

Friday, 8 December 2000

Les Allen
National Admin Manager
Greater Freedom

Dear Les

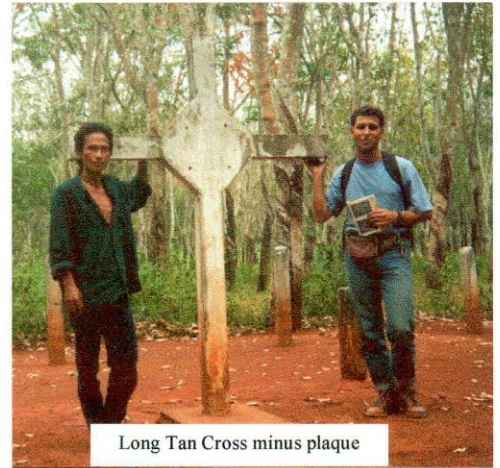
Re the photos of my trip into Long Tan, On a trip to Vietnam in 1993, I went with a hired motor bike and interpreter down to Vung Tau and made my way to the village of Long tan. I went into the plantation and visited the battle area and whilst I was there was invited to have tea with the old couple that lived on the plantation. We sat for over an hour and through my interpreter I asked many questions about days gone by, and spent a good half day trying to walk through the battle using the novel 'a soldier returns' by Terry Burstall as a guide.

I went back to the little farmhouse to thank the old couple for their hospitality, and my interpreter told me that the old man wanted to give me a gift. He was uncovering something wrapped in an old shirt, and when I saw it I nearly fell over. I recognised it instantly as the plaque that should have been on the cross. The interpreter said that he wanted to give it to me because I was Australian, and because I seemed to know a fair bit about the battle so would look after it.

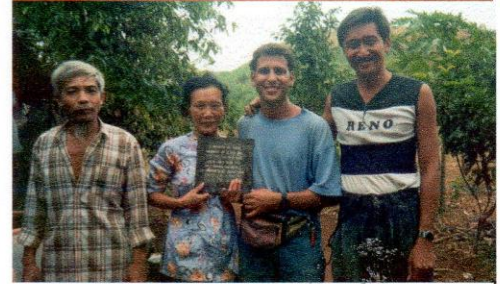
I didn't know what to do and after much thought asked the old man to look after it as it belonged there. On my way north I decided that that was a bad thing to do since some other traveller might get a hold of it and be selfish enough to take it so on arrival in Hanoi went to see Terry in the Australian Embassy and told him the story. He did not believe me, and asked if I had any proof. I told him that I had some undeveloped photos, so I developed them that day and returned. He then 'believed me' and organised someone to go south to retrieve it. I saw a photo in the paper years latter of some diggers who went back to Long Tan and was happy to see the cross in the background and the plaque on the cross where it belongs.

Yours sincerely

DANNY WAKIL
SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER



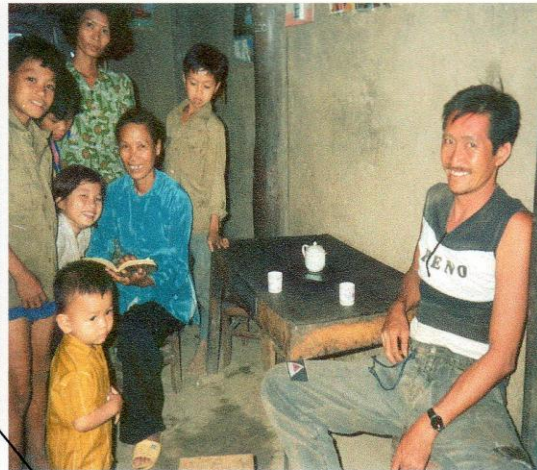
Long Tan Cross minus plaque



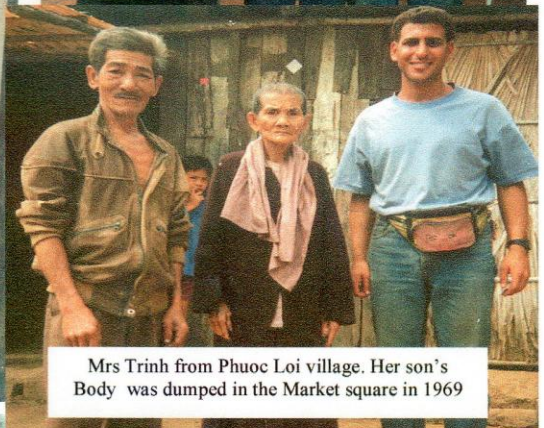
Owners of Long Tan Plantation and plaque from cross



Dang Van Ba Commander of the Hoi My Guerillas



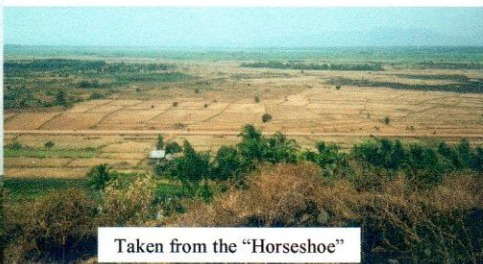
Mrs Nau, water tortured by Aust MP in 1066
Looking at photo in book "A Soldier Returns"



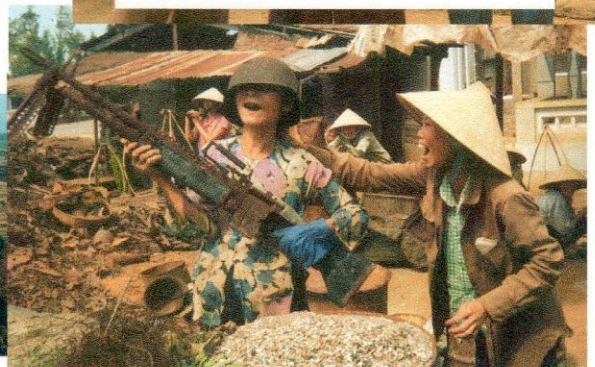
Mrs Trinh from Phuoc Loi village. Her son's
Body was dumped in the Market square in 1969



Windmill erected by Aussie



Taken from the "Horseshoe"



Metal Recovery Company (Danang) mining war metal to sell to Japan

02 60587353 FX0

Nominal Roll



Allen Les	07 5569 0733	
Anderson Barry	02 9958 3190	
Anderson Mal	02 9587 4553	
Bennett Noel	02 6056 2369	<i>Grp</i>
Breaden Glen	03 6433 0673	
Box Peter	02 6035 3862	
Buck Len	02 6458 6846	<i>x</i>
Dean Charlie	08 8284 4840	
Dean Alan	07 4788 6396	
Barry Dixon	02 9601 6594	<i>TRY</i>
Carroll Jack	02 9816 2064	<i>✓</i>
Denner Bob	02 6657 1145	<i>✓</i>
Eason Alan	02 9606 0737	<i>✓</i>
Enright John	02 4992 1958	<i>✓</i>
Fields Barry	02 6736 1031	<i>✓</i>
Francis Les	03 5682 2769	<i>✓</i>
Friske Fred	07 5482 8238	
Galea Tony	03 9772 0421	
Hartas Mick	02 9673 4939	<i>✓</i>
Hattander Ron	02 4625 3056	<i>✓</i>
Hazel Tony	07 5578 4170	<i>✓</i>
Howard Allan	07 4153 3674	
Jones Neville	08 9272 7302	<i>✓</i>
John Jordan	08 93703260	<i>✓</i>
Katona Les	02 4389 4809	<i>✓</i>
Keating Graeme	07 5571 7080	<i>TRY IT</i>
Kidd Bill	02 6573 1534	<i>✓</i>
Laffer Ken	08 9275 2838	<i>???</i>
Masson Keith	08 8633 0734	
McKillop Jim	07 5446 0637	<i>✓</i>
McPherson Gordon	07 5284 8983	<i>NOT CONF</i>
Meaney Barry	03 5744 1976	<i>✓</i>
Meers Gordon	03 6243 8895	<i>✓</i>
Mifsud Charlie	08 8357 2224	<i>TRY IT</i>
Noy Don	07 5594 4064	<i>✓</i>
Priestland Bill	02 9618 3415	<i>→</i>
Prior Wally	02 6072 0318	<i>✓</i>
Quinn Dennis	08 8296 5640	<i>✓</i>
Rainey Barry	02 6035 8544	<i>n/cann</i>
Richey Greg	02 9758 3480	<i>impok</i>
hluter Noel	08 8322 2586	<i>✓</i>
Sherriff Graeme	08 9447 8328	<i>✓</i>
Shortt Robin	03 5025 2224	<i>← selected material</i>
South Warren	08 9275 1289	<i>✓</i>
Tidyman Les	02 6254 4120	<i>✓</i>
Thompson Keith	07 4773 4950	<i>✓</i>
Yeomans Barry	02 9451 0253	<i>ADD</i>
York Paul	02 6569 5432	<i>Deceased</i>



ROLL OF HONOR

LEST WE FORGET

- Peter Clay**
- Bill Little**
- Jack Penfold**
- Neil White**
- Keith Luff**

Robson, Brian - hoping to come