

THE EYES and EARS

"FIRST PUBLISHED 22nd JULY 1967 in Nui Dat, South Vietnam"



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A Mate is remembered...

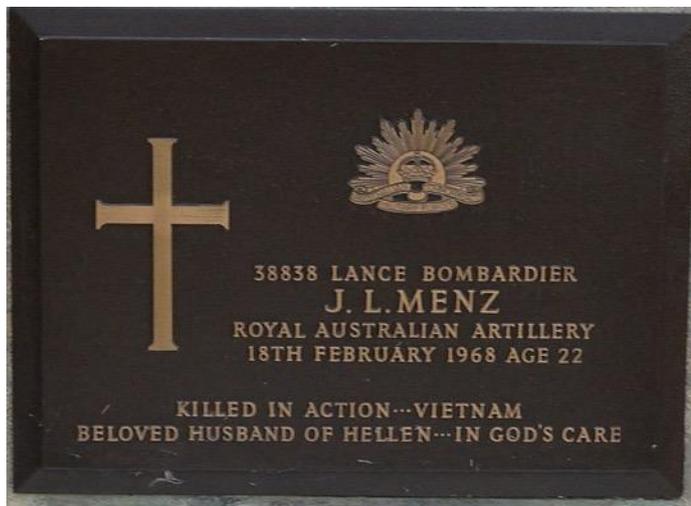


Marysville, Victoria,
18th February, 2018 –

Peter Fuhrmann, John McFadden, Peter Hopper, Geoff Holden, Ian McNicol, Bruce Irvine, Bert Blink, Geoff Blackwell, Barry Follington, Grahame Dignam and Warwick Brooker.

Ian “Scotty McNicol – “Hi Dicko. I've not long arrived home from Jim’s service, and it went off without a hitch. I'm sure you'll receive plenty of photos and recollections to go through and choose for the *E&E's* newsletter.

It was great to catch up with a few guys that I haven't seen in 50 years. I thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere and the copious amounts of refreshing beverages we consumed. Although I didn't particularly enjoy missing the gateway on my way back to the caravan park late at night, and toppling over a fence. No damage done, (except to my pride), so all is well...Scotty.”



Marianne Menz

Jim's Brothers

Bruce Irvine who was MC and Warwick Brooker as assistant MC conducting prayers
Peter Spooner - presented address



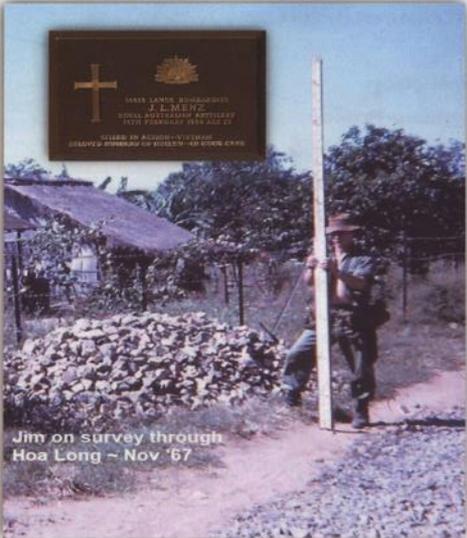
John McFadden - a reflection



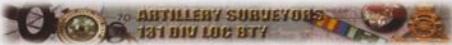
Ron Jones, President of Marysville RSL assisted greatly with organisation of the day



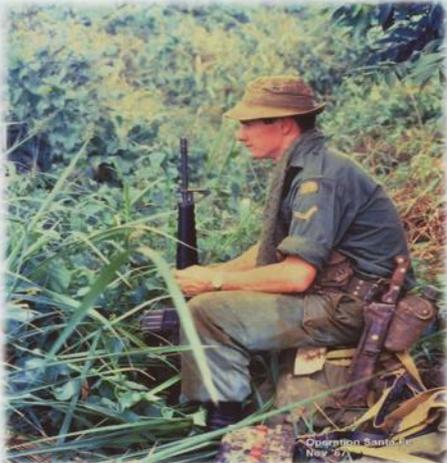
Order of Service...



Jim on survey through Hoa Long ~ Nov '67

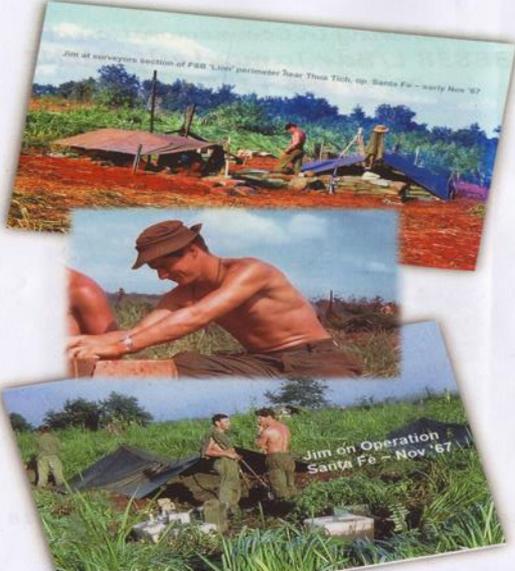


*A Gathering in Commemoration of
38838 L/Bdr James Leslie MENZ
01/02/1946 ~ 18/02/1968*



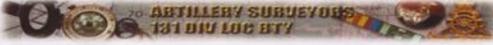
Operation Santa Fe
Nov '67

Marysville Cemetery, 8:30am 18 February 2018



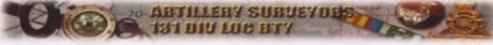
Jim at surveyors section of FSB 'Lion' perimeter near Thua Tich, op. Santa Fe - early Nov '67

Jim on Operation Santa Fe - Nov '67



In Remembrance

Introduction
Welcoming Prayer
Marysville RSL President
Commemorative Address
Prayer of Remembrance
Personal Reflections
(if you wish to speak)
Wreath Laying
The Ode
One Minute Silence
Lest We Forget
Farewell Prayer
Concluding Remarks



Daybreak over the village of Marysville and I noticed the Parade standing to attention along the ridge line - an auspicious portent for the 50th anniversary of Jim's passing.



Geoff Blackwell – “Hi Dicko, I travelled to Marysville on the weekend for the 50th anniversary service of Jim being KIA 18.02.68.

Quite a respectable number of former Detachment members turned out for the commemorative services, showing that half a century hasn't dimmed the memory.

With Bruce Irvine as MC, personal reflections by several of Survey Section, prayers spoken by Warwick Brooker, wreaths laid and an address by the President of the Marysville RSL, it was a well-organized and executed Commemoration. Fitting. A rough count of around 40 people were present. A cup of tea etc, was provided by the local Lions club.



We then moved on to the Marysville Church for the Sunday service with the locals, with special prayers for Jim. The church is new, the previous one being totally destroyed by that horrific bush fire a few years ago. After lunch at the local hotel with Menz family members.

Those Survey Section members remaining travelled to the Buxton Church, scene of Jim's funeral, for a period of quiet reflection with his family members. A small wooden church in the middle of a paddock...haunting. And that was a full day. Well done the survey section, well done all those who attended. Geoff Blackwell.”



Staying in different locations, some met for dinner on the Saturday evening...and drinks.



Bert Blink and Grahame Dignam



Ian "Scotty" McNicol



Grahame Dignam and Geoff Holden

Bruce Irvine – “G'day Paul,

Paul I'm sending a few shots from the service we held at Marysville for Jimmy Menz last weekend commemorating his death on Sunday 18th February 1968. I know you will have other shots so I hope these “fill in” some of the gaps. When

we discovered that no formal service was being organised by anybody, we decided to put together a gathering at his graveside at short notice and I think/hope it turned out to be the right thing to do.

Sunday 18th February 2018 was a beautiful morning down there and although only around 32 people attended, it was a very personal time for each of us present and sharing it with Jim's family (three brothers – Ron, Jack and Tony, niece - Marianne and family), wife Hellen and Marysville locals was indeed an honour in itself.

After the service a lot of those present attended the morning church service in Marysville (some had to begin their journey home) then after lunch visited the beautiful little Buxton Church where Jim's funeral was held. This was also where Jim had been married in August 1967 and this was a perfect end to the day. After that, we said our farewells to the Menz family and all went our separate ways, starting our journeys home which took some a while (to Perth, Adelaide, far northern NSW and all points in between).

All in all, the 131 Divisional Locating Battery stood up in memory of our mate L/Bdr James Leslie Menz, KIA 18 February 1968. Lest We Forget.

I hope the attached photos can be ID'd from the titles and descriptions below and thanks again for the tremendous job you do with *E&E* every month Paul – top effort!



Fellow Artillery Surveyors (L to R) John McFadden, Warwick Brooker, Peter Fuhrmann, Peter Hopper, Barrie Follington and Bruce Irvine

Meeting mates (L to R) Barrie Follington and his wife Beverly, Ian "Scotty" McNicol, Bert Blink, Geoff Holden, Peter Fuhrmann, Grahame Dignam, Warwick Brooker and Martin Holden (Geoff's brother)



Jimmy's presence was felt when the sun's rays came over the treetops shining a beam of light at the foot of his grave

The gathering at Jimmy's service at Marysville Cemetery



Marysville RSL President, Ron Jones addresses the gathering





Members of 131 Div Loc Bty lay a wreath in Jimmy's memory. (L to R) Martin Holden (Honorary Member!), Peter Fuhrmann, John McFadden, Peter Hopper, Geoff Holden, Ian "Scotty" McNicol, Bruce Irvine, Bert Blink, Geoff Blackwell, Barrie Follington, Grahame Dignam and Warwick Brooker.

Wreaths laid in memory of James Menz on 18 February 2018. (L to R) Artillery Surveyors and 131 Divisional Locating Battery, RAA, the Menz Family (laid first), 131 Locators Association



Geoff Blackwell spotted this sign by the road in Marysville after the service. Divine intervention from Jimmy?? "Surveyors on Road"

Buxton Church visit on 18 February 2018

All the best Paul, take care,
Bruce"



...the following was the first email received in conjunction with Jim's anniversary and I believe it is a poignant way to remember the day and his memory...

Ian "Scotty" McNicol – "Hi Dicko. With the 50th anniversary of Jim Menz being KIA coming up. I thought I'd send you this photo with the story behind it.

In 1990 when I was a storeman for the Victorian Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources in Cann River, I took delivery of a consignment of exotic Native Trees and shrubs that were destined for various beautification projects in the district. Among them I noticed a few potted seedlings labelled Buxton Gums. It brought back memories of a bit of a booze up we had in the Survey lines on Xmas day 1967. After many cans of the amber liquid, and before the baby powder fight, (you know who you are, Gunners Holden, Woodbine, Irvine & a few others, including Jim Menz & Dutchy Van Driel). Someone passed around a tape recorder for each of us to have a bit of a rave. When it became Jims turn to speak I remember he had nothing but praise and admiration for the town of Buxton in Victoria. (A few clicks north of Marysville). He said it was the best little town in the world, and, why wouldn't he? Buxton was where his home was. Jim was KIA soon after his return to Nui Dat after his R&R at home.

I then decided I needed to have one of these Buxton Gums to plant in memory of Jim on my property, located in a small valley 40kms north of Cann River called Buldah. I was surprised when I got home to find that one of these seedlings had mysteriously found its way into the boot of my car. I then carefully planted the tree near my dam in front of the house, with netting around it to keep my Goats & Sheep from destroying it.

When I sold the property in 1997 I mentioned the significance of the then 6' tree to the new owners, and they promised to look after it. Today, on my way home from a fishing trip up in the NSW Snowy Mts., I decided to detour & call in to my old place. The owners had kept their word & the Buxton Gum is still flourishing in the place I planted it. As you can see, it is still a healthy tree 28 years on. The Cows use it for shade after a drink from the dam, and I'm sure Jim would love to know that it was planted there for him. Regards...Scotty."



R.I.P. Jim Menz.

Wikipedia....1968 continues into March

With the war continuing to escalate following further American troop increases, 1 ATF was heavily reinforced in late 1967. A third infantry battalion arrived in December 1967, while a squadron of Centurion tanks and additional Iroquois helicopters would also be added in early 1968. In all a further 1,200 men were deployed, taking the total Australian troop strength to over 8,000 men, its highest level during the war. This increase effectively doubled the combat power available to the task force commander.

Although primarily operating out of Phuoc Tuy, the 1 ATF was also available for deployment elsewhere in the III Corps Tactical Zone. Indeed, with the province progressively coming under control, 1968 saw the Australians spending a significant period of time conducting operations further afield. The communist Tet offensive began on 30 January 1968 with the aim of inciting a general uprising, simultaneously engulfing population centres across South Vietnam. In response, 1 ATF was deployed along likely infiltration routes in order to defend the vital Bien Hoa-Long Binh complex near Saigon, as part of Operation Coburg between January and March. Heavy fighting resulted in 17 Australians killed and 61 wounded, while communist casualties included at least 145 killed, 110 wounded and 5 captured, with many more removed from the battlefield. Meanwhile, Tet also affected Phuoc Tuy Province, and although stretched thin the remaining Australian forces there successfully repelled an attack on Ba Ria, as well as spoiling a harassing attack on Long Dien and conducting a sweep of Hoa Long, killing 50 Viet Cong and wounding 25 for the loss of five Australians killed and 24 wounded. In late February the communist offensive collapsed, suffering more than 45,000 killed—against South Vietnamese and allied losses of only 6,000 men. Regardless, Tet proved to be a turning point in the war, and although it had been a tactical disaster for the communists it proved a strategic victory for Hanoi as confidence in the American military and political leadership collapsed, as did public support for the war in the United States.

. Insights and Recollections –

This was a series pertaining to **Fire Support Bases (FSBs)**.

After some 49 years, we are hoping to gather Recollections and perhaps Insights from members of the Detachment who were involved, in some way or another in FSB and other events. We anticipate hoping that these memories will help to broaden our understanding and give us greater insights into the Detachment's involvement in South Vietnam and in this case some lead-up memories undispersed.

These Insights/Recollections are not based on official documentations, but memories which add another dimension other than the factual Reports recorded in the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

The series has come to an end, but we'll continue if and when we receive further contributions. Thanks to those of you who contributed – it keeps our history alive.

**If you would care to contribute, please send your Insights and Recollections
– Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com**

. Here's a continuing story in the series with regards to Locators' "passions"

...we continue "wandering"...



This series continues, combining "Wanderings" which evolves from "Passions" of all sorts – they all somewhat consume us outside families etc and God forbid work!

It's just so good to discover other sides, be that "outsides" or "insides" of blokes who we begin to get to know through this sort of process.

Now we're going to have a look at what **Allen Morley** was consumed by in late 2017, other than his grandchildren in New Zealand ...

Egypt...

At age 19 our daughter visited Egypt and loved it absolutely. Her consistent badgering subsequently was that we had to go and see the country, the people and take in the history. Some initial travel plans were disrupted by the Arab Spring protests in 2011 when it was deemed to be too dangerous for tourists.

In early 2017, we found an advertisement for a small group tour. I checked the Australian Government travel advisory website and it seemed that London and Egypt warnings posed similar risks, although Egypt did include a kidnapping warning.

So, on November 1st we headed for Cairo courtesy of Emirates. Cairo is a fascinating city of 21 million people. Crazy drivers and no traffic lights. The local pedestrians wander across the very busy roads and seem to survive OK.



The cabs are old VW combis, with no side door and the engine access bay wide open to help cooling.



Next day was essentially what we had come for. Not far from the centre of town saw us standing in front of the three astounding Giza pyramids. They look exactly like the pictures illustrated in those social studies/geography books we had at school. The photo at left really encapsulates this wonder of the ancient world, with the camel to the side for Arabic emphasis. For a few extra dollars, you could climb up into the Cheops pyramid to the royal burial chamber. Not for the faint hearted nor the claustrophobic tourist though. All those thousands of tonnes of rock above you and no mortar to consolidate the joints plus a narrow and steep access path. But an absolutely awe-inspiring adventure to begin our tour.

A brief bus ride around the corner and there was the sphinx with attendant pyramids in close background. Plenty of school kid's groups and tourists from all over, all enjoying the spectacle.



I caught a couple of attractive local girls resting before they continued their adventure.



We drove over a bridge across the Nile, the first time we had seen this famous waterway. The Egyptian Museum was our next stop. Packed solid with antiquities, mummies and the golden treasures of Tut Ankh Amun it is an amazing depository. Unfortunately, no photos were allowed in his repository room. But that famous burial mask just draws you to its showcase. Brilliant. A solid afternoon was insufficient to see all we wanted to, but we had to move on.

Feeling a little jaded we were happy to have a cold drink, some dinner and an early bedtime to try and help adjust our time clocks. At this stage, we had still not ventured across the street outside the hotel for fear of the traffic.



Next month we continue on with Allen and Diane as they take us on further into the mysteries of Egypt.

. Here's the next in the "Unknown" series...



This photo was extracted from **Greg Green's** collection and is called "Farewell drink '67".

One recognisable face has his shirt on for a change!

There was no shortage of amber stuff as is witnessed by the pile mounting up!



. Oddities – Dicko –

From last year – I actually found **Terry Bruce's** response to my ramblings about School cadets -

“Further regarding school cadets – it was a normal sight to have 3, 4, 5 or more young blokes, usually in school uniform but often in military uniform, line abreast, walking home from the railway station with .303's slung over their shoulders (minus bolts of course, which were issued and collected at the rifle range – usually Anzac range Holsworthy). Things were certainly very different 'in those days...Terry.”

Dicko - I can't believe that a bunch of young blokes were “walking home from the railway station with .303's slung over their shoulders” – the public wouldn't know that the bolt was missing!

. **21st's** – I couldn't resist picking up on this theme which was originated with **Bob Billiards** elaborating, in an email, his memory of his event...

Bob Billiards - Just scanning in some photos and I found this one of my pre 21st. I was in SVN on 12th September 1967 and birthday 12 days later so this must have been during my pre-em leave. Nice photo of my father on the left of me and mother to his right, Cathy and one of my uncles – Frank White on the right of photo

“We was young!!”

...then the responses started...

Geoff Blackwell – “Nice photo Bob. Very 60's tie you have on. Geoff”

Bert Blink – “My 21st was at South Head pre-embarkation. I think a mob of us went to Les Girls for a show and dinner??”

Barry Guzder – “Hey Bert, did you take any of the 'girls' out to dinner afterwards! B.G. 5714500”

...then **Barry adds** “No such luck for me.... got thrown in a cold bath at Pucka !! Barry. (after quite a few in the 'wet' canteen.)”

Dicko's email put out 4th January – “A month or so ago the topic of 21st Birthdays was raised amongst some of the blokes, as to basically where and when we reached that supposedly magic age? In fact, Bob Billiards has a great photo of a very formal looking occasion. Some of the responses were a lot of fun.

Yes, it was agreed that Nashos generally turned 21 during conscription, but the really interesting thing that came out was the "where" and not the "when" so much. Because some of them either came in on a later draft etc, so that lead to where were you when you cracked it? Did you raise the odd or 12 glasses/cans/stubbys to celebrate?

Then, not forgetting the main stream of it all was the Regs - now, most of them turned 21 during their term of service. So, we want to find out some detail from them to complete this puzzle. Some of them weren't much older than the Nashos.

Ok, now please get to work replying with relevant info as to "where'n'when" and send a photo or 10 if you've got some?

Looking for to responses. Paul”

...here are some responses...

Ian “Scotty” McNicol – “Hi Dicko. I vaguely remember my 21st. I'd not long been posted to the Battery while it was still based at the North Fort at the School of Arty. A group of us walked down to the Manly Hotel, using my 21st as an excuse for a big night out. (Not that we ever really needed much of an excuse). The beer flowed freely, (especially to me), then Lofty Hayes disappeared for a while, then came back with an apple pie & one large candle that he stuck in the middle & lit 21 times for me to blow out. I don't remember much after that. In fact, I'm not sure how we got back to the School. I'm pretty certain I didn't walk back, but I think I had a great night anyway. Cheers...Scotty.”

Warwick “Brookey” Brooker – “G'day Dicko - I 'celebrated' my 21st on 30 May 1967, 25 days after arriving in South Vietnam. Actually, I can't remember celebrating with booze, cake, etc., but I guess I was grateful that I'd made it to 21! Brookey”

Bill Edward – “Hi Paul. I spent my 21st ...a Saturday on Guard Duty at Holsworthy I tried to get out of it but no luck. Cheers, Bill.”



John Dicks – “Hello Paul. I am still enjoying retirement! Over the last couple of years, I have had a couple of health scares but these have resolved themselves and I am now enjoying good health. I am looking forward to some touring using my camper trailer in the near future. John Dicks”

George “Clarky” Clark – “Good day Paul, nothing too exciting about my 21st, I was on an intelligence course at “Bullshit Castle”, in between my 2 tours. From memory, I got a kick up the clacker for taking a short cut across the good old parade ground, and spent the following week polishing door knobs. Not my favourite posting I am afraid! I hope you have a great day Paul, all the best, George Clark.”

Kevin “KB” Browning – “Hello Paul - Happy 2018. Mate do you know how long ago it was when we turned the magic 21 and got the ‘key to the door’. It wasn’t yesterday but now we are older the past begins to become clearer but do not ask me what I did yesterday. But now to respond to your query.

My 21st birthday was spent at Survey/Sound Ranging Lines, 131 Locators Lane, Nui Dat.

A notice of the upcoming event appeared in the Army newspaper (at right) Thursday, January 16, 1969. It had been submitted by my Mother and concluded with ‘We will celebrate when he arrives home’ which was another nine months away. Copy of the paper attached.



My birthday was far from formal and even further from wet. I had spent Christmas with my brother on board HMAS Perth at Vung Tau so missed being with the boys.



So, celebrating New Year with the boys was something special but resulted in some disturbance which was amplified by the fact we were living near the Task Force Officers’ Lines and RHQ Q Store. Having alcohol in the lines was

forbidden, especially being caught with it, so disciplinary action was taken. As part of my punishment I was placed on the dry for a month which of course included my 21st. It was a ridiculous punishment that was confirmed a couple of months later when our Section Commander, Lt John Martin, in saying his farewells to everyone visited me in the Sound Ranging CP and said ‘Kevin I have done two stupid things in my tour and putting you on the dry was one of them as I knew you wouldn’t have a drink for months’. He never told me what the second event was. His comment was based on the fact that was really a non-drinker (well light drinker) at the time and that as a result of the events I had suffered slight alcoholic poisoning, something I would not recommend.

True to my Mother’s word when I returned home they did hold a belated 21st at a restaurant in Parramatta. My abstinence problem had resolved itself by then and it was a great evening with family. I had no steady girl friend at the time, truth is I had no girlfriend, but my nephew had asked one of the girls at his work if she would like to be my partner for the night. I am the youngest in an extended family so my nephew was only 2 years younger than me. When he asked the girl, she accepted as a favour to him, thinking that I must be in my 40s. He also told her I was a Bombardier. He arranged a meeting for lunch before the event and she was very surprised that I was wasn’t as old as she expected. Also, had a hell of a time trying to explain that I wasn’t in aircraft dropping bombs.

I think the article in the paper showed the Army did have a soft side and my visit to HMAS Perth is a great credit to the staff in the Detachment. I had no idea the ship was to be in Vung Tau but I must have mentioned something at some time to someone about my brother being on the ship. Anyway, they arranged for me to get on board. A friend of mine serving in 9 RAR also had a brother on the ship and he knew nothing about it and certainly didn’t get on board. Well done Staff.

Regards, Kevin”

Dicko – Sounds like “**Clarky**” and “**KB**” have a couple of really “memorable” memories of Army life tossed in amongst the rest!

He's 21 next week

Sir I just returned from Hols-worthy Camp, where we made a tape for Christmas for my son at Nui Dat.

Kevin is away and my husband is an old soldier with about 32½ years' service.

My son, Gnr. Kevin Browning, above, of Det. 131 Div. Loc. Bty., will be 21 on January 22 and I wondered if we could have a little birthday message included in one of your fine papers from Mum and Dad and all at home.

We will celebrate when he arrives home.

Mrs. E. Browning, Cabramatta, NSW.

Mike Butler - Hi Paul, I spent my 21st in the Puckapunyal Hospital with pneumonia!! It was August 69 and they threatened to send me to Kapooka to re-do the 10 weeks because I had missed 2 weeks of training. But I came good and avoided the threat. Cheers, Mike Butler

Stuart Sporn – “I was conscripted from Alice Springs, then sent back to SA where I came from and ended up at Keswick Barracks in Adelaide where I was “inducted” in July 1966. I had my birthday at one of the large cabaret type places with all my mates in June 1966 and my girl, who I have been married to for over 50 years. No photos but a great time. August 22 1966, was it but Pucka, cold tea and porridge wasn't acceptable. What is the next odd question?”

Brian Campbell – “My 21st was on Sat 20th March 1965 and a party was organised for that day/night, but a really understanding Officer of the Guard decided that I was to be on weekend guard at Holsworthy. When I explained the situation, his reply was “bad luck” so, I spent my 21st guarding the motor pool, everyone had a nice time Ha!



Paul Dickson – As I have reported way back in the dark, dim bowels of *E&Es*, I received a cake, complete with candles at “Barra Winga” in 1967 as this photo attests to. **Bob Bruce** is keeping a close eye on proceedings!

. Locator Profiles – Earlier this month I sent out the following email to **161** Locators, plus others where the emails on my “hopeful” database bounced back as “not founds”, in the hope of getting a truckload of responses. So far, I've received **1** (thanks to **Stan Patterson**) –

“I'm back on one of my favourite bandwagons, but with a little more determination this time. Without getting too dramatic, but as you will have read in the Vale section of last month's *Eyes and Ears* there was a Locator Profile compiled by the late Robert Miller's son Phil. It was too late for Robert, and luckily Phil could pick up the thread.

So, fellas, I'm asking for a simple task to be completed that will give us great archival depth and for others, who don't know you (like myself in most cases) a chance to get acquainted.

I've attached a copy of mine (done back some time ago) so you can get an idea of what I got up to.

I've attached a blank general Locator Profile - doesn't matter whether you were a Reg or a Nasho - just fill in the relevant info and we'd like to hear your story even if you didn't get to SVN.

I'd really like to hear back from you. Paul”



Located - Bob Tanner – “Hi Dicko, I was a bit worried to see my name listed in the January *Eyes and Ears* as “Un-Located”, but I was pleased to see that you managed to find my father's details listed in “Gravesites of Tasmania”. I have been a paid-up member since June 2015 and appear on the Members list on the website. Maybe the database had a bit of a hiccup along the way. I was recruited from Tasmania – 2nd Intake – and returned there for a while after my discharge in 1967, but have lived in Melbourne for almost 50 years now.

Suckling, Peter Andrew	WO2	55141	ARA	21/01/43	1971	WA	✔
Taggart, William	-	52665478	US	-	1967	USA	✔
→ Tanner, Robert	Gnr	6708362	NS	11/03/45	1966 - 67	Tas	✔
Thornton, Kevin	Gnr	2781420	NS	29/04/45	1966 - 67	NSW	✔
Tompsett, Robert	Gnr	3/410961 3/781345	CMF	08/04/38		VIC	✔
Troedel, David		36409	ADA		N/A		

I can't help with any of the other “Un-Located” on your list from 1966 except John (Frank) Perry. He's listed on the Honour Roll on the website (unfortunately, along with too many other people I knew) as having passed away in October 2016.

I've attached a couple of pics – the first one (at right) I think you've had before with **Dave Crowther, Mick McDonnell, Bob Tanner, Lofty Hayes, Dave Cornell and Gary Worrall.**

The second one (at left) for those who remember "The Beachcomber" at Vung Tau (pre-Peter Badcoe Club):



Geoff Locke, Bob Tanner, Mick McDonnell and Dave Cornell.

Best Regards & keep up the good work with the newsletter.
Bob Tanner"

Wally Franklin – "Hi Paul, visited "Coral" site again in April 2017 now a rubber plantation - some photos of Viet memorials on site. Cheers Wally Franklin"



...this email followed up...

"Hi, Paul, on my last trip an expat living in Ben Hoa province named Walter Pearson took me to the site. Walter has Studied Viet history and is a very nice man. This year visited site again with ex independent polлие Tony Windsor and his wife Lynn. The site has two memorials, one is the gravesite from the first night battle where I think there are eighty or so NVA are buried, they only have fifty names listed as guide tells me they could not identify others. I burnt incense at the site and paid my respects. I believe they were just doing what they told as we were – it was a fairly emotional trip. Pictured also explaining to Tony for what I can remember about first attack with guide whose father also fought with NVA.



Bob Billiards – “Paul, Just a few more photos of my old mate Sir Peter back on 11/11/2003 at Hyde Park corner in London for the opening of the Australian WWII memorial.

The photo of the queen isn't real flash, but you can see Phil and then in the background Tony. His speech was excellent and I would vote for him. I think he was the right bloke at the right time for the UK.

“Votable Tony”

HerRH
and
HisRH



It's hard to believe that it was 14 years ago when we lived there. Went over there for work and lived in Guildford, Surrey. Just been sorting out my photo folders and seeing this has a military bent thought it might be of interest.



The thing that was astounding was that the second most popular OZ dignitary was Sir Peter (just Major General then). I suggested to the budding, but failed, Labor candidate that he should be the next GG but JH must have overheard my suggestion and told Tony to do something about it. Also, interesting that both Australian Knights were at the same function. I might send my photo of me and Pete to Malcolm and see if I can get one.

Sir Bob sounds good, just flows of the tongue. I can't find the one of he and I at the plaque dedication at the AWM. I went to the photo folder and it was empty.
Regards, Bob”

“Sir” Bob and “Lady” Billiards



“JH”



Now, Dicko being Dicko had to respond to Bob's email above re: Guildford – watch this space for more of “Billiard-isation” in future *Eyes & Ears*.

. **Geoff Blackwell** continued on after attending Jim Menz's memorial in Marysville and sent this email and photo – “And finally Dicko I travelled to Phillip Island to check out the Vietnam Vets museum. Found the ANQ out the back waiting for a bit of work on it. Geoff.”



. **Allen Morley** – spotted something of interest while lurking in a carpark – “Dicko I did not realise that Chalky Royal had his own LP at Nui Dat. Or maybe it is just a number plate that caught my eye. Cheers Allen”



. **Barry Guzder** – sent this in with concern for my welfare – “Hey Dicko, tell us this is NOT your local bus driver!
Barry Guzder “A Bus Ride In Mexico.” - VID-20171019-WA0000.mp4



PS – Just click on the photo!



Mail Out



I started this in September, 2017 and have decided to continue running down the alphabet of names and sending some emails to blokes in general to say g'day and just to generally keep in touch. A lot of the blokes I've never met, so it's just to keep some connection alive. Plus, it's good to keep in touch, even sporadically, it may help to avoid any unpleasant unforeseen surprises.



Mail In - Here are the responses...

John Dicks – “Hello Paul. I am still enjoying retirement! Over the last couple of years, I have had a couple of health scares but these have resolved themselves and I am now enjoying good health. I am looking forward to some touring using my camper trailer in the near future. John Dicks”

David Dougherty – “Hi Paul. Let me say firstly that 10 C sounds like heaven to me, I prefer the cold on the basis you can always put on another jacket. We have been having temps constantly in the 30s and very little rain. In winter, here with morning temps of down to 0 C and sometimes below I quite enjoy sitting outside in the early morning with a cup of coffee and feeding the birds. Perhaps those past days of 100F and 100% humidity had an adverse lasting effect. A number of years back as I was going to bed I looked out the window and thought that the moon was rather bright, then hey, hang on its not a full moon. The realisation slowly dawning that it was snow so Carolyn already in bed was told. Next thing she's out there in pyjamas, bare feet cavorting in it, this at about 11pm.

With the golf, my mother used to play mixed doubles at Cronulla with **Geoff Holden's** older brother and from memory she may also have played with **Mick Holden**. I never took to it but had the advantage of living at Cronulla which meant surf in the morning, skiing on Saturday afternoon and sailing on Sunday, if not lazing at the future in-law's pool. Luckily no melanomas even though in those days it was no hat, no sunscreen, speedos and no shirt.

Generally, health wise OK apart from a few minor issues and a genetic problem which hopefully an operation has resolved after 70 years of not being aware of it. Had not caused any major problems but was leading to them.

Leading to another of your questions about **21st's**, I do not remember anything about the actual day, but as it was a Friday, it would have been at Holsworthy. I did have a small party with family and friends that was held at home but something more important was pending so it took a back seat. At that stage, I had been given notice that I was embarking not only on an all-expenses paid holiday overseas and that I was also being paid for it at the same time, with a bonus. When I turned 21 Carolyn and myself were in the stages of finalising our wedding due to occur 2 weeks after my 21st and 2 weeks before hers, so this naturally took centre stage. The net result being just 4 weeks married, then many days spent waiting for the mail and many letters home.

I have a couple of things that keep me occupied apart from the house and some of the gardening (mainly Carolyn's domain) one being family history research. I think I have mentioned before that this has uncovered some previously unknown cousins who were in Vietnam. And the other as I mentioned in my profile some modelling, mainly of R/C boats and model rail, but, I also have models of both a 175-self-propelled howitzer, a result of being at 31D and a Centurion tank.

Also, I was involved with a voluntary unit connected to NSW Fire & Rescue, but recently resigned due to the feeling that those in charge had lost their way and the reasons behind its existence. It was becoming more a theoretical exercise with little practical relevance and almost no interaction with us "the boots on the ground". In fact, I have one of their trailers and associated firefighting equipment at my place (\$15,000) even though it is 5 months since I resigned and I have not heard a word from them about its return. Just another rung on the ladder to their resume. You raised a couple of issues ago what happened with **old socks**. I don't know what happened with them as my memory is of not wearing socks, nor underwear as I recall, and more often than not no shirt. I do remember about once a week washing the mud out of my boots whether it got there from the wet season or from sweat in the dry season and I do recall **having to return boots before getting replacements**. Another memory is of the S/S plate in the boot sole breaking in half.

Memories are funny because I cannot remember ever having a meal, though I do remember pulling ration packs apart and taking things such as tins of fruit, Hershey bars, sweetened condensed milk etc. when going out on ops and throwing out the rice, curry powder and the like. The net result being a 3-day ration pack good for one day.

Out of curiosity I do not know how big the community is there but do you know a **Roger Hind** who is another expat? He went to school with my brother-in-law and has remained in contact with him over the years.

Regards, David"

Peter Fuhrmann - "Hello Paul. Everything is fine here – usual complaints at our age but DVA takes care of that. Retired from full time work but still doing a bit of lecturing and other odd jobs in the city to keep the mind active. Large percentage of my students are Vietnamese Govt. officials. No one over 45 years of age, so to them that war is ancient history.

Looking forward to the big day next weekend – 50th anniversary of Jimmy Menz passing (KIA 18 Feb '68). Lots of old survey troop mates coming from all over to Marysville which is just up the road from here.

I'm not a golfer but I do still play comp tennis twice a week. Getting harder to get out of bed the following morning though.

Regards, Pete F."

Ken Forster – "Always good to keep in touch and I look forward to your magazines. All good here with the usual workload and distractions to keep me interested. Look after yourself. Ken Foster"

Bill Finlay – "Hi Paul, thanks for your interest. Joan and I are going along fine at the moment, both getting the oldies complaints, Arthur and his mates. We are off on our third cruise tomorrow, it's a lifestyle I enjoy. On a sadder note, **Terry Waters** passed away last week at the age of 71, he was a great bloke and I spent many hours on the golf course with him, Vale Terry, those who spent time at the School of Arty will remember him. All the best and keep up the good work, regards, Bill."

Ron "Mook" Evans – "Paul, you old scoundrel, how lovely to hear from you. American politics is currently a major source of amusement for me and I always think of you when a certain 'very stable genius' raves about a big beautiful wall to stop malevolence from south of the Rio Grande.

I don't know what you are up to mate but you have those "yanquis" scared shitless.

Everything is well with me Paul. I am as interested in things now as I ever was and my health couldn't be much better. All in all, I have had more than my fair share of luck.

Good luck with the golf or, as others would say, good luck with the waste of a perfectly good walk.

Mook"

Don Handley – "G'day Paul, still plodding along as secretary of the Huskisson RSL Sub branch and trying to make heads or tails of the NSW RSL Scandals.

Had a fall in October and tore the tendons in both arms so I am waiting for an appointment with my Cardiologist to find out if I can have an operation.

I am heading for New England area in April, so I will try to call in to Maitland and see Kev Maker and probably have a couple of coldies.

You can imagine the weather down here at Jervis Bay, 35 C today so we will probably get the boat out this afternoon and try for a few flatties and bream on the Basin this afternoon.

Regards, Don"

Laurie Gallop – “Paul, thanks for your email—Good hear from locators through your newsletter.

At present health-wise I am fit and well. Currently playing golf couple times a week.

Fishing has not been that great post Xmas - too windy. Next week plan to put lobster pots back in the water and recoup supply.

Last year caught up with ‘**Spike**’ **Chase** in the Gold Coast. Had enjoyable meal with Spike and wife – “Spike” certainly has not lost his wit and humour.

Next venture wife and I have booked a trip from Darwin to Broome Via ship to check out Kimberleys. From all reports this is quite a spectacular site seeing trip.

Paul, as you may realise there are not to many locators in and about Geraldton – If, any - so your newsletter keeps me in touch with my old 131 friends and buddies.

Keep up the good work. Laurie Gallop”

Paul Hobson – “Hi Paul, sorry I haven't got back to you, we've had a pretty horrid run out of New Year. My wife's father (94, a pretty good innings) went downhill rather rapidly after a fall and breaking a couple of ribs. He refused to go to hospital (I believe he thought his time had come) and further complicated with pneumonia and we had a prolonged final few days. And being that time of year the funeral was delayed until mid-Jan. and then there was the will...

Par golf!! You cagey bugger. I managed to get my handicap down to 12 at one stage, but I haven't played golf for about 15 years. I keep telling myself to get back into it. I will one day, I'm spending too much time in the garden.

10 C... pffft... that's warm!! I'm up in the Blue Mountains during the week - it gets bloody cold up here in winter. It's certainly not that way at the moment though, it's a warm 30 C today...

You mention underfloor heating, yes, it is great. I spent 10 years in Goulburn NSW, Aus (very windy and gets very cold) and the house we had had underfloor heating, such a blessing when pounding the floor with a new born in the middle of winter.

It's nice getting the all clear from the doc. I had some bloods done the other week and he told me to go away, said I was setting a bad example and to come back when I had something wrong with me...

The wife lives in Sydney, she's still working, and I head down there on Fridays for the weekend and then back up here to the Blue Mountains during the week (there's reasons for that existence). Hopefully she is going to retire this year, so we might start to have a normal life in the not too distant future and we're looking at moving house, possibly end of the year or next year, we're already trying to work out where we want to move to.

I wasn't aware that you are overseas - UK? I was actually born in Cornwall and Mum and Dad emigrated when I was 6. My sister and I (and our partners) are planning a short trip back there in 2019.”

Peter Bruce – “Hello Paul. Greetings from down under. Still bloody hot here. Temperatures are around the high 20s but the humidity is very high for this region. Everywhere is suffering the same fate but by the same token, we had some friends from Parkes drop in yesterday and they thought this summer was quite mild relatively speaking. I for one am certainly looking forward to some cooler weather.

I didn't realise you were living in the UK. Whereabouts are you? We have our daughter's inlaws out from UK at the moment. It was pretty cold in Sunderland when they left just over a week ago and they have hit this spate of hot weather. He is handling it ok but she is suffering from all sorts of rashes. They are staying with the kids for eight weeks.

Our move to the new place went very smoothly – one of the best I have ever been involved with. We are settling in nicely and feel like we have lived here for ages. Susie is beside herself with her new garden and room for grand kids to play. I still have a few chores to do around the place but the cash flow has dried up for the time being and Susie has banned me from Bunnings!

I have attached my latest newsletter for your info. By the way, I have had a question re the date of Lindsey Black's death. Have you got anything in your notes that might tell us? I put his obituary on the RAAHC web site but as pointed out by Jobbo, there are no dates. Appreciate any feedback.

Great to hear you are getting some golf in. I had put my golf on hold and did not renew membership last year. Starting to get the bug again and once things cool down a bit I will get back into some social golf. A couple of old mates are coming here for ANZAC Day so we have started a bit of a tradition of sorts to play golf the day before. One of them is an ex Assistant Golf Pro – Garry Jones but that was a long time ago. He still has some finesse but his health does not permit too much golf. I'm still a slogger and still trying to tell myself to slow down and let the club do the work. Oh well, it's a good walk.

I'm still involved with Legacy here in the Port Macquarie area. Perhaps one more year and then I might give it away. As with most volunteer organisations, it is very hard to attract new and younger blood into the fold. Have you kept up with what is going on with RSL NSW at all? Apparently, there is light at the end of the tunnel but major overhaul is long overdue.

Well mate, all the very best for now and keep up your great work with ‘Eyes and Ears’.

Best wishes, Pete”

John Blake – “Paul, I keep on missing messages. Used to make emails my top priority but they now slip off the top of the page to be lost, sometimes forever I suspect.

I have survived far too many blood tests ECGs and x-rays to find nothing new to explain falling down and occasional dizzies. Meds changed over and alcohol restricted as it sends the heart crazy irregular.

Have been booked in for a cardiac ablation in a few weeks and hope be back to my usual high functional level shortly after that.

Stay young old trout. ... or get good at faking it. JB"

Notice Board...hey! see what's coming up?

April 24th and 25th, 2018 in Sydney...

We have located a group of Locators heading to Sydney around Anzac Day. So, our current plan is to move our April General Meeting to Tuesday 24th April in anticipation of a good visitor turn-up. Our initial plan is to have lunch on 24th at Granville Diggers *Star Buffet* where the food is good. And maybe we may convince some partners/friends/ex-wives etc to join us.

On Anzac Day, we will assemble in or near Bent St Sydney (not a reflection upon Sydney tastes) around 10am, then march down Elizabeth St. Lunch will be at noon at Zest Restaurant in City Tattersalls Club.

Please contact Grahame Dignam 0437 361 602 or Allen Morley 0411 962 510 if you are planning to attend either of both events.

Coral / Balmoral – Events, Canberra – May, 2018

There are several events taking place over the weekend of 12th /13th May, 2018.

Here's a brief – courtesy of **Keith Ayliffe and Bert Blink** –

Further to my last on the official Agenda for Canberra I found it a bit overwhelming as I would believe many of you. For your benefit and mine I decided it is best to look at it in a different way.

There are actually **Three separate functions** being conducted over the weekend.

1. **RAA functions** If you wish to attend these functions you will be required to pay. there is no onus on you to attend. These functions;

A. The Friday night Meet and Greet at \$10.00 per person to be paid. Your choice to attend. (I will not be at this function)

B. Saturday. Mt Pleasant RAA ceremony. FREE. Suggest All attend.

C. Saturday Night RAA Commemoration Dinner at \$20.00 Per Person. to be paid. Your choice to attend.

2. **DVA functions:** There are Three Controlled Functions conducted by DVA.

A. Sunday The Memorial Parade Conducted in Anzac Parade /Vietnam Memorial. This a must. Open to the Public. FREE

B. Sunday DVA Luncheon Restricted to invited Guests and Coral Veterans. Another must attend. FREE

c. Australian War Memorial Last Post Ceremony. **FREE**. Your choice to attend

3. Sunday Night (**The important one**) **131 Div Loc Bty Reunion and Memorial Dinner**. Cost \$60.00 per person. Majority have PAID \$60.00 Per Person for this so I would hope you will be there

Should you wish to attend the RAA Paid functions you will need to place the cost of those functions into our account.

To clarify things

If you attend the RAA Meet and Greet on Friday it will cost you \$10.00

If you attend with a guest (partner) it will cost you \$20.00 (Ten Dollars each.)

To attend the RAA dinner at the Golf club it will cost you \$20.00

If you attend with a partner or guest it will cost you \$40.00 a double

To attend both vents as a single it will cost \$30.00

To attend both vents as a Double it will cost \$60.00

REMEMBER IT IS YOUR DECISION WHETHER YOU ATTEND BOTH, ONE OR NONE OF THESE RAA FUNCTIONS

Should you decide to attend Further Payments to be Paid and please notify myself and Bert and Grahame of your intentions so we can keep our records straight.

2018 RAA FUNCTIONS CANBERRA

Include your name and number attending ie "RAA (your Last name only) (2) " The (2) or (1) representing the number of events you will be attending. If attending with a guest add "+1" After your name

EG. "RAA (your last name only+1) (2) "

Any questions feel free to contact me

and pay correct amount by:

Direct Deposit to:131 Locators Association Inc. **Bank:** Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW **BSB No:** 032 166 **A/c No:** 264133

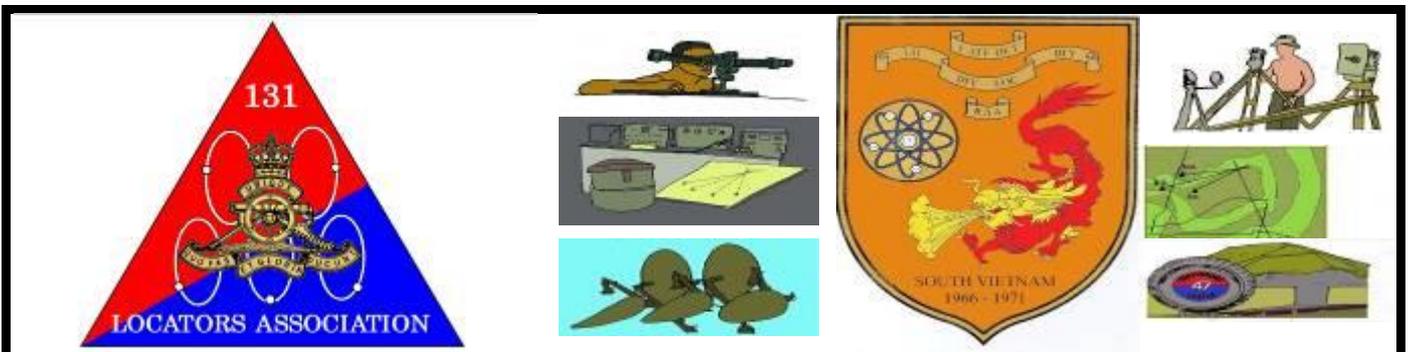
Thank you for your time

I hope this makes it clearer

Keith - aylif@westnet.com.au,

Bert - bblink@pcug.org.au

Grahame - sectreas131locators@gmail.com



Committee members:

President – Allen Morley, Vice President – Bert Blink, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam, Webmaster – Bob Billiards, Research Officer – Ernie Newbold, Designs and Development Officer – Nick Proskurin, Eyes & Ears Editor – Paul Dickson

General members – Ian Amos, Ged Carroll, George Lane.

Regional Representatives: ACT – Bert Blink, Qld – Terry Erbs, SA - Geoff Blackwell,

Vic – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder

<http://www.131locators.org.au>

A few well chosen words of wisdom from the Sec/Treas - "If you have had a busy year, now is the time to check your 131 Locators Assn membership is current.

Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com to check.

Grahame"

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: **Tuesday, 12th March, 2017 at 1100hrs**

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/>
You're all welcome

. Pertinent Points – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 12th February, 2017 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Bert Blink, Gordon Malcolm, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Ged Carroll, and Bob Billiards.

Financial Membership is currently ...**129**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **8**. Total **139**. Lapsed **24** members. Deceased Members: **5**

50 Years
April 1966 - April 2016



The Memories Remain
1966 - 1971

Presidents report.

Allen advised:

. There has been no mention of the tellurometer that accompanied the Radar to Philip Island and was to be included in the display. A report on that aspect will be requested from the Museum.

. Dates for the Coral reunion in the ACT on May 11-13 and the opening of the Radar display on May 5th are only 1 week apart and may impact on numbers appearing at both events.

. The next LSTAA meeting will be held at the Paddington RSL on 11 March at 11.15AM.

. Following the resignation of Vic Danko, we need to fill the position of Public Officer on our committee. A discussion ensued and nominations for Gordon Malcolm, Ern Newbold and Allen Morley were received. The duties of the position were outlined and the nominees in turn were asked if they would accept and stand for the position. As **Gordon Malcolm** being first, accepted the nomination and there were no objections he was duly elected unanimously without further ado.

Public Officer Report.

Gordon Malcolm has been appointed as the new Public Officer.

Webmaster Update.

Bob has supplied stats via email to each of the committee members. A discussion re the "Surveyors" Website ensued as to the avenues we can pursue to effectively return that website back to its original condition and position. Bob will canvass the possibilities and advise the next meeting.

Radar Moves.

Refer to correspondence attached to this meetings' Agenda between NVVM Phillip Island and Sec/Treas for the current position of Radar AN/KPQ-1.

Radar ops to be canvassed for suggestions how/what should be included in Radar display. So far, a theodolite was suggested and it will be investigated. Also, an 82mm mortar tube would make the Radar display more realistic and investigations have commenced along those lines.

A story board linking the various aspects of the use of the radar might be produced.

This Assn continues to look to acquire a CURTA mechanical calculator for inclusion in the general Det 131 DLB display. Also check out a revolving photo display showing the radar in various FSB positions.

Additional photographs will be made available by Keith Ayliffe for use in the display.

General Business

Treasurer: A merchandise message and update/order request will be included in *E&Es* to gauge interest in what our Locators want to wear and display.

Ern Newbold expressed his regret at missing the Jim Menz Remembrance Day but he is otherwise committed to a pressing family matter. His absence will be regretted and his thoughtful recollection will be passed on to the family of Jim Menz.

Web contents -

If you've got more photos that you want added, just send them to: - Paul Dickson – web Photos
131eyesandears@gmail.com– BUT DON'T FORGET TO ADD TITLES/NAMES ETC.

. Birthdays in the Battery...March –

March	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	EZIO LOMBARDO	216284	1946	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
2	GEOFF HOLDEN	2785828	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	JAMES TOWNLEY Maj.	17072	1939	14 06 1963	22 06 1963	103 Fd Bty FARELF
	" "			22 04 1966	19 08 1966	131
	" "			30 04 1970	28 05 1970	HQ AFV
2	PETER BENNETT	3794060	1948	26 08 1969	04 06 1970	
3	RIC. MARQUES	3790008	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
3	RAY SMITH	3787666	1945	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
3	GRAHAME LEE	2787457	1947	23 04 1968	23 04 1969	
3	ROGER STANLEY	2788155	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
3	RALPH MITCHELL	2788073	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
4	JOE CLENDINEN	17648	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
7	RODOLFO MARSANI	3796861	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
8	RUSSELL JACKSON	3793090	1945	24 02 1969	28 11 1969	
8	BARRY COOKE Sgt.	54886	1946	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	RAAOC
8	DES McGIUGGAN Sgt.	214722	1944	20 01 1970	21 01 1971	
11	BOB TANNER	6708362	1945	21 05 1966	28 04 1967	

11	PETER McKIE	2787728	1947	22 04 1968	23 04 1969	
12	JAMES FITZGERALD	2782044	1945	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
12	GREGORY LUCAS	1735725	1949	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	29 10 1970	4 Fd Regt.
13	JOHN (JACK) HEYES	3791085	1945	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
13	ALLAN CAMPBELL Sgt.	18257	1946	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 19.06.2009
	" "			05 02 1968	31 03 1968	
14	NEVILLE WORTLEHOCK	54941	1947	29 04 1968	30 04 1969	
17	GEOFF LOCK	2782439	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 09.09.10
18	VIC MOREAU	1200577	1939	22 04 1966	23 01 1967	
18	ROY CLAUSCEN	214873	1941	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
20	BRIAN CAMPBELL	2781310	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	
20	BARRY FOLLINGTON	2783144	1945	12 12 1966	27 09 1967	
20	IAIN KENNEDY	3791023	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	RONALD ROBARDS	216900	1948	21 02 1968	21 02 1969	
21	GARRY SMITH	2792048	1947	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	† 19.01.12
21	MICK KING	216504	1948	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
21	WARREN JAENKE	1735584	1946	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
22	GREGORY PECK	2790401	1948	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
23	DEREK HINDE	2787403	1947	01 07 1968	14 05 1969	
23	MARTIN KRYNTJES	5715291	1947	26 08 1968	04 06 1969	† 27.12.17
25	GARTH NICHOLLS	216381	1948	{05 02 1968	11 02 1969	
	" "			{05 11 1969	28 11 1969	1 Fd REGT
25	ROBERT HARGREAVES	2790343	1948	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
26	GEORGE LANE	2781630	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
27	ERIC WINN	219656	1951	30 05 1970	07 08 1970	131
	" "			07 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
29	JEFF REID	3790495	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	† UNKNOWN
30	FRANK HALLIDAY Sgt.	215105	1937	02 01 1967	13 12 1967	RAEME
30	EDWARD CHASE	2782043	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
31	LESLIE CAHILL	2412281	1947	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
31	GRAHAM HISLOP Sgt.	15290	1935	22 04 1966	03 03 1967	
31	PHILIP SHEEDY	4719418	1947	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	

*Above colour background coding explanation – Red – financial Locator, Yellow – located Locator, Black – passed Locator, Blue – honorary Member, White – NOT Located Locator.

Ed – 15 blokes not highlighted is not good and really needs work to find some of these blokes. Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 150 and we've sent out 148. Ed – I reckon we've got a chance of getting to 311 – see the article "Locator Profiles" above!

. **Located...**

Have a look at the Association's web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au> – you might find some lost mates or get in touch with us and see if we can for you.

Vale

"Dear Paul, I am just informing you via Dad's email here that he passed away last week. His funeral took place yesterday and was a wonderful celebration of a very well loved man, complete with singing and dancing, and the RSL Poppy Service.

He will be sadly missed.

Kind Regards, Kath Williams"

Name	Regt No	Rank	DOB	DOD
Foley, Charles Anthony "Blue"		WO2		31.01.18

Locator Profile

Surname: Foley Given Name: Charles Anthony Nickname: Blue State of Origin: NSW

What did you do before the army: Optical Mechanic / Dispenser

Service dates from: (a) 3/1956 National Service (b) Oct to Nov 58 in the CMF (c) ARA from: Nov 58 to Nov 64

Btys served in: 130 Counter Bombardment / 1 Field battery / 131 Div Loc Bty **Section/s of Btys:** Survey
My first involvement with Locating was with 130 CB Staff Troop. (Takes some lengthy Explaining) Please refer to article in "Tracks of The Dragon" This was my allocated CMF unit from National Service 3/56 Holsworthy – dates Nov '56 to Nov '58

Then to ARA...Survey Troop 1 Fd Regt (Attained Sgt) '59 to March'63 Then Posted to 131 Div Loc Bty as Survey Sgt till Discharge November '64.

Then Re Engaged 131(Reserves) March '65 to Mar '66 as WO2 Survey TP.

PS. My Full Name Charles Anthony FOLEY AKA "Tony" & "Blue" - The article on 130 Counter Bombardment Staff Troop is accredited to "Paul" Foley BUT!! It was written by Me. Probably Keith Ayliffe's attempt to Get Square after me Kicking out one of his Teeth, in a Footy Match at 1 FD Regt around 1960. Keith was one of My 12 Surveyors in the Regimental Survey TP. TF.

Who were you in the service with: Too many to recall.

What did you do after the army: Returned to Optics, but as a Retail Dispenser with OPSM, then onto 17 years as a Branch Manager. Then I was appointed to Wholesale Sales Management in contact lens specialty and consultancy.

Anything else of interest: Throughout my National Service intake "no one" knew what my allocated unit "130 Counter Bombardment" actually was – only one RAA Officer thought it might be Artillery Intelligence, but wasn't sure. Left the ARA as a WO2. In 1967, I joined a quartet called "The Freeways" and sang professionally at the Manly Leagues Club and later at the Sydney Club.

What town do you live in now: Kawana Island, Sunshine Coast, Qld

At home with some memorabilia.



Barry Campton – "Hello Paul -What a shock to hear about Tony.

I last heard from him just before Christmas and true to nature he did not let on how crook he must have been.

He and I were in the survey troop of 131 Div Loc Bty a 50/50 Regular / CMF unit based at a drill hall in Manly Vale and North Fort. (Circa 1962 I had just returned from Malaya).

Many trips to Tianjara cemented a lasting relationship for over 50 years. We kept each other out of trouble during the time at 131 North Head.

His "fair, firm and friendly" attitude made the management of the survey section easy on all members.

The addition to army rations via the Nerriga Pub was most welcome on several occasions and indeed a text from there to him late last year rekindled lots of "warries"!

After discharge, he returned to his pre-military occupation as an optometrist with OPSM and rose to become a manager in that organisation.

His home life was very difficult with the death of his son which was very distressing for Judy and Tony.

A great bloke with high standards and jovial disposition I will miss his company.

Regards, Barry"

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

MAY HE REST IN PEACE



131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the establishment of the web site we continue to be burdened with the ongoing cost of maintenance etc and we need to be able to support this effort equally.

So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame [Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:sectreas131locators@gmail.com) and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add your name) to the associations account at "A/c Name: 131 Locators Association Inc. Bank: Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW BSB No: 032 166 A/c No: 264133"

Hope we hear from you?

Website: <http://www.131locators.org.au>

. Other related sites...

Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY "Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush" (A quote whose origins are lost, yet the sentiments expressed will not be lost on many who served with 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION
The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield

Meetings: - Sun 11 Mar 2018: at Paddington RSL. Sun 8 Jul 2018 and AGM: at Panania RSL Meetings at 1115hrs



Australian Artillery Association — www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



Website link - <http://www.vvaa.org.au>



Website link - <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much. It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

<http://www.rnzaa.org.nz/>

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