



1 FIELD SQUADRON GROUP  
**'FOLLOW THE SAPPER'**  
 THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS  
 QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

Website - [www.1fieldsappers.org](http://www.1fieldsappers.org)  
 email: [info@1fieldsappers.org](mailto:info@1fieldsappers.org)

## Greetings fellow Sappers and Friends.

Zoom. Zooming. Zoomed. These seem to be the latest additions to our vernacular. The months since our last edition have zoomed by. So much has changed in such a short time. We are living a new 'normal' like it or not. COVID 19 has impacted all our lives. We have not been able to zoom over borders or travel overseas to visit loved ones or friends so we embrace this newish bit of technology and hold zoom sessions. Just recently our 1 Field Squadron Group held its AGM by zoom. That was a success. We had a zoom to discuss a succession plan for our Association. Also a success and is a 'work in progress'. I am sure some of you folks will have used this media or something similar like TEAMS to hook up with family groups or friends. We can probably call this one of the 'positives' coming out of COVID 19.

As some will know I am involved in the sponsorship of some Montagnard folks in Vietnam who came from the Vinh Son orphanages in Kon Tum and who are now studying at university in Ho Chi Minh City. I visited them in January this year. Who knows when I will see them again but yet another platform enables me to keep in touch. I use the 'messenger' feature of Facebook. I know FB cops a lot of bad press but to be able to chat with these young folk face to face with fantastic reception is good for them and me. They can tell me all about their studies or concerns they might have and occasionally I can proffer some advice or guidance to them. Having someone to chat to, to listen to and to share a burden is so important for us all, particularly in this new and uncertain COVID 19 place we inhabit.

I get it that technology is a bit daunting for many of us. The old 'K Phone' or 'AN PRC 77' was a lot simpler, but I reckon a tool that helps us keep in touch with those we care about, is great. It keeps us healthy. Many was the time I have asked my Son to put me on the right track how to work this stuff to best effect. The key is to not be afraid to ask someone – anyone – how to tap into this stuff and just keep in touch. You have to agree, some contact is better than no contact.

As we zoom into a very different Christmas, to all our readers and family/friends/associates, hang tough, be resilient and stay well. My very best wishes for a safe and happy albeit different Christmas. Let us all hope for a fantastic 2021 in a more stable and peaceful Globe.

Derek Smith - Editor

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### An Appeal for HELP!

Go to our website to read and respond an open letter from George Hulse seeking support for a brother in need - John Kimmorley

[www.1fieldsappers.org/blog](http://www.1fieldsappers.org/blog)

## Contact Details

**Please ensure your mail and contact details are correct!**

If you have relocated or your contact details have changed please message our Hon Secretary directly at:

[info@1fieldsappers.org](mailto:info@1fieldsappers.org)

or

P O Box 236 Raymond Terrace  
 NSW 2324

facebook

## Vale - 1 FD SQN GP RAE members:

The following list is of our brothers who have marched out since our last newsletter.

SPR Kenneth Charles Hawke	21 EST 1968/69	Passed away 9 August 2020
CPL Donal (Paddy) Healey	1 FD SQN GP 1970/71	Passed away 5 September 2020
SPR William Clifford	21 EST 1968/69	Passed away 18 September 2020
SPR Peter Zadebernyj	21 EST 1969/70	Passed away 8 October 2020
CPL Michael James Moon	1 FD SQN GP 1969/70	Passed away 8 October 2020
SPR Colin George Smith	21 EST 1967/68	Passed away 23 October 2020
LTCOL William Edward Harrison	1 FD SQN GP 1968/69	Passed away 5 November 2020
CPL Dennis Errol Ellis	1 FD SQN WKSP 1970/71	Passed away 13 November 2020
	(and first tour 17 CONST SQN WKSP 1967/68)	



The Corps also lost a former CO/CI of SME, COL John Malcolm Hutcheson MC. COL Hutcheson passed away on 18 August 2020. He served as an Assault Pioneer Platoon commander in 3 RAR during the Korean War and served as Chief Engineer of Australian Force Vietnam from 1971 to 1972.

Sadly also and my apologies for not including this earlier, Mr. Bill Watson, grandson of icon LTCOL Stan Watson of Watson's Pier (Gallipoli) fame, was tragically killed in a vehicle accident on 17 November 2019. Bill and other family members were on our 100th anniversary tour of Gallipoli.



L to R. Bill Watson, Joshua Funder and Derek Smith  
At the site of Watsons Pier, Gallipoli June 2015

Our deepest sympathies to all those families of those we have lost.



As Christmas approaches, I wanted to share this gem. Vietnamese orphans receiving a Christmas gift during the Vietnam War. Picture used courtesy of Ms. Jannet Marring USA. Let us hope for a bit more peace on our earth and much more good will among men for 2021.



I received this link from Mr. Ray Payne (Veteranweb). Some may have it. Pick any red dot on the map and it indicates what incident it was and any 'after action' report. Well worth a look.

<https://vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au/battlemap>

Answers to "Who am I?" (see page 7) : A. Peter North B. Derek Smith

### Contact Address:

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### 1 Field Squadron Group Web Site

is maintained by John Robertson at  
Visreal Productions - Auckland NZ  
Mob. +64 21 430 166  
Email: [visrealproductions@gmail.com](mailto:visrealproductions@gmail.com)

We acknowledge photos marked with \* are from AWM or Wikipedia  
All others are from private collections and in some cases source is unknown.



**AUSTRALIAN ARMY**  
1 Field Squadron, 1st Combat Engineer Regiment

BQ17671591

**1 Field Squadron RAE Association**  
**Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association**

Dear 1 Fd Sqn Associations,

### **1 FIELD SQUADRON QUARTELY UPDATE**

2020 continues to provide us with unique opportunities to demonstrate the squadron's flexibility and to serve the Australian people. As I write this update, a large part of the squadron is deployed to the Northern Territory borders as part of Operation COVID-19 ASSIST. The remainder of the squadron continues to conduct training, focusing on key courses that will set the conditions for success in 2021.

This quarter allowed us to conduct some good field training. The squadron as a whole participate in a regimental exercise in Mount Bunday Training Area, with our squadron training focussing on search, obstacle construction, and breaching. 2 Troop exploited an additional opportunity to join with a Combat Team from 5 RAR, participating in Exercise Koolondong alongside the United States Marine Corps. Finally, two of our teams participated in 5 RAR's Section Competition, earning praise from the infantry for their performance.

Despite compressed training opportunities, our junior leaders continue to perform well – I've been very impressed by their efforts throughout the year.

With the development of the La Nina weather pattern, we will not be at all surprised if the year has more challenges for us to come. Once again, we hope that all former members of the squadron and their families remain safe and look forward to seeing you face to face in the near future.

Yours sincerely

**Matthew Scott**  
Major  
Officer Commanding 1 Field Squadron  
Robertson Barracks  
Thorngate Road  
PALMERSTON NT 0830

13 October 2020



Exercise Goanna Sprint



Exercise Koolondong



Operation Bushfire Assist.

## President's Report December 2020

### Engineer Monument to WWI Sappers in France

As a consequence of COVID-19, our memorial in Amiens France has been rescheduled for 8 August 2021. However, we have yet to receive confirmation of these arrangements from the Amiens City Council. If a successful anti-CV19 vaccine is available and distributed universally by June 2021 the bridge will probably be a goer. If not, it is likely that our bridge may be deferred for yet another year. I will keep you updated through future newsletters and on our website going forward.

### Reunion 22,23 and 24 October 2021

Our reunion for 2021 will be at the Toowong RSL on 22, 23 and 24 October 2021. Details are available in this newsletter in respect of timings, places and accommodation options etc.

### Meritorious Unit Citation for 1 FD SQN

1 FD SQN, including its iterations as 1 FD COY (and for a brief period 28 FD COY), is the most battle-hardened unit in RAE. It has an awesome military history with an inescapable link to major battles spanning more than 105 years. A submission has been posted to the Directorate of Honours and Awards in Canberra recommending that 1 FD SQN be awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation.

1 FD SQN has filled the criterion "for sustained outstanding service in warlike operations" numerous times.

The committee that prepared this 52 page submission include; Major Matthew Scott (OC 1 FD SQN), Major Derek Smith OAM, Sapper Jim Weston, Sapper Robin Farrell and myself. I congratulate the writing team on a job very well done.

We wait and see what our folk in Canberra think of our claim. It will take many months to receive an answer and even then, we may need to refer our claim to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal should further action be necessary. More to Follow.



Our President – George Hulse OAM – We are so proud of him.  
Pictured above with His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC,  
Governor of Queensland.

### Succession Plan

LTCOL John Pritchard (Retd) conducted a teleconferencing meeting to discuss the way forward in terms of handing the reins of management of the Association on to younger hands. The meeting was a success and we hope to be moving forward as time goes on with an influx of our younger 1 FD SQN members onto the management team of the Association. Watch this space.

### AGM conducted on 12 October 2020

The Association conducted its Annual General Meeting by teleconference on 12 October 2020. All current members of the management committee were re-elected and we heartily welcome an additional member on the management committee in Tony Andrews.

Both Resolutions amending our Constitution were passed and this was forwarded to the Office of Fair Trading in Brisbane.

### Christmas 2020

The committee wishes every member of the Association a very healthy and Happy Christmas and successful 2021.

### 1 Field Squadron Workshop SVN 66/71

Our RAEME brothers in 1 FD SQN have produced a YouTube presentation for you to view. Check it out at:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8Q6Y77nM-s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8Q6Y77nM-s)

Follow The Sapper – George Hulse OAM, President  
1 December 2020

## And a bit of humor from George A true story . . . Are You Through?

The location is FSPB Coral. The date is May 1968. The place is the Command Post (a hole in the ground) of 2 TP 1 FD SQN GP RAE on the perimeter of the FSPB. Two officers are present. Captain Rod Palmer Commander of 2 TP and Lieutenant George Hulse Acting Commander 1 TP. The Captain was about to demonstrate to the Lieutenant how to go about expanding communications in the battle-space.

A couple of nights prior, 1 FD SQN had come under a heavy attack from 141 NVA REGT and during the melee Corporal Kevin 'Shorty' Moon was severely wounded in the lower limbs. He was rescued by SSGT John Stahtoures and rushed by urgent DUSTOFF to a huge American hospital at Long Binh.

Captain Palmer wanted to know how his Corporal was faring so he decided to call him by telephone. The telephone was a military Tele K Set powered by two D Cell batteries and connected to the Squadron switchboard by two copper wires. Captain Palmer had memorised the codenames of every switchboard between the FSPB and the American hospital at Long Binh.

He started: "Elevate (the 1 FD SQN switchboard codename) this is Captain Palmer, please put me through to 'Emu' (the 1 ATF HQ switchboard)". And so he went from switchboard to switchboard until he arrived at the hospital. A sweet sounding female American voice confirmed that he was connected to the Ward in which Shorty was located. She handed the phone over to Shorty and he and his boss had a great conversation. But. During the conversation an American voice came up and asked "Are you through, Sir?". Naturally, Captain Palmer being an Australian responded "Yes, thank you". There was an audible 'Click' and the line went dead. Conversation over. Captain Palmer then realised that to an American 'through' means 'finished' – not - are you through to your connection. Are you through? Yes. Click. Bugger!

GENERAL/SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

Time Allowed: 40 minutes

Text Books: As per Joining Instruction

All questions to be completed.

1. History. Describe the history of the Papacy from its origins to the present day, concentrating especially but not exclusively on its social, political, economic, religious and philosophical impact on Europe, Asia, America and Africa. Be brief, concise and specific.
2. Medicine. You are provided with a razor blade, a piece of gauze and a bottle of Scotch. Remove your appendix. Do not suture your work until your work has been inspected. You have 15 minutes.
3. Public Speaking. 2,500 riot-crased immigrants are storming the local Citizens Advice Bureau. Calm them. You may use any ancient language except Greek or Latin.
4. Biology. Create life. Estimate the differences in subsequent human culture if this form of life had developed 500 million years earlier, with special attention to its probable effect on the British parliamentary party system. Prove your thesis.
5. Music. Write a piano concerto. Orchestrate and perform it with flute and drum. You will find a piano under your seat.
6. Sociology. Estimate the sociological problems which might accompany the end of the world. Construct an experiment to test your theory.
7. Engineering. The disassembled parts of a high-powered rifle have been placed in a box on your desk. You will also find an instruction manual printed in Swahili. In 10 minutes a hungry Bengal tiger will be admitted to the room. Take whatever action you feel appropriate. Be prepared to justify your decision.
8. Political Science. There is a red telephone on the desk behind you. Start World War III. Report at length on its sociological aspects if any.
9. Philosophy. Sketch the development of human thought; estimate its significance. Compare with the development of any other kind of thought.
10. General Knowledge. Define the Universe. Describe in detail. Give three examples.

NOTE: A pass mark of 85 per cent is set.**Test Your Knowledge**

I believe I acquired this whilst attending the 1975 Administrative and Technical Officers course at LWC Canungra. There were four RAE members on this course. They were Trevor McEwan, Ross McMurray, Doug Tonkin and myself – Derek Smith. A well known ex-Sapper also attended. He was Dennis Ayoub (Dec). I am pleased to report that our passing was not reliant on nailing this quiz.

**An Appeal for HELP!**

**Go to our website to read and respond an open letter from George Hulse seeking support for a brother in need - John Kimmorley**  
[www.1fieldsappers.org/blog](http://www.1fieldsappers.org/blog)

## 1 FD SQN GP RAE Association Reunion: 22, 23 and 24 October 2021

The 1 FD SQN GP RAE Association 2021 reunion is to be held at Figs Restaurant in the Wests Rugby Football Centre, 65 Sylvan Road, Toowong, Brisbane Qld on 22, 23 and 24 October 2021.

Cost is \$100-00 per person. This does not include drinks – individuals pay for whatever choice of drinks they prefer during the dinner on 23 October and the buffet lunch on 24 October 2021. **Please note though that should COVID 19 prevent the Reunion going ahead and members have already paid their \$100, this will be refunded in full. We have our fingers crossed that this will not be the case.**

The format will be:

1. Friday 22 October 2020 commencing at 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Registration and Meet and Greet at Figs Restaurant.
2. Saturday 23 October 2021 commencing at 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. Registration and Meet and Greet at Figs Restaurant.
3. Saturday 23 October 2021 commencing at 4:00 pm until 5:15 pm a commemoration service at the RSL Cenotaph (on top of a small hill) adjacent to Figs Restaurant.
4. Saturday 23 October 2021 the reunion dinner commencing at 6:30 pm in Figs Restaurant until 11:30 pm.
5. Sunday 24 October 2021 AGM commencing at 11:00 am in the Figs Restaurant area.

6. Sunday 24 October 2021 commencing at 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm a buffet lunch in Figs Restaurant.

**Accommodation**

There are numerous hotels, motels and Airbnb in Toowong and surrounds. Two establishments that have provided good quality accommodation for conventions like our reunion include the Jephson Hotel [www.jephsonhotel.com.au](http://www.jephsonhotel.com.au) (07 3736 4400) and the Benson Court Motel [www.bensoncourt.com.au](http://www.bensoncourt.com.au) (1800 350 244). Both places are within walking distance to trains, buses and ferries connecting Toowong with the City of Brisbane as well as the shopping centre and a number of eateries including the iconic Regatta Hotel. The reunion venue is about a ten-minute walk from either of these establishments. More accommodation in the area of Brisbane City is available through search engines such as Booking.com etc. Toowong is about 35 Kms from Brisbane Airport. **Please ask when booking any accommodation about refunds in case COVID 19 prevents you coming.**

**Things to do in Brisbane in Late October**

Visit [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do). Check the website [www.1fieldsappers.org](http://www.1fieldsappers.org) and our newsletters for more information on visiting Brisbane.

The article below was authored by our President and gives a remarkable snapshot of the history of one of our Corps legends. The first part is below. More will appear in our 2021 edition.

## Interviews with War Dog Operatives

Series 1, Profile 6 – Korea

*Captain John M Hutcheson MC – Royal Australian Engineers  
Dateline for this profile is 09 January 2010.  
All photos and images are the property of ADFTWDA.*

Major John M Hutcheson MC in  
a newspaper article circa 1955.



### Background

Captain (Capt) John M Hutcheson was born in 1927 at Townsville, Queensland. In 1940, John's family moved to Newcastle where he completed his education to NSW Intermediate level. John entered Duntronn on 24 February 1945 and graduated into the Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) with the rank of Lieutenant. He was posted to the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan (BCOF) for twelve months. He was Troop Commander in 12 Field Company RAE and took over as Acting Officer commanding the Coy when his boss moved on to other work there. On his return to Australia (RTA), he attended Sydney University to complete his studies at the Bachelor Level for his Degree in Engineering (BE), and was promoted to Captain prior to his graduation. On graduation from University, John was posted to 20 Field Park Squadron RAE in Sydney.

### Korea 1952

In 1952, John was posted again to Japan to the British Commonwealth Forces – Korea (BCFK). While in Japan, John was re-posted to the 3 Regiment (3 RAR) as the Assault Pioneer Platoon (Aslt Pnr Pl) Commander. In those days the Aslt Pnr Pl was commanded by an RAE Captain. John assumed command of the Aslt Pnr Pl in the 3 RAR Support Coy position on Hill 187. This position was elevated and had direct vision of the Chinese positions across the valley, through which the Samichon River flowed. These hills were nicknamed "Matthew", "Mark" and "Luke". The hill named "John" was out of sight to the Australian troops occupying Hill 187. The Chinese troops also had direct vision of the Australians and the area between both forces, "no-man's land", was fiercely contested by both sides.

For a short period of time, John visited the British Field Park Squadron and received some training in military working dog handling. This exposure to dogs would be a prophetic gesture in the near future. Patrols and ambushes were a nightly occurrence and violent clashes were experienced practically every night. The Chinese Artillery shelled Hill 187 with particular attention and intensity because it housed 3 RAR Coy elements and had a section of the 3 RAR Mortar Platoon on its reverse slope. 3 RAR had recently executed the brilliant attack on the Chinese forces at the Battle of Maryan San and were now into the Defence Phase of warfare back in the Australian sector of the British Commonwealth Divisional area. The Korean War had become a slogging match between the Allies and the North Korean/ Chinese Forces. 3 RAR dug in deep and adopted trench warfare. John's platoon position received some serious shelling while located on top of Hill 187 and the platoon was withdrawn to a defensive platoon position, protecting the Bn HQ. From here the Aslt Pnr Pl conducted reconnaissance patrols, fighting and standing patrols into no-man's-land. It also placed on their Platoon Commander, an unenviable task.

Captain Hutcheson had the job of locating and plotting minefields on to maps. These minefields were all laid by friendly forces. The Chinese did not lay minefields in the British sector. However, the minefields had been penetrated many times and heavy artillery bombardments had made the original records and minefield marking arrangements, questionable. On location of a minefield, John would undertake a night patrol of two personnel. Himself and a signaller with a radio.

He would measure and mark the extremities of each minefield and ensure that the minefield gaps were safe and well marked. For this work, John was awarded a personal Military Cross (MC). (Note: some officers received an MC as a reward for the work of their unit as a collective effort. Other officers received the MC for outstanding performance on their individual merit. John Hutcheson was one such man).

John handled a dog himself in this area. In his words: "The Regimental Medical Officer (RMO) (this is the Bn doctor) complained to the 3 RAR Commanding Officer (CO), who was Lt Col Ron Hughes, that he, the RMO, had never been on a patrol into no-man's-land. The CO arranged for the 2 IC of D Coy (Captain John Warteton) to take him on a night patrol. The patrol moved out through D Coy and within five minutes of leaving, patrolled straight into a Chinese force which attacked them. Travelling with the patrol was a Lance Corporal (LCpl) Edward Hannen from the King's Regiment (British Army) who was there for familiarization purposes. The King's Regiment were about to relieve 3 RAR in place. In the ensuing battle, the LCpl was killed in action (KIA) and there were several Australians hit at the same time. The wounded needed to be guided back through the nearest minefield. I was sent out to find Warteton's patrol and guide them back through the minefield. The dead LCpl was left behind.

So, the next night, the Bn Intelligence Officer (Captain Poinangar) sent me out again to try and locate the KIA LCpl. I was given a mine detecting dog and escorted by the same diggers who were attacked the night previously. I believe that these diggers were not too keen to do this patrol and they appeared a bit nervous to me. I led the patrol out with the dog on a long lead. We traversed the minefield and out into no-man's-land, but then the dog caught the scent of dead and wounded Chinese soldiers who had been dragged away from the battle site toward Hill 75 (Matthew). These dead and wounded Chinese soldiers had been dragged by their mates to the Samichon River and then back into their own lines. The dog was following the drag marks and taking me straight toward the Chinese positions.

The dog was a German Shepherd with good ability to detect mines and explosives and also track humans, particularly Chinese or North Koreans. However, the escort team was showing signs of not wanting to continue, so I called the dog off the search and we returned to our own lines. I did not locate the dead LCpl. He was found and brought back the following night by another patrol".

It is noteworthy that John must be the only person in military history who handled a war dog on operations at the rank of Captain and with a Military Cross.

John was rotated out of 3 RAR after six months and became the Intelligence Officer Royal Engineers (IORE) of 28 Field Engineer Regiment (Royal Engineers). This was a part of the 1 Commonwealth Division stationed in Korea. John completed his tour of duty in Korea in 1953 and RTA to the 20th National Service Bn and then onto the new IORE position at the School of Military Engineering (SME).

... continued on Page 12

## Sapper Newsletter

The High Range Marauder Issue 3 - 27th June 1974

A letter to the Editor from the late Kel Gealy.

Thank you for the copy of the "Marauder" which arrived today. I am very pleased to see that the paper is keeping up the usual standard of Engineer papers and is still devoted to shooting down the ones who need shooting down and placing the sacred cows where they need to be placed.

It may be of interest to re-cap on some of the previous Engineer scandal sheets papers. First was the **Blowdown Bugle**, a periodical published when 24 Construction Sqn was based at Iron Range for the Operation Blowdown period. This was not registered for transmission through the post incidentally. It was birthed by a then CPL Ned Hanlon, a man who was eminently suited to throwing brickbats when brickbats were needed. Second was the **Nui Dat News** which came into being when CAPT Ralph Pridmore called me into his office and said, "The OC wants a unit newspaper. Produce one." Now that paper was a real stirrer and we were always proud of the fact that no one really minded being shot down and nobody had their feeling hurt. Jokes were stolen from Playboy usually, and one NSM sent a copy to his Mum who sent it down the line to her local member who sent it on and I received a kick in the slats (officially) from the OC. Seems the Chief of Staff thought it was an obscene publication.

The fact that the same mail produced a pat on the back for me for re-designing the AAF A196 didn't cancel the other out was ironic.

At the same time 17 Const Sqn produced **The Sandy Sapper**, a paper which ran strongly for a long time then disappeared. As Editors of the Nui Dat News were returned to Australia, others took up the pen and kept it going. The bloke that took over from me was SGT Derek Smith. What- ever happened to him, now???

On the second tour of the funny farm, 55 EWPS needed to be brightened up a bit so, ably assisted by the Prince of Stirrers, Neil Bridge, I started **The Hairy Goat**. This worthy publication ran true to form and several people wanted a copy. As with Nui Dat News, the first issue ran to 40 copies and distribution built up rapidly to over 140 a week. The first to complain if the copies were not received was the crew from SME. Now we have **The Marauder** – another group effort. May God ----- bless her and all who write in her, and this bluddy yptewrtire can't spell either.

Best wishes,  
Kel Gealy

### RAE CHARACTERS

GORDON ROY GREEN – 1 FD SQN GP

18 JUNE 1970 TO 16 JUNE 1971

Passed away May 2008

Our Corps has had some great characters over the years. Gordon clearly was one such character. These tales are from three of our Committee members. It is anyone's guess what other stories are out there.

From Peter Krause: Gordon Green commonly referred to as Greeny, served in 1 TP in 1970/71. His most famous and highly respected achievement was to help himself (on 1 TP's behalf) to a very large quantity of the neighbouring Provost (Military Police) beer supply along with the aid of a 1 TP wheelbarrow and driver. Ed comment – now that takes guts or a very desperate thirst.

From Jim Weston: Gordon and myself were seconded to Small Ships in 1969/70 after the Jeparit was commissioned into service when the warfies went on strike. We were on shift, loading all sorts of supplies from heavy plant to cartons of beer. The odd carton would accidentally bash up against the side of the ship and would need to be drank ASAP. The job itself was not outstanding. More boredom and routine.

The excitement was after work. Around that time there was a brewery strike and lots of pubs in Sydney had no beer or interstate beer. One night we were on the prowl in North Sydney looking to quench our savage thirsts. Dressed more for the beach in shorts, tee-shirts and thongs (albeit clean, neat and tidy) Greeny finds a narrow doorway open and gives me the nod. "Let's give this place a go." Up the stairs we go and Greeny just bowls straight in as if he has an invitation. I stand my ground at the top step unsure what may happen. The place is full of people done up like it's the Ritz Carlton. After a short time my eyes adapted to the mood lighting and I spot Greeny with a beer in hand being offered a tray of eats. Then I have a seven-foot bouncer asking me, "What the &\$%@ are you dong here?" I look up gingerly and reply, "I'm with Greeny." The bouncer gives me a pat on the shoulder and an 'OK' then takes me over to the group Greeny was with. We had a couple of hours enjoying free drinks and eats. I still don't know if Greeny knew anyone there. Greeny bloody legend.

And the last one from John Pritchard: We were down on the southern end of the Barrier Minefield tucked n behind a PF post. We were trialling a modified 'Root Rake' on the mine clearer 48A. On the first night it was all quiet and I was bunked in with Greenie close to our Southern perimeter to which we had run a dannert wire with some 'C' ration tins with stones in them. Just as dawn was appearing we heard the rattle in the wire. We waited with baited breath to see what was happening but NO – Greenie had to recon by fire. With that he whips out his 9mm and fires off 3-4 rapid shots. No more rattles. Greenies quip "That fixed em!"



Taken at a 1 Troop reunion shows Gordon Green, Jim Weston, Des Curtis, Don Stringer and Peter Krause.

If any of our readers have stories they are happy to have printed in our FTS, please send Derek Smith an email at [dvsmith@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dvsmith@ozemail.com.au)

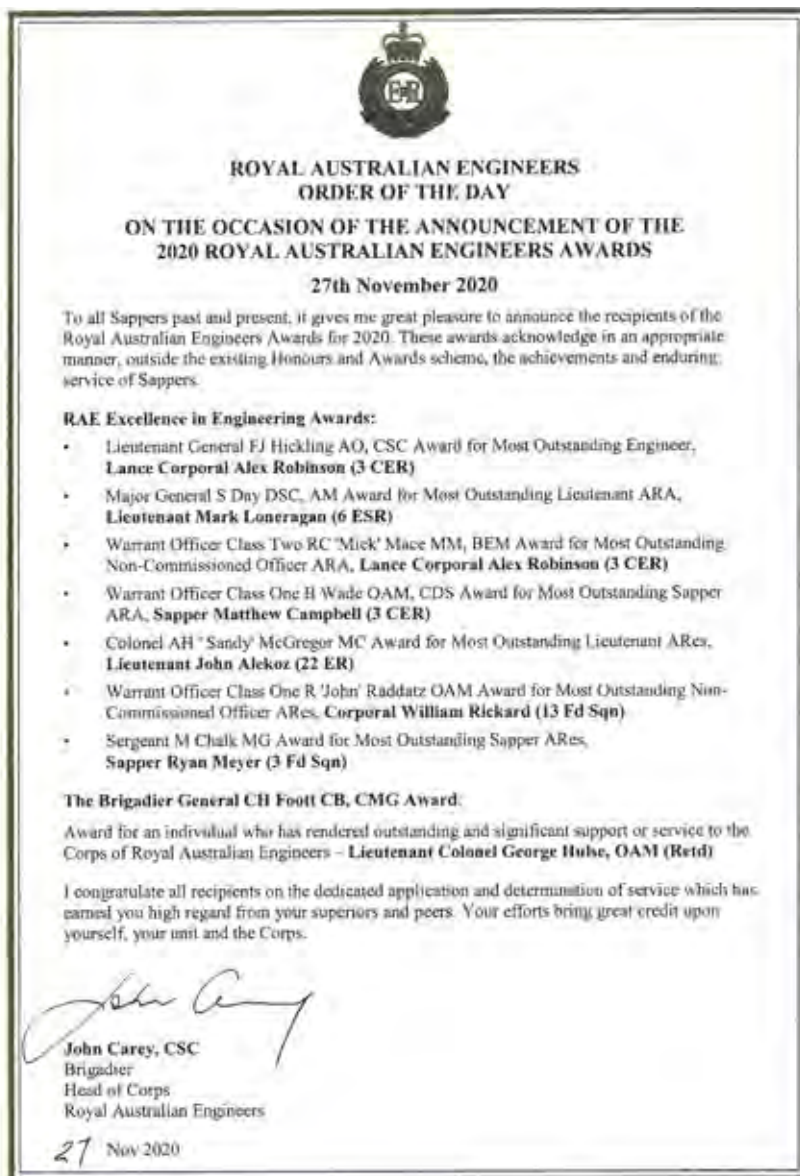
### Who Am I?

This is just for a bit of fun. Some of our Group have kindly given me some photos taken when they were just little tackers. The challenge is to guess who the guys in the photos are. Their identity will be found at the bottom of Page 2. So over to you. No peeking. Take a guess first.



A

B



### A Blast From The Past:

While scratching through old documents I came across these two cards. As best I recall, I would have bought them in Vietnam in 1966 and used similar cards to send to loved ones back home for Christmas or birthdays. They are hand painted on what appears to be silk. So beautifully done and depicting such beautiful Vietnamese rural scenes. Nice souvenirs. No doubt some readers will recall these kinds of things.



### 'The First Apple'

A woman ran a red traffic light and crashed into a man's car. Both of their cars were demolished, but amazingly neither of them was hurt. After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said, "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unharmed. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!" The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of 25 year old scotch didn't break. Surely God meant for us to drink this vintage delicacy and celebrate our good fortune." Then she handed the bottle to the man. The man nods his head in agreement, opened it, drank half the bottle and then handed it back to the woman. The woman took the bottle, immediately put the cap back on, and handed it back to the man. The man asks, "Aren't you having any?" She replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police." Some years ago Adam ate the apple. Men will never learn!

A bit of humor from Peter North. Clearly this bloke was NOT a Sapper.



## Dear Fellow Sappers

I spoke recently with a young combat engineer who supported Operation Bushfire Assist and participated in Australia's response to COVID19. His year like many of us started amidst a crisis. With the Nation on fire, he was constantly on task – opening and clearing routes, manning community centres, coordinating and delivering essential supplies to isolated communities. Then, with limited respite, he was redeployed for quarantine and border control.

This lad recounted to me how proud he was helping Australians at home; how he enjoyed working alongside our South West Pacific partners; and how much he had learned being a key part of the State and Territory police and health response. Most importantly, he mentioned to me how inspired he was by the people in his Regiment – they had responded with vigour, enthusiasm, passion, pride and professionalism.

His story has stayed with me. Like so many others' stories it speaks to the power of inspiration. In our 118th anniversary year, it reminds us why we train so hard and why our effort matters in a tangible way. This year has been challenging for all of us both as a Corps and for our Families – bushfires, floods, pandemics, isolation, a troubled global economy and increasing geopolitical tension. However, a ready and resilient Army and Nation is kept ready and resilient through its Engineers. RAE exists to provide engineering solutions for our Nation's toughest challenges. In 2020, we have again led from the front – our Sappers are leaders among their peers; innovators at the forefront of national security, military engineering, humanitarian response, disaster relief, capacity building, facility management and technical design. Together, as a Corps of over 3,500 men and women, we continue to be a globally-engaged force providing unmatched strength and value to others.

The Corps has been achieving 'more together' by 'partnering for impact.' Restrictions limited travel, however, I was impressed by how we reached out to academia, Industry, the other Services, Government agencies and our international allies and partners. Notably, this included all of us - all Engineer specialisations, Engineers in the Joint Army Staff, the Part Time Force and Sapper Associations. Although things were planned and then frustratingly postponed or cancelled, remarkably, the Corps was still able to bring together SAPPER – Plan 2028 'A Strategy for Army's Military Engineer Capability.' This offers a pathway for the Corps and Defence to inform future innovation and adaptation.

This has been an awesome endeavour... but my posting order has arrived...I'm deploying overseas for a while to Headquarters US Forces Korea. It has been the greatest of honours to have served as your Head of Corps and this responsibility has now passed from me to my good friend BRIG Matt Galton DSC. Matt is a combat hardened seasoned professional, with enormous full spectrum engineer experience. He will continue the momentum and lead our Corps to the next level. I know you will give BRIG Galton the same enthusiastic, passionate, candid and professional support you provided me.



I would like to thank the COs/RSMs and key Engineer staff; MAJGEN Steve Day and the team of RAE Colonel Commandants; the RAE Foundation; and the Veteran community who are an absolute force multiplier, essential in supporting influence and advocacy, and sharing information to the wider community. Special thanks goes to the Corps RSM WO1 Sean Chainey; a wise leader and strong advocate for all soldiers. He has gone the extra mile this year to ensure our men and women are being remunerated appropriately and honoured at every opportunity.

I've always been proud of the men and women who have gone through the Home of the Sapper. They are the heroes who set the demolitions, clear the minefields and defuse the IEDs; renovate the schools and hospitals; build the roads, bridges and airfields; help train and mentor our partners; deliver strategic infrastructure both at home and abroad—and fight as close combatants when the need arises. For all of you who are deployed around the world, including throughout Australia, whether training now or on operations – THANK YOU! You are doing incredible work of tremendous importance and are making an enormous positive difference. For those of you preparing to go into harm's way, please take care – make sure you maintain the highest of standards, remember our rich Sapper heritage and enduring legacy, and importantly, keep safe.

I wish you and your Families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for your service.

Follow the Sapper!  
All the Best,  
John  
JOHN CAREY, CSC  
Brigadier

Chief of Staff | Headquarters Joint Operations Command

### Executive and Committee Members 2020 - 2021

#### Patron:

Brigadier John Carey CSC

#### Executive Committee:

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Follow The Sapper

#### Honorary Committee Members:

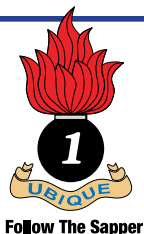
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1 Field Squadron Group  
Royal Australian Engineers Qld Inc.  
22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## 2021 FAMILY REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Venue: Toowong RSL 7/65 Sylvan Road Toowong QLD 4066

### Personal Details

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 'Nickname' or

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Partners Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Required for ID Tags at Reunion) (Required for ID Tags at Reunion)

Other guests attending - Number ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Preferred guests names: \_\_\_\_\_  
It is preferred by the Executive Committee that all Members Guests are over the age of 18 years.

### Cost of Events

**Cost: \$100.00 per person.**

Covers all events, Friday Meet and Greet, including Saturday Memorial Service,  
Saturday Evening Family Reunion Banquet and Sunday Luncheon.

### Payment Details

#### Please accept my Registration for:

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:  Cheque.  Money Order.  Direct Deposit into account.

When making a Direct Deposit, ensure you mark it '**Reunion**' and then your '**Family Name**'  
Heritage Building Society: **BSB 638-070. Account No: 10045570.**

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques, money orders payable to: **1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Qld Inc.**

#### All registrations to be pre-paid by Friday the 8th October 2021

(This is a huge catering event. Much goes on behind the scenes, therefore

**'No Late Numbers will be taken—DEFINITELY.'**)

Please send this Registration Form to:  
2021 Reunion Treasurer  
1 FD Sqn Gp RAE Qld Inc.  
P O Box 236 Raymond Terrace NSW 2324  
e-mail: info@1fieldsappers.org

#### DONATION FORM

AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt required: Yes  
No

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION**

# 1 FIELD SQUADRON GROUP

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS  
QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

( Including 1 Field Squadron Workshops and 21 Engineer Support Troop )

## 'NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION'

Mrs \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname Ms \_\_\_\_\_ First Names \_\_\_\_\_  
(Family Name) Mr \_\_\_\_\_ (Given Names)

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Wife/Partners Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Confidential if ticked)  (Confidential if ticked)

Residential Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Private Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Confidential if ticked)  (Confidential if ticked)

Veteren's Service Details or other appropriate information. (If possible)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Service No. \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Service: From \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Active Service: Yes  NO

Unit/Units \_\_\_\_\_ Which Country Served for? Australia or Other \_\_\_\_\_

Which duties? ( F.E, Plant, Mine Clearing, etc. ) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Year is 1st July to 30th June in each year. Fees are accepted until 30th September, in accordance with the Association's Constitution. Unfinancial members will not be able to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

New Member Entrance Fee \$ 10.00 (Once Only - Inclusive of Association Badge.) \*Lost Badge \$5.00 each  
Annual Subscription Renewal \$ 30.00 (Includes Newsletters)  
**TOTAL \$ 40.00**

MEMBERS SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



## MEMBERSHIP 'RENEWAL / UP-DATE' FORM

\$30.00 per year. (1st July to 30th June)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

Private Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Wife/Partners Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Confidential if ticked)

EXTRA or 'LOST' Membership Lapel Pins Required, please tick - How many?  \$5.00 each P&H included.

MEMBERS SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Return application with Cheque/ Postal Order to PO Box 236 Raymond Terrace NSW 2324 or  
Direct Deposit to Heritage Bank BSB 638-070 Account 10045570 with your details.

Ensure you mark it, 'Membership' and then your 'Surname' or 'Regimental Number' for identification.

IF YOU USE THE DIRECT DEPOSIT FACILITY PLEASE FORWARD THIS FORM AS WELL. NO CASH IN MAIL PLEASE.

... continued from Page 7

## Some additional comments from John Hutcheson MC:

### MINEFIELD DETECTION

"In the Britcom Divisional area all the minefields had been laid by United Nations Forces. I walked and plotted all of the minefields on the Kansas {Reserve Line} which was the launching position for Op Commando to the final Divisional trench warfare area and the site of the Gloucester Battle etc. I was helped by some minefield records - good and bad. Often I found mines outside the fences".

"I also walked and plotted the minefields in the FDLS, some of which I had to find - as battles had traversed these minefields".

### CHINESE ATTITUDE TO MINEWARFARE

Unlike the Vietnam War, the Chinese did not actively lay anti-personal mines on our front. My problem was finding minefields laid by friendly forces who had previously occupied our positions. In their attacks the Chinese tried to skirt our minefields or move through our gaps in minefields but often in the "bug - out" they rushed through the minefields with resultant casualties.

Images courtesy of Sgt Colin "Smiley" Matthews and gifted to LTCOL Hulse in 2009.



**SMILE!** Major J. M. Hutcheson judges three-month-old Canada Terrier in pose for his next picture. The pup was one of a litter of seven, but is now an Army pet.

Major John M Hutcheson MC in a newspaper article circa 1955.



**ATTENTION!** The dog platoon sits stiffly at attention with their handlers and the officers-in-charge. Major J. M. Hutcheson (on right).

Major John M Hutcheson MC with his Mine Dog Section in a newspaper article circa 1955.

## 1 Field Squadron Group Merchandise

### NEW STYLE CAPS AND SHIRTS



1 Fd. Sqn Gp. RAE Tie - \$30.00 + P&H  
 'Aussie Made' 100% Polyester  
 1 Fd. Sqn. Gp. Logo at the bottom &  
 '1 Field Squadron Group' raised print diagonally across navy blue area.



1 Fd. Sqn. Gp. Polo Shirt - \$40.00 + P&H  
 Check out the fabric - breathable and definitely no ironing.

*Note: Sizes are limited to Small (Suitable for the Girls), Medium, Large & Extra Large*



BUMPER STICKERS—\$5.00

Show your support for the Afghanistan veterans by putting this under your Vietnam sticker.



Follow the Sapper Cap - \$17.50 + P&H  
 One size fits most.

### ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

- \* 1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Unit Tie. [ ] No. required \$30.00 ea + \$8.50 P&H= \$ .....
  - \* 1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Cap. [ ] No. required \$17.50 ea. + \$8.50 P&H= \$ .....
  - \* 1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Polo Shirts. Size: { } [ ] No. required \$25.00 ea. + \$8.50 P&H= \$ .....
  - \* Veterans Supporting Veterans' Bumper Stickers [ ] No. Required \$5.00 ea. \$ .....
- (Postage free with other purchases)

ALL Order Forms to the Honorary Treasurer = P O Box 236 Raymond Terrace NSW 2324 Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

'Cheque, Money Order or Direct Deposit by NetBank' (Confirm by email-Please)