

Excerpt of oral history recorded on Wednesday 20 September 2017 at ANZAC House, Melbourne, as part of the Veterans Heritage Project.

## **Interviewee**

Timothy Woods

## **Transcript**

...and I joined the army on the first of May, sixty eight, and I was at Puckapunyal, and I rang my parents for their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on the eighteenth of May of that year, and it was about minus four degrees at Puckapunyal and ah, the wind chill factor was another minus four or five degrees, and it was twenty five degrees in Perth and they were sitting around having a party and I'm standing around in a greatcoat and everything I could wear to talk to them out of a telephone box and I just thought what a stupid decision this was...

Well I suppose, one there was a sort of a rejection because we had been, when we were conscripted, you know, there was general public acceptance and you know, that was basically a part of the reason that the Liberal Party won the election but by the time 1970, 71 came around there was very big anti-war sentiment. Because there had been, by 1971, there had been nearly 500 hundred Vietnam Veterans had died in action, or because of their wounds in action, and there was a whole lot of others, I mean, I've, you know, a couple of blokes I went to school with had died, a bloke I'd done the boxing tournament, you know, with, he was killed about four months after we got to Vietnam, um, a couple of others, guys I knew from school and stuff like that or knew from university, so it was, you know, we were all personally affected, well, I was personally affected probably by half a dozen people that were either wounded badly or killed, so that sort of, you start to think well what a waste, but the biggest thing that I was objected to, and I got angry about was that most people didn't make the distinction between the fact that we didn't volunteer to go to Vietnam, we were actually sent under conscription, which, you know, the Australian population, there was some objections to conscriptions, there was some objections to being involved in the Vietnam War, but it got really nasty by the end of 1971 particularly.