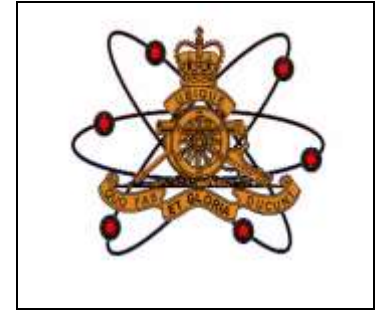




Eyes and Ears No.0003 - 30/04/2009

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



OK, here we go with more images / badges / emblems / insignia, call them what you will – both top left and right. The one on the right is the third in the series of 3 and possibly more Arty influenced than the others.

However, the 'different', more exotic one on the left adds another dimension and has a 'certain' somewhat historic medieval connotation, which bears expanding on by the contributor, Warwick H (who confirms whilst travelling he has become a purveyor of "Very pleasant cheap reds, cheaper Ouzo, great feta, roasted lamb not goat, and the odd bit of octopus!"), who states - "On the criticism of your brilliant computer graphics and the 'Shack on the Hill'. We stayed in Malta for a month, and what did I find there: to protect Valetta's Grand Harbour from the dreaded Ottomans in 1565 the Knights of St John had erected ...a listening post. Actually there were several! (see the above top left photo – enlarge it and you see a bloody ear!). But wait there's more...this construction has Eyes and Ears carved on it to remind the occupants why they were there. Perhaps we should have had these carved into the sandbags on our LPs? These LPs not only provided early warning but they gave direction to the vast number of guns that were in the bastions. Very modern for the 1500's!" Well, the Ed comments – "Thank God Cracker hadn't been to Malta before '67 otherwise Horseshoe could have looked entirely different, let alone the Rec Hut!!"

Now we've received some more mail from the "holidaying" Cracker that the Shield we used in the last issue (the second in the series) has some authenticity as seen by the following – "The plaque is definitely ours. It was designed by us in country in '67 and I think we had the first quantity made in Singapore and brought back to Nui Dat. The atom represents the "electronic" nature of the unit as well as the synergistic (that's a big word for this time of night after a glass of red!) nature of all our elements (represented by the variously titled electrons circulating around the central nucleus). The dragon is the classic Vietnamese dragon from their Mythology. The link is that the dragon was instrumental in creating and protecting Vietnam and we were created for, and to help protect, Vietnam. Pretty D & M stuff. The College of Heraldry would love it! Since then it has become the plaque for all subsequent 131 Bty SVN units, and a variant with the electrons revolving around the artillery badge has been used for today's locaters I think. But we started it!" A note from the Ed – 'Keep up the reds Warwick you're adding some authenticity to what could be a fairly suspect publication. There could be a position for a Resident Historian, who could set up a forum and answer questions.'

We're open to suggestions or a vote for one of the ones we've used and will possibly continue to use.

Heard and Seen...

- John Blake is alive and well, though his being given a "Seniors" ticket at the movies one night without even asking for it has put a bit of a dampener on things!! John's given up on going to the ANZAC Day march in Brisbane, because he couldn't get used to marching with the Gun Batteries and with the RAAF (well they can't march anyway!!) Anyone else have the same problems finding familiar faces on the day?
- Had a brief lunch with **Barry Heard** of 'WELL DONE THOSE YOUNG MEN' writings on 2 Apr at the Petersham RSL, which had been organised by Vic D. Barry grabbed a short break between talking to students at Newington College and had a 'sanga' with us. The author is unmistakably the book – or vice versa. It was great to just be able have a conversation with the bloke who wrote your story and mine. See photo 2 below. If you have the opportunity it'd be worth following up with his scheduled appearance at the - **Casula Powerhouse Tuesday 16th June - 1000 - 1400hrs**
- In picture No 1 below, were Mick King and Vic D really helping Patti ring...
 - o Bert to say she'd be home late and don't wait up or
 - o to complain about her son's acting in 'Underbelly'! or
 - o the police about her stolen handbag in Chadstone?

- Leigh H – got a follow-up email from his daughter, Ainsley, to say..."Barb was keen for me to let you know that Leigh's surgery went very well. He's still in ICU but will hopefully be out of there later today. Poor fella looks decidedly pained at the moment but I'm assuming that with all that fiddling around inside a chest no one would be too happy! Barb & I also want to thank you & all the army crew for the amazing kindness & support that you have shown--such as testament to the bonds of friendship. We have been printing off all your messages to show him & they perk him enormously.

More news soon. Many, many thanks and kindest regards, Ainsley"

- Photo No 4 below of the row of slightly used APC's was taken at Luscombe Bowl during the '67 Christmas Concert, featuring Lorrae Desmond, Lucky Starr, Bev Harrell, Lucky Grills etc. It's believed that now, most of them are owned by members of the M113 Collector's Association in country Victoria! Ed wants to know – 'Was the name "Lucky", Australia's most popular name for your kid in 1930's??'
- The Ed had lunch with Roger McD (who's looking well and it was great to catch up), Ernie N and Vic D to have a bit of a pre-ANZAC lunch at a pub in Devonshire St (I was late). As usual the conversation was full on and saw some of McD's photos. And like all get togethers this one had its surprise, which involved Vic's birthdays – yes birthdays? How's this for timing? Towards the end of the Second World War Victor's parents were with the Russian Cossacks in Southern Austria / Northern Italy. Through various extraordinary adventures they eventually arrived in Australia in June 1949. According to travel documents Victor was described as being born in Villiach, Austria, on 1 January 1945 -there was no birth certificate! So.....along comes conscription for those turning 20 from 1 Jan 1965 and onwards ...those born 1 Jan 1945 and later join the lottery and I get conscripted . When did you see a lottery with ticket number one winning? The irony was that Vic's mother had altered his birthdate!! She tells him it was actually 30 December 1944 and across the border in Bolzano, Italy!! AND she did so to prospectively defer by one year his nasho call up in the Soviet Union! How could she be expected to know? In the Soviet (had they been returned) all boys of 18 were called up for 3 yrs in the year they turn 18. So he misses the sunny Gulag but ends up in Singelton! No regrets - Thanks Mum!

Answers please...

Dig's question... "I just bought a ankpq-1 Radar and it's shit. Always overheats, can't get parts, won't work in the rain and takes a flamin' Chinook to move the thing! What a turkey!!" See photo 3 below to see the problem.

Responses...

"G'day editor, Perhaps Dig could have a look on ebay for a later model; my MARK XIV model works really well and has been a fantastic deterrent to the local militia, as they haven't attempted to mortar us at all. We don't even need to turn it on very often, just needs to a few sweeping scans every now and then." Regards Gnr. Ernest Newbold (ret.)

"Hi editor - I could have told Dig that the ANKPQ-1 was useless shit back in February 1967! Where was that boy then? As Karl would have said, "vut you got is shits for brains" to anyone who would even think that that load of crap was worth any mirrors, beads or cloth. The only use it had during my time in Nam was to provide numerous trips from Aus to Nam for Major (Young?) who could not ever get the dam thing working." Cheers, Boots.

Ed offers – "We guess we could suggest asking for your money or the mirrors and beads back that you exchanged for it, maybe try the Ombudsman or move to Melbourne where it never rains!!"

Humorous times...

JTC by Dicko – the first lesson I learned was not get stuck beside a 21 stone cook for the morning stop-pick-up-carry run before breakfast; the second was to stay 'puny' and you might avoid carrying the M60; the third was to learn to how to keep cigarettes dry while down in Wiangaree with Al Adams so we could drop our dacks and burn leeches of our bums every morning. Then there was waiting silently all day in the rain in an ambush set by Yerbs and not have the enemy turn up – they mustn't have thought much of him either!

...and a touch of real EMBARRASMENT!...

"While doing my first relief at 31A, I scored the midnight to whenever shift. Being a diligent LPer I decided to report everything that moved outside the wire.

Much later around 4.00AM, after staring into the blackness for hours I spotted a light moving N to WNW in the arc toward Saigon. It must have been 10k metres away but moving relatively fast. I called the 30 Arty Tac op on the phone to check if there were any other reports in that area. "Negative", he replied. I insisted the lights were there but couldn't sway him.

I can't recall whom I woke up (Ern or Nick) to confirm what had now grown to a line of lights moving in the same arc.

After a severe verbal diatribe including expletives I was informed that I was about to call a Fire Mission Battery on a line of Fireflies marching down a tree branch 10 metres to the WNW of my position. EMBARRASMENT!!! It was possibly better for Dig to be in the Disorderly Room as Chalkie was a bit of a "loose cannon"!

Now this is Spooky...we've engaged a Locator Gazer* to have a ball gaze (a bit like smoke and mirrors) at birth dates and we can now wish happy birthdays to...The guys born in January - Vic D in the 1st (even the Crystal Ball fogged up over this too!), Phil E the 15th, Barry Heard 19th and Al A on the 27th and there's more...Feb sees Roger McD go for 2nd, Ernie on 14th, then onto March with Ric M on 3rd, April's guesses are the 7th for Kanga, Dig on 26th - and he was born in 1946 as opposed to '45 for the rest, though again Vic D turns out to be the oldest Nasho ever!! Future predicting seems to have hazed the ball up temporarily; the "Gazer" will be back in May for more mysticism. The teaser clue for May is a Russian being photographed in the ACT - all in 1946!! This is riveting stuff! Even sceptics would part with cash for this.

ANZAC DAY 2009 – You'll have to wait til we get ANZAC Day stories and photos from the various groups and it'll come out in a special supplement. Perth looks like having a great march and re-union with Kanga, Steve Boutlis, Peter Hopper and Mook also going. However, Roger McD was a definite starter in Sydney.

Coffs Harbour - John Blake would drive down from Bris if the numbers look OK, and Pappy G could be a starter too. So what's happening?

Locator Profiles – We've now sent out 4 and the response has been a bit of a trickle, so the stream is going to dry up soon if we don't get more – we've received 10 so far. There are 31 of us now in the network. C'mon guys bight the bullet! Our resident 'Grunt' has sent his.

Lost, Found etc...

. Steve Boutlis has been found thanks to John B

. Just as an addition we have an honorary Locator / Grunt by the name of Barry 'Turd' (the nick name is a bit unkind!!) Heard joining our network.

. Another name has surfaced – Hans Webber, Ernie thinks he was in Radar between may '67 to April '68 - does anyone have any more information?

. Perrin – this name has cropped up as a reo for one Warwick H? Is there any more info on him as to full name, rank and dates in SVN? Maybe even a photo? Who was the prior Warwick "Cracker"?

. Jim Hogno has been turned in by Ken McN and Kanga. Jim's preparing for the Coffs' marathon by getting titanium knee replacements – one's done and the other's coming up – airport screening will be fun!

. Peter 'Pappy' Gault has been discovered in the Whitsunday area – Jim Hogno thought if he had to suffer being bombarded by us Pappy may as well suffer too! He's replied!! Pappy called me on 21/04 and we've got his email address – he's well. His after SVN profile section should read like a nomad travel journal.

. In Melbourne we discovered John Dellaca, who brings the Banner, John Bayford who arrived in Nui Dat in Sep '67 and was despatched to the Horseshoe (what did he do wrong?) and 2 of Killer's mates Bernard Erica and John Roberts – both '66 vets. I missed getting info from the other guys there – perhaps they may get contacted by the blokes who'll now get this.

. Garry Smith turned up for his FIRST march ever in Sydney. He was in SVN in the '70's and has some interesting stories to tell – abridged notes will be in the ANZAC Day edition of the E&E's. His profile will be good to read.



1. "Hello, its Patti I'm calling reverse charges..."



2. Vic, Barry Heard & Dicko at the RSL in Petersham



3. Dig's Radar in the repair shop.



5. Who's protecting who when the "Luckys" are on stage?

We'll be back next month with your help – the following sounds ok...

"Artillerymen believe the world consist of two types of people; other Artillerymen and targets." - Unknown

* Ernie has established a secure link to the 'Locator Gazer' and is protecting his connection and will continue to release more info as the year progresses. There is NO financial agreement, just the odd coffee to maintain our preferential treatment.