



Eyes and Ears

No.0007 – 31/07/09



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

Well, there goes July and out comes another one of these. This month's contributions came from – Nuge, Kenny McN, Ernie, Dig, Boots and Vic D. We're just about down and out with Profiles, but where there's hope there could still be life!! The total database comprises now of 49 blokes.

We start this edition off very sadly in Heard and Seen...

So let's get started...

Heard and Seen...



. **Ken McNamara's** brother, **Stan – 2789611, 1 Field Regiment** served **SVN 1969-70**, who passed away suddenly on 13 July aged only 61 years at the Lismore Base Hospital. Ken, on behalf of blokes, please accept our condolences and our thoughts that are with you at this time. **Ed**

.**Peter 'Pappy' Gault** is still doing it a bit tough, health-wise, for the moment, but knowing that we're thinking of him will hopefully give some lift in spirits to him and Carol. Hope to hear from you pair soon!

.**Kenny McN reports...**that Peter Hopper's wife, Di, has just had tests for bowel cancer and is awaiting the results. Keep us in touch. **Late mail: Ed** has just had an email from Peter and he confirms that Di is coping pretty well. All the group's thoughts are with Peter's family.

. **The following** was forwarded on by Steve Boutlis for general distribution. The original email was from Kevin R. Maker **re: Karl Doehrmann. Major RAA Rtd.**

Greetings all, It's is with a sad heart that I advise you that Karl Doehrmann is in a very serious condition in North Gosford Private Hospital.

Karl has been unwell for a number of years and after collapsing at 0400 hrs yesterday he was rushed to Gosford Hospital then to North Gosford Private.

I visited Karl today and in company with his wife Joan his treating doctor informed us that Karl is suffering with very aggressive cancer and acute infection of the bladder. His condition is in-operable and his life expectancy is very short perhaps only days.

I would ask that you all to post this email to your various address books so as many former gunners as possible know. Karl has a bedside phone 02 43217 and if he answers please identify yourself as his short term memory is not good. If there are any changes I'll advise you asap. Regards, Kevin R. Maker **Ed:** Can someone please keep us up to date on his progress.

Ernie Newbold adds some background after a question from **Ed:**

G'day Paul,

'Karl Heinz Doehrmann (June 15 1933 born in Germany), he served two tours of duty in S.V.N. He was with the main body of the detachment which departed from Richmond RAAF base on a chartered Qantas flight on 20th May 1966.

At 0204 hrs. On the night of 16-17 August 1966 the Task Force at Nui Dat came under attack from mortar and gun fire. Retaliation fire commenced seven minutes later, under a counter-battery fire plan then in force. During the attack the Detachment received its first battle casualties when L/Bdr. Karl Doehrmann and Gnr. Terry Hayes received shrapnel wounds, both remained in country to recover. This was in the lead up to the battle of Long Tan. He is listed as a Sergeant from his second tour and interestingly shown on the Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans as being in the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers even though it shows he served both tours with the 131 Detachment.

On 28th October 1966, surveyors Bdr. N.R.Bullen and L/Bdr. Karl H Doehrmann (who had recovered from his wounds) were attached to the Meteorology team of Alpha Battery 2/35th Bn. (U.S.) for training on the Air

Temperature and Density computer, Ballistic Wind Plotter and Zone Wind Plotter. It was the Detachment's first dalliance with light meteorological activities. **Details from "Tracks of the Dragon", the history of Locating Artillery in Australia by Keith Ayliffe and John Poesner.**

I trust that the above helps with your enquiry. Regards, Ernie.

. **Ernie also** adds some info on Kevin Maker, who obviously was one in SVN long after some of us – 'L/Bdr. Kevin Raymond Maker, 2251507 served with the Detachment from 26th August 1969 to 13th August 1970, he was born on 4th April 1949 at Nyngan N.S.W. **Ed:** Maybe someone might be able to get Kevin to get in contact with us?

. **Pete Fletcher reports** in with an email – 'Dicko, Veneice and I are going well, both healthy. We are off to Hawaii for 2 weeks on the 30th August with friends. Looking forward to a surf and perhaps a game of golf which I have taken up again. Regards Fletch. **Ed adds:** So what's changed, you used to surf and play golf every arvo after work for 40 years!! Have a great time Fletch!

. **Ernie sends an email...**G'day Paul, I have finally had the opportunity (it is cold and wet in Sydney today) to update the list with names provided by Bernard Erica and Geoff Blackwell, this list (version 05) supersedes all other previous lists. Two interesting things were found while compiling this list. Lofty Hayes and Warwick Hamilton were both born on the same day in the same year (Warwick in Sydney and Lofty in Wee Waa N.S.W.). Sergeant Brian Ruddock who served two tours, one with 131 and the second with 4 Field Regiment was Mentioned in Dispatches but I don't know which tour the honour was for.

Regards, Ernie. **Ed asks:** Does anyone have anything to add about Sgt Brian Ruddock being Mentioned in Dispatches? Can you please reply and help out; also does anyone know the whereabouts/contact details for him.

Ed also adds – as an afterthought, is it possible that Warwick and Lofty were separated at birth (having been born only minutes apart), shared the same 'pissaphone' in Nui Dat and never knew the real story??

. **Barry Nugent offers** the following item for thought... Drafting Guys over 60----this is funny & obviously written by a Former Soldier-

New Direction for any war: **Send Service Vets over 60!**

I am over 60 and the Armed Forces think I'm too old to track down terrorists. You can't be older than 42 to join the military. They've got the whole thing ass-backwards. Instead of sending 18-year olds off to fight, they ought to take us old guys. You shouldn't be able to join a military unit until you're at least 35.

- For starters: Researchers say 18-year-olds think about sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex a couple of times a day, leaving us more than 28,000 additional seconds per day to concentrate on the enemy.

- Young guys haven't lived long enough to be cranky, and a cranky soldier is a dangerous soldier. 'My back hurts! I can't sleep, I'm tired and hungry' we are impatient and maybe letting us kill some asshole that desperately deserves it will make us feel better and shut us up for a while.

- An 18-year-old doesn't even like to get up before 10 a.m. Old guys always get up early to pee so what the hell. Besides, like I said, 'I'm tired and can't sleep and since I'm already up, I may as well be up killing some fanatical s-of-a-b....

- If captured we couldn't spill the beans because we'd forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank, and serial number would be a real brainteaser.

- Boot camp would be easier for old guys. We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we're used to soft food. We've also developed an appreciation for guns. We've been using them for years as an excuse to get out of the house, away from the screaming and yelling.

- They could lighten up on the obstacle course however. I've been in combat and didn't see a single 20-foot wall with rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any pushups after completing basic training.

- Actually, the running part is kind of a waste of energy, too. I've never seen anyone outrun a bullet.

- An 18-year-old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave, to start up a conversation with a pretty girl. He still hasn't figured out that a baseball cap has a brim to shade his eyes, not the back of his head.

These are all great reasons to keep our kids at home to learn a little more about life before sending them off into harm's way.

Let us old guys track down those dirty rotten coward terrorists. The last thing an enemy would want to see is a couple of million pissed off old farts with attitudes and automatic weapons who know that their best years are already behind them.

***How about recruiting Women over 50 ...with PMS!!! You think Men have attitudes!!! Ohhhhhhhhhhhh my God!!!

If nothing else, put them on border patrol.....they will have it secured the first night!

Ed comments: I'm still not convinced! Where do they stow the cosmetics?? What about the back-seat-'instructions' in the Rover and then trying to give directions from a map!!

. **Grahame Dignam has concerns** with the following... Ok how was "this storm in a teacup"? Up to scratch or not? Not another beat up surely? Freak tornado terrorizes footy fans...

A freak tornado, with winds of up to 150km/h, has terrified footy fans in suburban Adelaide, flinging sheets of iron and shards of glass across a busy sports ground.
Cars around the Port Noarlunga football ground were shunted off their parking spaces during the Southern Football League game on Saturday, while players were injured by flying debris as they dashed from the field.
Regards, Grahame

. **We never did** get any suggestions, answers or replies to photo # 2 we had in the last issue. I would have thought someone would have had a better stab than the pathetic one by **Ed**.

. **Long Tan Day – August 18** – news from Kenny McNamara that he, Steve 'Boots' Boutlis, Brian 'Wirey' Hackett and Barry 'Nuge' Nugent will be attending the **Caloundra RSL Vietnam Veterans** sponsored day. So guys if you're handy or want to meet there, let us know pronto and we'll find out more info.

. **The Annual Gunner Dinner (Sydney)** is to be held on 8 Aug 2009. Details of the event are as follows:
Venue: Parramatta Ex Services Club, Macquarie St Parramatta Timings: 1900 for 1930 Dress: Black Tie or lounge Suit with miniatures Cost: \$60 per head or \$55 if booking a table of 8. Parking is free in the club car park opposite the venue. Dinner Bookings: Vic Willey, 8 Mahnken Ave Revesby 2212. (ph 02 9773 9623). Include a list of names. Cheques payable to the RAA Association (NSW) should reach Vic not later than 24 July.
Marriott Hotel special for overnight accommodation including breakfast: \$150 per couple (ph 02 9891 1277). Bus transfer is available. When booking, please Inform Vic if you intend to use the Marriott accommodation and if you intend to use the bus transfer.

. **Picture 1 and 2 below** has Vic Danko doing his best to get more than one water buffalo as part of the dowry to marry the old bloke's daughter. Well that's not quite right – the story is in the adjoining box.

. **Picture 3 is another** cutting out of Aus Women's Weekly dated 22/11/1967 supplied by Vic D. We published a similar photo earlier on, but this is the one that made the press.



1. The photo of Vic having a crack at Vietnamese – the text is in the next square.

2. This could still need enlarging to read

3. This is a great article.

. **Website** – this project is still a work in progress.

. **Continuing to be Spooky...** as was stated last month as a birthday month July is really lean as the Locator Wizard could only turn up Bill Finlay on the 10th. Bill looks as though he was a Reg., born in '44 and served in SVN between 20/05/66 to 01/05/67. Now **Ed** asks again – does anyone know anything about Bill?

. **WIA's** – we never received any replies re this topic referring to the 8 WIA's.

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 17 and we've sent out 17 so far – so is that it - bummer?? They proved to be great reads with some interesting characters evolving that we possibly didn't know years ago.

. **Lost, Found etc...**

. **Warwick Brooker** managed to get hold of Nick Armstrong, and he dropped us an email. Nick also sent us his Locator Profile. He's living in SA – his Profile went out earlier this week. Thanks Brookey!

. **Ken McNamara** gave **Ed** Brian 'Wirey' Hackett's email address, so we're hoping to connect with him soon.

. **Steve Boutlis inadvertently** gave **Ed** email addresses for Murray Poustie, Peter Hopper, Bruce Irvine, Lofty Hayes and Barrie Follington. We got a response from Peter H (as above) and we're hoping to hear from the other blokes.

Guys keep items and especially photos coming in – we're desperate for PHOTOS with stories.

"If you don't have enough artillery, quit."

-General Richard Cavazos

According to Ernie's impeccable research - Richard E. Cavazos (born [January 31, 1929](#)), a [Korean War](#) recipient of the [Distinguished Service Cross](#) as a [first lieutenant](#), who advanced in rank to become the [United States Army's](#) first [Hispanic](#) and [Mexican American four-star general](#). During the [Vietnam War](#), as a [lieutenant colonel](#), Cavazos was awarded a second Distinguished Service Cross. In 1976, Cavazos became the first Hispanic to reach the rank of brigadier general in the U.S. Army. Cavazos served with great distinction for thirty-three years, with his final command as head of the [U.S. Army Forces Command](#). **Ernie is an** absolute gem of wisdom with these people who make these quotes – thanks from **Ed**.