

THE EYES and EARS

No.0014 – 29/01/10

"FIRST PUBLISHED 22nd JULY 1967
at Nui Dat, South Vietnam"



Editor contact email: three-zero@hotmail.com Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

Government sources have informed us that 2010 will continue with tradition of past governments and not decimalise the Gregorian Calender introduced on 24 February, 1582 (NO, that's not 22 minutes past 4.00pm!) by having 10 months of 36.5 days, with the half day being compulsory to stay in bed with all timing devices turned off. No one seems to be too sure what we were supposed to have done for the other half – maybe walk in circles backwards and carry that big stick above our heads!

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

Welcome to 2010 and 12th month of publishing this version of the Eyes and Ears and we're still gathering new readers!

Heard and seen...

.**This photo of Nick Armstrong's would have** been good to have in last month's Festive Season E&E's – Survey's 1967 Christmas banner...ah well; it's a belated Christmas wish...



Hello Paul,

There are a couple of people I am not sure about, but as best I can recall, try this:

Standing Left to Right as viewed, Me; Sandy Saunders (I think); John Greenaway (one I am not sure); Bruce Irvine 'grooming' Roger McDonnell Peter Teather (the other I am not sure); Marty Van Driel; John (Jack) Heyes; Geoff Holden.

Front Left to Right as viewed - TJ Bruce; Roger McDonnell; Ken Woodbine.

Geoff Holden would be a good one to confirm my list, and also Ken Woodbine. I think the picture may be 'copyright' Warwick Brooker. With a committee as credentialed as that, you should manage a reasonable ID. Cheers Nick

. Who's that with Dennis Dye...?



This a photo sent in by Ian Amos, taken with one of the radars in the back ground (left) and the right has just been cropped. Who is that standing in the back of the Rover with Dennis, not to mention the blokes behind Frank Pepper? Any clues? Also for that matter, does anyone keep in touch with Dennis D?

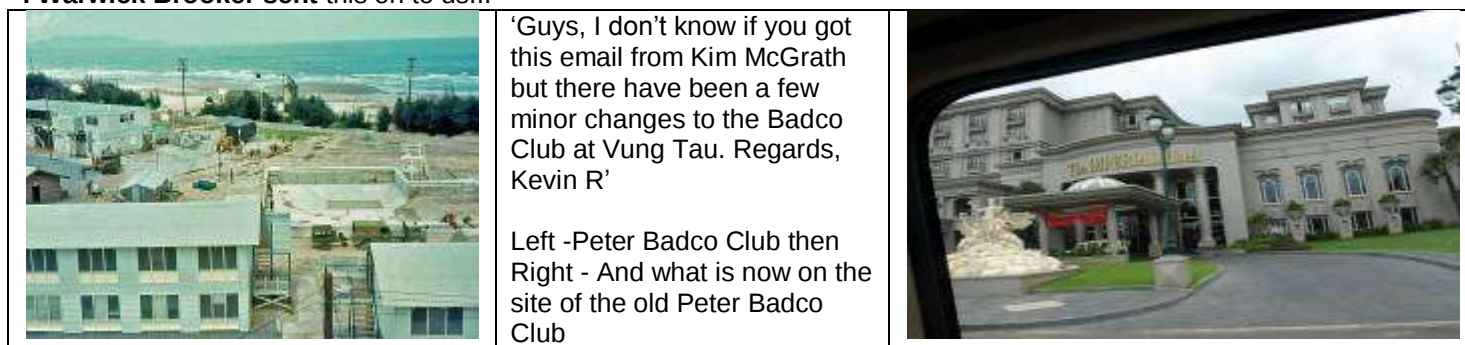


. **Ian Finlay** sent the following in – 'Well hallow everyone, just a quick thank you for all off the emails that you have sent me in the past few months. Sorry I have not been able to respond as much as I would like, in fact hardly at all, as I have a very hard Job spending any time on my computer due to the fact that my back fracture is not healing as well as thought and I can only manage a very short time sitting down I am hoping this will change shortly and I will be back in touch with you all asp. In the mean time I would appreciate minimal contact by email. Best Regards, Ian (Fin).

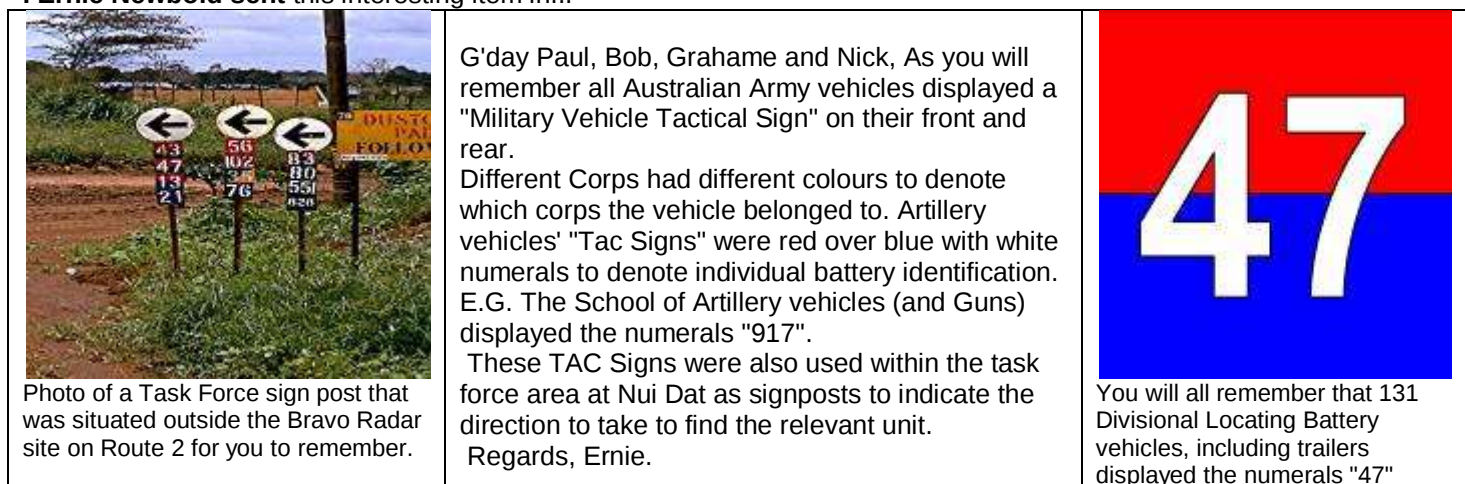
Ed – Ian we wish as speedier recovery as possible. Keep us in touch with your progress when possible.

Ed really appreciated this from Tony Foley – ‘Hi Paul ,Just a brief note to say I think you have a wonderful talent of putting words together and IMPORTANTLY, With a Really Great sense of Humour.....!! Keep up the good work. My Gratitude with Fond Regards, Tony F.’

. **Warwick Brooker sent** this on to us...



. **Ernie Newbold sent** this interesting item in...



. **Ed thought** he'd add this email from Bert Blink just to show that blokes do go the extra kilometre as you can see from the following... -"Date: Tue, 05 Jan 2010 14:22:12 +1100

To: gormal@bigpond.net.au

From: Bert Blink <bblink@pcug.org.au>

Subject: Hi Gordon

Gordon

If you use the 'your feedback' link on the Nominal Roll page

<http://www.vietnamroll.gov.au/VeteranDetails.aspx?VeteranId=1254611> point out their error, they will check your B103 & then update the honour roll. Wishing you all the best Bert'

Bob Billiards has a story too – ‘Interesting as they also had my dates of service and age incorrect on the nominal role as well. It took them 18 months to fix it, but it is now correct. It looks as if they mucked up a few of us on that tour. Regards Bob’

Bert then sent me the following to explain the subject more fully...

‘Paul, It may be useful, in E&E, to point people to the Vietnam Nominal Roll (VNR)

<http://www.vietnamroll.gov.au/veteransearch.aspx> and get them to check their details, there is a 'your feedback' option (bottom left) and according to DVA all Veteran queries, about the details of their own service, is given priority when it comes to making corrections.

Continuing on this theme I have been working on two projects. The first is a list of National Service Intakes and their associated dates, for some reason these facts were never recorded anywhere. The second, with the aid of Keith Ayliffe, is a definitive list of persons who served in SVN with either Det 131 Div Loc Bty or Det 131 Div Loc Bty Workshop and when they served. The second currently has a list of 488 names although I have a list of queries with DVA regarding some 11 persons who served for very short periods of time. Both these projects are ongoing.

Hence my interest, when reading each Locator Profile, in the Intake & Service details that are provided, and thus my recommendation, above, that people check their details on the VNR. In almost half the cases Locators have been using memory or the dates given in "Tracks of the Dragon", close but apparently not close enough. Keith Ayliffe received his information from the Australian War Memorial and somewhere between then & when it was all passed to DVA someone must have decided to amend Start and in a few cases End dates.

If you want to check your details yourself first it is worth getting a copy of your personal service documents. These include a document called a B103 which includes all relevant dates.

A copy of part of my B103 is shown below. As can be seen there are two possible start dates for what might constitute my start of duty overseas. Bert.

OSGAS	EMPL SYDNEY	10 JUN 67	815/7
"	LAST DET OF CALL DARWIN	11 JUN 67	815/8
"	DEPL VUNG TAU	11 JUN 67	
SPELSEE	SPECIAL SERVICE VIETNAM (SOUTHERN ZONE)		
"	COMMENCED	11 JUN 67	815/9
UNIT	Now DET 131 Div Loc Bty	10 JUN 67	815/10
POSTING	OP Army Int Ech 628 (THEATRE SUPPLEMENT)	10 JUN 67	815/11

Ed – I think I totally underestimate the ability of the new Managing Director of Statistics, Archives and all Matters leading to All Matters.

. Boys and their Toys in the '60's & '70's!

Because of the response we've decided to do this as a series of about three submissions an edition, this will possibly give more time for the usual stragglers to send stuff in – submissions can be kept rolling in as we go along. Anyway here we go with the first session in the series...

The Editorial Staff accept **NO** responsibility for the drivers and the unreliable vehicles portrayed in the following article OR to any population growth or chiropractic abnormalities that may have occurred by the unlawful use of same.

The following has **NO** bearing on what the hell Army Service did to us (so no claims on the DVA - well maybe, on reflection we could consider some sort of class action based on what's been submitted??), it's just us being BOYS! This has all been brought about by **Ed** having his marbles rattle more than usual – hey, and you blokes replied!!

Here's the email the started it...

'The following will give you all something to reflect on and hopefully respond to...

OK fellas, all of this started out by us looking for Geoff Flett and Leigh Hemming saying that "Geoff had a good looking Cortina" and the email below that I dug up from Ernie Newbold when I mentioned a while ago that 'Greg Green had an MGB and being a quiet guy from somewhere in Victoria etc etc.'

Then, because I can't help myself, all of this got me thinking along the lines of what sort of cars did we all have during and around our army experience era?

Ernie Newbold can't resist a good yarn and sent this in - "G'day Paul, Yes I remember Greg Green with the MGB and I recall that Geoff Flett bought one too - I think that he previously had a GT Cortina. There was Keith North (Chop Chop) with the Austin A30 and another guy whose name escapes me who bought a Prince Skyline GT (6 cylinders with triple webber carburettors) who used to drive home to Melbourne and back on weekends. In those days it was via the old Hume Highway and nothing like the road (freeway) that we have today. Regards, Ernie."

The responses have been recorded in the order that they were received...and possibly some from lack of medication...

.Geoff Holden - (trust that name to be first car off from the start!!) -

'G'day Paul, Yes, that is an interesting subject. My brother Mick and I shared a Ford Cortina which we drove every day into Sydney for work. Fridays we did a pub crawl up George Street to the 'Island Trader Wine Bar'. Inevitably we ended up at the Cross. I lost him one night and on the way home had a snooze going round the corner to Taren Point Bridge. Wrote the car off and got a friendly copper. I demolished a Stop sign and a big metal light pole which my dear old dad paid for as I had pissed off to London.

Mick got a replacement Cortina and wrote that one off hitting a tree!

Maybe we should have bought Holdens - funny thing have never owned one! Cheers Geoff'

Ed – where the hell was the 'Island Trader Wine Bar' – a "Wine Bar" back in the early '60's must have been the start of Oxford St and the Mardi Gras??

.Warwick Brooker -



'Dicko, I had a 1959 Morris Major, which I used at Singleton and North Head. It did many Manly trips down the hill in the evenings and managed a perfect 180 (with appropriate screeching of retreaded tyres) in the main street on one of those occasions. I think the Major cost me 525 pounds second-hand in 1963 and I paid it off over three years. My father sold it for me when I went to Vietnam. We must have decided that I wasn't coming back or would be rich if I did.

Upon returning from Vietnam, I purchased a Ford Falcon brand new at \$2500... for cash. Nothing left in the bank after that, but Vietnam had provided me a new car if nothing else. Brookey'

Ed – was that the Major with or without the "tail fins"? Synchro on 1st wasn't great either! The bloke with car – was it your younger dark-haired brother? What car did 24/7 Kevin have at that age??

.Keith Ayliffe –

'G'day Dicko, Where do you come up with these gems? I've had over the Years - A Studebaker Lark - A Rambler Javelin - A Chevrolet Camaro for starters....Best regards Keith. Oh yeah in the sixties an Austin Sprite. I'm a Family man now with a Holden Berlina.' **Ed** – Yank Tanks to British Aristocracy – where will this series end up? Keith your early purchases weren't gems – they were bloody Muscle cars!



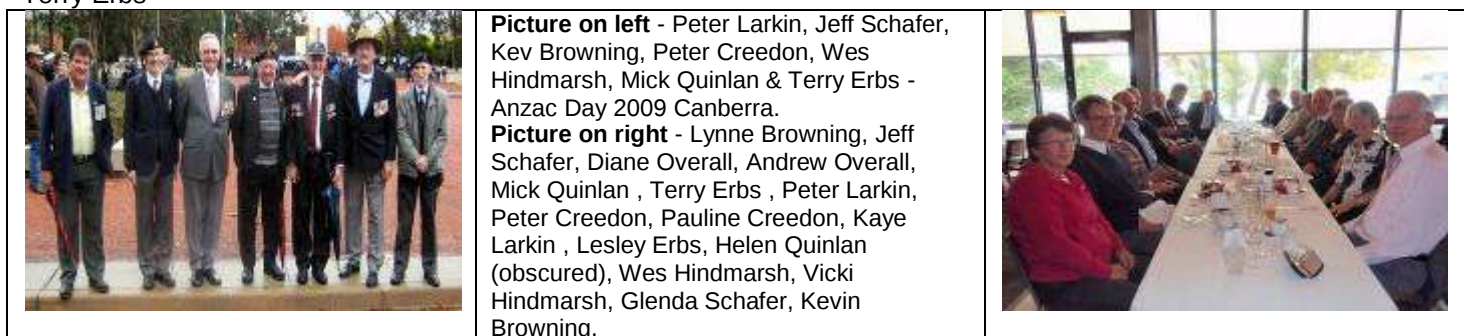
G'day Dicko, Thank goodness for women, Talking to my wife about your venture and low and behold she comes waltzing in with a few car photos. Can't find photos of the Javelin or the Lark. But she found a couple I had forgotten about. The first photo is of my old Ford Galaxy Sunliner - I think 1961 model.

Then a series on my stock cars both Fords 34, 36 model - from memory myself and next door neighbour used to race them on weekends at Westmead speedway in Parramatta in the early sixties.

The Black car is a 1984 Chev Camaro Berlinetta, which I converted (with help) from left hand drive to RH. Also redid the upholstery.

Hope this helps your little quest. Best regards Keith Never owned a camera till late as I spent all my money on cars.

. **Terry Erbs submitted** this email and the following pictures – 'Giddy Dicko, Thanks for the past issues. It's great to read the names and reminisce about the 2 years we "nashos" served. Over past Anzac Days and at various reunions I've meet many I served with and those who were in the battery at other times and reminisced over a beer or two. But over the years there are several people I've failed to track down. One was Andy Overall, who was our survey officer 69/70. Jeff Schafer finally convinced him to join us in Canberra for Anzac Day 2009. I remember sharing shifts with Andy in the Sound Ranging Command Post and at the time he was corresponding with a young lady who was travelling through Russia on the Trans Siberia Railway, a very adventurous journey! I often wondered what happened to them so after 40 years we finally meet Andy and Diana in Canberra and enjoyed a very memorable lunch at the Canberra Yacht Club [picture 2]. However does anyone know what happen to Peter Henry Pettiford 3792038, from Geelong, who worked for the Commonwealth Bank, we shared at flat in Hawthorn when we got back in late '69. All the best for the New Year, Terry Erbs'



Picture on left - Peter Larkin, Jeff Schafer, Kev Browning, Peter Creedon, Wes Hindmarsh, Mick Quinlan & Terry Erbs - Anzac Day 2009 Canberra.

Picture on right - Lynne Browning, Jeff Schafer, Diane Overall, Andrew Overall, Mick Quinlan , Terry Erbs , Peter Larkin, Peter Creedon, Pauline Creedon, Kaye Larkin , Lesley Erbs, Helen Quinlan (obscured), Wes Hindmarsh, Vicki Hindmarsh, Glenda Schafer, Kevin Browning.

. Memories –

Lane, George -

'Dicko, I have another story to relate to you. If you remember back to when the unit was based at North Head there used to be an Artie Flag also the Australian flag flying above the main gate at North Head. Well, when the Unit moved to Holsworthy the Artie flag strangely disappeared the same time. While we were in Vietnam the beautifully polished Name Plate of the First Sergeant of the American 155 Gun Bty disappeared, quite a coincidence. While I was visiting a mate north of the border and also 25years on these items raised their heads. I won't mention names just yet. George'

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

- Committee meetings are held regularly at Paddington RSL commencing at 1115 hrs. The next Committee Meeting will be on 7 February 2010 and Members are cordially invited to attend. More details will be available in the next issue of the *Associations* Newsletter LOCREP.
- Work parties at the RAA National Museum are normally held on the last Sunday of each month. All future dates will be confirmed in the *Associations* Newsletter. The next work party is on 28 February.

Work parties commence at 0900 hrs and conclude with an *Association*-funded BBQ at 1400 hrs at the North Fort Mess.

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 33 and we've sent out 31... **Ed** - Thanks fellas and keep 'em coming.

. **Birthdays in the Battery**...well here we kick off the new year with 19 birthdays for January. Vic Danko didn't really ruin his Mother's new years day as we found out last year, she just wanted to make sure he was conscripted in Australia, however Chris Chapple kept his Mother away from the bubbly on the 31st Dec by occupying centre stage on the 1st, **Peter Pettiford** made an appearance not much later on the 4th, **Graeme Smith** made the 5th his, the late *Peter Sadler* made it on the 9th and so **Robert Ness**, **Paul Travers** made the 11th a special day, Peter Hopper made an entrance on the 12th, followed by Phil Endicott on the 15th, then Barry Heard came along on Friday 19th, **Don McNicol** arrived on Sunday 21st, followed by **Kevin Browning** on 22nd, Terry Erbs made everyone wait until 24th in '47, and even though Wally Franklin arrived on the 25th it wasn't until '49, **Ray Hutchinson** and **Geoff Todd** made it a double on the 26th, Al Adams claimed the 27th, **Alan McDonald** came to life on 30th with **Colin Gordon** completing the month.
Ed – here's another **10 blokes** that need to be found before Easter!

. **Lost, Found...it's the Terry Erbs month...**

. **Michael Quinlan** replied to our finding him with – “Paul, well done with your newsletter. Please put me in the “loop” Michael Quinlan.”
. **The LAA** listing gave us a lead to **Barry Campton** and he replied with – “Hello Paul Sorry to take so long to get back to you. A few things happened late last year which needed my attention. Yes, would love to be included on the mail-out. Kind Regards Barry Campton.”
. **Terry Erbs came to** us via Keith Ayliffe and sent us this – “G'day Paul, Would you please add me to your mailing list. Is it possible to get past copies of you newsletter? I have emailed your newsletter 0012 to other 131 Det. mates who were at the Dat with me in 68/69, in case they were not on your mailing list. Hopefully they too will join your growing list to contribute and receive future mailings of “Eyes & Ears” Happy New Year Terry Erbs 3791713 Surveyor 68/69”
. **Terry Erbs** sent **Jim Merchant** a copy of E&E's and he sent us the following email – ‘Hi Dicko, I recently received a copy of “eyes and ears” via Terry Erbs, I am more than happy to be added to the mailing list. Jim Merchant’
. **Terry Erbs** has given us **Peter Larkin** who sent in this email – ‘Paul, Recently received a copy of your newsletter via Terry Erbs, and would like to be included on your email list. Have noticed you have my tour dates incorrect. They are 8-11-68 to 19-11-69 (not 29-10-69). Regards Peter Larkin’
Ed – Pete great to hear from you and see the above article from Bert Blink etc.
. **We chased** up another lead from Keith Ayliffe, **Phil Sheedy**, and he replied with this – ‘Dicko, Sorry for the delay in replying to this. Thanks, I'd appreciate being added to the list. Regards Phil Sheedy’
. **David “Shorty” Gow** came to the list via the “ever reliable” **Jim Hogno Locator Locator Group** running in to him at a market in Coffs and finding out that he wasn't on the mailing list.
Then not to be outdone **“Shorty”** got us in touch with **David Auld**, with this – “Hi Paul, Just been talking to Dave Auld, organiser of our reunions at Coffs, and he said he would like to go on your email list for the eyes and ears newsletter.”
Ed – we've sent Dave A an email but haven't heard back as yet.

. **Almost last but not least** – Ernie Newbold has put in an early suggestion for ANZAC DAY this year as to formulating a list for each location (small and large area/town/city etc – someone may be holidaying somewhere and a contact could in the area would be bloody good!) as to who will be attending the Marches this year and where. We have discovered a whole lot of blokes from different eras and it would be great to catch up and actually put a face to names that we've been in contact with. **Ed** was lucky enough to be in Melbourne last year and meet an entirely new group of guys who are now part of the E&E's Family and it could happen again this year in Sydney and other places with the Group.

The list could look like this...

- **Atlanta**, Georgia, USA – Bernie Erica etc
- **Darwin** – Stuart Sporn etc
- **Nicosia**, Cyprus – Warwick Hamilton etc
- **Melbourne** – John Roberts etc
- **Sydney** – Ernie Newbold etc

Then wherever else, though hopefully with more names!!

Actually, here's another thought - does anyone want to kick around some ideas for a possible “pre” or “post” activity involving **Partners??** “Pre” may be safer! Get in contact asap.

. **Ed has** one more odd thought - It makes you (well me at least) wonder what would have happened if Robert Strange McNamara had stayed at the Ford Motor Company (not accepting JFK's offer of a “Public Service” career – can't see the correlation between building “Henrys” and escalating the hell out of a war), Lyndon Baines Johnson had gone swimming with Harold Holt at Cheviot Beach (though he should have gone for a swim about 18 months earlier than he did – the catch phrase could have been “all the way in the bay”) and Richard ‘Tricky Dicky’ Nixon had made President after LBJ in the mid '60's and hollered “get the hell out of there” earlier. Well one thing's for sure I wouldn't be writing this I guess!! Ah well, I better go and have another dose of my medication.

'I do not have to tell you who won the war. You know the artillery did.'

General George Patton

Ed – Who's going to play George C Scott??

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

Even Dogs Do IT...



Ed in closing – Well this is our **12th month** of publishing this “rag”, with the first one being put out there in February last year (1300 words and 2 pages). We did a couple of “Specials” (hence this edition is #0014) and the responses to those were really good. Thanks to all of you who have contributed and kept us afloat. Let's hope we can keep it going for another year or so.

So I'll keep making the appeal to all of you to keep items and especially 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.

Editor contact email: three-zero@hotmail.com **Ed –** Paul 'Dicko' Dickson