



National Commemoration for the 50th Anniversary of the end of Australia's Involvement in the Vietnam War

The Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial | Anzac Parade, Canberra, Friday 18 August 2023



Cover artwork: *Chopper lift-out* by Ken McFadyen, 1967.
(Oil on canvas on hardboard, 30.6 x 48.2 cm; AWM ART40746)

For Australian soldiers in distress during the Vietnam War, the appearance of a ‘Huey’, a Bell Iroquois helicopter, was a welcome sight. The ‘Hueys’ were used in many roles in Vietnam, most prominently in the setting down and removal of infantry patrols. Some machines were converted to so-called helicopter gunships to provide ground forces with close fire support. But the tasks for which the ‘Hueys’ are best remembered are the ‘dust-offs’ – the evacuations of battlefield casualties and air rescue operations.

In June 1967, an Australian Special Air Service (SAS) patrol was under heavy enemy pressure in dense undergrowth, and one of its members later recalled how a No. 9 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force ‘Huey’ lifted them to safety:

I cannot speak too highly of those guys; he [Squadron Leader J Cox] bellied the helo into the secondary growth and literally chopped his way down to us until the skids were chest high ... A yarn with No. 9 Squadron later brought out the fact that new rotors were required for that helicopter.

[Unknown SAS soldier, quoted in Chris Coulthard-Clark, *The RAAF in Vietnam*, Sydney, 1995, p.130]



A MESSAGE FROM

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

To the veterans participating in today's commemorative service, to all those who served in the Vietnam War and to their loved ones, my message is a simple one: Australia is grateful for your service and sacrifice. I acknowledge the difficult times that you experienced, but I want this to be clear: your nation is proud of you, grateful for what you did when your country called on you, and will always remember that sacrifice.

You should be proud of your service and the contribution you made.

You are part of the Anzac legacy – you inherited it from our forebears, added to it through your service, and passed it on. From my own experience as a young officer, I know how much I benefited from the experience, wisdom and tutelage of those who served in Vietnam.

Your contribution to the Anzac legacy and the modern Australian Defence Force should never be overlooked.

In recognising your service, we remember those who lost their lives during battle or returned home wounded, ill or injured. We also honour those who lost their lives in the years after they returned or who still carry the physical and emotional scars of their service. Our fallen mates are foremost in our thoughts today. They will never be forgotten. I also acknowledge the families and loved ones of those who served. Today's service is as much about your contribution as it is about your loved ones.

More than 50 years have passed since Australia's involvement in the Vietnam conflict ended. Yet while the numbers of Vietnam Veterans at commemorative services inevitably and sadly dwindle with the passing of time, our nation's determination to remember and honour those veterans is resolute.

We will always remember the debt we owe to those who serve our nation and the families that support them.

Lest we forget.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Hurley', written in a cursive style.



PHƯỚC TUY AND BIÊN HÒA



SOUTH VIETNAM





Contents

Historical essay	3
Order of service	17
Customs, traditions & protocols	25
Roll of honour	32

← A helicopter resupply of the 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR), on a fire trail at the Warburtons Area of Operations in the Núi Thị Vải and Núi Dinh mountains, May 1969. (AWM P10533.011; photographer Stuart Courtenay Innes)





Historical essay

The Vietnam War had long roots that stretched back to the mid-19th Century, when the French invaded and European colonisation began. By the early 1960s Vietnam was a divided country mired in civil war, as the communist north sought to unify Vietnam under its control. The United States provided military advisors to the former Republic of Vietnam and looked to its allies to provide similar support.

Australia's military presence in the south of Vietnam supported our ally, the United States, and embodied the prevailing Australian doctrine of the time known as 'Forward Defence' — meeting threats at their source rather than waiting to fight an enemy on Australian soil. This strategy was wedded to the political orthodoxy of that time, which held that should Vietnam become a communist state neighbouring countries were also likely to follow in what was called the 'domino effect'.

Australia's initial military contribution to assist the Republic of Vietnam was modest, comprising a team of 30 advisers known as the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), which arrived in August 1962. From the beginning, the AATTV was divided into groups and dispersed. Some worked with units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and others with local people in the remote, mountainous areas of the country's north-west.

On 29 April 1965, Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies revealed that the Australian Government would provide an infantry battalion for service in Vietnam in response to a request for 'further military assistance' by the Republic of Vietnam and in consultation with the United States Government. One month later, a company of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), and attachments, together with a small media contingent, left Sydney for the south of Vietnam. Their voyage on HMAS *Sydney (III)* took 14 days and they arrived at the port of Vũng Tàu on 10 June.

← Members of the first contingent of the AATTV arrive at Tân Sơn Nhất Airport in August 1962. (AWM P01011.004)



↑ ARVN fire support base at Bến Cát, where soldiers of 1RAR camped prior to the commencement of operations in the Iron Triangle. (AWM P11006.006; photographer Tom Gosper)

It was a journey the *Sydney* would undertake many times, earning it the nickname of 'the Vũng Tàu Ferry'. The remainder of 1RAR travelled to south Vietnam by air. They were attached to the US 173rd Airborne Brigade and stationed in Biên Hòa province, approximately 25 kilometres north-east of Saigon.

Tasked with securing the Biên Hòa air base, the Australians commenced patrolling and offensive operations into areas adjacent to the base. Whilst conducting combined operations with United States and ARVN troops, the Australians soon discovered their tactics were very different from those of their allies. This, along with the recognition that a single Australian battalion would always need to be integrated with a United States brigade, led military and political planners to the conclusion that Australian forces in Vietnam should comprise a task force with its own area of operations. Thus, in 1966 the 1st Australian Task Force, made up of two battalions and support elements, was dispatched to Phước Tuy province and set up a base at Nui Dat, north of Vũng Tàu.

To serve in Vietnam was to serve in a tropical environment that alternated between a hot dry season and a humid wet season. The climate drained men of energy and demanded high levels of endurance. Service in the field could mean spending time in a variety of locations. Infantry slogged through rice paddies and through the jungle, and fought in rubber plantations and in mountainous terrain.

Most Australians deployed in Vietnam for a twelve-month tour of duty. They settled into their new accommodations as best they could and tried to create a semblance of home while counting down the days until they could return to their families in Australia.



↑ Members of 5RAR depart for service in Vietnam aboard HMAS *Sydney (III)*, April 1966. (AWM P08811.003; photographer Gary Townsend)

Home meant an escape from the ever-present dangers of the war zone and of the tedium that military life could involve. At home, Australians found their main way of staying in touch with service men and women was through the written word and taped recordings. For those in Vietnam, letters and messages from family and friends recalled civilian life, kept those on active service in touch and reminded them of a world beyond the war. At home a few lines or words from Vietnam were awaited just as anxiously.

The majority of Australian ground forces were based at the Task Force base at Nui Dat. As the war ground on, fire support bases were established to support infantry patrolling outside the immediate vicinity of Nui Dat. These allowed a battalion's artillery, mortars and armour to set up and support operations that took

place well away from the main Task Force base. Fire support bases could remain as centres for operations in a particular locale for months at a time and some, such as the 'Horseshoe', became permanent.

Close to 70 per cent of those sent to Vietnam were army personnel, with 9 infantry battalions sharing rotations into the war zone. It is estimated that Australian soldiers were involved in around 3900 contacts with opposing forces during Australia's decade-long involvement. Apart from the ground war, the sea and sky were also combat zones, in which the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) operated.



↑ HMAS *Brisbane* (D41) served on the gun line with the United States 7th Fleet during the Vietnam War in 1969. (AWM P03274.006)

← Divers from RAN Clearance Diving Team 3 (CDT3) recover unexploded ordnance from the water at Da Nang, April 1971. (AWM NAVYM1003/34)



Australian naval vessels ferried troops to and from the logistics base at Vũng Tàu and served on the 'gunline' with the US 7th Fleet, where they provided fire against ground targets in support of Australian and US troops. RAN clearance divers also carried out operations to dispose of unexploded ordnance and keep shipping safe from enemy mines and attacks by enemy saboteurs.

Naval personnel also served in an airborne role. The RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHFV), attached to the US Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company, provided the tactical movement of combat troops, supplies and equipment in what were known as air-mobile operations, and which often required them to drop troops into, or extract them from, dangerous landing zones.

Helicopters provide one of the most enduring images of the Vietnam War as they were an integral part of combat missions. Helicopter crews flew daily missions that left crews and maintenance personnel exhausted.

↑ A gunner of RANHFV readies his M60 in an Iroquois at the Bearcat Base, Mekong Delta, c. May 1969. (AWM NAVY19683)



↑ Crew and passengers of Caribou aircraft A4-140 of RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam (RTFV) just prior to departure on the last leg of the ferry flight, April 1964. (AWM P09477.003; photographer Kenneth Arthur Pratt)

Of course, the principle Australian force charged with air operations was the RAAF. The RAAF began its involvement in the war in 1964 when a flight of Caribous began flying transport operations around south Vietnam. On 1 June 1966, the flight was renamed No. 35 (Transport) Squadron but was affectionately dubbed 'Wallaby Airlines' by the troops on the ground.

The RAAF's No. 9 Squadron carried out a variety of roles in Vietnam. Most important were the transport of infantry and logistic support. Some, too, were used in aerial spraying to destroy agricultural plots in Viet Cong territory.

RAAF aircrews also provided covering fire for MEDEVAC aircraft and were sometimes asked to evacuate wounded soldiers in their single-stretcher helicopters. They escorted gunships in combat assaults and retrieved Special Air Service (SAS) patrols from enemy occupied areas, often performing 'hot extractions' when they were in contact with opposing forces.

The RAAF also sent No. 2 Squadron to Vietnam in April 1967. Equipped with Canberra bombers and flying out of Phan Rang Air Base on south Vietnam's southern coast, some 250 kilometres north-east of Saigon, No. 2 Squadron operated day and night missions destroying a wide range of infrastructure targets as well as attacking Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops.



↑ Group portrait of the doctors and nurses of the Biên Hòa Civilian Surgical Team from the Royal Adelaide Hospital, July–October 1967. (AWM P05908.001)

Australian medical personnel also worked tirelessly to care for injured, sick, and wounded soldiers and civilians. The 1st Australian Field Hospital was established at Vũng Tàu, not far from the Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat. From 1964, civilian nurses, doctors and health professionals also volunteered to be part of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) medical and surgical teams in South Vietnam, serving at Long Xuyên, Vũng Tàu, Biên Hòa, and Bà Rịa.

→ Sister Norma Dickson of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC) checks a respirator in the intensive care ward at 1st Australian Field Hospital, Vũng Tàu, 1969. (AWM EKN/69/0037/VN)





↑ A member of A Company, 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (7RAR), crouches behind a tree for cover as two of his comrades move forward through the scrub during Operation Finschhafen, the battalion's first operation of its second tour of duty in Vietnam, March 1970. (AWM P04655.357; photographer Denis Stanley Gibbons)

In the war's early years, most Australians appeared to accept their country's involvement, although participation was not fully supported across all of government. The introduction of conscription, the graphic images of the war that were beginning to appear on television, and the increase in Australian casualties all contributed to an increased awareness of the war in Vietnam which saw strong opinions formed in opposition to the war. Tens of thousands of people attended moratorium marches in the nation's capital cities protesting against the war, despite the government's announcement that Australian troops were to be withdrawn.

The Vietnam War was the longest conflict in which Australians fought last century. The final Australian and American withdrawal from Vietnam in 1972 did not end the war. The Republic of Vietnam continued to fight until it finally lost to North Vietnam three years later. After the cessation of Australia's combat operations in 1972, a small embassy guard remained and in 1975 as the North Vietnamese Army closed in on Saigon, RAAF aircraft and crews returned to evacuate Australian military personnel, civilians and refugees.



↑ A flight of Iroquois helicopters from No. 9 Squadron fly out to pick up Australian soldiers and take them back to Nui Dat at the completion of an operation in Phước Tuy Province, October 1968. (AWM P06295.032; photographer Raeburn Lyall Trindall)

The war had been a disaster for the region, with Laos and Cambodia also dragged into the bloody conflict. Millions of lives were lost and millions of people became refugees. By comparison, Australia's losses were light but still significant for a small nation.

Over 500 young Australians had lost their lives and another 3,000 were wounded or injured, with countless others scarred by their experience of war. The dissent that the war unleashed in Australia was the greatest social and political upheaval seen since the conscription referenda of the First World War. However, the humanitarian lifeline offered to thousands of Southeast Asian refugees would ultimately reshape the population demographic in several of Australia's largest cities and enrich the nation's cultural life.

HMAS SYDNEY (III)

HMAS *Sydney* (III), a converted aircraft carrier, carried out the majority of transport duties to and from the Australian Logistics Base at the port of Vũng Tàu in the south of Vietnam. Her role earned *Sydney* the nickname 'the Vũng Tàu Ferry'.

Sydney's first voyage to Vietnam began on 27 May 1965. In the days before each voyage, *Sydney* was loaded with soldiers and their equipment. When she and her escort ships anchored off Vũng Tàu, their crews were prepared to counter shore-based attacks. *Sydney's* divers carried out constant patrols, checking hulls and cables while armed sentries stood on deck with orders to fire on suspicious movements in the water. By 1972, when Australia's involvement in Vietnam ended, *Sydney* had carried thousands of Australian Army and RAAF personnel to Vũng Tàu on 24 ferry runs and had made a 25th trip to Vietnam to deliver and pick-up military equipment. Every voyage took between 10 and 12 days in each direction.

→ HMAS *Sydney* (III) became known as the 'Vũng Tàu Ferry' during the Vietnam War.
(AWM P01539.020)





↑ A RAAF crewman fires his M60 from RAAF Iroquois helicopter gunship (Bushranger) A2-773 as it sweeps into action. (AWM P01960.001; photographer Brian Leslie John Dirou)

IROQUOIS HELICOPTERS

On 6 June 1966, eight Iroquois helicopters from No. 9 Squadron, RAAF, landed in the south of Vietnam. For the next five and a half years, No. 9 Squadron supported every major Australian operation, eventually flying more than 237,000 missions. Between July 1967 and November 1971, 16 officers from the Royal New Zealand Air Force also served in the squadron.

In 1968, the squadron was increased to 16 Iroquois helicopters. Four Iroquois were modified into gunships carrying twin-fixed forward-firing 7.62-millimetre mini-guns and two seven-tube 2.75 inch rocket launchers, in addition to the two door-mounted M60 machine-guns. These 'Bushranger' gunships were able to cover troop-carrying helicopters approaching 'hot' landing zones and provide fire support.

No. 9 Squadron flew its last mission in Vietnam on 19 November 1971. In December the squadron's 16 Iroquois left Vietnam.



↑ Crew members of the RANHFV, serving in Vietnam attached to the US Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company, perform checks on a helicopter at Black Horse base, near Xuân Lộc, December 1967. (AWM NAVY15288; photographer John Dawe)

RANHFV

In December 1966, the United States Government requested Australian assistance to meet the need for additional air crew and maintenance personnel. Australia offered a detachment of RAN airmen and support personnel. Named the RANHFV, the first contingent reached Vietnam on 16 October 1967. A shortage of crews due to the RAAF's other commitments in Vietnam, Malaysia and in Australia also led to eight RAN Fleet Air Arm pilots being assigned for duty with No. 9 Squadron in 1968, the first of whom joined the squadron in February that year. The last of the eight deployed in May 1968.

During its time in Vietnam, the RANHFV was based in several locations, including the Australian base at Vũng Tàu and the United States bases Black Horse in Long Khanh province, Camp Martin Cox at Bear Cat in Biên Hòa province, and Đồng Tâm, south of Saigon. The RANHFV sent four contingents to Vietnam and ceased operations on 8 June 1971. The unit flew hundreds of operations and was involved in some of the most intense combat experienced by Australians in Vietnam.



↑ Canberra jet bomber aircraft number A84-247 of No. 2 Squadron RAAF taxis to a stop after landing at the United States Air Force (USAF) base, c. 1970. (AWM P03654.017; photographer Fred Adler)

CANBERRA BOMBERS

No. 2 Squadron, RAAF, deployed from Butterworth in Malaysia to the United States Air Force (USAF) base at Phan Rang, some 250 km north-east of Saigon, on 19 April 1967. The Australians served with the USAF's 35th Tactical Fighter Wing under the direction of the United States 7th Air Force Headquarters.

No. 2 Squadron flew Canberra Bombers, up to 8 sorties a day, 7 days a week. During its early months in country, the squadron carried out night operations. Usually operating in pairs, the bombers were guided to the target by ground based precision radar. Daylight operations began in September 1967. The squadron often flew in support of Australian forces, but was also involved in operations in the Khe Sanh area and the A Shau Valley, both the sites of significant battles involving United States forces.

The squadron suffered its first loss in November 1970, when a Canberra Bomber was lost in the Da Nang area. The wreckage was not discovered until 2009. Another aircraft was lost in March 1971 in the Khe Sanh area, but the crew ejected safely and were rescued the following day.

No. 2 Squadron's last mission in Vietnam was flown on 31 May 1971 and the unit left Vietnam in June 1971.



↑ Armoured personnel carriers (APCs) of B Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, rumble through Binh Ba on their way back to the 1st Australian Task Force Base at Nui Dat, 1970. (AWM WAR/70/0018/VN; photographer Peter Anthony Ward)

ARMOURD PERSONNEL CARRIERS (APCS)

Australian APCs began service in Vietnam in mid-June 1965 as part of the 1RAR group then operating under the command of the 173rd United States Airborne Brigade in Biên Hòa Province. APCs were highly mobile and operated over a wide range of terrains, including through heavily forested areas and, with their amphibious capability, were also able to ford streams and cross inundated paddies.

In 1966, the 1st Armoured Personnel Squadron worked with 5RAR and 105th Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, in establishing the Task Force base at Nui Dat. At Long Tan, APCs were one among several elements that swung the course of the battle in the Australians' favour. They required constant maintenance, some of which, including changing tracks in the field, was carried out by crewmen. Heavier tasks were carried out by the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

APCs were very vulnerable to mines and their thin armour made them targets for recoilless rifle fire and rocket propelled grenades. The Cavalry were among the last Australian units to leave Vietnam. No. 1 Troop helped close down the base area and left Vietnam on 12 March 1972.



↑ A Centurion Mk V/1 tank crosses a bridge which had been laid by a Centurion bridge layer over the remains of a destroyed bridge just south of Xuyên Mộc, August 1969. (AWM P05873.001; photographer Kenneth Alfred Toccock)

CENTURION TANKS

Australian Centurion tanks, elements of C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment, reached Vietnam in February 1968. Eventually the squadron's organisation included four tank troops, two gun tanks on squadron headquarters and a Special Equipment Troop of two tank dozers and two bridge layers.

After two operations in which Australians suffered heavy losses – Bribie and Renmark in February 1967 – some senior officers believed that tanks, with their mobility and firepower, were necessary to support the infantry. The first major test came in May 1968 during the battle for Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral, where tanks acted as an adjunct to artillery and operated outside the wire in actions against enemy bunkers. In most environments tanks and infantry proved a powerful combination; tank crews needed infantry to locate targets and deal with enemy troops, particularly those armed with rocket propelled grenades, and the infantry needed tanks to clear lines of sight, open pathways and destroy bunkers. The 1st Armoured Regiment left Vietnam in September 1971.



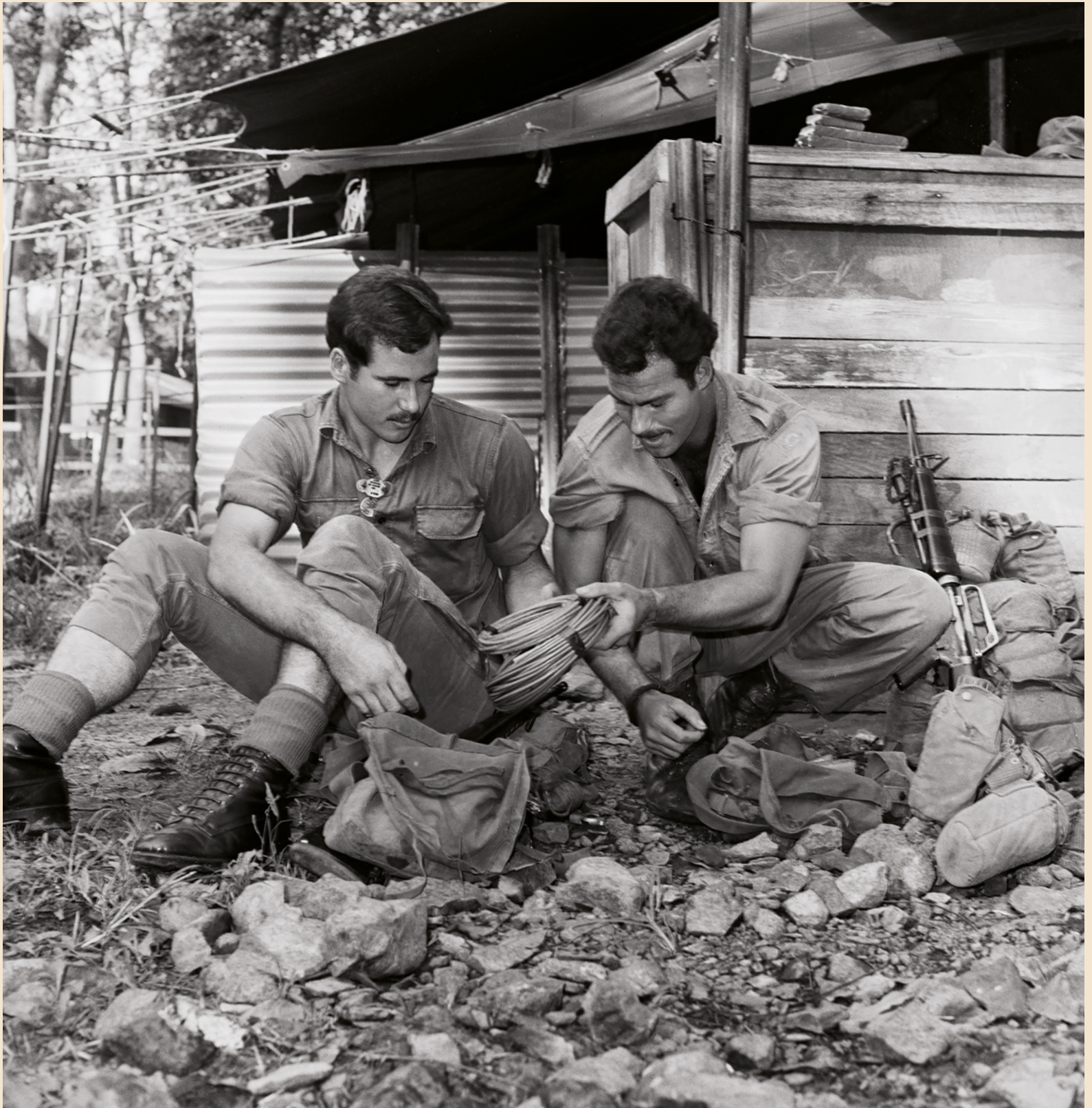
↑ An M2A2 105 mm howitzer, No. 6 gun from the 102nd Field Battery, being fired during an operation in Biên Hòa Province, c. 1968–1969. (AWM P02950.020; photographer Anthony John King)

ARTILLERY

The 105th Field Battery deployed to South Vietnam in September 1965 and operated at first with the 1st United States Infantry Division and later in support of the United States 173rd Airborne Brigade, with which 1RAR was also operating in Biên Hòa Province. Two days after arriving in Biên Hòa Province, the battery fired its, and Australia's, first artillery rounds of the war. Later that year, during Operation Hump in November, it became the first Australian battery carried to an operation by Iroquois helicopter.

When Australia's commitment to Vietnam increased to a task force, each of the three Australian infantry battalions in Vietnam had its own support battery. In August 1966, the Battle of Long Tan confirmed that, as long as they were within range of the guns, patrols could be sent deep into enemy territory. Artillery became an integral part of battalion operations.

Fire support bases, generally employing a battalion's artillery, mortars and armour, allowed infantry operations well away from the main Task Force Base. Fire support bases remained as centres for operations in a particular locale for months at a time and some, such as that at the 'Horseshoe', became permanent. Artillery continued to support Australian infantry until the end of the war. The last Australian artillerymen, the 104th Field Battery, left Vietnam in December 1971.





↑ Signaller Phil Smith of Barawell Park, NSW, a radio operator in the 104th Signals Squadron, Royal Australian Signals Corps, at the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) base, February 1970. (AWM FAI/70/0084/VN; photographer John Geoffrey Fairley)

← Paul (left) and Keith Scott, identical twins serving together with the 1st Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers (RAE), at Nui Dat, pack some of their demolition equipment before going out on operations, 1970. (AWM FAI/70/0795/VN; photographer John Geoffrey Fairley)

Order of service

The music for the service is provided by:
The Band of the Royal Military College
Major Matt O'Keeffe
Officer Commanding/Music Director

OFFICIAL PARTY ARRIVAL

COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICE – 10:30AM

PLAYING OF THE DIDGERIDOO

Lance Corporal Carl Murkun Guyula
of the North West Mobile Force
on behalf of the Australian Defence Force

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Master of Ceremonies
Brigadier Hugh Meggitt AM CSC
on behalf of the Australian Defence Force

CATAFALQUE PARTY AND COLOUR PARTY ARE MOUNTED

Members of Australia's Federation Guard

VETERAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

CALL TO REMEMBRANCE

Mr Robert Redman CSC
No. 9 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force

COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

The Honourable Matt Keogh MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel





↑ Leading Marine Engineer Richard John Sewell and Mechanician Robin Lindsay Funston man the engine room of the RAN destroyer HMAS *Hobart (II)* while shells land in the water around their ship, August 1967. (AWM NAVY13908)

← A convoy of trucks carrying supplies enters Fire Support Base Andersen, February 1968. (AWM P11687.014; photographer Roy McDonald)

MUSICAL PIECE

Stand by Me

Performed by members of **The Band of the Royal Military College**

VETERAN READING

Mr David Manolas

HMA Ships *Sydney (III)* and *Duchess*, Royal Australian Navy

PRAYER OF COMMEMORATION

Mrs Judiann Hohnke

Daughter of Leading Aircraftman Duncan G McNair
No. 9 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force
and

Principal Air Chaplain James Cox

Royal Australian Air Force



Popular Australian entertainer Lucky Starr sings to a large audience of diggers at a concert that was a special Christmas treat for the soldiers of 1ATF, 1966. (AWM CUN/66/0996/VN; photographer William James Cunneen)



OFFICIAL WREATH LAYING

Official representatives to lay wreaths

ODE OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr Peter Rosemond CSC OAM

1st Armoured Regiment, Australian Army

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

Response:

We will remember them.

All:

Lest we forget.

LAST POST

ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

ROUSE

NATIONAL ANTHEM OF AUSTRALIA

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.





↑ A member of the RAANC distributes gifts for Vietnamese children, November 1968. (AWM EKN/68/0117/VN)

← A bridge being constructed by members of the 17th Construction Squadron on Route 23 over the Song Rai River between Đất Đỏ and Xuyên Mộc. (AWM P08288.013; photographer Roydon Neil Geale)

FLYPAST

WREATH LAYING

Associations and members of the public are invited to lay floral tributes. Attendees not laying floral tributes are to remain seated.

FINAL BLESSING

Principal Air Chaplain James Cox
Royal Australian Air Force

CATAFALQUE PARTY AND COLOUR PARTY ARE DISMOUNTED

Members of Australia's Federation Guard

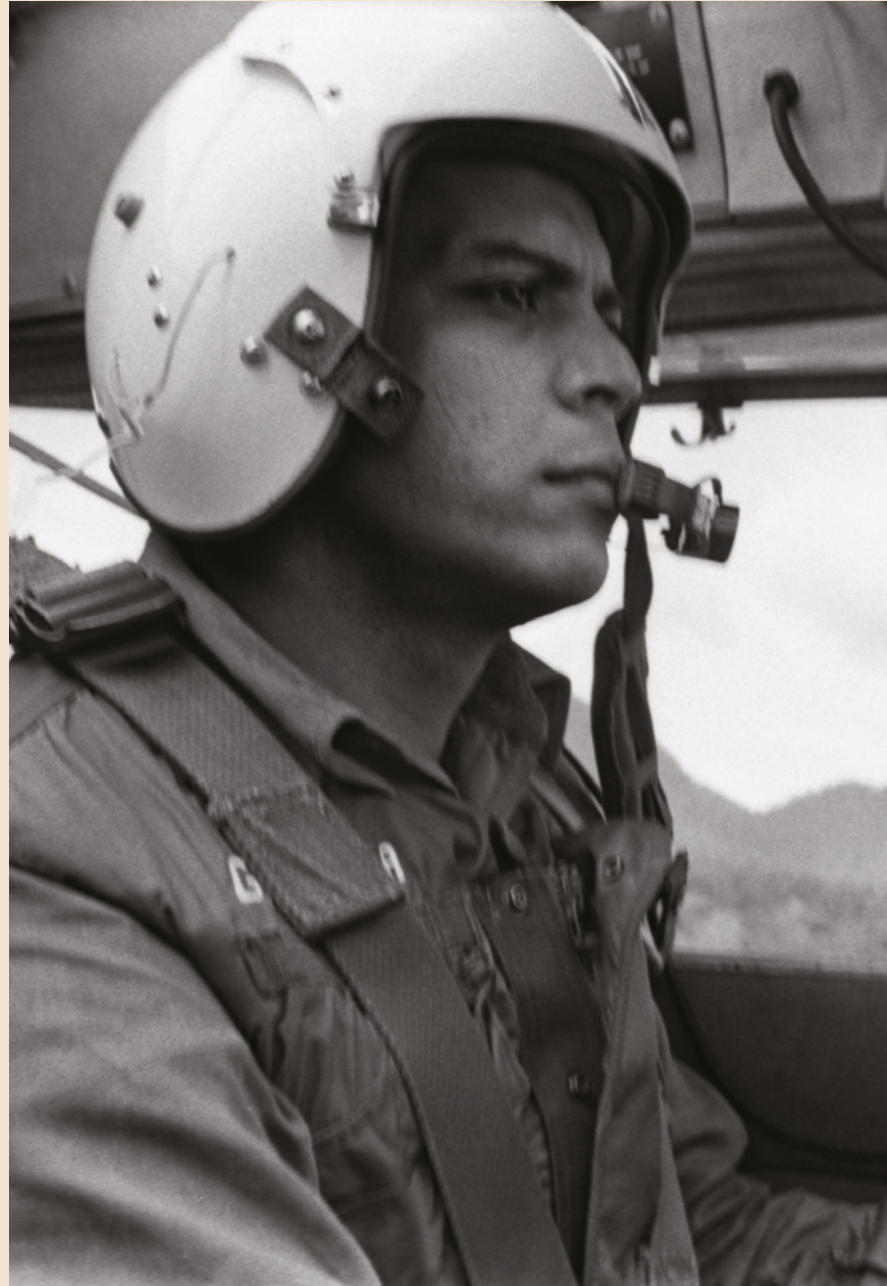
CONCLUSION OF SERVICE

OFFICIAL PARTY DEPARTS



↑ Signalman Steve Uppington gives a small boy a drink during a visit by members of the 110th Signals Squadron to an orphanage to distribute milk, sugar, baby food, and clothes to about 400 children at the Don Chua orphanage, June 1970. (AWM WAR/70/0328/VN; photographer Peter Anthony Ward)

→ Lieutenant Tom 'Rockets' Guivarra of the 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight at Vũng Tàu, 1966–1967. (AWM P04666.852; photographer Denis Stanley Gibbons)





Customs, traditions and protocols

PLAYING OF THE DIDGERIDOO

The didgeridoo (or as it is known by the Traditional Custodians of the Yolngu clans of north-east Arnhem Land, the 'yidaki') is not traditionally played in Ngunnawal or Wiradjuri country, however it is played here today with the permission of the Ngunnawal people to acknowledge and pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have contributed to the defence of Australia in times of peace and war.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE COLOURS

The practice of carrying symbols into battle has existed for centuries, with the Eagle Standards of the Roman legions being perhaps the best known. In the 13th century, the nobility went into battle with their entire body and most of their horse hidden by defensive armour, and displayed distinctive badges or crests on their equipment and banners to aid identification. It is from these banners carrying ensigns of heraldry that Regimental Colours are directly derived. Colours are no longer carried in battle, but they remain a strong focal point for a regiment and are treated with great respect.

CATAFALQUE PARTY

Historically, a catafalque was a support for a coffin, but it has come to represent a remembrance stone or a tomb. A Catafalque Party was originally appointed to guard a coffin from theft or desecration. Now it performs a ceremonial role, honouring the dead.





↑ Australian entertainer Lorrae Desmond sings to an enthusiastic crowd of 1200 soldiers at the 1ATF Base at Nui Dat as part of a South Australian concert party sponsored by the Australian Forces Overseas Fund, September 1969. (AWM EKN/69/0189/VN)

← Radio Operator Private Doug Poole speaks on his field wireless set to pilots of US Army Iroquois helicopters waiting to lift troops of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), from the Task Force base to the Long Hai Hills during Operation Pinnaroo, March 1968. (AWM EKT/68/0096/VN)

COMPLIMENTS TO COLOURS

Compliments are to be accorded to the uncased Colours when carried by a Colour Party, when on parade. When Colours are to be received on parade, attendees are to stand on the Senior Ensign's order: 'Colour Party' ... 'quick march'; and they should remain standing until the Colour Party is in position on parade, with the completion of the musical salute *Point of War*. Service personnel in uniform are to salute only for the playing of *Point of War*.

When Colours are marched-off parade, attendees are to stand on the order: 'march-off the Colours'; and those service personnel in uniform are to salute only while the band plays the musical salute *Point of War*. At the completion of the musical salute, service personnel complete the salute; however, they remain standing until the Colours have cleared the parade ground and the Catafalque Party returns to the attention position. The Colours are not saluted as they pass by service personnel during the march-on and march-off procedure.

Compliments are not accorded to cased Colours.

FLAG PROTOCOLS

Flags are important symbols of all nations, and of those who have fought and died for those nations, and as such should be treated with respect at all times. They should not be subjected to indignity or displayed in a position or size inferior to any other flag.

They should always be flown aloft and free and should not be allowed to fall or lie upon the ground. Please note that 'flag draping' (i.e. wearing the flag as a cape or cloak), allowing the flag to touch the ground, or defacing the flag by writing on it, may be considered disrespectful acts and are discouraged at this service.

When a flag is raised or lowered, or when it is carried past in a parade or review, all attendees should face the flag, remove headwear and refrain from talking. Service personnel in uniform are to salute.

→ Lance Corporal Norman
Leslie Cameron of 7RAR
and his tracker dog Tiber
watch for Viet Cong while on
piquet duty during Operation
Paddington, July 1967.
(AWM COL/67/0552/VN;
photographer Michael Coleridge)





LAST POST

The *Last Post* is a bugle call which signals the end of the day. It became incorporated into funeral and memorial services as a final farewell and symbolises that the duty of the dead is over and they can rest in peace.

Attendees should stand, remove headwear and refrain from talking during the playing of the *Last Post*. Service personnel in uniform are to salute.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Attendees should stand facing the flags, remove headwear and refrain from talking during the playing of the national anthem. Service personnel in uniform are to salute.

ODE OF REMEMBRANCE

Many ceremonies of remembrance include a recitation of the Ode. It is the fourth stanza of *For the Fallen*, a poem written by Laurence Binyon (1869-1943) in 1914. It can also include the third stanza. The Ode has been recited in ceremonies since 1919.

Attendees should stand, remove headwear and refrain from talking during the reciting of the Ode.



← An Iroquois helicopter of No. 9 Squadron prepares to fly away from the pad at Nui Dat, October 1968.
(AWM P06295.020; photographer Raeburn Lyall Trindall)

↓ Soldiers from Fire Assault Platoon Support Company 7RAR on Luscombe Airfield prior to transfer by helicopter at the start of Operation Coburg, January 1968.
(AWM P01539.005; photographer Arthur Clement)

ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

The practice of observing one minute of silence originated soon after the First World War and provides an opportunity for quiet reflection on the sacrifice of those who served and lost their lives.

Attendees should stand, remove headwear and refrain from talking during the period of silence.

ROUSE

After the one minute of silence, flags are raised from half-mast to the masthead as the *Rouse* is sounded. Traditionally the *Rouse* called soldiers' spirits to arise, ready to fight for another day.

Today it is associated with the *Last Post* at all military funerals, and at services of dedication and remembrance.

Note: The RAN *Reveille* bugle call is different to that played by the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force. The RAN does not play *Rouse* and only plays *Reveille*.



Roll of honour

Dennis E ABRAHAM

Richard J ABRAHAM

Bruno A J ADAMCZYK

Lex W H ADAMS

Alan W AHEARN

Richard A ALDERSEA

Norman G ALLEN

John H ANDREWS

Frederick J ANNESLEY

Ross D ANTON

Gary A ARCHER

Kevin J ARNOLD

Peter J ARNOLD

William J ASHTON

Trevor J ATTWOOD

Donald R AYLETT

Marvin W AYRES

Peter J BADCOE *vc*

Kenneth W BADE

Errol J BAILEY

John BAIN

George T BAINES

Douglas A BAKER

Lindsay R BANCKS

David J BANFIELD

Stuart J BARNETT

James J BARRETT

Glen T BARTHOLOMEW

Karl W BAUDISTEL

Lionel J BAXTER

Brian C BEILKEN

Alec E J BELL

Ronald J BELL

Graham R BELLEVILLE

Ronald W BETTS

Bernd G F BINDER

Martin BINK

Raymond P BINNING

Michael J BIRCHELL

Thomas BIRNIE

Robert G BIRSE

Barbara F BLACK

Trevor R BLACK

Thomas D BLACKHURST

Wayne A BLANCK

Alan C BLOXSOM

Kenneth J BOARDMAN

John A BOND

Douglas G BORLACE

Michael A BOURKE

Donald M BOURNE

Robert W BOWTELL

Dennis H BRACEWELL

Gregory V BRADY

Peter J BRAMBLE

David J BRENNAN

John BRESSINGTON

William J BRETT

Kevin F BREWER

David J BRIGGS

Dennis L BROOKS

Edward F BROPHY

Allen R BROWN

Ian R BROWN

Lindsay N BROWN

Robert BUCHAN

John H BULLMAN

Robert BURNS

Ronald R BUTLIN

Raymond BUTTERWORTH

Basil E BYRNE

Robert A BYRNE

John A CAMPBELL

Hugh CARLYLE

Ronald T CARROLL

William T CARROLL

John CARRUTHERS

Robert C CARVER

Anthony A CASADIO

Albert L CASEY

Garry O CASHION

Nick J CASSANO

Robert J CASTON

Peter A CHANT

Rodney S CHAPMAN

Thomas W CHECKLEY

Christopher CLARK

Donald M CLARK

Raymond D CLARK

Ross T CLARK

Peter E CLEMENTS

Richard W CLIFF

Laurence I CLIFFORD

John R COCK

Kevin G COLES

Ronald F CONNORS

George A CONSTABLE

Robert T CONVERY

Kevin G CONWAY

Geoffrey J COOMBS

Alan J COOPER

Russell J COPEMAN

Brendan F COUPE

James G COX

Raymond J COX

Ronald E COXON

Peter CRAIG

Noel V CROUCH

Bryan T CULLEN

Timothy J CUTCLIFFE

Anatoly DANILENKO

Gordon H D'ANTOINE

Barry N DAVIDSON

Rex W DAVIES

Ronald E DAVIES

Walter J DAVISON

Ian K DAWSON

Peter DAWSON

Thomas J DE VRIES VAN LEEUWEN

Ramon J P DEED

John W DESNOY

Keith I DEWAR

Stephen W DICKSON

John A DOHERTY

Barry C DONALD

Denis J DONNELLY

William W DONNELLY

David G DOYLE

Glenn A DRABBLE

Roger W DRISCOLL

Andrew DRUMMOND

David J DUBBER

James DUFF	Arthur J GIBSON	Gilbert J HARTNEY	Jack JEWRY
Kenneth A DUFFY	George G GILBERT	Norman V G HAWKER	Brian R A JONES
Milton R DUFTY	Michael W T GILL	James F HAYES	John H KALMA
Alan L DUNCUFF	Robert J GILLARD	Robert M HAYES	Graham R KAVANAGH
Jeffrey M DUROUX	John F GILLESPIE	Malcolm A HENDERSON	Barry W KELLY
John T DURRINGTON	Peter R GILLSON	Terence E HENDLE	John J KENNEDY
Philip EARLE	Guy R GODDEN	Michael P J HERBERT	Raymond J KENNEDY
Beresford P EDWARDS	Peter J GOLLAGHER	Ronald D HEWITT	Raymond C KERMODE
Ronald J ENGSTROM	Phillip R GOODY	Robert B HICKEY	James K KERR
Paul EVANS	Eric G GOULD	Donald C HILL	Robert M KEY
Thomas A EVANS	Allan W GRAHAM	Reginald H HILLIER	Ian W KINGSTON
Barry E FALLON	Samuel GRAHAM	Peter A HINES	Keith M KINGSTON-POWLES
Leslie T FARREN	Ernest F GRANT	Frederick W HOARE	John W KIRBY <small>DCM</small>
Francis J FEWQUANDIE	George B GREEN	William J HOBAN	Gordon KNIGHT
Ronald E FIELD	John G GREENE	Tony HOLLAND	Peter R KNIGHT
David J E FISHER	Victor R GRICE	Anthony E HOLLIS	Peter F KOWALSKI
Roger L FISHER	Edward A GRILLS	John W HOLLOWAY	Gaetano LA GRASTA
Jack FITZGERALD	Robert M GRIST	Ronald D HOOD	Everitt M LANCE
Bryan F FITZPATRICK	Thomas J GROSE	Neville W HORNE	Terrence E LANGLANDS
Robert FLEMING	William F HACKING	James M HOUSTON	Paul A LARGE
Graham L FOSTER	Eric HALKYARD	Kenneth R HOUSTON	Stanley G LARSSON
Alexander HT FOTHERINGHAM	John HALL	Rodney N HUBBLE	Norman W LE BHERZ
John FRASER	Frederick G HAMERSLEY	Antony J HUELIN	Errol J LEE
John W FREEMAN	Maxwell P HANLEY <small>MM</small>	Robert E HUGHES	Ronald V LEES
Vivian A FRENCH	Michael J HANNAFORD	Rodney D HUGHES	Peter E LEWIS
Ronald J GAFFNEY	Allan R HANSEN	Raymond H HUNT	Matthew P LINTON
Wallace J GALVIN	Bryant V HANSEN	Harold W HURST	Anthony LISLE
Kenneth H GANT	Peter R HANSEN	Maurice J HUTCHISON	Colin T LITHGOW
Bernard A GARLAND	Noel S HARALD	Francis A HYLAND	Allan LLOYD
John E GARRETT	Edward W G HARDS	Peter J JACKSON	Richard E LLOYD
John GARRIGAN	Ronald A HARRIS	Robert J JACKSON	Geoffrey R LOCKE
Barry R GEORGE	Barleif A HARSTAD	Barry JAMES	Barry A LOGAN
Ian J GIBBS	Peter R HART	Alan D JELLIE	Matthew LOUGHMAN

Noel LOWES	Malcolm B MCQUALTER	Erald H NILSEN	O'Brien C I PHILLIPS
Robert J LUBCKE	James L MCQUAT	Christopher R NISBET	Reginald A PHILLIPS
Neville F LUFF	James L MENZ	Errol W NOACK	Thomas D PHILLIPS
Trevor LYDDIETH	Thomas F MEREDITH	Michael J NOONAN	Geoffrey A PIKE
Terance E LYON	David G MILFORD	Graham L NORLEY	Douglas B PLAIN
Peter J LYONS	Robert B MILLIGAN	John W NORRIS	Bruce J PLANE
James A MACDONALD	Noel R J MILLS	John A O'BRIEN	Garry R POLGLASE
Larry J MACLENNAN	David MITCHELL	John M O'CONNOR	Victor I POMROY
Peter A MALONE	Warren D MITCHELL	Patrick S O'CONNOR	Michael D POOLE
Joseph G MANICOLA	Kevin L MITCHINSON	Stephen J O'DAL	Robin C POTHOF
Paul MANNING	Barry J MOORE	Robert M O'HANLON	Daryl POULSON
Peter R MARKS-CHAPMAN	Raymond J MOORE	John L O'HARA	Robert E POWER
William H MARTIN	Sydney T MOORE	Allan L O'NEILL	Douglas R J POWTER
Ian G MATHERS	John L MORGAN	John B O'NEILL	Noel A PRACY
Geoffrey F MATHEWS	Dayle W MORRISON	Geoffrey O'SHEA	Kevin J PRIOR
Kenneth F MATHIESON	Allan B MOSS	Richard H J PARKER	Leslie PROWSE
Reginald N MAZA	Graeme J MOSS	Roderick T R PARKER	Anthony T PURCELL
John N MCCARTHY	Brenton G MOWBRAY	Antonino PARRELLO	Anthony V QUIGLEY
Malcolm R MCCONACHY	Michael MUC	David PATERSON	Stanley E RADOMI
Albert F MCCORMACK	Hans L MULLER	Raymond B PATTEN	Francis L RAFFEN
Dennis J MCCORMACK	Barry J MUNDAY	Allan G PATTISON	Joseph S RAMSAY
Leslie C MCDONNELL	Peter E MURRAY	John G S PEARCE	John M RANDS
Peter E MCDUFF	Harold R MUSICKA	Bernard M PENGILLY	John R RAPP
Peter S MCGARRY	George NAGLE	Desmond H PENN	Paul F REIDY
William MCGOLDRICK	William L NALDER	Peter L PENNEYSTON	Alexander REMELJEJ
Raymond A MCGUIRE	Paul J NAVARRE	Robert G PERRIN	Brian RENNIE
Neil A MCINERNEY	Dennis W NEAL	Timo E A PESONEN	Terrence J RENSHAW
Colin W MCLACHLAN	John D NEEDS	Bror O PETERSEN	Maxwell L RHODES
James C MCMILLAN	Dennis E NELSON	Victor N PETERSEN	Adrian W RICH
Ross C MCMILLAN	Graham W NEWSTEAD	Trevor G PETITH	Neil T RICHARDSON
Robert L MCNAB	Ralph J NIBLETT	John G PETTIT	Philip M RICHTER
Duncan G MCNAIR	Raymond K NICHOLS	Leslie J PETTIT	Wayne M RILEY
Lyall H MCPHERSON	Kenneth R NICHOLSON	Noel C PETTITT	Kerry P RINKIN

Jeffrey C RIVETT	Baron F SMITH	John R TINKHAM	Leslie J WESTON
Arthur J ROBERTSON	Bernard L SMITH	Vincent J TOBIN	Raymond B WESTON
Malcolm R ROBERTSON	Francis J SMITH	Michael P TOGNOLINI	Kevin A WHEATLEY vc
John ROGERS	John SMITH	Marian TOMAS	John W WHEELER
Kerry M ROONEY	Noel A SMITH	Francis B TOPP	Barry J WHISTON
Christopher W ROOST	Paul L SMITH	Michael TOWLER	Colin J WHISTON
Grant S ROSS	Peter C SMITH	Barry TREGEAR	Harry W WHITE
Thomas ROSS	Robert S SMITH	Bevan M TRIMBLE	James M T WHITE
James RUDDY	Ronald K SMITH	Kevin J TROY	Michael P WHITE
Arthur RUDUSS	Gordon D SORRENSEN	Paul Z TRZECINSKI	John H WHITTON
Douglas J SALVERON	Roderick J SPRIGG	Desmond J TULLY	Alan C F WILKINSON
Ronald W SALZMANN	Donald M STAHL	Timothy C TURNER	Archibald S WILLIAMS
Richard W SANDOW	Henry J STANCZYK	Geoffrey L TWEEDIE	Garry I WILLOUGHBY
Christopher J SAWTELL	Gregory I STANFORD	John W TWOMEY	Robert P WILSEN
Grantley J SCALES	David J STEEN	Paul R P VAN RIJSEWIJK	Kevin R WILSON
Carlile H SCHNEIDER	John G STEVENS	Arie VAN VALEN	Mervyn A F WILSON
Martinus J M SCHUIT	John M STONE	Patrick J VICKERS	Robert B WILSON
Ian J SCOTT	Michael SUKMANOWSKY	Douglas J VOYZEY	Bogdan K WOJCIK
Ian N SCOTT	Paul C SULLIVAN	Victor N WAGSTAFF	Norman J WOMAL
Ronald A SCOTT	Thomas SUTER	David J WALDOCK	Richard M WOOLFORD
Terence R SCOTT	Henry E SUTTOR	Maxwell R WALES	Ivan A WOOLLEY
Ronald SEILER	Ronald J SWANTON	Brian G WALKER	Jeffrey T WORLE
Raymond D SEIPEL	John R SWEETNAM	Alan J WALLIS	Donald S WRIDE
Gordon C SHARP	Arnold SYKES	David A B WALLIS	Alexander H YOUNG
Keith C SHAW	Alan TALBOT	Brian WALSH MM	Brian T YOUNG
Laurence R SHEPPARD	Leonard A TAYLOR	Graham F A WARBURTON	Robert G YOUNG
Peter J SHERIFF	Peter TEBB	Anthony E L WARING	Robert J YULE
Noel E SHIPP	Wayne E TEELING	Brian D WATERS	
Anthony P SIGGERS	David J THOMAS	Bryan P WATSON	
Thomas SIMPSON	William M THOMAS	Richard C A WATSON	
Harold L SLATER	Barry J THOMPSON	David R WEBSTER	
John M SLATTERY	Donald L THOMPSON	James C WEBSTER	
Ronald G SMILLIE	Ian J THOMSON	Garry M WEST	

→ *Diggers sitting on armoured
personnel carrier on patrol,
Phước Tuy Province*
by Ken McFadyen, 1968.
(Oil on canvas on hardboard,
35.5 x 54.8 cm, AWM ART40670)







Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

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