



Eyes and Ears

No.0008 – 29/08/09



Arty Tac, LP's, Survey, Radar, Transport and Workshop...

For August we've changed the intro (above) to reflect the overall Battery components, which was suggested by **Ed's** mentor and chief contributor to the engine room of these publications – Ernie Newbold.

This month is a whopper with 5 pages and 4,000 words with contributions coming from – Kevin M, Carol Gault (Pappy's MUCH better half), Hembo, 'Baldy', 'Hoggy', Bob B, Brookey (may have to go on the payroll), 'Cambo', 'Henry', 'Blueleader' and our resident 'Spook' Ernie.

The total database now comprises **57** warriors.

Again we start off an edition very sadly in Heard and Seen...

Heard and Seen... "VALE"



Major Karl Heinz Doehrmann RAA JP Retired.

Karl died in the North Gosford private Hospital on Monday the 10th of August 2009. Major Doehrmann was well known throughout the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and his comrades will miss him and we are poorer for his loss.

To Joan and his family we extend our Sympathies for the loss of your husband and father.

Karl was born on 15th June 1933 in Freiburg- Breisgam (Black Forrest) Germany. Karl was the son of Wilhelm & Margaretha Doehrmann and his father was the Director of the Southwest German Philharmonic Orchestra, which led to Karl's love of classical music, which remained with him for the rest of his life.

Karl graduated as a Chemical engineer from Isny-Allga University in Bavaria. Karl worked in the Oil Industry from 1954 till 1958 for an American Company in Libya and other Middle Eastern countries. When he returned to Germany American Express in Munich employed him.

Karl married Joan on the 3rd of July 1959 and had three children Bianca, Michael and Margrit. Karl and Joan migrated to Australia in 1962 and Karl enlisted in the Australian Army in October 1963. Karl had a long and distinguished career in the Australian Army including two tours of duty in South Vietnam and was wounded in action in August 1966 just prior to the Battle of Long Tan. He was also an Artillery Surveyor beyond renown and an excellent Sound Ranger. During his second tour of Vietnam Karl was returned to Australia and Commissioned as an officer.

Karl held many postings during his service including the School of Artillery at North Head as an Instructor and in Development Wing. He also had a posting as BK of 130 Gun Locating Battery RAA. He further served as a Staff Officer in Papua New Guinea from November 1970 till February 1974. Karl's last posting was Officer Commanding District Support Unit Randwick NSW. Upon retirement Karl was offered the position as the "Corrective Services Commissioner" for NSW. There would be a lot of prisoners letting out a sigh of relief that he didn't take on this role.

"LEST WE FORGET"

Kevin R. Maker JP, Kevin Browning OAM & Margrit Dutton compiled this tribute.

. **Carol Gault gives** us an update on Pappy – 'Hi Paul, Peter had his second chemo to-day and is doing well after it; his blood tests came back very good. We are off for 10 days in Coff's for some r and r both looking forward to that! Carol' **Ed** – thanks Carol, Coff's sounds great. – Carol has given me their mobile number, so if anyone wants it, just get hold of me at three-zero@hotmail.com

Leigh Hemming gives us a bit more info after speaking to Pappy and he's been back to Greenslopes hospital in Brisbane.

Then there's another update from Carol – 'Hi Paul, Thanks for the email, yes we are back in Greenslopes but chemo being held-up. First by a tooth abscess now by a dog bite which has become infected! We did get to Coff's which was great, met up with Jim which was good. Took some photos which I will send later, boy Jim and Peter have got slightly older in the photos but haven't we all.

Peter and I are fed up with waiting for the chemo it has been a week of waiting, so lucky we have a great son and daughter-in-law plus two grandchildren here that give us so much pleasure. Thanks again for thinking of us. Carol'

. **Jim Hognog** has some comments on earlier editions of E&E's...

'G'day Dicko

Reference photos featured E & E No 6 –



No 2



No3

Photo 1 - Chalky Royal in centre – **Ed** - yes with 'Dig' and 'Ding Dong'

Photo 2 (above) - I agree with you Steve Boutlis, Bob Bruce, Spider Bruce and Bob Retro. Third from right is Geoff Wood (who Ken McNamara believes has died). Fourth from right could be Frank Pepper?

News on Ron "Chalky" Royal he attended our earlier reunions with his family here in Coffs Harbour, he lived at Deception Bay Qld but sadly he passed away about 5 years ago.

Regards, Hoggy' **Ed** – thanks Hoggy, just to add a note on 'Chalky' (photo 3 above – a typical pose) he was in SVN 1967-'68, born 19/04/29 and with a Service No 23552 must have been in the ARA for a sometime. He was a character and an integral un-sung part of the Battery. Also Frank Pepper is also believed to have died, having being killed in a train smash in Sydney some time ago.

. **Warwick Hamilton gives us** a heads up from warmer climes in the northern hemisphere in response to the email re. the now late Karl Doehrmann – 'Thanks for that info Paul, sad though it is.

Just to let you know we are still in Europe. Have finally left Greece and are currently in Berlin before heading up to Tallin in Estonia to catch up with some friends.

Sorry I can't help much with any answers etc, but all my data is back in Oz. I might try to fill in a Profile though when we finally have a break from having fun!! I am finding the other's profiles really interesting, so keep up the good work.

Hope your holiday/lifestyle change is continuing to be good, Warwick' **Ed** offers the same comment to you, 'Blueleader', as Hoggy below re. the Profile!! We'd all like to have a gander at yours and please take as many pages as felt needed.

. **Merv Nairn reports** in as a reply to us saying g'day to him earlier – 'Thanks for that mate please keep me in the loop, I was also part of that main group with Karl, Lofty etc. Will be out of the country for the next month Ged Carroll & I are heading back to the sharp end for our first visit since. Will give you a report when we come home. Touring from top to bottom (Saigon to Hanoi & back). Regards, Merv. (Baldy) Nairn.' **Ed** – we want to see photos as well!!

. **Des Spencer spared** the time before clearing Customs and Immigration for the 18th time this year to say – 'Paul, I'm fine mate; life is good. I have been skipping in and out of OZ quite a bit over to Thailand with all my mates. Working for a living was such a waste of time.

Bob Billiards sent me a few emails recently and a pic or two so it was good to catch up with him.

I plan to be in country next ANZAC day so I will make a big effort to be in Sydney to see my old mate Fletch and catch up with everyone. Des' **Ed** – ANZAC Day in Sydney could be the go in 2010.

. **Leigh Hemming reports** in that Al Adams has been up in his neck of the woods on a holiday and that they both are planning to make it to Sydney for next year's ANZAC Day march.

. **Ernie Newbold has another** absolute ripper of a website to have a look at. I've actually copied the file (I'll have a go at reducing the 12MB file!!) – 'G'day Paul, I have come across something that may be of interest to you if you haven't already seen it.

OPERATIONAL REPORT FROM THE OC, DET 131 DIV LOC BTY for the months of Dec 1967/ Jan 1968. You need to go to the AUSVETS WEBSITE <http://www.ausvets.com.au/> then select the VIETNAM WAR which takes you to TIMELINES, choose 1967 and scroll down to 1ATF Op FORREST in November 1967, then look for 131 DIV LOC BTY OPERATIONAL REPORT, click on that and you will see Capt. Hamilton's Report (annex H) to 4FD REGT. You will notice that the report is very neatly typed and easy to read.

You may find much to interest you there, including a range of call signs that were used outside of the normal network setup. I expect that you will also find the site to be of general interest as it covers the period of your service in Vietnam. Regards, Ernie.' **Ed** – my reply to Ernie was that perhaps Blueleader may have other reports ferreted away or knows how to source them? On reading this stuff I've come to the conclusion that we were worth more money!! Is it too late for a class action?

. **Jim Hognog** (he's back), **known for** his somewhat quiet demeanour has come out with all barrels firing – go Hoggy as per his email –

'G'day Dicko,

Further information re Ernie's comments on the decommissioning of the old Caribous used in SVN (Ears & Eyes No. 6).

On the weekend 1st and 2nd August 2009 around 180 ex personnel from 35 squadron, (affectionately known as Wallaby Airlines), held a reunion in Coffs Harbour. Two of the Caribous used in SVN were flown down for the occasion which enabled those attending, to reunite and reflect on those wonderful old work horses of the sky. On

Saturday afternoon I arrived at the airport to get a last look before they are taken out of service and hopefully get a flight in one. When enquiring re that possibility from one who looked important and giving the impression that he was "the main man", I was informed in a rather pompous manner "only those with the reunion group were being taken up" as he looked down his nose at me. Not happy with the prospect of an RAA Gunner being dismissed so easily by an RAAF officer Retd. I sought out a crew member of the Caribou holding a clipboard to which the names of those on the next flight were being recorded, that now also registered the name of one, Gunner Hogno Retd. Making sure I was the last to board so as to be assured of the rear seat next to the loading ramp for the best view I found myself seated beside one "not amused" RAAF officer Retd. Not a word was spoken between us, I was gloating inside and I am sure he was asking himself, "how this rabble got on board". The flight which lasted forty minutes was just so emotional and nostalgic for me and at times I closed my eyes and took in the sound of the motors that are long gone but still so locked in the memory. At times, I hoped when opening my eyes that old (young) familiar faces would appear opposite, I was truly affected by it all. Leaving Coffs Harbour we flew at only 250 ft following the coastline down to South West Rocks and return. On arrival back in Coffs Harbour I was greeted by my wife Lesley who had in my absence met an ex 35 Squadron Flight Engineer (two tours of SVN) who was travelling with the Caribous recording their last months of service on film and photograph. Amazingly I knew this bloke as I had attended high school with him and had not seen him since 1960. Small world as they say! I hope this is of interest for you to add to your next addition of E & E which I enjoy greatly. Regards, Hoggy'

PS Will get of my arse and send you my profile soon.



Ed – Don't soft-soap me with your 'getting off your arse' excuse – just get the bloody Profile in!! No, seriously that smell, with eyes closed, would not have only made the throat thicken, the heart skip a beat, but to grab that moment and imagine here I am at 21+ again and imagine seeing what's his name opposite – shit, that's amazing and I really envy you that realisation. It's great to be boys again, as we were, and hopefully will always be. Thanks Hoggy! Hey, put a hat on!!

. Expert Photo advice from Warwick Brooker re: **Ed** sending out emails that have contain so many Gorillas that the jungle is emptied every time because of their size – "Dicko, A tip: If you click on one of the pictures in your Word documents and then click 'Format' (in the top menu or right-click dropdown menu), then 'Picture', 'Compress', the program will ask you if you want to compress that picture only or all pictures. I compressed all pictures in your latest *Eyes & Ears* and it reduced the file size from about 914 KB to 267 KB. Pictures are still quite readable, but that would depend on how good the original pictures were. Cheers Brookey" - It's bloody foolproof by the fact that I can understand and do it.

. Bill Finlay got back to Ed re a couple of blokes called Hastings who he couldn't trace – 'Hi Paul, there was only one "'Hastings Bloke", must have been a typo. He was first intake, was nearly refused for overweight. They finally realised that because he never had an ounce of fat on him and was the junior weight lifting champ of Qld at the time that he was OK. A remarkable bloke to say the least gave the impression that he wouldn't hurt a fly, but who would want to find out, he was huge. I was thrilled when he turned up the Coffs reunion and was asked if he remembered me after 40 years, he replied "Sgt Finlay". Marvellous stuff. Bill.'



Bob Billiards is responsible for this almost 'porn' type photo of this motley crew. Was this the original foundation for 'Man Power' all male strip group. Fair dinkum, were they part of the travelling circus? Baz has a 'party' hat on, Blakey is just too tall and hasn't got his pants tucked in, Des can't wait to get to Thailand, Nick is advertising for Mr. Russia, and Bob hasn't got any dog-tags!! Not to mention the barrel has a plug in it! Certainly a lean and hungry look though posing at the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery US Army, hosts to 31D. Self propelled 8" gun behind them.

.The Annual Gunner Dinner (Sydney) – did anyone get to it?

. The following information was copied from the LAA website to keep any of you blokes who may be interested up to date on some upcoming events -

- Work parties at the RAA National Museum are normally held on the last Sunday of each month. The next work party is on 27 September; 25 October and 29 November.
- Committee meetings are held regularly at Paddington RSL, with the next Committee Meeting on 5 November.
- The Army Combat Badge (ACB) is to be awarded to recognise any member of the ARA or ARes on continuous Full-time Service who has served for a specified period of time in warlike operations or situations. In exceptional circumstances, service on operations in other than warlike activities, such as peacekeeping, may also be recognised. For more information visit the [publications](#) page of the Australian Army Website to view the PDF file for eligibility and retrospectively of the ACB.

. Our website – Bob Billiards sent the following email response from the LAA, which sounds heartening with regards to our possible sharing of their website –

'Hi Bob,

Great to hear from you and well done for your work in keeping your group together.

I'm sure the Association can assist you, indeed it's precisely the sort of thing we should be doing.

I need to discuss the website implications with our webmaster (John Posener who sent your email on to me).

There are several options, not the least of which might be the creation of a Branch of the Association just for your guys. We have 3 branches (Newcastle/Hunter Valley, Coffs Harbour and South East Qland) but there is no reason at all that branches have to be geographic.

There has been a considerable surge in membership following Keith Ayliffe's magnificent work in tracking down ex-131 Vets of Long Tan and Coral/Balmoral and your group would be a welcome addition.

I don't think we need ask for any \$ from your group. The Assn is financially sound and unless there is a substantial increase in the cost of website maintenance as a result of our extending it to accommodate your guys, we can probably cover it. Before I can commit to that I'll need to look at more detail with John as he's the tech expert.

Let me see what we can offer and I'll get back to you with a plan which we can put to the committee.

Thanks for getting in touch

Ubique

Allan Harrison

President, Locating Artillery Association Inc.'

Ed – thanks for your efforts Bob – there could be a tag of 'Bloodhound' added to your CV – we wait with baited breath for more good news.

. David Doyle has put his hat in the ring to contribute some humour over the next couple of editions and the following is his first submission – "An Irishman was terribly overweight, so his doctor put him on a diet.

'I want you to eat regularly for 2 days, then skip a day, and repeat this procedure for 2 weeks. The next time I see you, you should have lost at least 5 pounds.

When the Irishman returned, he shocked the doctor by having lost nearly 60lbs!

'Why, that's amazing!' the doctor said, 'Did you follow my instructions?'

The Irishman nodded...'I'll tell you though, by jesus, I t'out I were going to drop dead on dat 3rd day.'

'From the hunger, you mean?' asked the doctor.

'No, from the f*&%ng skippin'" **Ed** – apparently Henry was given this by his wife Lois - Is there more to this than meets the casual eye?

. Continuing to be Spooky... August was a good Pick-a –Month for birthdays for the Feds as they cracked it for about 8 poor buggers. The Locator Wizard comes up with the following - John Greenway on the 2nd, Marty van Driel on the 7th, a trifecta on the 13th with Brian "Wirey" Hackett, Stan Briggs and Bob "Woofy" Bruce, the 22nd saw twins Stuart Sporn John Vickary, Les Frost on the 25th, Max Troynar the 26th and to round the quota off for the month Ken Piesley on the 27th. However, let's not get too confused as Marty, John P and Les F were ARA Members who had to put up with the Nashos! Most of this bunch went up in '67 except for Les F who went up in '66. **Ed** comments that we don't have details for John G, Stan B, Bob B, Les F, Max T, Stuart S, John V or Ken P – can anyone give **Ed** details or get them to contact him please – the more the merrier? It's also reported that Marty Van Driel has passed away - can that be confirmed by anyone?

Ed has to add a comment as to John Vickary drawing a full goatee beard on my picture in my pay book in SVN – it made me look like Franquin the Magician's off-sider!! I still got paid though, but I must admit very poorly and the sleeping conditions left something to be desired!

. Locator Profiles – we've received 22 and we've sent out 20... **Ed** has to make one comment after reading 'Henry' Doyle's Profile and noting the photos – Is he the father, much older brother or whatever of one of Rugby League's toughies – Mark Geyer?? I'm interested in your comments.

Hey! It was also good that Barry Guzder made a full recovery from writer's cramp and finally got the plaster off – thanks Baz! And to put the icing on the cake, Ernie, showing the signs of being a bit grumpy at my constant nagging, has sent his in and there are some great surprises in his – I thought I knew him...just goes to show! Nick

Pro has added his to the pile as well, once we disallowed his TAFE Teacher's excuse that 'the dog ate it!' Plus this week we got Bert's with a bit of sorting out which intake he made it in! Then George Lane chimes in with a 'computer malfunction' excuse – good one George! Then there's all the 'I'm getting around to it' from Pete Hopper, Hembo, Hoggy, Blueleader's needing access to his dugout at home to retrieve his manuscripts and Nuge will blame Qld for not being on daylight savings! Thanks fellas and keep 'em coming.

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

. **Bob Campbell (Gold Star this month) dug** up Bill Finlay, David Doyle, Merv Nairn, George Lane, Ged Carroll and so far **Ed** has heard from Bill, David, Merv and George and there's a wealth of history and characters there. Cambo doesn't write much, but his blood's worth bottling – that is, after being filtered three times at least!

. **Warwick Brooker managed** to give **Ed** Kevin Maker's email address and we've got another bloke to say g'day to. Thanks again or as usual Brookey!

. **Jim Hogno won't** give up and we've added Ken Woodbine to the database – and Ken's been in touch and sent this in – 'Paul, Don't worry about your memory – mine is shot on a lot of what went on. I arrived in SVN early September 67 and we returned home 12 months 5 days later – but who was counting!

Thanks for getting in touch with me, and yes, I would like to be included on the mailing list.

2 other 131 guys who went over and came back on the same flights were Ian Amos and Geoff Holden (have to check on his email account). Ken Woodbine'

. **Ken Woodbine obviously** believes that if he's in so may as well might Ian Amos be. **Ed** got in touch with Ian and he's replied with – 'Hello Dicko, Please add me to the mail out list for future mailings. I did get a few of the earlier editions (1, 2 and 5) from Bob Billiards, so am familiar with your efforts. I spent my entire time in SVN with B radar so had limited contact with those in LP's and Arty Tac. However, I do recognise a lot of the names you record in the E & E magazine and it's good to hear about what they are doing now.

I was saddened to read about Stan McNamara's death. Stan was a member of Cronulla RSL so met him a few times there and occasionally bumped into him and Ken on ANZAC day. Looking forward to the next edition of Eyes and Ears Ian'

. **George Lane came up** with the following – 'Dicko, I have another Vet to join our happy band of brothers. Geoff Lock was in Vietnam in 66-67 in 131 Div. Loc. Bty. He was there with myself and also Cambo, Dave Doyle, Lofty Hayes etc. George Lane.'

. **Ed got** curious and I should have mentioned it when I sent out Baz Guzder's Profile, but in it he had a photo of 'Sonny' Galloway. He was a young ARA bloke who was in Holsworthy when I was there. He is a definite 'Lost' - does anyone know anything about him?

Ed...as a closing thought for this edition I add...Most times I sit and despair about what will I put into this or the next edition, but finally, for no real reason and completely out of the blue one of you will send me something, which will bring the house down as it's either out of left field humorous or straight from the heart or maybe gut, but it's what mates are all about. I won't, and shouldn't single out Hoggy, because it's Brookey, Nuge, Ernie, Dig, Henry, Pete H, Beau, Nick A, Baldy, Bert, Bob B etc etc that makes this all worthwhile – thanks Fellas!

Guys keep items and especially photos coming in – we're desperate for PHOTOS with stories. These contributions don't have to be historical stuff as its great just to keep in touch with what you're up to these days.

"Cannon to the right of them, Cannon to the left of them, Cannon in front of them,
Volley'd and thundered.

The Charge of the Light Brigade

Ed – Ernie, where we there as a Det with these blokes on horses??

.**Just one** more Henry Doyle effort to finish up on for the Sydneysiders...

