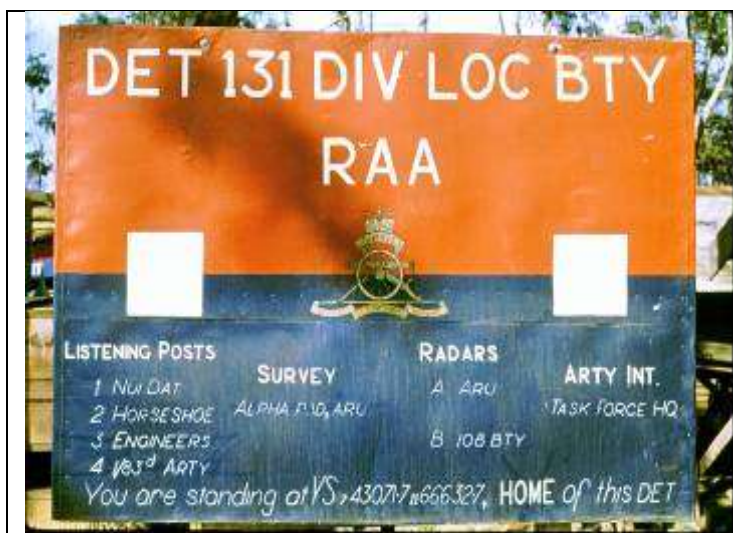
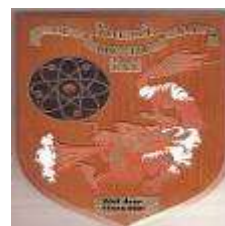




THE EYES and EARS

No.0015 – 28/02/10

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



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

Now we've made a radical change to the Eyes and Ears banner to incorporate a great archival photo supplied by **Michael Quinlan** – it really encapsulates the heart of the serving Detachment by listing all the groups, and looks in about the same condition as we do today - but we're still standing!

The timing for this change celebrates our **Fist Anniversary Edition**.

No one is quite sure what tomorrow may bring, but an eminent source does espouse the theory that it is wise" to eat dessert first!"It's possibly similar to not turning off the light before you get into bed especially if you're bed is near a low set open window! I guess it's a bit like wearing jungle greens as opposed to jungle reds – how the hell did we see our mates in the scrub if we were camouflaged? Maybe our radars should have had noses as well as ears?
OK, where the hell did I put those pills?

This version of **Eyes and ears is ONE YEAR old!!!!**

Heard and seen...

. **Great News on Peter "Pappy" Gault** from his wife **Carol** – "Hi Paul, Just wanted to share our good news re Peter's cancer. Today we saw the specialist for the results of a scan taken on Friday and the results were amazing only tissue scars remain. This is the best news as 10 months ago they told us Peter had weeks rather than months to live. Wow what more can I say, looks as though it will be Anzac Day in Sydney for us. Carol Gault" **Ed** – this is a great item to start this edition with and to be Sydney for ANZAC Day will a time to celebrate!!

. **Ed was** so pleased to get **Michael Quinlan's** 131 Signpost photo, listing all the Detachment's components, then along comes **Ernie Newbold** with the following...



G'day Paul, Yes, many of us remember that sign that marked the site of the Detachment Headquarters at Nui Dat. Does anyone know what the two white squares are for, painted on the centreline of the sign. They weren't there in December 1967 / January 1968 when the attached image (on the left) was taken.

I have also attached an image of our banner, taken at the North Fort Artillery Museum last year - it may be a handy inclusion for you at some time in the future.

Regards, Ernie.



- **Ed thinks** all three examples are great, but Ernie does have a point – what do the blank squares mean and when were they done? Anyone got any clues?

. **Kevin Maker sent us** some updated info on **Frank Halliday** – “Paul. In recent edition of “Eyes & Ears” I noticed a number of Locators were wondering about Frank Halliday.

As you are aware I advised you that Frank was living at Metford (Maitland) NSW. I was talking to Frank tonight and advised him of the above. Frank said He would be pleased to hear from any locators from radar troop.

Frank hasn't got email facilities but can be contacted at -
20 Nathan Close Metford NSW 2323. Ph 02 49337247.

Hope that helps. Regards, Kevin R.

. **Allen Morley sends in** an interesting email, which not only covers a “Memory” item (which **Ed** has archived), but hits on an interesting voyeur piece. **Ed** does think that most of the profiles and other photos sent in do reflect on current appearances – I may be wrong. However, and again, most post-SVN activities are also covered in Locator Profiles to some degree. Anyway here's what Allen has to say – “Hi Paul – again

I have re-read the E&E that you sent me. Loved it all and I can see that mischief still abounds within the group. Any sign of Ian Yerbury who one Wednesday at Holsworthy charged me with playing cards during a sports afternoon and let everyone else off. Hence I got off the charge when it came before the BC – Major Forgotten His Name.

It occurred to me that all involved with 131 – Nashos anyway, and quite a few Regs - are about the same age so do not have to be coy about that. Maybe collectively we could do then and now pics – 43 years can do terrible things to the comparison. But running into Bob Billiards who is very well preserved and seeing Roger McDonnell looking exactly the same last Anzac Day suggested to me that a mix of pics with the challenge to match the ‘before and after’ might be interesting. Might be difficult too!

I am not sure what was done before in E&E, but it could be revealing to find out the postings immediate post Vietnam. I was dropped into a CMF unit in Swan St Richmond, exactly where I had to turn up in April 1966 for my first day in uniform. Hard to take things seriously for a couple of months, so I didn't. The buildings have all gone now in the interest of a car park and an oval. Sic transit Gloria.

I look forward to further reminiscences from the back copies of E&E.

Cheers Allen”

Ed wants to keep **Allen Morley's** emails going, so here's a later email (I may have to put him on the staff!!) in response to my initial one to him –

“Hi Paul, Truly great to hear from you. Loved E&E and it is good to see those ‘familiar’ names again. How does the mind work to bring back instant recall from 43-44 years ago?

I commented to Kanga that after yesterday's LAA meeting – where Graham Dignam and Bob Billiards were attending representing the new 131 group - that it is great to learn that not all Vietnam travellers are currently hermits, crazy or a combination, as the media would have it. Although Graham's carrying of a schooner into the meeting at 11 am did raise some old-timer eyebrows! Graham accused me of being Warwick Hamilton's batman but I disavowed him of that idea. I seem to recall that Sandy Saunders was his driver but I cannot remember who was his batman. I know that it was neither Roger Mudguts Long or Mick Campbell! See the automatic memory thing does not always kick in.

I have lived in Sydney for the past 33 years having arrived from Melbourne via England and Canberra. I did not bother with Vietnam stuff – except an occasional MCG Anzac Day match in Melbourne with Roger Long and Frank Ipsa - since 1968 but my daughter convinced me to march last Anzac Day. Where I caught up with Roger McDonnell.

I have shared the Duntroon photo of Nick P and I with a few people and they all ask what assisting I was doing. I just thought it was a Gunner getting the best out of an NCO!

Will go and check out my slide collection and send some on soon.

Re the car debate. Greg Green had a green MGB, Murray Poustie a blue and white FC(or FB?) Holden, Roger Long a Valiant (AP5?) and I remember the Skyline Prince but also cannot recall the owner – one of the 3788... mob.

Cheers, Allen”

. **David Doyle** forwarded the following email which attracted some spirited responses, which have been included following this email...

Can you believe this please get your pens out and let the Queensland Branch know you disapprove.

the RSL QLD. Kind regards Alexander. Bill Gelhaar (07) 41551046

kgandmb@bigpond.com

To all concerned veterans

It horrifies me to learn that the Returned Services League of Australia (Queensland branch) has sold, for a donation, THE LAST POST as a ring-tone for mobile phones. I quote from a media release dated 9th December 2009:

“Visitors to the website could also download related mobile content to their wireless devices, such as The Last Post ring-tone and the Long Tan Badge, for a donation.

While about 25 people contacted RSL Queensland complaining about The Last Post being made available as a ring-tone, it's important to note that after the digital poppy, The Last Post was the second most popular content to be downloaded”

Mr. Doug Formby said. I can understand why there has been no complaint about this as nobody knew that it was about to happen. It appears to have been put through by the State Executive without consultation. Please, I implore you to get off your bum and stop this sacrilege. The Last Post is an unsung prayer for our fallen comrades and friends. I find it impossible to tell the spirit of my friends, who stood next to me and died for this country that their song of remembrance is now a ring-tone on a mobile phone. The RSL has sold its soul for the almighty dollar. I ask you to contact every veteran you know and let your views be known to Charmaine Dillon-Smith, Public Relations Officer, RSL (Qld Branch, Australia) email charmaine.dillonsmith@rslqld.org

Our fallen comrades need your help. Bill Gelhaar’

Then the replies started to roll in -

- **Steve Boutlis replied** – 'Hi, Dicko. I really don't have a problem with the last post being sold as a ringtone. To me, it means that it will be heard by more young people who will treasure it for what it represents. I have faith in people's sensibility to give it the reverence that it deserves. The proceeds will, I am confident, be used to assist Vets, just as we (VVAA) use the proceeds from the sale of the Flanders Poppy replicas, the Long Tan Cross badge, Diggers hat key ring, and other memorabilia that is considered to be sacred to some of us. Nor is anyone jumping up and down in protest because the Chinese are selling our nation's flag, the most sacred symbol of national aspiration, history and being, to us and making a fortune from it.
I do not recall anyone jumping up and down when El Salenzio (sounds identical to the Last Post) was recorded and made millions of dollars for record companies.
One can take umbrage about anything if one is so inclined.
Cheers to all, Boots.
PS. Dicko, in the next E&E, can you put a note in regarding Exercise Physiology which can be of benefit to a lot of our mates. DVA pays for it fully.
- **Grahame Dignam added this** – 'Dicko I have downloaded a version of the last post for a personal project I have done. It is not hard to do. If the RSL can make some money for Legacy (?) from the tune -let them. It will certainly be heard in more places and more often and may generate more interest for the cause. Regards Dig'
- **Stuart Sporn weighed in with this** – 'My comments are tempered hopefully with some reality and that I have had a very active role with Legacy in the Territory for well over 20 years. Legacy has been looking after widows and kids of deceased War Veterans since 1923 with minimal assistance from any Government source and mainly due to personal effort in fundraising. (These include Vietnam Veterans and a few years ago we paid for 2 of the three sons of a Vietnam Veteran who were stuffed in the head to attend Nudgee College in QLD to get sorted out and they did. It cost us truckloads but worth every cent as they all turned out OK.)
To the best of my knowledge that amongst all the ESO's Legacy is probably the only one where it's fund raising does not benefit it's members. Let me know if I am wrong.
What should Veterans be concerned about?
I would be interested to know who is buying Last Post downloads and at what horrendous cost !!!!!
In the Territory our major donors are people under the age of 25 who are teenagers and including young mums with kids and anything we can do to perpetuate this we will do. And why is there this interest?
In recent years there has been angst about dependents of Veterans marching in Anzac Day marches. Do we want Anzac Day to die when we do? No bloody way
My first query is does any individual or organisation own the patent or rights to ownership to the Last Post? If so legal action should commence by the owner. I think not when for some considerable time you have been able to download it from the DVA website for nothing and easily convert to a ringtone or whatever if that takes your fancy. (I can't believe that people are so gullible that they don't know this and have to pay a third party!!!)
In the Territory we sell both the Long Tan Cross as well as the Huey badge which not only raises funds for us but promotes our service in the American War in Vietnam. We are also a reasonable client of the Sunshine Coast VVAA buying Diggers Hat Key rings made from old pennies. Who has the rights on them?
Get on with it.
After Legacy surviving since 1923 we must have got something right and anything we can do to promote support for Veterans and their families in all conflicts and support from (particularly) young Australians we will do with great enthusiasm.
I was going to say "get a life" but I won't
Ubique Stuart Sporn'

. **Keith Ayliffe** responded to an email from **Ed** – "G'day Paul,

The 'Radar project' came about from a simple question about an old radar sitting in front of the current 131 orderly room. the question was "do you think it is possible that this was one of the radars from Vietnam.?"

I like a fool said it was possible that this information could be uncovered, I was then contacted by Kevin Browning (Current Pres. of "The Australian Artillery History Company") if I could also identify the radar skeleton the Locating Association has on display at the North Head Museum. From there other people got into the act requiring further data on the radars. so suddenly I had a full scale investigation on my hands.

Answer to second question - It will only be published on the web - firstly the Locating Artillery Association site and later on the The Australian Artillery History Company" website which I am informed will be on the net late March (Hopefully - They say) The LAA has there committee meeting on the 7 Feb and they believe it will only be a formality to pass and then it will go on the web soon after.

The Idea I stole from you, Two actually- Although SVN was only a small (but emotionally Large) part of our lives you have shown that the it still effects many of us by the desire of on the part of so many ex 131 service people wishing to join your revival and locate old friends.

It became obvious to me from reading the E & E that that one of the binding factors was that people were interested in the people they had served with regardless of National service or Reg. SOOO! I thought I would include the names or as many as possible in the article.

The other Idea was although I had intended to add Photos to the article they were austere types of radar and locations, I have since added many photos of the radar operators concerned, hopefully making it more appealing.

I also added a little data on LPs as well.

The Project is now 12Mbs in size 16,000 + words, over 100 Photos.

Best regards Keith"

Ed – see in the LAA notes section below for an update on this item.

. **Ernie Newbold** sent the following in, which apparently ran for some days in the Column 8 section of the Sydney Morning Herald and tickled both our senses of humour...

"One more word on 'gross'," pleads Major Chris Spiegel (Retd), Royal Australian Infantry Corps, Lenah Valley, Tasmania (Column 8, for some days). "One of my favourite infantry jokes (and let's face it, if you can't laugh at the infantry, who can you laugh at?), is 'What is the definition of gross ignorance? Answer: 144 infantrymen'. I stopped asking it when too many young infantry officers asked me, 'Why 144?'"

"IN the new year spirit of Major Spiegel's story," writes Hugh Jolly of Neutral Bay (dissent within the ranks, Column 8, Friday), "in a social situation when waylaid by the arrogant or self-righteous, my dear father (late Royal Army Medical Corps) delighted in posing the question 'Have you heard the story of the Guards officer who was so stupid his brother officers noticed?', then savouring the moment of the negative response."

Military matters continue to amuse Kerry Tasker of Hornsby, too. "Further to the various comments about Major Spiegel, I seem to remember being told by a sergeant major that every officer above the rank of major had to be accompanied by a senior NCO whose main task was to act as the "responsible adult".

A matter of military etiquette has arisen, which must be dealt with at once. "The contribution from Major Chris Spiegel (Retd) on Friday," writes Charles Davies-Scourfield, of Sutton Forest, "prompts the question: what is the lowest rank in the services at which it is deemed correct or permissible to continue using in retirement? No doubt Major Spiegel is fully entitled to continue using his rank, but why not lieutenant, or even corporal?"

Still on matters martial, Major Juri Linins, of Kelso, writes: "In keeping with Major Spiegel's infantry theme, what do you call three junior infantry officers on a hill? Answer: 'A thicket.'"

"While we are bashing the infantry," writes Bob Senkewitz of North Rocks (The Poor Bloody Infantry, Column 8, for days), "I remember reading in a magazine in the 1960s about US Army infantry training. It was noted that using whistles to summon troops to advance was not successful, because a squad might respond to another squad's whistle. A junior lieutenant suggested using different coloured whistles."

The army jokes keep coming (Column 8, for days). "During the Vietnam War," writes Geoff Westmore of Tarraganda, "many conscripts like myself believed that the real reason for national service was to increase the average IQ in the army by 50 per cent."

"On the subject of retired military officers retaining their rank," writes John Le Page, of St Ives (Column 8, since the Crimean War), "my late English father-in-law was a lieutenant colonel in the Indian Army until partition in 1947, and then a BBC announcer (reading the radio news in a dinner suit, as was the custom under Lord Reith). Not only did he use his rank until his dying day, but he promoted himself to full colonel - his cheques were printed in the name of Col N. S. Holmes. Inevitably this was sometimes misinterpreted by tradesmen, who would say, 'You don't mind if I call you Col, do you?'"

The debate over how lowly a military rank can be and still be used in retirement (Column 8, since Monday) seems to have been resolved in favour of major, at least on the strength of parade ground support from the readership. Then again, these things can run off at a tangent: "This discussion raises a further question," writes Bill Irvine, of Goulburn. "Why is it common to see army ranks thus used, but not air force ranks such as squadron leader and wing commander, nor navy ranks such as commodore and admiral?" Why, indeed?

If you want a definitive answer, talk to the fellow in charge. Fortunately, Column 8 somehow seems to be able to find such people - or do they find us? "At the risk of prolonging this matter, all commissioned officers are entitled to use the term 'retired', regardless of rank," we are advised by Chris Jacobson, of Monash, ACT (Retirement in the ranks, Column 8, for much of last week). "However, you don't get very many lieutenants or captains retiring - the 'retirement time' usually starts once officers are in the ranks of major or above. In addition, the term 'retired' is used by officers from both the RAN and the RAAF."

And who is Chris? "As a former regimental sergeant-major, ceremonial and protocol, I wrote the army's protocol manual, which deals with this subject matter." End of story.

Well, not quite - retirement entitlements yes, but not the army, not yet. "The colonel of a cavalry regiment was preparing the annual reports on his officers," we are assured by Peter Beale, of Valentine, on Lake Macquarie. "The quality of one of them he summed up very briefly: 'I would hesitate to breed from this officer.'"

. **Barry Nugent** sent in the following which **Ed** sent out for comment..."FW: This will interest all who served in Vietnam PLEASE LISTEN TO THE ENTIRE RECORDING

From: [Barry Nugent](mailto:barrynug@bigpond.net.au) (barrynug@bigpond.net.au)

Sent: Wednesday, 3 February 2010 1:01:53 PM

To: Paul Dickson (three-zero@hotmail.com)

1 attachment

20090921 ...mp3 (3.2 MB) "1. WE DID NOT GET A RATION OF ALCOHOL WHILST 'IN THE BUSH'."

And the following responded -

- **Warwick Brooker** - "Dicko, I can clearly remember one occasion (and there was possibly another) when we were provided two cans of beer while in the bush for a prolonged period. I think a smiling Yerbs dealt it to us. Back at Nui Dat, I never drank my quota of beer (6 cans/day wasn't it?). I usually drank bitter lemon at the movies. My beer quota was absorbed by others, probably **radar** personnel. From what I've read about other units, there appears to have been a liberal daily supply at Nui Dat. We, particularly the surveyors, were a sober lot who took our responsibilities very seriously! Brookey"
- **David Auld** - "even though i am not a vet i listened to this, i believe it was 2cans per man per day perhaps, we were told this on one 3week exercise beauty we got 3 mabye 4 cans at the end. DAVID 🌹"
- **Steve Boutlis** (never one to be left out) - "We did get a beer ration while on long ops I am pretty certain that we had beer on two occasions as well as hot-box meals delivered to us by chopper during Op Ainsley. I know that there was not ever, during my stay at the Dat, a beer shortage at our boozer. Nor at the Asco where I bought Old Grandad for \$2MPC a bottle. One could get pissed on it a lot quicker than on Bud and Lone Star (god, how could the septic tanks drink that shit!) Cheers, Boots."

. **Kevin Maker** sent this re the **Dinner and AGM Newcastle & Hunter Valley Branch**.

"Allan,

First off please allow me to extend apologies for next Sundays meeting for Ken and I due to unforeseen circumstances. I would ask you Allan that you table the following report on behalf of the Newcastle Hunter Valley Branch.

Dinner Saturday 17th July 2010.

Venue: Telarah Bowling Club, South St. Telarah. (Maitland) There is accommodation at two (2) nearby motels that Ken will put in "Locrep". Paul Dickerson has also agreed to promote the weekend through "Eyes & Ears".

Timings: 1800 for 1900.

Cost: Dinner \$30.00 per head which consists of a two course meal tea, coffee Dinner roll and after dinner mint. Each table shall have two bottles of wine 1 red, 1 white and our own bar facilities.

Colonel John Platt CSC has agreed to be our Dinning Guest.

Mr. Michael Jenkins will be the Dinning President and Mr. Graham Campbell as the Mr. Dinning Vice.

Mrs. Suzanne Roe has agreed to do the necessary Prayers.

Toasts and responses will be advised shortly.

Ken Clements continues to liaise with 20 STA Regiment in regards to their contribution for the weekend.

Raffles: At the present time we have obtained a small number of prizes and are looking for a few more prizes for the the raffle and ask that Joe Kaplun if available conducts the raffle on our behalf.

The port for the toasts has once again been donated by Sign Action a company from Kingsgrove in Sydney.

Dress: Gentlemen Coat, Tie with Medals & Decorations. Ladies: After Five.

AGM: Sunday 18th July 2010. (Timings to be confirmed by Sydney Branch)

Venue same as dinner. Cost \$15.00 per person, with bar facilities available.

Dress: Smart casual.

The club has assured us that the prices quoted shall be held firm for our functions in July.

We at the NHV Branch look forward to hosting this event and welcome as many Locators as possible.

Tickets will be available shortly and the closing date for acceptance will be the 8th of July 2010. Payment should be sent by cheque or Money Order made payable to Locating Artillery Association Newcastle & Hunter Valley Branch to,

The Secretary NHV

PO Box 366

East Maitland NSW 2323.

Allan would you please forward this email to John Posner for me.

Yours in Locating. Kevin R. Maker JP Secretary Newcastle & Hunter Valley Branch."

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

The fun continues with...

. **Ron Evans** -

'I drove a clapped out Mini - until it was stolen by you-know-who. Mook' **Ed** – Mook is in search of the 'mystery-man' that has been known to haunt us all – contact him for more details and see if you can help.

. **Victor Danko** -

'Wow! The memories you have. Yes I had a white VW Beetle. I bought it new in 1965 as I started to be "teacher ". I was earning about Pounds 1000 p.a. and the car cost the same. Remember I was deferred for a year.

During 1965 I was at a school in Mendoran (near Dubbo, western NSW). At one time I drove into Dubbo with a fellow teacher - we got so drunk, I rolled the VW on the way home. How we survived, totally unscathed, it must have been a miracle. My fellow traveller was John Hargreaves, went on to become a famous actor. That was my contribution to Aust film industry.

When I was called up (Jan, 1966) the car had been repaired (poorly). We had it at North Head. Then I was sent to Woodside, South Aust. I'd fallen in love in Sydney so a few weeks later I decided to drive from Woodside to Sydney and back in 3 days. I bought an extra 4 gallon tank so as to be able to refuel somewhere across western NSW. I figured I had the stamina to do the trip in one session.

Crossing near West Wyalong I needed to add petrol before the next station. But, I'd forgotten to buy a funnel. So, fuck it, in the darkness, with a hot car I poured the petrol as best I could and then started the ignition. The guys an idiot!! I flew TAA back to Woodside.

Later in Sydney, I left the car with my girlfriend because Warwick wouldn't let me take it to Nui Dat. Regards Victor'

. **John Vickary** –



'Hi Dicko, Pre Vietnam it was a Mini Deluxe which had some "minor" modifications which brought it up to exceed Mini Cooper S specifications - much to the surprise of the NSW police who seemed to have a little difficulty keeping up in their stock-standard Mini Coopers.

On my return to the "real World" in 1968 I started a 20 year Italian love affair with Fiats. JV'

. Memories –

Steve Boutlis gives us the following, not so much as a memory, but as a bit of “Boots” philosophy -

“Hi Dicko, The section of Surveyors (yes, S, not s) at the Dat in 1967 was called “The Brains Trust” by we Surveyors, “the most intelligent of the Gunners” by the RMO Dr. David Bradford in his book *The Gunners' Doctor*, and *The Scurveys*, by others. I don't remember us being referred to as a section, just as the Survey Troop. We had a survey pair or team (an observer and a booker) which was part of the Survey Troop. We had drivers in the Troop.

Radar in 67 was under the command of Lt. White (Whyte, Wight?) who famously selected the location of Bravo Radar pit in the highest water table. Consequently the water pump with which to constantly pump out the foot of water under the floorboards. I'd swear that the pump at night in the pit sounded like an AK47!

Radar in my time was probably referred to as the U.S. mob (as in un serviceable), like their radars which never worked. Sergeant “Doc” Halliday was the head NCO of radar, and Lofty Hayes was his 2 IC until he left in March(?)

Arty Int was/is an oxymoron

I recall one night we were in the Alpha Radar pit playing poker with Lts. Wight and Yerbury, a couple of NCOs and a few gunners when Capt. Hamilton walked in and I said, “G'day Sir. Want to join in?”

Wwwell!!! Did he blow the Lieus up or did he!!!

“How dare you don't call the parade to attention when an officer enters a room, blahh, blah @#%^&*#! etc etc!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lt. Wight, red faced, called us to attention, we all jumped to attention, rigid as can be (some of us may have shat ourselves such was the look of thunder on Hammo's face), Wightie saluted, Hammo returned the salute, said “Carry on” asked who was winning and then left with a cheeky smile on his dial.

I'll tell you about his fast-back Land Rover windscreen and how we bluffed the Lieus into coming up through the trapdoor at the LP on the engineers' section of the fence another time. Remind me.

Cheers,

Boots.

HQ were pongos or base wallahs.”

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

- **Keith Ayliff's** has his most recent effort published on the website – “This document records a brief history of the mortar locating radars used by Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery in South Vietnam”. It's really well worth the read - - great stuff Keith.
- **Work parties** at the RAA National Museum - next work party is on 28 March. Work parties commence at 1000 hrs sharp in the Locating Hangar and conclude with an *Association*-funded BBQ at 1400 hrs at the North Fort Mess.

ANZAC Day – 2010...where and who...

- **Sydney** – Al Adams, Peter Gault, Leigh Hemming, Ernie Newbold

Ed - we've had no other starter information as yet for other locations.

. Birthdays in the Battery...February...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, **Robert Ness** claimed the 9th, **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 – now here's another **10 blokes** that need to be found before Easter!

. Locator Profiles – we've received 35 and we've sent out 32... **Ed** - Thanks fellas and keep 'em coming.

. Found, lost...

. **Jeff Evans** got in touch with **Keith Ayliffe** and here's what he got in contact with – “Hi Paul,

I am sure we have never met, so a brief intro. Name is Jeff Evans, and I was the last Survey Section Comd in SVN with Kevin Browning as the Svy Sgt. It was to have been Sgt David Doyle, but he was blown up by the VC planted mine, so Kevin filled in post haste. I floated in and out of the Loc world for a number of years as an instructor and writing pams etc, and ended up as BC 131; perhaps the best two years of my life, but that is another story.

I have been communicating (recently) with Keith Ayliffe whom I first met in 131, Holsworthy, I think, and I think we last met in SVN when Keith and a subbie mate of mine called Tony Ayerbe came over with EVA to calibrate the guns of the regt. (Notice the 'I thinks' - the memory is not what it used to be.)

Anyway, I was asking Keith if we could swap information and ideas, and also I wanted to interview Keith for a book I have committed to. The book will be called, “Gunners in Vietnam, 1965-1971” and is aimed at recording 'how' we worked, 'where' we worked, who we communicated with, and essentially answer the statement, “how the gunners did it in

Vietnam".

I had asked Keith for some contacts in the Loc world, for people to interview for the book, and he said 'Eyes and Ears' was the go as there were some 270 people who got a copy each month. I thought it a great idea, and so thought I should write to the 'boss' and see if we can do business? Keith said you were the boss, so here we are.

I figure this book must cover the whole gunner establishment from CO's, BC's, CP's, FO's, Gun Dets, TFAIO's, Sect Comd's, Rdr Ops, Surveyors, Sensor Ops, and the cooks, bottle washers, Q staff, caterers, drivers, and the RP's. It needs to be warts and all, with the good and the bad, the sackings, the fraggings, the attempts at fragging, the mistakes, the accidents, the deaths and the honours and awards. This book should be 'the whole truth and nothing but ...' for our time in SVN. I just hope I can do it justice.

So Paul, I am wondering if I may use Eyes and Ears as a vehicle to contact ex-locators who would be interested in being interviewed. I want to interview a wide spectrum of guys, from all years (1965-1971) if possible, to see how they were employed, what went right, and wrong, where they served, with whom and the 'stories' of their 'adventure'. If I don't have the stories, the book is a flop. It needs to relate to everyone who was there, even if I can't mention by name everyone who was there.

If you were to agree, I would be happy to write an article for the Newsletter, explaining what I need, and we can take it from there. It will be about 12 months before I am in a position to get to people for interview (I am based in Sydney), but I will get there, eventually.

What do you think? Regards, Jeff Evans"

Ed – watch this space as Jeff will give us more details on his project in next month's edition of E&E's.

. **Allen Morley proves that** it's never too late to catch up – "Hi Paul, Another 131 Nasho looking to get into the loop. I was at Nui Dat 1967-68. I recently joined the LAA and have been in touch with Kanga McFadden.

I am not sure exactly what form Eyes and Ears has, but please include me on the circulation and e-mail any back copies. I note that Ernie Newbold is involved with you in this endeavour.

Yesterday I met up with Graham Dignam and Bob Billiards who were attending representing the new 131 group within LAA.

Regards, Allen Morley"

. **Jim "the Locator locator" Hogno** found **Peter Binns**, but we haven't heard from Pete as yet.

"The thanks of the infantry, in my opinion, must be treasured more by every artilleryman than all decorations and citations. "

Colonel George Bruchmuller
Commanding US 4th Infantry Division World War II
(Reminiscing with his division artillery commander)

Ed – Now why wasn't he in our army?

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



Ed in closing – Well this is our 12th month and with continuing help we'll have a crack at 12 more.

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

A final footnote -

. **Keith Ayliffe sent**, in his words - "Bit of old rubbish" for us to enjoy. For those of you that haven't seen it it'll bring a smile to your face...

'A LETTER OF WARNING FROM VIETNAM

DEAR.....

This is to inform you that as of the 196 a certain mud-bound, water soaked and slightly crazy individual known as.....is leaving our little city of Nui Dat securely nestled in the jungle, rice paddies and rubber trees located in the southern part of a semi-tropical country in the far east known as the Republic of Vietnam. Very soon he will be once again in your midst, ready once more to take his place as a human being with freedom and justice for all, engage in life, liberty and the somewhat delayed pursuit of happiness.

In making your joyous preparation to welcome him back into respectable society, you must make allowance for the crude environment in which he has suffered for the last 12 months. In a word he may be somewhat Asiatic, suffering from stages of Vietnamese or too much of the local BARMY BAR (local Beer).

Therefore your attention is drawn to the following advice, of which you should take careful note and observe:

(a) Get the women off the street, hide all the beer and grog, put a lock on the refrigerator and lock the cow in the barn.

(b) This man has survived the worst the Far east has to offer, mud, rain, heat, dust, loneliness, monsoons not to mention a couple of coup de-tahs.

(c) Be he husband, sweetheart, friend, son or brother, he is still yours.

(d) He may look a little strange and act a little peculiar, but this is to be expected after twelve gruelling months in Vietnam.

(e) Pay no attention when he smears Soy sauce on his potatoes or mixes raw snails with his rice in the hope of making them taste better.

(f) Neglect to say anything about powdered eggs, *C" rations, spare ribs, de-hydrated potatoes, weenies, fried rice, fresh milk and ice cream and above all do not mention or even hint on the subject of French bread or cold tea.

(g) Unless you want to risk life and limb do not ask him "Does it ever rain in Vietnam" or "Are the women really flat-chested".

(h) Do not **say anything** to him if he constantly stares at such things as, chairs, soft mattresses, smooth and wide roads, women with round eyes or stand around muttering such Vietnam phrases as "Choy Hoy", "Muoi Dong", 'Suc Mau You", "Xin Loi Am Toi Di Cho Ve Soah", "Boom Boom", "Uc Da Loi number one", 'Be nice", "Number Twelve" or "Never Hatchi".

(i) Don't ask questions or argue with him when he asks for sulphur to put in his bath water, or if he continually flushes the toilet and gazes at it in awe, wonder and fascination just go along with him and he will get over it eventually.

(j) Above all do not ask him. "How was the mail over there" for he is liable to get violent and go into convulsions.

(k) Act as if nothing has happened when he 'pees' in the gutter as it's a common **practice among** the natives of Vietnam.

(l) If he prefers to sit squat legged on the floor and insists on everybody eating squid soup with him with chopsticks, pay no heed, and humour him.

(m) If he offers you 'Mai Muoi Dong' to go chop chop, humour him and go, but do not ask him such questions as "You buy me Saigon Tea".

(n) If he mumbles such things in his sleep as "black market", "tea sippers" or any other sayings, just ignore him.

(o) When he is crossing, the street, take care of him for he has become impartial, indifferent and completely oblivious of car horns, cycles, pedi cabs, bicycles, water buffalo, horse and cows and other such things as are found on the streets of Saigon, Vung Tau and other towns and villages.

(p) Above all never let him get into a blue and yellow taxi under any circumstance.

(q) Remember, beneath that rough, water soaked and weather beaten exterior beats a heart sweet and pure, though slightly wet.

(r) He may not look or act like it but he is your very own. Just allow him a few years to get used to being back in civilisation again.

(s) If any problems arise that you cannot handle, please call the Vietnamese police at Saigon or Vung Tau. They will not be able to help you but they like to use the phone as it makes them feel important.

(t) Show no alarm if he prefers to **squat rather** than sit in a chair, pad around the house in thongs and a towel, slyly offers the postman cigarettes to buy, picks at his food suspiciously as if you were trying to poison him.

(u) Don't be surprised if he answers all questions with "I hate this +?\$\$\$**+ '&??? place', be tolerant when he tries to buy everything for less than half the price, accuses the grocer of being a thief and refuses to enter an establishment that doesn't have steel mesh over the windows and doors.

(v) Any of the following sights should be avoided as they can produce advanced shock; television and round eyed women. If living in Melbourne never let him be within half mile of Monash or Melbourne Universities.

(w) In a relatively short time his profanities will decrease enough to permit him to associate with mixed groups and he soon will be speaking English as well as he ever did. He may also complain of sleeping in a room and refuse to go to bed without a mosquito net.

(x) Make no flattering remarks about the glammers of South East Asia or the Orient. Avoid mentioning the benefits of overseas service and above all ask before mentioning food delicacies of the East such as fried rice. The mere mention of these subjects may touch off an awesome display of violence.

(y) For the first few months (until he is house broken) be especially watchful when he is in the company of women (particularly young and beautiful ones). The few females he has seen are American Red Cross workers who are all rejects from the wrestling ring. Therefore his first reaction on meeting an attractive round eye will be shock indicated by staring. Wives and sweethearts are advised to take advantage of this lapse and move the young lady out of reach.

(z) Keep in mind that beneath this tanned and rugged exterior there beats a heart of gold. Treat him with kindness, tolerance and an occasional shot of whisky and you will be able to rehabilitate this hollow shell of a man. Do not send any more letters or parcels to him afteras this crazy looking, bloody eyed, mud splattered, damp, dishevelled and idiotic soldier will be on his way back to you before it gets here

GOOD LUCK YOU'LL NEED IT.

From: DET 131 Vietnam

PS Counselling will not be available for Viet vets' **Ed** – it's an oldie, but a goodie!