

RENMARK RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE

4720012 Craftsman Trevor "Ti-Ti" Smith



Trevor Smith was a born and bred local man, growing up in Renmark with his parents and one sister. Trevor's father operated the school bus run throughout the Chaffey district.

Trevor completed high school in 1961, and having a passion for fast cars, naturally sought out an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic. This dream became a reality when he started his apprenticeship at Rosenthal Motors in Renmark in 1962.

Trevor was a keen footballer and played with the Renmark Rovers prior to his call-up for National Service in the Australian Army, and continued that association on his return to Australia.

Trevor met the love of his life, Marianne in 1963. This relationship blossomed into marriage, with Trevor marrying Marianne in 1967.

On the 8th of April in 1968, Trevor received his National Service Call-up Notice. Trevor was required to be at Keswick Barracks in Adelaide on the 2nd of May, to begin his two-year obligation to the Australian Army.

Being a qualified tradesman, Trevor was allocated to the Corps of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME), with the rank of Craftsman. After finishing training in the maintenance of the fleet of armoured vehicles within the Army, Trevor was deployed to South Vietnam in March 1969.

Trevor was allocated to the 106th Field Workshop at Nui Dat where he maintained a varying fleet of vehicles. This ranged from Land Rover Series 2A's through to the Centurion tanks and M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers.

It was during this deployment that Trevor became part of history within the corps of RAEME. Trevor was a member of the Forward Repair Team that deployed to an area east of the Long Hai Hills in the Phuoc Tuy Province to repair or recover a Centurion tank. A painting of this remarkable task was commissioned by the RAEME Corps Committee, to be painted by Mr K. G. McFadyen. This painting, titled "AFV Repair in the light green 1969", is now the RAEME Corps painting. This painting is shown on the other side of this placemat.

Trevor returned to Australia on the 24th of March, 1970, and settled back into life in Renmark with Marianne and their first child, Nicole. Not long after Marianne and Trevor celebrated the birth of a second child, a baby boy named Brett. Trevor was a very community orientated man, and was heavily involved with the CFS, as well as been a prominent member of the Board of the Renmark Community Hotel. Trevor's proudest position was as the Chairperson for the Legacy charity within the Riverland region.



Trevor was very proud of his service in Vietnam, and was awarded the Australian Active Service Medal (with Vietnam clasp), the Vietnam Medal, the Australian Defence Medal, the National Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign medal (foreign issue).

RAEME Official Corps Painting – “AFP Repair in the light green, 1969”

“In November 1969 a troop of gun tanks supported by an ARV became bogged in the light green east of the Long Hai Hills in the Phouc Tuy Province of the Republic of Vietnam.

In addition to the bogged vehicle, two gun tanks were immobilised, one with gear box failure and one with a final drive failure. Whilst the crews and the Armoured Recovery Vehicle, with sterling efforts on the "Shovels, GS (AUS)" extricated the two serviceable gun tanks, a Forward Repair Team was deployed from 106th Field Workshop to provide the lift necessary for replacement of two failed MUA's (Major Unit Assemblies e.g engine or transmission)".

