



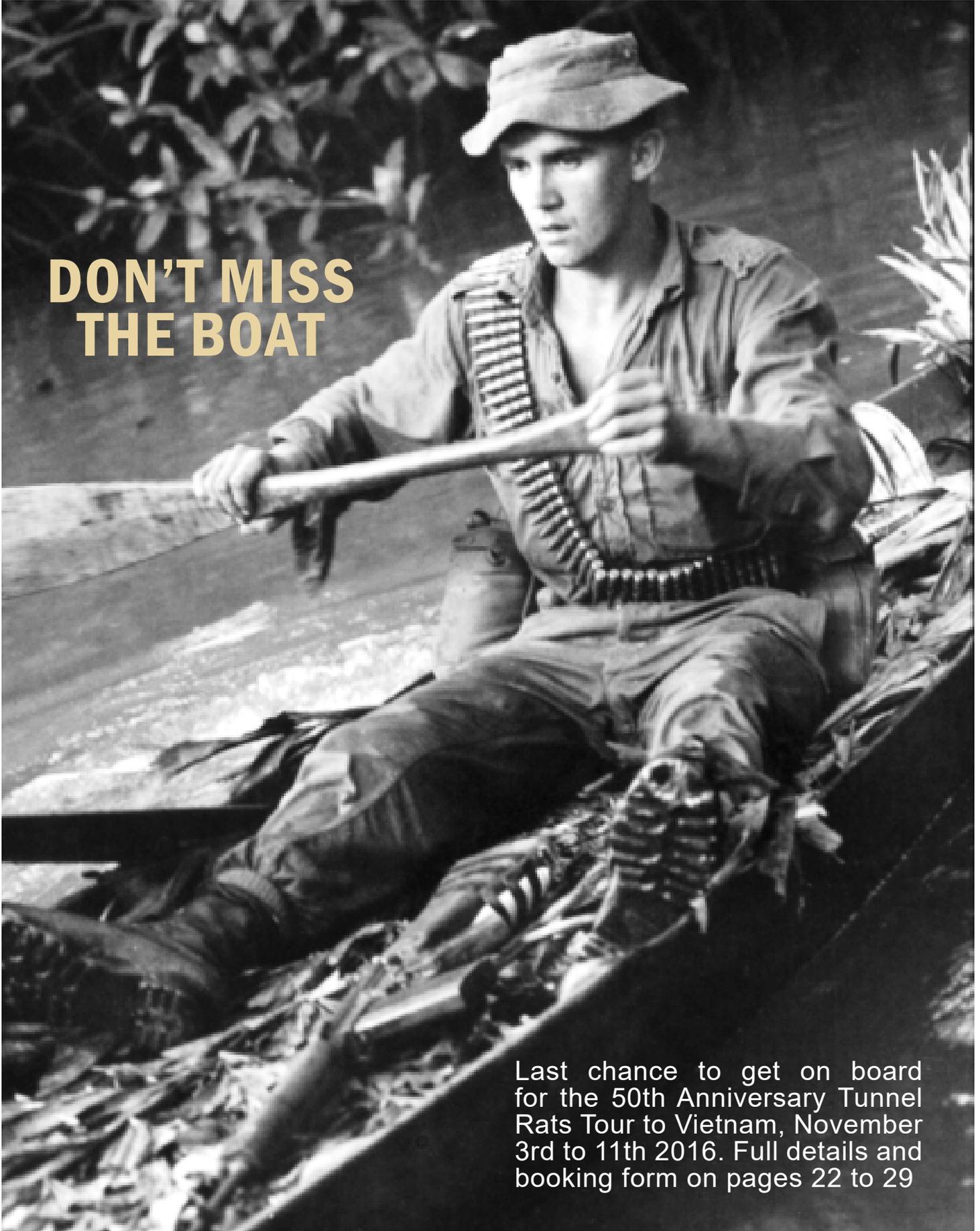
HOLDFAST

AUGUST 2016 - Number 29

www.tunnelrats.com.au

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION INC.

**DON'T MISS
THE BOAT**



Last chance to get on board for the 50th Anniversary Tunnel Rats Tour to Vietnam, November 3rd to 11th 2016. Full details and booking form on pages 22 to 29

Nostalgia Pages



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

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Holdfast Magazine

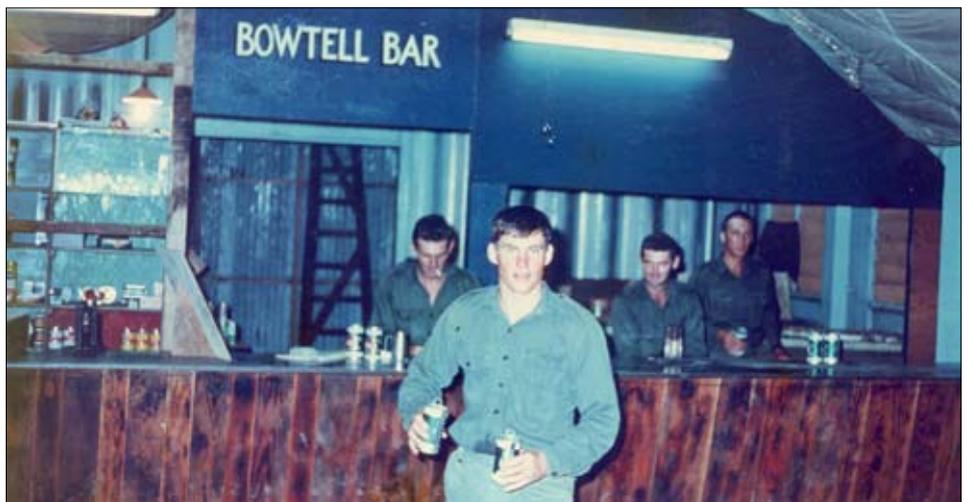
Written and edited by Jim Marett and published quarterly by the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association
 43 Heyington Place
 Toorak Vic 3142
 Tel: 03-9824 4967
 Mobile: 0403 041 962
 tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au
 www.tunnelrats.com.au

The terrible toll on 1 Troop's Tunnel Rats



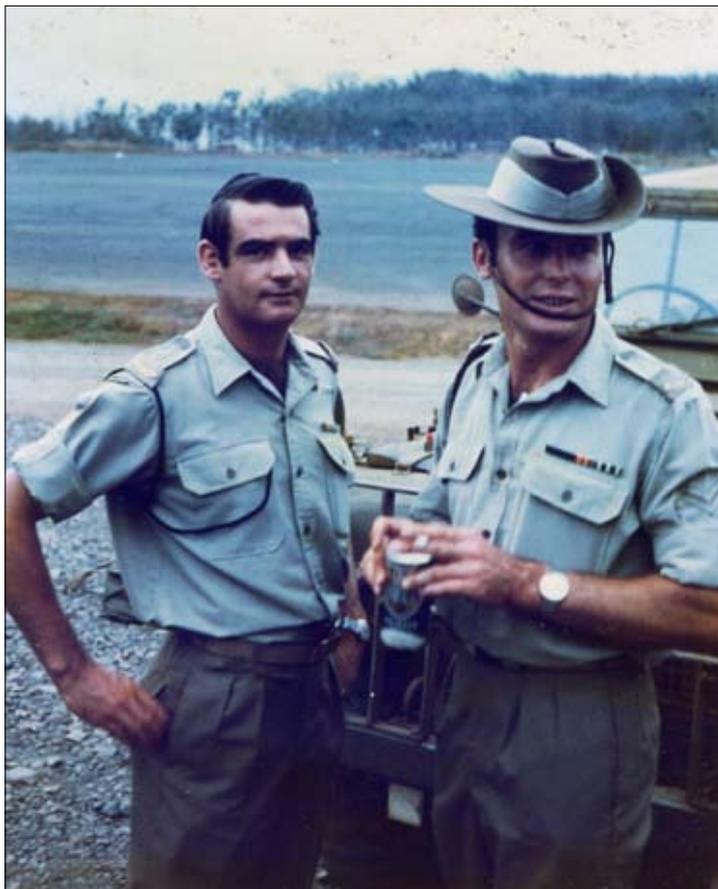
A Squadron Honour Roll was in place at 1FD SQN HQ at Nui Dat, but the Tunnel Rats of 1 Troop respectfully erected an Honour Roll (above) in their recreation hut to specifically honour the men from their Troop killed in action in Vietnam. The list of 18 names reveals how 1 Troop alone suffered 50% of the total of 36 Tunnel Rats KIA in Vietnam. The initial Troop of Tunnel Rats in Vietnam in 1965/66 was 3FD TP under CAPT Sandy MacGregor which suffered one KIA in their 12 month tour. For the rest of the War there were three Troops of Tunnel Rats in country at the one time (1 Troop, 2 Troop and 3 Troop) and they suffered 35 men KIA. 18 of these KIA were from 1 Troop and the remaining 17 were shared between 2 Troop and 3 Troop. There is no logical explanation for this highly disproportionate number, but for the men of 1 Troop this must have added intensely to the pressure they were already operating under in our unique role.

“Your shout Ted”



At just 15 cents per can, nobody complained about whose shout it was. At the 1 Field Squadron Boozer at Nui Dat, Tunnel Rat Ted O'Malley heads back to the 3TP table armed with a couple of coldies. Beers got even cheaper on “5 Cent Nights” when undrinkable beers like Courage, Four X and some US brands were sold off below cost to get rid of them.

“We’re out of here!”



At last that glorious day is here - when the big Silver Bird of Freedom is going to swoop down, pick you up and take you home to the real world. Tunnel Rats Barry Gilbert (left) and Les Colmer, both of 3TP wait at Luscombe Field, Nui Dat for the first leg of the journey, a short hop to Saigon on an RAAF Caribou. From there they'll board a Qantas jet home. Barry seems to be hoping nobody will notice he has no slouch hat, having probably sold it to an American for a small fortune.

One of life's great pleasures



It doesn't get any better than this - you're back from an operation out bush, now safe and sound at Nui Dat base camp and sharing a few ales with your Troop mates. From left to right, Geoff Neenan, Col Campbell and Frank Sweeney, all Tunnel Rats with 3 Troop 1967/68.

“What is it mate?”



These two Tunne Rats are searching for mines in a suspect section of a track somewhere in Phuoc Tuy Province. We know they are from 1 Troop and the era is 1970/71, but can anyone help us identify the two lads?

“Listen up - this is important”



Once mines became the major cause of Australian casualties in Vietnam in 1969, training was introduced on how to react in a mine incident. Carried out by Tunnel Rats, the training was very realistic and used live explosives for effect. The training session above is being carried out by 1 Troop for one of the Infantry platoons they worked with regularly.

What's in a name?



The name of the “69” steam bath and massage joint in Vung Tau had nothing to do with the street number of the premises. Such unsubtle signage was just one of the many moments of enlightenment innocent Aussie lads went through on their first trip to Vung Tau. Visits to the town were a rare occasion for the Tunnel Rats, usually taking place when granted a few days leave after a major operation out bush. It was a case of jumping out of one minefield and into another.

The last post



During the war, those judged to be traitors by the Government of South Vietnam could expect to face the firing squad within hours of their case being heard. This four post execution facility was in open view to the public on one of the main roads leading down to the river in Saigon. Tunnel Rats from 1FD SQN rarely got to Saigon, but small groups did visit a few times a year for two weeks of Embassy Guard duty. Several of these lads remember walking past this gruesome place, but never when it was “in use”.

Meet and greet at Tan Son Nhut



Unusually, Tunnel Rat Don Stringer (1TP 70/71) has a photo of the Qantas plane (above left) he arrived in Vietnam on as it approached Saigon’s Tan Son Nhut airport terminal. Don’s brother Noel took the photo as he was already serving in Vietnam, with Detachment 30 Terminal Squadron based at Saigon’s airport. Apart from the chance to see his brother, the meeting no doubt helped Don pass the time during the inevitable long wait in the searing sun for the flight to Nui Dat. Above right, Don is seen on his arrival day, 24 September 1970 with his brother Noel.

Just a quiet beer with dinner



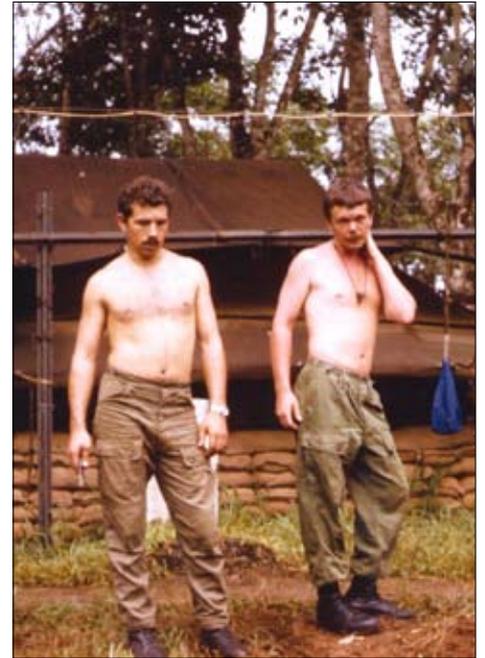
When you were back in base camp after operations, not only was the boozier open every afternoon, but the Mess provided three hot meals a day as well. Many Sappers combined both pleasures by bringing their dinner from the Mess to the boozier. Above, three Tunnel Rats from 3 TP, Mal Payne, Kevin Simper and Tug Patterson sip on a few ales while they enjoy the culinary expertise of the 1 Field Squadron cook.

Mad Hatters Party



These three Tunnel Rats are enjoying a 2 Troop BBQ at Nui Dat on 18 October 1969. From left to right: Sappers Jim Marett, 'Jock' McMullen and Bob Ottery. The lads are sporting headgear they've begged, borrowed or stolen from U.S. comrades while on leave in Vung Tau. Troop BBQs within 1 Field Squadron were legendary for the great food the SQN cooks scrounged up for the events, and for the insane amounts of beer consumed.

Soaking up rays



Sappers Harry Hurst (left) and Mick Van Poeteren, both of 2 Troop are catching a little sun at Nui Dat base after being out bush on operations with 5RAR. Harry was later killed in action in a mine incident on 29 April 1970 while attached to a MAT team. The team was tasked with training Vietnamese (ARVN) troops in a camp near the village of Binh Ba.

Heading south soon



In Haiphong North Vietnam in July 1967 new recruits for the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) undergo physical examinations before joining up. From a corps of around 35,000 men in 1950, the NVA grew to over half a million men by the mid-'70s, a force the U.S. military conceded was one of the finest in the world.

Troublesome 2 Troop trio turn out tops



By the demeanor of these three 2TP Tunnel Rats, this photo was likely taken at one of the notorious Troop BBQs held between operations. Above, from left to right we see; SPR Gary Sangster, SPR Rodney O'Regan and SGT Bevan Percival. Bevan went on to be RSM at SME (see photo right, of Bevan handing the baton over to Bob Smith). Rodney went back to serving with the NSW Police Force where he was decorated for bravery following a major shooting incident. And Gary continued to be a cool dude smoking expensive Cuban cigars.



Word Power



The Americans certainly had a way with words in Vietnam. The above U.S. unit sign is a prime example of their unique sense of humour.

Rough landing in Vungers



The pilot of this South Vietnamese spotter plane must have been really keen to visit his favourite bar in Vung Tau. A street landing between the trees and powerlines was certainly a risky option. Actually this was a crash landing in late 1973, after US and Australian Troops had pulled out. The quality of maintenance on aircraft had declined dramatically, and it was engine failure which forced this plane to attempt a landing on a Vung Tau roadway.

A bridge over troubled waters



In August 1969 the Viet Cong pulled off a potentially major blow to Australian operations by destroying the bridge over the Dinh Rach-Hoa River on the main route between the Task Force base at Nui Dat and the logistical supplies base at Vung Tau. The bridge had been heavily guarded, but the Viet Cong Sappers used the outgoing tide to float packs of explosives up to the bridge. A simple timing device set the charge off. Fortunately 17 Construction Squadron and US Engineers from Long Binh came to the rescue, building a temporary pontoon bridge within 32 hours. The Sappers look proudly on as the first traffic makes its way across the replacement bridge.

Just a wakey to go



His Army dress polyester shirt is washed and hanging behind him, and from that steely determined look in his eyes, Tunnel Rat Mick O'Hearn (3TP 67/68) must be heading home tomorrow morning after his tour of duty in Vietnam. There was nothing like the thought of going home to focus you on ensuring no detail was overlooked in getting processed, packed and onto that plane on time.

The art (and fun) of blowing up bunkers



Tunnel Rat Don Stringer (1TP 70/71) emerges from an enemy bunker after setting it up for demolition. The string of white Det Cord seen running above Don's head indicates this is a multi-bunker system and all of the bunkers are being set up and connected to one main ring charge. Boxes of C4 explosives can be seen to the left in the background. These would have been flown in by helicopter once the Tunnel Rats had estimated how much 'Bang' they needed to effectively destroy the bunker system.

Four of our Sappers fell at this little known battle



LCPL John Garrett



SPR Allan Pattison



SPR David Steen



SSGT Colin McLaughlin

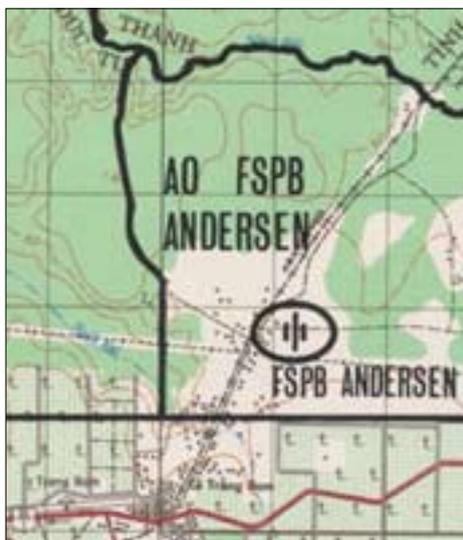
This is a call for information about 1 Field Sqn RAE participation at Fire Support Base Andersen during Operation Coburg, January - March 1968

One of the objectives of our Association is to record the often untold stories of Army combat engineers on active service, stories that often 'fell through the cracks' of sometimes infantry oriented reporting and publishing.

Much is written and repeated in the media about landmark battles such as Long Tan, Binh Ba and Hammersley, together with fighting at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral.

Little attention or media coverage is however given to another 1 ATF landmark battle, that at Fire Support Base Andersen during the Tet Offensive of 1968 as part of Operation Coburg between 24 January and 1 March, near Xa Trang Bom in Bien Hoa Province.

This was no minor skirmish but a full scale NVA and VC assault. The fighting cost the Australians 17 killed and 61 wounded, while allied casualties included two New Zealanders and one American killed, and eight New Zealanders and six Americans wounded. NVA and VC casualties included at least 145 killed, 110 wounded and 5 captured, with many more removed from the battlefield.



Seven Tunnel Rats from 3 Troop were amongst the casualties: SSGT Colin McLaughlin, LCPL John Garrett, SPR Allan Pattison and SPR David Steen were KIA, and the three wounded are thought to be SPRs RN Creek, DM Lawson and LR Stutley. The sappers had been deployed outside the FSB Andersen perimeter on an overnight standing patrol where they harboured up at a listening post towards the town of Trang Bom. It is reported that also part this standing patrol were Sappers Vince Tobin and Geoff Coombs who were subsequently KIA in mine incidents in the Long Hai Mountains.

Call for information

Wikipedia provides a de-

scription of Operation Coburg and lists 1ATF Units involved as Infantry, Armour and Artillery. 1 Field Sqn RAE is not listed. This type of omission needs to be corrected and the role of Engineers at Andersen needs to be published, not only to honour all of the brave sappers who were there, but also to pass a proper detailed account of their service into the history of the Australian Army and our great Corps, the Royal Australian Engineers.

So, if you were at FSB Andersen or have knowledge or written material about the action (for example you may have been in Headquarters), please contact us. The material is being collected by Peter Scott (Roo Dog) 2 Troop 69-70, who is keen to hear accounts from as many 3 Troop and other FSB Andersen veterans as possible.

The collected information will be published in the Holdfast Newsletter and may form the basis for an article submitted by our Association to national newspapers at a suitable time.

Peter Scott can be contacted by email at holdfast279@yahoo.com.au or by phone on 0400 799 577 (9am to 5 pm).

A family pilgrimage to Vietnam to honour one of our fallen Sappers



Closure after all these years

By Peter Smillie

I am about to embark on a journey that was organised by my daughter Lucinda and her partner Paul, with help from Jim Marett, President of the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association and Mr Ha, the tour operator in Vietnam. Our aim in heading to Vietnam is to lay a wreath for my brother Sapper Ronald George Smillie who was killed in a mine incident near the Dinh Co Monastery in the Long Hai Hills on 23 July 1969.

So here I am sitting at Melbourne Airport looking at a jet plane that has Vietnam Airlines plastered all over it. An announcement has just been made that passengers are now boarding.

The hairs on the back of my neck start to stand up as I board the aircraft that is about to take me to a foreign land full of foreign people that I have carried a hatred for spanning almost 48 years, ever since my

Sapper Ron Smillie of 1 Troop 1 Field Squadron 1968 - 1969 was killed in action in a mine incident near the Dinh Co Monastery on 23 July 1969. A heart-wrenching but healing visit to Vietnam was made in Ron's footsteps by his brother Peter and niece Lucinda.



brother was killed in action in 1969.

The first reality check is about to hit me. After finding my seat I start to look around at the people on this flight, only to be met with warm friendly greetings - waves and nods of acknowledgment from the very people I have held a grudge against for so long. Well, I have 9 hours of flying time ahead of me, and I've got a lot to think about.

After landing in Ho Chi Minh City I made my way out to the front of the airport only to be met by a Vietnamese fellow called Wombat. It turns out Wombat is to be our tour guide for the next couple of days as we visit the various key areas and sites.

Our first stop was at a flower shop in Phuoc Le to

pick up a wreath for Ron. We then headed to the village of Binh Ba, visiting a war memorial there commemorating the VC and NVA killed in a major battle in and around the village in early June 1969. From there we headed to Nui Dat, having a look around the old base camp before visiting the area of the base camp which was the HQ of 1 Field Squadron during the War. Ron served with 1 Troop of this unit. It is in this Squadron HQ area that an important ceremonial rock still sits, as it did during the War.

It was hard enough when we picked up the wreath for Ron, but this rock area tore me to bits knowing what this rock means and why it's here and also knowing that I'm walking over ground that I know my brother would have walked on and probably even walking in some of his footsteps. Emotional doesn't even begin to describe it. From here we went out to the Long Tan Cross and then on down to Tam Phuoc and the Monastery, the site where my brother was killed.

While Ron was killed in the grounds surrounding the Monastery, with the blessing of the head Monk we decided to lay the wreath for Ron inside the temple. We felt he would have had enough of the dust, hot weather, humidity and the rain - and this would be a nice place for him to finally hang his boots up and take it easy.

Once again this was a raw, tough and emotional time for us.

Our next stop was the Minh Dam Secret Zone War Memorial on top of the Long Hai Mountains, again a memorial to the VC and NVA killed in the area during the War. What can I say - unbelievable. From here we headed down to

Vung Tau City. What a beautiful place. It's easy to see why you guys loved coming here for your R&R Leave. A top place.

Next day we toured around Vung Tau before heading off to the Cu Chi Tunnels. What an experience this was, to actually get inside the tunnels and bunkers to see how the other side lived underground, and to see what our guys had to deal with. Unbelievable.

“I’m walking over ground that I know my brother would have walked on”



The tour guide that took us on the tunnel tour gave me something else to think about. There are two sides to every story and this guide told us the story from their side. Yes our side did things to survive in the belief that we were doing the right thing which is no different to the other side doing what they believed in. The question of winners and losers doesn't matter now, it's all history.

What I do know now is I don't hate this country and I don't hate these people – and I have a better understanding of the struggles that took place here and the ultimate sacrifices that people made on both sides. This trip has at last given me some closure, and answered some of the questions that have bugged me for all these years.



TOP: An emotional moment for Peter and his daughter Lucinda at the ceremonial rock, still in place at the old 1 Field Squadron HQ area at Nui Dat. ABOVE: The rock during the war, with the 1 Field Squadron HQ building in the background

I wanted my uncle Ron to know I was proud of him

By *Lucinda Rhook*



This is the story of how one thing led to another and I went from going on a short trip to Hanoi with my partner, to taking a tour with my father of where my Uncle Ron served and died in southern Vietnam.

My partner was going to northern Vietnam to ride a motorbike through the countryside with a group of his friends. We decided to meet in Hanoi after his week with friends and have a holiday together.

As I started to think about Vietnam and our trip, I started thinking about my uncle Ron who I never knew, who was killed in Vietnam. I have always thought about him. As a child growing up, I used to wonder about the uncle I didn't have and the kids he would probably

have had that would have been my cousins.

My parents never talked about my uncle Ron. As I got older and independent and in the era I've grown up in I've always gone to Anzac Day events and had a deep feeling of respect and awe at those who died serving me and my country.

It always felt weird that my parents never spoke about my uncle. I remember asking my mum about Ron a few years ago and telling her how I thought about him as a kid and asked why she and dad never talked to my brothers and I about him. She explained it was the war and all the political stuff and I guess the gist of it was they were like many in Australia who thought Ron shouldn't have been there. Then after the war no one talked about it. It was confusing as a kid and young adult growing up in a climate that has so much respect and wants to acknowledge the ones who sacrificed for us, to be met with this different view.

One night while planning our trip I decided I just had to visit the southern area of Vietnam, specifically where my uncle had been and passed. For me it was a journey of recognition that he was my uncle and I was his niece and though having never known him, I wanted to let him know in some way I was proud of him.

I didn't know where to go or where Ron had been or where to start to find such information. The only thing I knew

was that he was a Tunnel Rat. I turned to google and found the Tunnel Rat website containing their newsletters and an honour roll with Ron on it. I took a random punt and sent an email to the site.

That's how I met Jim Marett. He emailed me back and that was the start of a most valued and trusted relationship. Jim knew straight away who Ron was and provided me in-depth details about the places Ron had been and where I could visit. It was a bit surreal, having grown up knowing I had this uncle but no one really talking about him, to connecting with Jim who was so open and willing to talk about all the details and provide information.

He also linked me with Mr Ha and the Vietnam based travel company OSC. We all know 100% we would not have had the memorable and excellently executed tour we had if we'd not gone with OSC, and particularly if our guide for those few days hadn't been the genial "Mr. Wombat!"

In talking with Jim and OSC I was busy planning my tour of where Ron had been. As I did this I was naturally letting my parents know what I was planning to do. They were very supportive. I was very conscious of what my dad was feeling and thinking. I was heading off to pay respects to

BELOW LEFT: The Dinh Co Monastery in 1969. BELOW: The Monastery on the day of Peter and Lucinda's visit in June



his big brother, where he fell. Visiting his base camp and walking the earth where his big brother had been, where he never came back from. I started to think more about my dad. I then started asking questions. My mum confirmed that dad was just a young teenager when Ron left and that he and dad had shared a bedroom together until he left and that dad had always been closest with Ron out of all his siblings.

As a mother of a young son I felt deeply for my father, imagining how my son would feel had his close sibling left for war, to never return. I also noticed my dad was very engaged and interested in what I was planning to do, and had started doing research. The night came where I decided dad had to come with us. I spoke to my parents and said, I think dad needs to come and do this with me. They agreed he did want to.

Vietnam – well, this was my first trip overseas and dad's first too, apart from New Zealand (practically still Australia). I fell in love with Vietnam approx 15 hrs after arrival. When I first touched down in Hanoi at 9pm I freaked out and wanted to fly home the next day. It was too crazy and too full on, but that changed rapidly, and by lunchtime the next day I loved it. We spent 10 days in Hanoi then flew to Saigon to meet dad.

Dad landed and we stayed at the Grand Hotel in Saigon that night. By this stage dad and I had both been researching and reading, and along with Jim Marett's help we had a pretty good picture of where Ron had been and where Wombat was going to be taking us. I felt very glad that we were going on this trip, but also felt very emotional, knowing we were about to go on a special journey, and that my dad was



about to be taken back in time. I was hoping I'd done the right thing by stirring all this up for dad, and hoped to God he was going to be OK with it and glad he came.

We left Saigon the next morning, stopping briefly to get a wreath for Ron before heading to the Nui Dat base camp. Wombat had photos of when the base was operational, and a map of where everything was located. It was confronting to be there. To stand and look and think about how many footsteps including Ron's had been there before. I could feel the emotion in dad growing.

Next stop was the cere-

ABOVE: With permission from the Buddhist Monks, Peter Smillie placed the wreath in remembrance of his brother at the altar within the Dinh Co Monastery

monial rock. That is where the first tears came. It was an honour to be there with my dad. I could see the immense importance to dad of this spot. I felt it too. I remember when dad was sad, back in the car, I said that I reckon Ron and his mates probably had laughs and good times at that place as well. They would have joked and laughed and eased the reality of where they were and what was happening. I said to dad, he wasn't



alone, I'm sure he had good mates there with him. I'm also sure he would have thought of you often and would probably have been glad that it was him there and not you his little brother.

We then went to the Long Tan Cross and finally onto the Dinh Co Monastery where Ron was killed. It was a very hot and humid day. We were lathered in sweat and fully aware of the harsh conditions that Ron and others had been in.

In my mind I had envisaged laying the wreath in the open, against a rock or somewhere on the ground. When we got to Dinh Co the monks invited us inside the Pagoda. It was so cool and welcoming and felt safe and friendly. I looked at dad and we both knew, Ron deserved his wreath to be placed there, in a beautiful sanctuary where the monks said they

would pray for him and say his name. We agreed that Ron had probably experienced enough dust and heat, and laying him to rest inside the temple felt right. Many tears and decades of loss and hurt, laid to rest in this spot. I felt deeply grateful for the kindness of the monks. It was a beautiful place to leave the wreath in memory of Ron.

Onto Vung Tau where we stayed at the Grand Hotel, explored a bit of the seaside town and then went to the Cu Chi Tunnels next day.

Again, on this day I felt the emotions of my dad, mixed with my own. It was confronting to hear the other side's story but also humbling to acknowledge the great losses and hardships of the other side. We returned to Saigon. I felt a bit overwhelmed but also deeply moved and so glad dad had come on this trip with me. We

ABOVE (L to R): Peter Smillie, his daughter Lucinda Rhook and her partner Paul Mudge at the ceremonial rock in the grounds of the old 1 Field Squadron headquarters at Nui Dat, Vietnam

flew home the next day.

This trip has given me the connection I always wanted with my uncle Ron and his story. I am the niece of a very young man who left his family, for his country, and didn't come home. I am the daughter of a man who as a young boy watched his big brother pack his bags, leave their shared bedroom and then didn't come home. I am proud of my uncle Ron. I am proud of my dad. I can't thank Jim Marett enough for helping us achieve so perfectly what we wanted to achieve. I am proud of all the Tunnel Rats and the people who have represented me and my country. Thank you.

Recollections by Ron's Troop Commander



By Adrian Black
Troop Commander
1TP 1FD SQN
Vietnam 1968/69

Ron Smillie was a proud Australian Regular Army soldier who had signed up during the Vietnam war and trained as a Field Engineer. He wanted to be there. Arriving in Vietnam in December 1968, we soon ended up working together during his first major operational deployment in northern Phuoc Tuy Province with 4 RAR.

It was late in January 1969 and I had picked Ron to be my Signaller/offsider for this operation during the expected first anniversary re-run of the massive Tet offensive in late January 1968. We were allocated on arrival a position close to the Battalion Headquarters and in between Battalion briefings had shared the digging of a half decent weapon pit for most of the day.

Some time that first af-

RIGHT: A 1 Troop work party at Nui Dat base camp between operations out bush. Sapper Ron Smillie is 3rd from the left, leaning on the shovel

ternoon all hell broke loose. Low trajectory shell fire, heavy automatic weapons and who knows what else were cutting through the heavy foliage and it seemed for a time that the intelligence assessments of a new Tet may have been accurate. As we crouched in the weapon pit straining to see someone to shoot at, Ron, who was shorter than me, seemed to have about a head and helmet advantage as the weapon pit had only made it to around 3 feet deep in the old money.

Ron had a laconic sense of humour and said; "Shit skipper, I thought they were joking about this Tet business". My response wasn't polite and focused on the fact he could have dug faster, that we could do with a few more loaded rifle magazines and was he any sort of a marksman? He assured me he was.

The barrage seemed to persist for about 20 minutes and in between explosions we could hear much yelling from the Battalion headquarters calling for fire support. The gunfire stopped suddenly and it was deadly quiet except for some graceless mutterings and groans from nearby weap-

on pits. A minute or so later a US Army Iroquois helicopter appeared out of nowhere. It landed on the LZ and a US Army Major got out and started to apologise in a loud voice to the Battalion Comander, Lt Col Lee Greville.

It turned out the barrage was all the work of the US 1st Armoured Cavalry Division. "Sorry Colonel, we thought you were an NVA Regiment". Grevilles' response was not quiet, polite nor subtle, and Ron Smillie managed a grin when only a few minutes ago we had been discussing whether we might ever get out of that pit.

After that lot Smillie begged me to get out with a combat or splinter team, which seemed to him to be a better use of his talent than being my radio operator. Having seen him in action at close quarters and picked his leadership potential I included Ron in a Junior NCO Course I had put together for 1 Troop in March 1969.

This was just part of the formal and informal training of one sort or another we ran much of the time when the blokes were not out on operations (much to their annoyance at times as they were keener on

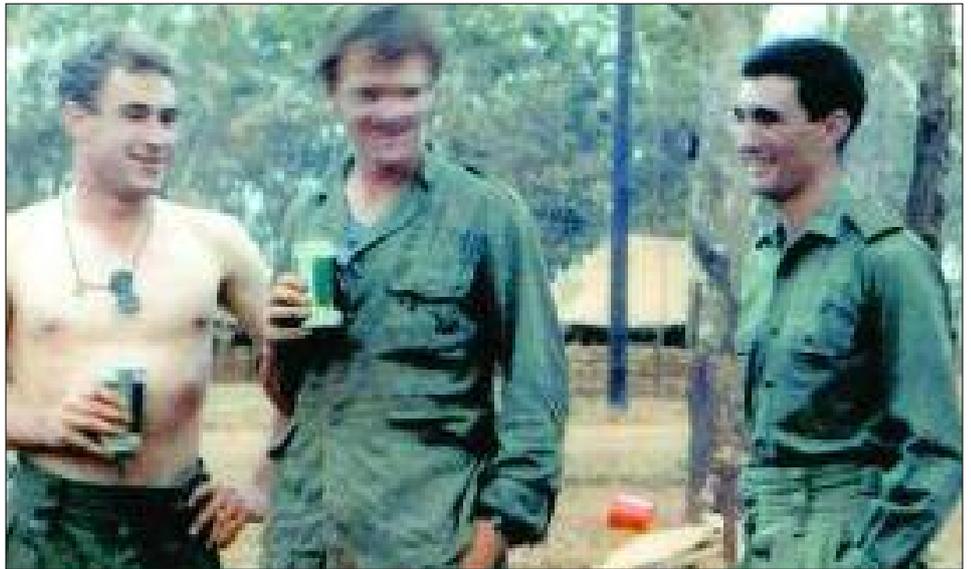


sleeping). I kept a copy of that course and its results and noted that Ron had achieved a very high rating and was marked to be promoted in the field if an opportunity came along during the next few months.

By May and June 1969 Ron was experienced and competent and led a mini-team on Operation Lavarack working with B squadron of the 1st Armoured Regiment. While this operation was relatively smooth the next op in July and August, Operation Mundingburra, was not.

During this operation our troop and elements of 6RAR/NZ suffered a number of casualties in the northern and eastern extremities of the Long Hai Mountains and up to the outskirts of Dat Do, almost all due to M16 mines.

It was during this operation that Ron Smillie and John Smith were killed during a mine



clearing incident. No-one knew exactly what happened, but it was the sort of thing our sappers had to deal with each day and for everyone in 1 Troop and in the Squadron it hit hard.

I will remember Ron as tough, good hearted, down to earth, dedicated, smarter than his laconic manner, with a good sense of humour and just a typ-

ical Aussie – the sort you could trust if your back was to the wall. As with all of our blokes I wish he could have lived a full life. He was a good man that I have never forgotten.

ABOVE (L to R): In the 1 Troop lines at Nui Dat, Spr. Ron Smillie, Spr. Robert Laird, and Troop Officer, Lt. George Hulse

Date/Time	EVENT
231430	A mine incident has just taken place in our C/S3. We dont know any details yet, but we think it involves HOLDFAST casualties.
231445	We have just been informed by India CP that we have 2 x HOLDFAST KIA, not confirmed yet and I do not have names
231450	Departing this loc for the mine incident
231455	Can you get me cleared to travel direct to DINN CO monastery and be met by India elements
231505	Clearance given
231510	Departing this loc for the HORSESHOE with 40 tonner and 20 tonner
232315	We have one HOLDFAST confirmed KIA at GR 443576 Time 1405 hrs Member 3794831 Spr J. SMITH
231517	We have another HOLDFAST confirmed KIA Same incident
231520	Member 39281 Spr R.G. SMILLIE

This is an extract from the 1 FD SQN Commander's log book detailing the mine incident as it unfolded, with the first mention at 2:30pm on 23rd July 1969

The plastic fantastic M-16 Armalite rifle

The five pages following this one are so sexist and politically incorrect we just had to publish them. They are taken from a 1969 US Army pamphlet on the M-16 Armalite rifle. At the time the rifle was getting a lot of bad publicity from users in Vietnam, mostly centred around how easily the weapon failed if dirt or moisture got into the workings or ammunition. The typically American solution was to create a slick brochure written in such a way it would appeal to soldiers and educate them about the weapon.

For Australian troops, the reality in the field was that most of us were happy with the weapon. It worked well as long as you kept it clean, and Australian troops were drilled relentlessly on keeping weapons clean. Its light weight compared to the 7.62 SLR "Elephant Gun" was another appealing factor.

We thank 2 Troop Tunnel Rat Bob Ottery who provided us with the M-16 brochure, having kept it since he obtained it in-country way back in 1970.

On this page we feature Tunnel Rats armed with their M-16s plus one SLR user who soon switched to an M-16.



ABOVE: Tunnel Rat Ted O'Malley of 3 Troop 68/69 wades through a river with his trusty M-16.

LEFT: 3 Troop Tunnel Rats Steve Armbrust (left) using a mine detector and Darryel Binns using his M-16 rifle bayonet to prod the roadway after Steve received a reading on his detector.

BELOW: SPR Jim Marett (69/70) toting his M-16 as he heads for a chopper after blowing up an enemy bunker system with a team of Tunnel Rats from 2 Troop.

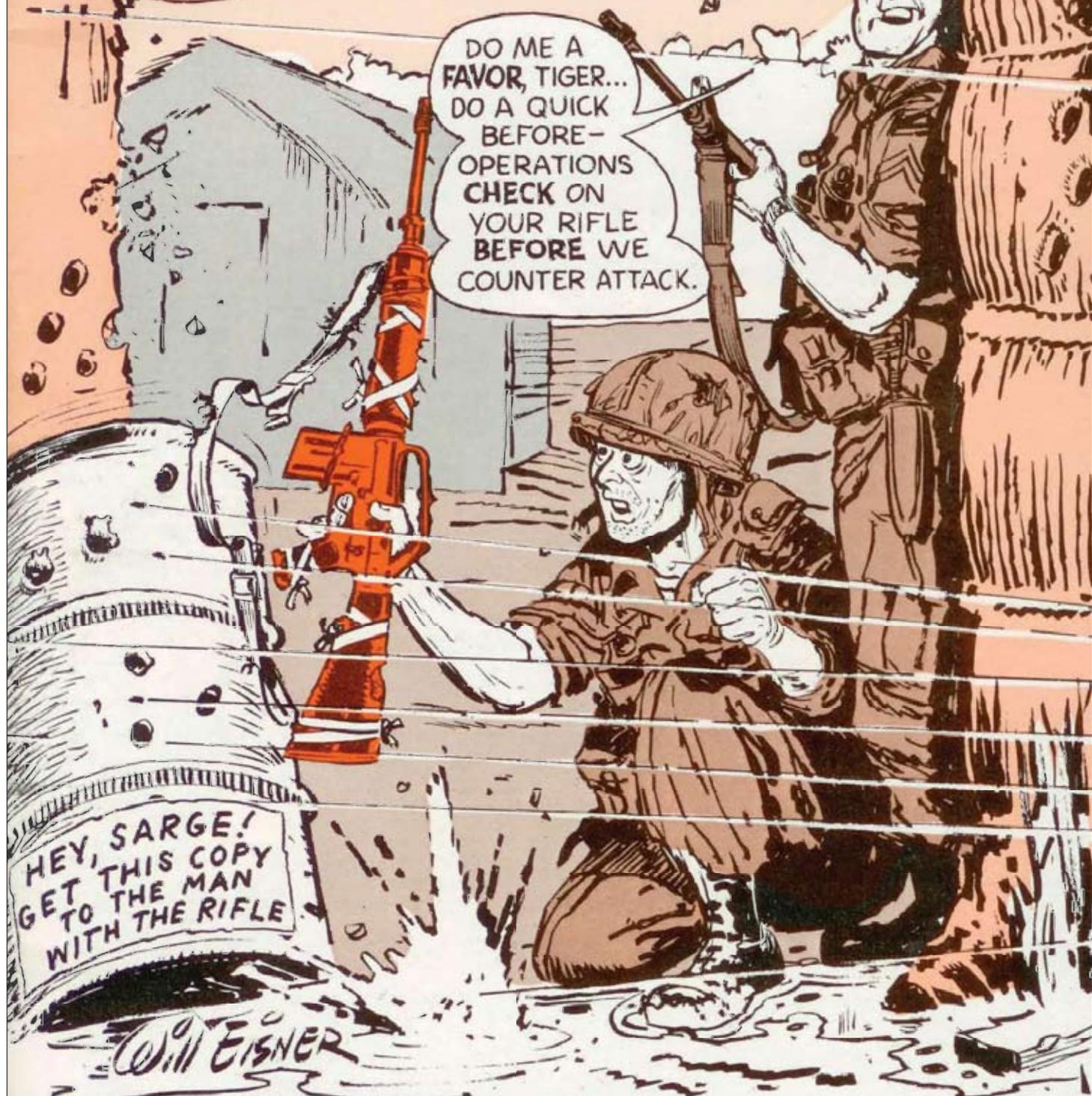
BOTTOM LEFT: SPR Bob Ottery carting around his weighty SLR "Elephant Gun". This was early in his tour before he had switched to the lighter M-16.



DA Pam 750-30 1 July 1969
(Supersedes DA Pam 750-30, 28 June 1968)

The **M16A1** Rifle

OPERATION AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE



You want to know her inside out, every contour and curve, every need and whim, what makes her tick.

No better time to get all-over acquainted than when you disassemble/assemble her for servicing.

Take it easy, no force . . . you could damage your chances in a showdown.



Eye-check the parts as you handle 'em. Get to know 'em by name and make sure they're OK for action.

Lay the parts down on a clean tarp or something in left-to-right order so that you won't lose any. Know how far you can strip, and stop right there.

OK, by the numbers now, start stripping—but gently. The orange numbers are for taking it apart; the black for putting it together.

GETTIN' TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU . . ."

HOW

STRI
YOUR BA

COMES A FIREFIGHT—YOUR M16A1 RIFLE'S YOUR DEAREST NEXT O'SKIN—BAR NONE!



DISASSEMBLY		ASSEMBLY	
1	Remove magazine.		Insert and seat. 16
2	Open bolt, check chamber for ammo.		
3	Press takedown pin to right with cartridge or finger.		Be sure selector lever's on SAFE or SEMI-AUTO before closing upper and lower receivers. 15
4	Pull back on charging handle and bolt carrier assembly.		Shove 'em in in reverse order. 14

TO P BY



DISASSEMBLY		ASSEMBLY
5 Take out the bolt and carrier assembly.		Put 'em back the same way, but be sure the bolt's unlocked. 13
6 Remove the charging handle.		Hook the handle in, then shove it in. 12
7 Push out the firing pin retaining pin.		Insert firing pin retaining pin, like so: Put the firing pin forward. The retaining pin goes in back of the large shoulder of the firing pin. Turn the retaining pin as you install it. 11
8 Put bolt in LOCK position. Heed this: Never open or close the split end of the retaining pin.		
9 Remove the firing pin.		Install firing pin by dropping it in the hole. 10
10 Take out bolt cam pin, give it a 1/4 (90 degree) turn.		After you install the cam pin, give it a 1/4 (90 degree) turn. 9
11 Pull the bolt out of the carrier assembly.		When you install the bolt, be sure you stagger the ring gaps to prevent gas leakage. 8
12 Use the firing pin to push out the extractor pin.		Insert the extractor pin. 7

M16A1 SHARPSHOOTERS,
MAKE THIS YOUR SOP . . .

DRAIN BEFORE SHOOTING



THIS
CAP
WON'T
EXCUSE
YOU
FROM
DAILY (OR
OFTENER)
CLEANING
AND
LUBING

Yep, "fighting's" the word.

You only use these new plastic protective caps (FSN 5340-880-7666) when you're in action . . . not when your shooter's put up for a day or more. Else condensation'll build up and ruin the bore.

The cap'll keep out rain, dust and dirt, but it won't keep water from seeping into the bore from the chamber end when your rifle gets dunked. This water's got to be removed before you try to fire.

HERE'S WHAT YOU DO! . . . AFTER YOU REMOVE THE CAP.

POINT THE
MUZZLE
DOWN . . .



CHARGING
HANDLE SLIGHTLY
REARWARD!



PRESS FORWARD
ASSIST TO
SEAT ROUND



So get with that routine in para 2-11 to your new -12 TM before you fire off.



FROM GUYS WHO KNOW!

- 1** Keep your ammo and magazine as clean and dry as possible. The only part of the magazine that gets any lube is the spring — and it gets only a very light touch of LSA. Oil it up and you're headed for trouble.

TOUCH LIGHTLY,
PLEASE.



- 2** Inspect your ammo when you load the magazines. Never load dented or dirty ammo. Remember, Never load over 20 rounds.



- 3** Clean your rifle every chance you get — 3-5 times a day's not too often in some cases. Cleanliness is a must — and it may save your life!

AH, SWEET
16... AND
YOU'VE NEVER
MISSED!



- 4** Be sure to clean carbon and dirt from those barrel locking lugs. Pipe cleaners help here and inside the carrier key.



AND
STAY
OUT....

- 5** Never be bashful about asking for cleaning materials when you need 'em. They're available. Get 'em and use 'em!

- 6** Check your extractor and spring often. If they're worn or burred, get new ones ASAP.



- 7** Lube your rifle, using LSA only. It's the most. A light coat put on with a rag after cleaning is good. Working parts need generous applications often. The chamber and bore need only a light coat after cleaning.



REMEMBER...
THE IMPORTANT THING
IS... **KEEP IT CLEAN!**

Worry a little more about your rifle . . . like, baby it a bit. F'rinstance, when you're out in the boonies, be careful where you put it down and how you put it down. Never drop it in mud or water or sand. Just keep in mind that you may have to use it before you get a chance to clean it.



The 50th Anniversary TUNNEL RATS TOUR BACK TO VIETNAM

If you haven't been on one of our tours before, this is the one you must be on. If you have been on our tours before, you know you can't miss this one



YOU CAN STILL BOOK - BUT DO IT NOW

SIGN UP FOR THE TOUR AND START LOBBYING FOR YOUR LEAVE PASS

This year marks the 50th anniversary of when 1 Field Squadron RAE arrived in Vietnam. Focussed on Tunnel Rats, our tour will visit 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 visit mine incident sites with the men involved in those incidents. We'll host a BBQ with our former enemy, the men who served with 33 NVA Regiment, now based in Binh Ba. We'll tour the enemy tunnels at Cu Chi and Long Phuoc. We'll hold a memorial service for our 36 fallen comrades, at the memorial rock which still sits in our 1 Field Squadron HQ area at Nui Dat - followed by a traditional Troop BBQ (piss-up). We'll have a beer on the site of the old 1 Field Squadron Boozer. We'll do a nostalgia tour of Vungers, visiting The Flags area, the old Badcoe Club area, the old R&C leave centre, sites of infamous old bars and other places of former ill-repute, plus of course the Grand Hotel where we'll have a beer, just for old times sake.

The trip is for nine days and eight nights in Vietnam, (two nights in Saigon, then five nights in Vung Tau followed by one more night in Saigon). If you wish to stay extra nights in Saigon either before or after the tour (or both), simply let us know and we'll extend your booking at the same low rate we have negotiated at the Grand Hotel Saigon.

Rather than adding to the costs and travel time by forcing

We already have over 60 booked for the tour, including 11 current serving Combat Engineers.

everyone to depart from one city in Australia, each person will book and pay for their own return 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 Thursday 3rd November and from there the Tour will commence.

The first event is on the 3rd November – 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 your flight to arrive the day prior

and we'll book an extra night in the hotel for you.

Shop around for the best airfare. There are plenty of airlines flying into Saigon, so don't grab the first airfare you find. Direct, non-stop flights take less time and there is no danger of missing a connecting flight, but it may be cheaper to fly on a non-direct flight via another city.

Vietnam Airlines, and Qantas fly direct non-stop to Saigon, and there are regular flights out of Australia to Saigon via Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok or Brunei.

The planned return date for leaving Saigon to head back home is Friday 11th November.

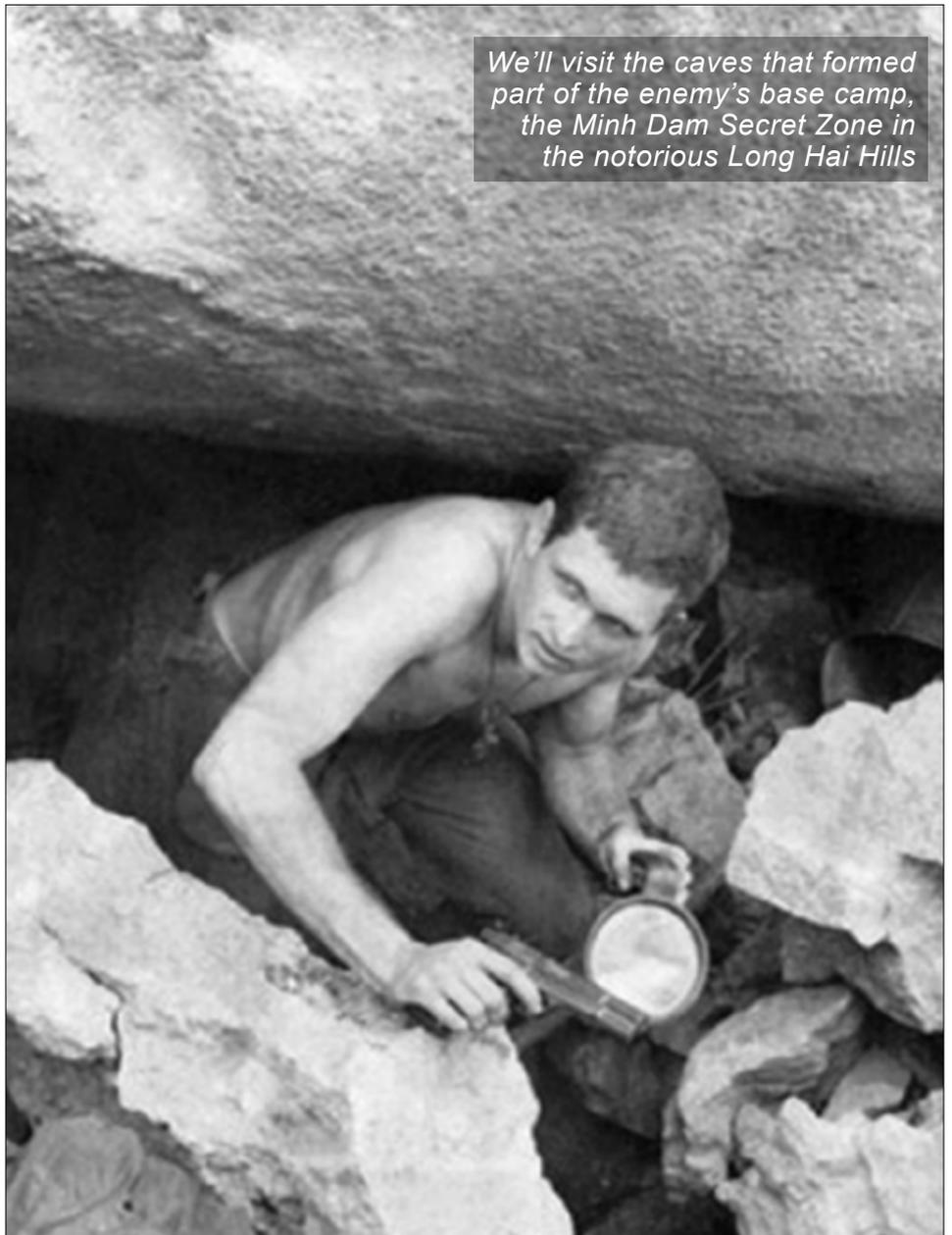
Current serving Combat Engineers - both male and female are invited to join the tour. For all other tour participants it's a blokes only tour.

The Tunnel Rats are welcome to have their sons (minimum age 18) come along on the trip, and Tunnel Rats are also welcome to ask a best mate along to share the experience. Any mates accompanying Tunnel Rats on the tour will collectively be known as "worthless civilians" and may be asked to perform menial tasks from time to time.

Our Welcome and Farewell dinners will again be held at the five star Caravelle Hotel in Saigon. This hotel was home to the Australian Embassy during the war. The Australian Consul General in Saigon will again join us for the dinner.

At our welcome drinks in Saigon 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 return to our hotel each day in time to enjoy drinks together at the Designated Boozer before people go their own way for the evening. The comradeship of these drink sessions are a highlight of the tour.



We'll visit the caves that formed part of the enemy's base camp, the Minh Dam Secret Zone in the notorious Long Hai Hills

TOTAL COST FOR THE TOUR

The full cost for the tour is \$1,280 per person if you are sharing a room (twin share). This is up about 15% on our previous tour, not because our costs have risen, but because of the lower Australian dollar. If you prefer a room on your own, the extra cost is \$400 to cover the hotel room costs for the eight nights. We'd appreciate receiving your booking and full payment ASAP so we can lock down all the tours and other details. If for any reason you later need to pull out, you'll receive a full refund. Do it now!

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Each guest will be met at the airport and transported to the hotel.
3 nights in The Grand hotel Saigon with buffet breakfast each morning.

5 nights in The Rex Hotel Vung Tau with Buffet breakfast each morning.
Welcome dinner and Farewell dinner at the 5 Star Caravelle Hotel.
Dinner with former NVA and VC soldiers in Vung Tau.
All wreaths for our ceremonies.
BBQ lunch at Nui Dat.
All specified land tours.
All permits to visit restricted zones.
Entry costs to scheduled tour venues.
All bus and driver costs.
Cost of tour guides and interpreters.
2 embroidered tour shirts.
Souvenir disk of tour photos.
At the end of the tour each guest will be picked up at the hotel and transported to the airport.
All other lunches, dinners and drinks will be at our own expense.

Another extraordinary tour is shaping up superbly

We have 63 booked for the tour at this stage. This is another exceptional result and an indication of how much these tours are enjoyed and appreciated by participants. It is also testament to what great value they represent compared to lesser tours being offered recently at virtually double our price.

It is very satisfying for us that word of mouth has again been the driving force behind our success. It's a simple formula - Sappers who come on the tour can't stop talking about it with their mates and with fellow Sappers.

Again we have the participation of current serving Combat Engineers, with a strong contingent this tour from Darwin based 1 Combat Engi-



neer Regiment, including their RSM, WO1 Allan Lewis.

Putting all privacy laws aside, below we publish a list of those coming on the tour so far. It's a great mix of Vietnam era Tunnel Rats, some bringing their sons or mates including other Vietnam Veterans, plus there's our current serv-

ing Combat Engineers, and a sprinkling of worthless civilians.

Check out the list below to see who's coming on the tour from your old Troop.

And if you want to join this ragged bunch for the upcoming trip, you still can, but you need to do it now.

“Who's coming on the tour so far?”

Special Guest

Robert Engstrom (Robert's Brother Ron, 1TP 69/70 was KIA in a mine incident on 30/1/70).

Current Serving (11)

WO1 Allan Lewis - RSM 1CER
 SPR Tasion Clarke-Tarawhiti - 1CER
 SPR Trent Prestage - 6ESR
 Plus 8 Sappers from 1CER - names TBA

Chief Piper - Ross Brewer

Vietnam Veterans other RAE Units (3)

Merv Lewis - 1ALSG 65/66 + 71/72
 Max Foot - 17 CON SQN 70/71
 Alastair MacLeod - 17 & 24 CON SQN 69/70

Vietnam Tunnel Rats (26)

Clive Pearsall - 1TP 1FD SQN 67/68
 Norm Cairns - 3TP 1FD SQN 67/68
 Peter Cairns - 2TP 1FD SQN 70/71
 Mick Bergin - 2TP 1FD SQN 70/71
 Graeme Pengelly - 2TP 1FD SQN 1970
 Robin Date - 2TP 1FD SQN 70/71
 Mick O'Hearn - 3TP 1FD SQN 67/68
 Rod Palmer - 2TP 1FD SQN 68/69
 Peter Clayton - 2TP 1FD SQN 1968
 Wayne Hynson - 2TP 1FD SQN 68/69
 Jim Marett - 2TP 1FD SQN 69/70
 Bob Ottery - 2TP 1FD SQN 69/70
 Ziggy Gniot - 2TP 1FD SQN 70/71
 Gary Pohlner - 3TP 1FD SQN 67/68
 Allen Turnbull - 2TP 1FD SQN 67/68

Curly Tuttleby - 3TP 1FD SQN 69/70
 Barry Gilbert - 3TP 1FD SQN 67/68
 John Douglas - 2TP 1FD SQN 68/69
 Graham Wallace - 3TP 1FD SQN 69/70
 Phil Lamb - 2 & 3TP 1FD SQN 68/69
 Robert O'Connor - 2TP 1FD SQN 1968
 John Hoskin - 3TP 1FD SQN 67/68
 Glenn Weise - 3TP 1FD SQN 67/68
 Chuck Bonzas - 3TP 1FD SQN 67/68
 Kevin Lappin - 2TP 1FD SQN 70/71
 Keith Kermod - 3FD TP 65/66

Mates and relatives of Tunnel Rats (22)

Ross Kile - Mate of Norm Cairns
 Joel Lang - Son-in-law of Peter Cairns
 David Bergin - Son of Mick Bergin
 Patrick Bergin - Son of Mick Bergin
 Keith Manning - Mate of G Pengelly
 Mate of Graeme Pengelly 2 TBA
 Robin Date's son 1
 Robin Date's son 2
 Mick O'Hearn's six relatives & friends
 Ziggy Gniot's mate TBA
 William Plumb - Mate of Curly
 John Breaden - Mate of Curly
 Ross Gilbert - Son of Barry
 John Siebert - Mate of John Douglas
 Tecwyn Lamb - Son of Phil
 David Weise - Son of Glenn
 Darren Strange - Son of 1RAR Vet

Our hotels in Saigon and Vung Tau

Three nights at The Grand Hotel Saigon

Our first two nights, and our last night of the tour are spent at the historic Grand Hotel in Saigon. It's a place rich in history and boasting some superb French art deco architecture. Lots of shops and restaurants nearby. Plenty of taxis available

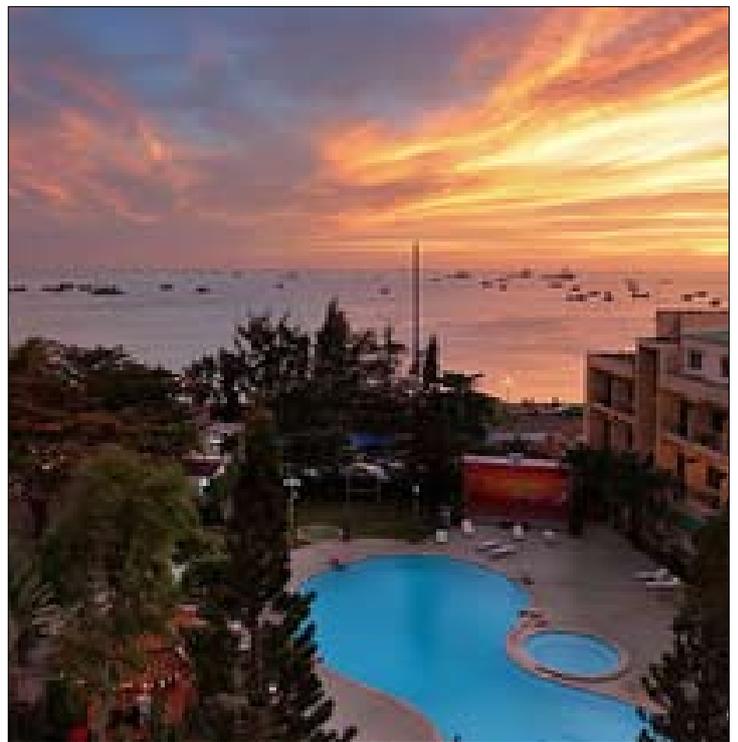
out front all the time. Originally built in 1930, the hotel has been totally refurbished, retaining the original style of the rooms in the old wing. They provide a superb buffet breakfast which is included in our tour price. The rooftop bar is blessed with cool breezes and is a great gathering spot for us each evening.



Five nights at The Rex Hotel Vung Tau

Facing the Front Beach in Vung Tau, the Rex is a good base for us for our tours to the old operational areas of Phuoc Tuy Province. The hotel is close to popular bars and restaurants,

a short stroll to "The Flags" area, and just up the road from the famous Grand Hotel. It has a great pool and a good breakfast area for us to gather at each morning. We will be staying in the brand new wing of the hotel which is opening just prior to our arrival.



Our itinerary at a glance

DAY 1 - THU 3 NOVEMBER

Australia To Saigon

People will be arriving at the hotel from the airport at different times throughout the day (or the day before). Every guest on the tour is met at the airport by our travel company and transferred to our hotel. After check-in you are free to roam, but be back in time for the 6pm start of our Welcome Drinks and Dinner function at the Caravelle Hotel.



DAY 2 SAIGON – FRI 4 NOVEMBER

Cu Chi Tunnels tour & visit to Bob Bowtell site



Bob Bowtell's sons Michael (left) and Peter emerge from the tunnels, proud as Punch

Meet in the Grand Hotel lobby at 0815h for departure by bus to the Ho Bo Woods area and Cu Chi Tunnels. At the Bob Bowtell site we will hold a remembrance and wreath laying ceremony. At the Cu Chi Tunnels we'll have a guided tour just for our group and we'll access tunnels not available to the general public. You'll have the chance to fire AK47, M60 ("The Pig") and M16 Armalite weapons on their range (cost US\$2 to \$4 per bullet). Then we head back to Saigon, where the rest of the afternoon and the evening are free time.

DAY 3 - SAT 5 NOVEMBER

Saigon to Vung Tau by bus via Baria

Pack, check out, then meet in the Grand Hotel lobby at 0815h for an 0830h departure by bus to the Rex hotel in Vung Tau. On the way we'll stop at Baria where we'll visit the Australian funded orphanage. We also visit the memorial cemetery for the NVA and VC killed in our area of operations during the

war. On arrival in Vung Tau the rest of the afternoon is free for you to take a wander, check out the town and get yourself orientated.

DAY 4 – SUN 6 NOVEMBER

Vung Tau, Long Phuoc, the minefield, and mine incident sites

Meet in the Rex lobby at 0815h sharp for departure by bus. We head to Long Phuoc (close to Nui Dat) to visit the tunnels there and meet up with some of the old VC who used the tunnels during the war. We visit a section of the former 11 km long barrier minefield laid by 1 Fld Sqn Sappers. We'll visit the sites of several of the many mine incidents which took place in the area. Once back at the Rex Hotel we will have the first of our two planned Bravo Sierra ("BS") sessions – restricted to Tunnel Rats and current serving Sappers.

DAY 5 – MON 7 NOVEMBER

Binh Ba and Nui Dat



Meet in the Rex lobby at 0815h sharp for departure by bus. We head to Binh Ba to meet with our former enemy, veterans of the 33 NVA, at their memorial in Binh Ba. We'll then tour our old base camp at Nui Dat, including Luscombe Field, and the old Troop Lines areas of 1 Fld Sqn. We'll then hold a memorial service for our 36 fallen Tunnel Rat comrades at the site of our former Squadron HQ at Nui Dat. This will be followed by a traditional Troop BBQ (piss-up) amongst the rubber trees.



TUNNEL RATS 50th ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM TOUR - 3 NOV - 11 NOV 2016

DAY 6 – TUE 8 NOVEMBER Long Tan & the Long Hai Hills



Meet in the Rex lobby at 0815h sharp for departure by bus. We'll visit the Long Tan battlefield and memorial where we'll place a wreath in remembrance of all Australians KIA in Vietnam.



Then we'll visit the Long Hai Mountains, which was the VC's big base camp in our area of operations, 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 memorial to the NVA and VC killed throughout the province. Once back at the Rex Hotel we will have the second of our two planned Bravo Sierra ("BS") sessions – restricted to Tunnel Rats and current serving Sappers.



In the evening (1800h to 1900h) we will enjoy a music concert performed for us by former NVA and VC veterans, in "The Penthouse" on the top floor of the Rex Hotel. This will be followed by a dinner for all of us on the tour, with the NVA and VC musicians as our guests. Buses will take us to the dinner venue, departing the Rex Hotel at 1915h. The buses will return us to the Rex after dinner.

DAY 7 – WED 9 NOVEMBER Vung Tau free day

You'll have plenty of time 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 atmosphere. If there is a particular place out in the Province you wish to visit on this day it can easily be arranged via the travel company handling our tour.

DAY 8 - THU 10 NOVEMBER Vung Tau to Saigon



Check out and meet in the Rex lobby at 0915h for departure by bus at 0930h sharp. On arrival in Saigon we'll check-in to the Grand Hotel, then you'll have the rest of the day free. Our tour company has a Saigon Tour available 1300h to 1700h, covering the city's key attractions. Tonight is our big Farewell Drinks and Dinner function at the Caravelle Hotel (above), commencing at 1800h for drinks followed by a buffet dinner at 1900h.

DAY 9 - FRI 11 NOVEMBER Time to head home



For those leaving today, pack, check out and be in the lobby at the time advised by our travel company for pickup and transport to the airport.



We're again inviting young Combat Engineers to join us on the tour

Following many discussions with sections of the Army and in particular the Corps of Engineers, a big aim for us on this tour is to invite and mentor current serving Combat Engineers. Many Combat Engineer Afghanistan veterans are suffering high levels of PTSD. We know what that's all about - and it's our duty and our privilege to take these soldiers on a journey with us, back to the scene of our conflict, to show them that incredibly positive things can come out of the combat experience. We'll share with them, how decades later we go there and honour our fallen comrades. We'll show them that, in our case at least, we can meet with former enemy, on the same level - as old soldiers. We'll visit the sites of incidents with men that were involved in those incidents - and see that it can be a healing process. And perhaps best of all, and probably over beers at the end of each day, we'll show the incredible comradeship we enjoy, and how this comradeship extends equally to them, our brother Sappers.

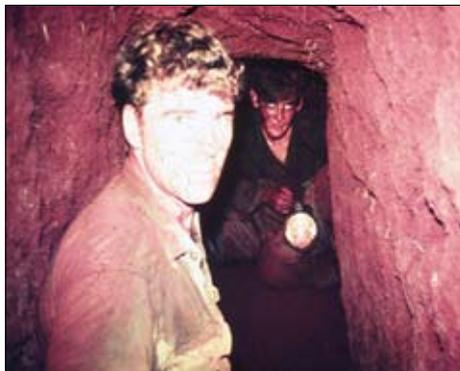
Sharing Sapper experiences

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 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



Sappers performing the same roles in different wars 40 years apart

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 current serving soldiers, and hear their experiences in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere over a few beers.

And of course it's an incredible experience for us old Sappers too, to be around these brave and bright young soldiers.

Serving Sappers (male and female of all ranks are welcome - as long as they 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.

If you are a serving Sapper and have any questions about the tour, contact Jim Marett on: 0403 041 962 or by email on: tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au

TUNNEL RATS 50th ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM TOUR - 3 NOV - 11 NOV 2016

VIETNAM TRIP BOOKING FORM – ONE PERSON PER FORM

Full cost of the tour is \$1,280 (shared room) or an extra \$400 for a room on your own (\$1,680)

NOTE: If you know your arrival and departure dates, any extra hotel nights required before or after the tour can be paid now at \$85 per night per person for a shared room or \$170 per night for a room on your own. If you don't yet know your arrival and departure dates, just pay the tour cost only and we can bill you later for any extra hotel nights

Name:	Phone number:
Address:	
Postcode:	
Email address:	
If you are a current serving soldier please provide rank and name of CER unit serving or served with:	
If you are a Vietnam Tunnel Rat please list Troop served with and approximate dates:	
If you are the son or mate of a Tunnel Rat on the tour, please provide his name:	
<input type="radio"/> I want to share a room and I will be sharing the room with: <input type="radio"/> I want to share a room, please arrange someone for me to share with. <input type="radio"/> I want a room on my own	
Please tick your shirt size: <input type="radio"/> Sml <input type="radio"/> Med <input type="radio"/> Lge <input type="radio"/> X Lge <input type="radio"/> XX Lge <input type="radio"/> XXX Lge <input type="radio"/> XXXX Lge	
Any nickname you prefer to be known by:	
Nationality:	Date of birth:
Passport number:	(can be provided later if no passport yet)
<input type="radio"/> I am paying \$1,280 for a shared room <input type="radio"/> I am paying \$1,680 for a room on my own <input type="radio"/> Plus for extra hotel nights I am paying the amount of \$ <input type="radio"/> I will pay for extra hotel nights later <input type="radio"/> I don't need any extra hotel nights Any amount you pay is fully refundable if you have to cancel for any reason	
Please tick below your method of payment:	
<input type="radio"/> By EFT deposit into our bank account : Bank: HSBC Australia Bank BSB: 343002 Account Number: 099000031 Account name: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association Please email us to advise you have paid by EFT – email to tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au	
<input type="radio"/> Cheque or Australia Post Money Order – payable to Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association	
<input type="radio"/> Credit card Type of card: <input type="radio"/> Visa <input type="radio"/> Mastercard Name on card: Card number: Expiry date: (Please note: Statement will read "Ultimate Design Graphics Pty Ltd")	
Post this form to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak Vic 3142 Or email this form to: tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au Or simply email the same information requested above, to tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au	

Nui Dat Base Camp Vietnam 1966 to 1971



For the Tunnel Rats the Nui Dat Base Camp was a safe haven to come home to after each four to six week operation out bush. We'd usually be at the base for less than a week before heading out bush again, but while you were there at Nui Dat it was a relative paradise.

For many others in different jobs and different units, Nui Dat was their home for the duration of their 12 month tour. For them it was three meals a day at the Mess, a boozier open every afternoon and movies at night - all year long.

This contrasted vividly with us being out humping it with the Infantry, living on C-Rations out of our backpacks and sleeping on the ground - but we wouldn't swap our experience for quids.

Here is a description of how Nui Dat evolved and what it was like to be based there:

Once Phuoc Tuy in South Vietnam had been selected as the provincial site for the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF), a location for its base had to be chosen. There were three possibilities: Ba Ria, Phuoc Tuy's capital; the port

of Vung Tau; and an area in the province's central region known as Nui Dat, Vietnamese for 'small hill'.

Nui Dat was an ideal location for the new Australian Task Force base. It was on a main highway, Route 2, approximately 30 kilometres from the port of Vung Tau which was the new Australian logistic support base. Nui Dat was some distance from Phuoc Tuy's provincial capital, Ba Ria, and was sufficiently isolated to enable the Australians to manage their own operations. However, the area around Nui Dat had been a well-known Viet Cong stronghold and many of the residents in nearby villages had family members in the Viet Cong. Removed from population centres but close to Viet Cong base areas, Nui Dat was considered ideal for the type of counter-insurgency warfare that Australians waged in Phuoc Tuy.

Its location in the centre of the province meant that Nui Dat was in the middle of Viet Cong territory. Therefore, security was of prime importance. The villages nearest Nui Dat - Long Tan and

Long Phuoc - were both considered Viet Cong strongholds and the Australian task force's first commander, Brigadier O.D. Jackson, with the agreement of the Province Chief, had the people and livestock of the two villages forcibly resettled. The removal of the local people from the vicinity meant that the chances of the Viet Cong gathering information about the base and the movement of Australian troops were significantly reduced. However, attempts to win the support of Phuoc Tuy's people were compromised by the decision to remove people from their homes without compensation.

The base was established by members of the United States 173rd Airborne, the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) and the newly arrived 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR) on 24 May 1966. This effort was called 'Operation Hardihood'. The first soldiers to occupy it lived in tents and worked to establish defences. Every soldier at Nui Dat had a fighting pit. Elevated bunkers, manned 24 hours a day, were constructed

around the base's perimeter which was further defended by wire obstacles and belts of anti-personnel mines. Vegetation was cleared from a 500-metre wide area outside the wire to provide fields of fire and a clear view of approaching Viet Cong.

At its peak the base at Nui Dat was home to some 5,000 Australian, New Zealand, and American personnel, but for much of the time most of them were deployed on operations outside the base.

The Dat sprawled out from a low hill and by a major road which bisected Phuoc Tuy from north to south. By 1969 it housed 5,000 soldiers, and its defoliated perimeter of barbed wire was 12 kilometres long. Rubber trees provided useful shade across the base. Snakes, almost as plentiful, were less welcome, as was the constant noise from frequent landings and takeoffs by aeroplanes and helicopters and intermittent artillery and mortar fire in support of operations.

Large units at the base, such as an infantry battalion might have its own canteen, store, post office, cinema, helipads, Salvation Army tent and chapel. Inside their own tents, soldiers might have chairs and furniture made from artillery and mortar boxes, and normally expensive stereo equipment bought cheaply from the US Army's American Post Exchange, or PX. Latrines at the Dat were basic but comfortable, at least compared with making one's own arrangements in the field.

Combat soldiers at the Dat were either resting between operations, patrolling the perimeter, or standing by on 'ready reaction'. But most men permanently stationed at the base were support troops, ranging from mapmakers to pay clerks. Much of their work simulated civilian life: painting and panel-beating, road-laying and cake-making, fixing televisions and filling tooth cavities. Not that



war was far removed from their lives. Looking out from his tent, one mechanic could watch some of the bunkers that helped defend the base from attack. Like most other soldiers he would grab his rifle whenever something, usually an animal, set off one of the mines planted to help secure the base.

Radio broadcasts and mail deliveries at the Dat allowed soldiers to connect with Australia, their families and their communities. Mail included parcels as well, sometimes from the Australian Forces Overseas Fund. These were valued not only for what they contained but also for suggesting that support for the troops back in Australia outweighed protests against fighting in the war.

Life at the Dat was, naturally, regimented. A day typically began with "pill parades" at which soldiers took preventive medicines against malaria. Breakfast, usually including eggs, came

TOP: The RV Point near 1FD SQN HQ. ABOVE: Wire obstacles and fence around Nui Dat

around 7.30, followed by inspections, briefings, or several hours of work. Lunch, often cold meat and salad, was followed by more work. Around 4.30 the recreation rooms and the wet canteen, where alcohol could be purchased, would open. After dinner sleeves were rolled down as further protection against mosquitoes, the perimeter was patrolled and movies might be shown. Movies were popular. "They're not too bad," one soldier commented on arriving at the base. "Some of them are released here before they hit the screens in Australia and the States."

Concerts at Luscombe Bowl, a natural amphitheatre at the end of the base's main airstrip, were even more popular, especially when given by entertainers from Australia like Johnny

O'Keefe or Normie Rowe (who, as a National Serviceman in 3 Cavalry Regiment, was already in Vietnam), or by any woman. A good concert made the war seem to disappear for a while. Distractions like this were inevitable, even vital, for soldiers at war. Perhaps only the distraction offered by alcohol threatened morale as well as bolstered it. Beer was supposed to be rationed to two cans per day, but mountains of cans rose spectacularly, especially after a long operation was over.

After ten years of war every Australian infantry battalion except 8RAR and 9RAR had served two tours of duty in Vietnam. The Australian withdrawal effectively commenced in November 1970. As a consequence of the overall US strategy of Vietnamization and with the Australian government keen to reduce its own commitment to the war, 8 RAR was not replaced at the end of its tour of duty. 1 ATF was again reduced to just two infantry battalions, albeit with significant armour, artillery and aviation support remaining. One of the New Zealand infantry companies—W Company—was also withdrawn at this time.

Australian combat forces were further reduced during 1971 as part of a phased withdrawal. The Battle of Nui Le on 21 September proved to be the last major battle fought by Australian and New Zealand forces in the war, and resulted in five Australians being killed and 30 wounded. Meanwhile, the New Zealand SAS troop was withdrawn in February and the artillery battery in May. Finally, on 16 October Australian forces handed over control of the base at Nui Dat to South Vietnamese forces, while 4 RAR, the last Australian infantry battalion in South Vietnam, sailed for Australia on board HMAS Sydney on 9 December 1971. V Company and the New Zealand medical team were also with-



drawn at this time. Meanwhile, D Company, 4 RAR with an assault pioneer and mortar section and a detachment of APCs remained in Vung Tau protect the task force headquarters and 1 ALSG until the final withdrawal of stores and equipment could be completed, finally returning to Australia on 12 March 1972.

Between June 1966 and December 1971, 1 ATF recorded at least 3,370 Viet Cong killed, the majority in Phuoc Tuy, while an

*TOP: A typical tent exterior.
ABOVE: Pinup girls were a common interior decor element throughout the base*

unknown number were wounded. Total Australian casualties during the Vietnam War were 521 killed and 3,025 wounded, the bulk of which were sustained by 1 ATF. New Zealand casualties during the war were 37 killed and 187 wounded.

SAPPER SNIPPETS

Sappers setting the pace



Earlier this year a group of Sapper veterans of the War in Afghanistan set themselves a challenge to run 300km from 2 Combat Engineer Regiment lines at Enoggera near Brisbane to SPR Snowy Moerland's memorial in his hometown of Gayndah.

SPR Moerland was killed in action in Uruzgan Province Afghanistan on 7th June 2010 while serving with 2 Combat Engineer Regiment.

The purpose of the run was to raise money and awareness for combat engineers and their well-being in transition to civilian life. The run was also in memory of combat engineers KIA or wounded in the fight against terrorism.

The mission for participants was to prove that they must and can move forward, remembering that Snowy was always driven to succeed.

"Our biggest challenge is that we are starting with nothing," said Sean 'Mully' Mulqueen, One of the driving forces behind the Run. "The idea is to show that we may be feeling close to nothing but we can begin to make something. Therefore the motto; 'It Begins'. Hopefully it also shows we can rebuild or begin our lives again."

Mully, Tommo and the rest of the boys (some of them runners and some providing support roles) stayed along the way at townships like Beerburrum, Maleny, Brooloo, Gympie, Kilkivan and Ban Ban Springs prior to finishing at Gayndah.

We congratulate the Veteran Sappers on organizing their run. They raised not only funds, but awareness of the fallen, and of the often difficult circumstances that Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans find themselves in.

This is a great achievement for which we old Sappers admire and salute you. Representatives of the Tunnel Rats Association and the Queensland Sappers Association were on hand at 2CER to farewell the runners.

Explosive Hazard Training

Complex ambushes and well-hidden IEDs will confront engineer search teams and manoeuvre commanders as they move through the new Explosive Hazard Training Area at Holsworthy Barracks. The area features precincts replicating South-East Asian, Middle Eastern and industrial environments with plenty of sneaky crevices to conceal IEDs.



ABOVE: Australian Army soldier Corporal Simon Rolfe (right) sends explosive detection dog 'Wrecker' to conduct a search at the newly opened explosive hazard training area



Soldiers inspect the South-East Asian precinct of the newly opened explosive hazard training area



Brigadier Marcus Thompson (left), Commander of 6th Brigade, and Lieutenant Colonel Amanda Johnston, Commanding officer of 6th Engineer Support Regiment, open the new explosive hazard training area at Holsworthy

Tunnel Rats List

All list enquires to Graeme Gartside (contact details below)

This is our latest list of former Tunnel Rats. If you are not on the list and wish to be, please send your details (Troop, year, phone number and address) to Graeme Gartside at email: ggart@internode.on.net or by mail to Graeme Gartside, 9 Park Street Mt Gambier SA 5290

3 Field Troop (1965-66)

Ian Biddolph 02 4472 9434
 Alan Christie 07 5494 6628
 Brian Cleary 0438239387
 Allan S Coleman 07 4687 7975
 Bill Corby 07 5502 1193
 John "Tex" Cotter 07 4723 1244
 "Meggsie" Dennis 0413 193 584
 Des Evans 07 4128 2390
 Ray Forster 07 3409 1907
 Geoff Green 03 6272 8167
 Barry Harford 08 8088 4371
 Sandy MacGregor 02 9457 7133
 Frank Mallard 0408183325
 Keith Mills 07 4770 7267
 Warren Murray 02 6059 8142
 John Opie 0427280703

Bernie Pollard 08 9248 3178

Ross Thorburn 0408413204

Bill Unmeopa 08 9300 5561

Snow Wilson Jnr 02 6649 3998

Chief Engineer Vietnam

John Hutcheson MC 0417224850

OC 1 Field Squadron

John Kemp 02 6288 3428

Rex Rowe 0419 251 420

1 Troop (1966-67)

Nick Burgerhof 07 3271 1592

Ray Burton 08 8268 4575

Ron Carroll 0408884327

Joe Cazey 07 3710 8102

Allan S Coleman 07 4661 1924

Grahame Cook 02 4390 5159

Alan Hammond 0423491091

Cul Hart 0413300120

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

David Martin 02 6379 6097

Gavin Menzies 02 6584 7257

John Olsen 0414433341

Ron Rockliffe 02 9789 4302

Trevor Shelley 0419784954

"Jethro" Thompson 0732168906

Ross Tulloh 0418223345

Graham Zalewska-Moon

(Poland phone: 48-815177391)

1 Troop (1967-68)

Billy Adams 03 5974 2916

Henry Bagdaley 0419902268

Reg Bament 02 6948 2524

Bruce Bevan 0402334614

Neville Bartels 07 4055 9871

Col Campbell 0417658770

Dave Campbell 07 4225 6310

Bob Coleman 03 5332 0975

Ross Comben 08 9535 2273

Jack Green 07 3278 8719

Norm Hitchcock (Canada)

1-250-2455137

Ray Kenny 07 3881 3648

Peter Koch 04 3822 3100

Brian Lewis 07 3880 0376

"Paddy" Maddigan 07 5485 1918

Mike McCallum 02 6288 5113

John Neal 02 9982 6694

Barry O'Rourke 0409546717

Clive Pearsall 03 9459 4470

Terry Perkins 0413343168

Alan Rantall 03 9434 2031

Ivan Scully 03 9802 0977

Peter Sheehan 03 9390 2834

Carlton "CP" Smith 0448000334

Max Staggard 0418522859

Jim Trower 0418842744

1 Troop (1968-69)

Ray Bellinger 0407952670

Adrian Black 0417756729

Mike Bruggemann 0409441992

Peter Carrodus 02 9759 6383

Albert Eyssens 03 9769 9715

Ken Ford 0418669689

Peter Hollis 02 6581 5401

George Hulse 07 3399 7659

Robert Laird 0408561748

Brian Lamb 02 6059 6947

Kent Luttrell 0408387641

Kerry McCormick 03 6344 5291

Keith Murley 0429729764

Alan Paynter 03 5975 7130

Richard Reilly 02 6262 7374

Colin Spies 07 4743 4676

Garry Von Stanke 08 8725 5648

Cliff Truelove 02 6495 7844

Ken Wheatley 07 4774 0045

Bob Wooley 03 6264 1485

David Wright 03 9435 4131

1 Troop (1969-70)

Kevin Atkinson 08 9041 1571

Larry Batze 07 4033 2025

Mervyn Chesson 0419806323

Allan S Coleman 07 4687 7975

Paul Cook 02 4946 5321

Phil Cooper 0439 955 207

Garry Degering 03 9796 0136

John Felton 07 4661 8679

Grahame Fletcher 0408822489

Brian Forbes 0412047937

Jon Fuller 02 4774 1674

P. "Guts" Geisel 07 4092 1735

Terry Gleeson 0458 232 886

Graham Harvey 0418889739

Trevor Kelly 08 9538 1184

Des McKenzie 07 5448 3400

Anthony Marriott 03 6257 0279

Doug Myers 0421904562

Paul Ryan 0429165974

Les Slater 08 9361 0603

Max Slater 0412 772 849

Vic Smith 0432916485

Dave Sturmer 0422664942

1 Troop (1970-71)

Mick Augustus 07 3205 7401

Dan Brindley 02 6643 1693

Ian Cambell 03 9870 0313

Ray "Brute" Carroll 08 9342 3596

Phil Duffy 0406020382

Harry Ednie 0408391371

Robin Farrell 0409265470

Bruce Fraser 07 5499 0508

Garth Griffiths 0435902386

"Paddy" Healy 02 4930 7541

Peter Krause 02 6723 2835

John Lewis 07 3425 1524

R Loxton 0419944755

Barry Meldrum 03 5427 1162

Roger Newman 07 5450 6054

Peter North 08 9279 5905

Dennis Pegg 03 6224 9090

Bob Pfeiffer 07 5464 5221

John Pritchard 02 9837 7482

John Severyn 0407008610

Garry Shoemark 02 6546 6778

Garry Sutcliffe 07 4684 3229

Donald Stringer 07 41559 515

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

Alan Hammond 0423491091

Peter Hegarty 07 4168 5644

Graeme Leach 07 4777 8627

Ken McCann 0409938830

Rod McClennan 07 3267 6907

Noel McDuffie 0427051678

Bob McKinnon 07 3267 0310

Peter Matthews 03 6250 3686

Warren Morrow 0418427947

Mick Shannon 08 8552 1746

Stan Shepherd 0412 232 197

Bob Sweeney 08 9248 4432

2 Troop (1967-1968)

William Adams 0400405751

M. Ballantyne 08 8298 2515

John Beningfield 07 4778 4473

Peter Bennett 0418915550

Dennis Burge 08 8281 2270

Kenneth Butler 0414897889

Harry Cooling 07 4778 2013

Garry Cosgrove 02 4845 5153

Geoff Craven 03 5629 5224

Peter Fontanini 0438 881 940

Roland Gloss 02 6367 5324

John Goldfinch 02 6674 0855

Paul Grills 07 4162 5235

Ron Johnston 07 3351 1609

Eddie Josephs 0417882491

Lew Jordan 03 6397 3261

Ray Kenny 07 3881 3648

John Kiley 02 4228 4068

David Kitley 02 4735 4991

Robert Knowles 08 9535 6416

Bernard Ladyman 08 9795 7900

Warren McBurnie 02 6687 7030

Stephen McHenry 08 9344 6939

Eric McKerrow (Silent number)

Dave McNair 08 9725 2821

Kevin Moon 0423005756

Tony Parmenter 0417856877

Gary Phillips 07 5474 0614

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

Carlton "CP" Smith 0448000334

John Tramby 0428659048

John Willis 03 9363 7878

"Snow" Wilson 08 9752 2935

2 Troop (1968-1969)

Janis Atrens +371 2944 6521

(This is Janis's mobile in Latvia)

Bob Austin 02 6644 9237

Ross Bachmann 07 5495 1443

Don Beale 02 6971 2424

Richard Branch 0409496294

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

John Coe 07 4776 5585

Rod Crane 08 9530 3083

John Douglas 0433747401

Robert Earl 02 4990 3601

Brian Forbes 0412047937

John Gilmore 08 9795 6847

Stan Golubenko 03 9361 2721

Paul Grills 07 4162 5235

Geoff Handley 0427931791

Ross Hansen 0409225721

Wayne Hynson 0425720696

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 0400012255

Rick Martin 02 6928 4253

Bill Matheson 0428959044

Bill Morris 08 9384 2686



Remember this? - Mine detector control panel

Kevin Connor 0408 748 172
 Garry Cosgrove 02 4845 5153
 Arthur Davies 07 3408 1556
 Grumpy Foster 07 4041 2321
 Graeme Gartside 08 8725 6900
 Doug George 0419475246
 Greg Gough 0417 911 173
 Brad Hannaford 08 8389 2217
 John Hopman 02 9398 5258
 Chris Koulouris 02 4952 6341
 Bill Lamb 0418 424 208
 Mick Loughlin 07 4060 3039
 Mick Lee 07 5543 5001
 Marty McGrath 02 6059 1204
 Jim Marett 03 9824 4967
 Bob Ottery 03 5199 2516
 Bevan Percival 07 5573 6925
 Pedro Piromanski 08 9306 8169
 Ian Pitt 03 5349 2018
 Jack Power 07 4955 3761
 Colin Redacliff 02 9673 0597
 Rolf Schaefer 08 8962 1391
 Brian "BC" Scott 07 3204 5691
 Peter Scott (219) 02 4341 3782
 "Roo Dog" Scott 07 5578 7054
 Les Shelley 07 3264 4041
 Jimmy Shugg 08 9776 1471
 Bob Smith 07 5456 1194
 Mick Van Poeteren 03 9437 7386
 Gerry Wallbridge 03 9803 4223
 Dennis Wilson 08 8659 1189
 Stephen Wilson 07 5538 2179

2 Troop (1970-1971)

Bruce Arrow 02 6288 3872
 Mick Bergin 0427742175
 Graham Besford 03 9439 2661
 Mal Botfield 02 9872 2594
 John Brady 02 6888 1192
 David Briggs 08 9537 6956
 Keith Burley 07 5543 0990
 Peter Cairns 03 6267 4646
 Brian Christian 07 4778 6602
 Grahame Clark 0408533869
 Dennis Coghlan 0429938445
 "Sam" Collins 08 8262 6107
 Ron Cook 0414508686
 Jock Coutts 08 9279 1946
 Bill Craig 08 9530 1008
 Denis Crawford 03 9497 3256
 John Cross 02 4757 2273

Robin Date 03 9783 3202
 Gino De Bari 08 9437 5641
 Tom Dodds 040672260
 Des Evans 07 4128 2390
 Bruce Fenwick 02 4977 2917
 Ray Fulton 03 6288 1176
 Ziggy Gniot 0418 885 830
 Bob Hamblyn 08 8672 3930
 Cec Harris 02 6629 3373
 Paddy Healy 02 4930 7541
 Kevin Hodge 08 8322 2619
 Paul Jones 02 6231 5963
 Jim Kelton 0488972139
 Kevin Lappin 07 3273 8614
 Gary McClintock 07 4788 0123
 Peter McCole 03 5155 9368
 Bob McGlenn 07 5426 1597
 Ian McLean 02 6286 3928
 Jeff Maddock 03 5987 3850
 Leon Madeley 07 5497 1038
 Bill Marshall 07 5545 0389
 Rod O'Regan 0419431779
 Graeme Pengelly 0407 138 124
 Des Polden 03 6223 3830
 Keith Ramsay 0439856933
 Mick Rasmussen 0428 790 645
 Ron Reid 0427 461 297
 Gary Sangster 0427224099
 John Scanlan 0488 132 903
 Peter Schreiber 02 6569 3390
 Garry Shoemark 02 6546 6778
 Alex 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 0408515270
 Steve Walton 07 3205 9494
 Terry Wake 07 4786 2625
 Dave Young 0418425429

2 Troop (1971-72)

Warren Pantall 0417 096 802

3 Troop (1967-68)

Ken Arnold 02 6974 1181
 Dennis Baker 08 89527281
 Chuck Bonzas 0407866487
 Bruce Breddin 0418766759
 Norm Cairns 03 6267 4629
 Kerry Caughey 03 5971 4188

David Clark 08 8388 7728
 Bob Coleman 03 5332 0975
 Jim Dowson 03 5662 3291
 Bob Embrey 07 3351 1222
 Peter Fontanini 0438881940
 Barry Gilbert 03 5023 6657
 Brian Hopkins 0401829744
 John Hoskin 0417886100
 Jack Lawson 0429 798 673
 Peter MacDonald 08 9448 5418
 Barrie Morgan 0437861945
 Michael O'Hearn 0429327509
 Gary Pohner 0427172900
 Peter Pont 07 4095 0150
 Tom Simons 03 6344 6058
 Kevin Shugg 0411144500
 Mervyn Spear 0431212960
 Frank Sweeney 07 3882 6025
 Brian Thomson 0428551368
 Vic Underwood 0429 907 989
 Murray Walker 08 9332 6410
 Glenn Weise 0488741174
 Mick Woodhams 08 9459 0130
 Bob Yewen 07 5532 4560
 Ken Young 0409124096

3 Troop (1968-69)

Geoff Box 08 9731 2757
 Col Campbell 0417658770
 Barry Chambers 0401119999
 Neil Garrett 03 5798 1522
 Brian Glyde 02 4455 7404
 Peter Graham 0428325182
 Peter Gray 02 4285 8877
 Derwyn Hage 0408802038
 John Hollis 02 6662 6660
 "Sam" Houston 07 5495 5480
 Phil Lamb 08 8564 2001
 Ian Lauder 08 9419 5375
 Kent Luttrell 0408387641
 John Murphy 08 9493 3771
 John Nulty 02 6927 3535
 Ted O'Malley 0428243351
 Barry Parnell 07 4947 1976
 Bob Pritchard 07 4779 0608
 Art Richardson 03 9314 8216
 Greg Roberts 03 5941 2269
 Walter Schwartz 0439512322
 Don Shields 08 8297 8619
 Ray Vanderheiden 02 4776 1373
 Wal Vander 0418240394
 Ray White 03 9740 7141

Three Troop (1969-70)

Tony Bower-Miles 0412 317 306
 Chris Brooks 0407186207
 Jim Burrough 0400884633
 Terry Cartlidge 0411252859
 Bruce Crawford 02 6628 0846
 Richard Day 08 8088 4129
 Phil Devine 0439066012
 Bob Done 0407485888
 Roy Fulton 03 6288 1176
 Graham Fromm 08 8532 2561
 Doug George 0419475246
 Graham Harvey 07 5445 2636
 Trevor Hughes 0419883281
 Darrel Jensen 0428387203
 Rod Kirby 07 4973 7726
 Peter Knight 02 6247 6272
 Gerry Lyall 07 3343 4725
 Phil McCann 0417423450

Chris MacGregor 02 4472 3250
 Norm Martin 02 4953 1331
 Jock Meldrum MID 0424924909
 Roelof Methorst 0416834846
 Gary Miller MM 0407586241
 "Jacko" Miller 03 6267 4411
 Chris Muller 0458650113
 Danny Mulvany 08 9356 6890
 Vin Neale 03 9786 1549
 Peter Phillips 0429362935
 G. Rentmeester 03 9735 5236
 Brian "BC" Scott 07 3204 5691
 Paul Scott 02 6656 0730
 Gordon Temby 0419954658
 Peter Thorp MID 02 6288 0008
 "Curly" Tuttleby 02 6681 4133
 Hank Veenhuizen 0407 487 167
 "Wonzer" White 02 9833 0580

Three Troop (1970-71)

Robert Allardice 0439076891
 Steve Armbrust 0407695247
 Errol Armitage 07 5598 8018
 Geoff Ansell 0448013712
 Bob Bament 02 6071 3527
 Mike Barnett 02 9869 7132
 John Beningfield 07 4778 4473
 Darryel Binns 0417170171
 Trevor Boaden 0448160944
 Mal Botfield 02 9872 2594
 Ian Campbell 03 9870 0313
 Brian Christian 07 4778 6602
 Bob Clare 03 5439 5532
 Graeme Clarke 07 4128 4660
 Ted Clarke 0438225844
 Allan J Coleman 02 9838 4848
 Steve Collett 08 9371 0075
 John Davey 07 3378 4316
 Chris Ellis 08 9398 1718
 Kevin Hodge 08 8322 2619
 John Jones 08 8357 5226
 Kenny Laughton 08 8297 4010
 Garry Lourigan 02 4844 5545
 R. McKenzie-Clark 08 9729 1162
 Robert McLeay 03 5386 1122
 "Jock" Meldrum 0424924909
 Roelof Methorst 0416834846
 Carlo Mikkelsen
 (New Zealand) 0064 9 3776322
 Ben Passarelli 0411340236
 Robert Reed 07 3351 4440
 Paul Scott 02 6656 0730
 Les Shelley 07 3264 4041
 John Steen 0419772375
 John Tatler 0405188717
 Gordon Temby 08 9757 2016
 Peter Vandenberg 03 9798 3947
 Peter Weingott 07 3378 2770
 David Wilson 0401726090

Three Troop (1971-72)

Trevor "Zip" Button 0434332789
 Ron Byron 0439910568
 Mike Dutton 0438627140
 Brenton J Smith 0408806685

US Tunnel Rats

Stephen "Shorty" Menendez
 menendez@toast.net

John Thiel
 drjthiel@gmail.com

Mark Morrison
 Imorrison18@cox.net

3 TROOP 1FD SQN REUNION 2018 - BUNBURY WA



The next 3 Troop 1 Field Squadron reunion is to be held in Bunbury, West Australia in April 2018. Mark it on your calendar now and plan ahead to be there. If you would like to come along or need further information, contact the organisers by email, post or phone:

Email:

threetrp1fld@outlook.com

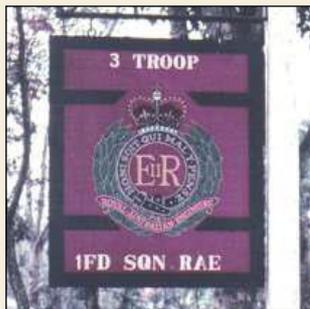
Post:

Julie & Geoff BOX, PO Box 488 Donnybrook WA 6239

Phone:

Geoff & Julie (08) 9731 2757

Danny & Glenys Mulvany (08) 9356 6890



HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE