



HOLDFAST

July 2017 - Number 31

www.tunnelrats.com.au

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION INC.

EARLY TUNNEL RATS

Looking more French than the Eiffel Tower itself, Warrant Officer Lasserre of the Commandos Français is one of the many early Tunnel Rats of the Vietnam war revealed in this issue

PLUS: Details on our November reunion visiting SME and SOER

PLUS: Details on our Tunnel Rats tour to Vietnam next March

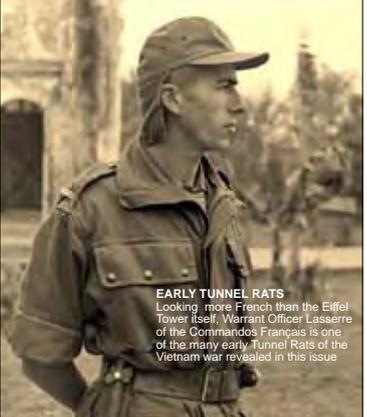
Nostalgia Pages



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: tunnelrats.vietnam@gmail.com



HOLDFAST
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION INC.



EARLY TUNNEL RATS
Looking more French than the Eiffel Tower itself, Warrant Officer Lasserre of the Commandos Français is one of the many early Tunnel Rats of the Vietnam war revealed in this issue

PLUS: Details on our November reunion visiting SME and SOER
PLUS: Details on our Tunnel Rats tour to Vietnam next March

Holdfast Magazine

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

Calm before the storm for Sapper Creek



Sapper Robert Creek, a Tunnel Rat with 3 TP 1 FD SQN 1967/68 sitting on top of a substantial bunker, possibly at 3 Troop lines. Robert was one of 10 Sappers sent out from FSB Andersen in February 1968 to form a listening post on the night of an expected NVA attack during Tet. The listening post was hit with enemy mortar fire killing four of the team and wounding three, including SPR Creek who was evacuated back to Australia because of his wounds. Our extensive story in issue 30 covering the events of that night included detailed contributions from Robert.

Sad reminders of the human side of war



The likelihood of boobytraps meant the Tunnel Rats were often tasked with searching the bodies of VC and NVA killed during our contacts with the enemy. The family photos and mementos we found brought home the fact that they too had loved ones at home, waiting for their warrior to return.

Fully optioned Armalite



Boasting an M-79 Grenade launcher under the barrel and a Starlight scope on top, this Armalite would have been a beast to carry (hence the sling), but it would have been handy on night ambushes. The Starlight scope was an early night vision device which amplified existing light from the moon and stars. The resulting image was somewhat blurred and in shades of green.

Where's Bobby Minh now?



Tunnel Rats Mick Weston (left) and Basil Dutko (right), with Bobby Minh, a Vietnamese translator from the ARVN attached to 2TP 1 FD SQN. Bobby was extremely popular within the troop and many would like to make contact with him. Has anyone heard of his whereabouts since the fall of Saigon?

Fresh-faced and full of ambition



The 'boss' must have been away when LT John Hopman (Troop Officer 2TP 1FD SQN 1969/70) tried out the Troop Commander's office at Nui Dat for size. John retired as LT Colonel and recently held the position of Honourary Representative Colonel for the Special Operations Engineer Regiment. John is a Life Member of the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association and is active in assisting and advising veterans in the Sydney area.

Sappers clearing the way



Sappers Merv Chesson and Kevin Atkinson, both Tunnel Rats with 1 Troop 1969/70, seen here while attached to APCs from B SQN 3 CAV in July 1969. Checking out a likely mined area before the APCs passed through, Merv probes for a mine with his bayonet while Kevin checks for other mines with his detector. The wet season had obviously begun.

Doomed duck



This photo was taken early in the war (perhaps before C-Rations arrived) and this South Vietnamese soldier has dinner sorted with a very fresh duck stashed in his pack. The ARVN carrying livestock for consumption like this continued throughout the war despite the practice creating serious noise discipline issues.

Lucky puppy



Some Tunnel Rats got lucky, like these US lads who came across a young pup in a tunnel within a VC base camp found in the Iron Triangle region. The pup was sent back to their base camp and became the battalion's mascot.

This guy's a 'believer' for sure



US forces in Vietnam used the slang phrase 'believer' to describe a soldier who agreed with the cause in Vietnam and 'got with the program' by perfecting and utilising his skills to the best of his ability. This MACV SOG (Military Assistance Command Vietnam Special Operations Group) soldier would certainly fit into that category. Before entering into a conversation with this dude it would be wise to be accompanied by a good lawyer, two armed bodyguards and a large attack dog.

3 Troop lads enjoy a quiet ale



It's between operations in 1967/68 at Nui Dat and 3 Troop decided it was time to sink a few tinnies - by the trailer load. Shown above, left to right (roughly) are: Don Trevarthen, Nicko Nicholson, Dick Korff, Jim Dowson, Gary Pohlner, Jack Lawson, Bruce Bredden, Chuck Bonzas, Allan Pasco, CAPT Morgan, Allan Tugwell, Dave Cook, Barry McKay, Eric Van Felby, John Hoskins, Glenn Weise, Les Colmer, Kerry Caughey.

Out with the old and in with the new



In a bid to limit Viet Cong access to locals, in September 1967 Australian forces moved the residents of Xa Bang to a more secure area. The old village was then destroyed to deny use of it by the VC. Sapper Les Carruthers is seen above using a mine detector to search for booby traps that may have been left by the VC at the old village, while Spr John Todd stands guard. The village move was part of Operation Ainslie conducted by 7th Battalion RAR and 2nd Battalion RAR in Phước Tuy Province to clear a Vietcong staging area and resettle locals to a newly constructed hamlet called Ap Soui Nghe ("Hamlet of Sweet Water") north of the 1st Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat.

Noddy gets the shakes out bush



Hit with a bout of malaria while out bush with 5RAR, 'Noddy' Norris waits for a 'Dust Off' helicopter to airlift him to hospital. 'Noddy', a Tunnel Rat with 2TP 1968/69 swears he took his anti-malaria pills religiously. In his defence, there were strains of malaria resistant to the pills.

Loaded for (big) bear



This chopper pilot heads to his aircraft loaded down with massive belts of 40mm rounds. Can anyone pick up whether they are HP or WP? These are the same rounds we used in the M-79 single shot grenade launcher.

Proud young Sapper



Not long back from his Vietnam tour, Sapper Graeme Pengelly (2TP 1 FD SQN 1970/71) was issued with his brand new dress uniform. Donning his equally new Vietnam service ribbons, Graeme has obviously had a full-on professional photo portrait taken and he looks a treat. Well done Sapper, but I think this will cost you a slab.

Close quarters protection



Why dig a foxhole when you can stack sandbags around your bedspace? This seemed a far easier solution for protection against incoming rounds for SPR John Nulty (3 TP 1968/69) when he was at Fire Support base Betty with a Combat Engineer Team. There needed to be a gap in the sandbags at one end in order to get in and out of bed, which may be the flaw in the design.

“Check it out for us Sapper”



Spr Peter Scott (219) checks out a creek crossing point before APCs move through. It was May 1970 and Peter was attached to the APCs in a two-man Mini Team. Creek and river crossing points were prime areas for the enemy to lay anti-vehicular mines. Often there were few crossing points available and the geography of the crossings usually forced the APCs or tanks into a narrow corridor of land with little room to move.

Miracle amongst the tragedy



Infantry Sergeant Rod Lees (5RAR 1969/70 tour) is seen above shortly after standing on an M16 mine during a patrol about a kilometre from the barrier minefield on 15 June 1969. This was the first day of Operation Esso which was plagued with mine incidents. Although seriously wounded Rod was one of perhaps only three Australians serving in Vietnam who kept both their lives and their legs after standing on a fully functioning M16. Tragically the mine decimated the Platoon, killing three soldiers, CPL JJ Kennedy, PVT PJ Jackson and PVT TC Turner, and wounding 24 others, 12 of whom were wounded seriously enough to be evacuated home to Australia. (Photo: courtesy Rod Lees.)

“No worries, I’ll just back it in”



You had to hand it to the Chinook pilots in Vietnam, often carrying unstable loads to hairy locations. This pilot surely deserves a prize for not only getting his ‘bird’ into this tight spot, but also for holding it there. The hilltop fire support base was north of Phuoc Tuy Province, the area of operations for Australian troops. Americans referred to the aircraft as a ‘Hook’ while Australian troops tended to call it a ‘Chook’ - a far better name but totally confusing to the Americans who had no idea what a chook was!

Jethro makes a nostalgic journey to Malta

Jethro Thompson (Tunnel Rat with 1 TP 1 FD SQN Vietnam in 1967) was born on Malta just two months after the end of WWII in Europe. A 'Navy brat', John's father was a British Navy submariner married to a local Maltese girl. The family migrated to Australia in 1957, fortuitously arriving on the 26th of January, Australia Day, (Jethro still believes the nation held a public holiday in honour of his arrival). Jethro joined the Army in 1964 at the age 18, serving in Borneo and Vietnam – and the rest is history, with Jethro certainly now a legend within the Tunnel Rats, and even an "icon of the Corps" according to LT COL John Kemp, OC 1FD SQN Vietnam 1967/68.



TOP: Jethro and his mom on Malta in 1949, with the Naval base behind them. Jethro is looking very colonial in a pith helmet.

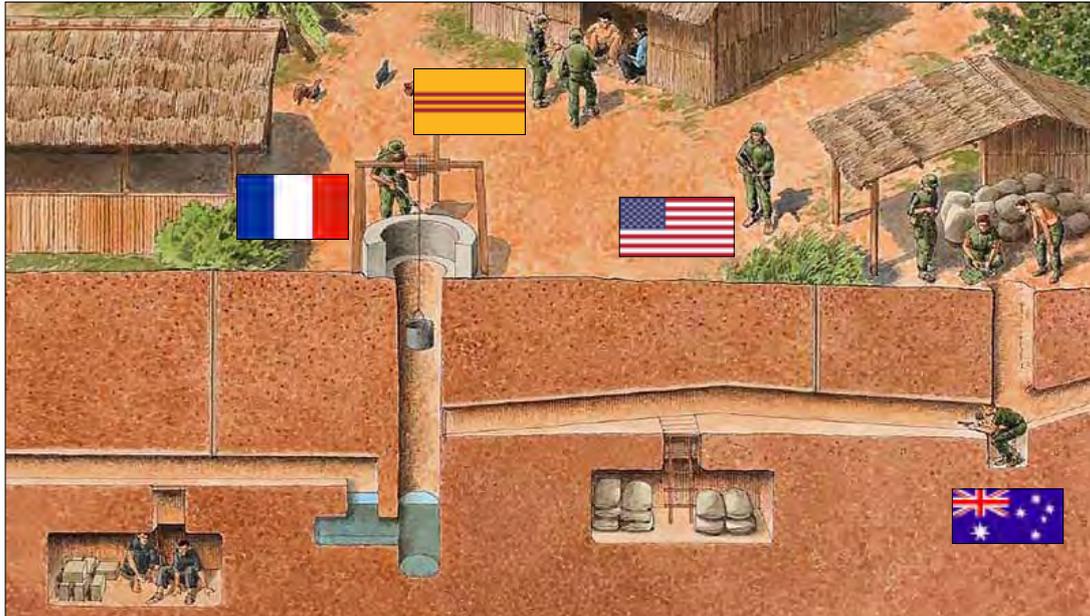
MIDDLE: Jethro timed his trip for ANZAC Day and was a guest for the day of the Australian High Commissioner to Malta H.E. Ms Julienne Hince.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The flag bearing party at the ANZAC Day ceremony held at the Pieta Military Cemetery on Malta.

BELOW LEFT: Jethro chats with Mark Fitzgerald of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission prior to the ceremony at the Pieta Military Cemetery.



The rich history behind the Vietnam Tunnel Rats revealed



In preparing stories for 'Holdfast' over the last decade we combed through many historic official records relating to Viet Cong tunnels in the Vietnam War. In doing so we have regularly come across reports on United States, South Vietnamese and even French forces sending soldiers into enemy tunnels to search them, map them and retrieve enemy weapons and documents – all before January 1966. That date is important to us because those historic reports contradict our long held belief that the Aussie Tunnel Rats in January 1966 were the first troops to descend into enemy tunnels and search them in any great detail. We have been reluctant to publish these conflicting findings in the past, but because of their sheer volume and validity, to not reveal them is to be disrespectful to our US and ARVN allies, and dishonest with our readers - and ourselves. We are also well aware that Aussie Tunnel Rats have much more to be proud of than merely the date we first descended into the enemy tunnels.

The communist Viet Minh had been building tunnels since at least the 1940's to provide shelter, undetected movement of troops, and secure storage for weapons, food and medical supplies.

The existence and function of the tunnels was well known to the French troops and to the US forces who followed them. It has always defied logic that in the decades prior to Operation Crimp in 1966, the French, then the US and ARVN forces would find the tunnels, know what they were, but not enter and thoroughly search them. To do this would have been to abandon the opportunity to collect the enemy weapons and documents they knew would be below ground.

In the mid-1960's, with perhaps restricted communica-



ABOVE: A French officer checks weapons recovered from a Viet Minh cache in 1953, years before the Americans and Australians entered the Vietnam War

tion channels it is understandable that we didn't know the detail and extent of how our allies had been operating in terms of tunnel warfare. Today, with the wonders of the internet it is far easier to search official

records to gain a better understanding of how other troops operated in Vietnam, such as the French up until 1954 and the US and South Vietnamese forces throughout the early 1960's.

The Aussie Tunnel Rats certainly refined the art of tunnel searching in January 1966, but it's important to recognise the earlier entry into this unique form of warfare by French, US and ARVN forces. It is important too that we honour their sacrifice, particularly the often forgotten ARVN who suffered over 1,394,000 casualties during the War. The following pages detail just a few examples of what would have been hundreds of exploits underground by French, US and South Vietnamese forces prior to Operation Crimp in January 1966.

November 1965

US Engineers find 70 Tunnels in Binh Duong Province

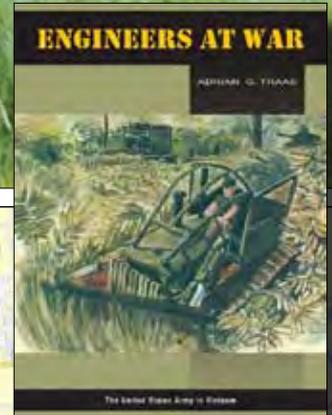
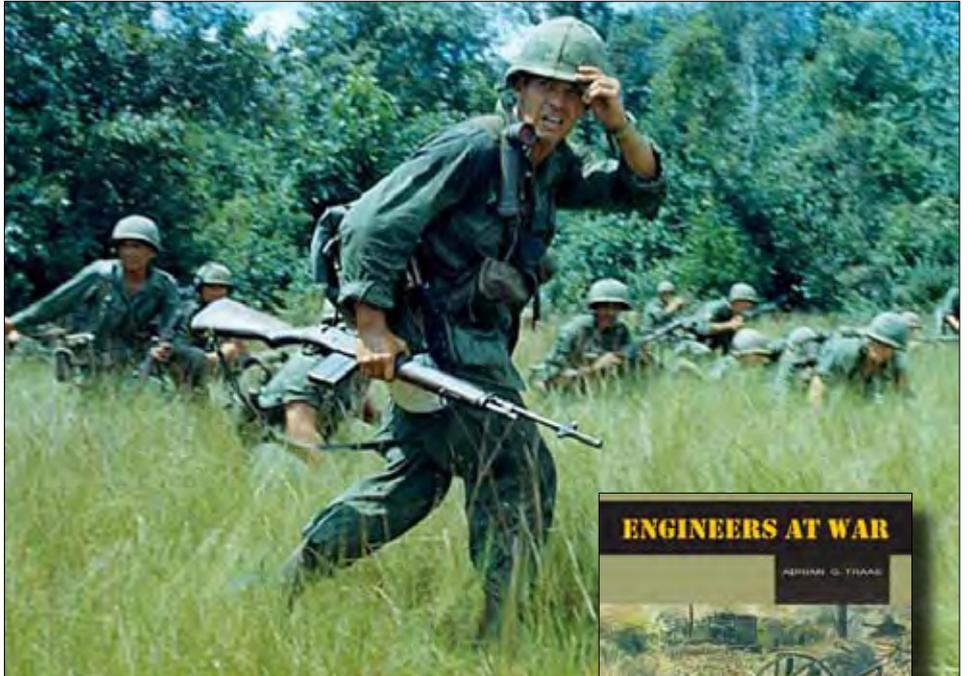
"Company B Engineers who ventured into the tunnel complexes also found compartments consisting of kitchens, dispensaries, classrooms, and living quarters..."

These tunnels were found in the vicinity of US base camps at Di An and Phu Loi north of Saigon and just 20 km from where Operation Crimp was to be carried out two months later when the Aussie Tunnel Rats of 3 Field Troop would first enter the tunnels in the Ho Bo Woods near Cu Chi.

The following extract is from the book "Engineers at War" published by the US Army's Centre of Military History.

"During November, the 2nd Brigade continued clearing operations outside the 1st Division's base camps at Di An and Phu Loi. During Operation Viper which lasted until late December, US 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry and 1st and 2d Battalions, 18th Infantry located more than seventy Viet Cong tunnels and thirty four camp sites.

The division also found out how well the enemy had designed his defenses. Viet Cong camps were protected by perimeters of sharp wooden punji stakes,



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion 16th Infantry check out a spider hole

TOP: Lt. Johnny Libs led 2nd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment on Operation Viper when over 70 tunnels were located. ABOVE: Map shows how close the tunnels they found were to Operation Crimp which would be conducted two months later. INSET: This report is quoted from the book "Engineers at War" published by US Army - Centre of Military History.

five foot deep trenches with firing ports, bunkers, and occasionally barbed wire.

Often a system of tunnels branched out from the center of the camps. Company B engineers who ventured

into the tunnel complexes also found compartments consisting of kitchens, dispensaries, classrooms, and living quarters, an indication of the many enemy complexes awaiting discovery."

October 1965

ARVN troops smoke out the tunnels before searching them

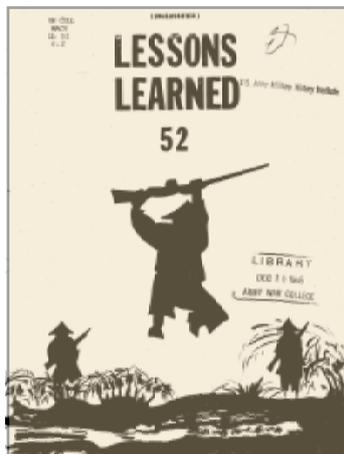
"The engineers then searched through the tunnel system for possible asphyxiated VC, booby traps, weapons, equipment and supplies."

This ARVN tunnel operation took place three months before the Australian Sappers of 3 Field Troop entered the tunnels on Operation Crimp in January 1966, and it took place in exactly the same area – the Iron Triangle.

"The operation came about when the US III Corps Chemical Advisor (Engineers) contacted the ARVN 5th Infantry Division Chemical Team Leader (Engineers) suggesting an operation utilising the Mity Mite pumping system which had recently become available for tactical use in Vietnam.

The Mity Mite portable blower could be used to force the enemy from a tunnel system using smoke or riot control munitions or to locate vents and entrances of a tunnel system using smoke munitions. The area selected for the operation was the Iron Triangle because it was known to contain many VC tunnel systems.

In addition to proposing the use of the Mity Mite, the US Chemical Advisor also participated in planning the operation. It was to be the first tactical employment of the Mity Mite during an ARVN search and destroy operation, and



ABOVE: This report was extracted from "Lessons Learned No. 52" published by the US Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV)

was conducted by the 8th Infantry Regiment, 5th Division from 8th -11th October 1965.

A tunnel was discovered on the first day of the search and destroy operation by the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regt. The area surrounding the tunnel was secured by the 2nd Battalion while the tunnel tracing and flushing team went into action.

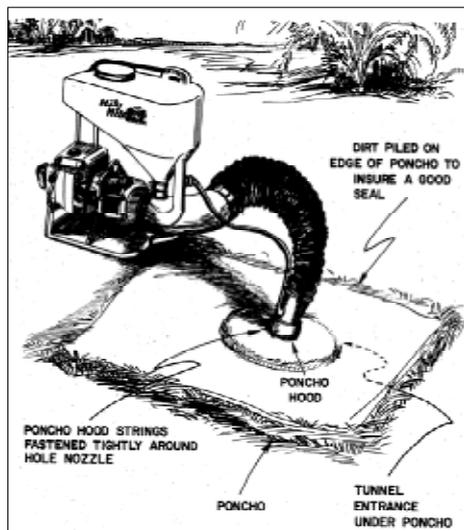
The Mity Mite blower was connected into the tunnel entrance and a smoke grenade was thrown into the entrance. The 2nd Battalion troops then

moved out in all directions from the blower while smoke munitions were continuously placed into the tunnel entrance.

The troops detected smoke escaping from tunnel vents and entrances, and were on the lookout for escaping VC. However, no VC were discovered in this particular tunnel system. As vents and entrances were detected they were marked and sealed.

When it was determined that all entrances and vents of the tunnel system had been detected and the tunnel trace was apparent, further smoke munitions were unnecessary. However, the blower was left running until all smoke had been cleared from the tunnel system. The engineers then searched through the tunnel system for possible asphyxiated VC, booby traps, weapons, equipment and supplies. Once this had been accomplished, the engineer unit set the charges and destroyed the tunnel system.

This experience with the Mity Mite blower was successful and established that the blower could be used to trace tunnel systems before entering them to search for weapons, supplies and documents."



ARVN troops feed smoke grenades and smoke pots into a tunnel entrance

December 1964

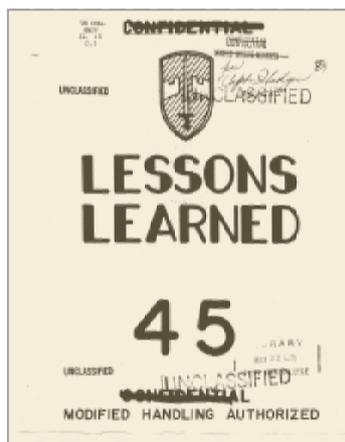
A mission to search and destroy VC installations and tunnels

"The Engineer team mapped out the layout of the tunnel system, including the multiple levels, hidden trapdoors, spike pit and escape shafts."

In late December 1964 a successful tunnel search and destruction operation was conducted by elements of the ARVN 5th Division in Binh Duong Province. Again this was the same Province where Operation Crimp was to be conducted 13 months later when the Australian Engineers of 3 Field Troop made their brave entry into the Ho Bo Woods tunnels in January 1966.

"The plan for the 1964 operation was developed jointly by the ARVN regimental commander and his US advisor, and the mission was to: Capture VC district committee members and search and destroy VC installations and tunnels in the area of operations.

The elements involved included 8th Regimental Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 8th Regiment, 5th Division Recon Company, Engineer Company, 2nd Battalion 7th Regiment



This report was extracted from the US MACV document: "Lessons Learned Number 45 – Viet Cong Tunnels" published on 12th February 1965.

(Heliborne Reserve), Plus supporting air and artillery forces. The operation commenced on 15th December 1964, with light enemy resistance before the task force successfully occupied the area. The Engineer Company then proceeded to

search and destroy tunnels and installations. The search process uncovered considerable enemy weapons and material, including: 300lbs of plastic explosives, 150 hand grenades, one 105 mine, 30 anti-personnel mines, 7 BAR magazines and 500kg of rice.

The searchers also discovered an escape shaft in the tunnel which would only be dug through in an emergency escape, and led in fact to the main tunnel (see item 10 in the illustration).

Following the search the Engineer team sealed off the tunnel entrances using around 200lbs of TNT. The pressure and smoke from these explosions revealed further tunnel entrances. The rest of the day was spent searching for additional tunnels, and shafts were dug to undamaged sections of the tunnels where enemy bodies and weapons were found



ARVN 5th Division troops move out, mounted on armoured personnel carriers

and removed. Late in the afternoon a further 400lbs of TNT was flown in and used to seal all the newly discovered tunnel entrances."

The Engineer team mapped out the layout of the tunnel system (see illustration), including the multiple levels, hidden trapdoors, spike pit and escape shafts. To create this document they obviously ventured into multiple levels of the tunnel system.

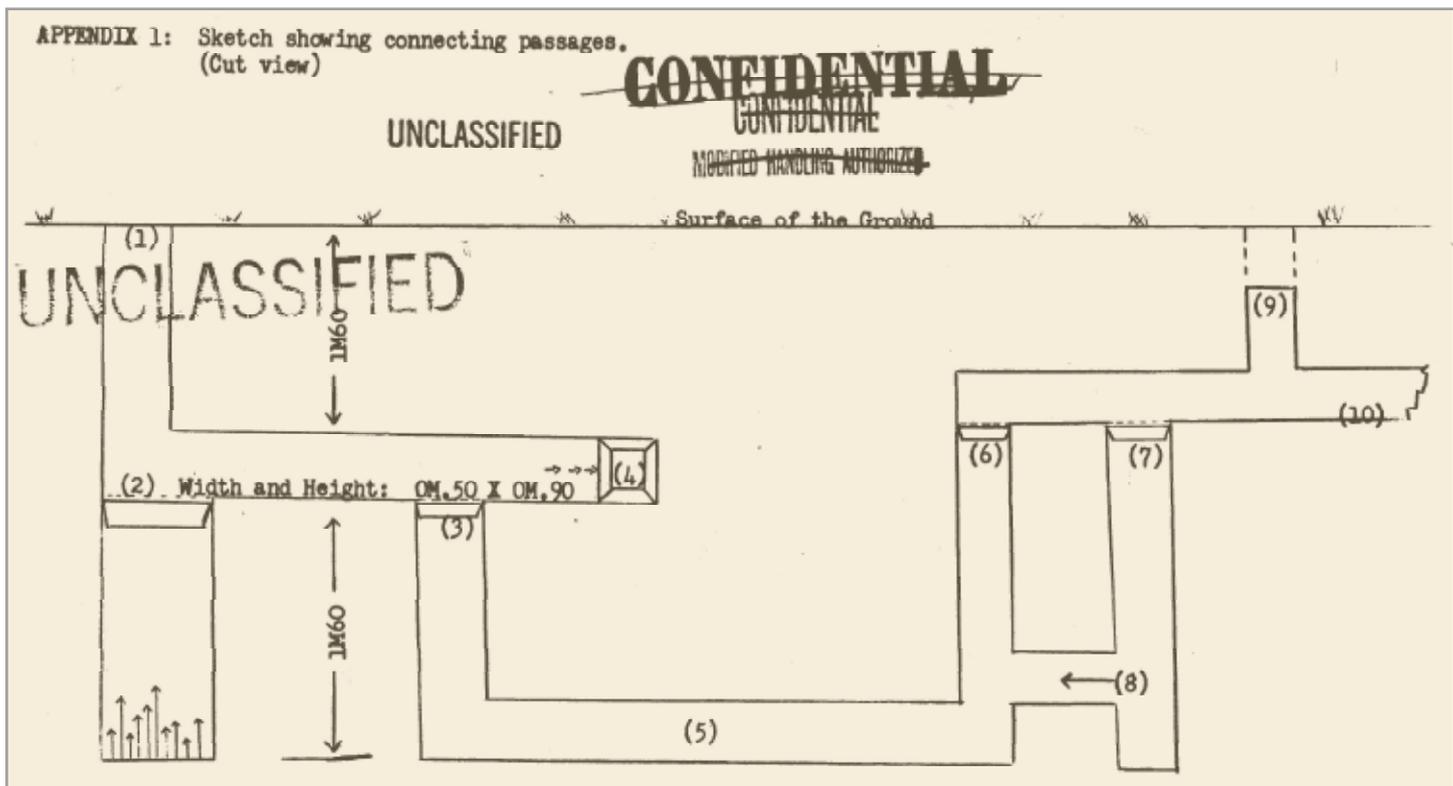
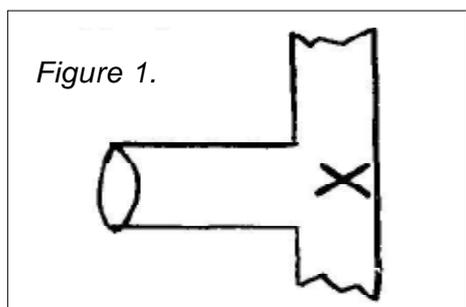
The operation was concluded on 20th December and the key lessons learned were listed in the MACV document, including:

"(a). Most main tunnels in the area of operation had side tunnels about 10 feet from the main entrance (see Fig 1).

(b). The most effective method of destroying these tunnels is to place the explo-

sive at the intersection of the tunnels (marked by X in figure 1). This allows the blast and shock waves to travel further.

(c). Units conducting this type of operation should remain in the area long enough to search thoroughly and destroy all tunnels found."



Key to the illustration

1. Entrance of the underground tunnel.
2. Cover of the spike pit. Cover is removed after tunnel is occupied.
3. Cover of the 'lower tunnel' - when the cover was shut, ARVN troops would only find the false tunnel (4).
5. 'Lower Tunnel'
6. Entrance to escape to the upper tunnel in case the lower tunnel is discovered.
7. Cover of the tunnel where VC could throw out javelins when ARVN troops came in range.
8. The javelin - these could be thrown out by man or ejected by a spring.
9. Exit, only dug out when necessary for escape.
10. Connection to Main tunnel - only dug out when necessary for escape.

February 1954

French Commandos demonstrate their tunnel searching skills

“Once located, the tunnels are carefully inspected and emptied of the weapons, ammunition, medicines or propaganda material that they contain.”

During the Indochina war the French forces in Vietnam quickly realised the importance of the tunnels and the need to not only destroy them, but to search them for the weapons and valuable intelligence they contained. The tunnel search and destroy task was often given to their elite commandos, which formed specialist teams, controversially including former enemy and former supporters of the Viet Minh.

“Once located, the tunnels are carefully inspected and emptied of the weapons, ammunition, medicines or propaganda material that they contain,” states a 1954 report on a specialist cache and tunnel team from France’s Lasserre Commandos. “And the tunnels are explored and all enemy resistance neutralized by the use of smoke grenades, tear gas or explosive charges.”

The Lasserre commando unit comprising around 100 men specialized in the detec-

tion and search of caches and tunnels, often recruiting captured soldiers or Viet Minh supporters to assist them. The commandos were broken down into small teams; shock troops, mine detecting teams, propaganda experts and dog teams.



ABOVE: Warrant Officer Lasserre, leader of the specialist commando unit bearing his name

Suspect villages or areas would be secured by the ‘shock troops’ then methodically searched by the dog teams. Any tunnels and caches found were carefully searched by the mine detecting team and emptied of the weapons, ammunition, medicines or propaganda material they contained. The tunnels were explored and all enemy resistance neutralized by the use of smoke grenades, tear gas or explosive charges.

The photos are from a demonstration exercise in Hadong Vietnam in February 1954, photographer, Camus Daniel (Reference: NVN-54-31-R03).

BELOW LEFT: A member of the Lasserre Commando unit goes down to inspect a cache that has just been detected.

BELOW RIGHT: During the demonstration, commandos have a captured rifle handed to them by a member of the tunnel search team.



Book now for our November reunion visiting SME and SOER

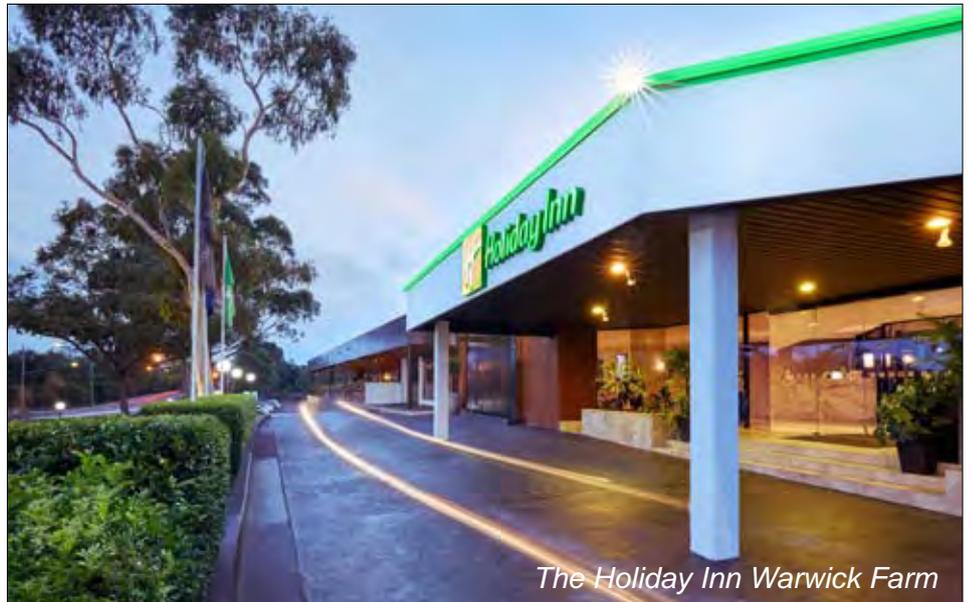


It's time to gather the clan and let the Rats loose for our next gathering. We're planning a huge get-together centred around Holsworthy NSW, including an official visit to the new School of Military Engineering (SME) and an official visit to the Special Operations Engineer Regiment (SOER).

The big 2017 event is taking place over the period 21-24 November, so mark the dates in your diary.

Apart from those who live close enough to Holsworthy to drive there each day, the preference is for us all to stay in the Holiday Inn Warwick Farm. If we're all in the one hotel it is really convenient for bus transport to and from the base, plus it's great fun to all be together over breakfast and to enjoy a few ales in the afternoon. Adjoining the Holiday Inn is a great suburban pub, The Warwick Tavern which has a variety of bars and restaurants.

The Holiday Inn has recently been renovated and we've negotiated a good room rate. If you do prefer to stay somewhere else close by, that's no problem but choose a place which is nearby Holiday Inn and en-route to Holsworthy



The Holiday Inn Warwick Farm

or you may need to make your own way to the Holiday Inn for bus pick-ups.

The room rate for the Holiday Inn is \$179 per night including a full buffet breakfast each day for one or two guests in the room. Details on how to book the hotel are on page 16.

Also on page 16 is the booking form for the reunion.

If you are joining us on the reunion, please complete and send us the booking form as soon as possible so that we know how many people we need to allow for, and most importantly so that we can arrange entry to the bases for you. Se-

curity arrangements have tightened over the last year. Please be aware that if you turn up at the bases without us previously organising access for you, the staff at the gates won't let you in. Providing us with your email address is also important as there will be various communications required between us before the event.

We will have a reunion dinner on the Thursday night, and this is the only cost item (\$85) for us all on the booking form. All Tunnel Rats who served with 3 Field Troop or 1, 2 or 3 Troop of 1 Field Squadron are welcome on the reun-



SOER Sappers and 'beaucoup boom boom'

ion, as of course are all former SSM's and OC's of 1 Field Squadron. As our activities are centred around visits to Army base camps we've made this a blokes only reunion.

The itinerary for the four days will be as follows;

Tuesday 21 November

1600h Registration and welcome drinks at the Holiday Inn (drinks at our own cost). Groups of mates will likely drift off for dinner at various venues, but keep yourself in good shape for a big day tomorrow.

Wednesday 22 November

We will be picked up by bus at the Holiday Inn for our full day visit to the School of Military Engineering at Holsworthy, including:

*A tour of the base highlights including the accommodation and facilities the Sappers enjoy today.

*Demonstrations by the Sappers of their skills and their extraordinary equipment.

*A tour of the Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering, a world class museum superbly presenting the rich



The Chapel at SME

history of the Corps in conflicts from the Boer War to today.

*A remembrance ceremony at the RAE Vietnam Memorial at SME to honour our 35 Tunnel Rats killed in action in Vietnam.

*Plus a get-together with current serving Sappers to chat about being Sappers half a century apart!

Then we'll be dropped off back at the Holiday Inn, perhaps to enjoy a few beers before groups of mates drift off to dinner at various venues.

Thursday 23 November

We will be picked up by bus at the Holiday Inn for our full day visit to the Special Operations Engineer Regiment at Holsworthy (SOER), including:

*A tour of the base highlights plus demonstrations by SOER Sappers of their skills and their amazing equipment, much of it highly classified.

*We will meet some of their amazing EDD dogs (bomb sniffing dogs) and their equally amazing handlers.

*A visit to the range where we'll experience some of the exotic SOER weaponry

*And (hopefully) a visit to the incredible Special Operations Training Centre, a place few people know even exists.

*Plus a get-together with the SOER Sappers to swap stories and get to know these exceptional soldiers.

Then we'll be dropped off back at the Holiday Inn to get ready for our big dinner.

Thursday - Reunion Dinner

At 1830h we will have our reunion dinner in the 'Estate' function room at the Holiday

Inn. The dinner cost is \$85 for three courses including non-alcoholic drinks. Any beers, wines or mixed drinks will be at our own cost from a cash bar in the function room. Dress is jacket and tie with medals (miniatures or full size).

At the main 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 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).

Friday 24 November

Time to head home, though

How to book your room at Holiday Inn Warwick Farm

Email: reservations@holidayinnwarwickfarm.com.au

Mention your booking is part of the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Reunion. State whether you want a Single Room or a Twin Share Room. Mention you are staying 3 nights, checking in 21 Nov - checking out 24 Nov (unless you are staying an extra night for the Sapper's lazy lunch and checking out on 25 Nov). The hotel will email you back with the costs and method of payment.

IMPORTANT: Book your room before 31st August because after that date the room rates will increase

there will be a long lazy Sappers lunch at the Warwick Tavern for those who wish to extend. You may want to book an extra night at the Holiday Inn if you are partaking in the long lazy lunch.

What you need to do

1: Fill in the booking form below and post it to us now.

2: Book your room at the Holiday Inn Warwick Farm by following the instructions in the panel above (save by booking before 31st August as the room rate will increase after that date).

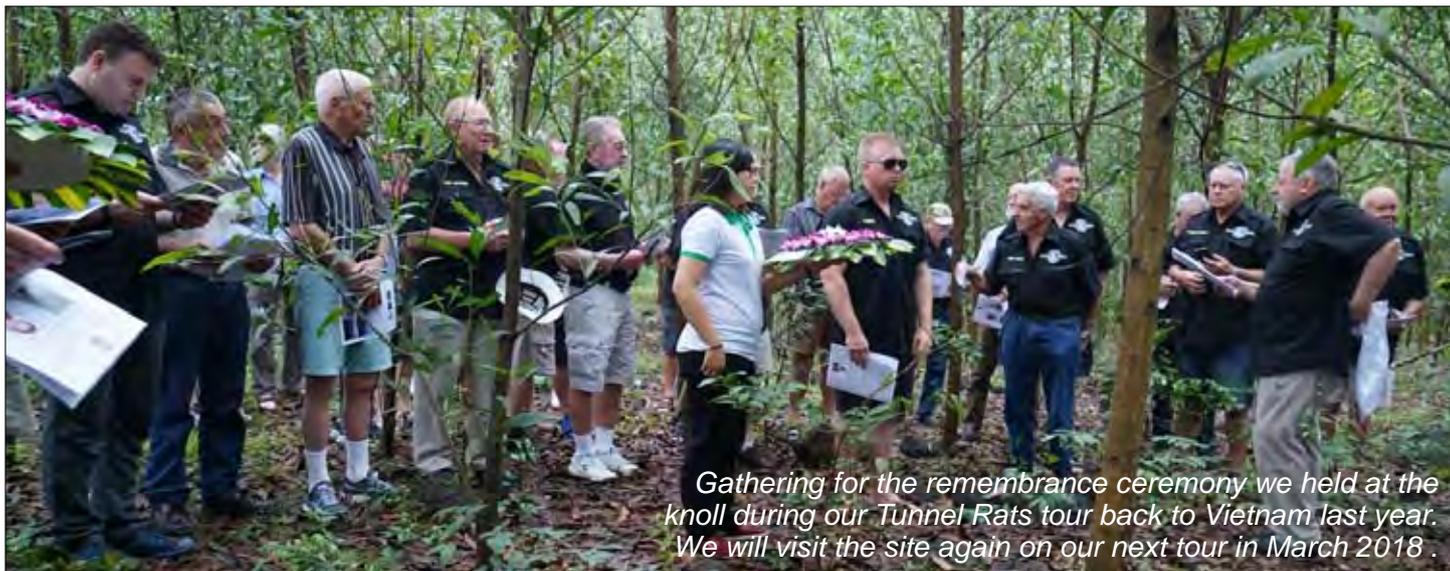
3: Contact your troop mates and get them to come along to the reunion as well.

BOOKING FORM FOR TUNNEL RATS REUNION, HOLSWORTHY NSW – NOV 21-24 2017

First name:	Family name:
Address:	
Email Address:	
Mobile number:	Phone number:
Preferred name or nickname: (If you leave this blank your first name will appear on your Reunion card)	
Vietnam Unit/s served with – please tick and fill in date details below	
<input type="radio"/> 3 Field Troop -	From (month/year) Till (month/year)
<input type="radio"/> 1 Troop 1 Fld Sqn -	From (month/year) Till (month/year)
<input type="radio"/> 2 Troop 1 Fld Sqn -	From (month/year) Till (month/year)
<input type="radio"/> 3 Troop 1 Fld Sqn -	From (month/year) Till (month/year)
At the Reunion Dinner I want to sit at the following table (tick Troop and tick year):	
<input type="radio"/> 3 Fld Tp <input type="radio"/> 1 Tp 1 Fld Sqn <input type="radio"/> 2 Tp 1 Fld Sqn <input type="radio"/> 3 Tp 1 Fld Sqn	
<input type="radio"/> 1965/66 <input type="radio"/> 1966/67 <input type="radio"/> 1967/68 <input type="radio"/> 1968/69 <input type="radio"/> 1969/1970 <input type="radio"/> 1970/71 <input type="radio"/> 1971/72	
<input type="radio"/> I am paying now for the Reunion Dinner at \$85	
PAYMENT DETAILS	
Tick method of payment:	
<input type="radio"/> Cheque or Postal Order (make payable to "Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association") Post to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak Vic 3142	
<input type="radio"/> Credit card (your card statement will read "Ultimate Design Graphics") Tick which type of 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 Vic 3142 Or email to: tunnelrats.vietnam@gmail.com	
<input type="radio"/> Direct Bank Deposit (email us confirmation when you have made the deposit) Name of bank: Commonwealth Bank Account name: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association BSB number: 063165 Account number: 10494523	

17 SAPPER SNIPPETS

Our FSB Andersen story generates an exceptional response



Gathering for the remembrance ceremony we held at the knoll during our Tunnel Rats tour back to Vietnam last year. We will visit the site again on our next tour in March 2018.

The story on Fire Support Base Andersen in issue 30 of 'Holdfast' generated a huge amount of positive feedback. Many Tunnel Rats commented how they had never been aware of the battle, let alone the seven Tunnel Rat casualties there, including four killed in action.

In compiling the story on FSB Andersen 'Holdfast' purposely neither held nor expressed any opinions. We knew this was a story the 3 Troop Sappers themselves had to tell. Our role was to gather the information, make sense of it and present it as an honest reflection of the input we re-

ceived from all of the Sappers who contributed.

Murray Walker was mentioned in Dispatches for his bravery that night when he walked 300m from the knoll to FSB Andersen to seek help for the wounded Sappers back at the listening post. Murray contacted us after publication of the story, asking us to correct the elements in the story which mentioned Jack Lawson also made that hazardous journey back to FSB Andersen. This matter has been a disputed issue for many years and 'Holdfast' does not have the definitive knowledge nor the right to sit in judgement on this is-

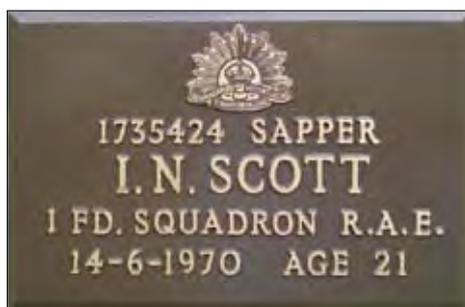
sue. So we respectfully make mention that Murray has made this request. The article incorrectly included Murray Walker among the wounded Sappers and excluded Sapper Lyndon Stutley. To correct the records, the three wounded on the overnight listening post were Sappers Robert Creek, Jack Lawson and Lyndon Stutley.

We regularly get good comments from members on 'Holdfast' but this story generated an exceptional level of positive response. We thank you for that, and we thank Peter 'Roo Dog Scott' for his immense efforts in compiling the story.

Maintaining the graves of our fallen brother Sappers

The Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) maintains in perpetuity the graves of our war dead in Australia. From time to time our Association learns that some graves may need attention, such as refurbishment of the bronze plaque, and contacts AOWG to request this work be carried out.

For example, the plaques of Sappers Ian Neil Scott (Charleville Qld) and John Edgar Garrett (Ballina NSW) have re-



cently been restored to as-new condition at the Association's request. We thank OAWG staff for carrying out the work in a prompt and respectful manner.

Should you come across an AOWG maintained grave that needs attention, please contact AOWG in your State or Territory.

Contact details for each state can be found by going to: www.dva.gov.au then highlighting "Commemorations, memorials and war graves" – then clicking "Office of Australian War Graves" – then clicking "Contact directory" to reveal the various state contact details.

Saigon's Subterranean Secrets - a Sapper's delight

Few people realise that Saigon is home to an extraordinary network of secret cellars and tunnels, which were dug under residential buildings from the late 1940s onwards to serve as covert printing houses, weapons stores or safe houses. Many are now registered as historic buildings



Secret passageways and compartments may be found throughout the world, but it's hard to think of anywhere else where underground tunnels and cellars have been put to such extensive or indeed effective wartime use as Saigon. Which makes it all the more surprising that, in this age of mass tourism, such a prime tourist resource remains unexploited.

The story of Vietnamese reliance on underground hide-outs during the struggle for independence may be traced back to the period immediately after World War II, when the French returned to Saigon, driving Việt Minh forces into the hinterland. In the years that followed, the revolutionary command in the south came up with an ingenious solution to the problem of concealing their activities from French eyes – hiding men and weapons underground.



The weapons storage cellar at 287/70 Nguyễn Đình Chiểu

The prototype for many subsequent revolutionary tunnel complexes was the Phú Thọ Hoà Tunnels in Saigon's northwest suburb of Tân Phú, where, early in 1947, Vietnam's first network of interconnected underground caverns was dug beneath cassava fields to serve as a base and storage facility.

Packed with weapons, food and medical supplies, they played a crucial role in the First Indochina War. However, their close proximity to the French high command in Saigon proved something of a mixed blessing and revolutionary activity soon switched to the more remote Củ Chi underground base, construction of which had got underway soon after the completion of the Phú Thọ Hoà complex.

The development of the Củ Chi Tunnels after 1962 and of residential tunnel networks at Vĩnh Mốc, Vĩnh Linh, Mỹ Giai and Kỳ Anh in the heavily-bombed "DMZ" after 1965 is of course the stuff of legend. Yet few people realise that Saigon is also home to an extraordinary network of secret cellars, which were dug under residential buildings from the late 1940s onwards to serve as covert printing houses, weap-

ons stores or safe houses.

Covert Publishing

Propaganda was crucial to the success of the revolution, and both the Việt Minh and later the National Liberation Front (NLF) went to great lengths to keep the population informed about events in the north.

Built to replace an earlier and less secure cellar under a house near Bà Chiểu Market, Secret Cellar "B" (122/351 Ngô Gia Tự, Q 10) was dug under cover of darkness between February and May 1952 by a team of operatives led by Hà Minh Lân, who set up a shrine-making business as daytime cover for the operation. Highly sophisticated in both design and construction, the cellar housed a covert printing press that functioned for over five years, publishing in leaflet form the latest news transcribed from northern radio broadcasts.

The cellar was abandoned in December 1957 for security reasons and decommissioned in 1959 by stuffing it with soil-filled containers that preserved the structure intact until after Reunification.

As the insurgency gathered pace in the early 1960s, several other covert printing presses were set up in the city. One of these, the Secret Printing Cellar of the Chinese-language Propaganda and Training Committee in Chợ Lớn, was originally established at 81 Gò Công. However, after several years of operation that address was deemed insecure, so in mid-1965 it was relocated to a quiet back-alley house at 341/10 Gia Phú in District 6. An 11-member NLF team, once more posing as a family, dug two cellars below the house and installed printing machinery. Metal stamping machinery was also acquired to manufacture school bag locks above ground as cover and drown out the clatter of the printing press



Weapons and explosives cellar under the house at 183/4 3 Tháng 2

below their feet. The underground printing press on Gia Phú operated without discovery until 1970, when it moved to another location.

Weapons storage

The NLF also dug secret cellars to store weapons and explosives brought from rural bases such as Củ Chi, particularly in the run-up to the 1968 Tết Offensive. One of the earliest examples was dug in 1965 by shoemaker and revo-

lutionary Đỗ Văn Căn under his house at 183/4 3 Tháng 2.

Over the four-month period from July to October 1965, Căn secretly collected 50kg of explosive and detonators, 50 grenades, seven AK47 sub machine guns, several pistols, 21,000 bullets and a number of other items of weaponry from a warehouse in An Đông, transporting them back to his house concealed in bales of rubber.

They were stored in his secret cellar until January 1968, when plans were made to use them in an attack on the city Police Headquarters. However, the operation was aborted and the weapons and explosives remained undiscovered in the cellar. In April 1975, as PLA forces approached Sài Gòn, they were unpacked and prepared for an attack on the nearby ARVN barracks, "Camp Lê Văn Duyệt." However, the Saigon government surrendered before the attack could take place.

Unlike the munitions in

BELOW: The covert publishing site at Secret Cellar "B" 122/351 Ngô Gia Tự, Q 10 Saigon



the cellar on 3 Tháng 2, those stashed beneath the house at 287/70 Nguyễn Đình Chiểu did see combat. Early in 1967 the house's owner, NLF operative Trần Văn Lai, dug two cellars underneath the house and from June 1967 onwards, pistols, rifles, grenades and over 350kg of TNT were transported there in hollowed out boxes and specially adapted wickerwork baskets and plant pots.

On the evening of 30 January 1968, the 19-strong Special Forces 'Team 5' collected them and launched an attack on the heavily-defended south gate of the Independence Palace. The attack failed and all of the team members lost their lives, but despite a subsequent search of the address, the secret cellar was never discovered.

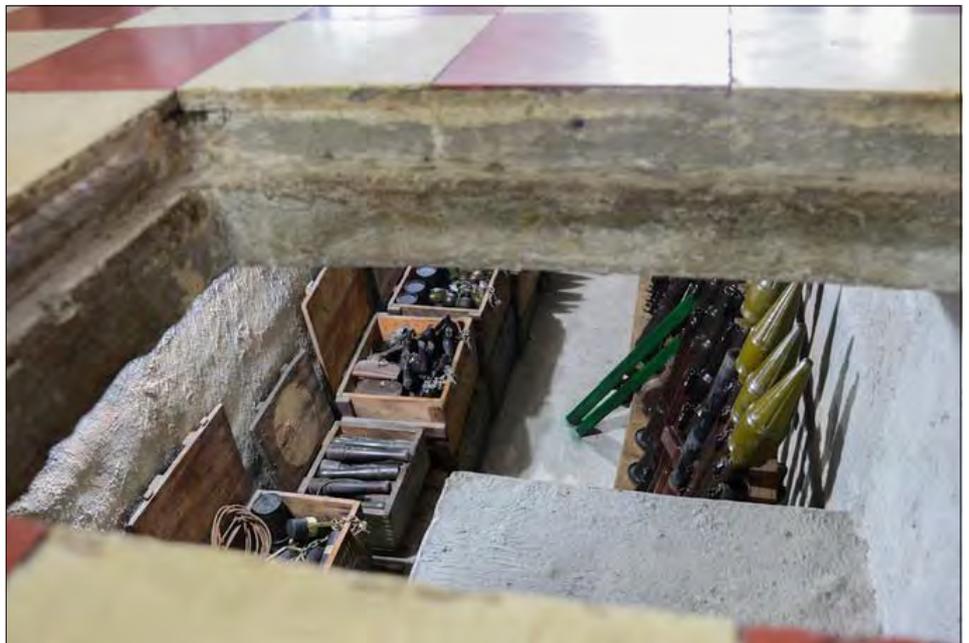
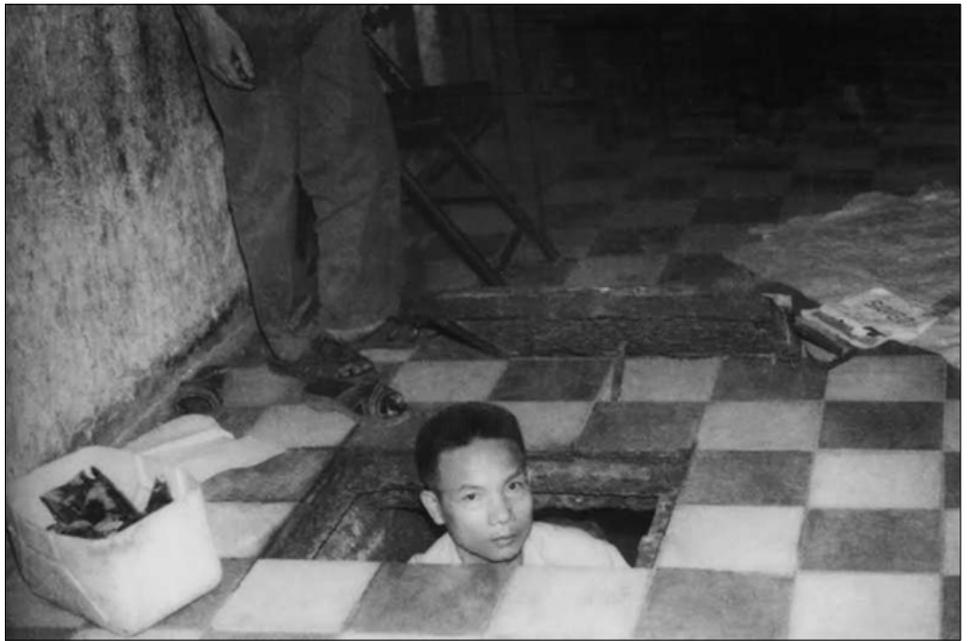
Concealment

Some of the secret cellars established in Saigon and Chợ Lớn during the 1960s were intended not as printing houses or munitions stores, but rather for concealing revolutionary activists.

In 1963 a Chợ Lớn businessman known as Lưu Vinh Phong purchased a house at 91 Phạm Văn Chí, right opposite the District 6 Police Station and Courthouse. He then proceeded to dig a secret cellar under the floor and also created a secret compartment behind a false wall at mezzanine level to hide revolutionary cadres.

From late 1967, many members of the National Chinese Language Committee of the South were successfully hidden in these two spaces, facilitating preparations for the Tết Offensive of 1968. As with other covert bases in the city, a craft workshop was set up here to provide cover.

Phong Phú Communal House in District 9 won its revolutionary spurs during the struggle against the French.



Its remote location made it an ideal spot to train revolutionary youth militia groups and assemble supplies, food and weapons for the armed struggle against colonialism.

The Communal House was destroyed by the Việt Minh during a scorched earth campaign in 1948, but it was rebuilt in 1952 and later played a key role, becoming the headquarters of revolutionary forces in the Thủ Đức area. In 1960 the entire Communal House Association was arrested on suspicion of ties with the revolution. However, they would not be shaken from their efforts and continued to channel money

TOP: Mr. Tran Van Lai in February 1968 at the entrance to the secret tunnel at 287/70 Nguyễn Đình Chiểu ABOVE: Peering through that entrance today at the weapons storage display

and supplies to revolutionary forces for the duration of the war. After suffering further damage in 1969, the Communal House had to be rebuilt yet again, this time with a secret cellar underneath a bathroom to hide revolutionary cadres during raids.

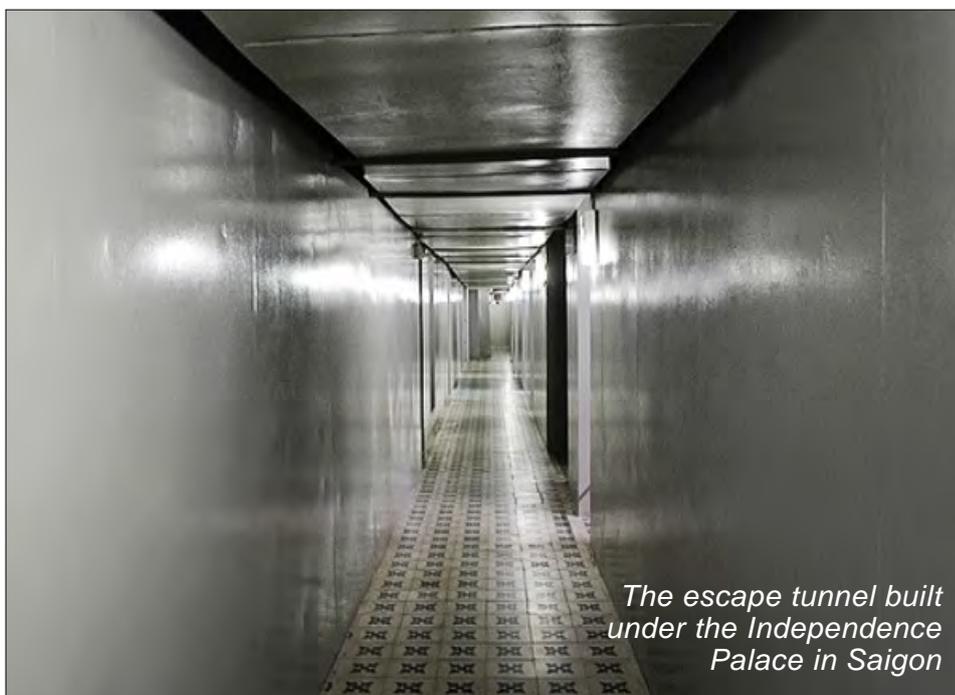
Escaping from the palace

Yet it wasn't just revolutionaries who dug secret cellars.

When South Vietnamese President Ngô Đình Diệm ordered the construction of a new Independence Palace in February 1962 after the bombing of the original Norodom Palace, the plans by architect Ngô Viết Thụ included a network of underground tunnels, reinforced to withstand the impact of 500kg bombs.

At the start of the four-year construction period, Diệm took up temporary residence in the Gia Long Palace – the former French Lieutenant Governor's Palace, now the Hồ Chí Minh City Museum at 65 Lý Tự Trọng in District 1 – and immediately ordered the construction of a second network of tunnels under that building, so that he could take shelter and if necessary escape in the event of a further coup attempt.

Recently-unearthed US photographs and documents suggest that Diệm also commissioned the construction of at least two other tunnels, leading from the Gia Long Palace all the way to the Mạc Đĩnh Chi



The escape tunnel built under the Independence Palace in Saigon

Cemetery (now Lê Văn Tám Park) and the Saigon Zoo.

Ironically, when the coup did take place in November 1963, Diệm only made use of the tunnels under the Gia Long Palace to escape out the back door onto Lê Thánh Tôn street and flee by car to Chợ Lớn, where he and his brother Nhu were assassinated the follow-

ing day.

Collectively, the secret tunnels and cellars of Saigon represent a unique type of “revolutionary architecture” which played a crucial role in the fight for independence. Those examples which have survived stand as a tribute to their creators and to the unsung heroes who lived and worked in them.

Getting there and gaining permission to visit

Phú Thọ Hòa Tunnels (Khu Di tích Địa đạo Phú Thọ Hòa) at 139 Phú Thọ Hoà, Q Tân Phú are open daily from 7.30am-11.30am and 2pm-5pm.

Secret Cellar “B” – Printing Office of the Patriotic Support Association (Hầm bí mật “B” – Cơ sở In ấn của Hội Ủng hộ Vệ Quốc đoàn) at 122/351 Ngô Gia Tự, Q 10 and the **Secret Weapons Hiding Place** (Hầm bí mật chứa vũ khí) at 183/4 Ba Tháng Hai, Q 10 may be viewed by special arrangement with the District 10 Office of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 474 Đường 3 Tháng 2, Phường 14, Quận 10, TP.HCM.

Secret Printing Cellar of the Chinese-language Propaganda and Training Committee (Hầm bí mật in tài liệu của Ban Tuyên huấn Hoa vận) at 341/10 Gia Phú, Q 6 and **Sài Gòn-Gia Định Special Region Committee Secret Headquarters** (Cơ sở bí mật của Thành ủy Sài Gòn-Gia Định) at 91 Phạm Văn Chí, Q 6 may be viewed by arrangement with the District 6 Office of Culture, Sports and Tourism, UBND Quận 6, 107 Cao Văn Lầu, Phường 1, Quận 6, TP.HCM.

Secret Weapons Hiding Place Museum (Bảo tàng Hầm bí mật chứa vũ khí) at 287/70 Nguyễn Đình Chiểu, Q 3 opens Mon-Fri on request from 7.30am-11.30am and 2pm-5pm.

Phong Phú Communal House (Đình Phong Phú) at Khu phố 3, Phường Tăng Nhơn Phú B, Q 9 is open daily from 7am-6pm.

Unification Palace (former Independence Palace, Dinh Thống nhất) at 135 Nam Kỳ Khởi Nghĩa, Q 1 opens daily at 7.30am-11am, 1pm-4pm, admission Đ30,000 adults, Đ3,000 children.

Hồ Chí Minh City Museum (Bảo tàng Thành Phố Hồ Chí Minh) at 65 Lý Tự Trọng, Q 1, opens daily from 8am-4pm, admission Đ15,000.

The Tunnel Rats tour to Vietnam in March 2018 will visit these fascinating sites

“Open up the boozer - we’re coming back”

TUNNEL RATS TOUR BACK TO VIETNAM

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

Nui Dat base camp - home of the Australian Task Force 1966 - 1972

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

Focused on Tunnel Rats, our tour will visit key battle and operational areas, including the infamous barrier minefield and the caves and tunnels of the enemy's base in the Long Hai Mountains. We'll visit mine incident sites with the men involved in those incidents. We'll hold a memorial service for our 36 fallen comrades, at the memorial rock which still sits in our 1 Field Squadron HQ area at Nui Dat - followed by a traditional Troop BBQ (piss-up). We will visit the knoll near FSB Andersen where four Sappers lost their lives during Tet 1968. We'll do a unique tour of Saigon visiting sites of special interest to Tunnel rats. You'll get the chance to do a nostalgia tour of Vungers, visiting The Flags area, the old Badcoe Club area, the old R&C leave centre, sites of infamous old bars and other places of former ill-repute, plus of course the Grand Hotel where you can have a beer, just for old time's sake.

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

Getting there: Rather than adding to the costs and travel time by forcing everyone to depart from one city in Australia, each person will book and pay



for their own return air ticket to Saigon, enabling them to find the best air ticket deal from their city. The plan is for us all to meet in Saigon on Thursday 15th March and from there the Tour begins.

The first event is on the 15th March – welcome drinks at 6pm followed by dinner. Book your air travel carefully to ensure you arrive in Saigon in time to get to the hotel, check-in and make it to the 6pm function. If the airline you choose arrives too late, book your flight to arrive the day prior and we'll book an extra night in the hotel for you.

Shop around for the best airfare. There are plenty of airlines flying into Saigon, so don't grab the first airfare you find. Direct, non-stop flights take less

time and there is no danger of missing a connecting flight, but it may be cheaper to fly on a non-direct flight via another city.

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

The planned return date for leaving Saigon to head back home is Saturday 24 March.

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

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

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

At our welcome drinks in Saigon you'll receive an overall briefing on the tour. Then each morning of the tour you'll receive a detailed briefing on that day's activity, often with associated documents and maps.

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

The cost of the tour is detailed in the panel opposite, and again we've made the tour incredibly good value and Tunnel Rat focussed.

Book now using the booking form on page 27.



TOTAL COST FOR THE TOUR

The full cost for the 10 day, 9 night tour is \$1,480 per person if you are sharing a room (twin share). If you prefer a room on your own, the extra cost is \$400 to cover the hotel room costs for the nine nights. Our costs are up about 15% on our previous tour due to us adding an extra day to the tour and an extra night in the grand Hotel Saigon, plus some general cost increases we have to cover. We'd appreciate receiving your booking and deposit payment ASAP so we can lock down all the rooms and tours. If for any reason you need to pull out later, you'll receive a full refund.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Each guest will be met at the airport and transported to the hotel.
4 nights in The Grand hotel Saigon

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

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

Sharing Sapper experiences

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

The young Sappers will get an understanding of how we operated in terms of combat engineer tasks, particularly when attached to Infantry and Armoured units.

They'll gain an insight into the casualties we suffered, and why, plus how we coped with it. They'll see first-hand the similarities between our tasks in Vietnam and theirs in Afghanistan, and how much better trained and equipped they are than we were.

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

We have great respect for



Sappers performing the same roles in different wars 40 years apart and empathy with serving Sappers in Combat Engineer roles today. It will be a privilege for us to share time with these current serving soldiers, and hear their experiences in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere over a few beers.

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

Serving Sappers (male

and female of all ranks are welcome - as long as they currently serve, or have served in a Combat Engineer unit.

If you're a serving Sapper and you wish to join us on the tour, simply fill in the form.

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

Our hotels in Saigon and Vung Tau

The Grand Hotel Saigon

Our first two nights and our last two nights of the tour are spent at the historic five star Grand Hotel in Saigon. It's a place rich in history and boasting some superb French art deco architecture. There are lots of shops and restaurants nearby and plenty of taxis available out front all the time. They provide a superb buffet breakfast which is included in our tour price. Conveniently our Designated Boozer is just across the road from the hotel.

The Rex Hotel Vung Tau

We'll be staying in the new wing of the Rex Hotel which faces the Front Beach in Vung Tau. It's a great base for our tours to the old operational areas of Phuoc Tuy Province. It is also close to popular bars and restaurants and just up the road from our Designated Boozer. It has a great pool and a good area for us to enjoy the buffet breakfast included in the tour.



Our itinerary at a glance

DAY 1 - THURSDAY 15 MARCH

Australia To Saigon

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

DAY 2 SAIGON – FRIDAY 16 MARCH

Cu Chi Tunnels tour

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

DAY 3 - SATURDAY 17 MARCH

Saigon to Vung Tau by bus via Baria

Pack, check out, then meet in the Grand Hotel lobby at 0815h for an 0830h departure by bus to the Rex hotel in Vung Tau. On the way we'll stop at Baria where we'll visit the Australian funded orphanage. We also visit the memorial cemetery for the NVA and VC killed in our area of operations during the war. On arrival in Vung Tau the rest of the afternoon is free for you to take a wander, check out the town and get yourself orientated.

DAY 4 – SUNDAY 18 MARCH

Long Phuoc Tunnels and mine incident sites

Meet in the Rex lobby at 0815h to depart by bus for Long Phuoc (close to Nui Dat) to visit the former enemy tunnels there and watch a presentation on the old VC base. We visit a section of the former 11 km long barrier minefield laid by 1 Fld Sqn Sappers. We'll visit the sites of several of the many mine incidents which took place in the area before heading back to the Rex Hotel in Vung Tau. The rest of the afternoon and evening is free time.

DAY 5 – MONDAY 19 MARCH

Binh Ba and Nui Dat

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

DAY 6 – TUESDAY 20 MARCH

Long Tan & the Long Hai Hills

Meet in the Rex lobby at 0815h sharp for departure

by bus. We'll visit the Long Tan battlefield and memorial where we'll place a wreath in remembrance of all Australians KIA in Vietnam. Then we'll visit the Long Hai Mountains, which was the VC's big base camp in our area of operations, and a place of much grief for the Aussie troops. The VC called it the "Minh Dam Secret Zone" and it now features a beautiful memorial to the NVA and VC killed throughout the province. In the evening (1800h to 1900h) we will enjoy a music concert performed for us by former NVA and VC veterans. This will be followed by a dinner for all of us on the tour, with the NVA and VC musicians as our guests.

DAY 7 – WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH



Vung Tau free day

You'll have plenty of time to relax, explore Vung Tau, laze by the hotel pool, go shopping, walk along the beach, go for a nostalgic bar crawl with your mates, or simply stroll the streets and soak up the atmosphere. If there is a particular place out in the Province you wish to visit on this day it can be arranged via the travel company handling our tour.

DAY 8 - THURSDAY 22 MARCH

Vung Tau to Saigon

Check out and meet in the Rex lobby at 0915h for departure by bus at 0930h sharp. On the way to Saigon we will visit the knoll near FSB Andersen to hold a remembrance ceremony for the four Sappers KIA there on 18 February 1968. On arrival in Saigon we'll check-in to the Grand Hotel, then you'll have the rest of the day and evening free. An optional tour taking in key Saigon highlights will be available through our tour company that afternoon.

DAY 9 - FRIDAY 23 MARCH

Unique tour plus Farewell Dinner

Today we do the fascinating 'Subteranean Saigon' tour where we visit former VC bunkers and tunnels under homes and shops in Saigon. Used by the VC for weapons storage, print shops and hideouts, these sites are now preserved as historic sites. And tonight is our big Farewell Drinks and Dinner function at the Caravelle Hotel, commencing at 1800h for drinks followed by a buffet dinner at 1900h.

DAY 10 - SATURDAY 24 MARCH

Time to head home

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

Just a few of the highlights you can expect on the tour



Saigon's underground secrets
For the first time we'll visit former enemy underground bunkers, storerooms and hideouts right in the heart of Saigon. Many of these played key roles in the 1968 Tet offensive.



Ceremony at The Rock
The original ceremonial rock that was in front of 1FD SQN HQ at Nui Dat is still there. We hold a remembrance ceremony at that rock for the 35 Tunnel Rats killed in action in Vietnam.



Concert by former NVA & VC
We enjoy a concert performed for us by former NVA and VC soldiers. Several of them worked as entertainers in the field during the war, moving dangerously around the province to link up with their comrades. After the concert we join them for a great dinner, and a few beers.



The Knoll at FSB Andersen
On the 50th Anniversary year of the battle we will visit the knoll at FSB Andersen where four Tunnel Rats were killed in action and three wounded in action. We will hold a remembrance ceremony and place wreaths there to honour our Sapper comrades.



Nui Dat BBQ
After our ceremony at The Rock we hold a fully catered sit-down 'Troop BBQ' amongst the rubber trees near our old 1FD SQN troop lines.



Visits to NVA & VC memorials
We visit memorials created by the former NVA and VC in honour of their fallen comrades to pay our respects as fellow old soldiers. Sites include the cemetery at Baria (above), the temple in the Long Hai Mountains and the 33 NVA memorial at Binh Ba.



Beer at \$1 a stubby
In Saigon and in Vung Tau we nominate a designated boozier where we can gather after each day of touring. The humour, the conversations and the comradeship at these sessions are pure gold - and you can buy a stubby of beer for just US\$1 each.



Our Piper
Our Chief Piper of the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association, Ross Brewer will be on the tour again, greatly enhancing our ceremonies and gatherings.



Welcome and farewell dinners
Held at the 5-star Caravelle Hotel Saigon, these dinners are great nights at the start and end of the tour. Great food and atmosphere, and best of all, incredible comradeship.



You'll be met on arrival
Our travel company staff will pick you up from the airport and transport you to the hotel.

Sappers leave a 'little something' behind for a local farmer



This peaceful scene in Belgium is somewhat deceptive when you realise the farm, known as 'La Basse Cour' sits on a massive 100 year old 22,500 kilogram mine that has yet to detonate. Situated near the town of Ypres, the farm is central to the Messines Ridge area of the WWI Western Front where Australian, British and Canadian Sappers tunnelled under German lines to lay 25 mines totalling over 450,000 kilograms of explosives. To put that amount of explosives into perspective, the average anti-tank mine in Vietnam was just 40 kilograms.

Rated as the world's biggest unexploded bomb, the explosive charge sitting 25m under the farm waiting for its big day was the product of one of the greatest and most secret engineering exercises of the First World War. It lay half forgotten for 80 years until British researchers were able to establish its exact whereabouts using maps of the period.

In January 1916, thousands of allied Sappers began tunnelling out of the Ypres Salient towards the German lines on the Messines Ridge. The plan was to plant 25 enormous mines under the enemy trenches and then blow them shortly before a major offensive planned for the summer of that year. The operation was postponed until the summer of 1917, but when it took place the results were spectacular.

More than 1,000,000lbs (22.5 Tons) of high explosive were packed into underground chambers along a seven-mile front. On the 7th of June, 19 of the mines detonated in the



British Sappers attached to the Australian Tunneling Company dig one of the chambers to hold explosives on Messines Ridge

space of 30 seconds in the biggest series of controlled explosions yet seen. Buildings within a 30-mile radius rocked on their foundations, and the bang was heard in London. In Switzerland, seismographs registered a small earthquake.

As many as 6,000 Ger-

man troops perished in the blasts and the Messines Ridge was quickly taken by General Sir Herbert Plumer's Second Army. The Battle of Messines was regarded as the most successful local operation of the war. But it left a legacy: six mines were not used. Four on the extreme southern flank were not required because the ridge fell so quickly, and another, a 20,000lb mine codenamed Peckham, was abandoned before the attack due to a tunnel collapse. The sixth, and one of the biggest, was planted under the farm 'La Basse Cour'. It was 'lost' when the Germans mounted a counter-mining attack, and never used.

After the war, the Mahieu family returned to the farm and have been working it ever since, seemingly unconcerned about the little matter of 22.5 tons of high explosive lying below their property. Roger Mahieu is proud that he still farms the same land as his father and grandfather. "It doesn't stop me sleeping at night," he said.

"It's been there all that time, why should it decide to blow up now?" Now in his 60's Mr. Mahieu, who lives at the farm with his wife and daughter seems to have a relaxed attitude to the subject of unexploded ordnance. Like many farmers in areas of Belgium and northern France scarred by the Western Front he is used to digging up old artillery shells and other potentially lethal devices during his work.

But history suggests he should not be all that relaxed. In 1955 one of the four unused mines at the southern end of the ridge detonated after 38 years in the ground. The explosion was believed to have been triggered by a lightning strike. Thankfully the only casualties were cows, an electricity pylon and some roadway.

How dangerous are the 'lost' mines? The Messines charges were carefully water-proofed by packing the explosives in tins covered in tarred canvas. The detonators were sealed in bottles and the leads protected by rubberised canvas hoses inside coiled steel. It was perhaps this armoured hose running up to the surface that carried the electrical current to the detonators of the mine that exploded in 1955. If the Mahieu family ever decide to sell the farm they will be handing the real estate agent quite a challenge in terms of describing the 'potential' of the property!



ABOVE: Australian and British troops stand on the rim of one of the massive craters created by just one of the 19 explosions detonated at Messines Ridge on 7th June 1917



ABOVE: The team of officers from the 1st Australian Tunnelling Company who were responsible for firing the massive explosive charge in a mine which completely destroyed the German front line at the northern end of Messines Ridge on 7th June 1917. The officers are (left to right): back row: Lieutenant John MacDiarmid Royle; Lt James Bowry; Lt Hubert Henry Carroll, MC. Front row: Captain Oliver Holmes Woodward, MC and two bars; Major James Douglas Henry, CO, OBE, DSO; Capt Robert Adam Clinton, MC. Capt Woodward was responsible for closing the main electrical switch and Lts Royle and Bowry the two auxiliary switches that detonated the explosives. Capt Clinton had been in charge of the digging of the advanced tunnels under the German trenches, while Major Henry was responsible for synchronising the detonation, by means of a stopwatch, with the detonation of other explosive charges all along Messines Ridge.



One of the craters from the messines Ridge explosions is maintained as a memorial

Tunnel Rats List

All list enquires to Graeme Gartside (contact details below)

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

3 Field Troop (1965-66)

Ian Biddolph 02 4472 9434
 Alan Christie 07 5494 6628
 Brian Cleary 0438239387
 Allan S Coleman 07 4687 7975
 Bill Corby 07 5502 1193
 John "Tex" Cotter 07 4723 1244
 "Meggsie" Dennis 0413 193 584
 Des Evans 07 4128 2390
 Ray Forster 07 3409 1907
 Geoff Green 03 6272 8167
 Barry Harford 08 8088 4371
 Keith Kermode 0427233063
 Sandy MacGregor 02 9457 7133
 Frank Mallard 0408183325
 Keith Mills 07 4770 7267
 Warren Murray - RIP Sapper
 John Opie 0427280703
 Bernie Pollard 08 9248 3178
 Bill Unmeopa 08 9300 5561
 Snow Wilson Jnr 02 6649 3998

Chief Engineer Vietnam

John Hutcheson MC 0417224850

OC 1 Field Squadron

John Kemp 02 6288 3428
 Rex Rowe 0419 251 420
1 Troop (1966-67)
 Ray Burton 08 8268 4575
 Ron Carroll 0408884327
 Joe Cazeay 07 3710 8102
 Allan S Coleman 07 4661 1924
 Grahame Cook 02 4390 5159
 Alan Hammond 0423491091
 Cul Hart 0439536631

Ken Jolley 02 6624 4066

Barry Kelly 07 4661 2898

Axel Kraft 08 9572 9597

Peter McTiernan 02 6557 5211

David Martin 02 6379 6097

Gavin Menzies 02 6584 7257

John Olsen 0414433341

Ron Rockliffe 02 9789 4302

Trevor Shelley 0419784954

"Jethro" Thompson 0732168906

Ross Tulloh 0418223345

Graham Zalewska-Moon

(Poland phone: 48-815177391)

1 Troop (1967-68)

Billy Adams 03 5974 2916

Henry Baggaley 0419902268

Reg Bament 02 6948 2524

Bruce Bevan 0402334614

Neville Bartels 07 4055 9871

Col Campbell 0417658770

Dave Campbell 07 4225 6310

Bob Coleman 03 5332 0975

Ross Comben 08 9535 2273

Jack Green 07 3278 8719

Norm Hitchcock (Canada)

1-250-2455137

Ray Kenny 07 3881 3648

Peter Koch 04 3822 3100

Brian Lewis 07 3880 0376

"Paddy" Maddigan 07 5485 1918

Mike McCallum 02 6288 5113

John Neal 02 9982 6694

Barry O'Rourke 0409546717

Clive Pearsall 03 9459 4470

Terry Perkins 0413343168

Alan Rantall 03 9434 2031

Ivan Scully 03 9802 0977

Peter Sheehan 03 9390 2834

Carlton "CP" Smith 0448000334

Jim Trower 0418842744

1 Troop (1968-69)

Ray Bellinger 0407952670

Adrian Black 0417756729

Mike Bruggemann 0409441992

Peter Carrodus 02 9759 6383

Albert Eyssens 03 9769 9715

Ken Ford 0418669689

Peter Hollis 02 6581 5401

George Hulse 07 3399 7659

Robert Laird 0408561748

Brian Lamb 02 6059 6947

Kent Luttrell 0408387641

Kerry McCormick 03 6344 5291

Keith Murley 0429729764

Alan Paynter 03 5975 7130

Richard Reilly 02 6262 7374

Colin Spies 07 4743 4676

Garry Von Stanke 08 8725 5648

Cliff Truelove 02 6495 7844

Ken Wheatley 07 4774 0045

Bob Wooley 03 6264 1485

David Wright 03 9435 4131

1 Troop (1969-70)

Kevin Atkinson 08 9041 1571

Larry Batze 07 4033 2025

Mervyn Chesson 0419806323

Allan S Coleman 07 4687 7975

Phil Cooper 0439 955 207

Gary Degering - RIP Sapper

John Felton 07 4661 8679

Grahame Fletcher 0408822489

Brian Forbes 0412047937

Jon Fuller 02 4774 1674

P. "Guts" Geisel 07 4092 1735

Terry Gleeson 0458 232 886

Graham Harvey 0418889739

Trevor Kelly 08 9538 1184

Des McKenzie 07 5448 3400

Anthony Marriott 03 6257 0279

Doug Myers 0421904562

Paul Ryan 0429165974

Les Slater 08 9361 0603

Max Slater 0412 772 849

Vic Smith 0432916485

Dave Sturmer 0422664942

1 Troop (1970-71)

Mick Augustus 07 3205 7401

Dan Brindley 02 6643 1693

Ian Cambell 03 9870 0313

Ray "Brute" Carroll 08 9342 3596

Phil Duffy 0406020382

Harry Ednie 0408391371

Robin Farrell 0409265470

Bruce Fraser 07 5499 0508

Garth Griffiths 0435902386

"Paddy" Healy 02 4930 7541

Peter Krause 02 6723 2835

John Lewis 07 3425 1524

R Loxton 0419944755

Barry Meldrum 03 5427 1162

Roger Newman 07 5450 6054

Peter North 08 9279 5905

Dennis Pegg 03 6224 9090

Bob Pfeiffer 07 5464 5221

John Pritchard 02 9837 7482

John Severyn 0407008610

Garry Shoemark 02 6546 6778

Garry Sutcliffe 07 4684 3229

Donald Stringer 07 41559 515

Paul Taylor (NZ) (64)42990915

Terry Ward 02 6566 6163

Jim Weston 02 4987 7179

John Wright 03 6398 6211

2 Troop (1966-1967)

Richard Beck 07 3208 5808

David Buring 02 6254 6689

Ron Cain 02 6586 1412

Graeme Carey 02 6056 0997

Terry Gribbin 03 9722 9717

Alan Hammond 0423491091

Peter Hegarty 07 4168 5644

Graeme Leach 07 4777 8627

Ken McCann 0409938830

Rod McClennan 07 3267 6907

Noel McDuffie 0427051678

Bob McKinnon 07 3267 0310

Peter Matthews 03 6250 3686

Warren Morrow 0418427947

Mick Shannon 08 8552 1746

Bob Sweeney 08 9248 4432

2 Troop (1967-1968)

William Adams 0400405751

M. Ballantyne 08 8298 2515

John Beningfield 07 4778 4473

Peter Bennett 0418915550

Dennis Burge 08 8281 2270

Kenneth Butler 0414897889

Harry Cooling 07 4778 2013

Garry Cosgrove 02 4845 5153

Geoff Craven 03 5629 5224

Peter Fontanini 0438 881 940

Roland Gloss 02 6367 5324

John Goldfinch 02 6674 0855

Paul Grills 07 4162 5235

John Jasinski 0435799426

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

Bernard Ladyman 08 9795 7900

Warren McBurnie 02 6687 7030

Stephen McHenry 08 9344 6939

Eric McKerrow (Silent number)

Dave McNair 08 9725 2821

Kevin Moon 0423005756

Tony Parmenter 0417856877

Gary Phillips 07 5474 0614

Brian Rankin 07 4775 5095

Hans Rehorn 03 5623 5572

Andrew Rogers 08 8087 5671

Mick Robotham 0439144876

Geoff Russell 02 6342 1292

Robert Russell 03 5975 5329

Brian Sheehan 03 9336 3137

Carlton "CP" Smith 0448000334

John Tramby 0428659048

John Willis 03 9363 7878

"Snow" Wilson 08 9752 2935

2 Troop (1968-1969)

Bob Austin 02 6644 9237

Ross Bachmann 07 5495 1443

Don Beale 02 6971 2424

Richard Branch 0409496294

Harold Bromley 03 9726 8625

Peter Brunton 03 5156 5531

Jim Castles 02 9639 2941

Harry Claassen 07 3273 6701

Peter Clayton 0418 823 266

John Coe 07 4776 5585

Rod Crane 08 9530 3083

John Douglas 0433747401

Robert Earl 02 4990 3601

Brian Forbes 0412047937

John Gilmore 08 9795 6847

Stan Golubenko 03 9361 2721

Paul Grills 07 4162 5235

Geoff Handley 0427931791

Ross Hansen 0409225721

Wayne Hynson 0425720696

Ray Jurkiewicz 07 3886 9054

Brian Lamb 02 6059 6947

Phil Lamb 08 8564 2001

Wayne Lambley 07 3851 1837

Darryl Lavis 08 8263 9548

Peter Laws 02 4942 8131

Bud Lewis 0400012255

Rick Martin 02 6928 4253

Bill Matheson 0428959044

Bill Morris 08 9384 2686

Don Nicholls 0407919993

Colin Norris 02 4627 1180

Bob O'Connor 0418742219

Terry O'Donnell 0417371632

Rod Palmer 0417672643

David Pannach (Hong Kong)

852-2892 2714

Allan Pearson 07 3812 0943

Gary Phillips 07-5474 0164

Ted Podlich 07 3862 9002

Daryl Porteous 07 4973 7663

Mick Weston 07 5444 3307

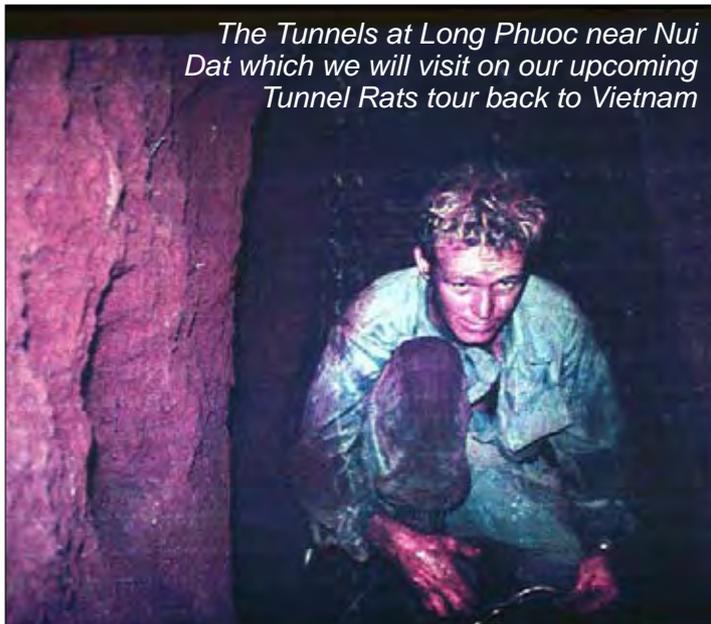
Ray White 03 9740 7141

2 Troop (1969-1970)

"Arab" Avotins 07 4129 8012

Bruce Bofinger 02

The Tunnels at Long Phuoc near Nui Dat which we will visit on our upcoming Tunnel Rats tour back to Vietnam



Brad Hannaford 08 8389 2217
John Hopman 02 9398 5258
Chris Koulouris 02 4952 6341
Bill Lamb 0418 424 208
Mick Loughlin 07 4060 3039
Mick Lee 07 5543 5001
Marty McGrath 02 6059 1204
Jim Marett 03 9824 4967
Bob Ottery 03 5199 2516
Bevan Percival 07 5573 6925
Pedro Piromanski 08 9306 8169
Ian Pitt 03 5349 2018
Jack Power 07 4955 3761
Colin Redacliff 02 9673 0597
Rolf Schaefer 08 8962 1391
Brian "BC" Scott 07 3204 5691
Peter Scott (219) 02 4341 3782
"Roo Dog" Scott 0400799577
Les Shelley 07 3264 4041
Jimmy Shugg 08 9776 1471
Bob Smith 07 5456 1194
Mick Van Poeteren 03 9437 7386
Gerry Wallbridge 03 9803 4223
Dennis Wilson 08 8659 1189
Stephen Wilson 07 5538 2179

2 Troop (1970-1971)

Bruce Arrow 02 6288 3872
Mick Bergin 0427742175
Graham Besford 03 9439 2661
Mal Botfield 02 9872 2594
John Brady 02 6888 1192
David Briggs 08 9537 6956
Keith Burley 07 5543 0990
Peter Cairns 03 6267 4646
Brian Christian 07 4778 6602
Grahame Clark 0408533869
Dennis Coghlan 0429938445
"Sam" Collins 08 8262 6107
Ron Cook 0414508686
Jock Coutts 08 9279 1946
Bill Craig 08 9530 1008
Denis Crawford 03 9497 3256
John Cross 02 4757 2273
Robin Date 03 9783 3202
Gino De Bari 08 9437 5641
Tom Dodds 040672260
Des Evans 07 4128 2390
Bruce Fenwick 02 4977 2917

Ray Fulton 03 6288 1176
Ziggy Gniot 0418 885 830
Bob Hamblyn 08 8672 3930
Cec Harris 02 6629 3373
Paddy Healy 02 4930 7541
Kevin Hodge 08 8322 2619
Paul Jones 02 6231 5963
Jim Kelton 0488972139
Kevin Lappin 07 3273 8614
Gary McClintock 07 4788 0123
Peter McCole 03 5155 9368
Bob McGlenn 07 5426 1597
Ian McLean 0412431297
Jeff Maddock 03 5987 3850
Leon Madeley 07 5497 1038
Bill Marshall 07 5545 0389
Rod O'Regan 0419431779
Graeme Pengelly 0407 138 124
Des Polden 03 6223 3830
Keith Ramsay 0439856933
Mick Rasmussen 0428 790 645
Ron Reid 0427 461 297
Gary Sangster 0427224099
John Scanlan 0488 132 903
Peter Schreiber 02 6569 3390
Garry Shoemark 02 6546 6778
Alex Skowronski 0407954570
John Smith 0400032502
Roy Sojan 08 9926 1235
John Stonehouse 08 9653 1895
Peter Swanson 0401392617
John Tick 04 3898 7262
Harry Eustace 0408515270
Steve Walton 07 3205 9494
Terry Wake 07 4786 2625
Dave Young 0418425429

2 Troop (1971-72)

Warren Pantall 0417 096 802

3 Troop (1967-68)

Ken Arnold 02 6974 1181
Dennis Baker 08 89527281
Chuck Bonzas 0407866487
Bruce Breddin 0418766759
Norm Cairns 03 6267 4629
Kerry Caughey 03 5971 4188
David Clark 08 8388 7728
Bob Coleman 03 5332 0975
Jim Dowson 03 5662 3291

Bob Embrey 07 3351 1222
Peter Fontanini 0438881940
Barry Gilbert 03 5023 6657
Brian Hopkins 08 9751 4946
John Hoskin 0417886100
Jack Lawson 0429 798 673
Peter MacDonald 08 9448 5418
Barrie Morgan 0437861945
Michael O'Hearn 0429327509
Gary Pohlner 0427172900
Peter Pont 07 4095 0150
Tom Simons 03 6344 6058
Kevin Shugg 0411144500
Mervyn Spear 0431212960
Frank Sweeney 07 3882 6025
Brian Thomson 0428551368
Vic Underwood 0429 907 989
Murray Walker 08 9332 6410
Glenn Weise 0488741174
Mick Woodhams 08 9459 0130
Bob Yewen 07 5532 4560
Ken Young 0409124096

3 Troop (1968-69)

Geoff Box 08 9731 2757
Col Campbell 0417658770
Barry Chambers 0401119999
Neil Garrett 03 5798 1522
Brian Glyde 02 4455 7404
Peter Graham 0428325182
Peter Gray 02 4285 8877
Derwyn Hage 0408802038
John Hollis 02 6662 6660
"Sam" Houston 07 5495 5480
Phil Lamb 08 8564 2001
Ian Lauder 08 9419 5375
Kent Luttrell 0408387641
John Murphy 08 9493 3771
John Nulty 02 6927 3535
Ted O'Malley 0428243351
Barry Parnell 07 4947 1976
Bob Pritchard RIP Sapper
Art Richardson 03 9314 8216
Greg Roberts 03 5941 2269
Walter Schwartz 0439512322
Don Shields 08 8297 8619
Tony Toussaint 0417249235.
Ray Vanderheiden 02 4776 1373
Wal Warby 0418240394
Ray White 03 9740 7141

Three Troop (1969-70)

Chris Brooks 0407186207
Jim Burrough 0400884633
Terry Cartlidge 0411252859
Bruce Crawford 02 6628 0846
Richard Day 08 8088 4129
Phil Devine 0439066012
Bob Done 0407485888
Ray Fulton 03 6288 1176
Graham Fromm 0429322561
Doug George 0419475246
Graham Harvey 07 5445 2636
Robert Hewett 0422165003
Trevor Hughes 0419883281
Darrel Jensen 0428387203
Rod Kirby 07 4973 7726
Peter Knight 02 6247 6272
Gerry Lyall 07 3343 4725
Phil McCann 0417423450
Chris MacGregor 02 4472 3250
Norm Martin 02 4953 1331

Jock Meldrum MID 0424924909
Roelof Methorst 0416834846
Gary Miller MM 0407586241
"Jacko" Miller 03 6267 4411
Chris Muller 0458650113
Danny Mulvany 08 9356 6890
Vin Neale 03 9786 1549
Peter Phillips 0429362935
G. Rentmeester 03 9735 5236
Brian "BC" Scott 07 3204 5691
Paul Scott 02 6656 0730
Gordon Temby 0419954658
Peter Thorp MID 02 6288 0008
"Curly" Tuttleby 08 8953 2335
Hank Veenhuizen 0407 487 167
"Wonzer" White 02 9833 0580

Three Troop (1970-71)

Robert Allardice 0439076891
Steve Armbrust 0407695247
Errol Armitage 07 5598 8018
Geoff Ansell 0448013712
Bob Bament 02 6071 3527
Mike Barnett 02 9869 7132
John Beningfield 07 4778 4473
Darryel Binns 0417170171
Trevor Boaden 0448160944
Mal Botfield 02 9872 2594
Ian Campbell 03 9870 0313
Brian Christian 07 4778 6602
Bob Clare 03 5439 5532
Graeme Clarke 07 4128 4660
Ted Clarke 0438225844
Allan J Coleman 02 9838 4848
Steve Collett 08 9371 0075
John Davey 07 3378 4316
Chris Ellis 08 9398 1718
Kevin Hodge 08 8322 2619
John Jones 08 8357 5226
Kenny Laughton 08 8297 4010
Garry Lourigan 02 4844 5545
R. McKenzie-Clark 08 9729 1162
Robert McLeay 0429861122
"Jock" Meldrum 0424924909
Roelof Methorst 0416834846
Carlo Mikkelsen

(New Zealand) 0064 9 3776322
Ben Passarelli 0411340236
Robert Reed 07 3351 4440
Paul Scott 02 6656 0730
Les Shelley 07 3264 4041
John Steen 0419772375

John Tatler - RIP Sapper

Gordon Temby 08 9757 2016
Peter Vandenberg 03 9798 3947
Brian Wakefield 08 8537 0293
Peter Weingott 07 3378 2770
David Wilson 0401726090

Three Troop (1971-72)

Bradley Bauer 0749281152
Trevor "Zip" Button 0434332789
Ron Byron 0439910568
Mike Dutton 0438627140
Brenton J Smith 0408806685

US Tunnel Rats

Stephen "Shorty" Menendez
menendez@toast.net

John Thiel
drijthiel@gmail.com

Mark Morrison
lmorrison18@cox.net

3 TROOP 1FD SQN REUNION 2018 - BUNBURY WA



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

Email:

threetrp1fld@outlook.com

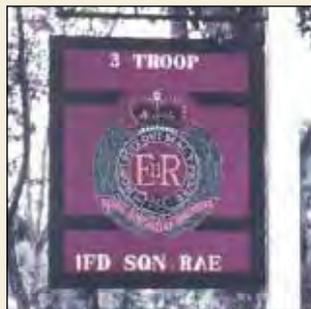
Post:

Julie & Geoff BOX, PO Box 488 Donnybrook WA 6239

Phone:

Geoff & Julie (08) 9731 2757

Danny & Glenys Mulvany (08) 9356 6890



HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE