

**OPERATION SAPPER RESPECT:
GETTING THE ACB TO NEXT OF KIN OF OUR FALLEN
BROTHER SAPPERS**

Fellow Sappers,

The 1st Field Squadron Group RAE Qld Inc and the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association Inc have joined forces in an Operation to ensure that the Next-of- Kin of the eligible Sappers of 1 Field Squadron RAE who fell as a result of the Viet Nam War, are issued with the Army Combat Badge, if that is the wish of the Next-of-Kin. We ask all other RAE Associations and personnel to help us in this most important project.

In undertaking this task, we are mindful of the following:

- All approaches to families must be handled with the utmost sensitivity and respect; their pain and loss may still run deep.
- There may be disagreement within some families as to who has the greatest entitlement to receive the ACB
- There may be some difficulty in finding a contact for some NOK
- Some NOK may elect not to receive the ACB at all, and that is totally their call.
- Some NOK may wish to receive the ACB at a presentation ceremony, while others may not
- Many Sappers or other Corps veterans might wish to be at the presentation of the award to the NOK of a lost mate, if possible, or in fact even present the award. For example a former Colonel ex 5RAR has asked to be present at the presentation of the ACB to the mother of one of our Sappers killed in a mine incident.
- Whatever we do, we do in a proper and professional Sapper manner
- None of our Unit organizations would be mentioned at any presentations, it would just be Sappers honouring Sappers.
- Some Associations may already have submitted applications on behalf of NOK; we need to know of these cases so as not to duplicate an application.

ATTACHED is a list of Fallen 1st Field Squadron RAE Viet Nam Sappers (accurate to the best of our knowledge – we will fix any errors).

Please do this for us:

1. **Distribute this notice as widely as possible among your Sapper mates**
2. **Ask everyone to let us know of the name and address of any person you think may be an NOK.**
3. **Please DO NOT approach any NOK at this stage unless you are personally known to them.**

Please send your information-to-information collator Peter Scott email holdfast279@yahoo.com.au Ph 0400 799 577, for joint actions by our Associations.

In the Spirit of Respect and Honour to our Fallen Brother Sappers.
Signed

Phil (Jonah) Jones
For Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assn Inc

Barry Kelly
for 1 Field Squadron Group RAE Qld Inc

THE HONOUR ROLL

Royal Australian Engineers, South Vietnam
1 Field Squadron RAE

(Determined by Army to be eligible for the ACB)

Corporal **Robert Bowtell** *age 33, 11 January 1966*
Sapper **Leslie Prowse** *age 21, 25 July 1966*
Sapper **Ramon Deed** *age 21, 10 May 1967*
Sapper **Glen Bartholomew** *age 22, 18 May 1967*
Sapper **Gregory Brady** *age 22, 20 May 1967*
Sapper **John O'Hara** *age 22, 20 May 1967*
Sapper **Dennis Brooks** *age 22, 22 May 1967*
Sapper **Terry "Butch" Crenshaw** *age 22, 30 May 1967*
Sapper **Donald Write** *age 23, 10 July 1967*
Warrant Officer 2 **Barry "Pod" Moore** *age 30, 16 November 1967*
Corporal **Maurice Hutchison** *age 28, 16 November 1967*
Staff Sergeant **Colin McLachlan** *age 38, 18 February 1968*
Lance Corporal **John Garrett** *age 20, 18 February 1968*
Sapper **David Steen** *age 21, 18 February 1968*
Sapper **Alan Pattison** *age 19, 22 March 1968*
Sapper **Geoffrey Coombs** *age 22, 22 March 1968*
Sapper **Vincent Tobin** *age 24, 22 March 1968*
Staff Sergeant **Peter Gollagher** *age 32, 5 April 1968*
Sapper **Kenneth Nicholson** *age 23, 12 April 1968*
Sapper **Norman Le Bherz** *age 22, 13 September 1968*
Sapper **Peter Bramble** *age 21, 22 May 1969*
Sapper **Ronald Davies** *age 24, 28 May 1969*
Sapper **Ronald Smillie** *age 19, 23 July 1969*
Sapper **John Smith** *age 21, 23 July 1969*
Lance Corporal **Bryant Hansen** *age 20, 21 October 1969*
Sapper **Alan Duncuff** *age 21, 25 October 1969*
Sapper **Tony Lisle** *age 22, 12 November 1969*
Sapper **John Greene** *age 21, 8 December 1969*
Sapper **Anthony Hollis** *age 23, 30 January 1970*
Corporal **Ronald Engstrom** *age 22, 30 January 1970*
Sapper **Rodney Hubble** *age 19, 28 February 1970*
Sapper **Harold Hurst** *age 21, 29 April 1970*
Sapper **Ian Scott** *age 21, 14 June 1970*
Sapper **Peter Penneystone** *age 22, 2 August 1970*
Corporal **Noel Smith** *age 22, 28 March 1971*
Sapper **Robert Wilson** *age 21, 16 July 1971*

Fallen Sappers not attached to 1 Field Sqn RAE
(see note below)

Warrant Officer 2 **James MacDonald** ICB age 26, 7 February 1966 (with AATTV)
Sergeant **James Ruddy** age 32, 30 May 1967 (Det 55 Engr SWS)
Sergeant **David Briggs** 30 July 1967 (32 Small Ship Sqn)
Warrant Officer **Lindsay Bancks** 10 June 1969 (17 Const Sqn)
Warrant Officer **Donald Stahl** ICB 29 October 1968 (with AATTV)
Lance Corporal **Reg Maza** 17 February 1970 (32 Small Ship Sqn)
Sergeant **David Waldock** age 30, 26 June 1970 (Det 55 Engrwks Pk)
Sapper **Martinus Schuit** age 23, 22 October 1970 ((17 Const Sqn))
Sapper **Ross Clarke** 25 January 1971 (106 Fd Wksps)

NOTE: This notice does nothing but note that the list of persons immediate above were not, according to available records, attached to 1st Field Sqn RAE. They may or may not be entitled to the award of the ACB. That is a matter is for Army to determine. Unit Associations of Units other than 1st Field Sqn whose members fell due to "War Fighting" in Viet Nam may pursue the ACB issue with Army.