

## The Tracker Dogs

Eleven black Labrador dogs were used in Vietnam by the Australian Task Force as the core of Combat Tracker Teams that were deployed from 1967 until the last combat troops left in late 1971.

Cassius, Janus, Trajan, Tiber, Julian, Juno, Justin, Caesar, Marcus and Milo were among the most popular contributors to the war effort in Vietnam. They formed teams between anti-aircraft units and having to part with them at the end of their tours was often a difficult thing the dog handlers had to do in Vietnam.

Sadly, due to Australia's quarantine regulations the dogs could not return home when their tour of duty ended. But they are not forgotten.

Badge made in Australia



## Lift off

Helicopters played a vital role in the Vietnam War. They were used:

- to provide access in thick jungle and mountainous terrain;
- to transport food, water and ammunition;
- as gunships ('bushrangers') to support troops on the ground;
- for the quick transport of wounded back to skilled medical attention, dramatically increasing the chance of survival ('dust off');
- as troop carriers, providing a quick, safe transport that was not possible by road where landmines were a constant threat;
- to move and transport quickly large, heavy pieces of machinery, guns and equipment using the big American Chinooks and Sky Cranes.

The helicopters used in Vietnam by the Australian Army, RAAF and RAN were the Iroquois (Huey) and Sioux.

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## The Gunners

The Gunners provided invaluable fire support and were decisive in the battles of Long Tan, Tet 1968, Coral, Balmoral and Binh Ba. They were a true ANZAC mix of Royal Australian Artillery and New Zealanders.

The guns operated from fire support bases in the approximate centre of their battalion's area of operations. Each gun fired from within a 'bund' of earth which protected the gun from enemy ground fire. Evacuation parties were an integral part of the gunnery forces.

These 105mm guns were in action 24/7 and the crews rotated every twelve months. 105th Battery from Brisbane was awarded a US Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Photo courtesy Ted Robinson.

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## The Long Tan Cross

In the late afternoon of 18 August 1966, D Company, 6 RAR, fought for their lives for three hours in pouring rain, amid the mud and shattered trees of the Long Tan rubber plantation in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam.

Facing an enemy force of some 2500, this company of mostly young National Servicemen, led by a few regulars, called upon all facets of their skills for support for survival.

Eighteen young men lost their lives as a result of the battle.

In 1969, on the anniversary of the battle, during the company's tour of duty, the Long Tan Cross was erected at the site of the battle.

At that same site on 15 April 2002, the Vietnamese people unveiled a completely renovated Long Tan Cross Memorial.

We will remember them

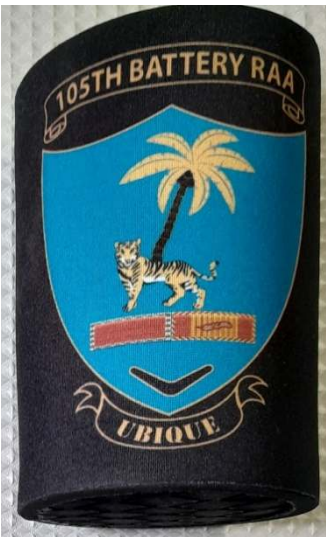




105mm Projectile



Belt Buckle



Earrings Silver & Gold





