

RICOCHET



Monthly newsletter of VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. JULY 2026

SIXTY years ago this year an Australian task force was established to boost the war effort in South Vietnam.

"The Australian government felt that Australia's involvement in the conflict should be both strong and identifiable," the Australian War Memorial records. "In March 1966 the government announced the dispatch of a taskforce to replace 1RAR, consisting of two battalions and support services (including a RAAF squadron of Iroquois helicopters), to be based at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy province.

"Unlike 1RAR, the taskforce was assigned its own area of operations and included conscripts who had been called up under the National Service Scheme, introduced in 1964."

Australia's involvement had begun with the arrival of



HMAS Sydney nears Vung Tau with part of 1ATF in 1966. The former carrier became known as the "Vung Tau Ferry".—AWM photo.

Task Force arrived 60 years ago



the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV (logo right)) in South Vietnam during July and August 1962.

This involvement was formally declared at an end when the Governor-General issued a proclamation on 11 January 1973; the only combat troops remaining in Vietnam were a platoon guarding the Australian embassy in Saigon, which was withdrawn in June 1973.

"The Australian commitment consisted predominantly of army personnel, but significant numbers of air force and navy personnel and some civilians also took part," the AWM records.

"From the time of the arrival of the first members of the Team in 1962 over 60,000 Australians, including ground troops and air force and navy personnel, served in Vietnam; 523 died as a result of the war and almost 2400 were wounded."

The Australian War Memorial also says "the war was the cause of the greatest social and political dissent in Australia since the conscription referendums of the First World War. Many draft resisters, conscientious objectors, and protesters were fined or jailed, while soldiers met a hostile reception on their return home."

"Australian support for South Vietnam in the early 1960s was in keeping with the policies of other nations, particularly the United States, to stem the spread of communism in Europe and Asia.

- Continued page 11, photo page 8.



OUR MISSION:

To assist ALL veterans and their dependents in all matters relating to their health, welfare and well-being.

Our website: www.vietnamvetssc.org.au

Email: secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com Editor: ricocheteditor@gmail.com

General information Page 2 INCLUDING LATEST OFFICE NEWS

Veterans & Families Counselling

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NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

Inquiries: Phone 0476903132

The Drop-In-Centre at the library complex is now closed and has re-opened at the RSL Hub opposite Maroochy Services Club. Opening hours Tuesday to Thursday 0900 to 1200 hours.

Note: Committee Meetings are held at 1000 hours and General Meetings at 1100 hours on the third Tuesday bi-monthly from September.

VETERANS' BREAKFAST: In front of Mooloolaba Surf Club on Thursdays.

RIFLEMENS' LUNCH: First Friday monthly at Mooloolaba Surf Club.

MEMBERSHIP: Life Subscriber option now available for General (\$45) and Associate Members (\$40). A "currently financial" General or Associate Member may upgrade to Life Subscriber by paying a one-off amount of \$25. NB: This option ceased for current financial members on 31 May 2026.

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This service provides counselling and support to all veterans of overseas conflicts. The families of Vietnam Veterans are also able to receive counselling through us. Group programmes include the Lifestyle Management Program (5 days live-in with partner) and the Heart Safe Program (12 month gym). Other therapeutic/educational groups are being planned for the Sunshine Coast.

DISCLAIMER: The committee of Vietnam Veteran Association of Australia Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. and its individual members take no responsibility for errors, omissions or inaccuracies in this newsletter, nor accept liability for any loss or damage suffered directly or indirectly from the use of information contained in this newsletter, and do not warrant that opinions published in this newsletter are necessarily the opinions held by the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, this Sub-branch or the Sub-branch Committee, including individual members.

OUR MISSION: To assist all veterans and their dependents in all matters relating to their health, welfare and well-being.

PASSING OF THREE WHO SERVED

One of the famous “Tunnel Rats” of the Vietnam War, Sapper Alan Christie, passed away recently – his widow, Margo, has been a valued volunteer of our sub-branch for many years.

In an article last year in Ricochet (March 2025), he recalled chasing a wounded enemy sniper down a tunnel in Vietnam in 1966, coming out with his rifle.

He did not see the rifle again until December 2024 at a ceremony at the Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering (AAMME) at Holsworthy.

The rifle (a Russian Mosin-Nagant) ended up at Singleton and was recently taken temporarily so a replica could be made at Gaza Ridge Barracks, Bandiana. The two weapons were on hand at a ceremony at the museum before the replica was put on permanent display and the original returned to Singleton.

The aim of the project was to honour the famous “Tunnel Rats”, of which Alan, nickname “Sparrow”, was a member.

More on that story here: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2025-01-17/tale-sniper-rifle-has-double-barrelled-ending>

Another Vietnam veteran who passed away recently was Brigadier George “Warry” Mansford AM (1934–2026). Cairns RSL Sub-Branch President Nathan Shingles described him as a soldier, leader, mentor, and one of the Australian Army’s most authentic and formidable commanders.

He also served in the Korean War and the Malayan Emergency and the Vietnam War. A “soldier’s soldier”, he was founder of the Jungle Training Centre (Battle School) at Tully. He wrote many poems as well as the highly regarded “Leadership on the Battlefield” and a novel, “Mad Galahs”.

Another veteran who passed away recently was Ar-

thur William “Bill” White aged 104 and the last surviving veteran of the Battle of the Coral Sea. Maroochy RSL described him as “family. He was a gentleman of remarkable humility, warmth and character, whose stories, wisdom and friendship touched generations.”

He was born in Western Australia in 1922. “Bill lived an extraordinary 104 years, leaving behind a legacy of service, friendship, and humility,” Maroochy RSL wrote in tribute.

“As the last surviving veteran of the Battle of the Coral Sea, he represented a generation whose courage and sacrifice helped shape our nation. Yet, to those who knew him personally, Bill will be remembered not only for his military service, but for his warmth, his stories, his gentle nature, and genuine interest he took in everyone he met.”



PHOTOS (from left): George Mansford* (left) and Alan Christie^, and Battle of the Coral Sea veteran Bill White. Rest in Peace, Lest We Forget. Photo sources (from left) Department of Defence; Caden Helmers and Maroochy RSL.

ABOVE: A “Tunnel Rat” in Vietnam.—Photo AWM Peter Cuneen.



From the President

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all safe and healthy. Vietnam Veterans Day is fast approaching and our John Cunningham is running around like a chook with its head cut off.

Seriously though, the amount of work that goes into this particular day is never ending and I honestly do not comprehend how John seems to manage. Keep at it John, you do a magnificent job and I'm positive that all who attend the ceremony and later function are more than appreciative of your efforts.

Speaking of V.V. Day, it's sad to hear that at the last RSL District Meeting it has been announced that the Caloundra RSL will be holding its own V.V. Day ceremony and after-function. It was asserted that its members were concerned over the distance involved in travelling to, and later back to Caloundra, even though in the past we have provided a bus for that purpose.

Sad to hear that one of our most committed members and past office holders, Margo Christie, has recently suffered the loss of her husband, Alan.

Margo informs me that her husband passed away at about 2am on the 21 June and the cause of his death

was attributed to pneumonia.

Alan was also suffering from nodules on his lungs and I am informed that at the time of his passing he was experiencing a certain amount of discomfort.

A Memorial Service was held for Alan at 11.30am on Thursday 9 July 2026, at the Gaythorne RSL Club, Brisbane. Rest easy Alan; Lest We Forget (see Page 3).

Well, that's all I've really got time for at the moment. As I've said many times before, if you have any ideas, thoughts or suggestions on how we can improve our association, please make contact.

In the meantime, please take care of yourselves, stay happy, healthy and as strong as possible. Hope to see you all on 18 August.

Best Regards,

Mick Howe,
President.



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From the Secretary

Unfortunately, I must start off with sad news. Alan Christie, Margo's other half, passed away on 21 June after a long illness.

Margo has been a stalwart of the association for many years, especially in the role of a long-term duty officer at the Drop-In Centre.

Alan served six years in the army as a Sapper, did

one tour of Vietnam, two years' service in Malaysia and three months' service on the Thai/Laos border area.

He was part of the Engineer's Team that found and explored the Chu Chi tunnel complex in 1966 during Operation Crimp. Rest in Peace, Alan.

It is only around seven weeks until Vietnam Veterans Day, the Association's major event of the year.

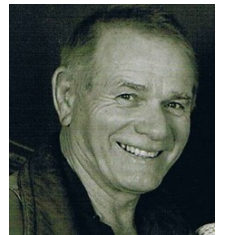
Details of the ceremony at the Alexandra Headland War Dog's memorial and the main service at the Cotton Tree Cenotaph are repeated in this edition of Ricochet (Page 6).

Ticket sales for the luncheon have been traditionally slow but, as per usual, will take off with a flurry as 18 August approaches.

If you are intending to attend the luncheon following the ceremony, please purchase your tickets as soon as possible. This allows those wanting to sit together as a group to have their table settings allocated.

That's it for me.

Regards
John Cunnington
Secretary



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VIETNAM VETERANS DAY TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2026
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The day will commence around 0600 hours with the “Toast to the War Dogs” at the War Dog’s Memorial, Alexandra Headland. Breakfast, tea and coffee will be supplied.

Main Commemoration Ceremony
Assembly: 1045 hours at the swimming pool complex, The Esplanade,
Cotton Tree. The short march to the Cotton Tree RSL Cenotaph
commences at 1045 hours.

Service: 1100 hours—1200 hours. **Luncheon:** Maroochy RSL following the service. Welcome to guests at 1215 hours. **Lunch tickets are now available at the Drop-In Centre.**

Cost: \$50 for members and partners. Non-member’s price is \$60 per head. Lunch includes a sumptuous three-course meal, subsidised beer and wine, entertainment, lucky door prizes, raffle draws and surprises! There are some great raffle prizes this year so don’t forget to bring along a few dollars.

IMPORTANT: At the luncheon free seating will be available. However, every effort will be made to fill tables of 10. if you would like to pre-book a table (maximum of 10), please notify John Cunningham on 54933513 (0415375968) or email secretaryv-vaasc@gmail.com and arrange the table settings with him **after you have purchased your tickets.** Names are required for each person.

Special dietary requirements - leave a message with the Duty officer at the Drop-In Centre or contact John Cunningham on 54933513, (0415375968) or email secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com

CALOUNDRA TRANSPORT: It is hoped that a courtesy bus will be available for those requiring transport from Caloundra RSL. This is yet to be confirmed as numbers from Caloundra have shrunk noticeably over the years. More information on this issue will be provided as soon as possible. It would be helpful if anyone requiring transport from Caloundra RSL could mention this when purchasing luncheon tickets. At this stage, the provision of a courtesy bus cannot be guaranteed. It all hinges on numbers!

All new compensation claims now under improved MRCA

All new claims for compensation and rehabilitation will now be determined under an improved version of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) as the single ongoing Act for veterans' entitlements from 1 July 2026.

The simplification of the veterans' compensation system from three Acts to one delivers on a key recommendation from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

"Grandparenting" of existing payments from 1 July 2026:

Veterans can be assured that payments already being received under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) will continue uninterrupted and be indexed as normal.

There is an exception for veterans who previously received incapacity payments under the DRCA who will now receive the more beneficial MRCA incapacity payment.

Eligibility for various entitlements that had operated differently across the 3 Acts will also now be standardised.

This will provide students already receiving support for education as well as veterans with open rehabilitation plans with coverage under the MRCA from 1 July 2026.

Determination of existing claims from 1 July 2026:

All claims for compensation and rehabilitation received before 1 July 2026 will be determined under the previous tri-Act system of the VEA, DRCA and MRCA.

This includes those indicating an intent to claim for compensation under the DRCA, as well as claims for travel for treatment where trips occurred before 1 July 2026.

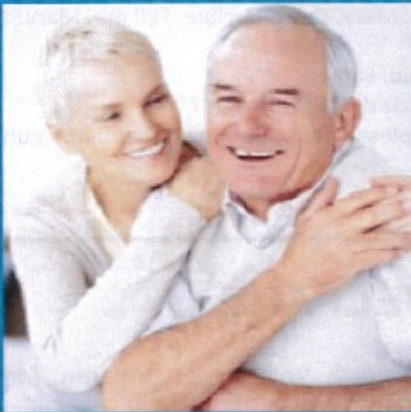
Useful information:

While DVA cannot provide individualised claims advice, a range of resources is available on the DVA website to help the veteran community understand the changes from 1 July. This includes:

An information booklet; more than 20 fact sheets and summaries for particular groups, including VEA veterans and their partners, DRCA veterans, and the children of veterans; scenarios that demonstrate how the improved MRCA may impact individual circumstances; and frequently asked questions.

—refer <https://www.dva.gov.au/>

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We are an accredited Not for Profit organisation committed to the support of worthwhile veteran and community welfare programmes.

If you have served in any of the above listed units, you and your family are welcome to join the comradeship of fellow, like-minded people, at our monthly social meetings at the RSL Branch office on Memorial Ave Maroochydore, opposite the RSL Club.

Enjoy, also, the quiet ambience of our museum of naval memorabilia containing a wealth of original artefacts, uniforms and models of naval ships used in conflict, all representing a worthy reminder of the contribution by the men and women in their military role of the Australian and Allied Navies through the years.

For further information on becoming a member of our association, with a proud naval heritage, please contact the Maroochy Waters Sub Section, Naval Association of Australia:

Bill Hayward, President, 0411 024 985, bloggshayward@yahoo.com
Michael Wilson, Secretary, 0457 852 122, michaelwilson1@bigpond.com



Home for a while...



DIGGERS leaving their newly established base at Vung Tau after arrival in South Vietnam.—AWM photo.

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Diggers and Yanks brawl in Brisbane CBD in WW2

By Ned Hammond ABC online, 21 June 2026

November, 1942: The eve of Thanksgiving in the United States. It's a balmy night in the Brisbane CBD, and four mates are chatting on Adelaide Street. The only indication of the maelstrom engulfing the globe is the set of uniforms they are wearing. Three Australian soldiers and one United States Army private.

The exact details of what came next are clouded by myth. It is generally accepted that an American military policeman (MP) began to give the US soldier a hard time about his leave pass. That did not sit well with his new Australian friends, who proceeded to beat up the MP.

Tensions had been building up like dry kindling since US warships arrived in Brisbane in December 1941 after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour.

Those tensions would spark this isolated stoush into a series of wild brawls that would consume Brisbane for the next two days and leave one Australian soldier dead.

By the time of the Battle of Brisbane, the city had become the centre of the Allies' struggle against Japan in the Pacific theatre. General Douglas MacArthur had made the city his stronghold after fleeing the Philippines, and thousands of American soldiers were situated in Brisbane.

Historian Judith Powell said the city was "incredibly important in all the battles that were fought in the Pacific".

Brisbane became central to the Allied war effort in the Pacific theatre, with industry ballooning and air raid shelters built in the CBD.

"Brisbane was filled with air shelters ... the schools were closed for quite a period of time. There were searchlights on Mount Coot-tha," she said. "For a time, if you think about it, Brisbane really was the front line."

Relationships became strained where Australian culture clashed with American exceptionalism — the Yanks were better provisioned, better outfitted, and more attractive to Australian women.

"The general population were just enamoured [by] Americans. Their uniforms were slick, the Australians were all in these awful heavy woollen uniforms," Ms Powell said.

"The Americans had fancy uniforms, had nylons for women, they had chewing gum. [They were] overpaid, oversexed, and over here."

American soldiers were paid roughly double what Australian troops were and had better provisions.

In a report filed in December 1942 to the Office of Strategic Services — which would one day become the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) — war correspondent J Edward Angly provided the US command with a similar description.

"Australian troops resent the fact that the Americans are better dressed, more affluent, and by reason of their manners, appearance ... seem to have taken over a fair share of the Australian womanhood."

US Major Bill Bentson, a staff sergeant at the time, was interviewed by historian Kay Saunders in 1990 for the Queensland Homefront Oral History Project.*

He recalled one Australian joke that sent a theatre into hysterics during a screening of Bambi, when the baby deer asked, "Where's my mother?"

"She's out with a bloody Yank!"

After several MPs joined the fracas against the Australian troops, Ms Powell said, it "all became a bit shambolic once the riot took off".

More Americans began to pour out of the US postal exchange (PX) and Australian soldiers, militia members, and civilians got involved. "Things just got out of control. Everyone was drunk, undoubtedly."

Major Bentson recounted watching the riot unfold from

a distance, thinking he "better not get mixed up in this".

"You'd see Yanks flying up in the air, and I said, 'Well, that's not for me,'" he said.

He said he dashed into the MP building and posted up on the sixth floor. "I looked down and the whole perimeter of that area, up both sides of Queen Street and up both sides of Edward Street were all these Australians.

"It would be a circle, you could see the pavement, and they'd pour Yanks in there and they're just kicking the hell out of them."

The situation continued to escalate until the American MPs were armed with shotguns to defend the PX from the Australians, who were breaking the windows and pelting the building with rocks and bottles.

The demonstration of force by the Americans angered the Australians, who attempted to relieve one MP of his shotgun. In the resulting scuffle, the gun went off three times.— **continued next page.**



AMERICANS with a keg on a Castlemaine-XXXX truck in Brisbane in World War Two.— from State Library.

• **from Page 9.**

Private Edward Sidney Webster was struck in the chest and later pronounced dead in hospital. Eight others were injured in the shooting.

His military papers described his manner of death: "Killed by gunshot wound (inflicted by an American sawn-off shotgun)."

The ground floor of the US PX was completely destroyed in the chaos, but things cooled by 10pm.

Word of the death of an Australian soldier got around, and the next night thousands of Australians and Americans were brawling in the streets.

A crowd of hundreds gathered at the intersection of Creek and Adelaide Streets, where the (now heavily guarded) PX and American Red Cross Club were located.

The crowd moved to MacArthur's headquarters on the corner of Queen and Edward Streets and began hurling abuse, apparently unaware MacArthur himself was in New Guinea at the time.

Brawls continued, with multiple injuries and hundreds of black eyes, split lips, and broken bones on both sides.

The violence only began to subside when the Australian command was able to convince Australian military police to step in and patrol more proactively.

Ms Powell said the riot had its own benefits for the relationship between the Aussies and Yanks.

"It was a couple of days, but it was like a pressure valve," she said.

A considerably downplayed account of the events was published in

the Courier Mail on November 27.

"Once it was relieved, everything kind of settled down." Major Bentson held a similar view. After the pressure was released, he said, "everybody got along alright".

"In other words, they came back and you'd be in the pub having a beer and all that would come up: 'we had a great time the other night!'"

"And if I remember right, the next day there was just a little short article in the paper about what went on."

The MP with the shotgun was eventually court-martialled for the death of Gunner Webster, but was found not guilty by way of self-defence.

Ms Powell said the way crimes were dealt with by the military caused "a fair degree of cynicism" among the Australians.

Australian war correspondent and 50-year ABC veteran John Hinde later wrote the chaotic scenes that gripped the Brisbane CBD over those two nights looked "like a civil war".

"The most furious battle I ever saw during the war was that night in Brisbane."

*** Major Bentson's full interview can be found in the UQ Fryer Library Queensland Homefront Collection, UQFL330, Box 1, cassette 7, side 1.**

RIGHT: Private Edward Webster who was killed in the riot and buried in Toowong Cemetery Brisbane.— from findagrave.com



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AVENUE DENTAL

Australia increases force in South Vietnam

- from Page 1. "In 1961 and 1962 Ngo Dinh Diem, leader of the government in South Vietnam, repeatedly requested security assistance from the US and its allies. Australia eventually responded with 30 military advisers, dispatched as the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), also known as "the Team".

"Their arrival in South Vietnam during July and August 1962 was the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. In August 1964 the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) also sent a flight of Caribou transports to the port of Vung Tau.

"By early 1965, when it had become clear that South Vietnam could not stave off the communist insurgents and their North Vietnamese comrades for more than a few months, the US commenced a major escalation of the war. By the end of the year it had committed 200,000 troops to the conflict.

"As part of the build-up, the US government requested further support from friendly countries in the region, including Australia.

"The Australian government dispatched the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), in June 1965 to serve alongside the US 173d Airborne Brigade in Bien Hoa province."

"The following year the Australian government felt that Australia's involvement in the conflict should be both strong and identifiable. In March 1966 the government announced the dispatch of a taskforce to replace 1RAR, consisting of two battalions and support services (including a RAAF squadron of Iroquois helicopters), to be based at Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy province.

"Unlike 1RAR, the taskforce was assigned its own area of operations and included conscripts who had been called up under the National Service Scheme, introduced in 1964.

"All nine RAR battalions served in the taskforce at one time or another, before it was withdrawn in 1971; at the height of the Australian involvement it numbered about 8500 troops.

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WAS THIS AMERICA'S LAST STAND?

It was in 2007 that James Smither received a call from Jeffrey Wilcox, a West Point graduate who served in the 101st Airborne Division.

Smither, who recently retired as a professor of history at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, was also the creator and director of the university's Veterans History Project.

"I got a call from a fellow named Jeff Wilcox," Smither told Military Times. "And he said, I've got a Vietnam story you've never heard before. And he was right."

That story, *The Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord* — the last major American offensive effort in the Vietnam War — would lead Smither on a nearly two-decade research quest to write "The End of the Rope: The Ripcord Campaign and American Disengagement in Vietnam".

What first began as a series of interviews quickly expanded as veterans began tracking down Smither to learn more about the campaign.

"I found the veterans were coming to me, asking me to explain to them what had happened to them," said Smither. "My first reaction was, 'wait a minute. You were there. I wasn't.' The response was 'Well, we have our individual pieces of the puzzle. You're looking at all of them.'"

From March 12 to July 23, 1970, the 101st Airborne Division — the only remaining full-strength American division left in Vietnam at that time — was



tasked with regaining initiative of the A Shau Valley, strategic ground for the North Vietnamese Army. The A Shau Valley is the same area where the Hamburger Hill campaign had occurred a year prior. It was a main supply and staging area that the North Vietnamese used for launching invasions toward the coast and into populated areas to the south, according to Smither.

The objective was to destroy as much of the NVA's infrastructure as U.S. troops could while

America — which had quietly started withdrawing soldiers from Vietnam in 1969 — still had the forces available. About 25,000 NVA soldiers began silently streaming into the valley, digging in deep to await the Americans. But that wasn't the only issue plaguing the campaign.

According to Smither, officer promotions were on a "different clock," geared to "a different world." After six months of combat duty leadership would shift midstream, even in the heat of battle, meaning "most of the time, the new guys don't get much of a chance to learn the craft before they're responsible for guys' lives."

The brigade commander who planned and led the early stages of the operation was rotated out in June of that year. Lt. Col. Andre Lucas, the commander of the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, had no practical combat experience prior to Ripcord and had not been to Vietnam since 1963.

- continued next page.

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- **from previous page.**

Capt. Isabelino Vasquez, an experienced “hard as nails” commander was sent to the rear to be battalion supply officer. Vasquez was replaced by Capt. Thomas Hewitt who, at the time, had no combat experience.

Hewitt was killed on July 2, 1970, during the opening rounds of an early morning NVA assault after he inexplicably strung up his hammock between two tree stumps on the crest of a hill. When the rocket propelled grenade barrage began, he was killed instantly.

“I call the book the ‘End of the Rope,’ in part, because there’s a limit to what they can actually accomplish,” Smither said. “But it’s actually kind of worse than that, because they’re really put in a position where there isn’t any way to accomplish the mission they’re given. And of course, the commanding officers realize they have their six months to make their mark. If they fail, they might not get the next promotion. Lt. Col Lucas is determined to succeed without understanding what the men on the ground could do.”

Despite the “terrible hand they’re dealt,” stressed Smither, most of the men perform exceptionally well.

“Most of the officers turned out to be really pretty good, including some new guys who didn’t have a lot of experience until they were tested. The enlisted men, they’re mostly either draftees or people who enlisted to take get a step ahead of the draft. They don’t really want to be there, but by and large

when they’re out in the field, they do the best they can with the knowledge and experience they have.”

From July 1-23, 75 U.S. soldiers were killed in action, making the Battle of FSB Ripcord one of the deadliest battles in the Vietnam War for the United States, according to the Army.

On July 22 alone, 14 Americans were killed and 56 were wounded. When the Americans were ordered to withdraw the following day, the total number killed had risen to 139 men over the four-and-a-half-month battle. Lucas was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, and names like Bob Kalsu, the only recently active pro football player to die in Vietnam, and Weiland Norris, the brother of actor Chuck Norris, were also killed during Ripcord.

Despite this, very little was known about the battle for decades and no comprehensive research has ever been done on the siege — until now.

Calling the book a “labour of love” Smither noted that the extended time he spent writing the book allowed him to grasp a complicated set of events that “you wouldn’t normally do if you’re trying to crank out a book in a year or so.”

“I promised them I would give them a book,” he said. “And so I did.”

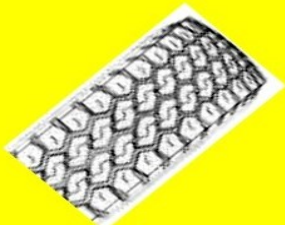
- By Claire Barrett, an editor and military history correspondent for Military Times. She is also a World War II researcher “with an unparalleled affinity for Sir Winston Churchill and Michigan football”.

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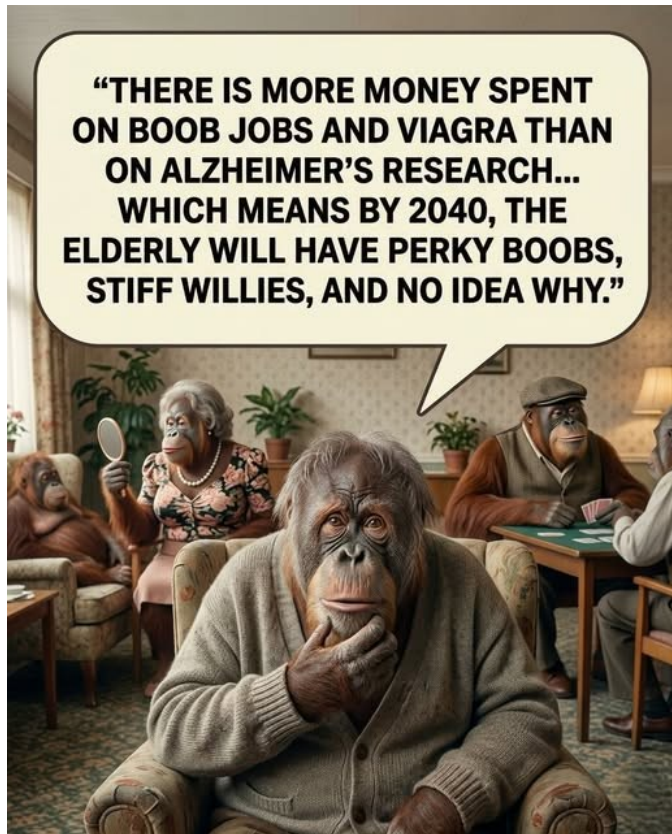



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WHO'S OUT TO LUNCH ... ? All sorts of topics were covered at the monthly Rifleman's Lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club.— photos from incidental sources.



'When you're laughing, the whole world laughs with you'



"Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel."

QUESTIONS ...

- What's the difference between the Boy Scouts and the Army? The [Boy Scouts](#) have adult supervision.
- What is *Army* an acronym for? A Recruiter Mised You.— from Readers Digest.

Paddy says to Murphy "Why do scuba divers fall off the boat backwards", Murphy says "Ya thick twat. If they fell forward they would still be on the boat"

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Roll of Honour — Vietnam, JULY 1962-75

July 1964

Conway, Kevin George (13097), 35, AATTV, Sgt (Temp.WO2), Cleveland Cemetery, Qld.

July 1965

Nalder, William Lynn (2412151), 19, 1RAR, Pte, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.

July 1966

Holland, Tony (3786634), 21, 1APCSqdn, Tpr, Mulwala Cemetery, NSW.

Knight, Gordon (2782226), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Botany General Cemetery, Sydney.

Lubcke, Robert John (42720), 23, 5RAR, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Norris, John William (17693), 25, 6RAR, Cpl, Cairns Cemetery, Qld.

Prowse, Leslie (18409), 21, 1FldSqdn, Spr, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.

Purcell, Anthony Thomas (3787580), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Tomas, Marian (5713739), 21, 5RAR, LCpl, Nannup Cemetery, WA.

July 1967

Briggs, David John (215144), 26, 32 Small Ships Sqdn, Cpl (Temp.Sgt), died Repatriation General Hospital, Concord, Sydney (no further detail).

Wride, Donald Spence (18665), 23, 1FldSqdn, Spr, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Chatswood, Sydney.

July 1968

Borlace, Douglas Graham (42809), 24, 3CavRegt, CFN, Stirling Cemetery, SA.

Mitchell, David (1201249), 28, 1ARU, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Murray, Peter Eris (2788524), 21, 1RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

O'Connor, Patrick Shane (217350), 19, 4RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

July 1969

Abraham, Richard John (4719565), 23, 9RAR, LCpl, Whyalla Cemetery, SA.

Adamczyk, Bruno Adam Joseph (43326), 22, 9RAR, LCpl (Temp.Cpl), Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide SA.

Beresford Paul (218041), 23, 9RAR, Pte, St Mary's Cemetery, Sydney.

Hayes, Robert Max AFC, MID (O51626), 37, 9SqdnRAAF, SqdnLdr, Karrakatta Cemetery/Crematorium WA.

Hines, Peter Aubyn (214348), 27, 6RAR, Lt, Sandgate General Cemetery, Newcastle NSW.

Kermode, Raymond Charles (1733818), 21, 9RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Loughman, Matthew (3794096), 21, HQ 1 Aust. LogSptGrp (RA INF), Pte, Finley General Cemetery, NSW.

McMillan, James Clyde (3794377), 20, 5RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Moore, Raymond John (39923), 23, 9RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Muller, Hans Leonhard (2788085), 24, 5RAR, Pte, Rookwood Necropolis, Rookwood, Sydney.

Needs, John David (55119), 22, 6RAR, Pte, Woongarra Crematorium, Qld.

O'Hanlon, Robert Melville (O16657), 27, 2Sqdn RAAF, FlgOff, Albany Creek Memorial Park Cemetery/Crematorium, Brisbane.

Pettit, Leslie James (217961), 21, 5RAR, Pte, Liverpool Cemetery, Sydney.

Smillie, Ronald George (39281), 19, 1FldSqdn, Spr, Albury Cemetery, NSW.

Smith, John (3794831), 21, 1FldSqdn, Spr, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.

Smith, Paul Leslie (135494), 19, 5RAR, LCpl, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

July 1970

Bain, John (16667), 26, Catering Corps (att. 1FldRegt), Cpl (Temp.Sgt), Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.

Bullman, John Harold (2794031), 22, 1ARU, Pte, Wellington General Cemetery, NSW.

Doyle, David Gerard (219663), 19, 3CavRegt, Trp, Belmont Cemetery, NSW.

Foster, Graham Leslie (1202992), 22, 1ARU, Pte, Allamby Garden Cemetery, Nerang, Qld.

McNair, Duncan Glen (A317006), 27, 9Sqdn RAAF, LAC, Springvale Cemetery, Melbourne.

July 1971

Lowes, Noel (14574), 31, ASqdn, 1ArmRgt, WO2, Springvale Botanical Cemetery, Victoria.

Pengilly, Bernard Michael (5717657), 22, 4RAR, Pte, Perth War Cemetery, WA.

Weston, Raymond Bruce (A17233), 29, 1Op.Spt Unit, RAAF, Cpl, Mareeba Cemetery, Qld.

Wilkinson, Alan Charles F (61560), 33, 4RAR, Cpl, Cornelian Bay Public Cemetery, Hobart.

Wilson, Robert Barclay (1201940), 23, 1FldSqdn, Spr, Ravenshoe Cemetery, Qld.

July 1972

Gibson, Arthur John (218450), 29, 7RAR, Pte, Liverpool Cemetery and Crematorium, NSW.



Vietnam Memorial Pavilion in Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth WA. The timber pavilion was originally constructed in Karrakatta Cemetery in 1899 as the Anglican Mortuary Chapel. Over a 100 years later it was relocated to Kings Park in 1988 to become the Vietnam Memorial Pavilion.

'At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them ...'