

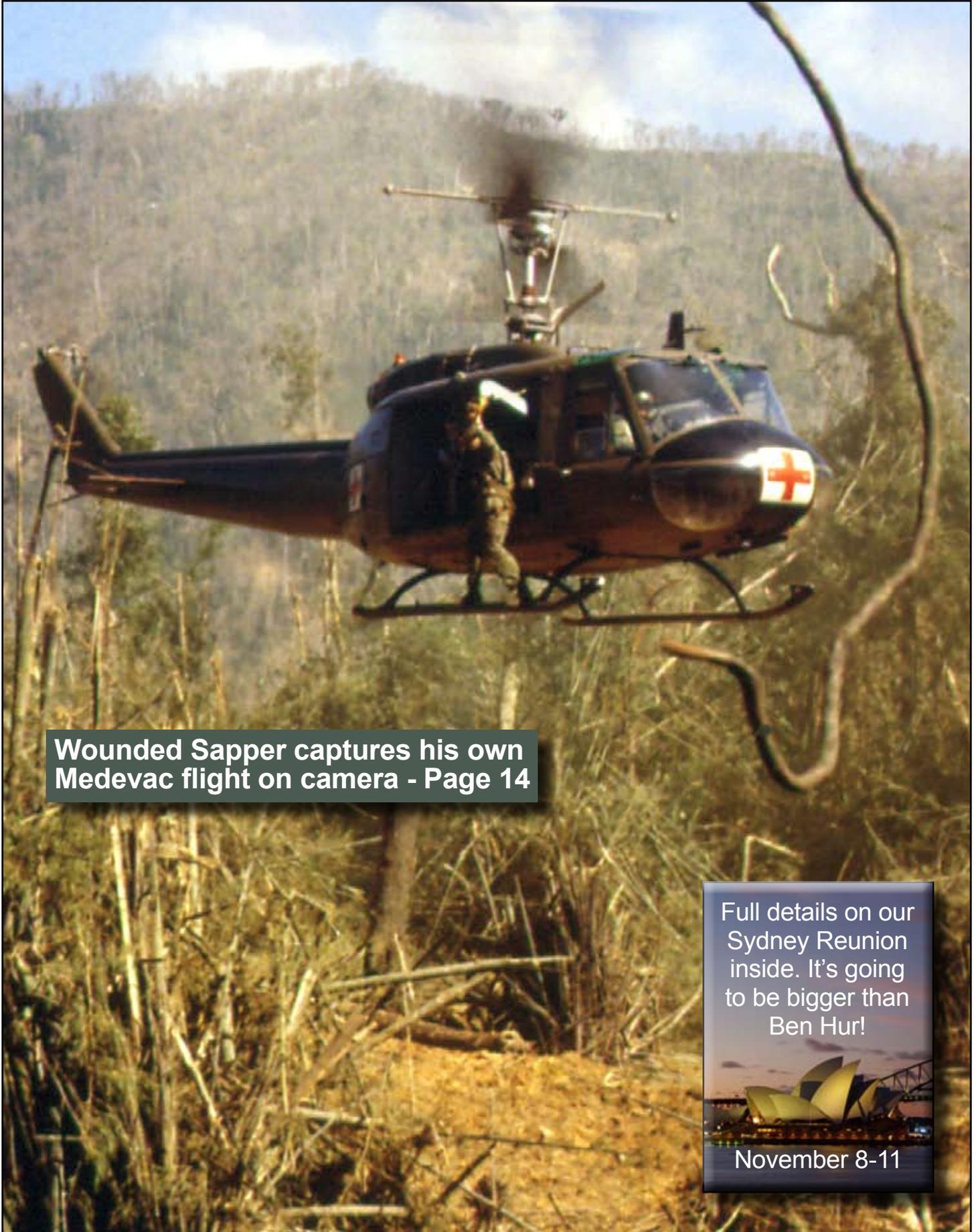


# HOLDFAST

JUNE 2012 - NUMBER 21

[WWW.TUNNELRATS.COM.AU](http://WWW.TUNNELRATS.COM.AU)

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION INC



**Wounded Sapper captures his own Medevac flight on camera - Page 14**

Full details on our Sydney Reunion inside. It's going to be bigger than Ben Hur!



November 8-11

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



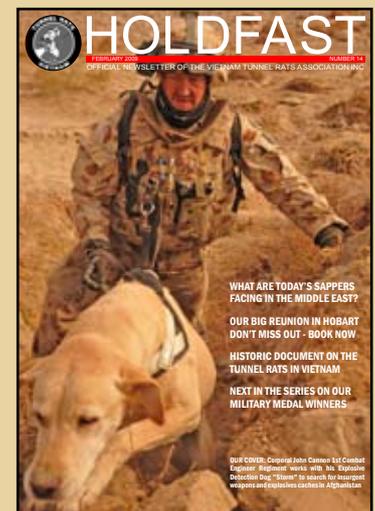
## Everything a Sapper could ever want

Chilled beer, buddies to drink it with, and boobs beyond belief on the walls. Who could possibly ask for more when back in base after being out bush on operations? Tunnel Rats (left to right) "Twiggy Branch", Jim Castles and Dennis Wilson enjoy a little illegal drinking in the lines. Beer glasses were an unheard of luxury, so these guys are obviously toffs.



## If you were here you were almost home

In the last month of our 12 month tour of Vietnam we were given five days Rest and Convelesance (R&C) leave at this leave centre run by the Australian Army in Vung Tau. You wore civvies, The food was great (lots of fresh salads), maids cleaned your room, and there was a great bar on the top floor. Why couldn't our whole tour have been like this?



## Holdfast Magazine

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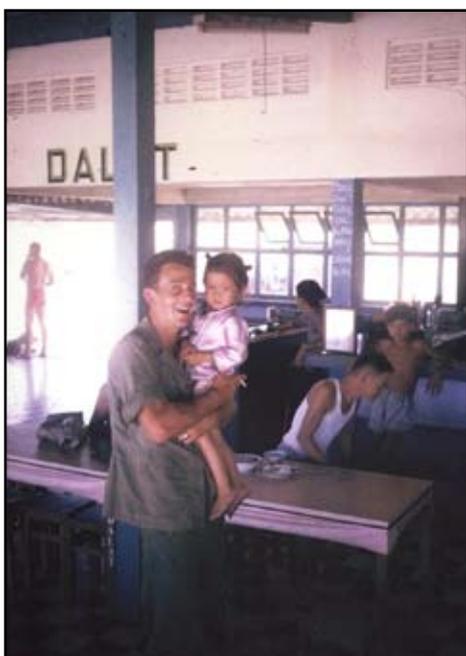
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## 1 Troop lines in the early days at Nui Dat

Those who arrived in Nui Dat base camp when it was already well established didn't really appreciate the incredible amount of work that went into establishing the base. These photos give a hint of the early days, taken in 1 Troop, 1 Field Squadron lines in 1966, they show there is still a lot of work to go (imagine this in the wet season!). Photos supplied by Trevor Shelley who served as a Tunnel Rat with 1 Troop 66/67.



## Making the most of a good thing

"Dick" Bentley, a Tunnel Rat with 1 Troop 1966-1967 is enjoying a little down time at a seaside cafe in Vung Tau. If you were on leave in Vung Tau you had to wear civilian clothes. The fact that Dick is in uniform indicates he's probably on a "Swan" - a day trip down there to deliver something, pick something up, or maybe visit a wounded mate in hospital. A good Sapper would never let such an opportunity go without also visiting town or the beach, and fitting in a few cold beers - even if that meant following local custom and having ice-cubes in the beer!



## Sapper snaps up some Soviet booty

Above is a Soviet marching compass and pouch retrieved from a Viet Cong tunnel by Sapper George Wilson of 3 Field Troop. Sapper Wilson found the compass during Operation Crimp from 8 to 14 January 1966, when 3 Field Troop penetrated a series of underground bunkers in the Ho Bo Woods area of Cu Chi district in Binh Duong Province. The compass has a hinged lid with a metal mirror riveted to the inside, allowing the user to see the aiming point and the compass dial simultaneously. Intelligence indicated that these bunkers housed the headquarters for the Communist committee that controlled all Viet Cong activity in the Capital Military District. A large complex of tunnels was subsequently uncovered which consisted many kilometres of tunnels in multiple levels, and included living, working and storage areas. Policy at the time was to destroy tunnels and bunkers, but the engineers of 3 Field Troop began searching them, capturing large quantities of weapons, food, equipment and documents. Following these successes, American units throughout Vietnam received orders to search tunnels before destroying them.



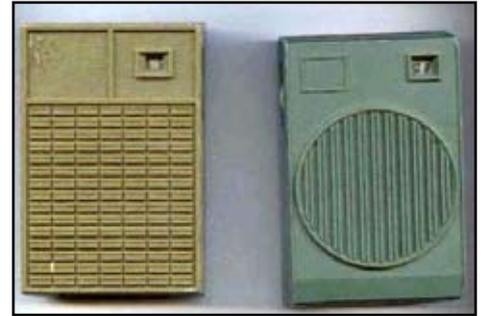
“I think they’ll hear us coming mate!”

Centurion tanks were not the quietest element in a jungle patrol, but if you came across enemy bunkers you were damn glad those tanks were there with you. Their main gun could devastate a bunker system and its occupants with a combination of explosive and canister rounds. The Sappers attached to the tanks had to ride on top if there was no RAEME APC travelling with the tanks. We usually rode in the basket at the back of the turret, which was uncomfortable and had you ridiculously exposed to enemy fire. In addition to this, every bug known to man fell on you as the tank pushed a path through the jungle. Cans of insect spray were always at hand.



“Have you seen the news today son?”

Here’s where it all began for many a young man quietly leading a normal everyday life in Australia. Soon we would experience things that would change our lives forever. We would see and do things that few people back home could even imagine. And out of it all came levels of comradeship amongst us that simply never fades, and is impossible to extinguish.



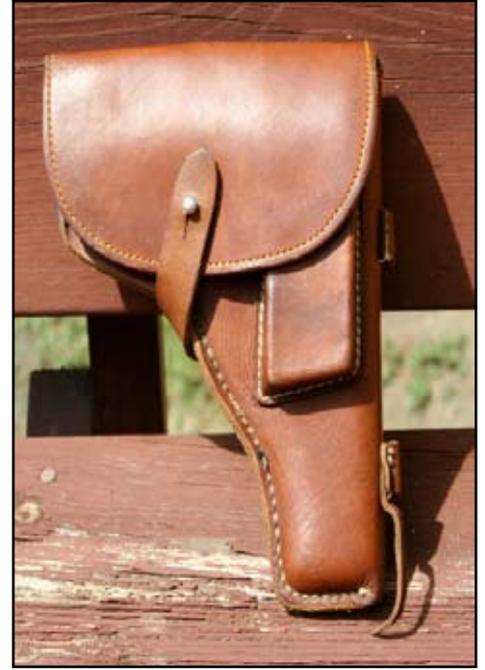
“You won’t get 2UE on this one buddy”

A few of these were found from time to time by Aussie Tunnel Rats out bush. They were US radios which the American Psyops people would drop into VC and NVA areas. The radios were set so that they only received broadcasts from US propaganda stations. These stations made announcements and played music aimed at making the enemy soldiers homesick. The broadcasts also explained the process of surrendering into the Chieu Hoi program which offered safety and even rewards for weapons given up.



“Let’s get rid of it”

The team of Tunnel Rats who put this little demolition together were obviously at the end of an operation and heading back to base camp soon. Rather than cart excess gear back they’ve simply dumped it into this setup they have for destroying some artillery rounds. Sappers had a very free rein with explosives, not having to account for any of the stuff we took out on operations or were supplied with while out in the bush. As a result we always had plenty of C4 explosives to cook with or make a quick mug of tea.



## The ultimate souvenir for smart Sappers

The Chinese Tokarev pistol was a popular war trophy. If you found one in a bunker or tunnel you quickly stashed it in your pack. If you found one complete with leather holster you were in hog heaven. We can't tell you who this one belongs to because it's illegal for him to still have it in his possession. It's a 1966 dated model in good condition which is a rarity considering the harsh climate of Vietnam. Many Tokarev's have pitting and corrosion on the slide from holster condensation. This one has a matching numbered magazine and the holster has blue corduroy lining. Tokarev's were actually issued with two matching numbered magazines, but for some reason it was extremely rare to find one with both magazines still in place.



## “What the hell.....?”

This is one of those photos that get sent to us, with no explanation of who, what, when, where. One or two of the faces look familiar, but we're not quite sure. But more interestingly, what's with the deer head? Have these guys been deer hunting in Vietnam? We're confident by their greens that it is in Vietnam, but the vehicle isn't an olive drab landrover, and they're drinking long-necks instead of cans. Can anyone help solve the mystery?



## Rare photo of mysterious Arab

“Arab” Avotins did two tours of Vietnam but photographs of him in-country are rarer than rocking horse poo. “Arab” is a remarkable linguist, spoke fluent Vietnamese, and went on to hold the rank of WO1. After years of research, the only photo of this iconic member of the Corp we've uncovered is the one above of “Arab” with three fellow Tunnel Rats on leave in Vung Tau, and no doubt headed for the boozier. Left to right are: Bob Smith, “BC” Scott, John Ash and the elusive “Arab”. Does anyone have more photos of “Arab”?



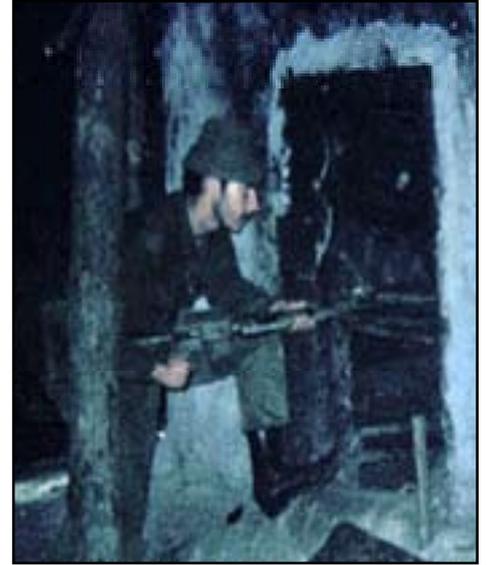
## Getting away from it all

Tunnel Rat, Sapper Neil Innes on Rest and Relaxation (R&R) leave in Hong Kong following an action for which he was later awarded the Military Medal. On 2 May 1967 during Operation Leeton, which involved the laying of the minefield at the Horseshoe feature, two American servicemen walked into a part of the minefield which had already been laid and were severely wounded by an explosion. Spr Innes entered the minefield to clear safe lanes and assist the soldiers, one of whom died of wounds, and the other who survived.



## "Is this real or am I dreaming?"

In the leave town of Vung Tau, the American Service Club just down the beach from the Peter Badcoe Club, had regular pop groups performing for the troops. For us it was an extraordinary contrast to the normal routine of operations and patrols. Most of us didn't realise at the time that the majority of the bands weren't Vietnamese, they were from the Philippines, a place where music is a way of life, and where the groups pride themselves on being able to mimic any band in the world with absolute accuracy. "We gotta get outa this place, if it's the last thing we ever do..."



## Room with a view

This very unusual above-ground room was part of a bunker system found by 5RAR and searched by the Tunnel Rats. Internal measurements were about 10ft x 10ft and it had a tunnel connecting it to a fighting bunker nearby. It was very well camouflaged from above with vines and other vegetation.



## Remember these?

Packs of this very popular brand of French cigarettes (made in Vietnam) were often found in and around enemy bunkers. They were very strong and the smell of them was often an early indicator that we were near a bunker system.

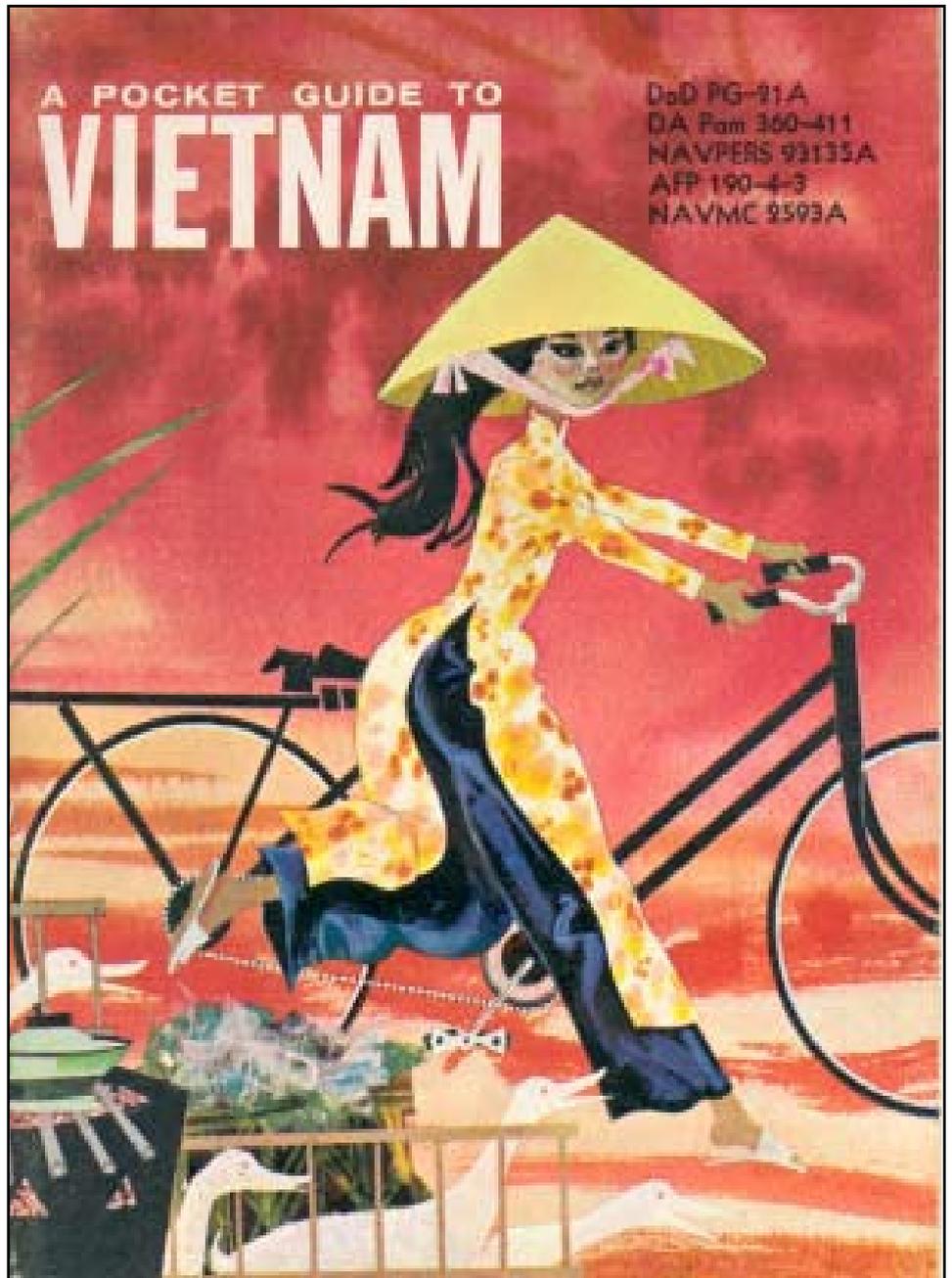


## “What do you mean I might be charged?”

Tunnel Rat Chris Koulouris (left), was tasked with destroying some faulty artillery rounds while attached to 5RAR. “Take these a safe distance from the Fire Support Base and blow them up”, was the order from his Troop HQ. A trained Sapper’s idea of a “safe distance” differs greatly from normal people, particularly if that Sapper is carrying a heavy load in the hot sun. The distance chosen was later described as “danger close”, a description hotly contested by Chris. Anyway, shrapnel from the blast actually landed in the HQ area of Lt. Col. Colin Kahn, CO of 5RAR. This is not good!

## Welcome to Vietnam

The Americans always did things with style. On the right is the cover of a US Defense Department guidebook which was issued to men and women heading for service in Vietnam. It told them why they were there, and what the country and its people were all about. Here’s just a sample: *“If you are bound for Vietnam, it is for the deeply serious business of helping a brave nation repel Communist aggression. It is your official job and it is a vital one, not only for the preservation of freedom in this one country but for the survival of freedom everywhere. Vietnam is a major testing ground for the Communists’ theories of “wars of national liberation,” and upon our success there depends peace in many other free countries of the world. The growing American commitment in Vietnam makes it even more important for us to maintain the good relations that exist between Americans and the Vietnamese people. Wherever you go, remember that Vietnam is a land of dignity and reserve. Your good manners, thoughtfulness, and restrained behaviour will be appreciated by the Vietnamese. You will benefit, as will the country you represent, in terms of the job you are there to do and in terms of friendship built on mutual respect.”*



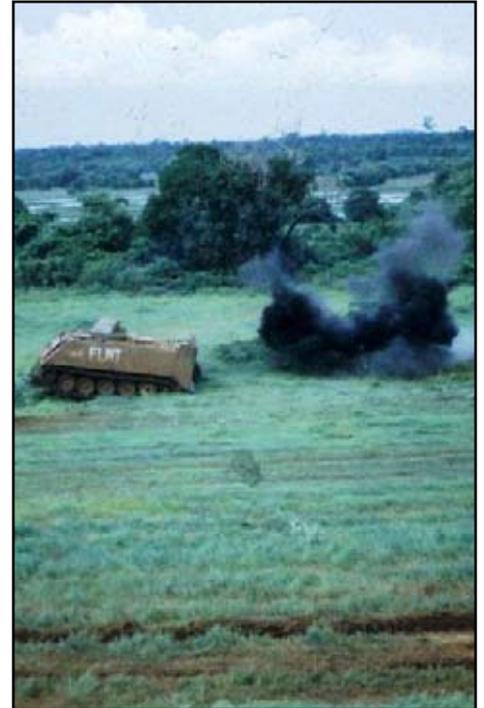


### Looking after the Boss

Mert Lee on OC Escort Duty at Dat Do in June 1969. The OC of 1 Field Squadron (Major Rex Rowe at the time) made regular visits to various parts of the Province we operated in, and each time he went out, he needed a Sapper to come along as security. The majority of the towns in the Province were pretty secure at this stage, so these trips were a bit of a "swan". It was a chance to mix with the locals, maybe sneak in a cold beer and buy a few souvenirs at the local shops.

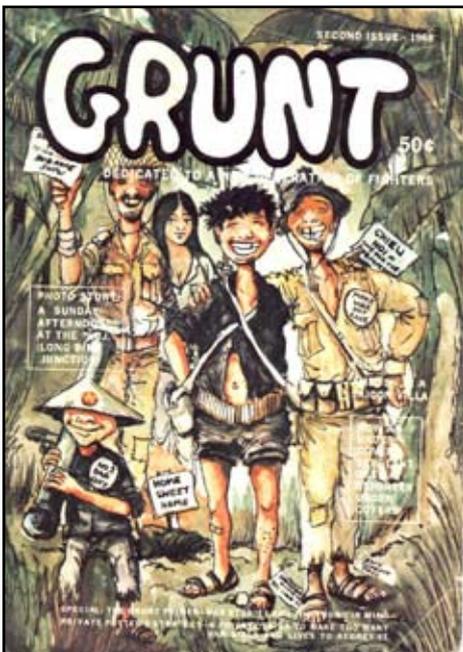
### "Pass the fish sauce Comrade Nguyen"

This elaborate and well concealed bush kitchen was a feature of a large enemy bunker system found by 5RAR. The thatch roof which sheltered it from aerial view has been removed. Smoke from the cooking fires was dispersed by a series of underground vents which went some distance into various points in the bush. Firewood, mostly dried rubber tree branches, were fed into the holes at the front. The large holes in the top were for holding iron woks. Very little food was found when we searched these bunkers, probably because food was such a precious item to them. When we did find stuff, it was usually tins of fish, mostly Mackerel, tins of condensed milk, and cooking oil. It was not uncommon to also find American C-Rations, which had obviously got there via the black market. Bunker systems were often sited near creeks to give them access to fresh water. The creeks also provided the opportunity to catch a few fish, which were mostly catfish, quite big, with large "whiskers", and very muddy tasting. Sappers the bunkers often reported seeing skinned animals, ready of cooking, "of an unknown species",



## Eight lads on a mission in the minefield

ABOVE LEFT: Jim Castles (bottom row second from right) and his section of Tunnel Rats at the Barrier minefield in 1969 where they were tasked with preparing and testing a modified APC designed to clear the minefield. The tests were successful and the minefield was eventually cleared. The photo includes a rare shot of Harold Bromley (top row second from left, between Jimmy Shugg and Stan Golubenko). ABOVE RIGHT: The APC "HMAPC Flint" is seen as it detonates an M-16 mine in the minefield.



## Only in America

This satirical magazine was aimed at building the morale of the US Infantry soldier, who was constantly getting negative messages from home about his service in Vietnam. Based on the highly popular "Mad" magazine, "Grunt" was hip and humorous. Advisors on the magazine who had served in Vietnam ensured the humour and stories were accurate.



## A time for contemplation

On leave in Vung Tau in July 1969, and visiting the Buddhist Temple is Wayne Lambley, a Tunnel Rat with 1 Fld Sqn 68/69. Set in extensive gardens on a mountainside, the temple provided a nice calm contrast to the whirl of booze and bad hangovers that was standard fare for your two day leave in "Vungers". Interestingly, Vietnamese refugees have built an exact replica of the Buddha from this temple in their new temple in Melbourne.

## Those rumours about Russians out bush were true

We regularly heard rumours of fair haired caucasians being spotted out bush, serving with the Viet Cong or NVA units.

Some of our own Sappers were lucky enough to make a sighting, but the reports were usually dismissed as "highly unlikely" by the powers that be.

The once secret SAS report (below) however finally gives credibility to the many sightings.

And the Russians have finally owned up as well, admitting now that some 3,000 Soviet soldiers served in Vietnam.

Many of these served as advisors, working directly with Viet Cong and NVA troops.

These Russian Veterans are now able to meet openly (right) to celebrate their service and commemorate their fallen comrades.



3 SAS Sqn Ops 52/69

SECRET

Copy No. .... 6...  
3 SAS Sqn  
NUI DAT  
10 May 69

PATROL REPORT

Recce Ptl/Ptl 31.

Ref maps VIEINAM XUYEN MCC 1:50,000 sheet 6430 11  
and Pictomap Supplement 1:25,000 sheet 6430 11 S

A. Size and Composition of Patrol

|      |      |           |          |
|------|------|-----------|----------|
| Capt | T.N. | CULLEY    | Ptl Comd |
| WO2  | E.   | BALL      | 2ic      |
| Cpl  | J.K. | NORRHOVER | Sig      |
| Tpr  | D.M. | TERRY     | Medic    |
| Cpl  | S.T. | TANTORA   | Rfn      |
| Tpr  | S.   | PENI      | Rfn      |

B. Task Recce Zone '2304

C. Date Time Out 281620H

D. Date Time In 061620H

E. Route Infil by hel into LZ YS 710698  
Exfil by hel from LZ YS 704691  
For patrol route see annex P

F. Terrain Flat terrain with gullies up to 15 - 20 ft at creeks. Area covered with med primary jungle dense secondary 5 - 15 ft high consisting mainly of saplings. Visibility 5 - 40m. Flowing water in SUOI DA YS 700690 and creek YS 704688.

G. En  
At YS 709701 at 281630H ptl estb ni LUP.

At 281955H heard large dml 5000m W.  
Further dml heard at 2000 hrs and two more ten mins later.

At YS 707703 at 290830H ptl obs NE well defined foot track. Showed signs of recent use by small gps persons.

At 290835H ptl estb OP 20m E of track.

At 290912H ptl heard sounds hvy chopping and trees falling from 50 - 60m NNE. 2 mins later heard voices of approx 3 pers from 40m NNE.

At 290915H ptl heard sound of med rkt fired from 200m E.  
Shortly afterward ptl heard 1 short burst of HEIG fire from same loc.

At 290917H ptl heard voices approx 6 pers from loc of tree felling.

At 290940H ptl obs 1 VC mov SW on track. Dress blue shirt white shorts armed with short wpn. Pers appeared to be CAUCASIAN - well built, fair complexion, brown hair and 5 ft 10 - 11 ins tall.

At 291010H ptl obs 3 VC (incl 2 females) mov NE on track. Dress male in black, 2 females coloured blouses and black trousers. Females talking and using rakes to scatter leaves on to track.

From 291100H to 1430H withdrew 50m E for comms.  
At 291125H ptl obs 1 VC mov SW on track. Dress: black and carrying wpn slung.

At 291205H ptl obs 2 VC mov NE on track. Dress: black both carrying bundles of wood on poles.

At 291750H ptl heard 1 pers mov towards loc felling small trees and apparently marking others with machete. Pers reached 30m

## An important task completed - and done well

*The presentation of Army Combat Badges to the next of kin of our thirtysix fallen comrades*



For several years now, Peter "Roo Dog" Scott (a Tunnel Rat with 2 Troop 69/70), has been carrying out the task of ensuring the Army Combat Badges awarded to our fallen comrades, are properly presented to their next of kin.

It's been a long and drawn out duty involving contact not only with the next of kin, but also with very senior members of the Army as well.

Before next of kin could be contacted, they had to be found, and it was a sensitive duty too, because despite it being some forty years since they lost their loved one, invariably the emotions related to the loss are still sitting just below the surface.

The combined skills of a detective, a diplomat and a devoted Sapper were required, and we could have chosen none better than "Roo Dog" for the task.

"The presentations made at Tweed Heads bring to a close the challenging but successful co-operative project of the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association

and the 1 Field Squadron Group Association, to have the ACB awarded to our fallen Sappers of the Vietnam War," says Peter.

"We also acknowledge the 1966/67 Two Troop Sappers group, who obtained the award for two of their fallen comrades.

"Arrangements have also been made for presentation of Sapper Donald Wride's ACB to his family in Western Australia.

"Donald Wride was an ex-Army Apprentice, and was killed during land clearing operations on Combat Engineer support duties as part of the 1st Field-Squadron RAE Group.

"Many people outside of our Corps have given great support to our project," continues Peter. "From former Infantry Colonels to drivers from RAACC.

"All had respect for the Sappers who fell, and deserve special thanks for their significant contribution to this project.

"Within our ranks, Jim Marett negotiated by letter and eventually face to face with the former Chief of Army, General

Peter Leahey, putting the Vietnam Sapper's case for retrospectivity of the Award.

"LTGEN Frank Hickling AO CSC (Retd), former Chief of Army, and former 2IC of our Squadron in Vietnam, helped in the later processing stage when Army policy obstacles were experienced.

"These people all went into bat for our fallen mates, all of whom richly deserve the posthumous award of the Army Combat Badge.

"There are a small number of families who chose not to take up the Award, says Peter.

"We respect their wishes and remain ready to support them should they wish to do so in the future."

In addition to these achievements, "Roo Dog" also helped co-ordinate the presentations, which were conducted not only in cities and towns all over Australia, but in one case, even in the UK, with the able assistance of John Benningfield.

Well done Roo Dog.

**Sapper Kenneth Roy Nicholson**

Sapper Nicholson's ACB was presented by Mr Clive Pearsall. Ken "Nicko" Nicholson was a Combat Engineer Killed in Action in a mine incident on 12th May 1968 while attached on Operations to the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Clive Pearsall was there at the time of the incident, and cleared safe lanes to go forward to render assistance to Sapper Nicholson. His award was accepted by his brothers, Mr. John Nicholson and Mr. Trevor Nicholson.

**Sapper Ronald Edward Davies**

Sapper Davies' ACB was presented by LT GEN Frank Hickling AO CSC (Retd), former Chief of Army. General Hickling served in Vietnam as a Captain and 2 I/C of the 1st Field Squadron RAE. Ron Davies was a Combat Engineer Killed in Action 28th May 1968 while attached on Operations to the 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. His award was accepted by his sister Ms. Alayne Davies.

**Corporal Noel Smith**

Noel Smith was a Corporal in 21 Engineer Support Troop RAE, and Died of Injuries accidentally sustained while on Combat Engineer support duties as part of the 1st Field Squadron RAE Group at Nui Dat. Garry Sutcliffe, President of the 1st Field Squadron Group Association entrusted CPL Smith's Army Combat Badge to LTCOL Chris Trickett RAE (Retd), a former Commander of 21 EST, who has subsequently presented the award to Noel's brother, Mr. Kevin Smith in Melbourne



### **Sapper Ronald George Smillie**

Sapper Smillie's ACB was presented by LTCOL Rex Rowe OBE, RAE (Retd), who was Ron's Officer Commanding at that time. Ron Smillie was a Combat Engineer Killed in Action on 23 July 1969 while attached on Operations to the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. His award was accepted by his mother, Mrs Dorothy Smillie, and other members of the Smillie family. Rex has also presented the ACB of Sapper John Smith, Killed in Action in the same mine clearing incident.



### **Sapper Ross Tasman Clark**

Ross Clark served as a Combat Engineer with 1 Troop 1st Field Squadron for 8 months in 1969, at a time when his Troop was suffering an extremely high casualty rate. He was medically evacuated to Australia and died tragically in the Repatriation General Hospital, Heidelberg, some 12 months later, of a brain tumour. Sapper Ross Clark's ACB was entrusted by Peter "Roo Dog" Scott (left) to two of Ross Clark's mates from 1 Troop, Dave Wright and Max Goddard, who carried the Badge and Certificate to Melbourne for presentation to Ross Clark's family.



### **WO 2 Barry John Moore**

Barry was the Squadron SSM and was Killed in Action while Mine clearing on 16th November 1967.

Presented by LTCOL Dennis Anspach RAE (Retd) representing Barry's group of Army Apprentices, and accepted by his widow Mrs Iris Moore and her family members. Mrs Pauline Hutchinson the widow of, and Tina, the daughter of CPL John Hutchinson Killed in Action at the same time as Barry Moore, were on stage for the presentation.



## Cool Hand Dave catches his own Medevac on camera

Sappers are well known for taking things in their stride. The Army could throw anything it liked at us, and we'd not only get it done, but then ask "what's next?".

It's an attitude that won us a lot of respect from the Infantry and Armoured men we worked with out on operations.

It's also an attitude that helped you get through some frankly horrendous experiences.

On July 21st 1969, Sapper Phil Baxter (1 Troop 68/69), was the "No.1" of a two-man splinter team attached to 6RAR. His "No.2" was Sapper Dave Sturmer (1 Troop 69/70), who'd been in-country less than four months.

At about 10am the Commander of the 6RAR Platoon they were patrolling with stepped on an M-16 mine, killing himself and causing a total of 18 casualties, including Phil and Dave.

Despite their wounds, Phil and Dave began prodding with their bayonets to clear safe lanes to the other 16 casualties, and then cleared a landing zone for helicopters to bring in another team of Tunnel Rats to take over from them because of their wounds.

Rather than let this incident get on top of him, after Dave Sturmer had been winched on board the Medevac flight, cool as a cucumber, he pulls out his camera and starts taking a few "happy snaps".

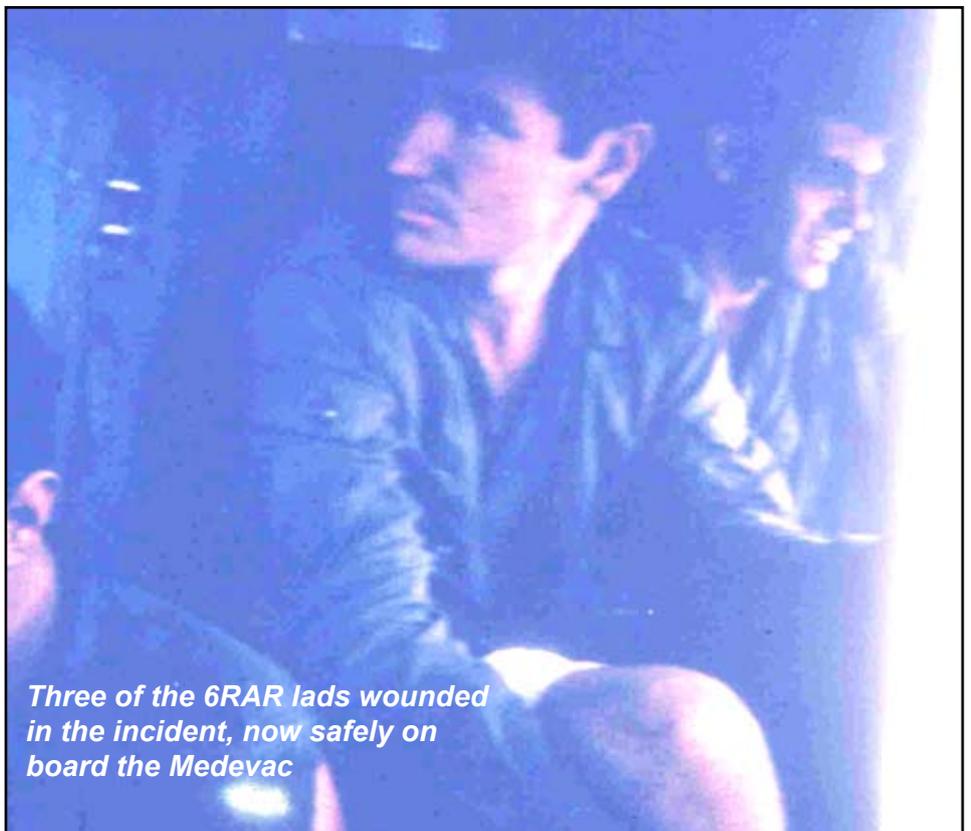
The results are these shaky, but extraordinary and historic photos of wounded diggers in the midst of their Medevac.

"After being hauled into the Medivac chopper, all the blokes were pretty down, and rightfully so," says Dave.

"For whatever reason, I



*Wounded and wondering what's next, Private John Goslett of 6RAR (left) and Sapper Phil Baxter (right) on board the Medevac. Phil was awarded the Military Medal for his role in this incident*



*Three of the 6RAR lads wounded in the incident, now safely on board the Medevac*

remembered I still had my trusty Instamatic plastic camera with me in my shirt pocket.

"On aiming and shooting, mainly at Phil to brighten the moment, I said something like 'Smile

you're on Candid Camera,' (a popular TV show back home).

"Some saw the funny side, others were too withdrawn and in pain," recalls Dave.

Dave actually had a rath-

er event-filled tour of duty. He arrived in Vietnam in early April 1969, and just two months later, in early June he was on an operation attached to tanks when he was ready reacted to the Battle of Binh Ba.

Six weeks later he was attached to 6RAR and wounded in the mine incident described on these pages, while on patrol with 6RAR on 21 July 1969.

And he was wounded again, on 8 December 1969 when an APC he was on hit an anti-vehicle mine. This time he was sent home!

We thank Dave Sturmer for sharing the photos with us.



**ABOVE:** The chopper flies in over the 1ALSG base at Vung Tau, towards the hospital's "Vampire Pad."

**TOP RIGHT:** Wounded in the incident, Private Alf Lamb of 6RAR heads to hospital.

**MIDDLE RIGHT:** Happy to be out of there, another of the 6RAR lads on board the Medevac flight.

**RIGHT:** Phil Baxter remained in country and is seen here out on a later operation.

**FAR RIGHT:** Dave Sturmer, seen here at Nui Dat, also remained in country after this incident, but was later wounded a second time.





## SAPPER ATTACK ON SYDNEY

### Tunnel Rats Reunion - November 8-11 2012

Our grand gathering in Sydney is shaping up superbly. Without doubt this national reunion will be the best gathering of the clan we've ever had in Australia.

We've been able to obtain a fantastic venue for our main dinner, and we're receiving incredible cooperation and involvement for our various visits and activities from SME, the RAE Vietnam Memorial, the Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering, 9RAR, and of course the Special Operations Engineer Regiment.

Our big reunion is taking place over the period 8-11 November, so mark the dates in your diary, and please get your reunion bookings in to us as quickly as possible as we have to pay hefty deposits and we need to work out the numbers to cater for the various activities and transport.

Now that we have a venue for our main dinner, (the SMC Conference & Function Centre at 66 Goulburn Street Sydney), you can also book your accommodation. We give more details

on the dinner venue and accommodation options in the following pages.

All Tunnel Rats who served with 3 Field Troop or 1, 2 or 3 Troop of 1 Field Squadron are welcome, as of course are all former SSM's and OC's of 1 Field Squadron.

The activities of the reunion will be spread over four days, with the welcome drinks on Thursday afternoon, the Army base visits (for the guys only) on Friday, the main dinner on Saturday and the service, lunch and Barracks tour on Sunday.

The suggested shop-

ping tour for the ladies on Friday went over like a lead balloon. The overwhelming reaction from the ladies was that they're well able to look after themselves for the day, and would rather select something they'd like to do with a few friends.

The cost of this activity was \$30, so those who have already booked for the reunion and included their wife or partner, will receive a \$30 refund. The booking form has also now been revised, reducing the cost for wives or partners by \$30.

**The Reunion cultural centre**

Closer to the event, we'll



*A "Designated Boozer" will be selected*

annoint a "Designated Boozer" in the Sydney CBD – a place where you'll be guaranteed to meet a mate for a beer or two at any time of the day or night.

**Here's the day by day detail:**

**Thursday 8th November**

*Welcome Function*

4pm – 7pm

For Veterans and their wives/partners. Meet and greet old mates as they arrive. Collect your ID for the reunion functions and pick up a fully detailed program of events giving you all the venues, timings, transport and dress details. Finger food will be provided free of charge and drinks will be available at bar prices. The venue for this function is still being finalized, but it will be in close proximity to both our dinner venue, the SMC Convention & Function Centre, and the Hyde Park Memorial where we'll be attending on the Sunday.

**Friday 9th November**

*Engineer Army Base Tours*

*(For the guys only)*

At 8am buses will pick us up from one central point in Sydney to take us to the Casula and Holsworthy areas. First we head to SME where we'll tour the base and visit the Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering, then hold a service and wreath laying ceremony at the RAE Vietnam Memorial to honour our fallen comrades from 3 Field Troop and 1 Field Squadron. Our buses will then take us to the Special Operations Engineer Regiment (SOER) at Holsworthy for lunch followed by briefings on how these Sappers operate today in Afghanistan, plus we'll take a sneak look at their incredible gear. We'll also hold a wreath laying ceremony at the Regiment's Memorial, allowing us to honour our Sapper comrades who have fallen in



*ABOVE: The SOER lads at Holsworthy are in full training for our arrival. BELOW: You can visit the Taronga Park Zoo by ferry during your free time on Saturday 10 November*



Afghanistan. We'll then join the members of The Regiment for drinks in their boozer. Our buses will take us back to the Sydney CBD when we get thrown out of the boozer.

For the ladies on Friday there are a vast number of options on places to visit and things to do. For ideas and information, visit [www.sydney.com](http://www.sydney.com) which also features some great special offers. Or you can wait till you get to town, and visit the Sydney Visitors Centres, located at: The Rocks, Corner of Argyle

and Playfair Streets Sydney, or at Darling Harbour, Palm Grove between Cockle Bay Wharf and Harbourside. They are open daily: 9.30am – 5.30pm, call: (02) 9240 8788 or Freecall 1800 067 676.

**Saturday 10th November**

Daytime: During the day on Saturday you're free to tour the delights of Sydney - but keep yourself in good order for the big dinner that night. Our suggestions on activities to keep you busy and out of the pub include: a visit (by ferry) to the Taronga

Park Zoo; a harbor tour, a trip to the famous Bondi Beach, or a day trip to the Blue Mountains. For further ideas visit [www.sydney.com](http://www.sydney.com) or call in at the Sydney Visitors Centres, located at The Rocks and Darling Harbour, call: (02) 9240 8788 or Freecall 1800 067 676.

**Evening:** For Veterans and their wives/partners - our big reunion dinner at the Sydney SMC Convention & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn Street Sydney. It's a full three course dinner, with all drinks included (wines, beers and soft drinks). During the dinner you'll be entertained by a series of great speakers, followed by a unique and moving tribute to our fallen comrades. Dress for the gents will be suit or jacket and tie with medals. Ladies should wear smart casual or more semi-formal if they wish.



### Dinner table arrangements

At the Reunion dinner we'll have allocated tables and seating. We realise that you want to sit with your Troop mates, so on the booking form you'll have the opportunity to specify where you want to sit in terms of your Troop and your year of service (we'll do the best we can to meet your request).

### **Sunday 11th November** (Remembrance Day)

For Veterans and their wives/partners. 9RAR are holding their reunion in Sydney over this same weekend, and they have invited us to join up with them on Sunday morning for a memorial service in Hyde Park.



*ABOVE: On Sunday 11th November we'll conduct a remembrance ceremony at the beautiful Hyde Park Memorial*

We intend to march behind our Tunnel Rats banner for this ceremony (medals should be worn). This will be followed by lunch at the historic Victoria Barracks, including a tour of the barracks area. Lunch is included in the cost, and drinks will be available at bar prices. Buses will take us to the Barracks from Hyde Park, and shuttle buses will be available throughout the afternoon to take us back to Hyde Park.

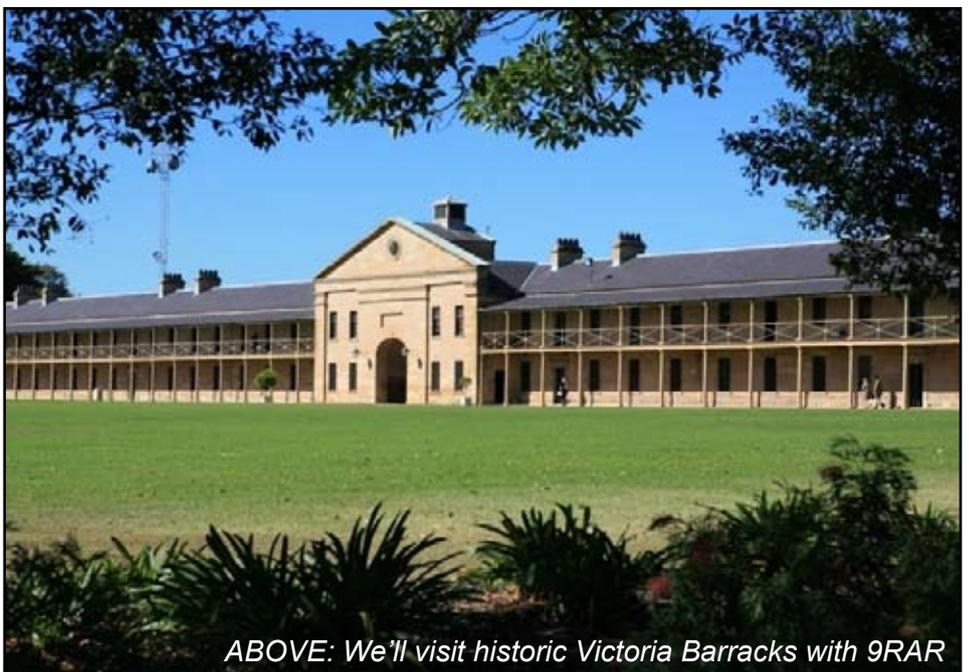
### **Register now**

A registration form is included with this issue of Hold-

fast. The cost covers the snacks at the welcome function (drinks at bar prices), the return bus transport for the visits to SME and the Special Operations Engineer Regiment, including lunch. It also covers the main dinner including drinks, and the visit to Victoria Barracks including lunch and transport. Total cost is \$250 for the guys and \$220 for wives or partners.

To secure your spot, book using the booking form with this issue of the newsletter.

**Do it now!**



*ABOVE: We'll visit historic Victoria Barracks with 9RAR*



*Our dinner venue: The Banquet Hall at the SMC Convention and Function Centre*

### Our Dinner Venue

The SMC building entrance is located at 66 Goulburn Street. Parking can be found at the Wilson Parking Station diagonally opposite the building. SMC is a short stroll from both Museum and Central Stations.

Museum station is the closest train station. Take the Castlereagh Street exit from Museum station, then turn left heading south down Castlereagh Street. At the first intersection (Castlereagh & Goulburn Streets) turn right heading west down Goulburn Street 20 metres to the entrance of SMC Conference & Function Centre.

### The Banquet Hall

Our dinner will be held in the largest and most prestigious room in the SMC Centre, the Banquet Hall, which can seat up to 300 for dinner. The tables will be beautifully set for our dinner, and two large rear-projection screens will ensure everyone in the room can see all presentations comfortably.



*Entrance lobby of the SMC*

### Where to stay

For convenience you should try to stay in a place walking distance from both our dinner venue (The SMC conference and Function Centre at 66 Goulburn Street Sydney) and the Hyde Park Memorial, at the southern end of Hyde Park, Sydney.

To get the best prices, shop around the internet, and contact the hotels directly as well, as they often have good rates themselves. The website [www.hotelscombined.com.au](http://www.hotelscombined.com.au) is good because it gives you prices on each hotel from three or four travel websites at once.

Here are some accommo-



dation options within reasonable distance of our dinner venue and Hyde Park:

The Hyde Park Inn  
Somerset Hyde Park  
Rydges World Square Hotel  
Metro Hotel on Pitt

Meriton Apartments Pitt Street  
Meriton Apartments World Sq.  
Vibe Hotel Sydney  
Travelodge Sydney  
Econolodge Sydney South  
Lodge Southern Cross  
Hotel Ibis World Square  
Civic Hotel Pitt Street  
Quest World Square  
Y Hotel Hyde Park  
Hotel Stellar  
Oaks Hyde Park

There are other hotels in the area, just search the web.

And if you are looking for good value, consider choosing a place in the suburbs on the edge of the city, rather than staying in the CBD.

### Our Reunion Dinner Speakers



Brigadier Colin Kahn DSO AM (Retd), was the Commanding Officer of 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Vietnam 1969-1970. Colin will talk about the support his Battalion received from the Tunnel Rats in the Splinter Teams attached to his Companies and Platoons, and the Mini Teams attached to the armoured units supporting his Battalion. Coincidentally, the night of our dinner is the 60th Anniversary of the night he was severely wounded as a Platoon Commander in Korea.



Lieutenant Colonel Scott Corrigan, Commanding Officer of the Special Operations Engineer Regiment, which provides highly trained teams of Sappers with specialised capability that are deployed on Special Operations with SAS and Commando units. Scott will talk about the role his men carry out in Afghanistan, their tasks, the enemy devices they have to deal with, and the incredible similarities of those tasks and devices to what the Tunnel Rats were dealing with in Vietnam four decades ago.



Lieutenant Colonel John Hopman, served with 1 Field Squadron in Vietnam 1969-1970. He served initially with 24 Sp Tp, then as Troop Officer of 2Tp. He spent a month attached to 18th ARVN Division at Xuan Loc, and completed his tour as Admin Officer at 1 Field Squadron HQ. John will talk of the task of leading the rabble that comprised the Field Troops - men who faced some hefty odds out on operations, then returned to base where they had too much booze and open access to explosives.



**TUNNEL RATS REUNION  
SYDNEY 8-11 NOVEMBER 2012**

**Registration form**

You can cut out or photocopy the form and mail it to us, or scan the form and email it to us.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |                |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------|--------------|
| FIRST NAME:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | FAMILY NAME:   |              |
| PREFERRED NAME OR NICKNAME:<br>(If you leave this blank your First Name will be on your reunion card)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |              |
| VIETNAM UNIT/S SERVED WITH – PLEASE TICK AND FILL IN DATE DETAILS BELOW                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |                |              |
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| <input type="radio"/> 01 TROOP 1 FLD SQN – FROM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  | TILL           |              |
| <input type="radio"/> 02 TROOP 1 FLD SQN – FROM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  | TILL           |              |
| <input type="radio"/> 03 TROOP 1 FLD SQN – FROM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  | TILL           |              |
| <input type="radio"/> 0 OC OR SSM 1 Fld Sqn – FROM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | TILL           |              |
| At the sit-down dinner we want to sit at the following table (please tick troop and year):                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |                |              |
| <input type="radio"/> 03 Field Troop <input type="radio"/> 01 Troop 1 Fld Sqn <input type="radio"/> 02 Troop 1 Fld Sqn <input type="radio"/> 03 Troop 1 Fld Sqn<br><input type="radio"/> 65/66 <input type="radio"/> 66/67 <input type="radio"/> 67/68 <input type="radio"/> 68/69 <input type="radio"/> 69/70 <input type="radio"/> 70/71 <input type="radio"/> 71/72 |  |                |              |
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| <b>ADDITIONAL ACCOMPANYING FAMILY OR FRIENDS:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |                |              |
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| 4. FIRST NAME:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | FAMILY NAME:   |              |
| <b>AT \$250 PER MALE &amp; \$220 PER FEMALE = TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |                |              |
| You can pay by credit card (statement will read "Ultimate Design Graphics"), or cheque or Postal Order. Please make cheques and postal orders payable to Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association                                                                                                                                                                               |  |                |              |
| Tick which card you wish to use: <input type="radio"/> Visa <input type="radio"/> Master Card                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |                |              |
| CARD NUMBER:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                |              |
| NAME ON CARD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                | EXPIRY DATE: |
| POST TO:    VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOC<br>43 HEYINGTON PLACE TOORAK VIC 3142                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |                |              |
| OR EMAIL TO: tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |                |              |

## Testing American Tunnel Search Gear

*When the Tunnels at Cu Chi were searched by the Australians of 3 Field Troop and their American counterparts, a vast hoard of enemy weapons and documents were found. From that point onwards it became obvious that all tunnels found had to be searched. To facilitate this task, the weapons development arm of the US forces created a tunnel search kit, which was then tested in the field. One of our newest Tunnel Rat members from America, Dr. John Thiel of Indiana has provided us with the test documents and results.*

**6 Jan 1967**

### **SUBJECT: Final Report - Evaluation of Tunnel Exploration Kit (ACL-74/67)**

The US Limited War Laboratory (LWL) fabricated and shipped six of the requested items to Vietnam about 7 August 1966. Items arrived at the Army Concept Team In Vietnam (ACTIV) about 1 September 1966 and were distributed as follows: two each to the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, and one each to the 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile) and the 173rd Air-Mobile Brigade.

### DISCUSSION

(A) All components of the tunnel exploration kit are mounted on a specially designed fatigue cap and a standard web pistol belt. The components of the kit are as follows:

1) Headlamp: The primary light source consists of a 6-volt headlamp mounted on the front of the fatigue cap. A bite-type on-off switch turns the light on and off.

2) Communication System: A highly sensitive bone conductor microphone may be attached to the inside top of the fatigue cap, worn on the bone in back of the head, or strapped around the throat. Reception is provided by an earpiece. Lead terminals from the trailing wire are secured to the pistol belt near a wire reel which is attached to the belt. The system may be used with the TA312/PT telephone or another bone conductor system.



*ABOVE: Unconventional methods: US forces pull one of their comrades out of a tunnel after he has completed a search*

3) Revolver: A .38 caliber, 4-inch barrel revolver is provided with each kit. A silencer and a small high intensity aiming light is mounted on the weapon. Ear valves are provided to protect the user's ears when the weapon is fired.

(B) To establish a valid evaluation base, the test items were sent to units operating in II and III Corp Tactical Zones. Terrain in the areas includes portions of the delta, the central highlands, and the coastal plains of Vietnam.

C) Questionnaires were

distributed to units selected to conduct evaluation and to be completed by users of the tunnel exploration kit and their immediate supervisors. This data was then subjected to descriptive and qualitative analysis.

(D) The evaluation of the tunnel kit was generally favourable. The kit was used under operational conditions by the 1st Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, and the 1st Cavalry Division (AM). The 173rd Airborne Brigade only used the kit under training conditions. A brief description of tunnel complexes ex-

plored and a summary of evaluation comments follows:

(i) The majority of the tunnels explored were 50 yards or less in length, 3 to 4 feet in height, and 2 to 3 feet in width. Some tunnels however were over 500 yards long. Ventilation was provided by shafts constructed at periodic intervals.

(ii) There was general dissatisfaction with the headlamp attached to the fatigue cap. Comments were:

(a) The bite-type on-off switch did not function properly.

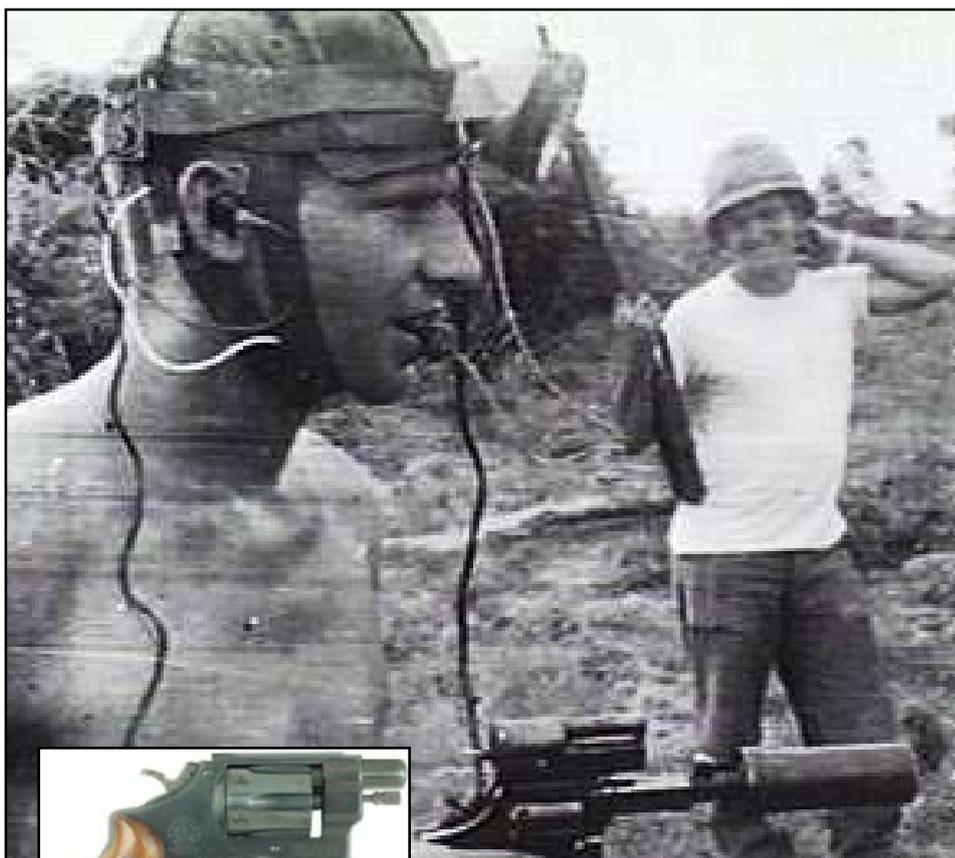
(b) One of the four reporting units indicated that batteries are installed in the battery box in series. Because of this, under adverse conditions batteries could be improperly installed.

(c) The headlamp furnished sufficient light but tunnel explorers in the 1st Infantry Division indicated that since the light was mounted on the fatigue cap, difficulty was encountered when there was a change in tunnel direction. Because of this, and difficulty experienced with the bite type on-off switch, these explorers used and recommended the adoption of the following or similar hand-held lamps: (i) Ever-Ready All American. (ii) Union Carbide Lamp (uses BA 200 Btry, model 108).

(D) The headlamp is securely mounted on the fatigue cap. The weight of the lamp and the constant rubbing of the fatigue hat against the roof of the tunnel caused the hat to slide forward and downward. This was particularly true after the individual started to sweat.

(e) One of the four units conducting the evaluation felt that the hard-type miners hat would be more effective than the modified fatigue cap.

(3) The communication system was generally satisfac-



ABOVE: All kitted out and ready to go  
LEFT: The Smith & Wesson .38 pistol which was fitted with a silencer

tory. Of four units conducting the evaluation, one indicated that the earpiece had a tendency to fall off when the explorers crawled through the tunnel and one indicated difficulty with the wires snagging. The communications assembly currently contains two earpiece and two bone conductor microphones. These items may be used to form a complete communications system or the microphone may be used in conjunction with a TA 312/PT telephone, which is not included in the kit. One of the tunnel explorers recommended that this item be added.

(4) The .38 caliber revolver with silencer attached and aiming light mounted, was carried during tunnel exploration. The following accounts were noted:

(a) All four units indicated that the revolver, with silencer attached and aiming light

mounted, is large and awkward.

(b) Of three units reporting on the aiming light, one stated that it was effective, one stated it was ineffective, and one stated that it served little or no purpose because its light was diffused and overshadowed by the larger and stronger miners lamp.

(c) The holster, while desirable, was considered large and bulky by three of the four reporting units. A general comment was that the holster did not fit snugly and could not be securely fixed to the pistol belt.

(d) Of four reporting units, one indicated that the silencer reduced the sharpness of the blast when the weapon was fired, and three indicated that the silencer was ineffective. It should be noted, however, that the non-availability of half load ammunition necessitated the use of full load ammunition.

(5) The ear valves were

considered to be effective by one of the four reporting units, two units indicated that the weapon was not fired with the ear valves installed, and the fourth unit had no comment.

(6) In addition to the items organic to the kit, tunnel explorers in three of the four reporting units used a knife as a probe during tunnel exploration. One of the reporting units recommended the addition of a double edge 6 to 8 inch knife.

(7) A breathing apparatus was not a part of the tunnel kit, but questionnaires asked if such an item were desired. Two of three reporting units indicated that breathing was difficult, and one of the two units indicated a desire for a lightweight breathing apparatus to be worn during tunnel exploration. The third unit indicated that a breathing apparatus designed to be worn during tunnel exploration is not necessary. This unit felt, however, that a breathing apparatus should be available on the surface for emergency use.

(8) Three of the four reporting units used 3-man tunnel exploration teams, and one used a 5-Man team. The breakdown of these teams were generally as follows:

(a) Three man team: 2 explorers and 1 supervisor

(b) Five man team: 2 explorers, 2 general support and 1 supervisor

(9) There was a wide spread in the recommended basis of issue for the tunnel exploration kit. While the overall organization for tunnel exploration was similar and two men were used in the tunnel in all cases reported, units assigned tunnel exploration missions varied. This difference in mission assignment accounts, in part, for the wide spread in recommended basis of



issue. The recommended basis of issue by unit was:

(a) 1st Infantry Division: 1 each per brigade, 1 each per support command, and 2 each per division chemical, biological and radiological element or headquarters and headquarters company.

(b) 25th Infantry Division: 2 each per platoon in the rifle company, 2 each per reconnaissance platoon in the headquarters and headquarters company, and 1 each per rifle squad in the armored cavalry squadron.

(c) 1st Cavalry Division (AM): 3 each per infantry company, 3 each per engineer company.

(d) 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep): 1 each per engineer company, 1 each per rifle company.

## FINDINGS

(A) The headlamp provided sufficient light for tunnel exploration but had the following shortcomings:

(1) The bite-type on-off switch did not function properly.

(2) With the headlamp mounted on the fatigue cap, difficulty was encountered when there was a change in tunnel direction.

(3) With the headlamp mounted on the fatigue cap, the cap had a tendency to slide forward, particularly after the individual started to sweat.

(B) The communication system was satisfactory but the earphone had a tendency to fall off as the individual crawled through the tunnel. A TA 312/PY telephone was needed in the kit.

(C) The .38 caliber revolver, with silencer attached and aiming light mounted, was large and awkward.

(D) The silencer was ineffective with full load ammunition.

(E) The aiming light was accurate but not effective because it was overshadowed and diffused by the larger and stronger headlamp.

(F) The holster was large and bulky and had a tendency to slide on the pistol belt as the individual crawled through the tunnel.

(G) The ear valves were effective.

(H) A knife was frequently used as a probe during tunnel exploration.

(I) Difficulty in breathing was generally experienced during tunnel exploration.

(J) The number of tunnel kits required, and the recommendation as to which units these kits should be issued, depended upon the concept of operation of the unit involved.

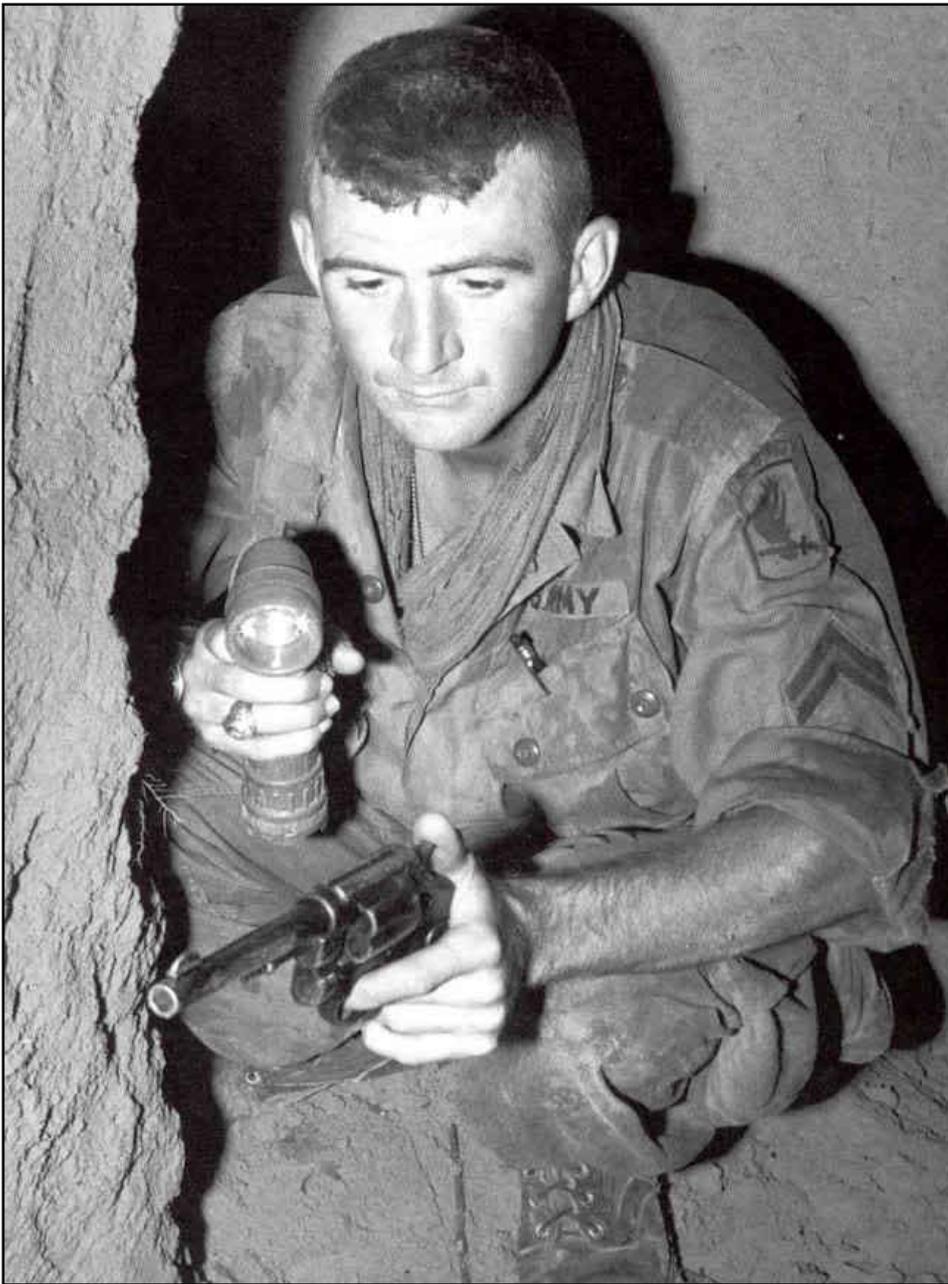
(K) The most frequent organization for tunnel exploration consisted of three men, one supervisor, and two explorers.

## CONCLUSION

It is concluded that:

(A) The tunnel exploration kit with changes recommended below will satisfy the requirement for tunnel exploration.

(B) The different concepts



men for tunnel exploration work.

(I) The tunnel kit be issued on an "as required" basis.

(J) A lightweight breathing apparatus, capable of being worn by explorers or used on the surface under emergency conditions be added to the tunnel kit.

Merrill G Hatch  
Colonel, Artillery Chief

of operation, dictated by operational conditions, preclude the establishment of a firm basis of issue.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

(A) A hand-held, battery-operated light be substituted for the current headlamp. The two lights utilized by one unit involved in tunnel exploration were the Ever-Ready All American and the Union Carbide Lamp (uses BA 200 Btry, model 108).

(B) A better system be devised for attaching the earphone to the ear.

(C) A TA 312/PT telephone

be added to the tunnel kit.

(D) A smaller caliber (.22 or .25) pistol, with silencer, be substituted for the .38 caliber revolver.

(E) The aiming light be deleted from the tunnel exploration kit.

(F) The holster be redesigned to conform to the requirements of the smaller calibre pistol and requirements of firm attachment to the pistol belt.

(G) A double edge knife be added to the tunnel exploration kit.

(H) Each tunnel exploration kit contain, as a minimum, the necessary items to equip two



*John Thiel (above) did two tours of Vietnam with the US Army as a specialist in chemical ordnance deployment. He served with the 184th Chemical Platoon and the 26th Chemical Detachment, of the 1st Cavalry Division, units tasked with seeding enemy tunnels with CS gas crystals. John recently joined our Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association, and he provided this test report for "Holdfast" on the US tunnel searching kit.*

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J. Marrett 3794143  
2 Troop 1 Field Squadron  
Vietnam 1968-1970

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| You can pay by credit card (your statement will read "Ultimate Design Graphics"), or by cheque or Postal Order. Cost is \$250 + \$30 delivery = \$280<br>Make cheques and postal orders payable to Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association |                         |
| Tick which card you wish to use: <input type="radio"/> Visa <input type="radio"/> Master Card                                                                                                                                      |                         |
| Card Number:                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                         |
| Name on card:                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Expiry Date:            |
| Post to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak Victoria 3142<br>Or email order details or scan of order form to <a href="mailto:tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au">tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au</a>                             |                         |
| Include a print of your favourite Vietnam photo or email it to <a href="mailto:tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au">tunnelrat@optusnet.com.au</a>                                                                                            |                         |

## Getting the message across

*The following opinion piece was published in the Melbourne Herald Sun just prior to ANZAC Day this year*

### Troops stay bonded for life and death

*By Jim Marett*

*President – Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association*

As you read this, there are young Australian troops putting on the paraphernalia of war in the Middle East and moving out on operations to risk their lives on our behalf.

And right now their families sit at home in the cities, suburbs and country towns of Australia trying not to think about the unthinkable and that fateful knock on the door.

For centuries wars have generated these scenarios of bright eyed brave young soldiers doing their job, while their families juggle the conflicting emotions of pride and fear.

ANZAC Day enables those who served, and the families and friends who waited for them, to remember and respect our war veterans, particularly those who paid the supreme sacrifice and lost their lives for us.

Incongruously, but perhaps inevitably the anti-war movement surfaces at this time each year to have its say. Their timing is intentionally tasteless and an affront to those who've served.

When the vast majority of Australians are embracing the ANZAC spirit, the anti-war activists cast out carefully crafted phrases which spit in the face of those who lost loved ones and mates in wars gone by.

Nobody wants or loves war, particularly soldiers, past and present, and "Anti War" has



an admirable ring to it, but it's a decidedly hollow ring in the face of the real world.

If we all decided to join the peace movement and sit safely in Utopia tinkling peace bells, who's going to help fight the next despot or rogue nation to threaten the free world?

Are the terror tactics of Saddam and Bin Laden and their ilk not enough to remind us of how fragile our democracy can be? Are our memories so short we forget how Germany engulfed the world in conflict, and how Japan had conquered all of Asia and much of the Pacific, and was actually bombing Australia?

Anti-war activists should take a sobering walk through the Australian, American, British and other allied military cemeteries peppered throughout Asia. Perhaps those tens of thousands of white crosses will remind them that, if not for those brave young

men during the Second World War, we'd be living in a very different Australia today.

Anti-war advocates see flag waving, patriotism and nationalism as the driving forces behind men reaching the extraordinary stage where they risk death and injury in combat. Their theories miss the point.

Those who serve in a combat role quickly realize they are fighting for the small group of men they work most closely with. Usually it's from ten to thirty men, a 'section' or 'platoon' in military parlance.

All of that boisterous ordering to carry out seemingly senseless acts in rookie training is actually to bring troops to the point where they obey orders without question, not as robots, but as good soldiers.

It's a process known as Contact Drills, where in the brutality of war, at the moment of



## Cave searching in Vietnam with one of our newest members

By Master Sergeant Louis "Mark" Morrison, USA (Retired)

*Mark Morrison is one of three former US Tunnel Rats who have joined our Australian Tunnel Rats Association in recent months. This story, written by Mark, was originally published in 1998 in the US Army Chemical Corp magazine.*

The "tunnel rats" of the First Cavalry Division did not deal so much with tunnels, but with caves. I know because I was one of those proud cave rats.

When I got to Vietnam through Cam Ranh Bay I thought I had a good job in Saigon in the chemical section of MACV. But at the replacement depot I was informed that the First Cavalry Division had priority. They needed a chemical sergeant and I was told I had better get myself on the C130 runway. I quickly complied.

The section was under the command of LTC Bradford, and I was quickly introduced to the normal duties of the Chemical Corps in the First Cavalry, which was spreading the anti-mosquito chemical malathion, defoliant operations, CS tear agent employment, flame-field expedients, and in the last months of my tour, people sniffer operations.

One of the "old hands" in the chemical section was a PFC named D R Langley. He was a "tunnel rat" and told me hair-raising stories about the operations he'd been on.

While these stories of underground mayhem might have dissuaded others, for some reason I took it as a challenge and was subsequently tasked to form a "tunnel rat" section.

The soldiers who went into the tunnels with me were all volunteers, and the first operation I went on turned out to be a 5-day exploration of a large cave complex in the division's area of operations.

LTC Bradford was located



*The author, Mark Morrison in the entrance area of a large cave in the I Corp area while working with the First Cavalry Division*

in the division D TOC, when an infantry unit reported that it had found a cave. We were told to report to a particular pad at Landing Zone "Two Bits" on the Bon Son plain, where a helicopter would take us out to the location.

When we arrived, I kept the team away from the line troopers, who I knew would likely describe in great detail the fighting that had taken place at the cave mouth, and be speculating on what might be inside.

My team of volunteers were already a bit on the apprehensive side.

Our kit for going into caves comprised of one M16 (which we later changed for .45 pistols, jungle fatigues and boots, floppy hat, a flashlight, knife, CS gas protective mask, and a grappling hook with parachute cord.

The hook was used to move items we found, to establish whether or not they were booby trapped.

In my talk with PFC Langley, I learned that the potential for booby traps and encounters with the NVA in the caves was very possible, so when we moved in, the lead man had his



*Mark's caving kit, which was modified several times during his tour as he got to understand what he needed and what he didn't need*

weapon and flashlight held well away from his body.

He was followed at intervals by one or more men armed in the same way. We were not in a hurry, our movement was slow and deliberate.

One would think "tunnel rats" must be small in stature, but they were not. I'm nearly 5 feet, 9 inches tall, and some of the "rats" in my team were considerably taller. One of my favourite "rats" was Roger Harris, actually a "711" or administrative clerk-typist.

He volunteered for our team and went on every one of our tunnel operations, frequently as the number one man in the group as we entered the caves. He had no special training for these missions, a yen for adventure.

Caves are not like normal VC and NVA tunnels. They are created by Mother Nature and often take on odd shapes. Cave entrances can be large and then narrow down to small passageways, then branch out again into

a large cavern or vice versa.

Sometimes these caves extended hundreds of feet down into the side of a mountain. The areas the First Cavalry Division then operated in were the mountainous regions of I Corps.

Surprisingly, in all the caves I entered, I never encountered a booby trap which exactly fitted the descriptions given to me by the old hands.

In one cave we went into, my group managed to capture an NVA soldier. He had been stubbornly defending his cave, shooting frequently at infantrymen as they approached its entrance. Evidently the NVA were told that we would torture them if captures, so they would simply never surrender.

Before entering each cave, I had a council of war with my fellow cave rats, and one time we were discussing how to deal with an enemy soldier within, when one of the First Cavalry soldiers, hearing of our plans, up and ran into the cave, apparently to attempt to talk the soldier into

surrendering.

He went about 80 feet into the cave before the NVA shot him. We could hear his cries for help and went into the cave after him. Our Vietnamese interpreter went in with us and told the enemy soldier that were in the cave solely to rescue the wounded soldier.

The NVA believed us because he didn't fire at us as we recovered the wounded soldier, got him out of the cave and into the hands of a waiting medic.

We needed to interrogate a live prisoner so, using a flamethrower we'd brought along, we sent a stream of flame shooting alongside the NVA soldier. It didn't take him long to begin talking. Although he claimed to be merely a rice carrier, his uniform and attitude made it obvious he was NVA.

He had no weapon when he surrendered, but on going back into the cave, I quickly found an SKS carbine. I don't know what happened to him after that, but he was talking up a

storm as he was flown out on the helicopter.

Although danger is a ready companion to those working in caves and tunnels, there are some lighter sides as well. In one cave complex we explored, the cave route suddenly turned into five separate tunnel passageways. Since only three men were in the team, it was thought it would be easier to use CS gas to prep the five tunnel openings and learn if any NVA were ahead.

A box of CS grenades was procured and roped down to us. Each member had a pile of CS grenades and tossed them into the tunnel opening as fast as the pins could be pulled. As a result of all this frantic tossing, a mammoth cloud of white CS smoke engulfed us, with visibility similar to that of looking through milk. We got out of the tunnel fast.

The infantry support had pulled back a bit from the entrance when the clouds of white smoke began to billow out of the cave opening. They saw the team rapidly exit the tunnel and run for the nearest water. Luckily there was a small pond nearby and all three of us jumped in. The CS was affecting our bodies where sweat had accumulated, and it was getting rather uncomfortable.

The sky troopers of the 1st Cavalry didn't help us at first. They were laughing too hard to do anything.

Another incident, while not funny at the time, grew so over the years. It was the team's first use of a flame thrower to prepare the cave opening for entrance. Two members of the team crawled up to the opening with the flame thrower and proceeded to douse the opening with a sheet of flame.

Unfortunately, the cave had a sharp turn to the left, so the flame, in effect, bounced off the wall and came back through the opening. I was observing the operation from further up the hill and as I watched the flame come out of the tunnel, it went right over the flame team who were prone on the ground.

I thought they were "toast," but as luck would have it, because the team was hugging the ground after firing the shot, they were not injured as the flame stream passed over their heads.

We learned the hard way that it is much safer to shoot the fuel in first, then light it.

During another cave expedition, the team came to the field with a new M79 CS round. We were always game to try something new, so I borrowed an M79 from the infantry. Before going up to the cave entrance, the infantry commander asked me if he should pull back his unit. They had no protective masks and could be doused with the



**Mark and two of his team mates check things out before heading deeper into the cave**

CS. Given the size of the round, I didn't think anything so small could produce much CS. I told him to hang around because we would be going in as soon as the CS dissipated.

I fired the round into the cave and within seconds, a huge billow of white CS smoke came pouring out of the entrance, engulfing not only my team but the infantry as well.

We both fell back to safer and higher ground coughing and crying. My team was persona non grata with the infantry for a few days.

Cave exploring in Vietnam was often a dirty business. Sometimes we worked in caves for several days. When the team boarded the helicopter for a return to the base camp, I had the bird land outside in the village next to Landing Zone "Two Bits". There we enjoyed a hot shower and a cold beer while our clothes and boots were cleaned. When we walked through the front gate, we were standing tall and neat and tidy.

Nearly three decades after my tunnel rat days, I can still remember much of those adventures. I do so because I worked with good soldiers who volunteered to go underground in search of the enemy.

Working with these men is something I will always treasure.

As a tunnel rat, I made almost every mistake in tunnel exploitation that a soldier can make. Perhaps my experience will help future tunnel rats not to make the same errors.

## Jethro's remarkable book

Tunnel Rat, proud plant operator, and Engineer Corp legend, "Jethro" Thompson is now also a published author, with his book soon to be launched at functions in Melbourne and Brisbane.

Jethro's book "A Vietnam vets remarkable life" is off the printing presses and will be officially released at book launch functions in Melbourne and Brisbane in early July.

The book will be sold nationally through book stores and available also directly from Jethro.

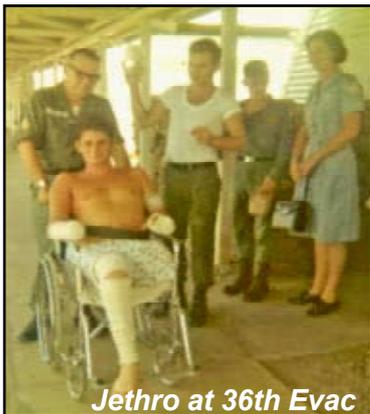
It's an extraordinary book, and an extraordinary experience as Jethro walks you through his recovery from massive wounds which, frankly should have killed him.

The book opens with a wrenching recollection of the mine incident which ripped him apart, then covers in chronological order the events leading up to and following his wounding.

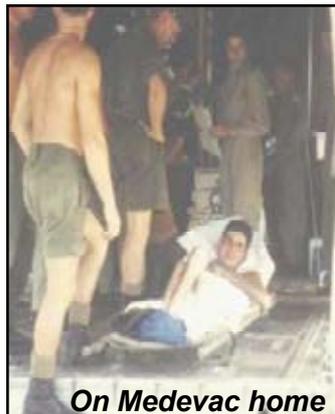
It's a story about a man determined to honour his mates who perished in war. But it is also a story that will inspire the physically disabled. Jethro, a multiple amputee, was born in Malta in 1945, and migrated to Australia as an 11-year old.

In 1964 he joined the Army, trained as a field engineer and served in Borneo for six months in 1965. In January 1967 he was posted to 1 Field Squadron RAE in South Vietnam.

While working in the infamous barrier minefield he stood on a landmine, seriously wounding himself and killing two mates. Total despair engulfed him as he surveyed his mangled body.



*Jethro at 36th Evac*

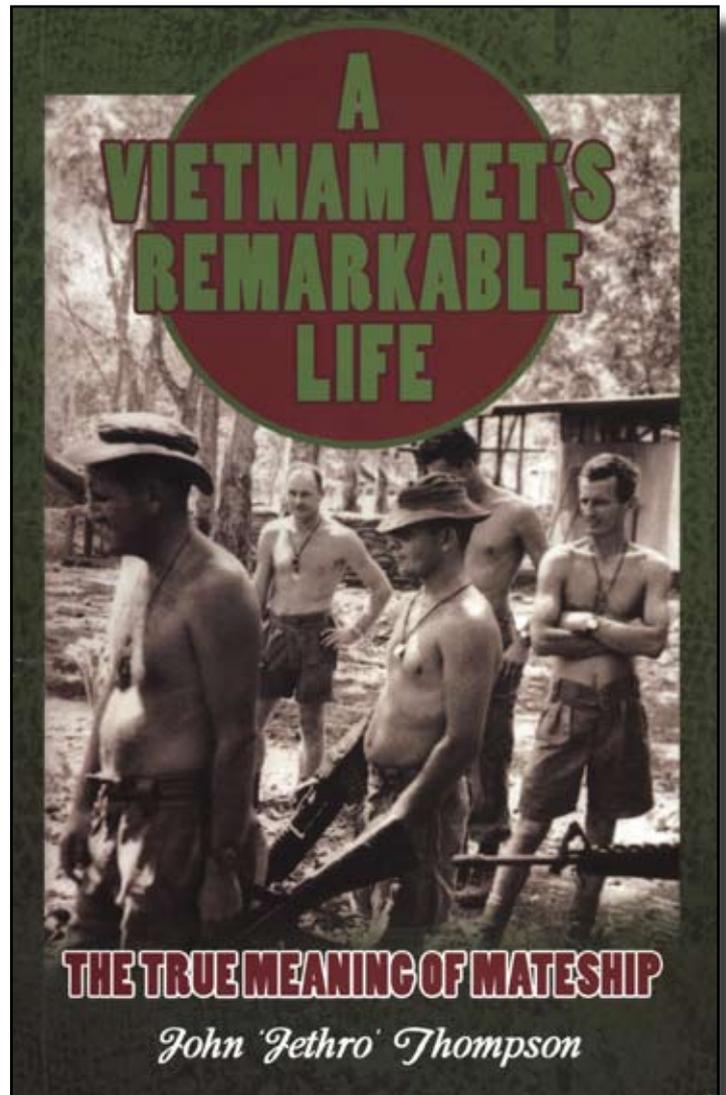


*On Medevac home*

Jethro is a unique individual with an abundance of determination and courage. He was driven to salvage whatever he could from his shattered existence.

Burdened with the abject horror and guilt of being responsible for the death of his mates he struggled emotionally during his rehabilitation.

But in spite of terrible debilitating injuries and physical disadvantages he fought hard to



muster his reserves of discipline and re-ignite his spirit.

His story tells us of the people who became his life-long friends and helped him through the darkest days.

Jethro tells it candidly and at times with brutal honesty. His story is truly inspirational.

The book launch in Melbourne is at the Box Hill RSL on Tuesday evening the 3rd July, 6.30 pm to 8.30pm, and in Brisbane at the Gaythorne RSL on Tuesday the 10th July 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

Come along and meet Jethro. His book will be available at the launch, along with free finger food, and drinks at bar prices.

If you can't make the book launch, but you'd like to buy a copy of the book, contact Jethro by email on [perlejohn@bigpond.com](mailto:perlejohn@bigpond.com)

Jethro will either direct you to a store near you which has copies, or will arrange to sell you one directly.

The book is to be distributed by Pan Macmillan and will sell for \$26.99.

## Where were “The Flags”



*The Flags area today in 1968*

Sappers on those brief leave passes to Vung Tau will remember the street feature known as “The Flags”, which listed the many nations supporting South Vietnam during the War.

The Flags became a landmark and RV point for Diggers arranging to meet up with their mates while on leave.

Behind The Flags was a street of bars and other heavenly delights, where certain Sappers could seek solace from the stress of month-long Operations in the bush beyond Nui Dat.

Not surprisingly, one of the first questions asked by diggers returning to modern day Vung Tau is “Can you show me where The Flags were?”.

Always in search of the truth, “Holdfast” dispatched a Sapper on a mission to investigate and provide the answer.

*RIGHT: The cross street at the top of the street, ie where the Flags were located, is Ly Thuong Kiet.*



*ABOVE: The key feature of the street behind The Flags was its width, with centre parking for all manner of goods vehicles, taxis and Lambros. Enquiry to some current day local Uc Dai Loi residents of Vung Tau, reveals this street to be Trung Nhi .*





*The Flags area today (taken in 2011)*



*ABOVE: In 1969, the infamous barber shop and steam bath joint located on the opposite end of the Flags quadrangle.*



*MIDDLE: Heppo Rolls are still available near The Flags today.*

*BOTTOM: Our intrepid reporter was able to identify a still recognisable old bar building in Trung Nhi street, into which many a Sapper disappeared, sometimes not emerging for days, but always emerging with a smile.*



## SAPPER SNIPPETS

MTF5 farewell parade at Enoggera as they head for Afghanistan



“GOOD LUCK AND GODSPEED”

When members of Mentoring Task Force 5 marched out on their farewell parade, the Vietnam Veterans of the Tunnel Rats Assoc, the 1 Field Squadron Group and the Queensland Sappers Assoc were their to bid them well. The same groups have also now agreed to form welcoming parties at Brisbane Airport each time Sapper elements come home from Afghanistan. There are a series of welcomes planned for July, and if you'd like to be part of the welcoming group, contact Peter "Roo Dog" Scott by email on [vietnamtunnelratsacb@yahoo.com.au](mailto:vietnamtunnelratsacb@yahoo.com.au) or by phone if you don't have access to email: 07-5535 6290.



## It's a dog's life on duty in Afghanistan



*ABOVE: Sapper Adam Thomlinson of the Explosive Detection Dog (EDD) Section, Mentoring Task Force Four (MTF-4), with his working dog Matilda during a training session at the Multi National Base Tarin Kot in Afghanistan. An EDD dog's life can be very demanding in Afghanistan and 2CER's Matilda is just one of the canines helping to save soldiers lives. Sapper Thomlinson's dog Matilda has been involved in various successful missions, including a specific find in a dry river bed during a foot patrol, and her most recent find was an improvised explosive device on a route which was targeting a convoy. Go for it Matilda!*



## Once a Warrior

*ABOVE: A nice comment on old soldiers - not that we're getting old mind you*

## 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 call 08 8725 6900 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 07 5500 6363  
 Allan S Coleman 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 Mallard 08 9377 4560  
 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

### OC's 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  
 Mick George 02 6882 8574  
 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 Rockcliffe 02 9789 4302  
 Trevor Shelley 0419784954  
 Kevin Smith 03 9787 1506  
 "Jethro" Thompson 0732168906  
 Ross Tulloh 0418223345

### 1 Troop (1967-68)

Billy Adams 03 5974 2916  
 Henry Baggaley 07 5433 0482  
 Reg Bament 02 6948 2524  
 Bruce Bevan 02 9580 3327  
 Neville Bartels 07 4055 9871  
 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

Mike McCallum 02 6288 5113  
 John Neal 02 9982 6694  
 Barry O'Rourke 03 5987 2828  
 Clive Pearsall 03 9459 4470  
 Terry Perkins 0413343168  
 Alan Rantall 03 9434 2031  
 Ivan Scully 03 9802 0977  
 Peter Sheehan 03 9390 2834  
 Jim Trower 0418842744

### 1 Troop (1968-69)

Phil Baxter MM 02 4625 6213  
 Adrian Black 0417756729  
 Mike Bruggemann 0409441992  
 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 Hulse 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  
 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  
 Allan S Coleman 07 4661 1924  
 Paul Cook 02 4946 5321  
 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 03 5623 2886  
 Trevor Kelly 08 9538 1184  
 Des McKenzie 07 5448 3400  
 Anthony Marriott 03 6257 0279  
 Doug Myers 0421904562  
 Les Slater 08 9361 0603  
 Max Slater 0412 772 849  
 Vic Smith 02 4339 2131  
 Dave Sturmer 02 8407 9812

### 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 03 5866 2644  
 Bruce Fraser 07 5499 0508  
 Gordon Green 0419606640  
 Garth Griffiths 0435902386

"Paddy" Healy 02 4930 7541  
 Peter Krause 02 6723 2835  
 R Loxton 0419944755  
 Geoff Maddock 03 5442 2875  
 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 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  
 Alan Hammond 0423491091  
 Bill Harrigan 08 9447 1127  
 Peter Hegarty 07 4169 0372  
 Graeme Leach 07 4777 8627  
 Ken McCann 03 5985 3276  
 Rod McClennan 07 3267 6907  
 Noel McDuffie 0427051678  
 Bob McKinnon 07 3267 0310  
 Peter Matthews 03 6250 3686  
 Mick Shannon 08 8552 1746  
 Stan Shepherd 0412 232 197  
 Bob Sweeney 08 9248 4432

### 2 Troop (1967-1968)

M. Ballantyne 08 8298 2515  
 John Beningfield 07 4778 4473  
 Peter Bennett 0418915550  
 Dennis Burge 08 8281 2270  
 Kenneth Butler 0414897889  
 Harry Cooling 07 4778 2013  
 Garry Cosgrove 02 4845 5153  
 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 0419539174  
 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

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  
 John Gilmore 08 9795 6847  
 Stan Golubenko 03 9361 2721  
 Paul Grills 07 4162 5235  
 Geoff Handley 03 5593 1791  
 Ross Hansen 07 3202 7540  
 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  
 Colin Norris 02 4627 1180  
 Bob O'Connor 0418742219  
 Rod Palmer 0417672643  
 David Pannach (Hong Kong)  
 852-2892 2714  
 Ted Podlich 07 3862 9002  
 Daryl Porteous 07 4973 7663  
 Mick Weston 07 5444 3307  
 Ray 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 0400884633  
 Ron Coman 07 3355 7279  
 Kevin Connor 0408 748 172  
 Garry Cosgrove 02 4845 5153  
 Arthur Davies 07 3408 1556  
 Roy Elbourne 02 4868 1493  
 Brian Forbes 0412047937  
 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 5537 1577

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 5535 6290  
 Les Shelley 07 3264 4041  
 Jimmy Shugg 08 9776 1471  
 Bob Smith 07 5456 1194  
 Mick Van Poeteren 03 9435 0383  
 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 03 5974 2175  
 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 08 9724 1380  
 "Sam" Collins 08 8262 6107  
 Ron Cook 03 8787 7377  
 Jock Coutts 08 9279 1946  
 Bill Craig 08 9530 1008  
 Denis Crawford 03 9497 3256  
 John Crocker 07 3206 7995  
 John Cross 02 4757 2273  
 Robin Date 03 9783 3202  
 Gino De Bari 08 9437 5641  
 Tom Dodds 040672260  
 Des Evans 07 4128 2390  
 Bruce Fenwick 02 4977 3530  
 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 02 6948 3927  
 Kevin Lappin 07 3273 8614  
 Gary McClintock 07 4788 0123  
 Peter McCole 03 5155 9368  
 Bob McClinn 07 5426 1597  
 Ian McLean 02 6286 3928  
 Jeff Maddock 03 5442 2875  
 Leon Madeley 07 5497 1038  
 Butch Marsden 08 9921 6183  
 Bill Marshall 07 5545 0389  
 Rod O'Regan 02 6550 6068  
 Graeme Pengelly 0407 138 124  
 Des Polden 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  
 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 3261 9446  
 Terry Wake 07 4786 2625  
 Dave Young 02 4283 3439  
**3 Troop (1966-67)**  
 Wilfred Eyles 02 4390 0150  
**3 Troop (1967-68)**  
 Ken Arnold 02 6974 1181  
 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  
 Barry Gilbert 03 5023 6657  
 Brian Hopkins 0401829744  
 John Hoskin 08 8270 3002  
 Jack Lawson 0429 798 673  
 Peter MacDonald 08 9448 5418  
 Barrie Morgan 0437861945  
 Michael O'Hearn 02 4932 7509  
 Gary Pohlner 0427172900  
 Peter Pont 07 4095 0150  
 Tom Simons 03 6344 6058  
 Kevin Shugg 0411144500  
 Mervyn Spear 08 94539232  
 Frank Sweeney 07 3882 6025  
 Brian Thomson 0428551368  
 Vic Underwood 0429 907 989  
 Murray Walker 08 9332 6410  
 Glenn Weise 0427 741 170  
 Mick Woodhams 08 9459 0130  
 Bob Yewen 07 5532 4560  
 Ken Young 02 9602 5204  
**3 Troop (1968-69)**  
 Geoff Box 08 9731 2757  
 Barry Chambers 08 8927 8237  
 Neil Garrett 03 5798 1522  
 Brian Glyde 02 4455 7404  
 Peter Gray 02 4285 8877  
 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  
 Geoff Neenan 08 9362 4079  
 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  
 Walter Schwartz 0439512322  
 Don Shields 08 8297 8619  
 Ray Vanderheiden 02 4776 1373  
 Wal Warby 0418240394  
 Ray White 03 9740 7141  
**Three Troop (1969-70)**  
 Tony Bower-Miles 0412 317 306  
 Chris Brooks 08 9271 2811  
 Jim Burrough 0400884633  
 Terry Cartlidge 03 5367 1472  
 Bruce Crawford 02 6628 0846  
 Richard Day 08 8088 4129  
 Phil Devine 0439066012

Bob Done 0407485888  
 Ray Fulton 03 6288 1176  
 Graham Fromm 08 8532 2561  
 Doug George 0419475246  
 Graham Harvey 07 5445 2636  
 Trevor Hughes 07 5532 3497  
 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 0405 677 448  
 Gary Miller MM 07 5495 5647  
 "Jacko" Miller 03 6267 4411  
 Chris Muller 07 4653 0457  
 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 08 9757 2016  
 Peter Thorp MID 02 6288 0008  
 "Curly" Tuttleby 08 8952 6598  
 Hank Veenhuizen 0407 487 167  
 "Wonzer" White 02 9833 0580  
**Three Troop (1970-71)**  
 Steve Armbrust 07 5545 1073  
 Errol Armitage 0427 855 482  
 Geoff Ansell 0448 013 712  
 Mike Barnett 02 9869 7132  
 John Beningfield 07 4778 4473  
 Darryll 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 03 5682 2584  
 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  
 Kenny Loughton 08 8297 4010  
 Garry Lourigan 02 4844 5545  
 R. McKenzie-Clark 08 9729 1162  
 Robert McLeay 03 5386 1122  
 "Jock" Meldrum 0424924909  
 Carlo Mikkelsen  
 (New Zealand) 0064 9 4797857  
 Ben Passarelli 02 9610 3949  
 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  
 David Wilson 07 3855 1370  
**Three Troop (1971-72)**  
 Trevor "Zip" Button 08 95615363  
 Ron Byron 02 6653 4791  
 Mike Dutton 0438627140  
 Brenton J Smith 08 8536 2923

### US Tunnel Rats

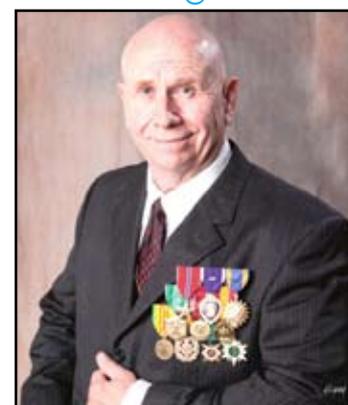
We now have three US Tunnel Rats who've made contact with us and joined our association.

Our two newest US members, John Thiel and Mark Morrison both served with the Chemical Tunnelers, the units tasked with seeding tunnels with CS crystals.

All three would welcome contact from their Aussie comrades, so feel free to contact them by email and make them feel welcome.



Stephen "Shorty" Menendez  
[menendez@toast.net](mailto:menendez@toast.net)



John Thiel  
[drjthiel@gmail.com](mailto:drjthiel@gmail.com)



Mark Morrison  
[lmorrison18@cox.net](mailto:lmorrison18@cox.net)

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