

THE EYES and EARS

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

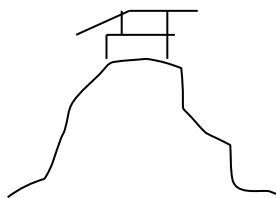
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Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA

Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) awarded to the Detachment and those who served at
The Battles of Coral/Balmoral in South Vietnam, 1968

2023 – 57 Years and the Detachment 131 Spirit Lives On: 1966 – 1971



Eyes and Ears


No.0001 February, 2009



31A, 31B, 31C and 31D – Are you awake? Over.... (followed by a long pause)

Happy 14th Birthday

This is what the first edition of the *Eyes & Ears* banner looked like back in 2007.
It's great to see that we're still in existence – thanks everybody for your involvement.
We've made it to 175 Editions!



Give me a Name?

The “Lost Locator Project”

This Project is being re-ignited for 2022.

Our current list contains the names of **117** Locators (as at 01.01.22) that we have not had contact with since basically commencing communications in 2012, so, we thought this year is as good as any to try and reduce this number.

However, this doesn't mean that we still have contact with the total number of Battery/Detachment members we have Located over time as continuing correspondence has lapsed in a lot of cases.


We regularly check bereavement/funeral notices and this does not locate members in the way we really want to. So, we're appealing for YOUR help in scouring all sorts of sources – local RSL's may not a good starter.

I can send you the total list of names or, if you prefer, by years in SVN to give you a starting point. I will keep an update and publish monthly results in *Eyes & Ears* and the Associations Facebook page on the web site.

Paul Dickson

Get in touch with me via 131eyesandears@gmail.com

. **The “Detachment Album Project”** – This project is sponsored by the 131 Locators Association and is in need of some photographic and by-line input from our members/readers.



. **Insights and Recollections...**

This topic/s have raised so much interest – we're still in the middle of some really great discoveries with some remarkable memories being brought to life.

The series will continue on the receipt of more Insights and Recollections, so if you would care to contribute, please send your Insights and Recollections –

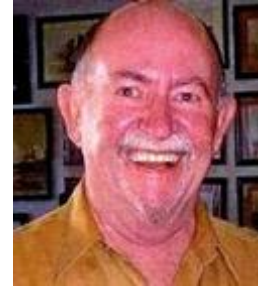
Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com

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Ed – The following is a continuation of a series, commenced in June's *Eyes & Ears*, taken from an unfinished book by Jeff Evans. Jeff gave the contents to Kevin Browning and he has made it available for us to publish in *Eyes & Ears* and to be archived on the Association's website.

NB – Please note that the contents are Jeff's words and have not been edited/alterd. You will see his "notes" and markings (eg. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx etc) needing further attention by him and so on. Please accept the fact that Jeff was fastidious in his research and still had so much information to follow up on, which included research of documents and interviews with fellow Gunners.

"Gunners in Vietnam, 1965-1971" aka by Jeff initially as – "the book"



By Jeff Evans

Edited by Paul Dickson
in conjunction with Kevin Browning,

Chapter 15 – – "Jeffrey Bruce Evans" – a personal side...

This is the final Chapter in the series, you are still invited to submit your own recollections and as Kevin mentioned to me there are pieces where Jeff wasn't able to complete, so your efforts of recollections are more than welcome.

The following entries relate to Jeff on a personal side -

Locator Profile

Surname: Evans **Given Names:** Jeffrey Bruce **Nickname:** JB (Jaybee) **State of Origin:** Victoria (but born NSW)

What did you do before the Army: Born Wagga, moved to Melbourne. 6 months as a machinist at New Holland Farm Machinery, Dandenong, Victoria. Then moved to Holeproof Socks and Stockings, Deepdene, Melbourne; sadly, I did not get to the 'fitting' department for the stockings – could have been interesting. I was called up for National Service in July 1966.

Recruit training centre: Puckapunyal

Service dates from: 13/07/66 to: 20/06/86 **Intake No:** 5 **Regt No:** 3789164

Last Rank: Major

Dates in Nui Dat: 11/02/71 to 11/11/71.

What was your location in Nui Dat: Det 131 Survey Section Commander and also Duty Officer Arty Tac (after Tim Ford, in the TFAIO, went home and was not replaced.)

The dates you were at those locations: 11 Feb to 11 Nov, 1971

Who were you there with at those locations: In no set order – Kevin Browning, Tony Turner, Peter Saint – and I am sorry guys, but the rest of the Det 131 names are a blank – lived in the 12 Fd Regt Officer's Mess and still remember most of them.

What did you do after Vietnam: Returned to Australia with 12 Fd Regt, and posted to Ingleburn as GPO A Bty for the year 1972.

I was promoted Captain and posted to the School of Arty as Instructor Locating (12 months) with Kevin Browning and Training Development Officer (12 months).

Posted 132 Div Loc Bty, Brighton Vic, for 2 years, but only lasted 8 months when I departed for a Long Gunnery Staff Course, UK and Germany for 17 months with Kevin Browning.

Posted School of Arty in Development Wing with Kevin Browning, writing Pams for Locating for 2 years.

Promoted Major and Posted to Locating Wing as Senior Instructor for 2 years

and then, posted to Army Staff College, Queenscliffe, Victoria for 12 months long term schooling.

I was then posted BC 131 in Brisbane for 2 years, with Kevin Browning as BSM.

Then to Army Office as SO2 Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Night Observation (STANO), and everything to do with Survey Corps – don't ask me why this combination?

Then next as Senior Instructor Development Wing at School of Arty, but only lasted 6 months before I resigned to 'go chase the dream' of owning my own small business – silly bloody move, totally stupid (more later).

Any memories of, or comments on, Army service: I could write a book on this, but will not bore you; some highlights instead: Before Vietnam, posted to 103 Medium Bty as GPO. Only two officers in the Battery - Capt Marshall-Cormack was the BK, acting BC and I was the rest. 103 Bty was the Depot Battery for the School of Arty, dual equipped with 6 x 25 Pounders and 6 x 5.5 Inch Guns. I had the great pleasure of firing tens of thousands of rounds from these guns; what a buzz.

Being BC 131 was the best two years of my life. We had a ball, and did some wonderful things under the guise of 'Adventure Training' in the second year. SO2 STANO was a massive job; about 40 projects, in various stages of the procurement cycle and I was the 'manager'. However, I also managed to introduce a new project called "Satellite Navigation Systems for Defence" (Navy, Army and Air Force), and got it a line entry into the budget at \$95 million (chickenfeed these days).

That aside, it was working with the public service in Canberra (no choice) which determined where my future lay; not in the Army. My biggest lesson came out of a bad accident involving Capt Rik Modderman; a white phosphorous grenade exploded prematurely with disastrous results for Rik. The lesson came when the accident was being investigated; the officer controlling the ranges in Qld, who gave us the permission we needed to do the trials with the White Phosphorus grenades and a Thermal Imager, denied ever talking to us before the accident. We did not get the answer (from him) on paper; big mistake.

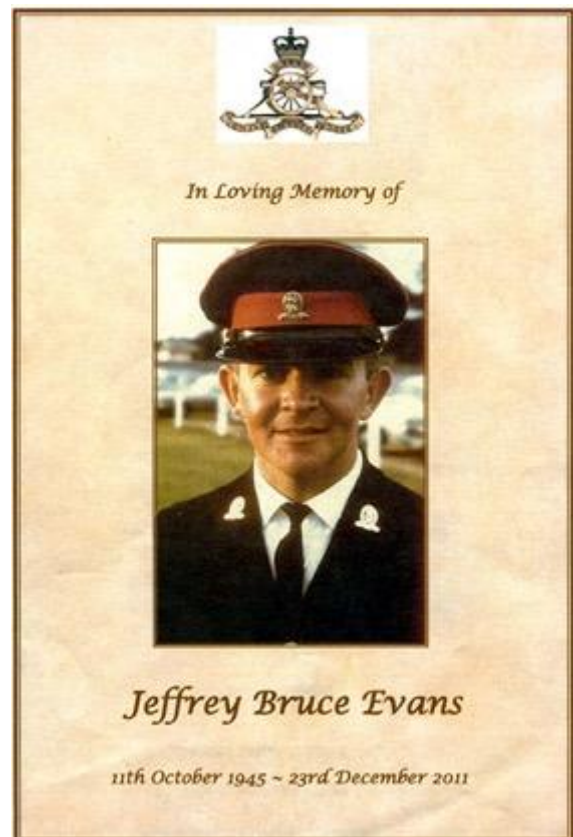
Anything else of interest: Left the Army to own a small business. First a Newsagency; goddamn are they hard work; then a wholesale distribution business which, after 7-8 years, went bust. The lesson? What I knew about running a small business I could have written on the front of a stamp, and not have damaged the stamp beyond use. Why did I not do something I was good at? Only the good Lord can answer that one. Eventually, I ended up as a lecturer at TAFE, doing something which I was good at.

In 1998 got involved in the RAA Museum, North Fort. Was a Tour Guide for 11 or so years, and got involved in restoration work in 2004. Worked with Kevin Browning (there's that name again) on a 3.7 HAA Gun – Locators restoring an AD gun? Then we took on a Searchlight? Two Locators restoring a Searchlight? What gives here? It was simply what needed to be done, so we did it.

Left the Museum in Jan 10 to work (seriously) on 'the book'.

What city town do you live in now: Sydney

Current photos in new offices.





Name: Evans, Jeffrey Bruce

Service No: 3789164 Rank: Majorr

SVN – Det 131: 11 02 71 - 01 06 71
1 ARU : 02 06 71 - 11 07 71
12 Fd Regt: 12 07 71 - 02 11 71

DoB: 11 10 1945 (Wagga Wagga) DoD: 23 12 2011

Lest We Forget



In concluding our extracts from Jeff's recollections, we have been so proud to be able to share all of this with you – he remains one of the heart strings, not only of 131 Divisional Locating Battery, RAA, but of humanity – his legacy lives on.

May He Continue to Rest in Peace and Never be Forgotten.

Paul Dickson: 131eyesandears@gmail.com

AN INVESTIGATION 181 Days

. The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM)

This is just a continuing update with regards to the progress being made with the submissions on behalf of Defense Force Members, who for no reasons of their own, were not awarded The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM) –

Richard Barry's response -

"Hi there Paul,

The wheels of motion are turning ever so slowly.

This month, following despatch of bulk individual emails, I have managed to get 60 politicians and affected veterans to write letters to the Minister encouraging him to arrive at a positive and soon.

Behind the scenes my strong advocate has been meeting with politicians when parliament sits and has more meetings lined up next month.

I would like to see a decision handed down in time for veterans to apply and mount the RVCM in time for Vietnam Veterans Day culminating with commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the withdrawal of Australian ground troops from Vietnam on the 18th August 2023.

Just have to be patient mate.

Richard.

Richard Barry, AOM"

Paul Dickson

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained."



. Peter Murphy – sent in the following email with a great coverage of the ARTILLERY SURVEY REUNION. Sydney, October 2022

"Hi there Paul,

I've attached my report for this reunion which you might find useful for Eyes and Ears.

Cheers, Peter Murphy."

ARTILLERY SURVEY REUNION. Sydney, October 2022

Among the 50th anniversaries commemorated last year was the discharge of the second intake of national serviceman for 1971, in particular former locators from the 131 Divisional Locating Battery based in Holsworthy. The discharge date was 20 October 1972.

Contact was made with 21 former locators and eleven of those were able to participate in the activities over the four days. It was great to see locators from Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales joining in the various activities in and around Sydney.

The event was staged in Sydney over four days from 19 to 22 October 2023. We started with a 'Welcome Lunch' at the Woolwich Pier pub which was a hangout for some interstate 131 DLB nashos during their weekends. The lunch was followed by a very enjoyable Chinese meal that night.

Both activities proved that fifty years had not diminished the familiarity that we'd experienced when we were 'in service'. Conversations and many perhaps apocryphal stories flowed almost endlessly.

At Right - At the Palace Chinese: Peter Murphy, Heinz Hoffmann, Peter Thomson, Harry Overton, Col West



Next morning, we returned to Holsworthy to have a look at the museum there and to contemplate what had changed since our residency 50 years ago. Unfortunately, most of the survey content of the collection is not on display though we found some other items interesting.

Don't think surveyors set this up!



Our barracks area certainly was different! Luckily, we had Kevin Browning in the group to interpret what used to be where! His knowledge was invaluable in filling the details about people and places that we might have forgotten. It was fantastic to be able to get answers to questions that we had about our time there.



I was surprised to find that the oval which I declined to "double around" used to be where the train station now is. 50 years on, my ten-dollar fine and seven days confined to barracks didn't seem too bad!

At Left: Figure 4 Harry Overton, Col West, Peter Thomson, Heinz Hoffmann, Rick Everett

We did recognise two huts that looked like up-market versions of ours. These relocated huts house a museum for military police which displayed many an item that we had been issued to us!



Lunch at the Moorebank Sports Club was another opportunity to swap stories. The 'Reunion Dinner' that night added to the chatter as we enjoyed an Italian meal and more believable yarns.



Reunion Dinner at Primi Italian: Col West, Peter Thomson, Heinz Hoffmann, Peter Murphy, Harry Overton, Bob Daniels

Next day was a highlight with a visit to North Fort where some of us started our time as Grade 1 Artillery Surveyors. While we couldn't mimic the class photo due to changes since 1971 it was good to gather together near the training room. We continued our visit by doing the Defence of Sydney tour, which explores the tunnels of North Head and provides commentary on the installations that were there.

At Right: Harry Overton, Heinz Hoffmann, Bob Daniels, Col West, Peter Murphy, Ian Taylor, Rick Everett with Peter Thomson (kneeling)



Class Photo: 7/71 Artillery Surveyor Grade 1 Course - Pictured at North Fort Wednesday 21 July 1971

Back:

L to R: **Harry Overton**, Allan Dean, Don Fossey, Bob Satske, **Colin West**, **Peter Murphy**, Bill Smith, Sid Armistead, Greg Clark, **Heinz Hoffmann**, Jack Wright, Rick Bleby, Bob Phillips.

Front:

L to R: Bruce Ranse, **Peter Thomson**, **Bob Daniels**, Bob Dickens, Sar-Major Cleasby, Capt Boyle, Sar-Major Lennon, Terry Gibbs, Bob Williams, Bob Clyde, Dave Holmes, Neal Woollard.



At Right: Plotting Room: Peter Thomson, Bob Daniels, Col West, Harry Overton, Heinz Hoffmann

I finally figured out where the shell outside the 8 Medium Regiment guard room had come from.



The stories rolled on while we enjoyed a very relaxed lunch at the Ivanhoe on The Corso in Manly before a leisurely ride back on the ferry.

At Right: Lunch at the Ivanhoe: Harry, Bob, Col, Ian, Rick and Kevin

It was a quiet meal at The Criterion for some of us that night. With the next morning's game of golf cancelled, the final 'Discharge Lunch' at Watsons Bay Hotel began early. Stories about handing in gear at the end of our service were mixed with those about plentiful beers at this pub and pit-stop free transport back to the barracks being managed with 'spare' empty beer glasses. It was all over after a final ferry ride back to Circular Quay.

I'm pleased to say that everything went almost to plan! Thanks to everyone who helped with finding contacts, checking out venues and coming along, particularly Rick Everett, Harry Overton, Bob Daniels and Peter Thomson.



Special thanks to Ross Smith for making his excellent slides available to be scanned and distributed to those who were invited to join the fun. They provided a prompt for memories of our service days.
Peter Murphy.



. Pete Fletcher – a Vale Memory of John l'Anson extracted from an email –

"Hi Paul,
... You may have heard already that former 131er - John l'Anson recently passed suffering a massive heart attack while living in Thailand.
His former wife is a member of our golf club.
John and I were mates prior to our army life. We surfed, played rugby league and socialised together back in 1960 in Manly.

John went to Vietnam with our battery in 1968, I think, after I came home in 1967. He was with radar and was involved at fire base Coral.

Rest his soul.

Best wishes Pete.”.



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...

. Iain Kennedy – “Paul,

Today is going to 38 Degrees (the old 100F) so quite warm. Luckily, we booked lunch at the Frankston RSL in air conditioned comfort. Tonight, will be a cool change to more manageable temperatures.

Last time I talked about the mighty MG, well it's gone. Had it not quite 12 months, good car, but range stress got the better of me and sold it and ordered a Tesla M3, it is about a 3 to 5 month wait, hopefully it's worth it. Meanwhile we are managing with one car, 5 years old and not 20,000Kms on the clock. So at least it's getting some use.

Christmas saw me buy a new toy a folding electric bike, not yet ridden it as I've had some issues with some sore thigh muscles. Having Chiro and acupuncture on them and it is improving, but Doctor said 6 to 8 weeks to recover.

We just last weekend celebrated our Nephew's Wedding and a great time was had by all. The celebrant was Greg Evans (of Perfect Match fame), he was terrific and made a good day even better. (photo of Janet & I at right). Our Goddaughter is heading to USA for three months' work and at the end of it want us to join her for a few weeks sight-seeing, thinking if to go or not. Yet to decide.

Was wondering I we are having a 55-year anniversary catch up for Coral veterans? I've heard some other units are?

Enough from me for now, it's time to get ready for lunch at Frankston RSL.



Cheers,
Iain K.”



. Russ Jackson – “Hello Paul,

Thank you for the mail.

It is hard to believe it is three months since we were last in contact.

Congratulations on publishing the eBook. One of the side benefits of COVID restrictions maybe, in allowing you the time to do so.

Speaking of COVID, it is still rampant here but nobody is talking about it and masks have all but disappeared.

Masks are still mandatory in Medical Facilities but on the street or in shops very few if any are being worn.

In fact, we are now at the stage of receiving some strange looks when wearing them outside

Good to hear that you have been able to do some travel and that your visit to Mexico City was an enjoyable one.

A downside of Australian travel at the moment is the cost of airfares with interstate travel being ridiculously priced.

As for OS travel, Qantas has been blotting its copybook with a rash of plane mechanical failures.

I guess fares are up as part of a capital regeneration process and the mechanical failures could well be a result of the long layover for planes.

We have no trips planned and will again miss out on our group's ANZAC Day get together, which this year will be in Sydney.

We are still scouring the Housing Market with the intention of downsizing.

I am now very restricted with physical activity and we do have a large garden which is pretty much being solely attended to by Margot.

We have been looking for some time now but we are approaching crunch time to make a move.

We continue to have unusual weather with our summer being a total mixed bag. Snow was recorded in the Alpine regions this week and we have had some very cold nights. Heavy rain and biting winds have also been experienced during this last week. We have had a couple of days into the 30's but that is it.

An electric car as a replacement for my Golf is in my sights but I am biding my time until prices become more reasonable

and supportive Infrastructure becomes more established.

I am still actively supporting the Medical fraternity, or rather the Gold Card is, with on-going tests and treatment for my lung condition along with frequent visits for skin cancer removal.

At least I am still upright and mobile. Although the mobility is at a much lesser degree than I have previously enjoyed. Good luck with the trip in March and thank you again for the contact. Regards, Russ."

. **Jim Hognogno** – "Hi Paul,

Sorry for being so slack keeping in touch, no excuses just slack.

Lesley is always reminding me that I should contact "Dicko" because he regularly reaches out keeping the group together. She is right of course and I do apologise to her and you. Glad Helen and yourself are well and avoiding Doctors/Specialists seems to be our destiny as we all age.

Really sad at the passing of Gunner Mac, whom I haven't seen for some time although we phoned each other every few months just to reminisce and have a laugh. Will miss his standard greeting "Kenny Mac" each time he called. Speak with Kanga and Wirey now and then, Wirey phoned to tell me of Macca's passing.

A bigger shock was learning of Mick Habben's death on Boxing Day, a good friend and someone I remember with wonderful memories of our short time together. I contacted him some years ago and had a great catch up but haven't had any contact since then.

I am still involved with the Ex Services Club with 131 member President David Doyle as his Vice President and the C. Ex Group have started demolition opposite the Club to construct 95 [1,2 & 3 bedroom units] over 13 floors. Hoping to revitalise the City Centre and with over 80 of the units already sold prior to construction commencing.

What is the name of your eBook and am I able to access it?

Would like to catch up with you in March but not able to make any promises.

Dicko thanks for your time and effort in keeping us together.

Bye for now

Hoggy."

. **Stu Sporn** – "Howdy Dicko

Unfortunately, I'm still alive

Think my ancient brain has lost my user name and password

Still living in my country (Darwin).

Cheers."

. **Joe Molenkamp** – "G'day Paul,

Thanks for your letter, you certainly do a great job keeping us all connected, I appreciate that! I received the last copy of *Eyes and Ears* so maybe Telstra have finally got bigpond.com sorted out. I couldn't get anywhere with Telstra at all, they just did a test each time and told me I had a Platinum connection so it wasn't their fault that I couldn't *E&E*.

It is good that life is gradually getting back to 'normal' although it doesn't affect us much as we lead a pretty quiet life due to Teena's health problems!

Weather here on mid-north coast has been reasonably hot...low 30's, but very humid, certainly giving aircon a big workout.

Have a safe trip in March and stay Covid free! Cheers Joe."

NB – bigpond.com – Telstra have done NOTHING! I'm sending out smaller numbers of emails, spread over a few days and that's seems to be working – thanks for your comments, Joe, on receiving the *Eyes & Ears* notice.

. **Philip Mulgrew** – "Hi Paul.

Nice to hear from you again.

There's not much going on with myself and family at this time. But both Helen and I have some medical appointments coming up in March. Physio appointments and an annual check on my running parts with my urological surgeon for me and a heart check-up for Helen.

I can't say we have been getting out and about as you have. We're real homebodies at the moment as there seems to be more than enough to do inside and outside the house.

Hopefully we will get away up north for a few days for a change of scenery later on.

Take care."

Notice Board – Hey, see what's coming up?

There's plenty of room for notices – has anyone got or getting any events planned?

Just send an email and I'll post it. Ed



HIMARS means Army will grow by one new artillery regiment...

For the first time in its history, the Army will have the ability to accurately hit surface targets hundreds of kilometres away with guided missiles.

An American HIMARS in action. Story by Private Nicholas Marquis.

The high mobility artillery rocket system (HIMARS) will be acquired as the first land-based, surface-to-surface missile system, which will be a component of Defence's future long-range strike capability.

The American-designed Lockheed Martin system has a range of 300km, with plans to make munitions capable of even longer distances.

Major Stephen Bowles from Fires Modernisation-Army said HIMARS could eventually be a primary, combined-arms weapon.

"They're impressive, they're battle-tested. We can see them being used in Ukraine and they are constantly being exercised in the Indo-Pacific," Major Bowles said. Seeing them live-fire during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2021 at Shoalwater Bay, Major Bowles said Australia had big enough training areas to support firing the long-range ammunition.

"It looked lethal, looked impressive and was just a rapid insertion," he said. "Shoot and move. It was something that I'd never seen before, beyond any sort of live-fire engagement I've ever seen in Defence."

The artillery contains a launcher module with either six guided rockets or a single tactical missile, with the six-wheel-based chassis having all-terrain manoeuvrability.

"It's survivable because you can shoot and move far quicker and use all existing roads," Major Bowles said.

"It's lighter as well. We can get it on to LHDs [landing helicopter docks] and especially C-130s and C-17 aircraft for transporting. What we're looking at is a truck that carries an integrated launcher-module system. So, for operators, any of the issues they will come across will most likely be simple, mechanical ones.'

With the ADF receiving 20 of the wheel-based launchers, the Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) will increase its force.

"We do plan to grow the RAA by one battery in phase one of the acquisition," Major Bowles said. "In later phases, we're looking to grow to an additional regiment over the next decade. It'll reinvent how Army fights. We currently operate by fires supporting manoeuvre. After HIMARS, it'll potentially be manoeuvre supporting fire."

The initial delivery is due in 2025, with the final operating capability planned for 2029.



VIETNAM VETERANS VIGIL

A VETERANS INITIATED COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

Calling volunteers to visit all 523 Australian Vietnam KIA graves...

2023 marks 60 years since the arrival of the Australian Army Training Team (AATV) in South Vietnam (SVN) on 3 August 1962 – and 50 years since the withdrawal of combat troops in 1972.

The Australian government intends to mark the occasion with a Commemorative Service, televised nationally by the ABC on 18 August 2023 from the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial (AVFNM) in Canberra.

Many Vietnam Veterans and the next-of-kin of KIAs are too old or frail to attend this ceremony.

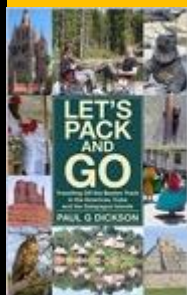
To account for this, the Vietnam Veterans Vigil (VVV) will provide surviving Vietnam Veterans and the Australian people the opportunity to participate in other meaningful ways right across the nation and overseas in recognising the national loss and paying their respects to those who were Killed in Action (KIA) and to show solidarity with their loved ones for their loss.

It is intended to hold a Service of Remembrance at every grave or Commemorative plaque site across the nation and overseas on 3 August 2023.

The first being a Dawn Service Dawn Service, to be held at the AVFNM in Canberra. Other Services will be held at 11am local time across Australia and in Malaysia. The last Service, at Dusk, will be held in Scotland, where LCPL Robert Buchan is laid to rest with his Mum and Dad. VVV is asking for volunteers to co-ordinate each Commemorative Service. You can find more information on the VVV website – vvv.org.au On the website is a list of all Australian KIAs, a map showing which towns across the nation they are commemorated in and detailed information on how you can help. There is even a suggested template for the prepared Commemorative Service and links to the sound recordings you may wish to include. It is requested that every grave visited be photographed by those in attendance. Those photographs can then be downloaded to the Virtual War Memorial of Australia website. Full and easy instructions are provided. This collated virtual Gallery of Remembrance will provide an enduring legacy of Remembrance for all Australians, now and into the future, to reflect upon. While the intent is to visit the graves of all 523 KIA, a secondary aim is to visit the graves of any other Vietnam Veterans, who have since died and are buried in the same cemetery. Organising committee members and patrons were all members of the Australian Vietnam Forces Welcome Home Parade 1987 and the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial Committees.

Here is the link to make contact:

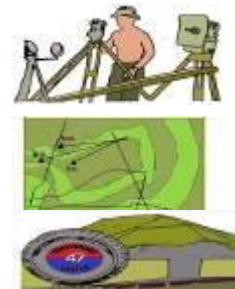
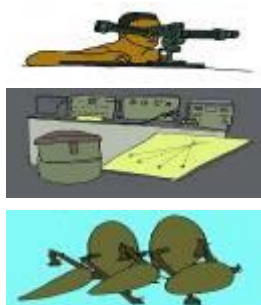
<https://www.contactairlandandsea.com/2023/02/18/calling-volunteers-to-visit-all-523-australian-vietnam-kia-graves/>



I've weakened to responses with regards to an eBook I published in November last year. It covers a ten-month trip Helen and I did in 2007 after retiring. We got into Mexico, the US/Canada, Panama, the Amazon Basin, the Galapagos Islands, Cuba etc. All the proceeds are going to an animal rescue in Tasmania called 'Brightside Farm Sanctuary' – it's worth Googling. It's on Amazon Kindle, but there is a box containing how to adapt it to any device. Hope you enjoy the read – let me know if you purchase it and I'll send photos of the trip. Paul
Ps – I've had to publish under 'Paul G Dickson', because there's a very famous one of the same name! Plus I can send you some photos if you're remotely interested!

The following is some details as to where to find and download it, all you need to do is copy and paste the following link:

https://www.amazon.com.au/Lets-Pack-Go-Travelling-Galapagos-/dp/B0BN14JW3J/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=let%27s+pack+and+go&qid=1672268020&s=books&sr=1-1



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, Vic Nth – Ron Mason, WA - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

We are now living in a digital age we are constantly reminded. Well, some of us are.

My grizzle relates to communication contact in the 20-20s. Want to 'talk' to someone about a technical computer of Wi-Fi issue? Just complete the form and submit it. Don't forget to include your blood group, inside leg measurement and your mother's middle initial so we can best respond to your inquiry – and of course then send copious emails now that we have your email address.

But try to contact by phone and the test for entry is higher. There is sometimes a number hidden somewhere, but not always. And I am not sure if it is a post Covid thing, but should you have to leave a message that's usually the end of the conversation. No-one now returns phone messages!

Dicko and Helen are travelling to the antipodes next month. The date for his regal visit to Sydney has been clearly advised, so if you want to see what Dicko really looks like come along on March 24 th to the Royal Exhibition Hotel in Surrey Hills, Sydney.

Allen



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131divlocbtyraa>

131 Locators Association Meeting: Date: Tuesday, 14th February, 2023 at 1100 hrs...

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee meeting...

Attendees were:

Grahame Dignam, Allen Morley, ,
Merv Nairn, Nick Proskurin, Bob
Billiards, Ged Carroll, Ernest
Newbold, and Ian Amos –
Paul Dickson, Terry Erbs

Steve Wynn, Bert Blink, Rieny
Nieuwenhof, Ian Campbell

Gordon Malcolm, Kevin
Browning, Ron Mason (not in
photo),



Apologies: George Lane, Warwick Brooker, Laurie Sawyer other State Reps and Jim Fitzgerald

Financial Membership is currently ...**131**, plus Associates **2**, plus Affiliates **15** Total **144**

Plus Lapsed as at 1/2/2023 **31**

Presidents report.

Allen –

. Noted the passing of our comrades Ivan Mills, John Ianson, Jeffrey Bassford, Ken McNamara, Raymond Smith, Leigh Baker and Mick Habben. Allen and Ern Newbold along with a number of other comrades attended the funeral of Ivan Mills.

. Warned that not all medicos accept the Gold Card for payment. He was denied and asked to pay cash and then make a claim for reimbursement from DVA. It would be wise to confirm Gold Card is accepted before proceeding with treatment.

. Links to our website on some other Artillery units websites were wrong and not working. After our contact they have been fixed.

. Compared elbow injuries with Grahame and concluded that his was much more serious as he needed metal pins and screws that had to be removed later requiring 2 surgeries.

Public Officer Report.

Gordon reported that he had no item needing attention.

Webmaster Update.

. Webmaster Bob advised Facebook now has 325 members. The link to the Newsletter was last month accessed on 267 occasions. He mentioned the website is now seen as an historical document with most personal interactions happening on Facebook which is more immediate and responsive.

Health.

- . Gordon advised he has joined the Prostrate club with his Prostrate treatment journey ahead.
- . Ron Mason advised he was as well as can expected and was keen to hear the associations view on the appeal sent out by the Vietnam Vets National Museum.
- . All elbows are healing well and in normal use.

General Business and around the grounds:

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . Bert link forwarded a letter of appeal from the Secretary of the Vietnam Veterans National Museum which was distributed to the meeting group earlier. The letter revealed that the previous owners of the NEW museum site had lodged an objection to a Development Approval previous issued the museum being built in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The museum has appealed for financial assistance to cover the expected \$140,000 solicitors' costs. The appeal letter was circulated widely to the Locator community and is available on request.
- . A vote of those attending the meeting agreed that we contribute \$2000.00 to help in keeping our museum functioning and telling our story to future generations.
- . A catch-up group gathered for lunch at Canley Heights RSL for 10 th January 2023 and discussed the way forward for the photo album project deciding to develop 2 versions one social for the website and one practical for the Regiment.
- . The extra 4XL polo order appears very close with the balance due early April.
- . Geelong will host a Coral/Balmoral event on Friday 13 th May 2023.
- . The only information regarding August 2023 anniversary reunion in Canberra is this link from DVA and detailed information is scant. <https://www.dva.gov.au/recognition/commemorating-all-who-served/commemorative-services/commemorative-services-australia-3>
- . Rieny is standing down from official duties with Geelong Vietnam Vets Assn and seeking greener pastures but is still searching. We thank him for his service over a long time.

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

Upcoming Events Calendar – 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 14 th March, 2023 at 1100hrs Venue: to be advised Also, available via Zoom link to be advised		
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. Birthdays in the Battery...March –

DATE	NAME	REGT NO	SVN In	SVN Out	COMMENTS
1	EZIO LOMBARDO	216284	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
2	GEOFF HOLDEN	2785828	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	JAMES TOWNLEY Brig.	17072	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 † 10.02.1970
2	PETER BENNETT	3794060	26 08 1969	04 06 1970	
3	RIC. MARQUES	3790008	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
3	RAY SMITH	3787666	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	† 15.01.2023
3	GRAHAME LEE	2787457	23 04 1968	23 04 1969	
3	ROGER STANLEY	2788155	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
3	RALPH MITCHELL	2788073	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
4	JOE CLENDINEN	17648	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
6	GARRY LUSCOMBE T/SGT	243144	22.04.66	09 05 1967	RAEME
7	RODOLFO MARSANI	3796861	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "		20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
8	RUSSELL JACKSON	3793090	24 02 1969	28 11 1969	
8	BARRY COOKE Sgt.	54886	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	RAAOC
9	LAWERENCE GALLOP	5713642	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
8	DES McGUIGGAN Sgt.	214722	20 01 1970	21 01 1971	† 24.02.2021
11	BOB TANNER	6708362	21 05 1966	28 04 1967	
11	PETER McKIE	2787728	22 04 1968	23 04 1969	
12	JAMES FITZGERALD	2782044	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	

12	GREGORY LUCAS	1735725	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "		20 08 1970	29 10 1970	4 Fd Regt.
13	JOHN (JACK) HEYES	3791085	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
13	ALLAN CAMPBELL Sgt.	18257	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 19.06.2009
	" "		05 02 1968	31 03 1968	
13	WILLIAM ROSS BULLEN T/CPL	243083	20 05 1966	18 11 1966	RAEME † 13.08.1983
14	NEVILLE WORTLEHOCK	54941	29 04 1968	30 04 1969	
17	GEOFF LOCK	2782439	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 09.09.2010
18	VIC MOREAU	1200577	22 04 1966	23 01 1967	† 09.02.2019
18	ROY CLAUSCEN	214873	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
20	BRIAN CAMPBELL	2781310	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	
20	BARRY FOLLINGTON	2783144	12 12 1966	27 09 1967	
20	IAIN KENNEDY	3791023	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	RONALD ROBARDS	216900	21 02 1968	21 02 1969	
21	GARRY SMITH	2792048	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	† 19.01.2012
21	MICK KING	216504	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
21	WARREN JAENKE	1735584	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
22	GREGORY PECK	2790401	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
23	DEREK HINDE	2787403	01 07 1968	14 05 1969	
23	MARTIN KRYNTJES	5715291	26 08 1968	04 06 1969	† 27.12.2017
25	GARTH NICHOLS	216381	{05 02 1968	11 02 1969	
	" "		{05 11 1969	28 11 1969	1 Fd REGT
25	ROBERT HARGREAVES	2790343	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
26	GEORGE LANE	2781630	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
	RAY AURISCH	2212243	1969	1970	† 25.03.1970
27	ERIC WINN	219656	30 05 1970	07 08 1970	131
	" "		07 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
29	JEFF REID	3790495	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	† UNKNOWN
30	FRANK HALLIDAY Sgt.	215105	02 01 1967	13 12 1967	RAEME
30	EDWARD CHASE	2782043	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
31	LESLIE CAHILL	2412281	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
31	GRAHAM HISLOP Sgt.	15290	22 04 1966	03 03 1967	
31	PHILIP SHEEDY	4719418	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 – 11 blokes not highlighted is not that great! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 175 and we've sent out 175. Ed – Maybe we need to draw in a deep one so as to hold our breathes for a while longer.

. **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.



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 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...**

. **Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...**



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield



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>

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

The Dept of Veteran's Affairs has launched a new mental health initiative to assist veteran's experiencing the affects of mental illness and their families. Providing information and fact sheets about understanding mental illness, links and contact information for accessing support, and online resources for health professionals, this website focuses on helping veterans identify early warning signs of mental illness to effectively manage their mental illness and seek treatment. For more info or to access, please visit www.at-ease.dva.gov.au

. 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: <http://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com>



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

Editor contact email: 131eyesandears@gmail.com Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

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