 of a ST or MT should be included in all 0 groups. Part of his preparation includes the acquisition of all current mine and installation information available for any given area. It is difficult for him to provide this information to the supported group unless he is briefed. Only a foolish





2 Troop's HQ was located at the Horseshoe for some time while supporting 7RAR



In the midst of a monsoon downpour, 2 Troop's lines back at the base camp in Nui Dat

Otherwise it provides ready accommodation to VC transiting through the area or using it as a staging point RV. Here it is worthwhile noting that the VC have a better knowledge of the countryside and where usable bunkers are than we do. They are able to find these systems again with greater accuracy and faster than we may ever hope to ourselves.

**c.** An argument proposed for leaving bunkers intact is that it entices VC to return to an area we know. This supposedly gives us the tactical advantage and enables us to destroy the VC when he returns to this bunker that we know. This was true when there were ten such systems in Phuoc Tuy Province. Unfortunately with the few thousand systems that have been left intact, surveillance of them will never be detailed enough to know when the VC have returned.

**d.** The infantry working in depth cannot allow the noise of a bunker demolition to divulge their presence in the area to the VC or so the saying goes. However if the bunker system shows signs of recent occupation, the VC saw us in the area and this is why they departed. Again with a suspected enemy area we subject it to harassing fire until we move into it then all artillery into the area stops. Maybe this lack of artillery fire warns the VC of our presence and therefore the odd bunker explosion could be used to deceive the VC into thinking we were not in the area. Further, we have always accepted that the VC will return quickly to an area that we have demolished to see what damage we have done. Perhaps we should blow systems and then ambush around them for a few days. In any case I doubt that the noise is such a critical factor in

divulging our presence to the VC. After all we make very little attempt to cover the tracks made by our GP boots when moving through a likely VC area.

**e.** Economy of effort has always been considered a principle of war. Surely it is more economical in effort to blow bunkers when found, while the specialists and equipment are available than to pass the system by. When we return to blow the system we must first expend considerable effort in re-locating it, then search the system again before destroying it.

### **32. Destruction of Explosive Munitions:**

Mines claim a disproportionately high percentage of Australian casualties in the Province. The simplest way for the VC to obtain these mines is to pick up blind munitions lying all over the Province and make mines to their own requirements from the salvaged explosive. A 750 pound bomb contains enough explosive to make a frightening number of anti personnel mines. Some blinds and munitions do not even have to be tampered with by the VC to be lethal to our soldiers. A CBU lying in the undergrowth may be very difficult to see and an unsuspecting foot is quite enough to set it off. All explosives found in the field should be destroyed before they destroy us.

**33. VC mines:** These are more deadly than the VC themselves. They are harder to find and we are never in a tactically superior position when they strike. Surely it is more important to destroy this potential than to fruitlessly chase after the phantom soldier who will use it. We do not leave money lying around for thieves to steal. Frequently an infantry commander tells his sapper advisor that there is not enough time to blow blinds and other munitions. On many of these occasions it appears



*In Nov 1970 Lt. General Sir Thomas Daly (left), meets with Cpl Kevin Pattle of 7RAR. Just days later, on 2nd Dec 1970, Cpl Pattle and Pte Hains of 7RAR plus two Sappers from 2 Troop, Les Riedlinger and Bruce Fenwick were wounded in a mine incident. Sapper Fenwick, who lost a leg had been in-country only 35 days*



*For the Sappers, being posted to the FSB for an OP was a bit of a "swan". It meant regular meals, daily mail delivery, showers and plenty of time to snooze, read "stick Books" and play cards. The downside was you could be called out at any time on short notice for a range of Sapper tasks, but usually one-day affairs*

to the sapper advisor that the headlong dash has no other reason than the commander's compliance with lifetime infantry habits. When you stop to think, it must seem strange that the only time the VC is in a hurry is when he is trying to escape,

**34. Mines:** It is generally believed that in Vietnam we are confronted by a greater density of mine incidents than we have ever previously encountered. This belief is undoubtedly erroneous. It has arisen from the meticulously kept statistics on how our battle casualties occur. A more realistic conclusion to draw would be that we have never been engaged in a conflict before where we suffered a smaller percentage of casualties from gun shot wounds. However even if the mine threat is not as great as we sometimes imagine, we still suffer a greater percentage of our casualties from mine incidents than from any other cause. Because of this we have become mine conscious and now we should try to channel some of this awareness to the denying of mine explosives to the VC.

**35. Care and Handling of Explosives:** This war has seen the introduction of the claymore mine to the infantry and other units. This has not been without its problems. Training in the use of the weapon has been minimal and few users understand the principles of its operation. This has led to many unsuccessful firings of the claymore and to this date its potential as a static killing weapon has not been fully realised. Incorrectly sited it can also be a backfiring weapon, exposing our own troops to a high risk of injury. It is now

commonly accepted among the infantry that the claymore is not the answer to their prayers. This judgement is almost certainly over-hasty and probably overlooks the root cause of the weapon's apparent failure. Rarely can the failure of a claymore be blamed on the weapon. Generally these failures are the result of user error and much of this could be overcome by instituting a more thorough training programme covering the principles of siting, maintenance and operation of the weapon. Sappers have a more thorough training in the handling of similar equipment and until other arms all ranks are adequately trained the sappers are available to assist with advice and instruction.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

**36. The purpose of this report:** This report has been written with an eye to improving the detail of infantry-engineer co-operation in combat operations. Therefore it may appear to be overly critical. It was not written to praise the aspects that currently operate efficiently but rather to highlight areas where improvement is desired by the sappers. We will have to learn our shortcomings from others reports. A benevolent being on reading this might remark that it is truly wondrous that so few shortcomings are evident to the sapper.

**37. Having Sappers on hand:** The employment of sappers in support of infantry is a little like the purchase of fire insurance. If there is no fire it is not needed and may even be considered expensive. However it is embarrassing to find that when the fire starts the premium has not been paid.

# “Someone was going to have to enter the minefield”

*Continuing our series on the five Tunnel Rats awarded the Military Medal in Vietnam, this third story covers Sapper Neil Innes and the incident at The Horseshoe which led to his award*

The incident in which Neil Innes won his Military Medal took place on May 2nd 1967 during Operation Leeton – which was the laying of the barrier minefield - but it wasn't mine laying which triggered the incident, it was two men who mistakenly walked into a part of the minefield which had already been laid.

Those two men were American servicemen, serving with A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery Group, a unit supporting the Australians in Phuoc Tuy Province, based both at Nui Dat and at the Horseshoe Fire Support Base with their massive 155mm guns.

The two men, Sergeant Danny Hayes (who would be killed in the incident) and Private Pardo (who survived but lost a leg) were temporarily at the Horseshoe and were helping their comrades set up camp.

Sapper Neil Innes was at the Horseshoe because his Troop (1 troop) was based there while it was engaged in laying the minefield, and A Coy 6 Battalion RAR was tasked with defending the location.

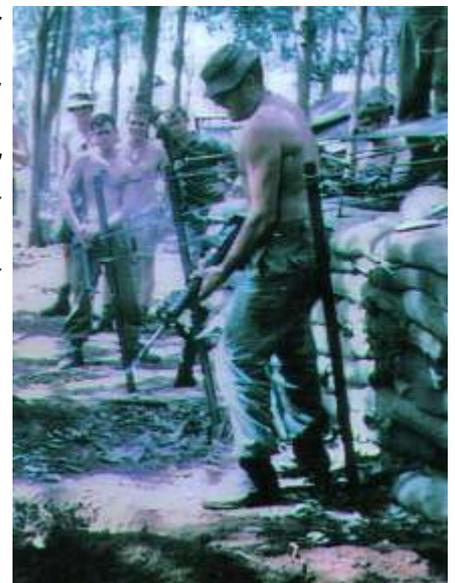
On this operation there were no Mini Teams or Splinter Teams, as the entire troop was involved, with members switching on a revolving basis between the various tasks necessary in laying a minefield.

“The troop had been having problems with faulty detonators for the mines that were going to be laid in the minefield,” recalls Neil. “As a method of relieving the stress from working in the minefield, a small number of Sappers (usually two to four) would remain at the Horseshoe each day. You would spend the day checking and testing the detonators to identify any faulty ones.

“At about 11:30 in the morning a truck from the American Artillery Battery stationed at the Horseshoe, passed by our Troop location, heading towards the entrance to the Horseshoe. A short time later there was an explosion coming from the direction of the entrance - and the next thing an American soldier came running from the direction of the explosion yelling out: 'contact, contact'. Myself and two other sappers in the Troop location (Ron Forsyth and Al Hammond) grabbed our weapons and ran towards the source of the explosion. I don't know what we expected to find or do once we reached the 'contact', but when we reached the location of the explosion, what we



*ABOVE: Sapper Neil Innes back in base camp at Nui Dat. RIGHT: Sapper Al “Happy” Hammond” test firing his weapon before going out on operations*



found was not a 'contact' but two wounded American Gunners, one lying on the edge of the minefield, the other lying in the minefield.” “When the three of us reached the minefield, we observed one American Gunner was lying on his back in a depression in the ground next to the minefield fence, the other Gunner was in the minefield writhing about and screaming in what was obviously a great deal of pain.

“It didn't take a genius to understand that someone was going to have to enter the minefield to help the wounded guy as there was no way he was



*The Horseshoe Fire Support Base, with an arrow indicating where the mine incident in which Neil Innes won his MM took place*

going to be able to leave the minefield by his own efforts.”

Of the three sappers on the scene, Ron Forsyth and Al 'Happy' Hammond were, in one case married with kids and the other engaged. As Neil was single and unattached, he was volunteered by a process of elimination to enter the minefield.

“The Gunner, who we now know was Private Pardo had gone about 20 meters into the minefield,” recalls Neil. “I entered the minefield and worked my way towards him. As I didn't have a bayonet with me, I cleared my way forward by running my hands over the ground to feel for the mine prongs. As I found each mine, I marked it with scraps of hessian from sandbags.

“When the medic, David Buckwalter from A Coy 6RAR and I reached Private Pardo we found he was lying between two mines - one was near his head, the other near his waist. He was moaning and thrashing his arms about and I had visions of him setting off the mine near his waist so we stuck his hands down his pants and tightened his belt up to restrict his movements.

“The medic (who was awarded an MID for this action) hit him with an injection while I proceeded to mark a clear lane into the minefield to allow further medical aid to come forward and extract Private Pardo.

“I learnt later that the Gunner who was on

the edge of the minefield (who we now know was Sergeant Danny Hayes), tragically died from his wounds as he was being placed on the dust-off helicopter.

“I don't recall having any particular feeling at the time, I just knew that someone had to get the Gunner out of the minefield, we couldn't leave him there. I didn't think anything special had happened, I'd only done what I had been trained to do.

“If there was any effect on me at the time, it was a compelling need for a smoke and a brew - I was an extremely heavy coffee drinker and smoker back then.

“One image that sticks in my mind, is how the rest of 1 Troop had arrived back at the Horseshoe while the rescue was taking place, and how they, along with the guys from A Coy 6RAR and the American Artillery Battery stood outside the minefield like a footy crowd watching the incident unfold.

“The first I knew about the Military Medal was in Feb 1968, I had completed my National Service and was out of the Army, and one day I came home from work to be confronted by my parents demanding to know what the hell I had been up to in Vietnam as they had been receiving phone calls all afternoon from newspaper reporters and radio and television stations wanting an interview with me.

“The Government had announced to the



ABOVE: "A Battery" of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery Group, had their big mobile guns at both Nui Dat and the Horseshoe. Inset is the distinctive logo of the unit



ABOVE: In the front row on the far left is US Army Sergeant Danny Hayes who was killed in the mine incident at the Horseshoe on 2nd May 1967



ABOVE: In the front row, second from the right, is US Army Private Pardo who was furthest into the minefield and lost a leg in the incident at the Horseshoe on 2nd May 1967

media that I had won the Military Medal.

"My initial reaction at the time was that as no one had raised the matter prior to my discharge in Sept 1967, that it was probably some mates from 1 Troop having a practical joke at my expense. But the phone calls continued and I started to realize that the calls were genuine.

"I had several interviews with newspapers and television and radio reporters, and the Government finally advised me by telegram later that day.

"I only found out in March last year that Lt. Joe Cazey, the Troop Officer of 1 Troop at the time had prepared the submission for the award, on the strong recommendation of Major O'Brien, the then OC of A Coy 6 RAR.

"Today, I'm proud of the award, not for my sake but for the legacy it leaves for my wife and children. My attitude to the award has changed since the Welcome Home Parade in 1987. Because of public attitude to the war in Vietnam and constant disparaging remarks ("you don't deserve the award it wasn't won in a real war" etc) made at my local RSL by old WWII diggers, I finished up throwing the medal in a drawer and forgot all about it for 20 years. I never attended any reunions or kept in contact with the guys I had served with. In that 20 years, I married, divorced and remarried and had 3 children. I just tried to wipe the whole Vietnam experience from my memory.

"When the parade was mentioned my wife convinced me I should, for my children's sake be proud of the award and should take part in the parade. I did just that and met up with some of my mates and we have been getting together on a regular basis ever since.

The written citation accompanying the Military Medal awarded to Sapper Neil Innes reads:

“On the 2nd May, 1967 during Operation LEETON, Sapper Innes was in the 1 Troop forward operational base, at a feature known as the Horseshoe. At approximately 1150 hours Sapper Innes heard an explosion in the vicinity of a minefield approximately 70 metres to the south of his own location. He immediately ran to the edge of the minefield where he saw two American Gunners lying wounded on the ground. One soldier was unconscious just outside the minefield, the other was lying in the minefield and was writhing on the ground approximately six inches from another mine.

Sapper Innes entered the



Sapper Neil Innes

minefield, held the wounded soldier firmly to prevent his movement and quietly reassured him to lie still. He then marked a clear lane into the minefield to allow medical aid to come forward.

Sapper Innes, by his immediate and courageous

action, prevented the detonation of a second mine and his swift marking of a safe lane made possible the quick evacuation of the wounded. His complete disregard for his own safety displayed a high standard of bravery that reflects great credit upon himself and his Squadron.”

## ARMY COMBAT BADGE APPLICATION FORM

SERVICE NUMBER:		
INITIALS:	NAME:	
UNIT/S SERVED WITH (Please tick and fill in date details below)		
<input type="radio"/> 3 Field Troop	From	Till
<input type="radio"/> 1 Troop 1 Field Squadron	From	Till
<input type="radio"/> 2 Troop 1 Field Squadron	From	Till
<input type="radio"/> 3 Troop 1 Field Squadron	From	Till
DECLARATION: During my service in Vietnam I served with the above unit/s during the periods stated.		
SIGNATURE:		DATE:
ADDRESS:		
TELEPHONE:		
EMAIL:		
VIETNAM TUNNEL RAT ASSOC MEMBERSHIP STATUS (Please tick)		
<input type="radio"/> I am a new joining member – membership application form enclosed		
<input type="radio"/> I am renewing my existing membership with the enclosed form (Your membership is due for renewal if a renewal form has been included for you in this issue)		
<input type="radio"/> I am an existing paid-up member		

**COMPLETE  
THIS FORM  
AND POST IT TO:**

VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS  
43 HEYINGTON PLACE  
TOORAK VIC 3142

If you don't want to cut into this fantastic newsletter - simply photocopy the form

# Tassie braces for a Tunnel Rat attack!

Our first ever national reunion of Tunnel Rats is shaping up nicely. We have well over 100 bookings already and we expect many more over the next few weeks

If you haven't booked, you need to hurry. The closing date for bookings is 15th March 2009. We know that the hotels have many more bookings from Tunnel Rats than we do – so don't forget, apart from booking your hotel and airfare, you also have to book for the reunion – for the dinners, lunches and activities!

Book now using the loose, single sheet booking form included with this issue of Holdfast. The \$220 covers the two lunches and two dinners excluding drinks.

You can pay by credit card, cheque or Australia Post Money Order – but do it now. Don't miss out on this great chance to get together in Tassie with your fellow Tunnel Rats.

On arrival you'll each receive ID badges which will not only let everyone know who you are, but will give you access to the functions.

Here's a reminder of the planned activities:

## Wednesday 1st April



1700 hrs. Registration and pre dinner drinks at the Tasman Room, Wrest Point Casino.

1900 hrs. Reunion Dinner in the Tasman Room (Dress neat casual - please wear your medals) including presentation on the Tunnel Rats by Jim Marett.

2100 hrs. Ceremony for our Fallen Comrades.

**Table arrangements** - We realise you want to sit with your Troop mates at the Reunion Dinner, so on the booking form you have the opportunity to specify exactly where you want to sit in terms of your Troop and your year of service.

## Thursday 2nd April

Optional trips and tours. Free day for those not going on any tours.

1830 hrs. Individual Troop Dinners. Each Troop has been allocated to a specific hotel for their dinner, and all hotels will be offering the same menu. Select your dinner according to the Troop you served with,



*Scene from the Bruny Island tour*

and book to sit at a table from your era (your year/s of service).

## Friday 3rd April

1100 hrs. Memorial Service at the Hobart Cenotaph (please wear your medals) followed by buffet lunch and all-troops together reunion at the Hotel Grand Chancellor.

## Saturday 4th April

A free day to visit Salamanca Market or Tour Anglesea Barracks and Military Museum. A small charge will apply for the Anglesea Barracks tour. Further information on other tour options on arrival and in brochures with this issue of Holdfast.

## Sunday 5th April

1200 hrs. Informal get together and farewell function at the Mercure Hotel.

On top of this there's an exceptional array of activities and tours you can enjoy in, around and out of Hobart. We'll provide details on many of these as you register on arrival in Hobart, plus in this issue of Holdfast we include brochures on two highly recommended boat tours run by Bruny Island Charters and Tasman Island Cruises, both operated by Rob Pennicott.

Before establishing Bruny Island Charters, Rob Pennicott worked as a fisherman off the coast of South Bruny Island, so he knows every nook and cranny of the coastline. His love of the wild environment and its abundant marine wildlife encouraged him to share it with visitors – and to do so in an environmentally-sensitive way. His concern for the sustainability of the Bruny community and the island environment led him to direct growth into his new eco-adventure, Tasman Island Cruises.

Rob is offering an unprecedented 20% discount to the Tunnel Rats (just mention you're

part of the Tunnel Rats reunion), and the discount is available in the days prior and following the reunion.

The Tasman Island cruise incorporating Port Arthur or the Bruny Island tour would both be a good options for Day 2. Rob and his team will pick up in the morning from the casino and one other central point (to be advised) and then return in time for the individual Troop dinners.

Places will be limited, so first in best dressed.

## Wreaths



On the Friday 3rd April we'll be holding our memorial service at the Hobart Cenotaph, where we'll be laying a wreath on behalf of our Association. During the ceremony there will be an opportunity for individuals or Troops to lay wreaths in remembrance of their mates. If you wish to do this, please plan in advance. You can contact Bunches Florists in Kingston on 03-6229 7845. Wreaths start from \$50. Please remember to give them the message you would like written on the card accompanying the wreath. You can also contact Bunches via their website on: <http://www.bunches.com.au/>

## Hotels

Some of the hotels are filling up and some were considered a bit on the expensive side, so here are a few more options (all centrally located):

### Customs House

Phone: 03-6234 6645

Website: <http://www.customshousehotel.com>

### Marquis Hotel

Phone: 03-6234 3541

Website: <http://www.marquishotel.com.au>

### Montgomery's

Phone: 03-6231 2660

Website: <http://www.montgomerys.com.au>

And here are the hotels where we've negotiated special rates if you're with the Tunnel Rat's Reunion.

### Hotel Grand Chancellor

1 Davey Street Hobart

Ph: 03 62354535

[www.ghihotels.com](http://www.ghihotels.com)

Free call 1800753379

Mountain room \$170 per room/night

Harbour room \$205 per room/night

### The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel

(self contained apartments)

1 Macquarie Street Hobart

Ph: 03 62355355

[www.oldwoolstore.com.au](http://www.oldwoolstore.com.au)

Free call 1800814676

1 bedroom apartment \$186 per night

1 bedroom studio apartment \$167 per night

### Fountainside Hotel

Corner Brooker Avenue and Liverpool Street

Hobart

Ph: 03 62342911

Double room \$130 per room/night

Queen Suite with cooking facilities \$169 per night

### Wrest Point Casino Hotel

410 Sandy Bay Road Sandy Bay Hobart

Ph: 0362250112

[www.wrestpoint.com.au](http://www.wrestpoint.com.au)

Mountainside room \$124 per room/night

Water edge room \$150 per room/night

Tower room mountain view \$182 per room/night

Tower room harbour view \$195 per room/night

### Mercure Hotel

156 Bathurst Street Hobart

Ph: 03 62326255

Superior twin or queen room \$129 per room/night

[www.mercure.com.au](http://www.mercure.com.au)

Free call 1300 656 565

### Theatre Royal Hotel

31 Campbell Street Hobart

Ph: 03 62346925

[www.theatreroyalhotel.com](http://www.theatreroyalhotel.com)

Room with ensuite \$120 per room/night

Room without ensuite \$100 per room/night

### Shamrock Hotel

195 Liverpool Street Hobart

Ph: 03 62343892

Single rooms \$60 per room/night

Twin rooms \$80 per room/night

Double rooms \$80 per room/night

Ensuite room \$90 per room/night

## The Designated Boozer

This is a key part of every reunion. It's a place you can drift into at any time and find some mates to have a beer and a chat with. The Theatre Royal Hotel, 31 Campbell Street is our Designated Boozer. Look for the Tunnel Rats banner above the front door. Our hosts are Mike and Mala Crew. Mike, ex RAN is a serving Qantas pilot and Mala, a barrister. If you want to be close to the action, accommodation is also available.

The Shamrock Hotel, 195 Liverpool Street is highly recommended as an alternative boozer. Publican Ron Stokoe is ex RAN as well and assures us that he will keep the tucker up and turps flowing! They also have accommodation available.

## Book Now

Look for the loose single sheet booking form in this issue of Holdfast. See you in Tassie!

# OUR OWN TUNNEL RATS SHIRT

High quality, pure cotton, black polo shirts with the Tunnel Rats banner on the back and the Tunnel Rats logo on the front. (Wimps option: you can choose to have the logo on the front, with no banner on the back of the shirt).



DESIGN ON BACK OF SHIRT



DESIGN ON FRONT OF SHIRT

PLEASE NOTE: THE SHIRTS ARE BLACK, NOT WHITE

## ORDER FORM

NAME:		SERVICE NUMBER	
ADDRESS:			
			POST CODE
ORDER DETAILS			
<input type="radio"/> SIZE SMALL	QUANTITY ( )	<input type="radio"/> Tick circle if you want design on front only	
<input type="radio"/> SIZE MEDIUM	QUANTITY ( )	<input type="radio"/> Tick circle if you want design on front only	
<input type="radio"/> SIZE LARGE	QUANTITY ( )	<input type="radio"/> Tick circle if you want design on front only	
<input type="radio"/> SIZE X LARGE	QUANTITY ( )	<input type="radio"/> Tick circle if you want design on front only	
<input type="radio"/> SIZE XX LARGE	QUANTITY ( )	<input type="radio"/> Tick circle if you want design on front only	
<input type="radio"/> SIZE XXX LARGE	QUANTITY ( )	<input type="radio"/> Tick circle if you want design on front only	
FOR VERIFICATION PLEASE TICK AND FILL IN DETAILS OF UNIT/S SERVED WITH IN VIETNAM			
<input type="radio"/> 3 FIELD TROOP	FROM	TILL	
<input type="radio"/> 1 TROOP 1 FLD SQN	FROM	TILL	
<input type="radio"/> 2 TROOP 1 FLD SQN	FROM	TILL	
<input type="radio"/> 3 TROOP 1 FLD SQN	FROM	TILL	
I am ordering (Quantity: ) shirts at \$40 each for a total amount of \$			
You can pay by credit card (your statement will read "Ultimate Design Graphics"), or by cheque or postal order. Please make cheques and postal orders payable to Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association			
Tick which card you wish to use: <input type="radio"/> Visa <input type="radio"/> Master Card			
Card number			
Name on card		Expiry Date	
Signature:			
Post this form along with your payment to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association 43 Heyington Place Toorak Vic 3142			

**Where does the money go you thieving bastard?**  
After paying out the T-Shirt printer, the packaging and the postage, there is a profit of about \$12 on each shirt. Every cent of this profit goes to the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc to help pay the costs of the newsletter. No member or anyone associated with any member of this association makes a single cent of profit from this or any other income from our members. We have an absolute policy against any Veteran making a profit from fellow Veterans via our association or our newsletter. It won't happen here.

**GUARANTEED**

If you don't want to cut into this fantastic newsletter - simply photocopy the order form

# Tunnel Rats to march under our own banner in four cities on ANZAC Day



This year the Tunnel Rats will be proudly marching under their own Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association banners in four cities – Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth and Townsville.

Melbourne led the way four years ago, Perth was next, then Townsville and Adelaide.

**In Perth** the Tunnel Rats will form up behind the Vietnam Engineers group in The Terrace. A reunion is planned for after the march. Contact Peter Bennett on 08-9385 5499 if you have any questions.

**In Townsville** to form up before the march, simply look for the Tunnel Rats banner. For details of reunion after the march - contact Ken "Dasher" Wheatley on 07-4774 0045.

**In Adelaide**, Bruce "Sam" Collins and Bob Hamblyn are the organisers and last year, in their inaugural march they had 18 Tunnel Rats proudly stepping it out behind the banner. Contact "Sam" Collins for all enquiries on where to form up and the location of the after-march reunion. Tel:0882626107

**In Melbourne** the Tunnel Rats will form up in Collins Street alongside the Town Hall. We are positioned right after the main Vietnam-era Engineers group. Our serial number position in the March is "22.13". Look for our Tunnel Rats banner. After the march in Melbourne a bus will pick us up alongside the Shrine to take us to the College Lawn Hotel, Greville Street Prahran for lunch and a few quiet ales or wines and a million war stories. All former Tunnel Rats are welcome. The bus will pick us up in Birdwood Ave, beside the Shrine just after we break formation at the end of our march. If you have any questions call Jim Marett 0403 041 962.

**Sydney** is in a state of flux at the moment. Our march organiser there, Grahame Cook has a Tunnel Rats banner, and last year this was carried proudly on the Central Coast. This year Grahame has commitments elsewhere as well - so keep tuned for more news on Sydney. If you'd like to help out by organising a more consistent presence in Sydney on ANZAC Day, contact Jim Marett who'll help out with procedures and a banner.



# Latest list of Tunnel Rats

Here's our updated list of former Tunnel Rats from 3 Field Troop and 1 Field Squadron RAE, Vietnam 1965-71. This is not a complete list, it is simply a list of all the men we have been able to find and make contact with. If you can help with names and numbers, please contact our "Master of The List", Graeme Gartside on 08 8725 2845, or by mail to Graeme Gartside, 9 Park Street Mt Gambier SA 5290 or by email: [hawthorn@anson.com.au](mailto:hawthorn@anson.com.au)

**LISTS ARE NOW ALPHABETICAL**

## 3 Field Troop (1965-66)

Peter Ash 02 6771 4623  
Ian Biddolph 02 4472 9434  
Alan Christie 07 5494 6628  
Brian Cleary 07 5500 6363  
Allan S Coleman 07 3283 6689  
Bill Corby 07 5502 1193  
John "Tex" Cotter 07 4723 1244  
Des Evans 07 4128 2390  
Wilfred Eyles 02 4390 0150  
Ray Forster 07 3409 1907  
Geoff Green 03 6272 8167  
Barry Harford 08 8088 4371  
Sandy MacGregor 02 9457 7133  
Frank Mallard 08 9377 4560  
Keith Mills 07 4770 7267  
Warren Murray 03 5728 3341  
Bernie Pollard 08 9248 3178  
Ross Thorburn 0408413204  
Alan Tugwell 08 8552 5229  
Bill Unmeopa 08 9300 5561  
Snow Wilson Jnr 02 6649 3998

## OC's 1 Field Squadron

John Kemp 02 6288 3428  
Rex Rowe 0419 251 420

## 1 Troop (1966-67)

Dick Bentley 08 8386 2334  
Nick Burgerhof 07 3271 1592  
Ray Burton 08 8268 4575  
Joe Caze 07 3710 8102  
Allan S Coleman 07 3204 7401  
Grahame Cook 02 4390 5159  
Mick George 02 6882 8574  
Alan Hammond 0423491091  
Cul Hart 02 4392 0912  
Neil Innes MM 02 9875 2962  
Ken Jolley 02 6624 4066  
Barry Kelly 07 4661 2898  
Peter McTiernan 02 6557 5211  
Gavin Menzies 02 6584 7257  
John Olsen 0414433341  
Ron Rockliffe 02 9789 4302



Trevor Shelley 0419784954  
Kevin Smith 03 9787 1506  
John Thompson 0732168906  
Ross Tulloh 0418223345

## 1 Troop (1967-68)

Henry Baggalley 07 5433 0482  
Reg Bament 02 6948 2524  
Bruce Bevan 02 9580 3327  
Neville Bartel 07 4055 9871  
Bob Coleman 03 5342 0941  
Ross Comben 08 9535 2273  
Jack Green 07 3278 8719  
Ray Kenny 07 3881 3648  
Peter Koch 04 3822 3100  
John Neal 02 9982 6694  
Clive Pearsall 03 9459 4470  
Alan Rantal 03 9434 2031  
Peter Sheehan 03 9390 2834  
Jim Trower 0418842744

## 1 Troop (1968-69)



Phil Baxter MM 02 4625 6213  
Peter Carrodus 02 9759 6383  
Ken Ford 02 6645 2738  
Max Goiser 02 9792 1765  
Peter Hollis 02 6581 5401  
George Hulse 07 3399 7659  
Robert Laird 03 6356 1748  
Brian Lamb 02 6059 6947  
Kent Luttrell 0408387641  
Kerry McCormick 03 6344 5291  
Tom Smith 07 5594 4659  
Colin Spies 07 4743 4676  
Garry Von Stanke 08 8725 5648  
Cliff Truelove 02 6495 7844  
Ken Wheatley 07 4774 0045  
Bob Woolley 03 6264 1485  
David Wright 03 9435 4131

## 1 Troop (1969-70)

Kevin Atkinson 08 9041 1571  
Larry Batze 07 4033 2025  
Allan S Coleman 07 3283 6689  
Paul Cook 02 4946 5321  
Garry Degering 03 9796 0136  
John Felton 07 4661 8679  
Grahame Fletcher 0408822489  
P. "Guts" Geisel 07 4092 1735  
Terry Gillespie 03 5623 2886  
Trevor Kelly 08 9538 1184  
Des McKenzie 07 5448 3400  
Les Slater 08 9361 0603  
Max Slater 0412 772 849  
Vic Smith 02 4364 0372  
Dave Sturmer 02 8407 9812

## 1 Troop (1970-71)

Mick Augustus 07 3205 7401  
Eric Banfalvi 07 3201 8234  
Dan Brindley 02 6643 1693  
Ian Cambell 03 9870 0313  
Bruce Fraser 07 5499 0508  
Peter Krause 02 6723 2835  
R Loxton 0419944755  
Barry Mel drum 03 5427 1162  
Roger Newman 07 5450 6054  
Dennis Pegg 03 6224 9090  
John Pritchard 02 9626 3376  
Garry Shoemark 02 6546 6778  
Garry Sutcliffe 07 4684 3229  
Donald Stringer 07 4151 2659  
Paul Taylor (NZ) (64)42990915  
Terry Ward 02 6566 6163  
Jim Weston 02 4987 7179  
John Wright 03 6398 6211

## 2 Troop (1966-67)

Richard Beck 07 3208 5808  
David Buring 02 6254 6689  
Ron Cain 02 6586 1412  
Graeme Carey 02 6056 0997  
Terry Gribbin 03 9727 1839  
Alan Hammond 0423491091  
Bill Harrigan 08 9447 1127  
Peter Hegarty 07 4169 0372  
Graeme Leach 07 4777 8627  
Ken McCann 03 5985 3276  
Rod McClennan 07 3267 6907  
Noel McDuffie 0427051678  
Bob McKinnon 07 3267 0310  
Peter Matthews 03 6250 3686  
Mick Shannon 08 8552 1746  
Stan Shepherd 0412 232 197  
Bob Sweeney 08 9248 4432

## 2 Troop (1967-1968)

M. Ballantyne 08 8298 2515  
John Beningfield 07 4778 4473  
Peter Bennett 0418915550  
Dennis Burge 08 8281 2270  
Kenneth Butler 0414897889  
Harry Cooling 07 4778 2013  
Garry Cosgrove 02 4845 5153  
Peter Fontanini 0438 881 940  
Roland Gloss 02 6367 5324  
John Goldfinch 02 6674 0855

Paul Grills 07 4162 5235  
Ron Johnston 07 3351 1609  
Eddie Josephs 0417882491  
Lew Jordan 03 6397 3261  
Ray Kenny 07 3881 3648  
John Kiley 02 4228 4068  
David Kitley 02 4735 4991  
Robert Knowles 08 9535 6416  
Bernard Ladyman 08 9795 7900  
Warren McBurnie 02 6687 7030  
Stephen McHenry 08 9344 6939  
Eric McKerrrow (Silent number)  
Dave McNair 08 9725 2821  
David Matulik 07 4055 1915  
Tony Parmenter 0417856877  
Brian Rankin 07 4775 5095  
Hans Rehorn 03 5623 5572  
Andrew Rogers 08 8087 5671  
Mick Rowbotham 03 9439 7566  
Geoff Russell 02 6342 1292  
Brian Sheehan 03 9336 3137  
James Smith 0413 669 087  
"Snow" Wilson 08 9752 2935

## 2 Troop (1968-1969)

Janis Atrens +371 2944 6521  
(This is Janis's mobile in Latvia)  
Bob Austin 02 6644 9237  
Ross Bachmann 07 5495 1443  
Don Beale 02 6236 8267  
Richard Branch 07 4947 1044  
Harold Bromley 03 9726 8625  
Peter Brunton 03 5156 5531  
Jim Castles 02 6059 2941  
Harry Claassen 07 3273 6701  
Peter Clayton 0418 823 266  
Rod Crane 08 9530 3083  
John Douglas 08 8376 3788  
Robert Earl 02 4990 3601  
John Gilmore 08 9795 6847  
Stan Golubenko 03 9361 2721  
Paul Grills 07 4162 5235  
Geoff Handley 03 5593 1791  
Ross Hansen 07 3202 7540  
Ray Jurkiewicz 07 3886 9054  
Brian Lamb 02 6059 6947  
Phil Lamb 08 8564 2001  
Wayne Lambley 07 3851 1837  
Darryl Lavis 08 8263 9548  
Peter Laws 02 4942 8131  
Bud Lewis 07 3881 1230  
Rick Martin 02 6928 4253  
Bill Morris 08 9384 2686  
Don Nicholls 02 9579 4126  
Colin Norris 02 4627 1180  
Terry O'Donnell 03 5334 3443  
David Pannach Overseas  
(Hong Kong 0011 852 9646 4131)  
Ted Podlich 07 3862 9002  
Daryl Porteous 07 4973 7663  
Mick Weston 07 5444 3307  
Ray (Philip) White 03 9740 7141

## 2 Troop (1969-1970)

"Arab" Avotins 07 4129 8012  
Bruce Bofinger 02 4861 5715  
Frank Brady 02 6555 5200  
David Brook 03 9546 2868  
Jim Burrough 03 9885 8285  
Ron Coman 07 3355 7279  
Kevin Connor 0408 748 172  
Garry Cosgrove 02 4845 5153  
Arthur Davies 07 3408 1556  
Frank Denley 02 6571 2056  
Roy Elbourne 02 4868 1493  
Grumpy Foster 07 4041 2321  
Graeme Gartside 08 8725 2845  
Doug George 03 9889 2116  
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  
Mick Lee 07 5543 5001  
Marty McGrath 02 6059 1204  
Jim Marett 03 9824 4967  
Bob Ottery 03 5199 2516  
Bevan Percival 07 5537 1577  
Pedro Piroanski 08 9306 8169  
Ian Pitt 03 5349 2018  
Jack Power 07 4955 3761  
Colin Redacliff 02 9673 0597  
John Ronaldson New Zealand  
Brian Scott 07 3204 5691  
Peter Scott (219) 02 4341 3782  
"Roo Dog" Scott 07 5522 1976  
Les Shelley 07 3264 4041  
Jimmy Shugg 08 9776 1471  
Bob Smith 07 5456 1194  
Mick Van Poeteren 03 9435 0383  
Gerry Walbridge 03 9803 4223  
Dennis Wilson 08 8892 2671  
Stephen Wilson 07 5538 2179

## 2 Troop (1970-1971)

Bruce Arrow 02 6288 3872  
Mick Bergin 03 5974 2175  
Graham Besford 03 9439 2661  
Mal Botfield 02 9872 2594

John Brady 02 6888 1192  
Keith Burley 07 5543 0990  
Peter Cairns 03 6267 4646  
Brian Christian 07 4778 6602  
"Sam" Collins 08 8262 6107  
Ron Cook 03 8787 7377  
Jock Coutts 08 9279 1946  
Bill Craig 08 9530 1008  
Denis Crawford 03 9497 3256  
John Crocker 07 3206 7995  
John Cross 02 4757 2273  
Robin Date 03 9783 3202  
Tom Dodds 040672260  
Des Evans 07 4128 2390  
Bruce Fenwick 02 4977 3530  
Ray Ful ton 03 6288 1176  
David Gammie 02 4365 2696  
Ziggy Gniot 0418 885 830  
Bob Hamblin 08 8672 3930  
Cec Harris 02 6629 3373  
Paddy Healy 02 4930 7541  
Kevin Hodge 08 8322 2619  
Paul Jones 02 6231 5963  
Chris Koolen 03 5237 1147  
Kevin Lappin 07 3273 8614  
Gary McClintock 07 4788 0123  
Peter McEross 03 5155 9368  
Bob McGinn 07 5426 1597  
Ian McLean 02 6286 3928  
Jeff Maddock 03 5442 2875  
Leon Madley 07 5497 1038



Butch Marsden 08 9921 6183  
Bill Marshall 07 5545 0389  
Rod O'Regan 02 6550 6068  
Graeme Pengelly 0407 138 124  
Des Pol den 03 6223 3830  
Keith Ramsay 02 6585 6503  
Mick Rasmussen 0428 790 645  
Gary Sangster 0409 522 099  
John Scanlan 0488 132 903  
Peter Schreiber 02 6569 3390  
John Smith 0400032502  
Roy Sojan 08 9926 1235  
John Stonehouse 08 9653 1895  
John Tick 04 3898 7262  
Steve Walton 07 3261 9446  
Terry Wake 07 4786 2625  
Dave Young 02 4283 3439

## 3 Troop (1966-67)

Wilfred Eyles 02 4390 0150

## 3 Troop (1967-68)

Ken Arnold 02 6974 1181  
Chuck Bonzas 08 9330 3490  
Bruce Breddin 0418766759  
Norm Cairns 03 6267 4629  
Kerry Caughey 03 5971 4188  
David Clark 08 8388 7728  
Bob Coleman 03 5342 0941  
Jim Dowson 03 5662 3291  
Barry Gilbert 03 5023 6657  
Jack Lawson 0429 798 673  
Peter MacDonal d 08 9448 5418  
Barrie Morgan 0419 820 290  
Viv Morgan 02 9331 3252  
Michael O'Hearn 02 4932 7509  
Gary Pohlner 0427172900  
Tom Simons 03 6344 6058  
Kevin Shugg 0411144500  
Frank Sweeney 07 3205 4161  
Brian Thomson 0428551368  
Alan Tugwell 08 8552 5229  
Vic Underwood 0429 907 989  
Murray Walker 08 9332 6410  
Glenn Weise 0427 741 170  
Mick Woodhams 08 9459 0130  
Bob Yewen 07 5532 4560  
Ken Young 02 9602 5204

# SHAMELESS FUND RAISING EFFORT

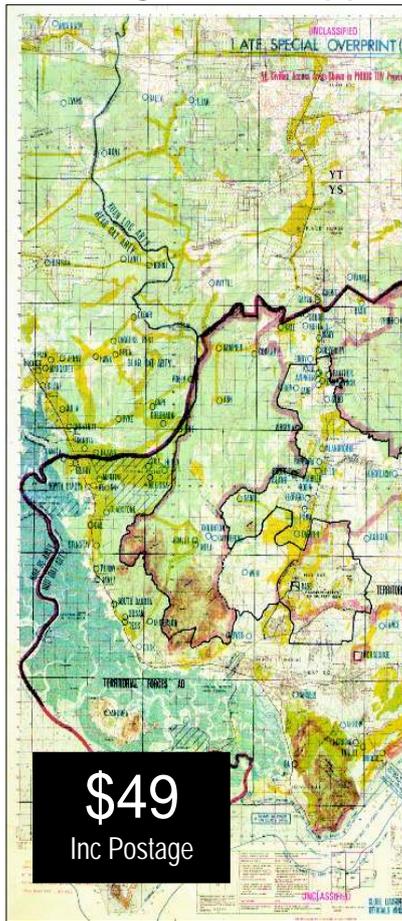
ALL PROFITS GO TO THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION

- 3 Troop (1968-69)  
 Geoff Box 08 9731 2757  
 Eric Banfalvi 07 3201 8234  
 Barry Chambers 08 8927 8237  
 Brian Glyde 02 4455 7404  
 Peter Gray 02 4285 8877  
 John Hol l i s 02 6662 6660  
 "Sam" Houston 07 5495 5480  
 Phil Lamb 08 8564 2001  
 Ian Lauder 08 9419 5375  
 John Murphy 08 9493 3771  
 John Nul ty 02 6931 1884  
 Ted O'Mal l ey 07 4054 3472  
 Barry Parnel l 07 4947 1976  
 Bob Pritchard 07 4779 0608  
 Greg Robert s 03 5941 2269  
 Don Shi el ds 08 8297 8619  
 Ray Vanderheiden 02 4776 1373  
 Ray (Phil l ip) White 03 9740 7141  
 Three Troop (1969-70)

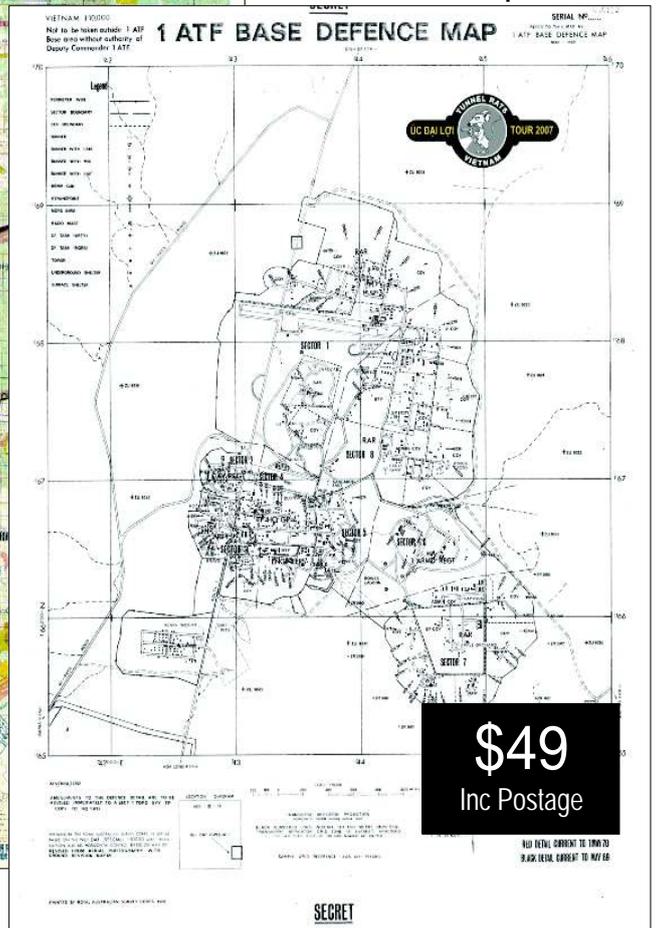


- Tony Bower-Mil es 0412 317 306  
 Chris Brooks 08 9271 2811  
 Jim Burrough 03 9885 8285  
 Terry Cartlidge 03 5367 1472  
 Bruce Crawford 02 6628 0846  
 Richard Day 08 8088 4129  
 Phil Devine 0418 830 169  
 Bob Done 02 4944 9321  
 Ray Ful ton 03 6288 1176  
 Graham Fromm 08 8532 2561  
 Doug George 03 9889 2116  
 Graham Harvey 07 5445 2636  
 Trevor Hughes 07 5532 3497  
 Darrel Jensen 07 4938 7203  
 Rod Kirby 07 4973 7726  
 Peter Knight 02 6247 6272  
 Gerry Lyal l 07 3343 4725  
 Phil McCann 03 5442 3459  
 Chris MacGregor 02 4472 3250  
 Norm Martin 02 4953 1331  
 Jock Mel drum MID 0405 677 448  
 Roel of Methorst (Silent No.)  
 Gary Mil l er MM 07 5495 5647  
 "Jacko" Mil l er 03 6267 4411  
 Chris Mul l er 07 4653 0457  
 Vin Neal e 03 9786 1549  
 G. Rentmeester 03 9735 5236  
 Brenton Smith 08 8388 5501  
 Gordon Temby 08 9757 2016  
 Peter Thorp MID 02 6288 0008  
 Leon Tuttl eby 08 8952 6598  
 Hank Veenhuizen 0407 487 167  
 "Wonzer" White 02 9833 0580  
 Three Troop (1970-71)  
 Steve Armbrust 07 5545 1073  
 Errol Armitage 0427 855 482  
 Geoff Ansel l 0448 013 712  
 Mike Barnett 02 9869 7132  
 John Beningfiel d 07 4778 4473  
 Darryl l Binns 08 8988 5827  
 Mal Botfiel d 02 9872 2594  
 Ian Campbel l 03 9870 0313  
 Bob Cl are 03 5439 5532  
 Graeme Cl arke 07 4128 4660  
 Ted Cl arke 03 5682 2584  
 Al l ian J Col eman 02 9838 4848  
 Steve Col l ett 08 9371 0075  
 John Davey 07 3378 4316  
 Chris El l i s 08 9398 1718  
 Kevin Hodge 08 8322 2619  
 Kenny Laughton 08 8297 4010  
 Garry Lourigan 02 4844 5545  
 R. McKenzie-Cl ark 08 9729 1162  
 Robert McLeay 03 5386 1122  
 Carl o Mikkel sen New Zealand  
 0064 9 4797857  
 Ben Passarel l i 02 9610 3949  
 Robert Reed 07 3351 4440  
 Paul Scott 02 6656 0730  
 Les Shel l ey 07 3264 4041  
 Gordon Temby 08 9757 2016  
 David Wil son 07 3855 1370  
 Three Troop (1971-72)  
 Ron Byron 02 6653 4791  
 Brenton J Smith 08 8536 2923

Australian area of Ops map  
 showing all fire support bases

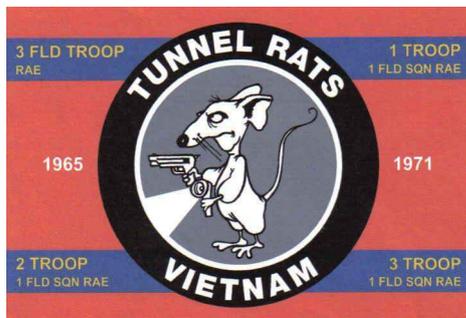


Nui Dat defence plan  
 map, with units, roads  
 & all defence positions



**Huge historic maps**  
 (each one approx 36"x26")  
 Highly detailed with fascinating information  
 Superbly printed on quality paper

<b>I wish to order the following maps (please tick):</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Australian area of Ops map	
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Post to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak Victoria 3142	



### Don't worry if you haven't got your membership card

To avoid production nightmares we are only making the membership cards in one batch each year.

All memberships fall due on February 28th and all the new cards will be issued to paid-up members shortly after that date.

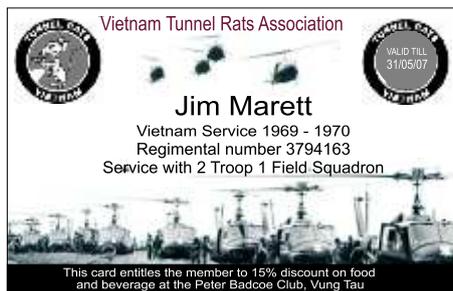
Members who have paid "off season" at some time during the last six months will have been receiving the newsletter and will also be issued their memberships cards after 28th February.

In the past we've had a policy of sending the newsletter to every former Tunnel Rat we've found. It was worth it just to pull us together again and get some communicating going.

Unfortunately the cost of doing this became too much and we

now need all former Field Troop members to cough up in order to keep receiving the newsletter.

The superb personalised "Tunnel Rats" membership card below is provided for those who join:



### Who can join?

The Association was formed for all who served with one of the Field Troops. Membership is exclusively for men who served in Vietnam with either 3 Field Troop or 1 Troop, 2 Troop or 3 Troop of 1 Field Sqn. This is not an attempt to exclude, but to bring together the Field Engineers. Other units are free to form their own Associations.

### Why we formed the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association

Our status seemed to be getting a bit blurred. It had reached the point where any Engineer who served in Vietnam was calling himself a Tunnel Rat. The members

of the Field Troops fought alongside the Infantry plus they performed their additional tasks of mine and booby trap detection and clearing, plus bunker and tunnel searching and demolition.

By wrongly claiming Tunnel Rat status, some men from non-field Troops have begun to blur the line defining the unique role of the Tunnel Rats. If it became generally accepted that all Engineer units in Vietnam were Tunnel Rats, then our status would be reduced. Nobody has a right to do that. We should not allow anybody to diminish something we are so proud of. The forming of the Association is not an elitist thing, it is simply intense pride in what we did and a move to protect our status.

Holdfast Newsletter  
is edited by Jim Marett and  
published quarterly by the  
Vietnam Tunnel Rats  
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Mobile 0403041962  
[tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au)

**If you're not a member, you need to join to keep getting the newsletter - it's only \$38**

NAME:	SERVICE NUMBER	
ADDRESS:	POST CODE	
PHONE:	MOBILE:	
EMAIL:		
FOR VERIFICATION PLEASE TICK AND FILL IN DETAILS OF UNIT/S SERVED WITH IN VIETNAM		
<input type="radio"/> 3 FIELD TROOP	FROM	TILL
<input type="radio"/> 1 TROOP 1 FLD SQN	FROM	TILL
<input type="radio"/> 2 TROOP 1 FLD SQN	FROM	TILL
<input type="radio"/> 3 TROOP 1 FLD SQN	FROM	TILL
The cost is \$38. You can pay by credit card (your statement will read "Ultimate Design Graphics"), or by cheque or postal order. Please make cheques and postal orders payable to Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association		
Tick which card you wish to use: <input type="radio"/> Visa <input type="radio"/> Master Card		
Card number		
Name on card		Expiry Date
Signature:		
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**If you don't want to cut into this fantastic newsletter - simply photocopy the form**