



## **MEDIA ALERT**

# **Frankie kicked a mine; mankind kicked the moon**

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first moon landing also marks the day of a tragic twin mine incident that killed two Australian soldiers and wounded 23 others during the Vietnam War.

On 21 July, 1969, soldiers of A Company, 6RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion gathered around a radio to hear American astronaut Neil Armstrong declare “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind” as he walked on the moon.

Later, the Australian troops were patrolling in the Light Green region east of Hoi My as part of Operation Mundingburra when they triggered two mines. More than half of those wounded suffered such severe injuries that they were evacuated to Australia.

Radio operator Private Frank Hunt, who was badly wounded in both legs, was later immortalised in the 1982 Redgum song *I was only 19* with the line: “Frankie kicked a mine the day that mankind kicked the moon”.

**Australian War Memorial historians are now available for interview about the mine tragedy and its aftermath.**

**Further information:**

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