

THE EYES and EARS

No.0012 – 28/11/09

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Dept of Main Roads issues the following advice for the up-coming holiday season that there should be roads available to travel on in various parts of Australia, but maybe not in Tasmania due to no one down there being too sure. However, the uses of a vehicle (on the roads) in all circumstances is advised and remember to turn north or south on arrival in Fremantle from the east and adjust your clock backwards by 10 years and 1 hour when crossing the Queensland border.

Arty Tac, LP's, Survey, Radar, Transport and Workshop...

There goes November and almost 2009, and we've picked more new readers and the total database now comprises of 83 people with 77 on our email database.

We start off this edition with some Incoming and 'Then and Now' Photos nostalgia in Heard and Seen and finish sadly in Lost and Found with Jim Hognos's story with regards to Roger Long...

Heard and seen...

. **Nick Armstrong drops us** a line – 'Hello Paul. In response to your suggestions for names to locate, the following are names I recall, (with help from DVA Vietnam Nominal Roll)

John Martin, he was the Survey section's 2nd Lt after Ian Yerbury. DVA Nominal Roll gives his SVN duties from 5/02/68 to 6/02/69. It was an interesting coincidence that I had first met him when in Army Cadets at Brighton High School in South Australia.

John Brewer was the Sgt for the Survey section. His SVN service was 26/02/68 to 21/02/69.

Garry Leplaw was not in Survey, but possibly with either the Radar or LP at Horseshoe for some of the time. His SVN duties were 5/02/68 to 11/02/69. I remember him because he had a very young face. I remember one of the Tank crew at Coral asking if he was a School Cadet. It would be interesting to see a recent picture of him, to see if he has aged and wrinkled like the rest of us?

Regarding names for the various sections, the Surveyors were often referred to as 'Scurvies'.

I'm sorry a recluse from the South Australian rural regions can't help much, with your search for team, but keep up the good work. It is refreshing to read of the people you have found. It is particularly nice to read how many are still alive and kicking. Keep up the good work. Nick'

. **Here's the latest** from Pete Gault – 'Hi Dicko Everything going along fine we fly down to Brisbane on Monday for another dose of chemo I think they will take a look in about 3 weeks We are kind of looking forward to it I returned a call from Lee Hem today he is fine & doing a fair bit of exercising we are trying to organise a get together for lunch when we go down in 3 weeks

Will try ringing Vic tomorrow he is trying to catch up also I've just bought a slide copier thingo & am in the process of copying about 300 slides some are ok when I'm finished I will send you a disk

I look forward to reading each edition of the E&Es & We had the whole family up last week & they arranged a surprise wedding vows reaffirmation ceremony which was all very nice Carol was like a dog with two tails Well Dicko that's about it for now Regards Pappy'

. **Ron Evans adds** – 'Thanks again for all your efforts Dicko. The Ears Nose & Throat continues to amuse.' Then has a problem that he is seeking assistance with – 'Now there is a great mystery which I ask you to help solve. There was a bloke who served with you all. Apparently you all knew him very well but I never once, not once mind you, actually saw him. His name was possibly Asian in origin (**Ed** replaced the suggested name) and he was absolutely everywhere. Sometimes he was in several places at the same time. He managed to bugger up everything he came in contact with and I would like to know what happened to him. I suspect that he went into parliament under an assumed name and continued with his career. If that is the case I think the bastard should be outed and disgraced.

XXX Mook PS The gentleman in question WAS NOT ME!!' **Ed again** – Mook's suggested name was possibly somewhat unprintable, but that shouldn't stop you enquiring of him to assist in the uncovering of this bloke – please contact Ron.

. **Another Army Icon Passes** – the email sent out earlier this month prompted these comments...

- "If a war started it would be a handy place to train troops – Arty in particular." Grahame (Dignam)
- "It would make a nice Retirement Home for old gunners." Bert (Blink)
- "What a grand old guest-house it would make. Those views..." Steve (Boutlis)
- "Do yourself a favour and watch a few episodes of channel tens "biggest loser", surprise surprise, Camp Biggest Loser is You Guessed It, North Head Barracks. Bull Storey and all the other former RSMs' of Bullshit Castle will be devastated." Bill (Finlay)

. **John Dean writes** a really reply interesting response to an article in the last Eyes and Ears edition – ‘G'day Dicko, While reading your latest newsletter I noted a reference to F.S.B. Berryman in the article "Ernie Newbold - Hard at it". Just as a matter of interest my son, Peter Dean, is a historian and has been commissioned to write a biography of Frank Berryman. The book, to be edited by Davis Horner, is being published by United Press as part of the Australian Military History Series. Peter hopes to have it finished in time for sale prior to Anzac Day next year. Regards, John (Deano)’
Ed – Lieutenant General Sir Frank Horton Berryman, KCVO, CB, CBE, DSO (11 April 1894 – 28 May 1981) was an interesting character and the book should be a good read –keep us in touch with Peter’s progress.

. **Photos at a different time...** the following are a few photos taken by Leigh Hemming and Ian Amos showing what a bit of the Task Force area and the Long Tan site looks like some 40 years later...

Then		Now
	Nui Dat Hill – the site of 31A	
	Luscombe Field	
	The Long Tan Site	

. **Bert Blink has** sourced this information regarding National Service –
National Service (NS) Intakes 1965 – 1972

Note 1 - Intakes all started on a Wednesday.

Note 2 – From 1966 Intakes were January/February, April, July & September.

Note 3 – 63,735 NS soldiers served in the Australian Army?

Note 4 – There were 16 NS Ballots the first on the 10/03/1965 and the last on 22/09/1972.

Note 5 – The 1st Intake started on 30/06/1965 & the last Intake was discharged on the 07/12/1972.

Ed – the population in 1966 was only 11,599,498 – I wonder how many 20 year olds there were?

. **Brian Campbell sent** an email in with the with the following story about the Farewell to the Last Huey –



'Celebrating the Last Huey

A retirement ceremony took place Friday, October 2, 2009, at Summerall Field, Fort Myer, Virginia. The subject of this honor was the venerable UH-1. To fully understand the relationship between man and this marvellous machine, one would need to go back to 1952. That was when the Army identified their requirement for a new helicopter that would serve as a medical evacuation (MEDEVAC), instrument trainer, and general utility aircraft.

In early 1955, the Army selected Bell to build three copies of its Model 204 for evaluation, designating it the XH-40. The XH-40 first flew on October 20, 1956. Two more prototypes were later built. Then in March 1960, the Army awarded Bell a production contract for 100 aircraft. The helicopter was designated as HU-1. The official name was "Iroquois." For those who wonder where the affectionate nickname "Huey" came from, take another look at the designation and think of the "1" as an "I."

The service history of the Huey began with the 101st Airborne Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, and the 57th Medical Detachment which arrived in Vietnam in March 1962. During the Vietnam War, the Huey went through several upgrades, each improving performance and load-carrying capabilities.

More than 7,000 Hueys saw action in Vietnam. Of these, more than 3,300 were destroyed, and more than 2,700 American crewmembers and passengers lost their lives. It should be noted that during its time of service, an untold number of men and women owed their lives to this magnificent machine.

The UH-1 went on to provide 39 years of service to the country in the Army National Guard. So this retirement ceremony was a fitting way to say goodbye to this remarkable machine.

Though the sky was overcast, and a brisk breeze skipped across Summerall Field, no one seemed to mind. The Huey's rotors belted out the familiar "wop-wop-wop" sound that has been a trademark of the UH-1 — a sound welcomed by so many of our fellow countrymen in battle, and feared by this nation's enemies. As she lifted skyward and headed out of sight, many in the crowd saluted and bid her a fond farewell.'

Ian Finlay sent a comment in with the same item which he had received from Kim McGrath with regards to the '**Last Huey**' - 'They sure beat "Shank's Pony"' – Kim. '**Such a remarkable chopper with a sound we won't forget!**'

Ed – Well that makes me feel older all of a sudden, which could account for some of my emailing mistakes!!!

. **OK you're going to see** a couple of Holden models in the next piece, then followed up with a later models in the following piece...



Warwick Brooker circulated this photo titled "Twin Holdens" in an email in October.

Brookey was a bit upset at being omitted from a list of Surveyors that Geoff listed, well that's not **Ed's** problem – he wants to know who the hell is who in this photo and where are the dog-tags?

. **Geoff Holden sends** in the following photo with a great story...



This photo was taken at Pandanus Park on Vietnam Vets day 2004. From left Geoff H, Disha Dreis, John Williamson, Ian Amos, Clive Dreis and Les Hiddens.

JW flew in and did a concert for us from the back of Clive's ute. There were about 800 up there that year and needless to say we all enjoyed!!

Geoff

Ed – is JW standing in a foxhole?

. Ed's got a query...



Can someone help me identify this photo – it's one of mine and it's one of the Radar's out on an Operation in 1967? It'd be handy to identify the two blokes as well?

I'd really appreciate it - Dicko

. **Veteran's Day (tribute to the fallen)** – Ed has copied the following with the author's permission. He's an American Vietnam Veteran who lives in the same town as I'm currently in and wrote the piece for Veteran's Day, which falls on 11th November (same as our Remembrance Day). I just thought it gives another perspective about Vietnam then and now from a fellow Veteran's point of view...

'The Wall - by Lou Christine...

This year marks the 27th anniversary of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C. Unfortunately the United States is bogged down in another messy conflict, two infact. Despite politics, despite variable ideals and special interests, despite right or possible wrong, young men and women in uniform refrain from asking the reasons why, they just honor their sworn oath and do their duty.

That's the way it has been for all front-line troopers through the ages, rather if in the ranks of Patton's divisions, Bonaparte's Calvary or Caesar's Legions. That's the way it was for kids back in Vietnam.

I'd presume most people reading this remember the time but I can't estimate how many of you have seen the Wall and have come to appreciate its significance and have come to grips with the sacrifice made mostly by draftees, primarily cannon fodder made up of poorer college and high school drop outs, dead-enders, farm boys, rubes, blacks, Latinos, Hawaiians and even non-citizens caught in the draft net and off the street by Uncle Sam.

Charlie Sheen's character, Taylor, in Oliver Stone's Platoon, may have best described the disheveled lot when in the film he narrated a letter sent off to his grandmother. Nevertheless, those sorry asses became heroes despite their social and economic backgrounds. Too many nice kids died.

After a first-time walk-by of the Vietnam War Memorial emotions might vary depending on one's association with the Vietnam Generation and the era. Yet too many of our fellow citizens were absolutely oblivious to the conflict, like politicians' sons, or spoon-fed Ivy League types, or those who could afford to dodge the draft via college deferments and some have remained oblivious to this day, clueless about how the war impacted and rattled individual lives and families.

Yet, if one gives the Wall a second gander, the enormity of the conflict and the Memorial itself happens to kick-in. If compared: The Wall's design parallels the pace and escalation of the war itself.

The Wall's length and stature is laid out in such a way. When one first approaches the memorial, from either end, the Memorial appears somewhat inconsequential, perhaps not as grandiose as might be expected. The initial black, marble slabs are about knee high with a few names etched on them. Yet with each step the height of the Wall inches upward, one slab next to another, and another, and another, juxtaposition, chock with more names. That aspect in design is an intricate and well thought out part of the Memorial—the Wall's gradual escalation—a sobering reminder how the body count rose with the escalation. After about 25 yards the Wall looms large. Onlookers then have to lift their heads to read the names and are dwarfed by the Wall of doom. Vietnam escalated from a small flammable skirmish that grew into an out-of-control inferno. The firestorm gained an appetite and was fueled by our boys and girls with additional psychological and physical residue permeating for decades afterwards in the form of cripples and nightmares.

On the most part those whose names are on the Wall were given little thought back then. While GIs were mired up in knee-deep mud, with danger lurking behind every bamboo shoot providing all a bad case of the Willies, most of them could not understand why they were there in the first place. Back in the good ole USA the masses were screeching for the Beatles while latching onto whimsical fads, admiring, Twiggy, and speeding toward upper mobility. The nation basically ignored the bumpy ride until the wheels began to come off. It was only when too many working-class families became blood-splattered as college students and citizens took to the streets that the government begrudgingly chose to back away from the war, a war its leaders never intended to win. It wasn't until the cries to stop reached a fever pitch that that particular war began to deescalate. (Remind of you anything?)

Before society took stock too many thousands of death certificates had already been signed. Those now marbleized on that Wall are sentenced to more than life. They're all brothers and sisters, a family fostered by circumstance, sentenced to never again ride a wave, or yelp a Merry Christmas or a happy birthday, or take a lover in their arms, or give a hardy, "Morning, Mom!" never again to do anything, but perhaps be remembered. That's all we can do for them now.

Pre-Vietnam War memorials honored those from past eras. If alive, most of the names on the Vietnam Wall would have

been entering their prime when the memorial was unveiled back in 1982. The Wall is a sea of etched letters compiling of 58,000 plus names. At the mid-point the Wall reaches its pinnacle as the war did. Then the Wall takes a 90-degree turn. As one heads away from its center, the Wall begins to slope downward with each slab duplicating in reverse order the accent from the other side, deescalating in precise scale the same way the war did.

The brilliance of the monument, designed by Chinese American architect, Maya Lin, is its simple artistic emulation in sync with the time frame of the war. The Wall just dwindles down and ends, the same way it began.

Today the dead are still on duty. They're there day and night and night and day as eternal sentries where the rain will fall and the sun will shine and snow will stick but perhaps more so as fateful reminders to us all.'

. Memories...

. **Bill Finlay comes** in with a good side story – “Hi Paul, Just read the latest E and E and enjoyed it very much. Just to fill the missing bits for you, the first Svy Sect Comd was Lt Peter Sadler, affectionately known as "Blazing Saddles", he served out his time and retired as a Major, in fact he was my CO in 81 in Canberra, passed away from cancer a few years ago.

I endorse the story of Ralph Pearce and the funeral urn, but I am pretty sure he never dropped it. Cambo might agree with me. Bill.” **Ed** – thanks Bill, this is going to be archived in the “Memories” database.

. **Locating Artillery Assoc...**notes taken from the LAA website – There doesn't appear to be any scheduled events happening during December 2009.

. **Dave Doyle comes** up with another – ‘The doctor, after an examination, sighed and said, 'I've got some bad news. You have cancer, and you'd best put your affairs in order.'

The woman was shocked, but managed to compose herself and walked into the waiting room where her daughter had been waiting.

'Well, daughter, we women celebrate when things are good, and we celebrate when things don't go so well. In this case, things aren't well. I have cancer. So, let's head to the club and have a martini.'

After 3 or 4 martinis, the two were feeling a little less sombre. There were some laughs and more martinis. They were eventually approached by some of the woman's old friends, who were curious as to what the two were celebrating.

The woman told her friends they were drinking to her impending end,

'I've been diagnosed with AIDS.'

The friends were aghast, gave the woman their condolences and beat a hasty retreat.

After the friends left, the woman's daughter leaned over and whispered,

'Mum, I thought you said you were dying of cancer, and you just told your friends you were dying of AIDS! Why did you do that??'

'Because I don't want any of those bitches sleeping with your father after I'm gone.'

And THAT, my friends, is what is called, 'Putting Your Affairs In Order'

. **Birthdays in the Battery (now renamed from “Spooky”)** – let's see what November had for the crew and it's going to show some names that we're not in contact with (they're highlighted) ...Nov 01 gave birth to **Vaughn Millar** (67-68), then **Trevor Waghorn** (67-68) came a day later with **Ken Halligan** (68-69), **Barry Uren** (66-67) made it on the 10th, **Thomas Lempriere** (68-69) got the 12th on the board, the late *Michael Campbell* (67) made the 13th his, **Ken Long** (67) and **Allen Morley** (67-68) got the daily double on the 16th, Warwick Hamilton (67-68) and Lofty Hayes (66-67/68-69 – had to repeat a year to get better marks!) - (they're the twins separated at birth story in an earlier E&E's) doubled the daily double on the 17th by being born in the same year earlier in the century, **Des Bury** (66-67) arrived on the 18th and **John Perry** (66) on the 19th, Murray Poustie (67) made his entrance on the 22nd along with **Brian Ruddock** (68-69/70-71 – another bugger for punishment by getting a double dose!), **Donald Simmons** (66) saw the light of day on the 24th, **Fred Walter** (67-68 RAEME) wasn't planning to wear green at that stage on the 26th and neither was the late *Michael O'Keefe* (68-69), John Bayford (67-68) missed Essendon 22.18 (150) beat Melbourne 13.9 (87) in the VFL Grand Final in '46 by two months being born on the 28th and **Ron Saunders** (67-68) and **Gary Stratton** (68-69) bought home the November Battery models by just making it on the 30th.

Ed – Surely we can round up these **14 Blokes** before their next birthdays – let's try for before Christmas!! Actually I've included a slimmed-down version of a list Ernie has compiled at the very end of this edition that, hopefully, will assist you in helping us to locate more of the Battery Blokes – there's **175** of them on the list! We're going to require as many members as possible soon to support the existence of the LAA linked website.

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 30 and we've sent out 28. **Ed** We've got a couple on hold awaiting photos, otherwise the tank is dry. So fellas get writing, attaching and keep 'em coming.

. Lost, Found...

.Vale - Roger Long

	 The Last Post 3788775, GNR Long, Roger Crellin 131 Divisional Locating Battery Bravo Radar – SVN 1967 30.05.45 – 22.05.90 Lest We Forget	
Roger was born at Wareek, Victoria about 15 kms NE of Maryborough. He died of cancer at Prince Henry Hospital, Melbourne on 22nd May 1990 aged 44. He is buried at Maryborough Cemetery, Victoria.		

Jim Hogno files the following with regards to Roger...

'After years of unsuccessful attempts to locate Roger Long "Longy" the penny finally dropped (I am a slow learner) to place an enquiry in the Notice Board section of Vetaffairs newspaper. This appeared in the Sept/Oct issue and the response was immediate.

The first call I received was from Rob Forbes who is also a Vietnam Vet, though a later intake but knew Longy and his family. He put me in touch with Longy's brother Shayne and wife Kerri in Wareek, Victoria.

I have had numerous conversations with Kerri and she is thrilled that someone from Longy's past has made contact because they know so little of him during and post SVN. The family does not possess a single photo of him so that's why I requested all to check their old photos. The response has been great and some excellent photos have been received. Kerri wishes to secretly frame a photo of Longy for his brother and nephews for Christmas.

I have also put Kerri in touch with Medals & Awards in Canberra to claim the medals due to Longy.

I find it very sad that his medals have never been applied for by his family but maybe they did not know the process to do so. I've learned that Longy's life after SVN was not a happy one from information given me in conversations with the family,

I've also learned that he and a good mate Mick Campbell (131 also) who most of us remember really hit the booze after the Army. Mick as we know died of a massive heart attack digging a gold mine, he was aged 38.

Whilst on Mick, Kerri has confirmed they were not related, the belief was they were cousins.

Longy studied for one year at Melbourne University but deferred his studies for a time and concluded his studies at Swinburne University of Technology. He then took a position with Victorian Department of Public Works as a draughtsman designing and building schools. I've learned he had a breakdown (unknown to the family at the time) and his family was not aware he had cancer until they received a call from the hospital to advise he was on life support.

According to Kerri his body was riddled with cancer and the Doctor suggested Agent Orange was the possible cause.

The photo of Longy taken at Back Beach Vung Tau supplied by Ian "Stretch" Amos truly epitomizes him with Fosters in one hand, smoke in the other and reinforcement Fosters under the towel.'

And a lighter side from **Ian Amos**...



The following is an additional fun comment about Roger from Stretch -

I have had no contact with Roger Long since they left Vietnam. I think he came from Victoria. Roger made my first few months in country very entertaining. Roger never stopped whinging and he argued about everything in a very laconic way. All this prompted Stuart Sporn to make and present to Roger the award for bitching beyond the call of duty.

. Mike Luff made an enquiry about Geoff Flett and when found, sent this in – 'Dear Paul, I'd like to thank all the fellows who helped in finding Geoff Flett, especially Ian Finlay. I wasn't particularly close to Geoff but I remember him as a cheerful and helpful chap who worked in the office at Holsworthy. Regards Mike" and all the pundits said the Locator to do it was - **Ian Finlay** - and he turned out to be the link to finding Geoff – **Ed's** been in contact with Geoff's partner, Maree, and believe he's away playing golf and we're yet to hear from him.

Leigh Hemming sent this response to the "**Jeff Flett - can we locate him?**" email – 'I remember Geoff Flett was from Gunnedah. I do remember that he drove a very nice blue Cortina. Maybe those who may live in the area of Gunnedah

could look for and old man about our age driving a blue Cortina.' **Ed** – Sorry Leigh for including this, but it appealed to my bloody awful sense of humour!

Then,

. Ian Finlay does it again this time with giving **Ed** Allen Keeble's email address an AI replied with – 'Hey Dicko, It's been a long time hasn't it? Great to hear from you! Well, I haven't done much exciting in the last 40 years; still married to Jean (43 years this year) we've had three kids - two girls and one boy aging from thirty two years to forty years, and have six grand kids. I got back into the Brisbane City Council after the army, and have been a hard working COUNCIL WORKER ever since. I have changed councils, and I am now with Moreton Bay Regional Council, been with them for three years.

Give my regards to all the lads and would love to hear from them. Regards Allen Keeble.' **Ed** – when we get AI's Profile we'll find out what he has really been up to!

Ed can't himself again by adding this bit of Leigh Hemming gems of laconic wit aimed at **Ed** in the same bloody email - 'AI Keeble was from Brisbane and I did see him several times while driving around Brisbane after I was discharged. He worked for the Brisbane City Council as a painter. It's a wonder you didn't run over him Dicko as AI was doing the job of painting the white lines on the road and unfortunately for him it was always during the night when unsavoury characters were roaming around.' **Ed** – every dog his day Hemming!

. Neville Wortlehock responded out of the blue from an earlier email with – 'Paul, good to hear from past members of 131, yes please put me on the list of contacts. Cheers Neville.' **Ed** – it's going to be great to catch with Neville and find out what he's been up to.

Ed found the following interesting... During the period of just over five years that the Detachment was in SVN there were 463 blokes who served there and we suffered one killed and eight wounded in action. This information was gleaned from Keith Ayliffe and John Posener's book, 'The Tracks of the Dragon' and before I discovered it, I would have thought that there would have been more of us that went there. No doubt other units did return duties, but we were a tight unit all the way through, as it turned out. The other interesting thing, well one other interesting thing is the fact that we were all there for varying times and at varying times with groups of us doing varying things and actually that's what I find so intriguing about hearing and reading our stories. The blokes who arrived there early, the ones who followed, the guys who would have wound it up, then of course the other lives of the guys who were in the Battery before and after the conflict. I live in hope that we can continue this association for a long time.

Then Ernie Newbold comes out with the following, which encapsulates I guess the reason for us looking and keeping in touch with mates – 'G'day Paul, Good work once again on finding another missing soldier or two. The network has many contacts, doesn't it?

I am sure that many of us would like to hear from Geoff and the other men who missed out on going on the overseas trip of a 'lifetime'. It would be interesting to know what went on and what life was like at Holsworthy after we were posted for overseas service. I suppose that Geoff and the others who were left behind have wondered what they missed out on too. Each intake group have their memories of only a two year term of army life and each group will have seen different things to each other. For example we are only beginning to understand what it was like for the guys in the initial deployment to arrive in Vietnam and to do all the hard work setting everything up for those of us who were in the next group. When we arrived we walked straight into an established campsite, tents all set up and sandbagged, weapon pits dug in, toilets and showers already established L.Ps built etc. Then the people who came after us had further changes to make as the war went on through later years.

Just think that the first Nashos to serve with the detachment were probably out on Civvie Street again by the time we arrived at Nui Dat. Some of the regular soldiers, especially those who did two or three tours to Vietnam would have a different perspective to the Detachment's role to what we do with our short term of army life and the actual time we spent in Vietnam.

Through your efforts we are now starting to see the bigger picture of the Locator's efforts and times with the overall role of the Detachment, beyond our own individual experience. Well done that man. Regards, Ernie.

Ed – my response is that it's been and continues to be a group effort, so - Well done those men.

Guys keep items and especially photos coming in – we're desperate for PHOTOS with stories. The contributions don't have to be historical stuff as its great just to keep in touch with what you're up these days.

'The single factor that had the greatest effect on the outcome of the Battle was the artillery.'

Major Harry Smith (Battle of Long Tan)

'Lieutenant Colonel **Harry Arthur Smith** SG, MC (25 July 1933) was an officer in the Australian Army and Officer Commanding D Coy, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment at the Battle of Long Tan in the Vietnam War. After service as a National Serviceman Smith joined the Australian Regular Army and graduated as Second Lieutenant from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea.

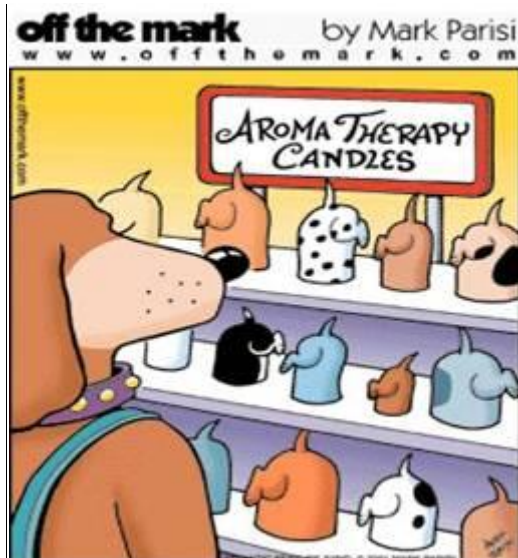
In 1966 Smith, then a Major, was Officer Commanding D Coy, 6RAR, on patrol in the Rubber Plantation at Long Tan when his company ran into a large enemy force making its way to the Australian base at Nui Dat. The ensuing battle, know as the Battle of Long Tan has become a celebrated episode in Australia's military involvement in the Vietnam War. Although his company was outnumbered by almost 26 to one, and suffering high casualties, both Smith and his men inflicted massive casualties on the enemy, saving Nui Dat from attack and discouraging any further large scale attacks against Australian forces in Vietnam.

Smith's leadership of his men during the fierce fighting earned him a Military Cross, although originally recommended for the Distinguished Service Order this was downgraded to the MC.

Following service in Vietnam, Smith commanded 1 Commando Company at Georges Heights and was later posted to the Special Air Service Regiment in Perth, Western Australia.

Smith left the Army in 1976. In 2008, after several decades of campaigning, the Australian Government announced that Smith was to be awarded the Star of Gallantry for his actions at Long Tan; the equivalent to the Distinguished Service Order under the new Australian Honours system.'

. One more of Henry's to finish off with...



Blokes NOT on our Group's Mailing List (and the list only includes a small number from 1969 onwards and doesn't include anyone who was in the Battery before, during or after the conflict but not involved in it!!) **Ed** will archive and keep this list up-dated, adding new names that come to light and removing names when we contact them. There are 175 as at 16.11.09 so we've still got a long way to go and we need help from all of you:-

Name	Number	SVN/Service Dates					
Arch, Maurice	43350	02 01 67	14 11 67				
Atkinson, Neville	1733449	08 11 68	05 11 69				
Baker, Ross	NSW -LAA M'ber						
Bester, Gary	3411737	08 01 68	03 12 68				
Binns, Peter	356367	27 11 67	19 11 68				
Black, Brian	2786469	27 11 67	26 11 68				
Boaler, Ronald	Qld LAA -M'ber	N/a					
Board, Ian	213879	22 04 66	11 12 66				
Boully, Chris	4717884	17 04 67	12 12 67				
Brewer, John (M.I.D.)	16220	05 02 68	07 02 69	12 03 70	25 02 71		
Bridge, Lawrence	2786506	15 03 68	18 03 69				
Briggs, Stanley	1731999	27 11 67	17 09 68				
Bristow, Richard	1733143	12 04 68	16 04 69				
Browning, Kevin	217743	16 09 68	24 09 69	05 04 71	29 06 71		
Bruce, Robert	4718049	11 06 67	13 12 67				
Buckley, Mills	16950	20 05 66	03 03 67				
Bullen, Norman	214545	20 05 66	11 12 66				
Burgess, Michael	242895	24 03 68	26 03 69				
Bury, Desmond	1411072	20 05 66	29 04 67				
Bush, Keven	3792069	18 02 68	21 02 69				
Cahill, Leslie	2412281	20 05 66	30 04 67				
Campton, Barry	61270	14 07 63	22 07 63	13 08 66	28 04 67		
Carthew, Geoff	NSW -LAA M'ber	N/a					
Chase, Edward	2782043	04 05 66	11 12 66				
Chilton, John	215855	09 12 68	03 12 69				
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Clausen, Roy	214873	20 05 66	11 12 66				

Claxton, Victor	4410991	17 01 68	23 12 68				
Cleasby, Alan	36053	02 12 68	10 12 69	11 06 72	20 11 72		
Clendinen, Joseph	17648	04 05 67	30 01 68				
Cooke, Barry	54886	16 09 68	24 09 69				
Crowther, WILLIAM	215416	22 04 66	02 11 66				
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Dealy, Peter	3411983	18 02 68	21 02 69				
Dean, Keith	NSW –LAA M'ber	N/a					
Dean, Ronald	215527	20 05 66	29 04 67				
Dodds, Anthony	16776	04 05 67	02 04 68				
Dougherty, David	2786594	17 01 68	04 02 69				
Doust, Edmund	53111	04 05 67	02 04 68				
Dye, Dennis	2412366	27 11 67	26 11 68				
Elzinga, Systse	3787318	20 05 66	11 12 66				
Erbs, Terence	3791713	28 10 68	04 06 69				
Falkai, Les	SA –LAA M'ber	N/a					
Fitzgerald, James	2782044	04 05 66	29 04 67				
Flavell, Richard	3791902	23 09 68	04 06 69				
Fowler, Stephen	217186	16 09 68	17 09 69				
Fox, Terrence	1200934	08 07 68	02 07 69				
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Frost, Lesley	215230	22 04 66	28 04 67				
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Goldsmith, Anthony	1732029	04 05 67	12 12 67				
Gordon, Colin	16975	15 03 68	26 03 69				
Gow, Robert David	61644	20 05 66	03 03 67				
Greenaway, John	3790617	24 10 67	22 10 68				
Habben, Michael	3788307	05 05 67	20 12 67				
Halliday, Francis	215105	02 01 67	13 12 67				
Halligan, Kenneth	2788319	16 09 68	27 08 69				
Hastings, Neville	1730813	20 05 66	03 03 67				
Hawkey, Brian	1200572	20 05 66	29 04 67				
Henson, Edward	2788331	16 09 68	27 08 69				
Heyes, John (Jack)	3791085	05 12 67	03 12 68				
Hinde, Derek	2787403	01 07 68	14 05 69				
Hislop, Graham	15290	22 04 66	03 03 67				
Holloway, Keith	15851	20 05 66	10 10 66				
Hunt, Terence	3792120	19 02 68	21 02 69				
Hutchinson, Ray	37669	17 04 67	02 04 68				
Ianson, John	2787424	12 04 68	16 04 69				
Ipsa, Francis	3786657	04 05 67	12 12 67				
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Johns, Philip	4719086	16 09 68	18 03 69				
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McGregor, John	3787376	20 05 66	30 04 67				
McKie, Peter	2787728	22 04 68	23 04 69				
McNicol, Donald	216327	12 09 67	17 09 68	09 04 70	02 05 70		
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Whittaker, PETER	2786848	27 11 67	19 11 68				
Whittle, KENNETH	2781996	20 05 66	27 03 67				
Wight, BILL	39136	12 01 67	23 04 68				
Williams, GORDON	2783891	13 05 68	26 03 69				
Wilson, Terry	Vic LAA –M'ber	N/a					
Worrall, GARY	43796	20 05 66	29 04 67				
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