

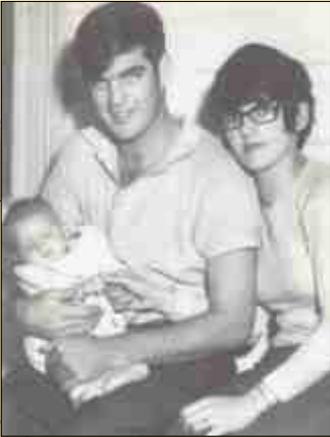


# HOLDFAST

FEBRUARY 2011 - NUMBER 18

WWW.TUNNELRATS.COM.AU

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION INC



**URGENT**  
TELEGRAM

NSR 891 =  
MELBOURNE TLX VIC 102/101 3-35P

FOR DELIVERY BETWEEN 6AM AND 6PM

URGENT  
AMF PAID/4c  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT DELIVERY  
MRS R J EARL  
10 DUBBO STREET ALBERMAIN NSW

TELEPHONED  
delivered  
How  
1/8

SERIOUSLY ILL BUT NOT VERY SERIOUSLY ILL STOP IT IS LEARNED WITH REGRET THAT YOUR HUSBAND 2788560 SAPPER ROBERT JAMES EARL WAS PLACED ON THE SERIOUSLY ILL LIST ON THE 4TH JULY 1969 AT THE 36TH UNITED STATES EVACUATION HOSPITAL YUNG TAU VIETNAM AS A RESULT OF WOUNDS SUSTAINED IN ACTION IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE VIETNAM STOP A PROGRESS REPORT WILL BE SENT TO YOU BY TELEGRAM AT REGULAR INTERVALS BUT IF A CHANGE OF CONDITION OCCURS YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY

ARMY HEADQUARTERS  
C10 2788560 4PM 1969 36TH 41

CHIEF TELEGRAPH OFFICE  
JUL 5 1969

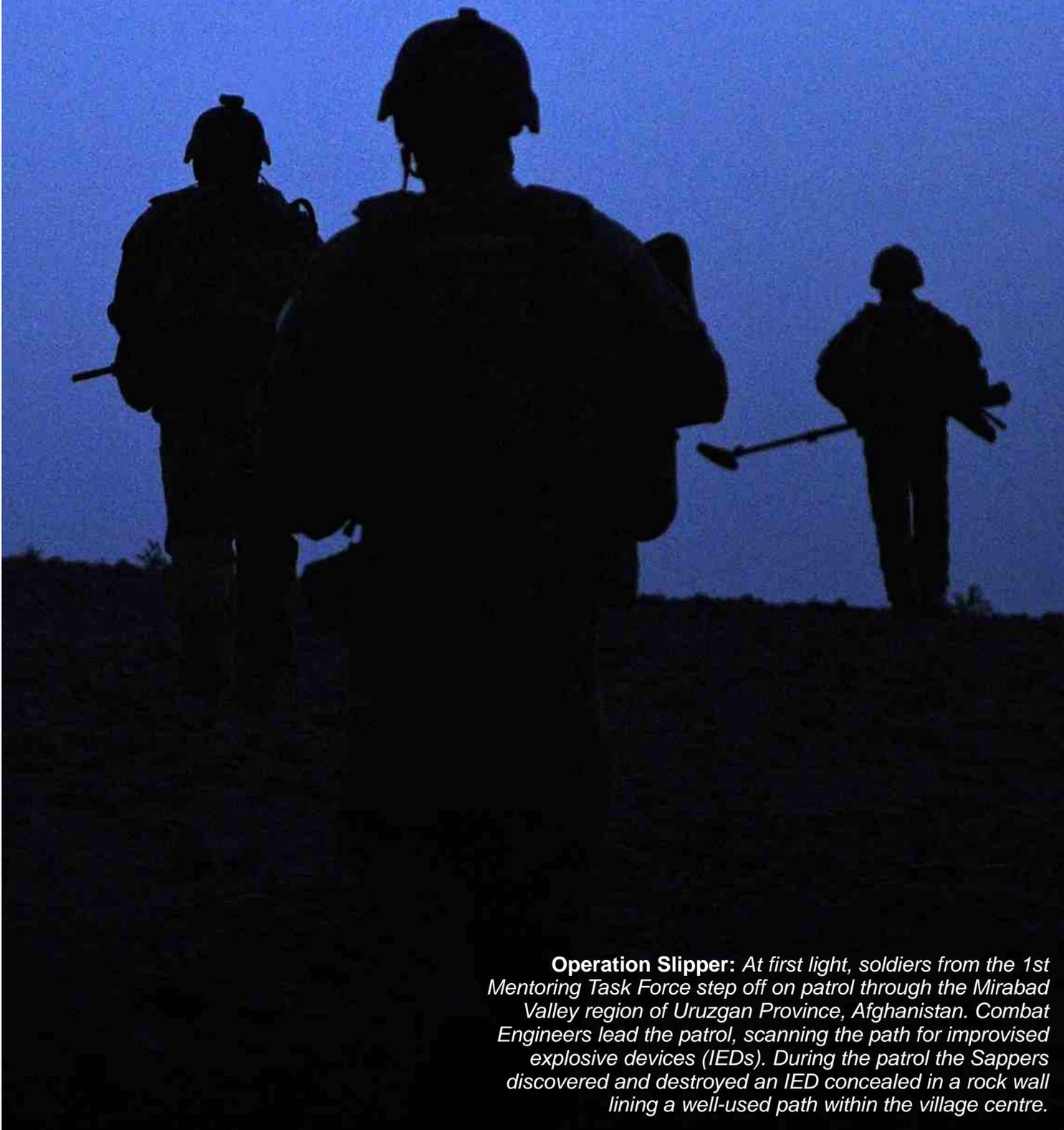
*3rd 2nd*

## Despite multiple wounds a brave young Sapper continues to carry out his duty

It's the telegram nobody wants to receive, and seventeen of them were sent out on July 4th 1969 when 7 Platoon, C Company 5RAR hit two M-16 anti-personnel mines an hour apart after harbouring up at dusk. Despite being wounded by the first mine, Sapper Robert "Yogi" Earl worked at clearing safe lanes to the casualties until a second mine was triggered, this time severely wounding him. Now unable walk "Yogi" continued to protect his comrades by pointing out the safe lanes through which the casualties could be carried. Go for it Sapper! Full story page 13:

## Sappers leading the way in Afghanistan

We are extremely proud of our Sapper comrades, the Combat Engineers who are serving or have served in Afghanistan. We know they are at the forefront of this war where the risks are many and varied. They fill us with pride when we see them carrying out their tasks in the spirit and tradition of the many Sappers who have served before them in Australia's preceding conflicts. We thank them for their service. For those still on deployment, we wish them a safe journey home to the embrace of their loved ones and to the profound gratitude of the nation.



**Operation Slipper:** *At first light, soldiers from the 1st Mentoring Task Force step off on patrol through the Mirabad Valley region of Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan. Combat Engineers lead the patrol, scanning the path for improvised explosive devices (IEDs). During the patrol the Sappers discovered and destroyed an IED concealed in a rock wall lining a well-used path within the village centre.*

# Nostalgia Pages



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



## Hell Hole

This pangi pit was located at the entrance to an arms cache found on the outskirts of Hoa Long Village in February 1967. The sharpened bamboo stakes all pointed down into the pit so that any attempt to withdraw the foot resulted in the stakes driving into the victim's leg. The pit had been covered with a light woven mat and dried leaves.



## Tankies protect their turf

Tunnel Rats in Mini Teams attached to tanks would often be in awe of the facilities and lifestyle the Tankies could maintain despite being out bush. Hammocks to sleep in, heaps of "Jack Rations", portable stoves, enough water to have daily showers, and of course more than enough ammunition - all without having to lug a backpack around. Above we see that one tank even had its own portable dunny. We know the Tankies were very protective of their privileges, but we reckon running barbed wire around the dunny is going a bit too far.



## Peter gets a lift on "12 Alpha"

On 2 May 1971 APC call sign 12 Alpha hit an anti vehicular mine on the outskirts of Binh Ba Village. On board in a Mini Team was 2 Troop Tunnel Rat, Sapper Peter Cairns. The explosion sent Peter flying into the air. Peter was evacuated by chopper to hospital in Vung Tau, where he recovered from his wounds before returning to duty with his mates at 2 Troop. Peter's brother Norm Cairns also served as a Tunnel Rat in Vietnam, with 3 Troop in 1967/68. The APC, call sign 12 Alpha was considered by some to be jinxed because it was also damaged in an earlier mine incident on the Firestone Trail on 20 December 1968.

## Late night escape

If you were on leave in Vung Tau and missed curfew there was a way to sneak back to the Badcoe Club and avoid arrest at the front gate. It was a solution not without its dangers. You would cab it to the back beach and walk along to the wire entanglement (right) which marked the border between the Koreans and the Aussies. If it was low tide it was easy to get around. If it was high tide you were in a world of hurt. To make things even more interesting, the Koreans often threatened to shoot you.



## Only Sappers can do this

How does a Sapper posted to 1 Field Squadron at Nui Dat end up being with Miss World at Bob Hope's Christmas show in Dong Tam - a million miles away? We'd love to know! At left we see Sapper Robert Francis right next to Australia's Miss World titleholder, Penny Plummer at the Bob Hope Christmas Show, Dong Tam, held on 15 January 1969. Robert looks like he actually belongs there (this is a skill many Sappers acquire, but few put to such spectacular use). Robert was with 1 Field Squadron from 3 December 1968 till 10 December 1969 - perhaps the extra week was punishment for sneaking off to see Miss World and the Bob Hope show - well worth it.

## Another World

It's Christmas Eve 1966 at Vung Tau, and officers and airmen of the RAAF contingent gather on the lawns of the officer's residence (Villa Anna) to sing carols by candlelight, complete with piano accompaniment! Where were you on Christmas eve Sapper? Hopefully not out bush, but safe and sound back at Nui Dat base camp. If you were in camp, traditionally officers woke you next morning with hearty Christmas greetings and a mug of coffee liberally laced with rum.





## Four fresh faced new Sappers heading for the delights of SME

It's April 1968 and they've just graduated from the rigours of rookie training at 1RTB, Kapooka, and each of them has been allocated to the Corp of Engineers. Sipping a celebratory beer and proudly wearing their shiny new RAE hat badges, the lads must be wondering what's ahead for them. (From left to right); 'Dick' Cairns, who went to Smallships, Steve Smith (posting not known), Bob Loxton and

Peter North. Bob and Peter were both initially posted to 18 Fd Sqn, Townsville, and then to 1 Field Squadron Vietnam where they joined 1 Troop, serving in 70/71. In the photo above it was all ahead of them, including the delights of Liverpool, the elegant Railway Hotel, and mad nights savouring the sins of Kings Cross before dashing back to Casula in time to clean up before parade.



## Soda Pop!

We were told never to leave our empty food and drink cans around when out bush because the enemy used them to make mines, booby traps and grenades. Above is a perfect example - a grenade (complete with throwing handle) made from a discarded orange lemonade can. This was found at Dat Do in June 1967.



## Coke - harmful to your health?

Another example of the ingenuity of our enemy. This half Coca Cola can becomes a powerful anti-vehicle/anti-personnel mine by sitting it on top of a slab of Chicom explosives and installing a tilt switch in the can. Tilt the stick emerging from the can in any direction and it will set off a detonator which in turn will set off the main charge.



### Tunnel Rat Humour

Taken from US Army magazines of the sixties and early seventies, these cartoons give a glimpse of the humour and attitudes of the "Yank" Tunnel Rats at the time. Was anybody ever as lucky as the guy on the top left?





### VC Strike it rich

Viet Cong in Phuoc Tuy Province get all excited about what looks like an unexploded bomb from which they could harvest lots of explosive materials. In fact it's a canister used to supply remotely located troops when there's no other means. The photo is from a series found in a bunker system and handed to intelligence analysts.



### Suicide Stall

It was absolutely forbidden for us to eat from the food stalls in Vung Tau, for fear of hepatitis and other gruesome bugs. The gourmets now tell us this was a great pity because some of the street stall tucker in Vietnam is superb, and regularly features on TV food specials such as the Anthony Bourdain and Luke Ngyuen shows.



### "What the .... that's me!"

Gary Degering (a Tunnel Rat with 1 Troop 69/70) was visiting the National Vietnam Veteran's Museum on Philip Island (Victoria) recently and was surprised to find of photo of himself forming part of an excellent exhibition on Tunnel Rats. The photo was taken while Gary was "out bush" on a Splinter Team attached to 6RAR.



### Viet Cong Slicks

Our enemy's footwear was crude but effective. The soles were made from old car tires, complete with tread pattern, and the straps were strips of rubber cut from tire inner tubes. The sandals became collector's items, and were on the walls of most recreation huts.



3



4



2



5



1

### Stuff

Clockwise from bottom left: (1): The first aid dressing pad we all had taped to our rifle butts and hoped we'd never have to use. (2): Cleaning kit for the SLR 7.62mm rifle. Most of us eagerly waited till we could swap the heavy SLR for the lighter M-16 ArmaLite, but some hung onto the SLR, preferring its massive hitting power. Americans dubbed the SLR "The Elephant Gun" (3): If you have to unpack this one you're in serious trouble - a snakebite kit. (4): And you didn't want to see them unpacking this one for you either - it's a minor surgery kit, carried by medics. (5): Army issue shaver, used with good old fashioned razor blades (ouch!) and usually used with pressure pack shaving cream which came with the US supplementary packs which also featured candy bars and chewing tobacco.



## Stake your life on it

This booby trap was found in 1970 in the rice paddies of the Long Green area between Dat Do and the Long Hai Mountains. The wooden stake was set in the ground alongside a paddy bund bordering the rice field. Expecting Aussie forces to walk along the bund, a tripwire connected to the grenade pin was stretched across the width of the bund, and secured at the other end to a stake concealed in long grass. The fuse in the grenade had been converted from a delayed fuse to instantaneous.

## “Smoke mate?”

Sapper Bill Craig, a Tunnel Rat with 1 Field Squadron 70/71 rests his mine detector against a wire entanglement and takes a break from mine clearing. The agriculture behind him looks incredibly like a vineyard, but this would be impossible in Vietnam’s climate (except perhaps for the highlands around Dalat). The plants are probably chili vines. Bill’s cigarettes would have come from the US ration packs which provided us with exotic US brands like Lucky Strike, Salem, Chesterfields, Pall Mall, Camel, Carlton and Winston. Salem cigarettes were very popular with the Vietnamese, and became highly prized, with cartons of Salem forming virtually a second level of currency in Vietnam.



## Methods of detection

Method	Number	Percent
Visual	503	66.4
Detonation	221	29.2
Mine Detector	13	1.7
VC Mine Marker	4	0.5
Scout Dog	4	0.5
Informant	3	0.4
Other	10	1.3
Total	758	100.0

Our US allies in Vietnam were obsessed with statistics, which means today we have access to a lot of information about the conduct of the War. The figures above reveal ways in which enemy mines and booby traps were sighted, in this case, by the US 9th Infantry Division during the month of April 1969. Top photo shows a 9th Division Combat Engineer slogging through a rice paddy detecting for mines.



# The Aussie Ration Pack

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

### GENERAL

1. This ration pack has been designed to ensure that you receive sufficient food and vitamins for your daily requirements, no matter where you are operating. Therefore it is desirable that all the food in the pack is eaten. If you find that the pack contains too much food, you should eat a portion of each commodity rather than leave some untouched.
2. Each pack contains two main meals, a midday snack and a number of sundry items. The commodities intended for each meal are listed on the other side of this sheet. The jam and soup powder are provided in several varieties.
3. There are a number of pieces of litter in each ration pack, any one of which may give away your position to the enemy if discarded carelessly. Keep all litter from foods consumed between meals and, after each meal, bury it with all other litter.
4. Some items, such as the intermediate tinsplate container, the small can with reclosure lid, the plastic bag with rubber band, and the fibreboard carton can be used as waterproof containers if required.

### MEAT COMPONENTS

5. The meat components may be consumed hot or cold, although some will be much more appetizing if heated. This may be done by piercing the top of the can, placing it in a mess tin of water so that it is three-quarters submerged and heating for ten minutes, or by tipping the contents of the can into a mess tin, or other container and heating.

### INSTANT RICE

6. Mix the rice with an equal volume of boiling water, add salt and curry powder to taste, stir once or twice, and boil for one minute. Allow to stand for about 10 minutes before eating.

### SOUPS/SAUCE

7. Soup may be prepared by adding the soup powder to half a pannikin of hot water that has been boiled or otherwise sterilized, and stirring. By using a much smaller quantity of water, the powder can be used to prepare a savoury sauce or gravy. It can also be used to flavour a stew.

### CURRY POWDER

8. Further variety may be provided by sprinkling curry powder, to taste, on the meat components during preparation and mixing thoroughly. To ensure thorough mixing when curry powder is added, it may be necessary to add a little water.

### INSTANT COFFEE

9. Unless water has been previously sterilized by boiling, or by the use of water sterilizing tablets, it must be boiled during the preparation of instant coffee. If it has already been sterilized, water need only be warmed and, if a fire cannot be lit, it can sometimes be heated by placing it in a mess tin and leaving it in the sun.

### CONDENSED MILK

10. After a few months in a tropical climate, the condensed milk may become thicker and brownish in appearance, but it is safe to eat and may be consumed without fear of any ill effects.

### CHOCOLATE

11. Under some conditions the chocolate may develop a light-coloured film on the surface. It is none the worse for this and may be consumed with confidence. A chocolate beverage may be prepared by dissolving portion of the chocolate in hot water that has been boiled or otherwise sterilized, and adding milk and sugar to taste. The chocolate may also be flaked onto biscuits.

### SALT

12. The amount of salt provided is in excess of normal requirements. However, additional salt is required for those engaged in strenuous activity in very hot conditions and who are, as a result sweating heavily. The salt should be taken dissolved in a plentiful quantity of drinking water (not more than one third of a packet to a full water bottle). Alternatively the salt can be sprinkled on the food though it already contains sufficient for most tastes.

**DO NOT TAKE EXTRA SALT UNLESS YOU HAVE A PLENTIEFUL SUPPLY OF WATER. IT IS HARMFUL TO TAKE EXTRA SALT WITHOUT ALSO TAKING EXTRA WATER.**

### RECLOSURE LID

13. The reclosure lid is provided so that either the margarine or cheese, once opened, may be kept fresh for the next meal.

### TIN OPENER

14. One end of the tin opener is fitted with a small depression which may be used to remove the contents from cans. The tin opener should be cleaned and sterilized after each meal. To sterilize, thread a piece of string through the hole provided and suspend the tin opener in boiling water for a few minutes.

### WATER STERILIZATION

15. All water supplies in the field must be regarded as contaminated and all water sterilized before drinking
  - a. Boiling, or
  - b. Use of water sterilizing tablets.



## Fortress Nui Dat

The enemy would have had quite a task getting through the wire entanglement had they ever wished to assault the Australian base at Nui Dat. This photo, showing the extent of the barrier was taken from in front of the US artillery unit based at Nui Dat in support of US, Australian and Vietnamese forces in the area. Included in their arsenal were the massive 155mm guns mounted on tracks.

# SHAMELESS FUND RAISING EFFORT

ALL PROFITS GO TO THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION

STUBBY  
HOLDERS



Set of 3 \$27

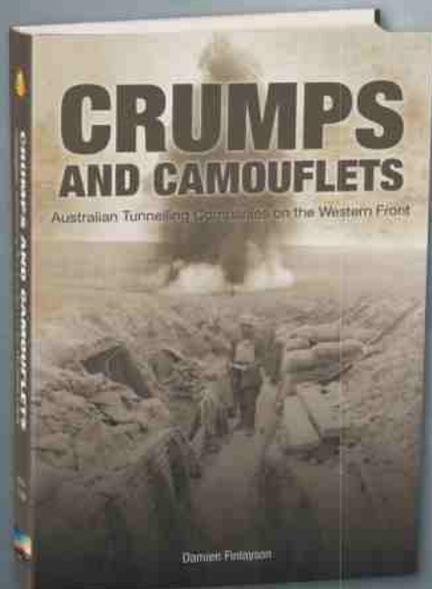
Set of 6 \$49

Order Form:

TUNNEL RATS STUBBY HOLDERS	
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
	POST CODE:
TELEPHONE:	
TICK THE QUANTITY:	<input type="radio"/> Set of 3 holders \$27 <input type="radio"/> Set of 6 holders \$49
Cost includes packing and postage. You can pay by credit card (your statement will read "Ultimate Design Graphics"), or by cheque or Postal Order. 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 <input type="radio"/> Amex	
Card Number:	
Name on card:	Expiry Date:
Signature	
Post to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak Victoria 3142	

# CRUMPS AND CAMOUFLETS

Australian Tunnelling Companies on the Western Front (RRP34.99)



*"This book is a fitting tribute to those men who risked their lives underground, and Damien has done them, and the Australian Army, proud by producing such a fine volume."*

**Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie AO, DSC, CSM**

*Crumps and Camouflets* is the first complete history detailing the amazing story of the unseen and largely unknown war that was fought by Australian tunnelling companies on the Western Front in World War I.

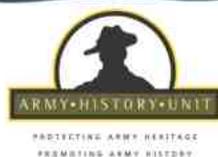
In amazing acts of bravery Australian miners or 'tunnellers', set out to destroy the Germans front line, blowing mines, carefully placed in dark, treacherous tunnels under no mans land. Completely aware that at any moment, and without warning, they could die slowly and alone in the dark, their lives extinguished by hundreds of tonnes of collapsed earth and debris.

Damien Finlayson spent ten years researching the topic, and is widely regarded as a leader in this field of military history. He has a Bachelor and Masters degree in Science (Major in Geology) and was involved as a technical consultant during the making of the Australian film *Beneath Hill 60*.

Damien was inspired to write the book after discovering a relative had died whilst serving with the 1st Australian Tunnelling Company. "I was very surprised at the number of other families that I contacted who knew so little about what their father/grandfather/uncle did in the war and there was a huge gulf in knowledge on the subject," he said. "I wrote this book to redress that, by telling the story of the men who like their brother soldiers, fought a daily duel with enemy over the wire, and the enemy within – the gnawing, paralysing fear of a sudden and violent death underground, below no man's land."

*Crumps and Camouflets* is the first complete history of all three tunnelling companies between 1914 and 1919. It includes personal reflections from tunnellers, lists of those who served and anecdotes from relatives. It is an important part of Australian military history, providing the first real insight into the men and their personal battles as they waged the underground war on the Western Front.

**(RRP34.99) 50% of royalties will be going to support Legacy**

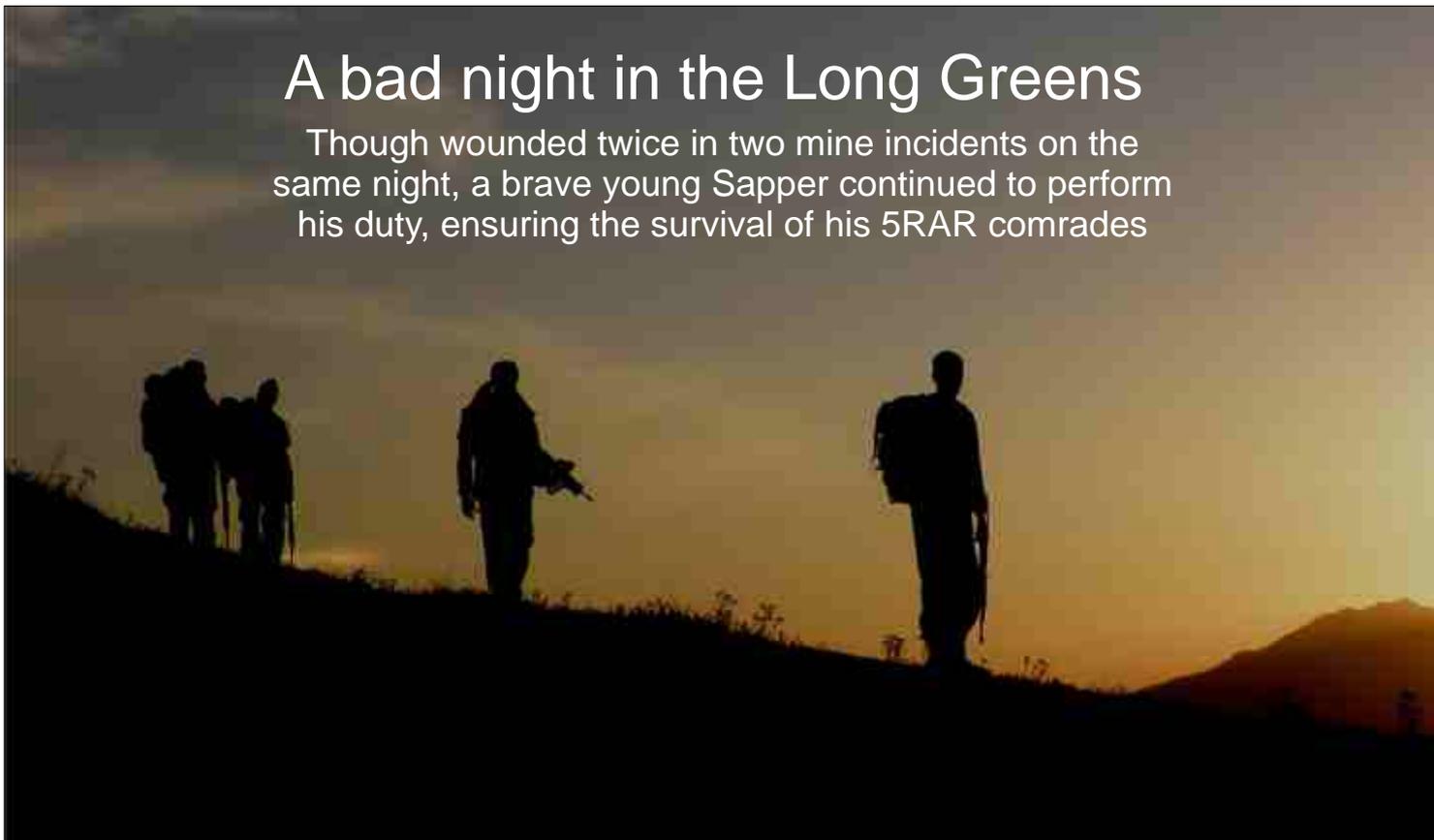


Order online at [www.bigskypublishing.com.au](http://www.bigskypublishing.com.au)  
or nationally at Frontline canteens and all good book stores



## A bad night in the Long Greens

Though wounded twice in two mine incidents on the same night, a brave young Sapper continued to perform his duty, ensuring the survival of his 5RAR comrades



The Tunnel Rats established a reputation around their underground exploits of searching tunnels and enemy bunker systems; however every Sapper who had the privilege of serving in the Field Troops of 1 Field Squadron in Vietnam would agree that our most harrowing of tasks was that of clearing safe lanes to the wounded during a mine incident.

The enemy would invariably plant more than one mine, hoping to also kill or injure the men they knew would rush to the aid of those wounded by the first mine. To avoid even further casualties, the drill was for everyone to remain motionless while the Tunnel Rats cleared and marked safe paths to the wounded.

Whilst all those present had a natural and compelling drive to help their wounded comrades in pain, a balance had to be found between rushing the mine-clearing process and ensuring no further enemy mines were triggered.

With the Infantry understandable desperate to help their mates, it was a situation charged with seemingly conflicting emotions, but all in fact aimed at the same goal.

Incidents such as these were all too common, but they did help create a strong and very special bond between the Infantry and the Sappers of the Splinter Teams and Mini Teams supporting the Battalions.

Sapper Robert "Yogi" Earl of 2 Troop 1 Field Squadron found himself in just such a challenging multi mine incident on the night of July 4th 1969

while attached to 7 Platoon, C Company 5RAR on patrol in the "Long Greens" at the base of the Long Hai Mountains. Yogi was wounded himself when the first mine was triggered, and would have been forgiven had he assumed his role in the incident was over, and awaited rescue himself.

But that's simply not in the Sapper spirit. Somewhere, somehow, between us first walking through the front gates into SME (the School of



*TOP: The first mine was triggered shortly after the patrol moved into their night harbour position. ABOVE: Sapper Robert "Yogi" Earl was in for a long night - the memories of which remain vividly with him to this day*

Military Engineering) and being in the Field Troops of 1 Field Squadron supporting our Infantry and Armoured Corp comrades in Vietnam, a special Sapper spirit was instilled in us all. It ran deep, and is still part of the incredible and unbreakable bond between us today.

On July 4th 1969, despite his wounds, it was that Sapper spirit which lifted "Yogi" up in a desperate and dangerous situation, enabling him to perform his duty. He did it well. Read on and thank God you weren't there that night.

Operation Esso ran over June and July 1969 and had elements of 5RAR spread throughout the villages and flatlands facing the Long Hai Mountains. Under the command of the iconic Lt. Colonel Colin "Genghis" Khan, the Battalion had multiple tasks including patrols, ambushing, village cordon and searches, and protection of the bulldozer teams clearing the jungle to deny the enemy their traditional hiding spots.

Sapper Robert "Yogi" Earl was the "No. 1" of a Splinter Team attached to 5RAR's 7 Platoon who were patrolling during the day, and ambushing at night to provide close protection for a nearby night defensive position (NDP) containing land clearing elements, tanks and a small number of Infantry.

The normal practice each night for Australian Infantry patrols in Vietnam, was to harbour up in a position where the men could get a good rest and at the same time, ambush likely

approach points by running shifts on the machine gun positions.

At around 9pm on July 4th 1969, the members of 7 Platoon were settling into their harbor position when one of the men triggered an M-16 "Jumping Jack" anti-personnel mine. These mines leap out of the ground and explode at hip height, spreading shards of cast iron over their circular killing zone.

Almost half of the Platoon were casualties from this first mine, including Yogi who suffered shrapnel wounds to his left shoulder.

"Actually I wasn't meant to be on the operation at all," recalls Yogi. "Back in base camp I'd got myself into a bit of strife by consuming a bowl of alcohol-laced punch while helping with repairs at the officers mess. I was formally advised I was to be charged over the matter, so to avoid the hearing I raced back to 2 Troop lines and volunteered to go bush – get me out of here!"

Having been at the Battle of Binh Ba less than a month earlier, Yogi was no stranger to the human devastations of war, but when this first mine went off, he was surrounded by a truly confronting scene.

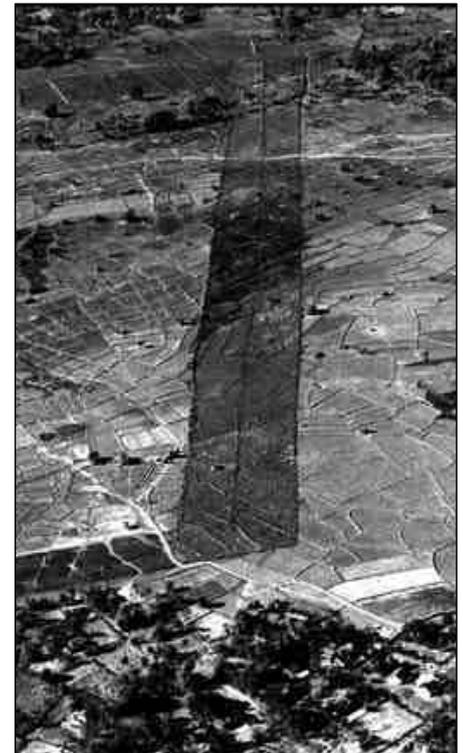
"I tried to keep everyone calm and still so they wouldn't set off another mine. It was hard, with so many of the guys hurt, and many of them just screaming in pain," recalls Yogi.

"I started clearing safe paths, first to the

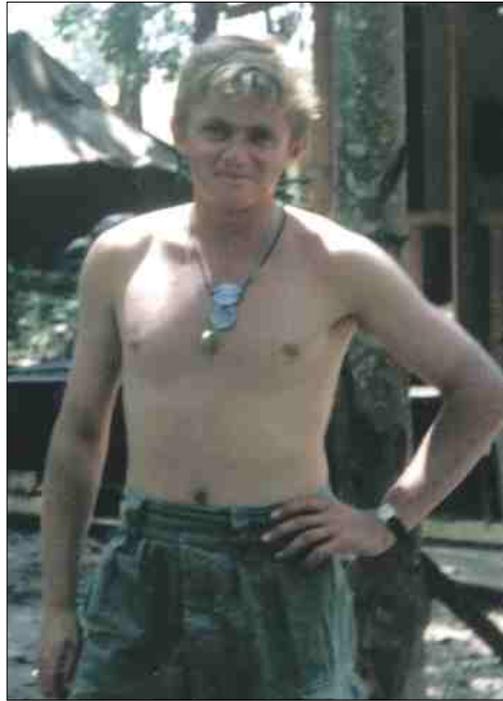
## Casualties from the 4th July multiple mine incident

(# Indicates evacuated home due to wounds)

Surname	Initials	Rank	Number	Unit	Coy/PI	Age	Corp	CAT
Bates	T.P.	Pte	5715802	5RAR2	C	22	RAINF	WIA#
Byrnes	R.M.	Pte	217984	5RAR2	C	19	RAINF	WIA#
Earl	R.J.	Spr	2788560	1FDSQN	2Tp	24	RAE	WIA#
Faint	J.A.	LCpl	2166889	5RAR2	C	23	RAINF	WIA#
Haywood	I.D.	Gnr	615654	1FDREGT		21	RAA	WIA
Herbert	W.R.	Pte	217971	5RAR2	C	20	RAINF	WIA#
Hill	G.T.	Pte	5715857	5RAR2	C	22	RAINF	WIA#
Jackson	I.J.	Pte	2790351	5RAR2	C	21	RAINF	WIA
Jackson	H.B.	Pte	3794085	5RAR2	C	22	RAINF	WIA#
Lowry	J.F.	Pte	217501	5RAR2	C	20	RAINF	WIA#
McHugh	P.R.	Pte	2788047	5RAR2	C	21	RAINF	WIA#
Mead	D.J.	2Lt	1201164	5RAR2	C/7	22	RAINF	WIA
Molloy	P.J.	Pte	2789674	5RAR2	C	22	RAINF	WIA#
Muller	H.L.	Pte	2788085	5RAR2	C	22	RAINF	DOW
Musgrave	R.A.	Pte	2790823	5RAR2	C	21	RAINF	WIA
Pettit	L.J.	Pte	217961	5RAR2	C	21	RAINF	KIA
Porter	J.E.	Pte	1202146	5RAR2	C	21	RAINF	WIA
Smith	P.L.	L,Cpl	135494	5RAR2	C	19	RAINF	KIA



Above: The mines used in this incident were most likely lifted by the enemy from this controversial Australian-laid minefield nearby



*Sapper Rod Crane (far left) and L/Cpl Geoff Handley (left), both of 2 Troop 1 Field Squadron were flown into the mine incident site at night by chopper. Surrounded by casualties, including their Troop mate Sapper Robert "Yogi" Earl, their task was to maintain mine incident discipline and further define the safe lanes so that the wounded could be evacuated. It was a long night and a sobering experience.*

wounded, and then to a landing zone (LZ) where a chopper could land and take the casualties out. I marked the safe lanes with whatever I had at hand, using a mixture of weapons, packs, straps other gear.

"After I'd finished clearing a safe lane to the LZ, we started moving the wounded close to the pad for when the choppers came in to take them out. Unfortunately, in this process, someone stepped outside the cleared zone and triggered another M-16 mine.

"This second mine wiped out almost the entire remainder of the Platoon. There were only five men left unwounded.

"I was hit severely myself by this second mine, shredding my lower legs and leaving a hot chunk of metal sticking out of my ankle.

"After the explosion it was the sounds which struck you first – it was as if someone had been blocking your hearing by covering your ears with their hands, then lifting them, and all you could hear was screaming, and men crying for help. And then there was the heat – it was a strange sensation, like being splashed with hot cooking oil.

"At this point, after the second mine there was only five of the 24-man Platoon left unwounded. This wasn't enough to protect us if the enemy decided to have a go at us, and of course I was immobile – there was nobody left to clear safe lanes to the newly wounded.

"I look back on this today and figure I might have been better off staying in Nui Dat and facing the charges over knocking off the bowl of punch!"

The company commander of C Company, Major Claude Ducker knew he had to get

reinforcements out there quickly. He needed more Infantry so that his 7 Platoon wasn't vulnerable, and he needed an Engineer Splinter Team to keep them all safe from triggering further mines.

The NDP some 500 metres from the mine incident was the closest source of these assets, and a chopper soon landed in the dark to pick them up. Despite the horrendous scene they were about to be dropped into, there was no shortage of volunteers. Eight Infantry and an Engineer Splinter Team were soon on their way.

The Splinter Team comprised two very experienced Sappers, Corporal Geoff Handley and Sapper Rod Crane, both of 2 Troop.

"Yogi was just amazing," recalls Geoff Handley. "Bits were just hanging everywhere off his legs, and he'd lost a lot of blood – a real lot of blood. He couldn't move, but as soon as he saw us he starts telling us which areas are cleared, which areas are unproven, and how the safe lanes were marked.

"This enabled us to safely direct the Infantry who'd arrived with us into positions where they could effectively protect the Platoon while we got on with our job."

"Geoff and I prodded our way in with our bayonets and used torches for light," recalls Rod Crane.

"Yogi and his No 2 had done an amazing job clearing safe lanes to most areas, but in addition to Yogi now being badly wounded; by this time his No 2 was in shock. I think he'd only been in country a few weeks, the poor bastard.

"We prodded our way to the wounded so they could receive medical attention and then



## AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1947  
NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION

NATIONAL TRACING BUREAU  
RED CROSS HOUSE, 27 JAMISON STREET, SYDNEY  
TELEPHONE 2400 24 2222      CABLES AND TELEGRAMS AUROCHROV SYDNEY

Earl/Tracing Bureau,

8th July, 1969.

Mrs. Earl,  
10 Dubbo Street,  
ASHEWATE, N.S.W., 2121.

Dear Mrs. Earl,

Re: Your son SPR R J EARL, 2788560, VIETNAM.

Our National Headquarters in Melbourne had received a Signal from our Red Cross Unit in Vietnam, and a Message was sent from your son in Vietnam. We thought that you would like to have a copy of the Message which was arranged to be delivered to you by the local Red Cross Branch President. The message reads as follows:-

"UNIT VIETNAM SIGNALS 2788560 SPR R J EARL MESSAGE TO MOTHER 10 DUBBO STREET ASHEWATE QUOTE NOT TO WORRY ALLS WILL LOVE ROBERT UNQUOTE".

Although you will have been notified by Army Authorities of your son's injuries, we feel it may put your mind at ease a little to know that whilst Spr Earl is in hospital he is being regularly visited by members of the Red Cross Unit there.

If you would now like to send a reply message please feel free to telephone us here in Sydney at 20542 Ext 163, or write to us, and we will be only too happy to forward it on your behalf.

We trust that it will not be too much longer before your son is fully recovered from his injuries, and we are pleased to have been of this small service to you.

Yours faithfully,

*P. Neasey*  
(Miss) P. Neasey,  
SUPERVISOR, NATIONAL TRACING BUREAU

cleared safe lanes to the unwounded and moved them to safe ground.

“Adding to the stress of this situation, we had artillery dropping rounds close to us, protecting us from possible assault by the enemy we knew were at the foot of the Long Hai Mountains nearby.

“Eventually we had everyone out and proper defensive positions were established. It was about 4am by the time we'd finished.”

Geoff Handley remembers that though they'd done all they could by then, nobody could really relax.

“Essentially we'd cleared a minefield in the dark under the incredibly stressful conditions of being surrounded by wounded comrades and having artillery bursting all around us.

“We all knew the chances of there still being more mines amongst us were very high.

“And we were right, because in the morning another Engineer Mini Team arrived onboard some APCs, and incredibly, they found another M-16 mine in our midst.

“It was sheer luck none of us had stood on it during the night.”

Sapper Robert “Yogi” Earl was evacuated by chopper that night, to the US 36th Evacuation Hospital, Vung Tau, and subsequently sent home to Australia because of his wounds.



“Strangely, my greatest fear that night was of being shot down as we left the scene in the helicopter,” recalls Yogi.

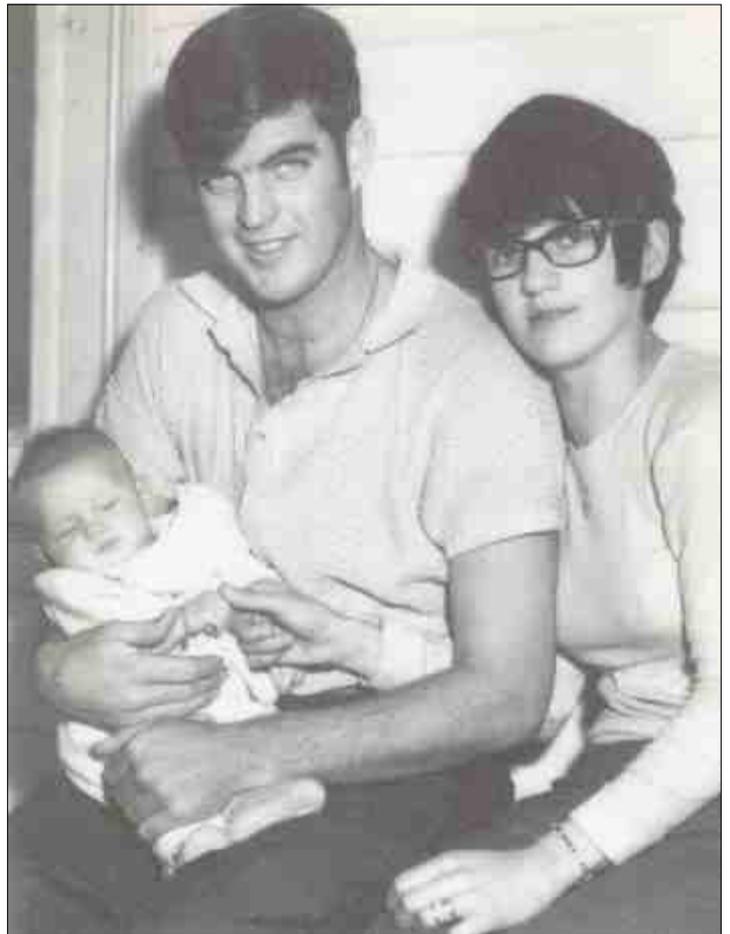
“It was only after the medic assured me we were safe at that height that I began to relax and realise I was going to be OK.

“The medics, on the ground, in the air and at the hospital were just incredible.

“I was surprised that my injuries were bad enough for me to be sent home, and was disappointed I never got back to the Troop to see the lads before I left. I really enjoyed the mateship between us, and never found anything remotely like it in civilian life. It was very special and we were privileged to experience it.”

Yogi was Mentioned in Dispatches for his role in the incident.

“I didn't feel I'd done anything special, honestly, I was just doing my job,” says Yogi.



*ABOVE: Waiting back home was Anne Marie, the three month old daughter Yogi was yet to meet. Yogi is seen above with his wife Ruth, and with Anne Marie in his arms, just weeks after his evacuation home from Vietnam.*  
*BELOW: Medical evacuation back home was by specially fitted out RAAF aircraft*



## Letter to "Yogi" from his Section Commander, Cpl. Jim Castles

Vietnam  
Wed 27<sup>th</sup> July 1969

Dear Yogi,  
I am sorry I have been so long sending your films home, but we have been kept pretty well out in the bush since you went home. How are you now mate, I hope you are starting to feel pretty well.  
The bottle of wine went down pretty well, Twigg & I drank it that night out at "Thrust", thanks again. We had a pretty shit hot barbecue the other night, I don't remember much after about 9:30. Stan was sorry he couldn't get down to see you before you left, but I guess it couldn't be helped.  
Just after you left he had a run in with "The Duck" & set him pretty straight. I have had the job of Commanding an APC set up as a mine killer the last few days & the section has been out at Dat Do with me, Stan

I tell Yogi, I had best close as we are on 60 minute notice to move (we're ready reaction) and got your films wrapped & ready to go.  
All the best mate, hope you're up & about soon,  
Jim

P.S. I'll drop in when I get home.



Cpl. Jim Castles

Yogi's Section Commander in 2 Troop, Cpl Jim Castles went to Vung Tau to visit him in hospital, (photo inset right, shows Jim wearing a "Tankies" helmet while commanding the "Mine Killer" APC used to clear the Barrier Minefield).

"Twiggy Branch and I grabbed a Land Rover, and without permission or authority drove on our own to Vungers to see Yogi - neither of us even had an Army license.

"Yogi was in a bad way - so bad he even gave me a bottle of good Hunter Valley red wine his family had sent him from their local area, which we later drank at the fire support base."

The text of Jim's letter is printed below:

Vietnam  
Wed 27<sup>th</sup> July 1969

Dear Yogi,

I am sorry I have been so long sending your films home, but we have been kept pretty well out in the bush since you went home.

How are you now mate, I hope you are starting to feel pretty well. The bottle of wine went down pretty well; Twigg and I drank it that night out at "Thrust", thanks again.

We had a pretty shit hot Barbecue the other night; I don't remember much after about 9:30.

Stan was sorry he couldn't get down to see you before you left, but I guess it couldn't be helped. Just after you left he had a run in with "The Duck" and set him straight.

I have had the job of commanding an APC set up as a mine killer the last few days & the section has been out at DAT Do with me.

Well yogi, I had best close as we are on 60 minute notice to move ( We're ready reaction) and got your films wrapped and ready to go.

All the best mate, hope you're up and about soon.

Jim

P.S. I'll drop in when I get home

## Comments from the Infantry Commanders



*Major Claude Ducker,  
OC, C Company 5RAR*

### The Company Commander

For many years I had wanted to catch up with "Yogi" to personally thank him for the wonderful job he did as a combat engineer temporarily allocated to 7 Platoon on 4 July 1969. However, nobody could ever tell me his proper name, let alone how to contact him.

"Yogi" showed outstanding bravery and dedication when 7 Platoon experienced the explosion of two M16 mines on the night of the mine incident. After the first mine exploded at 2109 hrs causing several casualties, David Mead, the platoon commander (also wounded that night) requested a casualty evacuation "dust off" helicopter. He sounded calm and controlled on the other end of the radio. Yogi, despite having been wounded in the shoulder, declined to be evacuated and kept prodding for mines and laying safe lanes towards where the helicopter was to land.

When a second mine was stepped on an hour later it became an even more horrific situation for 7 Platoon and Yogi was severely wounded in both legs. It is not my purpose here to detail all this difficult time. Sadly the platoon lost Les Pettit and Paul Smith that night and Hans Muller died of his wounds in hospital the next day. There were also 16 wounded, mostly very severely.

There were many heroes that night but sadly under our inadequate "rationed" award system not all could be recognised by being properly rewarded. Yogi was awarded an MID for his heroic efforts, as was Wayne Herbert who as the platoon stretcher bearer treated many of the wounded, being himself severely wounded, losing an eye.

I felt very grateful for CSM Jack Lake that night. I knew he had experience of a mine incident in Borneo and I sent him in with one of the "dust off" helicopters to take charge, along with a small party including the company medic, Kevin Mulligan, and some combat engineers.

When Yogi came home he went through

hard times. It was a long time before he was accepted as a TPI despite his horrific wounds. Sadly, as he could only pull slippers over his badly wounded legs he could at first only get a school janitors job on very low pay where he had to empty garbage bins etc. Hardly appropriate for a wounded hero.

Well done, Yogi. I must say I never had your experience of finding a bowl full of punch in an officer's mess in my twelve months in Vietnam!

Major Claude Ducker - 2010



*L. Colonel Colin Kahn  
CO 5RAR*

### The Battalion Commander

There are numerous riflemen from 5 RAR who came home safely because of the support, the courage and the professionalism of our Splinter Teams.

They were always there, up with the forward Infantry. Whenever 5 RAR operated in 1969-70 we hit bunker systems ranging in size from 6 to 600.

The call went out continuously – "We need the Sappers", and the wait for the Splinter Teams was not long, for they were always there, up with the forward Infantry.

5 RAR located some 1,500 bunkers in the period and the need for Sappers was great. The Splinter Teams attached to, moving and fighting with rifle companies, searched these bunkers for mines and booby traps, and when we left a bunker complex, they were either destroyed thoroughly or laced with CS crystals.

I believe, and I have always believed that the Sappers who moved and fought with Infantry and Armour deserved some distinguishing recognition such as a "Combat Engineer Badge".

We Infantrymen have our Infantry Combat Badge – Splinter team members deserve something similar.

Brigadier Colin Kahn - 2008

# SHAMELESS FUND RAISING EFFORT

ALL PROFITS GO TO THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION



## TUNNEL RAT TYRE COVER

UV rated inks and vinyls ensure long product life. Heavy-duty elastic sewn on the inside of the cover tensions it around the tyre correctly. Black piping on outer edge gives a look of quality.

- 1: Stops nasty parking fines
- 2: Eliminates road rage attacks
- 3: Ends speeding fines forever
- 4: May induce friendly waves

**\$150**  
Including delivery

BADGE  
DETAIL  
FROM  
TYRE  
COVER



PLEASE PROVIDE TYRE CODE NUMBER AS EACH COVER IS TAILORED TO THE EXACT SIZE

TYRE CODE (for example 225/75R16 110S ):	
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
	POST CODE:
TELEPHONE:	
EMAIL:	
Cost includes packing and postage. You can pay by credit card (your statement will read "Ultimate Design Graphics"), or by cheque or Postal Order. 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 <input type="radio"/> Amex	
Card Number:	
Name on card:	Expiry Date:
Signature	
Post to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak Victoria 3142	

## Obeying orders in Vung Tau

*Amusing as it might seem, there were actually Routine Orders written about going on leave in Vung Tau*



We thought going on leave in Vung Tau was pretty simple: Arrive at the Peter Badcoe Club by truck from Nui Dat. Secure your weapon in the armoury. Change into civvies. Gather your mates and get into town by any means possible. Get drunk. Have a little cultural exchange with the locals. Get back to the Badcoe Club before curfew.

It all seemed easy at the time, but the Army of course had to complicate things, and actually wrote Routine Orders on the matter of going on leave in Vung Tau.

Naturally nobody showed you these Routine Orders or even mentioned them, until you were caught by the MPs after curfew with a lady of the night in the back lanes of Vungers negotiating certain matters in exchange for a bottle of Bacardi and a carton of Salem. "Whataya mean it's illegal?"

For all of us who never saw those Routine Orders, and particularly for those who did time in the slammer for disobeying them, here they are, fresh from the archives:

### Vung Tau Leave - Routine Orders

*11th August 1968*

This instruction defines all relevant data which applies to Australian and New Zealand military personnel within the Vung Tau Special Zone. It is to be promulgated in Unit Routine Orders quarterly and is to be used in briefing all personnel taken on the ration strength of units of 1 ALSG located in the Vung Tau Special Zone. This requirement applies equally to personnel on R & C

and on rest in the Beach Annex of the Peter Badcoe Club or visiting Vung Tau Special Zone.

**Local Leave:** No Australian or New Zealand personnel, other than those on duty, are to proceed from or be absent from the 1 ALSG area or the Australian R and C Centre Vung Tau without a duly authorised Local Leave Pass.

**Authorised Leave Periods:** Vung Tau Special Zone General: Local leave may be granted by unit commanders, from 0800 to 2100 hrs daily. Not more than 50% of the posted strength of a unit may be on leave at any one time.

**FWMAF Establishments:** Personnel may patronise FWMAF establishments between 0800 hrs and 2045 hrs daily. However, with the approval



*TOP: An innocent Digger on leave in Vungers is told where to go by a "helpful" MP. ABOVE: One of the many premises in town promoting "cultural exchange" with the locals.*



of their OC, on each occasion, members may patronise FWMAF establishments which are guarded by FWMAF personnel until a later time, providing the members travel between the establishment and the 1 ALSG Main Gate in Military transport, by the most direct route, and arrive at 1 ALSG Main Gate by 2330 hrs.

Curfew for all members, except those on official military duty, is from 2100 hrs to 0600 hrs daily. Members, other than those on official military duty are not to proceed from or be absent from the 1 ALSG area or their assigned billets at any time during the curfew.

**Restrictions to Billets:** Between 2330 hrs and 0600 hrs members, other than duty personnel, are to be in their assigned billets.

**Bounds:** The following places are out of bounds to all members of the Australian and New Zealand Military Forces at all times:

The area inside the triangle formed by Trieu Au St on the South, Le Loi St on the West, and the line formed partly by Le Lai St to where it would join Le Loi St.

All establishments and places on the road which runs SW from the 1 ALSG Main Gate to "Fiveways", excluding the Nguyen Hue Laundry, 30/3 Nguyen Tri Phung Rd.

All establishments and places on the back road past the old French fort, from Nguyen-Tri-Phuong Rd to the entrance to Vung Tau airfield.

All establishments and places on the road which runs SW from the 1 ALSG main Gate (Duong Nha Binh So 7) to the intersection of the Back Beach Rd.

The ARVN Training Centre for revolutionary development bounded by an imaginary line joining GR32349A, GR 328502, GR 340508, GR 367503.

The area known as the Front Beach and Duong Thanh Thai, on the side of the road nearest the beach, between Duong Quaag Trung to the North, and the harbour area to the south.

The ice works on Lo Loi St and Duong ly



Thuog Kiet, except to those members on authorised duty for the purchase of non-potable ice for their unit.

The area known as Rach Dua, bounded on the North by Cat Lo village, on the east by the Ridge Camp and on the west by the Cau Hach Ba river.

The ARVN housing area adjacent to the back gate of the 2nd Maint Bn compound, south along Nguyen Tri Phuong St from its intersection with Co Giang St to the US leased housing facility on west for a distance of 100 metres.

No member of the Australian or New Zealand Forces is to enter any establishment or be in any area described above, except in the performance of his military duty.

In the area known as Back Beach, south of the Beachcomber Club, all bars are out of bounds to all members of the Australian and New Zealand Military Forces between 1800 hrs and 0800 hrs daily; members are not to visit or be in the Back Beach area between those times.



*TOP LEFT: The Front Beach was out of bounds because the locals used it. TOP RIGHT: The Back Beach bars were out of bounds because our enemy, the VC were rumoured to use them. ABOVE: The Badcoe Club was "Heaven on Earth" to a weary Digger*



**Restaurants:** The following Restaurants in Vung Tau have been declared suitable eating places, and are in bounds to members of 1 ALSG: Grand Hotel, Au Favori, Soai Kinh Lam, Rendevous, Cynros and Neptune. Members of 1 ALSG are not to eat at civilian restaurants or eating places In Vung Tau other than those listed above.

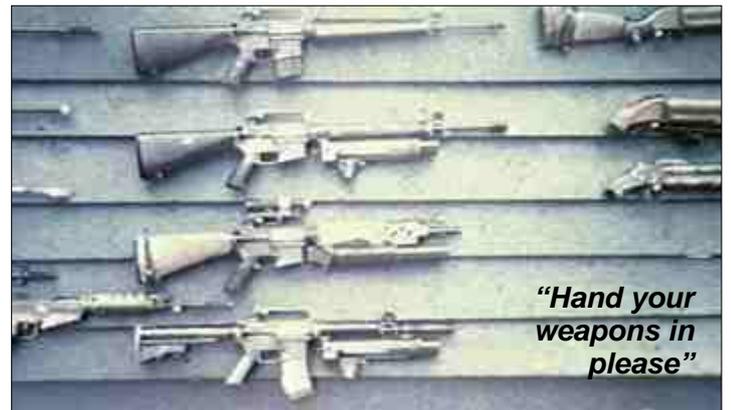
**Dress:** Unless on official duty personnel are not to wear uniform in Vung Tau. Whilst on stand down within the 1 ALSG area civilian clothes may be worn, unless otherwise ordered. Whilst on local leave, outside the 1 ALSG area or the R & C Centre, civilian clothes are to be worn. When wearing civilian, clothes outside the 1 ALSG area, or the R and C Centres, shoes are to be worn.



ABOVE: (left to right) Tunnel Rats Jock McMullen, Jim Marett and Grumpy Foster (2Tp 69/70) in Vung Tau market wearing regulation leave attire. Grumpy was recuperating from wounds he'd received in a mine incident several weeks earlier on 23 March 1970

**Malarial Precautions:** By 1900 hrs daily personnel must be dressed in long trousers, socks, shoes or boots, with long sleeved shirts, sleeves rolled down and buttoned at the wrist.

**Carriage of weapons/explosives:** Army members proceeding on leave in Vung Tau Special Zone may not have in their possession, any of the following items:



Weapons - Weapons shall mean and include: All firearms such as handguns, shotguns, rifles, carbines, light automatic weapons, and similar weapons which use an explosive force to propel a projectile.

Knives with folding blades longer than three inches, swords, sabres, stiletos and spring release (switch blade) knives.

Metal knuckles, blackjacks, saps, clubs and similar items.

Instruments on which compressed air or a

AAF A96 Revised Jan., 1966		AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES		<b>LEAVE PASS F 153830</b>	
UNIT TELEPHONE No. <b>ELEVATEK</b>	Army No. <b>614616</b>	Rank <b>SPR</b>	Name <b>CAIRNS</b>	Initials <b>PH</b>	
TELEPHONE No. OF COMD WHERE MEMBER TAKING LEAVE DURING WORKING HOURS	Destination <b>VUNG TAU</b>		Unit Stamp <b>11TP COMBAT</b>		
AFTER WORKING HOURS	From <b>1300</b>	To <b>2300</b>		Date <b>12-6-71</b>	
Signature and Rank	Signature <b>Grumpy Foster</b> Rank <b>Sgt</b> Date <b>12-6-71</b>				
This pass must be returned to the Orderly Room on expiration of leave					

LEFT: A leave pass for Sapper Peter Cairns, a Tunnel Rat with 2 Troop in 70/71. The signature approving the leave is believed to be counterfeit. Less than six weeks earlier on May 2nd 1971 Peter was injured when APC c/s 12A hit an anti tank mine



chemical propellant is used to fire a projectile.

**Explosives** - Any item or projectile having explosive for use as a projectile.

**ID Cards and Discs:** All personnel are to be in possession of their ID Cards and are to wear identification discs at all times.

**Alcoholic Liquor:** Alcoholic liquor, whether contained in a tin, casket or bottle is not to be taken out of the 1 ALSG area or the R & C Centres unless the seal of the container is broken.

Alcoholic liquor may only be carried outside unit lines if it is wrapped in a manner which conceals the contents.

Alcoholic liquor is not to be consumed in: Any private dwelling or club or quarter without the approval of the owner or manager, or on any street or public thoroughfare, beach, garden or park, or in any vehicle.

**Discipline on leave:** All personnel are to safeguard the image of Australian and New Zealand Servicemen in the eyes of other nations. They are to avoid attracting attention by loud, rude or unusual behaviour or by brawling.

**Entry into US Service Clubs/Messes:** Personnel are to treat all US Service Clubs/Canteens or messes as if they were Australian or New Zealand establishments. Entry to any establishment is only to be made at the invitation of a US service member of the establishment, and if the rank of the Australian or New Zealand member entering the establishment is in keeping with the US regulation governing entry to the particular club. The exception to this rule is that, within VTSZ, Australian and New Zealand Warrant Officers are not to use facilities established for US Army Officers and Commissioned Warrant Officers.

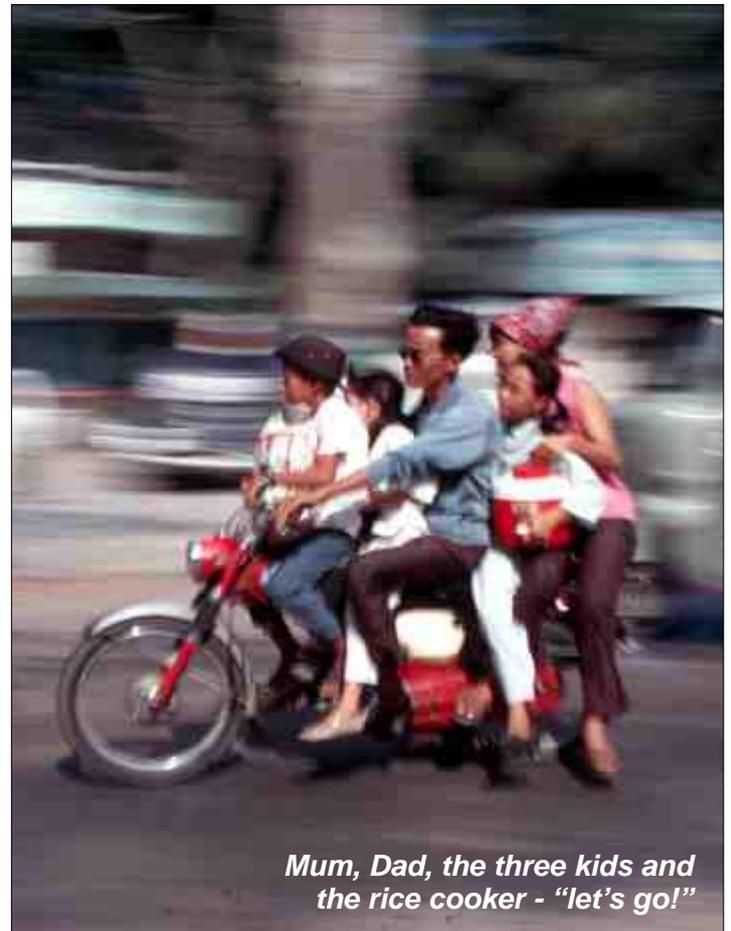
**Leave Transport:** 5 Coy RAASC is to provide leave vehicles departing HQ 1 ALSG car park for the "Flags" area Vung Tau at 1745 hrs and 1845 hrs, and "Flags" area Vung Tau for 1 ALSG at 1815 hrs, 1915 hrs, 2045 hrs (up to four (4) vehicles



*ABOVE: There were numerous tourist attractions like temples (left) and an old French military academy (right) but we didn't know about these till we got back to Australia and read about them in books!*

are to be provided for the 2045 hrs runs).

Officer and senior NCO's are not to travel on the above schedule leave runs. Unit vehicles are to be used, but leave personnel are not to drive themselves.



*Mum, Dad, the three kids and the rice cooker - "let's go!"*

**Civilian Vehicles:** Personnel are not to drive civilian vehicles, bicycles, motor cycles, motor scooters etc, under any circumstances.

# Report on Operation Sapper Respect

Army Combat  
Badges awarded  
posthumously to  
fallen Sappers of  
the Vietnam War



This joint project of the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association and the 1 Field Sqn Group RAE Association is coming towards a successful conclusion.

It has taken over three years, but we have now been able to contact the families of most of the thirty seven members of our Squadron who died in the Vietnam War – a challenging task after forty years. There are a few remaining applications with Army or to go to Army in the near future.

The families have been approached with sensitivity and respect, and we are pleased that most of them have elected to receive the ACB in a public presentation carried out by Sapper Veterans.

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that we have been able to locate Mrs Iris Moore, the widow of WO2 Barry “Pud” Moore. We look forward to being able to present the family with Warrant Officer Moore's ACB, in the presence of some of his former senior soldier comrades.

The most important message we take from this project is the dreadful burden that is placed on families when they lose a loved one on Active Service, a burden that is often life-long.

In the case of the Vietnam War, the burden was exacerbated by the division that raged in Australian society at the time, and the blame that anti-war protestors unjustly heaped on members of our Defence Force, particularly soldiers.

We can't do anything to change that injustice, but we can continue to honour our fallen brother Sappers at every opportunity, and let their families know that we respect and honour them as well.



26th March - 3rd April 2011

# VIETNAM TRIP



## Sharing the experience with current serving Combat Engineers

*It's bigger than Ben Hur! We have 75 bookings so far and we expect more, particularly from the current serving Sappers many of whom need to sort out their postings and leave applications before they can commit to the trip. This is the ultimate trip to Vietnam. Focussed on Tunnel Rats, we'll visit all the key battle and operational areas, including the infamous barrier minefield and the caves and tunnels of the enemy's base in the Long Hai Mountains. We'll tour the enemy tunnels at Cu Chi and Long Phuoc, and on April 1st, the Anniversary of when 1 Field Squadron arrived in country we'll hold a memorial service for our 35 fallen comrades, right on the site of our former Squadron HQ at Nui Dat - followed by a traditional "Troop" BBQ (piss-up).*

There's still time to book, but we'd appreciate receiving your bookings ASAP so we can lock down all the tours and other details. Our "final" deadline for bookings is February 28th. We'll still take bookings for stragglers after that date, but latecomers may miss out on some of the perks such as personalised tour shirts etc.

The trip is for eight nights in Vietnam, (two nights in Saigon, then five nights in Vung Tau followed by one more night in Saigon).

Rather than increasing the costs and travel time by forcing everyone to depart from one city in Australia, each person has to book and pay for their own air ticket to Saigon, enabling them to find the best air-ticket deal from their city.

The plan is for us all to meet in Saigon on Saturday



**"Sappers four decades apart will share their experiences in the unique environment of the Vietnam Tunnel Rat's old haunts"**

March 26th and from there the tour will commence.

The first event is on the 26th - welcome drinks at 6pm

followed by dinner. Book your air travel carefully to ensure you arrive in Saigon in time to get to the hotel, check-in and make it to

the 6pm function. If the airline you choose arrives too late, book to arrive the day prior and we'll book an extra night in the hotel for you. Shop around for the best airfare you can find. There are plenty of airlines flying into Saigon, so don't grab the first airfare you find. The planned return date leaving Saigon is Sunday 3rd April, but if you want to stay on longer you can do so on your own arrangements.

As Combat Engineer units today are men only our trip this time is for guys only. Tunnel Rats are welcome to have their sons come along on the trip (they may have a better chance of keeping up with the drinking pace of the serving Sappers!).

The cost covers all specified tours, English speaking guides, permits and tour transport in Vietnam, and includes eight nights in hotels including all breakfasts (lunch, dinner and drinks will be at our own cost).

The full cost for all of this is \$750 per person if you are sharing a room with a mate (twin share) or \$1050 if you want a room of your own.

## Here's our amazing day by day itinerary

At our welcome dinner you'll receive an overall briefing on the tour. Then each morning of the tour you'll receive a detailed briefing on that day's activity, often with associated documents and maps. We'll take that opportunity to also report on who has gone AWOL, been robbed or had an experience worth sharing. We'll return to our hotel each day in time to enjoy drinks together before people go their own way for the evening. The comradeship of these drink sessions will be a highlight of the tour.



*Long Phuoc Tunnels*

### Day 1: Australia to Saigon

People will be arriving at different times throughout the day (or even the day before). You'll be met at the Saigon airport and transferred to our hotel. After check-in you're free to roam but be back in time for Welcome Drinks at 6pm followed by dinner. Overnight in Saigon

### Day 2: Cu Chi Tunnels Tour

We'll have a guided tour just for our group plus the chance to fire the AK47 and ArmaLite weapons on their range (cost US\$1 per bullet). Then we head back to Saigon, and we'll be back in time for a late lunch, then the afternoon and evening is free time. Overnight in Saigon

### Day 3: Saigon to Vung Tau

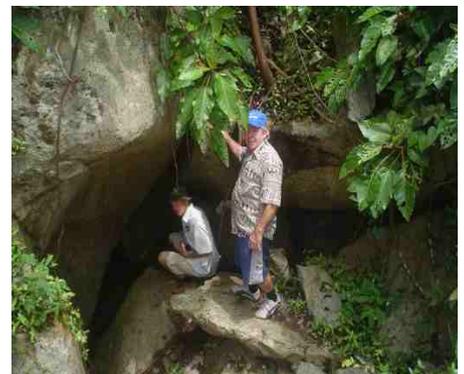
After check-out we'll take a bus to transfer to our hotel in Vung Tau. After lunch, to help get our bearings we'll do a guided tour of Vung Tau by bus, including the old back beach area where the Badcoe Club was. Overnight in Vung Tau.

### Day 4: Vung Tau, Baria and Long Phuoc

In the morning we head to Baria where we'll visit the



*Above: Nui Dat base camp in 1969. Below: One of the old enemy caves in the Long Hai Mountains*



Australian funded orphanage. Then it's off to the Long Phuoc area (close to Nui Dat) to visit the tunnels there and meet up with some of the old VC who

operated in that area during the war. This site includes a memorial to the VC who were killed in the area during the war. Overnight in Vung Tau.

### Day 5: Vung Tau, Long Tan, the Horseshoe and minefield

We'll visit the Long Tan battlefield and memorial where we'll place a wreath in remembrance of all Australians KIA in Vietnam. After this we move to the Horseshoe feature which was the starting point of the 11km long barrier minefield laid by 1 Fld Sqn Sappers. We'll meet with former VC who actually lifted mines from the minefield to be used against us. Overnight in Vung Tau.

### Day 6: Vung Tau, Long Hai Mountains

The Long Hai Mountains was the VC's big base camp and a place of much grief for the Aussie troops. The VC called it the "Minh Dam Secret Zone" and it now features a beautiful and moving memorial to the VC killed in the area during the war. Drinks late afternoon with entertainment from a group of singers and dancers formed from local Viet Cong Veterans. Big seafood dinner with the former VC for those who want to join in. Overnight in Vung Tau.

### Day 7 (April 1st): Vung Tau, Binh Ba and Nui Dat

We'll visit the village of Binh Ba, site of the huge battle in early June 1969. The village now features a museum dedicated to the battle and an extensive memorial to the VC killed in the area during the war. Following this we move to Nui Dat. This day is the actual anniversary of when 1 Field Squadron first arrived in Vietnam in 1966. We'll tour the old base camp including, SAS Hill and Luscombe Field, then we'll hold



## We'll remember and honour our mates

a memorial service for our 35 fallen Tunnel Rat comrades, right on the site of our former Squadron HQ at Nui Dat, followed by a traditional "Troop" BBQ (piss-up). Overnight in Vung Tau.

### Vung Tau

You'll have plenty of time each evening and most afternoons to relax, explore Vung Tau, laze by the hotel pool, go shopping,

walk along the beach, go for a nostalgic bar crawl with your mates, or simply stroll the streets and soak up the great atmosphere.

### Day 8: Vung Tau to Saigon

It's back to Saigon for a bit of shopping and sightseeing before our big farewell dinner. Next day transfer to the airport to depart for Australia, or stay on and tour more of Vietnam.

## Who's coming so far?

Throwing privacy laws out the window, here's the list of who's on the trip at this stage:

### Current serving Combat Engineers (our VIPs)

(Unit names withheld for security reasons)

Spr. Scott Chadwick

Spr. Jamie Baker

Spr. Rocel Estigoy

Spr. Luke Peacock

Cpl. Brett Beatty

Spr. Chad Elliot

Spr. Peter Elliot

Sgt Jamie Fields

Cpl Shannon Higgins

Spr. Matthew Mullens

Baden McMaster

David Brown (Doggie)

Spr. M. Lawson

Sgt. Jim Davey

### Vietnam Tunnel Rats

Gary Miller MM 3Tp 69/70

Paul Jones 2Tp 70/71

Mike Dutton 3Tp 71

Wayne Hynson 2Tp 68/69

Richard Day 3Tp 69/70

Mick Woodhams 3Tp 67/68

Trevor Kelly 1Tp 69/70

Ron Reid 2Tp 71

Curly Tuttleby 3Tp 69/70

Ba Ba Lamb 2Tp 69/70

Rod O'Regan 2Tp 70/71

Darrel Jensen 3Tp 69/70

Gordon Temby 3Tp 60/71

Ross Hansen 2TP 68/69

Doug Meyers 1Tp 69/70

Norm Cairns 3Tp 67/68

Ziggy Gnoit 2Tp 70/71

Rip Kirby 3Tp 60/70

Geoff Box 3Tp 69

Clive Pearsall 1Tp 67/68

John Tatler 3Tp 70/71

Steve Armbrust 3tp 70/71

Brenton Smith 3Tp 71

Kerry Caughey 3Tp 67/68

Bevan Percival 2Tp 69/70

Jim Marett 2Tp 69/70

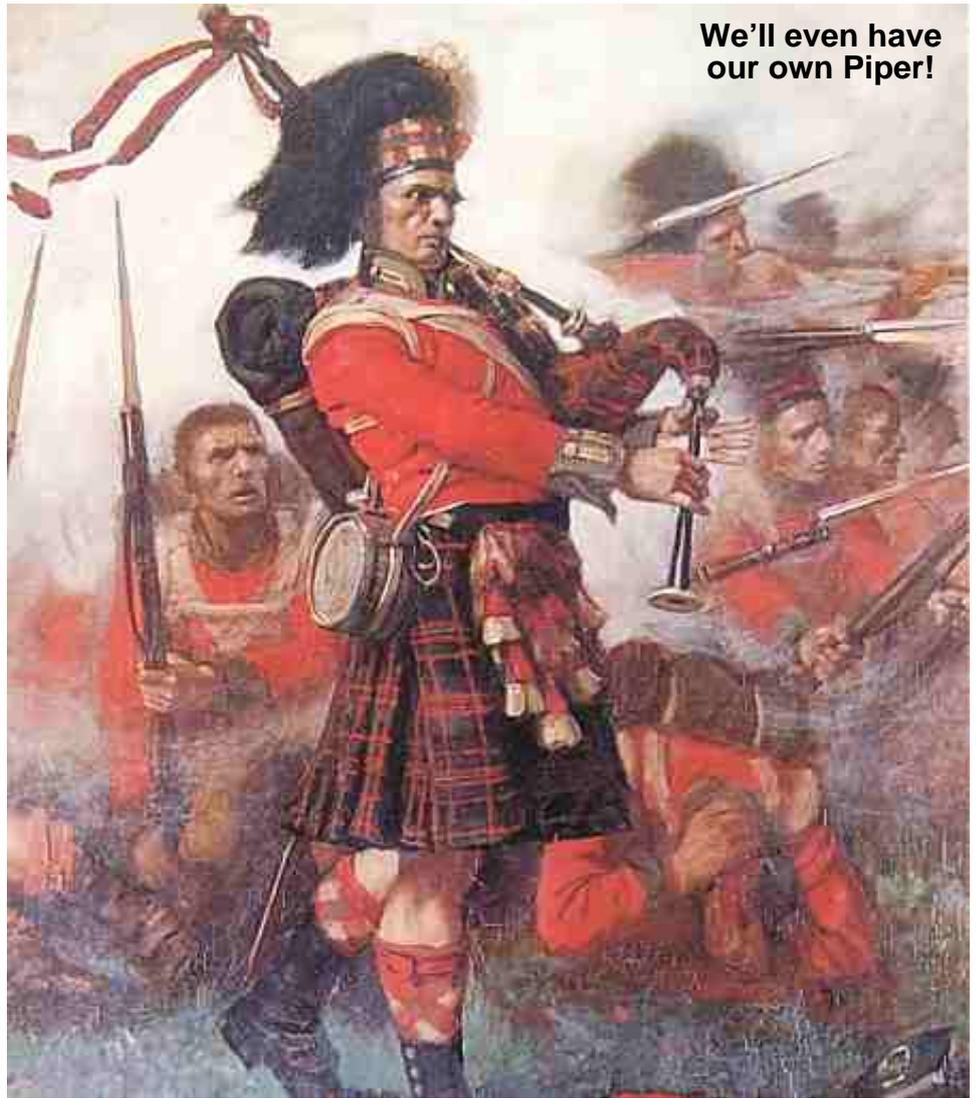
Peter Cairns 2Tp 70/71

Robin Simons 3Tp 67/68

Vic Smith 1Tp 69/70

Barry Gilbert 3Tp 67/68

Bob Reed 3Tp 1970



**We'll even have our own Piper!**

*One of the current serving Sappers on the tour is the Piper for his unit, and he's bringing the bagpipes with him to Vietnam. There won't be a dry eye in the place when the pipes are wailing over our ceremony to honour our fallen comrades. Bring a hankie!*

### Other Vietnam Veterans

Ross Grant 69/70

(Sgt 1Fld Sqn WKSP)

Denis Baker 67/68

(Pte 1Fld Sqn)

Mike O'Brien 70/71

(Lt. 7 RAR Intelligence Officer and Platoon Commander)

Darrell Crilley 68/69 & 72

(55 wksps & Water Transport)

Ty Cairns

Ian Smith

Adam Smith

Joe Cairns

Aaron Kirby

Shaun Box

Nick Marett

Geoff Marett

Greg Cairns

### Sons of Veterans

Christopher Day

Luke O'Regan

Clayton Jenson

Grant Jenson

Simon Temby

Alex Temby

Michael Hansen

Jimmy Cairns

### Worthless Civilians

Michael Vivian

Peter Crease

Paul Desmond

John Breaden

Alan Armsden

Richard Broadhurst

Allan Gale

Robbie Wright

# Our superb accommodation

We've done our best to book only the finest levels of accommodation for all of us on the trip back to Vietnam.



*Accommodation for Sappers*



Accommodation for Senior NCO's (Sergeants & above)



Our worthless civilians will be issued with a backpack and rations



Accommodation for Officers (Mosquito nets advisable)

## Sharing Sapper experiences

We're excited on multiple levels about the aspect of sharing this trip with current serving Sappers. The similarities of our tasks in Vietnam and their tasks in Afghanistan today are striking.

On one level we hope the young Sappers will get an understanding of how we operated in terms of combat engineer tasks, particularly when attached to Infantry and Armoured units. They'll gain an insight into the casualties we suffered, and why, plus how we coped with it. They'll see first hand the similarities between our tasks in Vietnam and theirs in Afghanistan, and how much better trained and equipped they are than we were.

There will be the unique experience of melding together the incredible comradeship the old and the young Sappers enjoy as a result of our service.

We have great respect for and empathy with serving

Sappers in Combat Engineer roles today. It will be a privilege for us to share time with these guys in our former war zone and hear their experiences in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere over a few beers.

Serving Sappers of all ranks are welcome - as long as you currently serve or have served in a Combat Engineer unit. If you're a serving Sapper and you wish to join us on the tour, simply fill in the form.

Vietnam Tunnel Rats, likewise simply fill in the form.

If you have any questions at all about the tour, contact Jim Marett, President of the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association.

Email:

[tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au)

Mobile: 0403 041 962

## Our Hotels

In Saigon we stay at the historic Hotel Continental, right in the very heart of the city, close to shopping, dining, bars and many historic sites. The Hotel



Continental is widely mentioned in history books. During colonial days it was the favoured haunt of the rich rubber plantation owners. During the war it was a place for spies, gossip and intrigue.



In Vung Tau we stay at the Rex Hotel, again it's near the action, plus it has a pool and several good bars. Rooms are spacious and clean.

## VIETNAM TRIP \$100 DEPOSIT & BOOKING FORM - DO IT NOW!

NAME: Mr.	SERVICE NUMBER
ADDRESS:	
	POST CODE:
PHONE:	MOBILE:
EMAIL:	
If current serving Sapper, please provide current rank: And name of CE unit serving or served with:	
If Vietnam Tunnel Rat, list Troop served with : And approx dates:	
The deposit required is \$100. If for any reason you have to cancel, the deposit is fully refundable. 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="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> American Express	
CARD NUMBER:	
NAME ON CARD:	EXPIRY DATE:
Post to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak VIC 3142	
Or email to: <a href="mailto:tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au">tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au</a>	

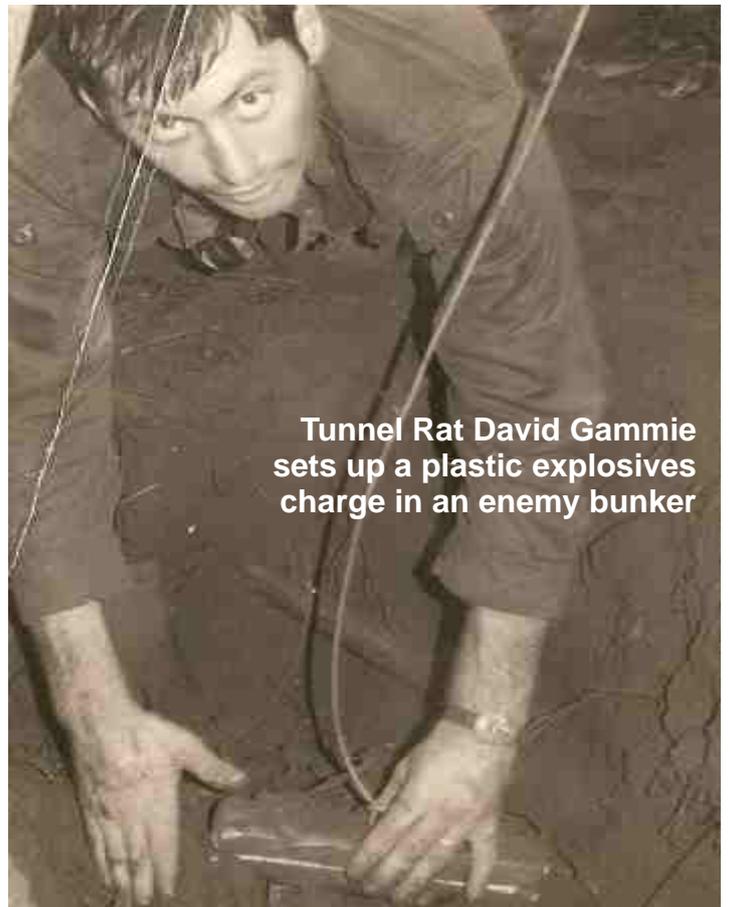
Or simply email the same information as requested above to:  
[tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au)

## Sapper Snippets



### That's the spirit!

In January 2009 one of our members, David Gammie (2 Troop 70/71) passed away after a brave battle with a brain tumor. His two sons and his brother decided there was no better way to honour David and his service as a Tunnel Rat than by having our Tunnel Rats logo tattooed onto their arms. We're touched, and honoured ourselves. Thankyou.



Tunnel Rat David Gammie sets up a plastic explosives charge in an enemy bunker

## Normie Rowe Remembers

On seeing a photo in our previous issue of an APC nose-dived almost vertical into a bomb crater, Pop music legend and 3rd Cavalry Regiment, Vietnam Veteran Normie Rowe was inspired to write to us:

*"I just had a wander through your Holdfast magazine, and am inspired by the camaraderie displayed. One would be forgiven if after all these years the gloss of that friendship might dull, but clearly your Corp has retained all that is great about Australian diggers and former diggers.*

*I am humbled when I think about the excellent men of the engineers with whom I had the honour of serving in Vietnam. The legendary bravery, tempered by the skill and care you showed in your work was always a bolster against our concerns. The professional attitude coupled somehow with that good old Australian irreverence was sometimes all that got us through without going bonkers.*

*Thank you all you Sappers. Without you not too many of us could have gone forward.*

*By the way, the APC, call-sign 12 was John Anstey, our Section Sergeant. It's about time his car was shown down a hole, God knows it has usually been my car with me digging it out that has been shown."*

3793130  
Norman J Rowe, AM  
Cpl (Retired)  
A & B Squadrons, 3rd Cavalry Regiment



## On the road and in your face



"Twiggy" Branch (2 Troop 68/69) was one of the first to install one of our Tunnel Rats tyre covers on his vehicle. It's big, it's bold and it's in your face – but why not! Twiggy says the cover has generated nothing but positive comments and has resulted in numerous Vets coming out of the woodwork to say hello. He has also had several CB radio contacts from motorists as they come across him on the road on one of his many journeys. Actually Twiggy has always been a bit of a show off - in Vietnam he sported a most spectacular drooping moustache which he insisted was within the Army regulations.

## Two top Sappers win trips to Vietnam with the Tunnel Rats



The inaugural RAE Best Sapper Competition was run late last year, with two-man teams competing for some great prizes. LCPL Nick Lines and LCPL David McDonald from 2 CER won first prize to attend the US Army Best Sapper Competition in April this year. The runners up were pretty happy too because they both won free trips on the Tunnel Rat's trip back to Vietnam in late March this year. Coming on the trip with us are CPL Shannon Higgins (left) and SGT Jamie Fields (right), both of SME. Welcome aboard lads - and we'll see you in Saigon.

# SHAMELESS FUND RAISING EFFORT

ALL PROFITS GO TO THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION



HIGH QUALITY ENAMEL FINISH ON MATTE BLACK MOUNTING

### LAPEL PIN AND CUFFLINKS SET



**SET COMPRISING LAPEL PIN AND A PAIR OF CUFFLINKS \$30**

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
POST CODE:	
TELEPHONE:	
QUANTITY @ \$30 PER SET:	
Cost includes packing and postage. You can pay by credit card (your statement will read "Ultimate Design Graphics"), or by cheque or Postal Order. 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 <input type="radio"/> Amex	
Card Number:	
Name on card:	Expiry Date:
Signature	
Post to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak Victoria 3142	

## “Smoke em out”

The “Mity Mite” device generated beaucoup smoke and was used to flush the enemy from the tunnels as well as indicate where the tunnel entrances and exits were. Australian Tunnel Rats used the device several times after in-field testing by US forces. We’ve managed to “acquire” the original US test report.



**22 November 1965 - Headquarters United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam**

**SUBJECT:** *Operational Employment of the Mity Mite Portable Blower*

**INTRODUCTION:** *This report has two purposes:*

*1: To familiarize US advisors and other interested personnel with the Mity Mite portable blower.*

*2: To relate an operation in which the Mity Mite was successfully employed to trace and flush a VC tunnel system and the lessons learned from this experience.*

**GENERAL:**

The Mity Mite portable blower when properly used in conjunction with smoke pots or smoke grenades will force the smoke throughout a tunnel system and generally reveal the entrances and vents, if any are present. As the Mity Mite portable blower is soon to be issued in quantity to ARVN units, US advisors should become familiar with the methods of employing this piece of equipment.

The Mity Mite is an agricultural backpack spray-duster. It is powered by a two-cycle gasoline engine, weighs 25 pounds (without fuel or agent) and displaces 450 cubic feet of air per minute. The

fuel tank holds approximately one quart of gasoline-oil mixture which will permit operation in excess of 30 minutes. It is equipped with a two foot long flexible tube that has a metal nozzle on the end. The Mity Mite has a polyethylene agent tank which can be filled with either ten pounds of powder agent or three gallons of liquid agent.

The Mity Mite blower can be used to:

(1) Force the evacuation of unmasked personnel from a tunnel system using smoke or riot control munitions.

(2) Locate vents and entrances of a tunnel system using smoke munitions.

(3) Generate an agent cloud for use against unmasked personnel in the open using a powder agent.

**OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

The Mity Mite was employed during a search and destroy operation conducted by the 8th Inf Regt, 5th Div, in III CTZ from 3 to 11 October 1965. This is believed to have been the first tactical employment of Mity Mite by ARVN.

The objective area selected was the Iron Triangle which was known to contain many VC tunnel systems. The US Chemical Advisor to III Corps participated in planning the operation, and proposed the use of the Mity Mite.

The III Corps Chemical Advisor contacted

the ARVN 5th Inf Div Chemical Team Leader and coordinated the time and location for organizing and training a tunnel tracing and flushing team. On 7 October a team was organized from the Division Chemical Team as follows:

**Team Leader:**

Second Lieutenant (Div Chem Team Ldr)

**Mity Mite Operator:**

Sergeant (carries the blower)

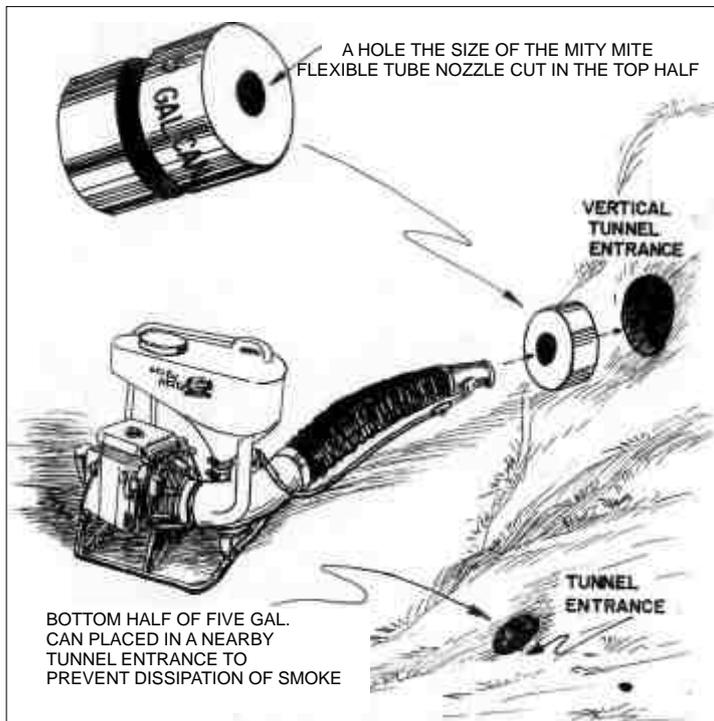
**Assistant Operator:**

Private (carries two gallons of gas, one quart of oil, tool kit and two ponchos)

**Munitions Bearers:**

3 privates (each carries three smoke pots, HC, 10 pound, M-1 and five smoke grenades, M-8, HC or M-18 colored smoke).

Training for the newly organized tunnel tracing and flushing team included operation and maintenance of the portable blower, and practical exercises in operation of the blower with smoke. The total time devoted to training was two hours. The team also prepared for the operation by cutting a five gallon can in half. A hole the size of the blower nozzle was cut in the upper half to facilitate blowing smoke into vertical entrances of tunnels. It was planned to use the lower half to block tunnel entrances (see picture).

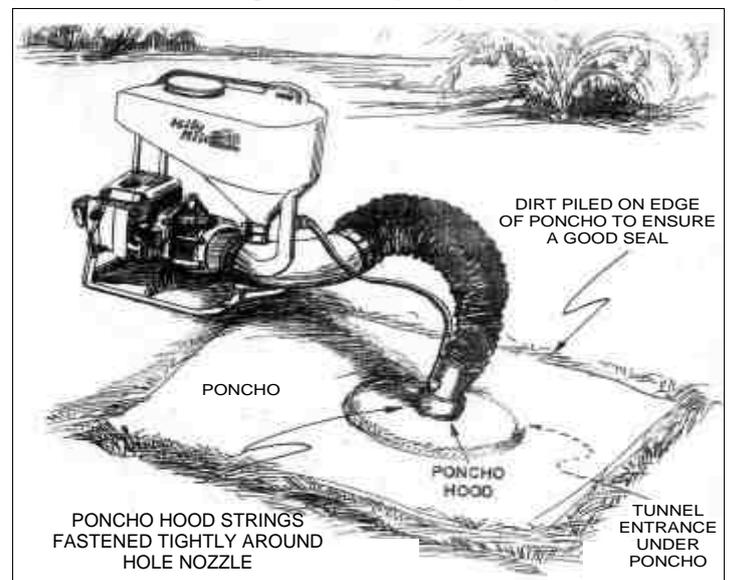


Initial plans for employment of the tunnel tracing and flushing team called for it to initially remain with the 8th Regt CP and respond to requests from the attacking battalions. However, this plan was later amended to place the team and an engineer platoon in direct support of one of the attacking battalions for each day of the operation. This method of employment would insure that the tunnel tracing and flushing team could respond

rapidly to requests, and the engineer platoon could promptly destroy the tunnel system after it was traced and flushed.

A tunnel was discovered on the first day of the search and destroy operation by the 2nd Bn, 3th Inf Regt. The area surrounding the tunnel was secured by the 2nd Bn while the tunnel tracing and flushing team went into action. The techniques which they employed were as follows:

The Mity Mite blower was placed near the tunnel entrance and a poncho was spread over the horizontal aperture. The hose nozzle was placed through the head opening of the poncho and the hood strings were fastened tightly around the hose nozzle. Earth was placed around the edges of the poncho to form a good seal (see picture).



The lower half of the five gallon can was inserted in another tunnel entrance which was a few feet away from the original entrance to prevent the smoke from dissipating before penetrating all portions of the tunnel system.

One corner of the poncho was raised and a smoke grenade was placed in the tunnel (approximately three feet away from the poncho to prevent burning it). At this time the Mity Mite blower was started. A smoke grenade was used initially so that if the tunnel was small an entire smokepot would not have been expended. Further, the 10 pound smokepot burns approximately eight minutes while the smoke grenade burns for two minutes.

2nd Battalion troops moved out in all directions (360°) from the blower while smoke munitions were continuously placed into the tunnel entrance. The troops detected smoke escaping from tunnel vents and entrances, and were on the lookout for escaping VC. However, no VC were discovered in this particular tunnel system. As vents and entrances were detected, the apertures were marked and sealed. When it was determined that all



entrances and vents of the tunnel system had been detected and the tunnel trace was apparent, further smoke munitions were unnecessary. However, the blower was left running until all smoke had been cleared from the tunnel system.

The engineers then searched through the tunnel system for possible asphyxiated VC, booby traps, weapons, equipment and supplies. Once this had been accomplished, the engineer unit set the charges and destroyed the tunnel system.

This experience with the Mity Mite blower was successful and established that the blower could be used to trace tunnel systems. It should be pointed out that, although only HO smoke was used with the blower on this operation, the use of riot control munitions employed either singly or in combination with HC smoke would be very effective in flushing VC from tunnels.

#### **LESSONS LEARNED:**

The principles of operation and employment of the Mity Mite portable blower were learned quickly and easily by members of the 5th Inf Div (ARVN) Chemical Team.

Plans for search and destroy operations using the Mity Mite team must allow sufficient time for proper tunnel tracing and flushing.

The tunnel tracing and flushing team is most

*ABOVE: The Cu Chi tunnel system was discovered during Operation Crimp, carried out by the US Army's 173rd and 3rd Brigades together with 1RAR in Cu Chi, Binh Duong Province in January 1966. During the operation, engineers of 3 Field Troop, Royal Australian Engineers, used a turbo jet blower to produce and circulate diesel mist into a section of the tunnel system, when ignited it destroyed this part of the tunnel. BELOW: Smoke emerges from a concealed tunnel entrance.*





effectively employed when attached to infantry maneuver units. If the team stays at a rear location with the headquarters or reserve unit, time is lost and security for movement to the tunnel site is limited. In addition, the team enjoys relatively good security with the infantry maneuver element.

Both smoke grenades and smokepots should be taken with the team on an operation. Smoke resources will be conserved by using a smoke grenade for initial tunnel tracing.

Extra fuel for the blower must be taken with the team because the blower's fuel tank capacity is only one quart. Determine fuel requirements by totaling the burning times of all smoke munitions (smokepot - 8 mini smoke grenade - 2 min).

The upper and lower halves of five gallon can were effective field expedients. The lower half should be used to seal any nearby tunnel entrances and prevent dissipation of the smoke, A hole the size of the Mity Mite blower nozzle should be cut in the center of the upper half. Employing this half with the blower simplified blowing smoke into vertical tunnel entrances. The poncho when tied securely around the blower nozzle was effective on entrances to tunnels.

*The Mity Mite pushed smoke through the tunnel systems in such huge volumes that it filled the tunnels (including various levels) and was forced to emerge from the ground wherever there were openings or air vents (above left). Skillfully camouflaged tunnel entrances (above right), which were normally almost impossible to detect, could be revealed by the Mity Mite.*

The Vietnamese soldier is quite capable of carrying the 25 pound blower for extended operations. Further, the desirable smoke munitions load for the ARVN munitions bearer is three smoketpots and five smoke grenades.

The Mity Mite proved to be effective on this particular operation.

**For the Commanders**

**Captain Howard D, Schulze  
AGC As3t AG**

# 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 6900, or by mail to Graeme Gartside, 9 Park Street Mt Gambier SA 5290 or by email: [ggart@internode.on.net](mailto:ggart@internode.on.net)

## LISTS ARE NOW ALPHABETICAL



### 3 Field Troop (1965-66)

Peter Ash 02 6771 4623  
Ian Biddolph 02 4472 9434  
Al an Christie 07 5494 6628  
Brian Cleary 07 5500 6363  
Al Ian S Col eman 07 4661 1924  
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 Mal lard 08 9377 4560  
Keith Mills 07 4770 7267  
Warren Murray 03 5728 3341  
Bernie Pol lard 08 9248 3178  
Ross Thorburn 0408413204  
Al an Tugwell 08 8552 5229  
Bill Unmeopa 08 9300 5561  
Snow Wil son 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 Cazey 07 3710 8102  
Al Ian S Col eman 07 4661 1924  
Graeme Cook 02 4390 5159  
Mick George 02 6882 8574  
Al an Hammond 0423491091  
Cul Hart 02 4392 0912  
Neil Innes MM 02 9875 2962  
Ken Jolley 02 6624 4066  
Barry Kelly 07 4661 2898  
Axel Kraft 08 9572 9597  
Peter McTiernan 02 6557 5211  
Gavin Menzies 02 6584 7257  
John Ol sen 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 Baggaley 07 5433 0482  
Reg Bament 02 6948 2524

Bruce Bevan 02 9580 3327  
Neville Bartels 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  
Mike McCallum 02 6288 5113  
John Neal 02 9982 6694  
Clive Pearsall 03 9459 4470  
Al an Rantal I 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  
Albert Eyssens 03 5944 3127  
Ken Ford 02 6645 2738  
Max Goiser 02 9792 1765  
Peter Hollis 02 6581 5401  
George Hul se 07 3399 7659  
Robert Laird 03 6356 1748  
Brian Lamb 02 6059 6947  
Kent Luttrell 0408387641  
Kerry McCormick 03 6344 5291  
Richard Reilly 02 6262 7374  
Tom Smith 07 5594 4659  
Col in Spies 07 4743 4676  
Garry Von Stanke 08 8725 5648  
Cliff Truelove 02 6495 7844  
Ken Wheatley 07 4774 0045  
Bob Wool ey 03 6264 1485  
David Wright 03 9435 4131

### 1 Troop (1969-70)

Kevin Atkinson 08 9041 1571  
Larry Batze 07 4033 2025  
Al Ian S Col eman 07 4661 1924  
Paul Cook 02 4946 5321  
Garry Degering 03 9796 0136  
John Fel ton 07 4661 8679  
Graeme Fletcher 0408822489  
Brian Forbes 0412047937  
P. "Guts" Geisel 07 4092 1735  
Terry Gleeson 03 5623 2886  
Trevor Kelly 08 9538 1184  
Des McKenzie 07 5448 3400  
Doug Myers 0421904562  
Les Slater 08 9361 0603  
Max Slater 0412 772 849  
Vic Smith 02 4339 2181  
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 Cambel I 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 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 (1966-1967)

Richard Beck 07 3208 5808  
David Buring 02 6254 6689  
Ron Cain 02 6586 1412  
Graeme Carey 02 6056 0997  
Terry Gribbin 03 9722 9717  
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. Ball antyne 08 8298 2515  
John Benningfield 07 4778 4473  
Peter Bennett 0418915550  
Dennis Burge 08 8281 2270  
Kenneth Butler 0414897889  
Harry Cool ing 07 4778 2013  
Garry Cosgrove 02 4845 5153  
Peter Fontanini 0438 881 940  
Rol and Gloss 02 6367 5324  
John Gollfinch 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 Kil ey 02 4228 4068  
David Kit ley 02 4735 4991  
Robert Knowles 08 9535 6416  
Bernard Ladyman 08 9795 7900

Warren McBurnie 02 6687 7030  
Stephen McHenry 08 9344 6939  
Eric McKerrow (Sil ent number)  
Dave McNair 08 9725 2821  
David Matul ik 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  
Robert Russell 03 5975 5329  
Brian Sheehan 03 9336 3137  
James Smith 0413 669 087  
John Wil lis 03 9363 7878  
"Snow" Wil son 08 9752 2935

### 2 Troop (1968-1969)

Janis Atrons +371 2944 6521  
(This is Janis's mobile in Latvia)  
Bob Austin 02 6644 9237  
Ross Bachmann 07 5495 1443



Don Beale 02 6971 2424  
Richard Branch 07 4947 1044  
Harold Bromley 03 9726 8625  
Peter Brunton 03 5156 5531  
Jim Castles 02 9639 2941  
Harry Claassen 07 3273 6701  
Peter Clayton 0418 823 266  
Rod Crane 08 9530 3083  
John Douglas 0433747401  
Robert Earl 02 4990 3601  
John Gil more 08 9795 6847  
Stan Gol ubenko 03 9361 2721  
Paul Grills 07 4162 5235  
Geoff Handley 03 5593 1791  
Ross Hansen 07 3202 7540  
Wayne Hynson 03 5245 6898  
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  
Col in Norris 02 4627 1180  
Terry O'Donnell 03 5334 3443  
Rod Palmer 0417672643  
Ted Podlich 07 3862 9002  
Daryl Porteous 07 4973 7663  
Mick Weston 07 5444 3307  
Ray (Phil I ip) 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 El bourne 02 4868 1493  
Grumpy Foster 07 4041 2321  
Graeme Gartside 08 8725 6900  
Doug George 03 9889 2116  
Greg Gough 0417 911 173  
Brad Hannaford 08 8389 2217  
John Hopman 02 9398 5258  
Chris Koul ouris 02 4952 6341  
Bill I Lamb 0418 424 208  
Mick Loughlin 07 4060 3039  
Mick Lee 07 5543 5001  
Marty McGrath 02 6059 1204  
Jim Marett 03 9824 4967  
Bob O'tery 03 5199 2516  
Bevan Percival 07 5537 1577  
Pedro Piromanski 08 9306 8169  
Ian Pitt 03 5349 2018  
Jack Power 07 4955 3761  
Col in Redacliff 02 9673 0597  
John Ronaldson New Zealand  
Brian Scott 07 3204 5691  
Peter Scott (219) 02 4341 3782  
"Roo Dog" Scott 07 5535 6290  
Les Shelley 07 3264 4041  
Jimmy Shugg 08 9776 1471

Bob Smith 07 5456 1194  
Mick Van Poeteren 03 9435 0383  
Gerry Wal lbridge 03 9803 4223  
Dennis Wil son 08 8892 2671  
Stephen Wil son 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" Col lins 08 8262 6107  
Ron Cook 03 8787 7377  
Jock Courts 08 9279 1946  
Bill I 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 0406722660  
Des Evans 07 4128 2390  
Bruce Fenwick 02 4977 3530  
Ray Ful ton 03 6288 1176  
Ziggy Gnot 0418 885 830  
Bob Hambl yn 08 8672 3930  
Cec Harris 02 6629 3373  
Paddy Healy 02 4930 7541  
Kevin Hodge 08 8322 2619  
Paul Jones 02 6231 5963  
Jim Kel ton 02 6948 3927  
Chris Kool en 03 5237 1147  
Kevin Lappin 07 3273 8614  
Gary McCl intock 07 4788 0123  
Peter McCol e 03 5155 9368  
Bob McGINN 07 5426 1597  
Ian McLean 02 6286 3928  
Jeff Maddock 03 5442 2875  
Leon Madel ey 07 5497 1038  
Butch Marsden 08 9921 6183  
Bill I Marshal l 07 5545 0389  
Rod O'Regan 02 6550 6068  
Graeme Penge l y 0407 138 124  
Des Pol den 03 6223 3830  
Keith Ramsay 02 6585 6503  
Mick Rasmussen 0428 790 645  
Ron Reid 0427 461 297  
Gary Sangster 0409 522 099  
John Scanlan 0488 132 903  
Peter Schreiber 02 6569 3390  
Garry Shoemark 02 6546 6778  
Al ex Skowronski 0407954570  
John Smith 0400032502  
Roy Sojan 08 9926 1235  
John Stonehouse 08 9653 1895  
Peter Swanson 0401392617  
John Tick 04 3898 7262  
Harry Eustace 07 5521 0856  
Steve Wal ton 07 3261 9446  
Terry Wake 07 4786 2625  
Dave Young 02 4283 3439

### 3 Troop (1966-67)

Wil Fred 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 Col eman 03 5342 0941  
Jim Dowson 03 5662 3291  
Barry Gilbert 03 5023 6657  
John Hoskin 08 8270 3002  
Jack Lawson 0429 798 673  
Peter MacDonal d 08 9448 5418  
Barrie Morgan 0437861945  
Viv Morgan 02 9331 3252  
Michael O'Hearn 02 4932 7509  
Gary Pohl ner 0427172900  
Tom Simons 03 6344 6058  
Kevin Shugg 0411144500  
Frank Sweeney 07 3882 6025  
Brian Thomson 0428551368  
Al an Tugwell 08 8552 5229  
Vic Underwood 0429 907 989  
Murray Wal ker 08 9332 6410  
Gl enn Weise 0427 741 170  
Mick Woodhams 08 9459 0130  
Bob Yewen 07 5532 4560  
Ken Young 02 9602 5204

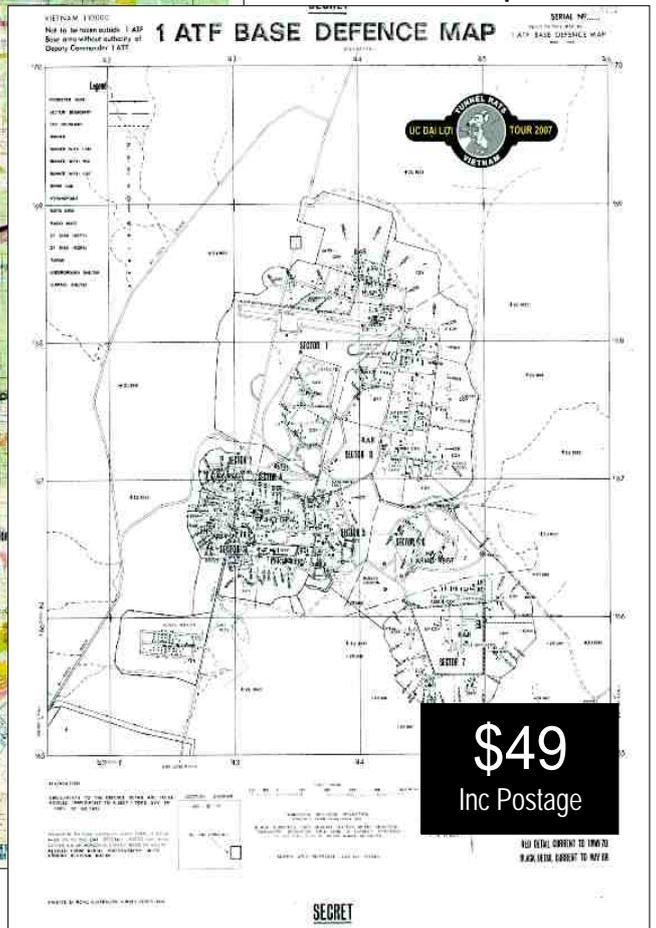
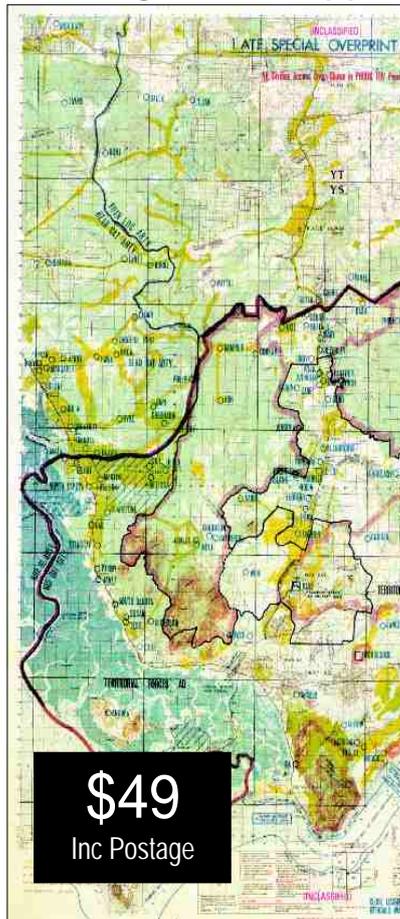
# SHAMELESS FUND RAISING EFFORT

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
  - Neil Garrett 03 5798 1522
  - Brian Glyde 02 4455 7404
  - Peter Gray 02 4285 8877
  - John Holis 02 6662 6660
  - "Sam" Houston 07 5495 5480
  - Phil Lamb 08 8564 2001
  - Ian Lauder 08 9419 5375
  - John Murphy 08 9493 3771
  - John Nulty 02 6931 1884
  - Ted O'Malley 07 4054 3472
  - Barry Parnell 07 4947 1976
  - Bob Pritchard 07 4779 0608
  - Greg Roberts 03 5941 2269
  - Don Shiel ds 08 8297 8619
  - Ray Vanderheiden 02 4776 1373
  - Ray (Phil I 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 I 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 (Sil ent No.)
  - Gary Mil I er MM 07 5495 5647
  - "Jacko" Mil I er 03 6267 4411
  - Chris Mul I er 07 4653 0457
  - Danny Mul vany 08 9356 6890
  - Vin Neal e 03 9786 1549
  - Peter Phil I ips 0429362935
  - G. Rentmeester 03 9735 5236
  - Gordon Temby 08 9757 2016
  - Peter Thorp MID 02 6288 0008
  - "Curly" Tuttl eby 08 8952 6598
  - Hank Veenhuizen 0407 487 167
  - "Wonzer" White 02 9833 0580

Australian area of Ops map showing all fire support bases

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



- Three Troop (1970-71)
- Steve Armbrust 07 5545 1073
  - Errol Armitage 0427 855 482
  - Geoff Ansel I 0448 013 712
  - Mike Barnett 02 9869 7132
  - John Beningfiel d 07 4778 4473
  - Darryl I Binns 08 8988 5827
  - Mal Botfiel d 02 9872 2594
  - Ian Campbel I 03 9870 0313
  - Bob Cl are 03 5439 5532
  - Graeme Cl arke 07 4128 4660
  - Ted Cl arke 03 5682 2584
  - Al I an J Col eman 02 9838 4848
  - Steve Col I ett 08 9371 0075
  - John Davey 07 3378 4316
  - Chris Ell is 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 McL eay 03 5386 1122
  - Carl o Mikkel sen New Zeal and 0064 9 4797857
- Ben Passarel I i 02 9610 3949
- Robert Reed 07 3351 4440
  - Paul Scott 02 6656 0730
  - Les Shel I ey 07 3264 4041
  - John Steen 0419772375
  - 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

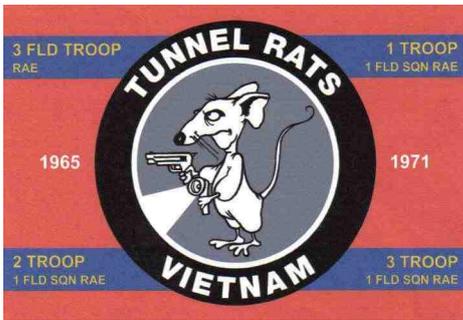
## Huge historic maps

(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	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nui Dat Defence plan map	
<b>NAME:</b>	
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	
<b>POST CODE:</b>	
<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	
The cost is \$ (Please fill in the amount)	
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="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Amex	
<b>Card Number:</b>	
<b>Name on card:</b>	<b>Expiry Date:</b>
Post to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak Victoria 3142	



### Who can join?

The Association was formed for all who served with one of the Royal Australian Engineer Field Troops in Vietnam. 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 Squadron.



A superb "Tunnel Rats" membership card is provided for Members, detailing your name, Troop and service in Vietnam.

### 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, bomb disposal and demolition.



The Tunnel Rats paid a huge price in casualties during this service - with an average of over 30% of us being either killed or wounded during the six years of the war. Our association was formed to recognise and honour that service and those lost comrades.

By wrongly claiming Tunnel Rat status, some men from non-field Troops had 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 unique service would not be properly recognised. 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 Association Inc.

43 Heyington Place  
Toorak Vic 3142

Ph: 03-9824 4967(H)

Ph; 03-9690 7888 (W)

Mobile 0403041962

[tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au)

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

## Join now - it's only \$50

NAME:	SERVICE NUMBER	
ADDRESS:	POST CODE	
PHONE:	MOBILE:	
EMAIL:		
Please tick unit/s served with and fill in dates of service in Vietnam		
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 FIELD TROOP	FROM	TILL
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 TROOP 1 FLD SQN	FROM	TILL
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 TROOP 1 FLD SQN	FROM	TILL
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 TROOP 1 FLD SQN	FROM	TILL
The cost is \$50. 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="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card		
Card number		
Name on card		Expiry Date
Signature:		
POST TO:	VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOC 43 HEYINGTON PLACE TOORAK VIC 3142	

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



**1 Field Squadron Group  
Royal Australian Engineers Qld Inc.  
26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> August 2011**



Booking form  
for Tunnel Rats

**2011 FAMILY REUNION REGISTRATION**

**Personal Details**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please allocate my booking to a Tunnel Rats table**

**'Nickname' or**

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Partners Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Required for ID Tags at Reunion) (Required for ID Tags at Reunion)

Other guests attending - Number ( ) Preferred guests names: \_\_\_\_\_  
*It is preferred by the Executive Committee that all Members Guests are over the age of 18 years.*

**Cost of Events**

**Cost: \$125.00 per person.**

Covers all events, Friday Meet and Greet, including Saturday Memorial Service and Saturday Evening Family Reunion Banquet and Sunday Luncheon at 'Four Seasons Restaurant'

**Payment Details**

**Please accept my Registration for:**

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:  Cheque.  Money Order.  Direct Deposit into account.

When making a Direct Deposit, ensure you mark it 'Reunion' and then you're 'Family Name'

Heritage Building Society: **BSB 638-070. Account No: 10045570.**

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques, money orders payable to: **1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Qld Inc.**  
**All functions are asked to be pre-paid by end of July 2011**

(This is for the huge catering event that goes on behind the scenes;  
**'No Late Numbers will be taken—DEFINITELY.'**)

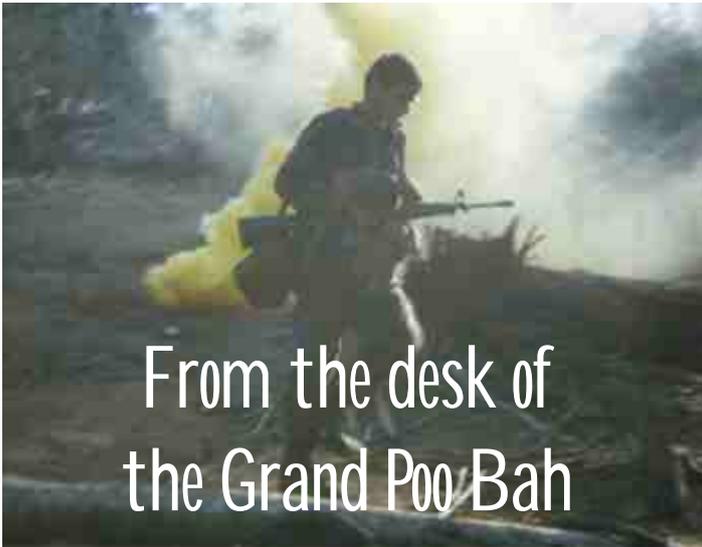
**Please send this Registration Form to:**  
**2011 Reunion Treasurer**  
**1 FD Sqn Gp RAE Qld Inc.**  
**P O Box 703. WARWICK. QLD. 4370.**  
**e-mail: onesqn.sappers@bigpond.com**

**DONATION FORM FOR NEXT- OF- KIN FUND**

AMOUNT: ..... Receipt required Yes   
No

NAME .....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION



## From the desk of the Grand Poo Bah

### Reunion together with 1Fld Sqn Group Qld

Originally the Tunnel Rats Association planned to organise our own reunion on the Gold Coast to coincide with the 1Fld Sqn Group Qld reunion so we could attend their main dinner. To support our 1Fld Sqn Group Qld comrades we've decided to simply join them in their reunion. We have however had tables at the main dinner allocated to the Tunnel Rats so we can all sit together - an important aspect of these gatherings. As we get closer to the event we intend to narrow down the table allocations to individual Troops. The booking form for the 1Fld Sqn Group Qld reunion is on the page opposite, and is already marked to indicate that your booking be allocated to a Tunnel Rats table. If time permits we may organise a Tunnel Rats lunch or dinner during the event, and of course there will be ample opportunities to sink a few beers and tell war stories with your mates in the various bars at the venue. The event runs over 26, 27 and 28 August this year. Accommodation is available at Twin Towns Services Club and Outrigger Twin Towns Resort. Special discount rates have been set for the reunion. For bookings contact Ms. Erica Selinger on 07-5506 6281 and mention your booking is for the 1Fld Sqn Group Reunion. If you wish to find your own alternative accommodation, contact the Tweed Tourism people on free call 1800 674 414 or check out their website: [www.tweedtourism.com.au](http://www.tweedtourism.com.au)

### "You're late again you slack Sapper"

Yep, you guessed it, we're late again with this issue of Holdfast - but it is a ripper issue, and it's our biggest issue yet at 44 pages.

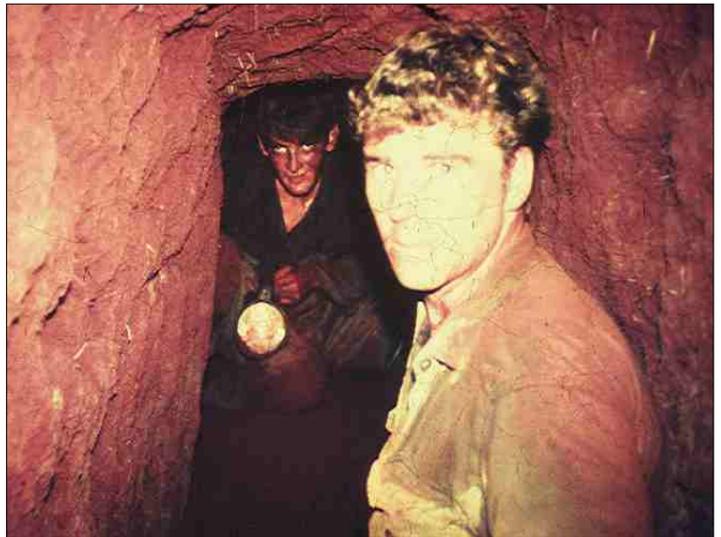
### Are you on the list?

Each issue we publish a list of our members names along with a contact phone number. This has proved to be a phenomenal aid in helping us get

together with old mates. We know the list is not complete, so please let us know if you are not on it. At the moment our "Master of the list" Graeme Gartside is touring Vietnam, so send me your details for the list and we'll ensure you're included in the next issue. Send by email, post or phone - my contact details are on page 41.

### Welcome home Sappers

The Sappers of 2CER who were supporting 6RAR in Afghanistan Marched through Brisbane on, 20th November 2010 and our Association was on the streets with our banner to thank them and welcome them home. We also gathered with them for drinks afterwards at their Enoggera Base. It was a chance for us to show these men how proud we are of them and how thankful we are for their service.



### Vietnam Trip

Our big return to Vietnam trip shared with current serving Combat Engineers is shaping up to be a huge success. We already have an amazing 75 bookings, from Tunnel Rats, their sons, current serving Sappers, other Vietnam Veterans, and even a few "worthless civilians". We have an exciting trip planned, and there is still time to book - but hurry. We'll be visiting two tunnel systems (Cu Chi and Long Phuoc) plus the former enemy caves in the Long Hai Mountains. Again, by working through local travel organisations in Vietnam we've kept the costs right down. This has also enabled us to arrange very special meetings with former VC who actually served in the areas where we operated. Many who went on our trip back in 2007 still describe it as "the trip of a lifetime". This one promises to be even better.

*Sapper Jim Marett  
2 Troop 1 Field Squadron  
Vietnam 1969 - 1970*

# SHAMELESS FUND RAISING EFFORT

ALL PROFITS GO TO THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION

## Tunnel Rat's Woolen "Bomber" Jackets

Personalised with the Troop/s you served with and your date/s of service. Superbly made, fully lined, and beautifully embroidered with the Tunnel Rat's logo plus your personal details of service. These are tailored in "generous" sizes, so order your normal size, not one size up.



Jackets are in deep navy blue only  
Tunnel Rats logo is black, grey and white  
Personalised lettering is in red

Only  
**\$100**  
Plus  
Postage  
Order now!  
Don't send  
money, we'll be  
delivering it  
to you COD

NAME:	SERVICE NUMBER	
ADDRESS:	POST CODE	
PHONE:	MOBILE:	
EMAIL:		
SIZE (Please Tick):	<input type="checkbox"/> sml <input type="checkbox"/> med <input type="checkbox"/> lge <input type="checkbox"/> X-lge <input type="checkbox"/> XX-lge <input type="checkbox"/> XXX-lge	
PLEASE TICK AND FILL IN DATE DETAILS OF UNIT/S SERVED WITH IN VIETNAM		
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 FIELD TROOP	FROM	TILL
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 TROOP 1 FLD SQN	FROM	TILL
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 TROOP 1 FLD SQN	FROM	TILL
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 TROOP 1 FLD SQN	FROM	TILL
Don't send any money! Simply fill in the form above and post it to the address below. The jacket will be delivered COD to your local Post Office, who will advise you when the jacket arrives. You then pay the Post Office \$100 plus postage.		
POST TO:	VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOC 43 HEYINGTON PLACE TOORAK VIC 3142	