

John McKenner, Sgt Instructor OTU 1967, died 28th July 2002 via Lex Neville (2/67)

On 30th April this year the ABC showed an item where the ADF was blamed for the loss of a family's parents in a murder-suicide. It turned out that the murderer was once a staff member at OTU. Sgt John McKenner was a Drill Instructor at OTU in 1967. Lex Neville remembers him at OTU and also when John was with Lex's Army Reserve's unit A Coy, 2 RVR at Shepparton, Vic, in 1976 – 78.



WO2 McKenner served with the AATV in Vietnam from 30th July 1969 – 9th July 1970 and was with the 2/3 ARVN at Hue, Thua Thien. He served 24 years in the Army.

Lex said: 'We certainly had no idea at Shepparton of a family in crisis. John and Lorraine attended mess social functions together. At Scheyville and at Shepparton he was very professional and good value to both units. When the news came through to Shepparton I remember we ran some fund raisers to help the kids'.

There is an expectation and acceptance that war will produce casualties, but that does not make it any easier to bear the grief. However, when we lose them after the war, but because of the war, that is a new kind of grief altogether.