



Eyes and Ears No.0002 - 27/03/2009

31A, 31B, 31C, 31D, Survey and Radar...

It's been a busy month with us finding new contacts and this is a bit of a bumper issue what with ANZAC Day coming next month...

Firstly Grahame D sent the plaque, which appears top right. It's definitely 131ish and different from the usual red and blue. Can I have some feed back on whether this one, the last one or any other is worth having a continuing with?

Crikey, talk about open a can of worms by putting this out to all of you last month! Amazing to see what's been uncovered in...

Heard and Seen...

- Vic D rightfully lays claim to being involved in the original '67 E&E versions. However, he certainly hasn't held back on the indignation stakes that implied that I was the sole contributor and he is now getting menacing. Hell, I let you beat me at golf, I'm sometimes even nice to you.... see you court mate!! I've attached copies of the only edition that has made it through the last 40 odd years. They were done on a "roneo" machine (whatever that was and they don't scan too well!), but are a cack to read! Some of the names stretch the memory, but still bring a smile to the face. Look forward to any comments.

- Here's something interesting...I intercepted an email to 31A members from the ever-so-meek and mild Clark-Kent-like Ernie N who is canvassing an elitist 31A Group to join together and form a "power" brokerage mob within our midst by stating that "they were above us all" – this group needs to be watched. See the attached secret photo, which is No 1 below, of the mastermind openly using ancient military electronic equipment (in his backyard – old habits are hard to break!) to contact the other prospective super-sect members (photo of E with phone at 31A – I didn't realise how attractive Ernie's family looked in those photos behind him and nice try with the Dixi Cola can Ern!)

- Thanks Nick for the comment about the Shack on the Hill (top left hand corner) – it's the best my computing skills would allow! At least I didn't put any empties in view or one of that mob asleep in or on it.

- How's Bob B's form phoning to find out tide times or rechecking the location of the bridge while out on a picnic with Nick and Ron E – where the hell did he get a mobile in '67? Good 'ol reliable Nick got stuck with the M60! See the following photo NO 2.

- Another busy day at 31A with the Sunray adjusting Ernie's wool for the usual Sat night bash with the SAS mob down the hill. Check photo No 3. How young do they look – maybe more suited to the boy scouts??

- Just as an aside for any of you who have grandkids and you or their parents want some time off, it has come to our attention that that both Grahame D and Roger McD have limited spots left during the week to help out. Dig could be handy if you wanted that day to play 18 in Sydney and Mc if your up north a bit and felt you wanted to go to the beach for a few quiet hours. E&E would only be to happy to supply addresses and rates for those interested, plus a booking 17.8% fee.

What's been happening...

- Grabbed a coffee with Nick P and Ernie N a week or so back and it was great (again) to sit and not to talk about the past, but catch up and have a laugh.

- Ernie N, Grahame D, Bob B and Nick enjoyed great lunch on Thu 26/03 and it produced more interesting info, which comes from Bob B who was over there until late '68...

Did you know that after 1/83rd left Nui Dat and went to the DMZ that there was only the LP Crew and a small number of grunts to keep watch on the perimeter wire? Eventually the ARVN took over that section and we withdrew to the main Task Force area (was it the food smell and washing hanging on the wire?). I'm glad I went home – Mum and Dad wouldn't have let me stay if that was the case! When was this and what happened to the 31D cubby-hole – it wasn't turned into a laundry?

- Got an email from Leigh H – he's well. Last year he and his family went to the ANZAC Day ceremony at Long Tan and Nui Dat. It'll be good to get some comment and photos – you did mention you would! Has anyone else been to Long Tan and Nui Dat?

- Had a great conversation with Ken Mc, who's well (he'd been for a swim by the time I called him!) He'd been on a Murray River paddleboat trip of late and recommends it. He is another mine of information – watch this space for some updates on blokes and happenings.

Upcoming events –

- **ANZAC Eve 24th April** – St Marys Catholic cathedral in Sydney is having an ANZAC Eve memorial service at 1730hrs. They are setting aside a section for Veterans – so you can turn up with your medals on, if you're interested. Some of you may need to wear rubber-soled shoes in case lightning hits the medals!!

- **ANZAC Day 2009, Sydney – Muster Point** - Cnr Bent and Phillip Sts (look for blokes with grey hair). Roger McD is coming to Sydney and Leigh H is looking a little more certain too and so is Des S from Melb. Grahame D, Bob B and Ken McN will be going to Perth (I hope their suits and ties don't clash too much with the WA blokes' stubbies and thongs! How do they pin medals to singlets?), Paul D is off to Melbourne and Brian K and Brian C may be going as well so that would swell the numbers by 150% in with Al A.

Hey guys, could we get some photos of gatherings at marches, a beer with a mate or with the family at a picnic?

- **Coffs Harbour 5th, 6th & 7th June 2009** – Fletch has emailed saying he might be interested in going this year. And since then I've received the itinerary and booking form for this and have attached it. Maybe we can get someone to take that fatal step forward volunteer to organise it?

- **Casula Powerhouse Tuesday 16th June - 1000 - 1400hrs** – Barry Heard the author of "Well Done, Those Men" is giving a presentation as you're all aware. It might be best to contact the Powerhouse direct either via their website – www.casulapowerhouse.com or phone 02 9824 1121 to make bookings etc.

Other Stuff -

Non-Missing Persons – "Cracker" (or more euphemistically known as "Blue Leader") has been discovered!! The E&E has done it again through its international connections discovered our '67 erstwhile leader ensconced in Italy, recession proofing himself. All the more fool him for owning up, as he'll now cop all this crap and more! However, Warwick, on behalf of the crew it's great to have you re-join the loop and hear that you're well even with the quaffing of poorer quality reds and hand rearing animals in Italy whilst on a holiday – back to Aus in '10 – maybe?? Fresh goats cheese on a jatz could be hard to beat with a solid red?

Car Insurance – thanks for the response from "Fletch" saying I'm 7 years too late for him to assist! Typical NRMA! Funny, is the same guy we knew as "Tube"? I ended up going with BudgetDirect out of Brisbane.

Locators Association – If you remember from the last E&E the Locators Assn website was found, well Fletch mentioned that this is a 131group who get involved in the organisation of the Coffs re-unions. Does anyone belong to it? I've heard that Steve Boutlis does and he still lives in Brisbane – I believe he keeps in touch with a couple of you – does anyone have his contact details?

A Serious Reader - Nick P - Has had a chance to read several books on our conflict including:

Trackers, and Shockwave both by Peter Haran, On the Offensive - Mackenzie and Elkins, The Minefield - Greg Lockhart, Well Done Those Men - Barry Heard, The Men Who Persevered - Davis and McKay and Combat Battalion – Hall. He still has yet to read - Vietnam, The Australian War - Paul Ham and Crossfire - Haran and Kearney. And he's also on the lookout on any books on the Infantry Battalions as he feels these books give a good insight to the machinations of the military and political machinery and just how much was hidden from us. Anyone got any suggestions of any other books that you have read that would be of interest?

To add to that list there a quite a few more books and articles that may interest avid readers mentioned in the latest Journal for V V P&P March edition, which I just received. There are still a lot of blokes born in the mid to late 1940's listed in their "Last Post" section.

Contributors – Grahame D has come up with an idea for **Monthly Themes** where some of you may care to contribute to topics. He has given us a list and I think we'll kick off the next issue with –

"My most embarrassing funny moment in country".

So can we have some short type ramblings from out there to kick off with for the April edition?

OK - here's another project coming up -

Locator Profiles – It has come to the attention of some of us that we don't know much about some of the blokes we spent time with in training and later in SVN, not only where they came from, went to afterwards and what they looked like (by the responses I've gotten or haven't received, I think some of you are having trouble remembering being there, let alone scare the bloody enemy!). This was highlighted by the fact that Ernie N has been in contact with Kanga McFadden supplying photos etc and said he couldn't remember what Kanga looked like. So with some trepidation I'm hoping that we may be able to rectify some of this by starting a general profile on each of us by you contributing some patchy details about yourselves. I asked a couple of the local blokes to complete a form and add photos and have received a couple back. What I intend to do, after this has gone out, is send out the portfolio questionnaires to all of you to complete and return. At the same time I'll start to send out the completed Locator Profiles for you to have a squiz at. Eventually, it's my thought that we may have enough to do a "coffee table" type book with one portfolio and photographs per page. Anyway, let's see how the response is?

General Stuff -

Since the first edition we've managed to uncover Geoff Blackwell, Ron Evans, Barry Guzder (must have his hands in plaster or otherwise his key board may be broken!!) and Rick Marques (Ernie sent me a photo with him flogging me at "Squatter" – yeah, so I had to find him for a re-match ok?). Rick took a bit of finding, but he'll be getting the mail out in the Glasshouse Mountains this time around. Let's see if it's possible to get a few more of

the old crew to say g'day to. Actually I've included one more photo below (No 4) that Fletch (what was he doing out in the donga with spit polish GP's on – good training Cracker!) sent in. It looks as though he's guarding a group of prisoners; however the one crouching on the left is John "Blakey" Blake – now whatever happened to him?? The late mail is that we have John B's email address and we're sending stuff to him – beauty! Kenny Long is in the photo not looking all that impressed and who are the rest of them??

Now I come to think of it, I've got a photo with Terry Bruce in it – where was he in SVN and what the hell has happened to him? Another Bruce – South Aussie by the name of Bob "Woofer" Bruce was in Arty Tac and ran the "Crown and Anchor" down at the 1/83rd – where else was he and is there any later mail on him? Ken McN adds names like Brian "Wirey" Hackett, Jim "Hoggy" Hogno, Mick Campbell, Geoff Wood, Barry "Nuge" Nugent, Roger "Pig Pen" Long, Mick "Luffy" Luff – the list goes on ad infinitum! I think we'll start a **"Lost & Found"** section in the next issue.

On a serious note tough, does anyone know if any of the '66-'68 group who are no longer with us?

At this point before closing, let's spare more than a thought for the young blokes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Til next time...Three Zero...Out



1. 31A "above us all power broker"



2. Bob B on the "67" Mobile – who's the "big" boy with the "big" gun in the middle?



3. Ernie let a teacher loose with scissors!



4. Fletch with John B, Ken Long and ??? – playing cards or shining boots?

Nui Dat Manning –

Location	Position	Locator Name and Date
30	Arty Tac	Adams A (5/67-9/67), Blackwell G (6/67-11/67), Blink B 910/67-5/68), Campbell B (5/66-3/67), Dickson P (5/67-12/67), Evans R (7/67-2/68) Hamilton W Capt (4/67-1/68), Newbold E (?/67-?/?), Proskurin N L/Bdr (?/67-?/67), Spencer D (1/67-3/67), Waghorn T Sgt (4/67-?/68),
31A	Nui Dat Hill	Campbell B (3/67-5/67), Danko V L/Bdr (?/?-?/?), Goldsmith A (?/?-?/?), Hemming (5/67-?/67), Marques E L/Bdr (?/67-?/?), Newbold E (?/67-?/?), Proskurin L/Bdr (?/?-?/?)
31B	Horseshoe	Danko V L/Bdr (?/?-?/?), Goldsmith A (?/?-?/?), Spencer D (3/67-7/67)
31C	Engineers	Evans R (5/67-7/67), Hemming (?/67-12/67)
31D	US 183rd	Billiards B (9/68/4/68), Blackwell G (6/67-11/67), Blake J (?/67-?/?), Blink B (6/67-9/67), Danko V L/Bdr (?/?-?/?), Hemming (?/67-?/67), Spencer D (7/67-12/67),
	Radar	
	Survey	Billiards B (Survey Sig 9/68/4/68), Mc Donnell R (Driver 5/67-2/68), McNamara K (att to Survey Corp 5/67-1267)
	Support	Dignam G (?/?-?/?), Fletcher P L/Bdr (4/67-12/67), Vitkovsky J L/Bdr (?67)

How does that look - it's interesting to see where we were. Though it does appear that no one was keen to be at 31C (or was it Mook!!) and we all knew why you were sent to the Horseshoe (so very little takers for that!), and it looks as though Arty Tac must have had the best food!!! I've compiled this from what you guys have sent and with help have managed to fill a couple of gaps for blokes who we don't have addresses for. Maybe some of the memory loss may clear up and we can get some more info on who was where and when and maybe re-publish at a later date.

. Some of the more unusual photos in this edition are supplied by Ernie 'Eyes News' Newbold, whose expertise in surveillance involve divorce proceedings, mud wrestling and bar mitzvahs. To save further possible publication embarrassment, monetary approaches can be made to forestall this occurrence happening. The publisher is prepared to act as an intermediary.

. Eyes& Ears is published with no care for anyone. It will accept submissions regardless of value especially if accompanied by a filled recyclable brown paper bag similar to ones used in Qld by the White Shoe Brigade. Email: pgdhmd@hotmail.com

