

Eyes and Ears

No.0009 – 26/09/09



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

September's come and gone we've collected a few new readers as you'll see later.

This month's contributions came from – 'Boots', 'Hambone', Bob B, 'Brookey', 'Barney', 'Killer', Baz Heard, 'Darkshaft', Ian Amos, Al Adams, John Bayford, Fletch, 'Henry', our ever resilient and tireless resident 'Spook' Ernie.

The total database now comprises of **59** warriors.

We start off an edition with some good news with regards to some blokes finally coming home in Heard and Seen...

Heard and seen...

. 01 September, 2009 - Last Vietnam Vets returned in ceremony...



The remains of **Flying Officer Michael Herbert** and **Pilot Officer Robert Carver** have arrived on home soil after they set off to fight in Vietnam almost 40 years ago.

They were being ceremonially received by family, friends and current and former members of 2 Squadron after arriving at the RAAF Base Richmond, northwest of Sydney, at 10.40am (AEST) on Monday.

Their final journey home, aboard a RAAF Hercules transport aircraft, comes almost four decades after their Canberra bomber went missing over thick jungle on a hillside in remote Quang Nam province, near the border with Laos. Both servicemen were lost in 1970.

Their whereabouts were unknown until April this year when a search conducted by the Army History Unit found the wreckage.

The remains of the two servicemen were uncovered last month during excavation of the site.

. **A Casual 'get together' for Karl Heinz Doehrmann** – 'You have most probably heard by now that my father, Major Karl Heinz Doehrmann, passed away on 10 August 2009. My father was adamant about not having a formal funeral or memorial service. However, he was keen for mum to hold a casual 'get together' for whoever might be interested in joining her for a beer or two to remember the good old times. So if you are available, please join her as follows:

Sunday, 4 October 2009, 1100 hrs – 1300 hrs, **Gosford RSL Club – Café**, 26 Central Coast Hwy, West Gosford NSW
For catering purposes, if you are definitely attending could you please RSVP to my email address below.

Regards, Margrit Dutton - margritd@optusnet.com.au

. **Bernard Erica has been** in touch – 'Hi Paul, Thanks for the interest. Rinnai Japan my old parent Company approached me and have persuaded me out of retirement and I am presently in Atlanta Georgia as an Advisor 2mths on and 2mths off for a year. Have been here for one week. Will let you know how I adjust. Best Regards, Bern.' **Ed** – Barney, that sounds like a pretty damn good deal to me!

. **Brian Killworth made time** to reply with this – 'Paul, Thanks for your interest! I've just returned from a 9 week trip in my new motor home. Went up the coast of northern Qld. then over to the Atherton tablelands, down through mid Qld. and NSW (Charters Towers, Winton, Longreach, Bourke etc.)

This was our first experience at this and found a fairly big learning curve; not so keen on caravan parks (still a bit young for them) but loved free camping (along rivers, camp fires and away from the crowds)! My van is a Fiat Ducato slwb, drives like a sports car but not really suited for the rough conditions, so might eventually get something more rugged. Bern Erica has taken off to the States to take up a senior position with Rinnai; 2 months on and back here for 2 months; he was Rinnai Aust. managing director before retiring.

Talk to Victor regularly and will see him this Sat. night in Maitland (where we went to school together) for a Vietnam Vets function. Hope you are well! Brian **Ed** – loved the comment about - 'not so keen on caravan parks (still a bit young for them)' – the trip sounded fantastic, when do we see the series 'Killer Conquers the Outback'??

. **Steve Boutlis wrote** this after the Aug 008 E&E's – 'Thanks, Dicko. Great reading that brings back GOOD memories. Cheers, Boots.' **Ed** – this thanks is for all the guys who participated in the edition – thanks for the thought Boots.

. **Leigh Hemming adds** some comments – ‘G’day Dicko, Well now you won’t be able to talk about me anymore as being a slackass. Finally I have finished my profile. I hope it is ok? The August edition of E&E was terrific. Well done! A bumper edition. Keep up the good work. I think it is all terrific.

I spoke to Pappy again last Sunday and he told me about the tooth and dog bite as you mentioned in E&E but he seemed in good spirits just pissed off with the delay. I will give him a call again tomorrow. Regards, Leigh.’ **Ed** – So a bit of nagging and public exposure works with Profiles (well on some people) and thanks Hembo for the comments about E&E’s 008, I express the same comments to you as Boots – the thanks goes to the article subscribers.

. **Ed sent** Barry Heard (honorary Locator and good bloke) the following email – ‘Barry, I was talking to my sister-in-law (lives in Noosaville) and father-in-law (lives in Warragul) this morning and they both confirmed that they are addicted to listening to your book reading (Well Done Those Men) on the ABC at some un-Godly hour on a Sunday morning. It’s been a while since we’ve been in touch. How the hell are you and what’ve you been up to? If you’ve got tour dates or whatever send them off to me I’ll put them in Sept’s E&E’s. Hear from you soon. Dicko’. **Well, Baz replied** ‘Hi mate, Been a bit crook in fact, guts and shit probs. Still don’t know what’s going on. Another visit to the doc tomorrow. Had it for quite a while. Had a lot of feedback about the book reading, Hope all’s well at your end. Don’t know when I’ll be up your way. Baz’

. **Al Adams dropped** us a line – ‘Hi Paul, All is well here, as you heard from Leigh, we had a few weeks on the Sunshine coast. We took the opportunity to get away from the Melb winter. There was no great plans, just take the days as they came. We caught up with Leigh & Barb for dinner and spent a great night catching up on all the news. Leigh is looking good and is back at work, no sign of retiring yet. Playing a bit of golf in, Grandpa-sitting and doing a bit of work, there isn’t much of the week left. I have been looking for some photos that I had from Op Paddington, when I find them I will send to you, may be of interest for E & E’s. All the best, Al’

. **John Bayford also** said g’day with – ‘Hi Paul, Thank you for all your informative and entertaining items. I’ve enjoyed them very much. My new email address from this week onwards is attached. Look forward to hearing. Cheers, John Bayford’ **Ed** – great to hear from JB as I only met him at ANZAC Day in Melbourne this year – he’s yet to find out what I’m really like!

. **Peter Fletcher had an** enquiry about contacting Nick Proskurin for a copy of a photo, and **Ed** couldn’t resist asking about his recent holiday and Fletch replied – ‘Thanks for the info Dicko. Hawaii was great. Plenty of sun and surf but heaps of noggies, of all kinds. Easy to spend money at Waikiki. Maui was much more laid back. Planning the next holiday maybe the Cook Islands. Hope all is well with you. Cheers, Fletch’ **Ed** – Fletch, Shit, I haven’t heard the word ‘noggie’ for yonks! You’re so easy to get on with as it’s always great to hear from you, but what about the golf? I can see a Fletch’s Travels and Sporting Tips being a permanent spot here. At least we can print yours, not like Des’s!! Sorry Des that was a cheap shot!

. **Geoff Blackwell replied** to an **Ed** email about what he’s been up to some thoughts in general and he came back in true fashion (I used an extract for the Long Tan special, but this is the full email) – ‘Hi Dicko, I have just returned from a holiday on Lord Howe Island. It’s a rare place, just 300 people living there, 2 Viet Vets, one from 131. Garth Nichols. He was one of the reo’s at Andersen after Jimmy Menz got killed. Garth and I had a bit of a session at the local club on Long Tan Day in memory of the boys. I should have taken pictures but I think I am more a drinker than a photographer. Both he and his wife Sue showed us fantastic hospitality while we were there, yet I hardly knew him. This army bond thing and the 131 unit in particular, are unreal when you think about it.

I was in the field from mid January 68, pretty much to May when I left the country. There was a large changeover of troops towards the end of January (including Perrin for Hamilton), so I didn’t know a lot of the new guys, I met them at Coral.

Pablo is still a real bushy, living in North Queensland. He has a cattle property, but works as a camp manager for the Queensland government, looking after geologists on their field trips. He is not really on the net, but his wife has an email address which I have lost, but I will try to recover. He hasn’t been to any of the reunions but he came to the Coral 40th in Canberra. I hadn’t seen him in 40 years but it was just like talking to him the day before. He had taken a lot of photos in the official book. I remember him saying he was going to England for one of his kids wedding this year. (around now I think). He has lots of kids.

I didn’t know Nev Wortlethock at all; he must have been a 68 replacement.

I went to the Coffs Harbour reunion earlier this year with Sally, my wife. Hardly knew anyone there, but it turned out a very pleasant weekend. Dave Doyle, a 131 reg, now manager off the Coffs Service club organized a really good show. Again, met people I hadn’t seen in 40 years, including John Vitkosky (retired and living in Cairns), and George Clark (a young reg who was in Arty Tac in 67). Regards, Geoff. **Ed** it’s great to get anecdotes from blokes – the things that come to mind. Thanks Geoff.

An additional note – Garth Nicholls, born in ’48, 216381, served two terms in SVN ’68-’67 and with 1 Fd Regt in ’69. It’s a shame we haven’t got contact details for him. And I can’t find any details on Nev Wortlethock – can we get some help?

Bob Billiards sent in the following...



. **Bob Billiards** still looks all right on skis – ‘Paul, Not too bad, spring snow and extremely enjoyable except for the morning crowds. We will be back down there at Perisher in 3 weeks for a final ski. I have attached some photos – me with youngest daughter, eldest son and his family. Regards, Bob.’ **Ed** – couldn’t resist one striking pose with your daughter.

. **Interesting website regarding Military Imposters** sent in by **David Doyle** – it’s called Australian and New Zealand Military Imposters - <http://www.anzmi.net/> **Ed** - It makes for some interesting browsing. It really makes you think about some blokes’ mentality or should I say lack of it. Anyone care to make a comment/s? Does anyone have a story (names will be omitted from this publication)?

. **Another website was** discovered by the **Bob Billiards**. Here’s his email – ‘From: billiard@pnc.com.au To: bblink@pcug.org.au; leda@zeta.org.au; gdignam@exemail.com.au; guyblackwell@optusnet.com.au; guzder@aapt.net.au; evans@timex.to CC: johblake@powerup.com.au; three-zero@hotmail.com; molly60@optusnet.com.au Subject: 1st 83rd link Date: Mon, 24 Aug 2009 16:02:25 +1000 Mates, I found this link and there are some photos of 31D in a couple of the 67-68 photos http://home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/Main_Page/Main_page.htm Hope all is well. Bob’ **Ed** – its well worth the look too as it shows those blokes, most of them younger than us, going about their business with their mates.

. **Call-up Birthdates create a mystery**. The dates listed below have 2 or more blokes being called up. But the ones highlighted **ARE NOT IN THE SAME YEAR??** How did that happen?

Jan 01 – **Vic Danko ’45, Chris Chapple ’48** Feb 12 – Ross Gunnel ’45, Leigh Baker ’45
Mar 20 – Brian Campbell ’45, Barry Follington ’45
Apr 29 – Bernard Erica ’45, Peter Fuhrmann ’46 May 26 – Ken Whittle ’45, Bert Blink ’46
May 30 – Roger Long ’45, Warwick Brooker ’46
Aug 13 - Brian Hackett ’45, Stan Briggs ’45, Robert Bruce ’45
Aug 22 – John Vickary ’45, Stuart Sporn ’45,
Sep 17 – John Blake ’45, Berham Guzder ’45 Oct 04 – Leigh Hemming ’45, Michael Luff ’45
Nov 16 – Allen Morley ’45, Kenneth Long ’45 Dec 19 – Peter Gault ’45, Geoffrey Blackwell ’45

. **Warwick Brooker** asked a civil question and opened a real cracker of a can of worms with this –‘who took the photo below and who’s in it?’ Well it broke the flood gates with all sorts of conjecture.

So here we go with some sort of a qualified answer/s...

Firstly though, the following table shows the Battery list of personnel involved in the Operation, which is *also (copied) from Tracks of the Dragon is the personnel list for that activity*. The list below does NOT include Wortlehook or Holden.

MORTAR LOCATION SECTION FAIO Captain Phil Perrin Sgt. Jim Lawler Gnr. Ian Kennedy Gnr Geoff Blackwell	ALPHA RADAR (AN/KPQ1 Serial No. A6) Bdr Colin (Bones) Gordon (Radar No.1) L/Bdr Ian Finlay (2IC) Gnr Wal Franklin Gnr Ian Amos Gnr Gordon Malcolm Gnr Dennis Dye Gnr Ken Jones Gnr John Ianson Gnr Alan McDonald Gnr Tony Coutts Gnr Phil (Doc) Sheedy Gnr Vic Claxton Cpl J J McNeil (RAEME) Pte Stephen Palmer (RAEME)
LP 31 CHARLIE L/Bdr Eric Marques Gnr Michael Bohl Gnr Murray Smaile	
LP 31 ECHO Gnr John Delacca Gnr Ken (Blue) Piesley Gnr Stan (Pablo) Briggs Gnr John Bayford	

The guys in **Bold** print (above) are supposedly in the photo. Ernie even took the liberty to number the blokes from left to right – can’t do without him.



Members of 131 Divisional Locating Battery on 12 May 1968 waiting to fly into Coral. Like many Australian units, their move to the new base was delayed.
[AWN P61766,092]
Image 2 of 2

In Tracks of the Dragon, the caption reads "Alpha Radar detachment with LPs 31C and 31E at FSB Anderson awaiting a chopper for transfer to FSB Coral (courtesy Stan Briggs and J.Delacca) – the photo was taken on the 12th May, 1968...Now this has caused so much interest and replies that I've listed all the replies below (hope it's not too confusing) and précised the list names of the blokes in the photo from all the submissions, then Ian Amos took the time to get an authoritative opinion from Keith Ayliffe (author of Tracks of the Dragon and 131 vet) and his comments add more fuel to the fire...and his notations are in **red** below.

The blokes listed in the '**Names**' column are the blokes in the photo.

We definitely, without the slightest doubt, know that Pablo Briggs took the photo.

Description of blokes from the left	Possible Names	Names
1 st - side on looking rt	Gnr Wally Franklin We never Identified this man we thought it may be Wal but were not sure	Gnr Walter Franklin
2 nd – side on, cap, looking lt	Gnr Bluey Piesley OK	Gnr Kenneth 'Bluey' Piesley
3 rd – side on, looking rt	Bdr Nev Wortlethock OK	Bdr Neville Wortlethock
4 th – with helmet	No suggestions Gnr Mick Bohl	Gnr Michael Bohl
5 th – facing lt and looking straight at camera	Gnr John Delacca (L/BDR)	L/Bdr John Delacca
6 th – looking lt, bush hat perched on front of head	No suggestions Definitely Gnr Ian Kennedy It's the hat that gives him away.	Gnr Ian Kennedy
7 th – looking rear with slung SLR	Gnr Ian Kennedy or Gnr Tony Coutts Definitely Tony Coutts	Gnr Tony Coutts
8 th – looking rt, hand to face, arm on Gerry can	L/Bdr Ian Finlay Wrong CFN Stephen Palmer	CFN Stephen palmer
9 th – facing camera resting on vehicle	Gnr Geoff Blackwell – ID'd himself Wrong Definitely Ian Finlay	Gnr Geoff Blackwell – really?
10 th – facing 11 th	Gnr Geoff Holden Wrong Geoff was a surveyor and did not travel with this group It could well be Geoff Blackwell as we were unsure but thought it was possibly Geoff B.	No BLOODY idea!
11 th – back to camera facing 10 th	No suggestions Radar CPL JJ (Joe) McNeil	Cpl JJ 'Joe' McNeil - RAEME

Here's the supporting arguments...(get yourselves a stiff drink – you'll need it!)

. Now let's start with **Ian Amos** - Paul, Attached (below in **red**) is an offering by Keith Ayliffe (author of Tracks of the Dragon and 131 vet) on the identity of the guys in the Coral photo. It's interesting that he is adamant that the one leaning on the vehicle is Ian Finlay when Geoff Blackwell identified that person as himself. Guess we'll never know for sure if the guys who were there at the time can't agree.

This is what he said when I asked for his opinion

Background: The photo was taken on John Delacca's Camera by Stan Briggs, whose equipment is the rifle and webbing right front. John gave me a copy of this photo 20 yrs ago and we had many of the radar people verify the above. You can find the names on the CD Coral I made for our reunion.

. Then a definite ID from **Geoff Blackwell** - Hi Dicko,

From Geoff Blackwell - Pablo Briggs took the photo.

I am in it, third from the right of the photo, with my elbow on the trailer. In some places I have been named 'Finlay', but it's definitely me. John Delacca is in the middle facing the camera, without the hat. Bluey Piesley is second from the left. Pablo's rifle and kit are in the right foreground. The bulge in my left pocket was the notes from the intelligence briefing I had prior to leaving FSB Andersen (where the photo was taken). I in turn had to brief Major Murtagh (the base commander of Coral on the night of the 12th.) He didn't believe that there was up to 7000 nogs waiting to the north....Ha! He was relieved of command next morning, later shovelled out of the Artillery Corps altogether I believe.

. **Bert Blink** adds - Found the photo. I think that Geoff Blackwell should be able to identify himself. I think it is him standing at the rear of the Landrover facing to photo front. It also looks like Rick Marquis to the left of John and it must be Pablo taking the photo as it is his rifle on the pack near john D. Well I presume it is as he did have an m16. The two blokes standing on the right – the one you can see looks like Geoff Holden from Survey, but his name does not appear there, so no idea.

. **Ernie** again - Paul and Warwick, Further to my earlier reply I have had another look at the photo and noticed an AWM Ref. No. beneath it. When I googled the number (AWM PO1766.002), I was able to go to the AWM website and found that the photo has a summary and lists the names of five of the people shown in the image. The five named soldiers include John Delacca so it is unlikely that he took the photo but at the end of the summary it states that the image was donated by J.Delacca.

Only the five soldiers on the left of the image are named. From Left to Right they are named as: Gnr. Wally Franklin, Gnr.'Bluey' Peisley, Bdr. Nev Wortlehock, Gnr. John Delacca and Gnr Ian Kennedy, the remainder are not named. Regards, Ernie.

. Here comes **Ian Amos** - Paul, The digger in the middle looking towards the camera is John Delacca. Stan Briggs took the photo. This photo also features in the Coral display at the War Memorial. Others identified are Nev Wortlehock to the left of John Delacca and Blue Piesley on the far left. To the right of John are Tony Coutts (with armalite) and Ian Finlay further over leaning on the vehicle. Many guesses have been made to identify others but the backs of heads are obviously not easy to pick.

For the Coral reunion in Canberra last year a DVD was produced by Keith Ayliffe about the Battery's involvement at Coral. If you are interested I could send you a copy. Regards, Ian Amos

Then Ernie Newbold, not one to let a story go unfinished, has this to add – 'G'day Paul and Warwick, That photo (the one above) has been around for a long time, I have seen it on a number of different websites and it also appears in "Tracks of the Dragon".

In Tracks of the Dragon, the caption reads "Alpha Radar detachment with LPs 31C and 31E at FSB Anderson awaiting a chopper for transfer to FSB Coral (courtesy Stan Briggs and J.Delacca)

Also (copied) from Tracks of the Dragon is the personnel list for that activity.

The first three weeks of the operation were very mobile with the radar and LPs deployed by air into FSBs Wattle, Mike and Anderson, Bdr Nev Wortlehock, who later took command of LP31 Echo, joined them. Alpha radar was supposed to return to Nui Dat and be replaced by Bravo Radar for the remainder of the operation.

However that did not happen and on the afternoon of 12th May the above members were airlifted into FSB Coral. The base initially commenced with securing of the area by an American infantry company. The fly in of the Australian troops began around noon on 12th May, with reconnaissance parties from 12 Field Regiment, 102 and 161 Field Batteries, a survey party from Detachment 131 and an advance party from 1 RAR.

Before his departure the OC of the US Company (which the Task Force was relieving) warned "Charlie will come looking for you - you don't have to find him!

"End of the quote from Tracks of the DRAGON"

I find it is interesting to note that there were only three men assigned to Rick Marques' LP 31C but that there was the normal number of four assigned to LP31 ECHO, could that be a typo error or did Bdr Nev Wortlehock make up the missing number?

Paul, there are many names there of people that I don't know but a few that I do know and I am sure that it would be the same for you. From the names listed of those who were there and most probably in the photo you may be able to get more information. From the caption in Tracks of the Dragon I would say that it was either Stan Briggs or John Delacca who took the photo. The date the photo was taken is most likely to be 12th May 1968. Regards, **Ernie.**'

Now the defining comment from John Dellaca – 'Hi Dicko. To fill you in on the "131 Coral Photo" on the 12th May 1968, we prepared to leave F.S.B. Anderson to go F.S.B. Coral, but there were some delays which we now was with the Coral site not being completely suitable, so as we waited around I took a series of photos which I am sending to you. The one you have was taken by Stan (Pablo) Briggs with my camera and in turn I took one with him in the middle of the group with his camera. I have never completely known who everyone was in the photo, the names you have received is the best I can do as well. Sorry for the slow response but took some time to dig out the photos. Regards, John Dellaca'. **Ed** – as you'll note John also forwarded other photos from the same era (Coral) – I'll save them and I think we perhaps should do a special Battle of Coral/Balmoral (12 May-6 June 1968) in May 2010??

. **Ed** concludes – did we know who we were there with? It's that short haircut and same bloody coloured uniforms that makes it hard. The LP blokes could have had long blond hair and feathers, Radar could have worn black overalls and high heels, and the Surveyors maybe something striped and off the shoulder!

.Our Aim (this group of blokes)...this original thought was by Ernie Newbold and we believe it has got heaps of merit as it'll define us.

So here are some of the suggestions that **Ed** cut and pasted for viewing and discussion...

- **Nick Proskurin** - Hi Paul: To start off: **Come on out – we can see you!!** And **The Old and the Bold – together then, together now.** Regards, Nick Pro
- **David Doyle** - Hi Paul, I do believe that we should be positive and we are so just change our aim to **"WE WILL"** regards D Doyle
- **Ron Evans** - Dicko, Old mate, what about something like, **'Ubique Semper - Everywhere Forever'** - Mook
- **Nick Proskurin** - Our aims could be: **We looked out for each other then – we will look out for each other now.** Regards, Nick Pro

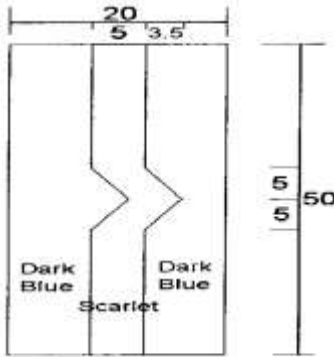
The subject's NOT closed so we need more input and some real heartfelt discussion!

. Locating Artillery Assoc...notes taken from their website –

- The Annual Associations Reunion will be held on 15 November 2009 at North Fort Museum, North Head. More details will be available in the next edition.
- Committee meetings are held regularly at Paddington RSL commencing at 1115 hrs. The next Committee Meeting will be on 15 November 2009 at North Fort Museum at North Head combined with the Associations Reunion. Members are cordially invited to attend. More details will be available in the next issue.

- Work parties at the RAA National Museum are normally held on the last Sunday of each month. The next work party is on 25 October.
- Pavers. Memorial Walk - North Fort Museum, the home of the National Artillery Museum invites you to be part of their "[Memorial Walk](#)". Our Association's corporate-sized paver is in place depicting the Association's name and Logo and we encourage members to get on board with pavers not only for themselves but for family members as well. Contact the LAA for more details at - john.posener@fwa.gov.au

. **Ernie Newbold dug this** little gem up out of the Archives... it's an item describing the Colour patch assigned to 131 Div loc Bty - 'Paul, this must have come about long after we were involved but I thought that you might be interested anyway. The item refers to official unit colour patches although these weren't part of the uniform when we were there. <http://www.defence.gov.au/ARMY/ASOD/documents/ASODP06/03A3.pdf> - have a look at code No. ATY 0057
Regards, Ernie' **Ed** – might look alright on a baseball cap? Any suggestions?

 ATY 0057	part 6 APPENDIX 3 TO ANNEX A TO CHAPTER 3 SERIES I UNIT COLOUR PATCH ALLOCATION — ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY 3 UPC Details Allocation <table><tr><th>Serial</th><th>Corps/Unit Title</th><th>Series</th><th>Title</th><th>Code</th><th>Type</th><th>Authority</th><th>Remarks</th></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>131 Div Loc Bty I Svy Bty</td><td>ATY 0057</td><td>A92–1244–1</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>29 Mar 92</td></tr></table>	Serial	Corps/Unit Title	Series	Title	Code	Type	Authority	Remarks	4.	131 Div Loc Bty I Svy Bty	ATY 0057	A92–1244–1				29 Mar 92
Serial	Corps/Unit Title	Series	Title	Code	Type	Authority	Remarks										
4.	131 Div Loc Bty I Svy Bty	ATY 0057	A92–1244–1				29 Mar 92										

. **David Doyle has** supplied the following for consideration - Frozen Crabs & the Blonde Stewardess
'A lawyer boarded an airplane in Melbourne with a box of frozen crabs and asked a blonde stewardess to take care of them for him.
She took the box and promised to put it in the crew's refrigerator.
He advised her that he was holding her personally responsible for them staying frozen, mentioning in a very haughty manner that he was a lawyer, and then proceeded to lecture her about what would happen if she let them thaw out. Needless to say, she was a little annoyed by his behaviour. Shortly before landing in Brisbane, the stewardess used the intercom to announce to the passengers, "Would the gentleman who gave me the crabs in Melbourne, please raise your hand?
Not one hand went up ... So the stewardess took the Crabs home and ate them.
The lessons here: Lawyers aren't all smart. Blondes aren't all dumb.'

. **Continuing to be Spooky...** September kicked a few goals in the birthday stakes with 12 blokes on their way to 131 - the first recruit was John Dellaca on the 6th, then Steve Boutlis at no 7, the 12th got Barry Nugent going, the 14th was for Frank Ipsa and the late Merv Dart, the 17th got the treble of John Blake, Barry Guzder and the little 'Pom' Maurice Arch, Bob Wilson made the 18th his, Robert Gow made it on the 19th, Bob Billiards put his moniker on the 24th, and Kenny McNamara rounded the month off on the 26th. **Ed** wants some help to locate - Frank Ipsa, Maurice Arch, Bob Wilson and Robert Gow. Any helpers out there??

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 25 and we've sent out 24... **Ed** Thanks fellas and keep 'em coming.

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

. **Warwick Brooker started** the story (above) re. 'In Tracks of the Dragon, the caption reads "Alpha Radar detachment with LPs 31C and 31E at FSB Anderson awaiting a chopper for transfer to FSB Coral...', then **Ian Amos** got Keith Ayliffe involved which prompted **Ed** to send an email to Keith and he responded with - 'G'day Dicko, How the F%^&% are your has been a while. It is good to see what you are doing and what you have accomplished. I would be happy to be on your mailing list, I am in contact with a number of your members already.

I am on the committee of the Locating Association as the historian and agree that you should form yourself into a branch of this association, there would benefits to both groups.

Thank you for the Ausvets website strangely I had never heard of it but it will certainly come in handy for a report I am at present producing for LAA and Artillery History association in ref. to Radars in Vietnam.

Thank also for the copy of Eyes and ears. Somewhere I have couple of early copies not sure of the dates I'll see if I can find them. Best regards to one and all Keith Ayliffe' – thanks for prompt Brookey.

. **George Lane does** it again with Ged Carroll this time. **Ed** sent Ged an email and he replied after he got back from a trip to Vietnam with Merv Nairn – 'Hi Paul I really appreciated the copy of EYES AND EARS I would really like to be on the mailing list. As you know Baldy Nairn and I have just come back from a visit to Vietnam it was a great trip I think Baldy is sending you a report and some photos. Thanks again for getting in touch. Ged Carroll' **Ed** – thanks Ged, and yes Baldy we're waiting on your stuff from Vietnam, plus one from Leigh Hemming!

Ed has another closing thought (do I hear a collective groan?!)— Fellas - On the subject of what we're trying to do with the Eyes and Ears etc. This thought stems from a comment made by Nick Proskurin with regards to his students 'not knowing shit from clay' with regards to the Vietnam War. Then, there was my comment to Ernie N with regards to the numerous great, and I mean great photos, he has and that they should be archived and in fact an exhibition could be mounted and taken to parts of Aus as they show the conflict through a young bloke's eyes. Then there are the numerous stories and photos that the rest of you must have, some of which we've already seen, but there's got to be countless others buried around the place.

Actually I've got three good ones that I'm kicking around what to do and when to do them – maybe a Christmas special – sorry I've digressed!

Then there's the thought or lack of it as to what my father may have done during the war and this may relate to you blokes and I don't have photos or anything written and of course, it's too late now. This could happen to us if we don't do something to preserve what the hell we have and remember. So the Profiles, photos and stories that I rabbit on about are crucial to 'Our' collective piece of living history, not to be told by some historian in the third person at a later date.

I am passionate about us and want to keep gathering stuff and then have some more formative mind amongst us collate it all. Anyway, that's enough of me – it's time for a drink!

Guys keep items and photos coming in – we're desperate for PHOTOS with stories. They contributions don't have to be historical stuff as its great just to keep in touch with what you're up these days. Plus **Ed** continues to drop lines to some of the blokes that we don't hear from that are on-line so we can catch up with them.

'CANNON, n. An instrument employed in the rectification of national boundaries.'

- Ambrose Bierce

. **This is a strange choice by Ernie - Ambrose Gwinnett Bierce** (June 24, 1842 – 1914?) was an [American editorialist](#), [journalist](#), [short-story writer](#), [fabulist](#) and [satirist](#). In 1913, Bierce travelled to [Mexico](#) to gain a firsthand perspective on that country's ongoing [revolution](#). While travelling with rebel troops, the elderly writer disappeared without a trace.

Ed – What the hell is a 'fabulist'?? Whatever it is, it didn't help him in Mexico.

. **One more of Henry's** to finish off with...

