



Eyes and Ears

No.0005 – 25/05/09



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

Well, where did that month get to? As usual heaps of things happened - our data base has grown, and there are quite a few emails coming and going. So let's get started...

Heard and Seen...

.Birthdates – yes, there's more of life's mysteries. Steve Boutlis has this story..."You think Vic (Danko) had problems. I have two official ones and one that Mum reckons that I was born on. The Naturalisation Certificate states the 15th August 1945, the Greek Birth Certificate says 27th September, and Mum and Dad swear that it's September 7th!! I used the last for Nasho registration and unlike Vic mine wasn't drawn. I had to volunteer for Nasho! I wonder if the others were drawn?" **Ed comments** that you could have hit the trifecta and done 6 years!

.Letter from Vietnam...Bob King has sent in a period piece – see attached. **Ed comments** - I think it could have been relevant to a lot of us.

.Websites – Ernie is continuing to be hard at it with stuff and has managed to glean the following, which may be of interest to all of us – "Websites relating to Australia's involvement in South Vietnam" -

www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au, www.ausvets.com.au, www.locatingartillery.org, australianartilleryassociation.com, www.vietnamroll.gov.au, <http://www.bobbuick.com/warnotlost/index.htm>, www.gruntsview.org, www.husky235.org, http://members.optusnet.com.au/joekocka/My_Story.htm, <http://members.optushome.com.au/joekocka/>

. Warwick Hamilton's contribution for ANZAC Day just missed the deadline, but never the less we thought we owed it to him to include his marking of a day close(taking into account daylight savings, the way the water goes down the plug-hole in the Northern Hemisphere, the effect of goat's cheese etc) to the 25th in Malta at the Valletta's Grand Harbour- where he got to let off some inhibitions (and as he paraphrases some poor bugger) "That you can take the boy out of the Artillery, but you can't take the Artillery out of the boy". He had much delight in firing an 8 inch Rifled Muzzle Loader circa 1850 (we could have been using them in SVN on a dark night – who knows!) See photo #1 below. Ed thinks even Gunner Dignam could have distinguished that flash over a "fire fly"?

. As an aside, Dicko was travelling in the US where he took a photo (see photo 2 below) in one of those green paddocks filled white crosses denoting War graves in Glenwood Springs, Arizona where the statistics show the appalling number of deaths outlining the futility of war. Hard to believe that they scrubbed about half a million of themselves in their Civil War! The Vietnam War killed 59,000 of them out of 9.2 million that served there. We were young, but their 'draftees' were younger.

. Now this item requires a fan fare - a Steering Committee to be Chaired by Ernie Newbold, Grahame Dignam as the Secretary and Bob Billiards as the Treasurer was formed over lunch in Canley Vale (great Vietnamese food) on Thursday 14th May to investigate and develop a way to get our Eyes& Ears, Locator Profiles, Photos and a whole lot more onto a website. It'll be interesting to get progress reports from them. If anyone can be of assistance please don't hesitate to call / email all or one of them.

. Ernie's photo (No.3 below) we know that's John Blake doing a 'Dicko' looking into the work-site and nothing else, we've got Steve Boutlis and Warwick Brooker saying the that the 3rd from the right is Ron 'Sandy' Saunders – any more guesses?

. Bert Blink has supplied a photo of Phillip Perrin, Captain CO 131 from Feb 68 - Jan 69, this photo (see #4 below) was taken at the Coral/Balmoral 40th Anniversary Regimental Dinner Canberra in May 2008. Phillip is seen chatting with Bert. **Ed comment** – all we've got to do now is get his contact details and add him to the group.

Answers please...

.Ernie Newbold has a question - Did you notice on the Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans page for Jimmy Menz that his official commemoration site is at the Marysville Cemetery in Victoria. Could this be the same Marysville that was caught up in the terrible bushfires earlier this year? I wonder if that was Jimmy's home town and if his family are still in that area? We would like to contact them and include them in our group. Can anyone be of help?

Humorous times...

Dicko had some thoughts on the rear cargo doors of the Caribou opening at Ton Son Nuit for the first time, on arrival from Darwin, and seeing little people dressed in 'black pj's and coolie hats' standing there and his SLR somewhere below him and God knows where the bolt was, let alone any ammo! He was sure, at the time, that he

was told to do something when he saw people dressed like this (I'm sure I saw photos of them) and what to do if the occasion arose! What else did they tell him or forget to tell him that was not quite right and was he really paying attention? Maybe I should have paid more and flown with another airline as the food, seating and service on board were terrible as well!

...and a touch of real EMBARRASMENT!...Just an extra to Steve's Locator Profile, writes Brian 'Cambo' Campbell - at the time of 'YOGI' Campton's run in with a C130 I was the BC's driver. He decided to drive himself that day and because he got to use any new vehicle that arrived over there. This was another new rover destroyed. I hated the drivers job and didn't last long.

Continuing to be Spooky...we continue with this gripping segment at a reduced cost for this edition as the power to fire up the "ball" (he's no longer using coal fired power) was less as we're only getting predictions for May from the Locator Gazer. The teaser clue, which he gave us stated "a Russian being photographed in the ACT – and that all of them were born in 1946 has given us birthday wishes for Bob King on the 11th, Nick Proskurin the 20th and Bert Blink the 26th. We had no critics of incorrect dates from the 3rd Edition, so can the Locator Gazer maintain a 100% record?

ANZAC DAY 2009 – Hope you enjoyed the E&E's special edition.

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? There could be record numbers this year.

Locator Profiles – We've now published 8 and the response has become a bit of a trickle, so the stream is going to dry up soon if we don't get more – we've received 11 so far. There are 37 of us now in the network. C'mon guys bight the bullet – according to the fountain of knowledge (one Ernie N) there were 463 of over there so we've got a way to go! Our resident 'Grunt' has sent his!

Lost, Found etc...this edition recognises the contribution of the Jim Hogno Locator-Locator Organisation...well just about!

Hoggy has found another 4...only he knows how he's going to change these poor buggers' lives!

.Hans Webber – was turned up in Moe, Victoria.

.Barry Nugent – has been found in Boyne Island in Central Qld.

.Warwick Brooker – ensconced in Canberra, with Ugh boots on!

.Mike "Luffy" Luff – has surrendered as well and will now be bombarded.

.Chris Chapple was re-discovered in Perth thanks to Bert Blink.

.Terry Bruce has been discovered on a farm south of Campbelltown, NSW by an ever diligent Pappy Gault.

The network is starting to rival the numbers at the opening ceremony for the Beijing Olympics! It is going to be so good to catch up with what they've been up to.



1. Warwick "the boy" not removed from the Artillery



2.US War dead details – Arizona



3.OK we've got John Blake and Sandy Saunders – who else?



4.Bert with Phil Perrin at the Coral/Balmoral 40th Anniversary Regimental Dinner Canberra in May 2008

Another month down the gurgler and our 'band of brothers' is growing. Let's hope with your help we can continue to keep the articles and the interest up.

"Artillery adds dignity, to what would otherwise be an ugly brawl"
- Frederick the Great, king of Germany, 1740 to 1786*

*Ernie – are you sure Fred the Great ok'd our use of this?

