



THE EYES and EARS

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More hot air seems to be coming out of Officialdom's lower regions with White Paper documents being leaked about the disbanding of Australian Currency, as we know it, and reverting back to a more traditional manner of bartering which was part of Queensland politics, not all that long ago, with favours being paid for with the contents of "brown paper" bags. "White shoes", worn by men, were also in fashion at the time. It was, apparently, a custom favoured by certain sections of the NSW Police force in times gone by too. All of this does stretch the imagination as to how big a brown bag of spuds, how many mirrors, beads or whatever will it take to able to buy a couple of beers at the bar let alone a reasonably new car?

Heard and seen...

. 131 Locators Association...

A couple of weeks ago we sent out a questionnaire concerning our desire to form an association and establish a website and it received very positive responses from an overwhelming majority. However in doing so we may have alienated some of the blokes.

So I've put the following together to hopefully clear up some points...

Firstly we would really like to thank those that took the time to read and to respond with comments etc. Like everything we endeavour to do it is reliant on your input.

The results to the questions are –

- i) Would you agree to the establishment of an association? **87.8%**
If yes, then what name would you suggest? 131 Locators Association **88.9%** (of positive votes)
- ii) Would you be prepared to pay a minimal annual Membership fee? **85.4%**
- iii) Which way should we proceed? –
 - a) Nominate Office Bearers on a temporary basis? **85.4%**
- or
 - b) Elect Office Bearers? **14.6%**
- iv) Would you be prepared to become involved, even nominate for an Office Bearer role now or at some stage? **B%**
- v) Do you agree to the establishment of a website? **90.2%**

So based on the above criteria we have decided to continue with the proposals outlined in the "Association & Constitution" email to which you responded.

We believe that we need to offer a wider explanation to those that responded not only in the negative, but positively with questions, as we feel that we may not have fully explained our intentions with our proposals and the requests we have had as to strengthening the solidarity of the group we have established.

A portion of this was emailed earlier -

From 1966 onwards a large and growing group of Australians from all walks of life became embroiled in a life changing activity whether by choice of occupation or were conscripted where they shared a period in time in 131 Div Loc Bty. Some of them were selected for a tour/s of duty in South Vietnam and others were involved in a support role in Australia. Initially after their services were rendered there were associations that could have nurtured them, but a large number felt very isolated and this has extended into recent times when attending ceremonies where they were never approached or made aware by anyone that such organisations existed. Some have even attended major events such as an ANZAC Day parade and have not even been said "g'day" to, so become more disoriented. This was not in all cases though. Apparently **Ed** joined a group in 1969, perhaps a Queensland group, and Ian Amos has a typed list with his very old home address on it. But that Association/Group obviously has disappeared into the dark depths somewhere.

About 15 months ago, we decided to reach out and communicate with a small group of mates. This group of assorted blokes from all walks of life has now grown to 130 (one more and the number becomes interesting!!) of which 69 belong to the LAA.

The Proposal is based on a feeling and a need of solidarity where mateship will be the corner stone that is driving us on, combined with an independence associated with a real sense of camaraderie.

So that leads us on with the explanation belonging to the planned association's name - "131 Locators Association", and the plaque, featuring OUR dragon, as they both have inherent value to the proposals at hand.

The inclusion of "131" in the name represents the history part of the proposals as it was at this stage, under this name including the "131", that the Battery and possibly "Locators" came of age in the '60's, even though the Battery number is now transferred to 131 STA Bty, I guess that the legacy still lingers on, and even now I presume with the newer Batteries that have followed and currently exist.

The inclusion of the number "131" does not preclude Locators form any Locating Battery to feel a part - it is just symbolic. We had RAEME blokes attached and their participation is welcomed.

Neither is the "131" meant to be an exclusive Veteran's association. There is no place for exclusivity, rank or length of service as a priority – we were all dependent on each other where ever we were, and we hope that this mutual respect continues on today. In fact there will be a definite effort made to contact relatives of past Battery members to allow them to join in a family that once embraced their son, brother or father and so on.

The inclusion of the plaque design with the Dragon is very emotive and belongs very much to our band of brothers and our presence would not be complete without it.

There is no secret agenda to what we are going to do, it is just that we mean to create and establish a very personal bit of historic memorabilia for which we need all incumbents to join in and feel a part of it.

Out of the 130 blokes who receive our correspondence, a good number (**Ed** included) belong to the LAA and other groups or associations, and will no doubt continue to do so. We are just seeking funding assistance to establish and continue a permanent and totally independent web presence. The need for an association is totally inconsequential, but a legal necessity.

We hope that this helps to clear up any misconceptions that may have seemed apparent from our proposal and we will endeavour to keep you all informed as to our progress.

The interim committee will consist of – Ian Amos, Bob Billiards, Vic Danko, Paul Dickson, Grahame Dignam, George Lane, Allen Morley, Ernie Newbold and Nick Proskurin. And from this group we'll ask for nominations for Office Bearers and form a structured Interim Committee. Next there will be an email forwarded with the Committee positions complete.

Most of these blokes have been involved in meetings over time and want to be involved in the Interim stage.

Thanks again for your indulgence and support.

. Another simple email leads to this...the Battery's Shield design...

From Keith Ayliffe -

"G'day Paul, An interesting thought occurred to me, now that we have contact with many of the early Locators.

Many years ago I was speaking with Ron "Chalky" Royal on the introduction of the Locating Dragon onto the Detachment 131 Bty plaque.

He could not remember which one. I thought I might use E&E's contacts to see if anyone remembers who drew the original Dragon.

It would have been done between March 67 and November 67, As I believe the Bty Plaque was available around November 67. Best regards Keith"

...now from Ed to Grahame Dignam...

"Grahame, I'm forwarding on Keith Ayliffe's email to get an answer to his question about "OUR" Dragon...

Strangely enough we were close to the answer with an article in the E&E's 0003 April 2009 when we were mucking around with a newsletter banner and Warwick Hamilton sent an email - I have taken an extract from it (below), BUT it still doesn't answer the question to WHO designed it??

Ron "Chalky" Royal suggested a Surveyor - that makes sense, BUT can we please get a definitive answer emailed back to me before we go to print with this month's E&E's. Dicko"

Warwick's email -

"The plaque is definitely ours. It was designed by us in country in '67 and I think we had the first quantity made in Singapore and brought back to Nui Dat. The atom represents the "electronic" nature of the unit as well as the synergistic (that's a big word for this time of night after a glass of red!) nature of all our elements (represented by the variously titled electrons circulating around the central nucleus). The dragon is the classic Vietnamese dragon from their Mythology. The link is that the dragon was instrumental in creating and protecting Vietnam and we were created for, and to help protect, Vietnam. Pretty D & M stuff. The College of Heraldry would love it! Since then it has become the plaque for all subsequent 131 Bty SVN units, and a variant with the electrons revolving around the artillery badge has been used for today's locators I think. **But we started it!**"

Then Keith's reply – "I agree with Warwick to a point, from discussion with Chalky, at that time the Americans had a airmail stamp with the map of SVN on it and someone suggested it looked like a dragon, his story is the "Artist Surveyor" then using the map of Vietnam drew the dragon using the map as the outline for his body, adding a tail and some legs .It was not until later the subject of the Mythological dragon entered the scene.

I have basically what I have just said on interview tapes with Chalky. (As I believe the originator, I have to accept his words)

The dragon is not a classical Vietnamese Dragon although contains many Characteristics of classical dragons.

a few years ago people were referring to it as a Lung Dragon, which is technically incorrect as Lung is Chinese for Dragon, so to say Lung Dragon you are actually saying Dragon.

Every thing else in Warwick's statement is defiantly correct as I understand it.
 Have Fun
 I would still like to track down the original artist. Keith”

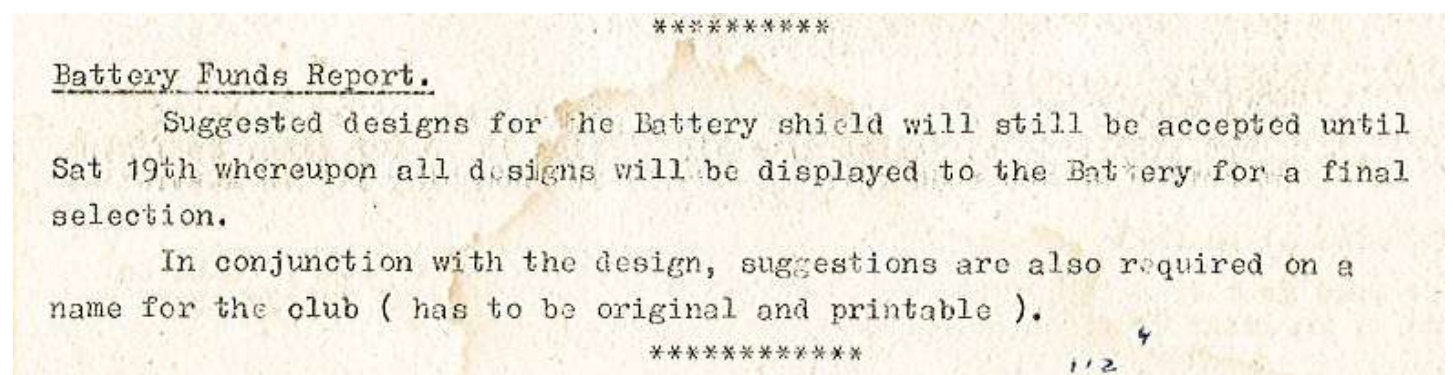
The following gives an idea of where the design may have come from...

		
Rong or Long - according to Vietnamese culture – the 12 sections symbolise the 12 months of the year.	One of our original drawings/sketches	The shield as it was designed in 1967.

“A good possibility as this is the second time Ron Webb’s name has been mentioned. The first time somebody said “Ron Webb might have drawn it as he was a reasonable artist” or words something like that. Sooo he could well be the target.
 As I have no contact on him I was unable to follow it up.
 Regards Keith.”

Grahame Dignam recalls the following...
 “I recall talking to Chalky (bless his soul) and to the best of my knowledge Gnr Webb was responsible. Surveyors or draftsmen may be able to confirm. (Was there any mention in the 67-68 versions of E&E?)
 Grahame”

...then Ed dug the following extracts out of some vintage 1967 original E&E’s sent in by **Warwick Brooker** a while ago and bugger me here’s some ramblings of yours truly out of Vol. 1 No. IV – Gestetner reproductions from 1967 only just hold up...



The “Saturday” we’re looking for is **August 19, 1967** – **Ed** hopes that the date is a real help!!

Ron Evans gave it some thought with...
 “Sorry mate, I have no idea. I know I gave mine to the VVA here in Adelaide and it is still displayed. Hope someone can solve this little mystery.
 Best wishes Dicko and many thanks for all your efforts. Mook”
Ernie Newbold comes up with a plausible possibility...
 “G'day Paul, My recollection of the dragon design is that it was "inspired" or developed from the Vietnamese dragon which appeared on air mail envelopes sold at the PX that we used to send letters home in from Vietnam. I still have some of those envelopes at home somewhere and have had a look for them but haven't found them so far.
 If anybody still has one of those envelopes they may be able to send you a copy or photo of it for comparison.

Looking at the overall shape/outline of the dragon you may notice that it is stylised to be similar to the outline/map of Vietnam. Regards, Ernie.”

Ed – I’ve done some Googling on the subject but haven’t been able to source any samples. I do remember the Dragon pre-stamped envelope. So if there is anyone who can come up with one, we’d be very grateful for any info?

. **Steve Boutlis** gets us off and onto another topic with this gem...

“Hi Dicko I was just reading the article on the history of the radars at Nui Dat when the attached sprang at me and brought to mind the actual decision making for the excavation for the Command Post Alpha Radar. I and some of the other Surveyors who were to help man the command post and weapons pit, kept telling a junior officer who was in charge of the op that the water-table was too high in that spot as we had had problems with the weapon pit being very damp. And the command post was to be deeper than it!

Shame that green-in-country rank would not listen to experienced baggy-arses!

*Alpha Radar’s command post had been dug below ground and completed by the end of June 1967. **An unforeseen (?)** problem of flooding in the command post during the wet season, required engineer assistance and the deployment of water pumps. Alpha Radar site was moved to a new position late 1968 The Ariel Photo of Nui Dat shows approximate radar positions (photo taken early 1968)*

(?) larger size letters are mine for emphasis.

It was also a very dangerous spot to get to and back from the Survey lines as we had to stumble our way through and past the mad ARU dickheads in their weapons pits who seemed to always have their weapons cocked.

Cheers, Boots”

Ed – E&E’s will always be indebted to you for your out of left field observations! Keep ‘em coming!

. **Peter Ravelje** sent in the following photos which he entitled “**131...Before RADAR**”, which we thought were pretty appropriate -

Why wouldn’t it work now?

Ed wonders if Keith Ayliffe, aka our “Resident” Radar Guru, can shed any light on these AN/KPQ-1 predecessors. One thing about some of these pieces is that it would do wonders to clear the wax out of your ears!



. **“Mac the Major”** – this bit of insanity was dug out by **Warwick Brooker** and of course picked up a bit of momentum – bad luck “our” Ken McNamara isn’t on the net!

“Allen

I’m can’t find the piece of writing where I referred to Kenny Mac as Major McNamara. I distinctly remember typing it. It just popped into my head as I was typing out my ANZAC weekend experiences and, since it had a nice ring to it, Gunner Mac was instantly promoted! Anyway, Ken Clements (perhaps via Kevin Maker) evidently picked it up and ran with it. It wasn’t until I read the LOCREP that I remembered saying it. Just comes naturally, I suppose. Have a good day! Warwick”

...then Warwick to Allen again...

“G’day Allen

I reckon Gunner Mac will be more surprised than anyone to learn of his belated promotion. (He doesn’t have an Internet service at the moment. Anyway, he’s presently exploring the Top End on a cruise ship.)

Ageing but still alert to opportunities! (sometimes)

Regards Warwick”

Allen replies...

“Hi Warwick

Do I detect a whiff of conspiracy on your behalf?

I opened my Locrep newsletter to find a promotion that I was not aware of. www.locatingartillery.org/Newsletters/45%20-%20Locrep.1005%20%20May%202010.final.pdf

I see that Major Mc showed you around Sydney. Devious! Delicious! Delightful!

I would love to learn the truth.

Cheers, Allen”

Vic Danko put his few Roubles worth in...

“Well, this is a shock for me, who the fuck have I been saluting all these years?

Regards to all”

“Even the **“mild mannered” Grahame Dignam** flew in with his bit of “kryptonite”...

“Ken may have an alto ego – he could be mistaken for Clark Kent!!!!

Regards Grahame”

Bob Billiards thought this...”When I read it I thought that there must have been another Ken McNamara!!”

Ed – maybe we’ll learn the real truth next ANZAC Day!

. **Late Breaking Stuff...stop the presses!**

Ed – as any ethical publication goes, they never rely on anonymous mail to base a hard fact story on, BUT this email has made us make an “Editor’s Call” and run with the story because of the implications and dramatic lifestyle effect it have on one of ours - Brookey – forget about K07...

“Dear Ed,

In view of yesterday’s Palace Coup in Canberra, and the demise of one K Rudd as head honcho, has anyone given any thought to the situation of his doppelganger?

I could find nothing in the newspapers nor in the extensive television coverage of the whereabouts of his security double, Gunner W Brooker.

Has anything been heard at E&E HQ? Do we know his fate? What of his extensive photo collection?

(signed) Concerned, Sydney”



Julia what have you done!!

The party’s over - K07 will be ok on the back bench, but Brookey has to exist!

Will Brookey survive in China once K07 accepts the inevitable Ambassadorial “gravy train” posting?

I’m positive we can organise food parcels through Oxfam and surely someone’s mother can still knit?



Ed - Brookey, keep us in touch with any future developments?

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

. John Blake –

'Paul - Yes I had a series of cars at that time. I had cut my teeth on Morris Minors and 1000s. The car in which I had an interest in Brisbane was co-owned by my brother who would not let me have my share so I bought one in Sydney and one of the guys and I set out on a trip to Brisbane. (He has reminded me of this at a reunion but I forget who it was). The trip came to a halt half way up the Putty Rd with a tyre scrubbed out: Suspension/wheel alignment gone haywire. I forget the exact circumstances but the car wound up on the property of a scarily senior officer who kindly scrounged a tyre for us and we returned some weeks later to get the car back. I walked up to him in the paddock where he was doing his off-duty thing on a tractor. He was out of and I was in uniform and I did not salute or call him "Sir", much to my later disgust. He had gone out of his way to help us and I did not have the maturity or grace to handle it well. I think I wrote him a letter of thanks much later.

After the wobbly Morris Minor I bought a P & R Williams Sports 850, a poor man's Cooper. Slightly lowered, twin carbs and great looking stripes that doubled the insurance premiums. Put it sideways into a gutter near Five Dock showing off to a youngster and it cost me a fortune to have it repaired. It was insured but Dad had to bail me out with a large excess. Ipsa smashed the gearbox trying to find 1st at 30mph. Dad got rid of it while we were in Vietnam.

After discharge I bought a Mini Deluxe that I modified a bit and campaigned on the street and at hill climbs, still holding the MG Car Club, under 1100cc record at Mt Cotton. The class was superseded before anyone beat me, but it was very potent little unit. It was my courting and shopping car as well. After Marriage we bought another Morris 850 that over the years I converted to a Cooper S. It was only 2 days ago that passed its shell, subframes and wheels on a new owner after 39 ½ years in the family.

There were a couple of Jags, a Mk II and a 340 the latter of which is in the back yard, crushed after a neighbour's tree fell on it. In modern times we had/have a 21 year old Mazda 6 turbo, sun roof -- a lovely car inherited by my daughter and son-in-law and a Subaru Impreza 5 door WRX that is now 11 years old. The WRX is the only car I have owned from new. John Blake'

Then John continued with...

'I remember Ernie had a car with personalised plates EGN??? Or??? EGN (NSW Rego may have been back to front by that time). Frank Ipsa had a red Falcon Futura, JEN816, Bill McKenzie an Isuzu Bellett that he frequently valve-bounced in top gear. Dick Honeybrook had a Morris 1100 with an Alfa grille that I thought was pretty snazzy but a Weber 45 DCOE carburettor that sounded even more wonderful. Blue Leader had a VW with instruments that read everything. JB' **Ed** – it's a shame we haven't heard from some of these blokes!! Well we got Ernie following.

.Ernie Newbold –

"G'day Paul,

I am absolutely amazed at John Blake's memory, does he have photos of cars from our Holsworthy days or is all in his memory?

When I was called up the car I owned was a Morris Major Elite, pale blue with a blue flash on the rear mudguards. I had tuned it with twin S.U.s, extractors and a sports exhaust system. The personalised plates became available for issue while I was at Holsworthy and WO2 Ovenden very kindly allowed me time off to go to the Department of Motor Transport office at Rosebery to collect them. Those plates have been on every vehicle I have owned since then.

I was not sure about what sort of information you were looking for with this article so let me know if you have any more questions or require more detail.

I didn't get my first motorcycle until sometime after being discharged from the Army. Regards, Ernie"

. Nick Armstrong -

'Hello Paul, I do have some pictures, but they are on my computer in Port Augusta. I probably won't get there until Christmas Day. I will send you some pictures and a story then. I expect the theme will still be continuing then. Regarding Geoff Flett, he was in C Tp when I was there. He had his MGB then, and I recall he would take one wheel at a time back to his room, to clean and polish the spoked wheels. There was a story circulating that he informed his girl friend that he would be unable to meet her because it was raining and he would get his car wheels dirty. I cannot confirm this, but it makes a good story. Cheerio for now.'

Then Nick sent this with the pictures – 'Hello Paul - Christmas greetings.

I have quite a few pictures of my first Series 1 Landrover, which I owned during my time in the Army. It would have been parked in the car park behind the MILPO at Holsworthy from 1967 to 1969.

I have sent four, which are a fair representation of the vehicle, and the places it went.

The 'Split whisker Lodge' picture is a bit foggy, because the day was. It was taken during Easter 1965, in the Victorian snow country in the Mt Jamieson Region. I was still in the Survey Corps then, with 1 AHQ Svy Regt, Bendigo. The person in the picture is a colleague from the Regiment. I hope these are of some interest in your 'E&E' Regards Nick



Spiltwhisker Lodge Mt Jamieson Area 1965	Series 1 in the Bendigo District	Series 1 at Hume Reservoir	Series 1 Mt Skene track
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. Locating Artillery Assoc...notes taken from their website –

.The next **Annual General Meeting** for the Association will next be held on 18 July 2010 in the Newcastle/Hunter Region. This will be hosted by the Newcastle and Hunter Valley Branch and will also include a Dinner the evening before the Annual General Meeting

Venue will be Telarah Bowling Club, South Street, Telarah (Maitland).

There will be a Formal Dinner on Saturday evening 17 July 2010, 1800hrs for 1900hrs. Details are in the application form and/or Locrep.

Dress: Gentlemen, Coat and Tie; Ladies, After Five, and Medals and Decorations are to be worn.

The Telarah Bowling Club will also be the venue for the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 18 July 2010. Details are in the application form and/or Locrep. Dress: Smart Casual

Complete the application form and make your Cheque or Money Order made payable to the Locating Artillery Association Newcastle & Hunter Valley Branch and sent to The Secretary Newcastle & Hunter Valley Branch, PO Box 366, East Maitland NSW 2323:

.**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 25 July.

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.

. An Important email from Allan Harrison -

"Hi to members of the Loc Arty Association

I am seeking your urgent attention to a potentially serious matter.

You will be aware that the Newcastle/Hunter Valley Branch of the Association is planning to host a Locators Dinner on 17 July and also the Association AGM next day.

Although many have pledged to attend both events, confirmed bookings are very slow at this stage, being 21 as of today. If you are one of the 21, thank you for your support.

We need to bring confirmed numbers to 50 ASAP and not later than 30 June, otherwise the dinner will be cancelled and the AGM transferred to Sydney.

Most of the 21 who have confirmed have made travel and accommodation arrangements in good faith and stand to lose deposits and in some cases incur airline cancellation penalties if the dinner does not go ahead. Further, arrangements have been made for personnel from 20th STA Regiment to attend the dinner as official representatives of the Commanding Officer and RSM.

We need to avoid the embarrassment and potential financial losses (incl the bank fees and postage costs of refunds to the 21 confirmed attendees) which will arise if the dinner is cancelled and the AGM is transferred to Sydney.

If you intend to come along and have yet to confirm, please inform Kevin Maker **immediately** by email (kevinmaker@hotmail.com) - careful there's an 'r' between "kevin" and "maker"- and follow this up with your booking form and payment by post, so that we can proceed confidently with these two important events.

A booking form is attached.

Thank you in anticipation.

Allan Harrison, President, Locating Artillery Association Inc."

. **Birthdays in the Battery**...June introduced another 15 locators into the world - **Allen MacLean**, who claimed the 5th, was an Engineer who was lucky enough to be with us, Peter Dealy made it on the 5th, and then **John Ianson** saw the light of day on the 6th, where he was followed the next day by Bruce Irvine on the 7th, which was a Thursday so at least people could come up and see him over the weekend, the late Edwin Field had the 8th to himself, **Keith White** made it on the 10th, then Ian Amos made his grande entry on the 12th and Bravo Radar would have been more useless without "Stretch", **Lawrence Sawyer** got into the act on 12th as well, **Paul Buss** got off to a start on the 14th, the late Karl Doehrmann had the 15th to himself, **Ralph Pearce** locked in on the 16th, followed by **John Chilton** on the 20th, the late William Prenter arrived on the 23rd in 1933 and did a tour of duty 22/04/66 to 07/06/67, **Lindsay Mead**, a Victorian joined the human race on the 26th, and last but not least was Gerry "Ged" Carroll who arrived on Tuesday the 26th, 1945 – couldn't find out if it was am or pm though?

Ed – there's another **6 blokes (in bold)** that still need to be found before we have to look for another lot next month.

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 39 and we've sent out 36... **Ed** - The flow of these seems to have dried up, or at least come to a halt – can we get a few more to keep the momentum up?

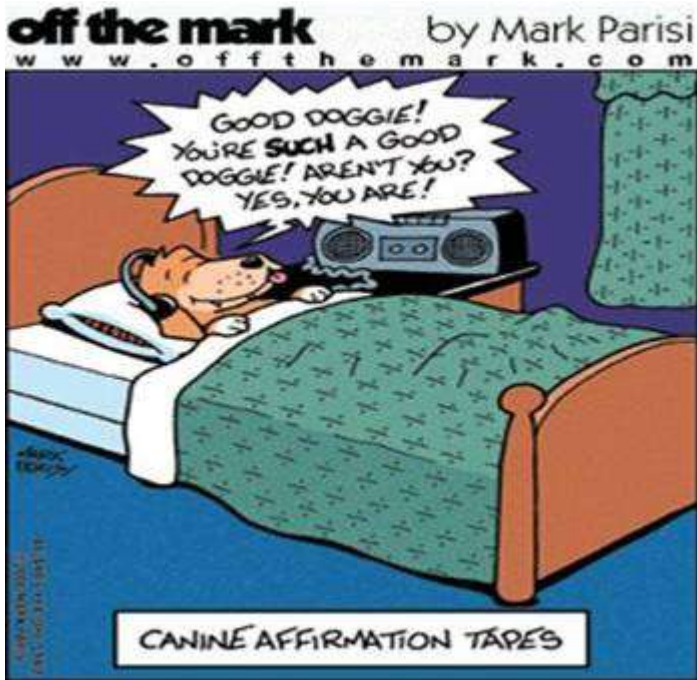
. **Found, lost...**

June has been a quiet one and we didn't find any new Locators.

. **Vale –**

Thankfully this is a nil report.

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



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