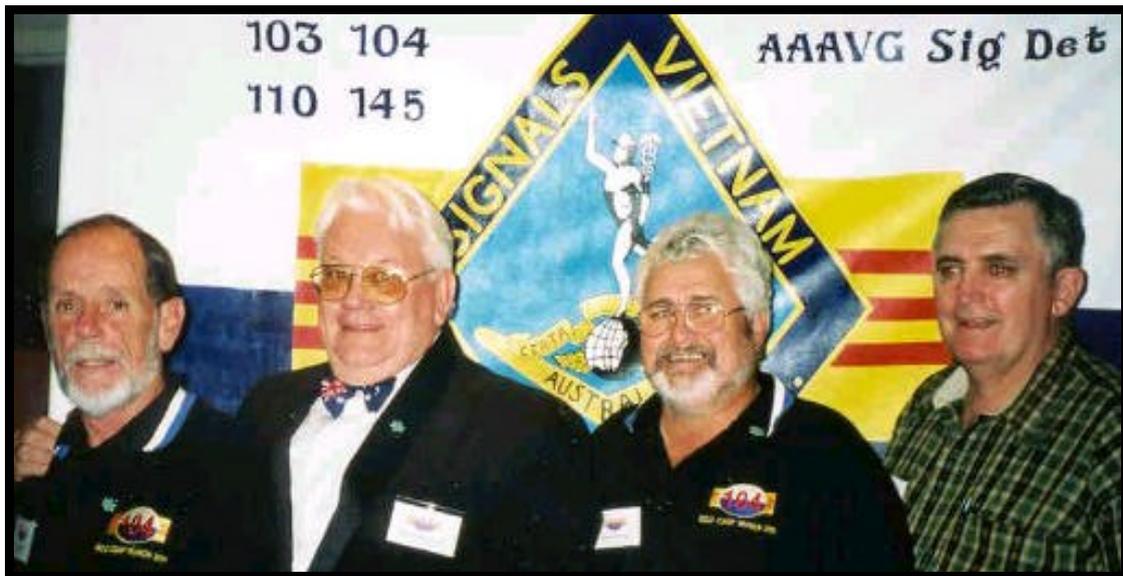




## 104 REUNION 2001 ON THE GOLD COAST AFTER ACTION REPORT

The co-ordination and infrastructure of the registration day was complex, exacting with no grumbles. To collate, pack and label the bags of nametags, 104 polo shirts, 104 lapel badges and information for 365 attendees; then stand and deal with Veterans dribbling in all day was a thankless task. But the committee did it and did it well – All members attending the reunion passed their thanks to the reunion committee of Denis (Rabbit) Hare, Don (Uncle Don) Sutherland, Peter (Rosie) Thorne and Russell (Rus) Pye and to George and Margaret Goodchap for starting the signals radiating.



104 Reunion Committee - L-R Rus, Uncle Don, Rosie and Rabbit

At the Sig CP on the first day many took time to look at the AN/PRC-25 Radio Set and the SB-22 Switchboard plus the 'K' Phones, primary communications in base camps and bunker to bunker. Malcolm Johnson sent over a slide show from his side of the world in West Australia showing what our old AO looks like now and the committee had a slide show showing photos of some of the attending guys from thirty years ago. Included in the committee slide show was an apologies list plus sad details of the guys that have moved to the big set room in the sky.

The registration lobby was a bit cramped to say the least, but the guys wet their 30-year dry throats in the Young Training Room (Honouring Alex Young KIA at the FSPB Coral in 1968) almost breaking a record for fluid intake at the RSL!

Many stayed at the Twin Towns Resort, which is part of the RSL complex. With breakfast included, magnificent rooms with a northerly view up to Surfers, we couldn't have picked a better place to stay.

The buffet dinner on the 24<sup>th</sup> April was a great hit with many old mates finding each other after 30 years. Attendees didn't notice how long it took to get in

line for the buffet dinner, there was too much to talk about. When they did get in line the food kept pouring out. You could have gone back for thirds if you'd been so inclined.

The Dawn Service was well attended with the 104 Veterans honouring Dennis Donnelly (AK in 1967 at Nui Dat) – It was great to have his brother (David) and other family members with us for the service.



L-R Denis Hare, David Donnelly and Kevin Schmitt with the Donnelly Family NOK Australian Flag after the Dawn Service.

The ANZAC Day March was just the greatest with two very proud 104 war OC's (Norm Murno (2<sup>nd</sup> OC) and Neville Bergin (4<sup>th</sup> OC) and the Signals Vietnam Veterans Association's new banner out front – with over 250 104 members and other signals veterans marching behind the OC's. The people of the Gold Coast warmly welcome 104 Sig Sqn (Old Farts) as we marched down the main street of Coolangatta. Hell it was just the best!



After the march the reunion retired to the Abraham Club (Our traditional watering hole since Denis Abraham was KIA near Blackhorse in 1968) for a bit of R and R.



Dinner on ANZAC Night (25<sup>th</sup>) was very well planned and Twin Towns RSL staff made us very welcome. Denis Hare's slide show and video clip presentation was a great central attraction, drawing interest from many wives and many 104 Guys. Some Veterans returned to Australia with no photos and over the years have lost their memories. The speech by John (Matey) Power was very well done and enjoyed by all attendees.



104 Reunion ANZAC Dinner 2001 - The 1970 Group Photo

With some confusion because of the reunion size some 104 veterans missed guys that they had hoped to catch up with, but then we would have needed another two days.....



On the 26<sup>th</sup> the sun rose and brought the reunion to a close. Leaving Twin Towns Resort, the RSL and Gold Coast, members of 104 who were still about - was like leaving a family member to go overseas.

The only disappointment with the reunion was the poor attendance of post Vietnam 104 members – next time Guys!

For those who missed the reunion for what ever reason, you certainly missed something very special. Pencil in 2006 for the next 104 reunion, keep your address details current with the committee plus check the 104 Sig Sqn Web Site for updates at:

<http://www.powerup.com.au/~dhare/104sigs.html>

