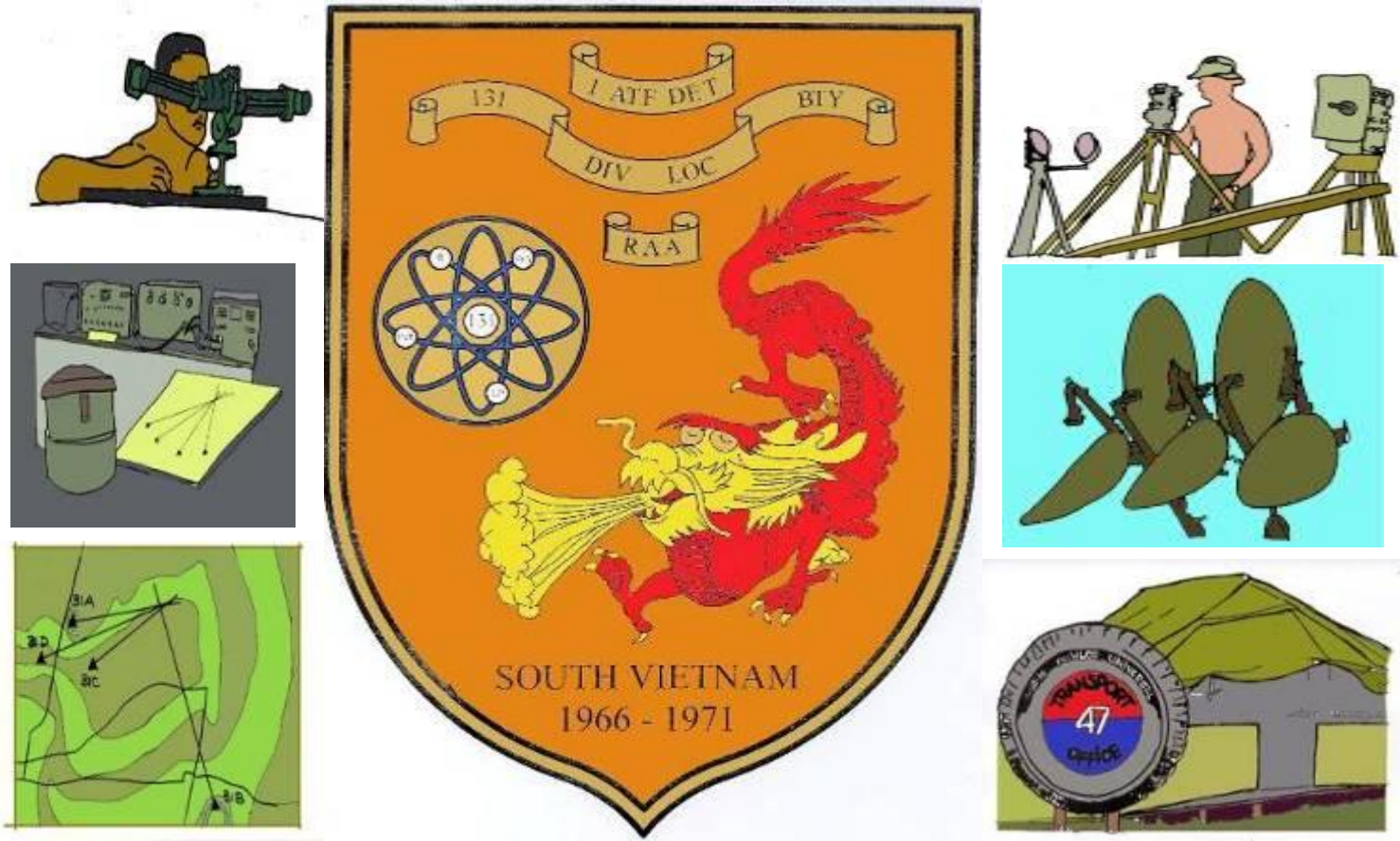




THE EYES and EARS

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

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Ok, here we go with another new front page banner with art work by Nick Proskurin and this one got some good reviews from an audience we coaxed into voting. However, as valued readers, we would also appreciate any input that you may come up with.

The "votees" couldn't work out who the models for the "LP" and "Surveyor" were – maybe they might strike an accord with somebody out there?

Heard and seen...

. Vietnam Veterans Day – August 18...commemorated... -

Long Tan Day – Thursday 18 August, 1966...

- **Damian McManus** went to the Rye RSL in Victoria on August 18 and sent in the short point report – "Hi Paul Yes, a nice but thankfully quick service, F---Freezing down there, but the President, a Viet Vet, shouted Lunch & Wine for the Veterans. Only about 20, but it was – Good - Regards Damo Mc"

Ed – I hope there were some good reds?

-**Ernie Newbold** managed a photo taken by **Nick Proskurin** at the function at the Bankstown Sports Club....

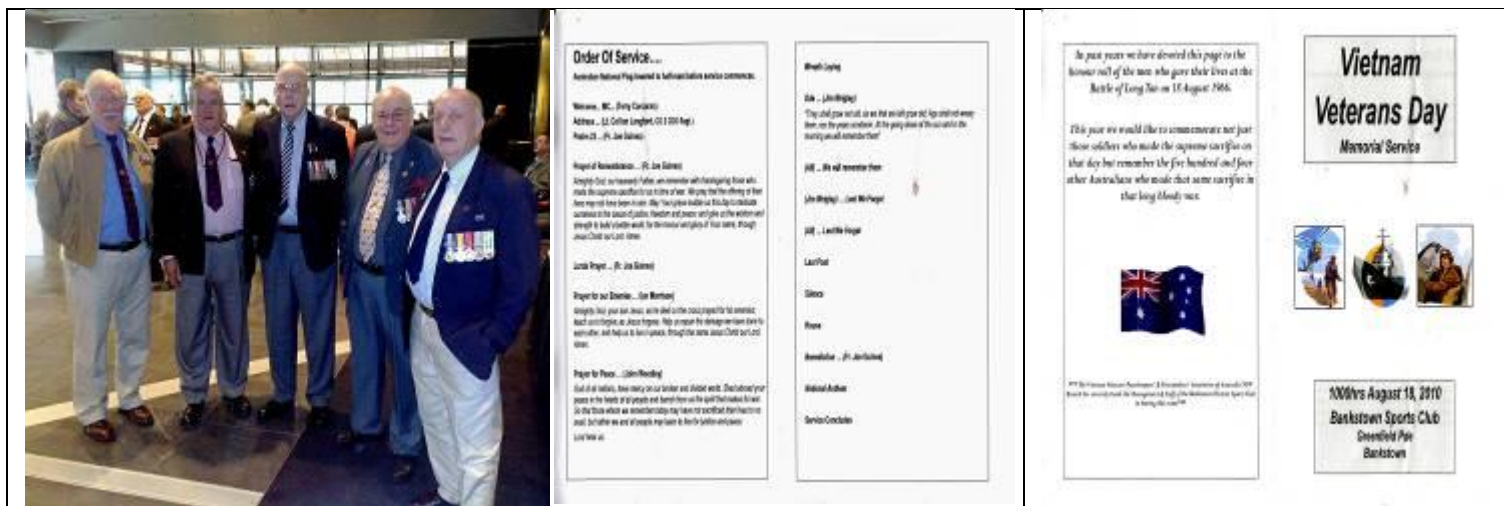


Photo above – Left to right - Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Merv Nairn and Ged Carroll.

“G’day Paul, Six former locators attended the Vietnam Veterans' Association annual memorial service held on the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. In previous years the service was held at the Moorebank Area Sergeants' Mess but this year moved to the Bankstown Sports Club. There were many services held in other places on the same day, Bob Billiards was to attend the service held at Springwood in the Blue Mountains with the local branch of Vietnam Veterans. Following the service we enjoyed a great buffet lunch followed by a concert featuring Roland Storm and his band, performing many hits from the Vietnam era. A great day enjoyed by all who attended. Attached is a copy of the order of service and a photo taken by Nick Proskurin. Regards Ernie”

. Now it’s Julia getting very confused with??

“Concerned of Sydney” is back and has developed a real knack of delving into the current political psyche with the following...

“Dear Ed

I wrote to you a few weeks ago expressing concern about the health and well being of our Kevin Rudd security stand-in, Warwick Brooker. Now we are led to believe that his mirror image may have had to sacrifice himself as a medical guinea pig for Rudd’s reported gall bladder operation.

Did E&E send flowers? Whose gall bladder was it? Have you seen the scar? What of Warwick’s future now that Rudd has been removed? When I receive an e-mail purporting to come from Warwick, who should I believe is the author? These are certainly worrying times.

I now expect some high level investigative journalism from E&E reporters.
Very Concerned Sydney”

Ed - This tryst continues to gather momentum. First up we think it’s the ever-confident Brookey, with latte in hand, arriving with the PM of the moment and then K07 arrives looking shaky with some curly questions about Brookey and Jools, but by the end of question and choke time and a short break for another latte, K07 – no maybe it’s Brookey relaxed and confident telling another “budgery-smuggler” off the cuff quickie with much wit and repartee.



. Bert Blink comes in with a curious thought...

“Hi Paul Does anyone remember whether our DFRDB scheme money was refunded when we were discharged, no choice in the matter, or were we able to choose to keep our money in the scheme. If by choice did any NS people from Det 131 choose to stay in and collect a pension when they turned 60? Bert”

Ed – anyone got an answer?

. **Bob Billiards** sent the following in which is a link to some of our 1/83rd mates which I think is worth a long look at...
“Don’t the yanks do it well?
Even brought a tear to my eye, but as Johnny Cash put it, when you turn 60 you tend to cry more often.
1/83rd Website link... http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/ Bob”

. **Keith Ayliffe...**

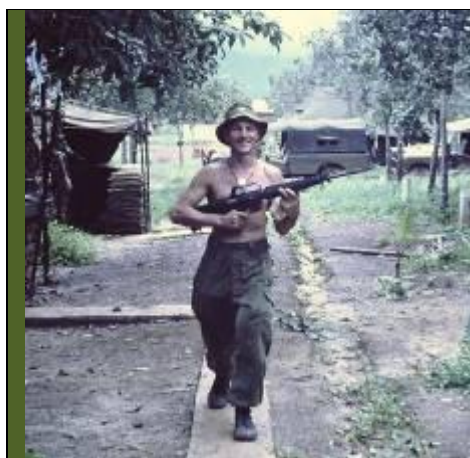


Part of Keith's email read with regards to some folly about
“Radars” in the last edition of E&E's --

“PS the photos in the last issue are not radars but experimental
Sound locators - offshoots of sound ranging after WWI.
Attached is a sound locator being tested in Darwin prior to WWII”

Ed - Can't get away with anything being called “Radar”. Maybe I
should have taken a walk out of Arty Tac more!

. **Hans Webber** sent the following photos of **Maurie Arch** in...



“By the left!”...Maurie Arch – Bdr
extraordinaire and a Pom!
The M16 isn't even loaded - NO
mag??

Is that a guitar-player hold -what
cord is that B minor with the left
fingers?

Does anyone know where he is
now? Was he deported?

There he is again on the right with
the late Geoff Wood, Mick Habben
and Bob Retrot.



. **Warwick Hamilton** sent the following in on receiving news about the passing of **John Whitelaw**...



Hi Paul,

Greetings from the sunny Slovenian Alps.
Thanks to you and Ernie for sending the info about John Whitelaw. I had many dealings
with him over the years and he was always the complete professional and a true
gentleman. He was a dedicated Gunner and, to quote Gilbert and Sullivan in a serious
way, “the very model of a modern Major General”.

Please pass on my thanks to Ernie as I cannot find his e-mail address.

On a lighter note, attached is a photo of another of the many 'Eyes and Ears'
listening/observation posts found on European castles, only this one has a marble statue
as the LP operator. Hmmm. Sometimes I wonder how many 'stone statues' we might
have had? NO-NO-NO. That's cruel! Just kidding!

All the best, Warwick

Ernie Newbold replied to **Warwick's** email forwarded on by **Ed** –“Thanks Paul, It is good to know that at least one of the
readers appreciated receiving the information. That makes it all worthwhile to keep on looking for things that may interest
some or all of the readers of the Eyes & Ears. Just think, The Eyes & Ears is read by people in many different parts of the
world. Regards, Ernie”

Ed – and by good blokes!

. Extracts From "Cracker's" Blotter in August 1967...

From the "Operational Report – 1 ATF Det 131 Div Loc Bty RAA 1 – 31 Aug 67"

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Arty Int Section

1. There was little mortar activity during the period, with the only crater examination being to confirm that it was an M26 grenade that had been thrown into the SOUTH EAST corner of 1/83 Arty area on night of 2/3 Aug.
2. On the nights 23/24 and 24/25 Aug, in response to a good intelligence report of an impending attack on the TF area, greater than usual CB precautions were taken in the form of last light recesses of likely rocket and mortar sites, the cancellation of H&Is, a total blackout, the firing of a number of serials of the CB fireplan (as both practices and H&I fire), and the maximum utilization of guns and mortars to cover the most likely mortar and rocket areas. There were no incidents during this period.
3. On 15 Aug 67, Capt HAMILTON was appointed 1ATF Project Manager for DARMA (Defence against Rocket and Mortar attack). This was as a result of II PFV now including 1 ATF in its appreciation of the rocket threat.
4. On the 17th Aug 67, Capt HAMILTON, Sgt WAGHORN and Gnr NEWBOLD visited the COMBINED MATERIAL EVALUATION CENTRE at TAN SON NHUT to examine captured enemy equipment, in particular the 140 and 122.4mm rockets, and to discuss and gain data for crater analysis of various weapons. This resulted in the establishment of a good liaison, the obtaining of considerable data and publications on enemy weapons and the inclusion of '1ATF, for attention TFAIO' on any future publications from CMEC. These are of a technical as opposed to a pure intelligence nature. To be published shortly is a consolidated manual on fragment identification which, having seen the incomplete proofs, should be extremely valuable.
5. Sgt WAGHORN, L/Bdr DANKO and Bdr HOPPER took part as interpreters with 106 Fd Bty during the cordon and search operations of MOSMAN (HOA LONG) 18 Aug, BURNSIDE (DAT DO) 24 Aug and BILARRA (PHUOC HAI) on 26 Aug 67.

...then there was a bit on the Radars...

10. ALPHA Radar. The set was moved to a position in the 106 Fd Bty area (YS 441677) on 4 Aug to support CP BALLARAT and complete siting tests. Polar diagrams and tests were carried out in 3 sites, one of which seems quite good. No troubles were encountered and results on mortars firing from NUI NGHE were good. The set moved back to ARU area on 16 Aug 67.
11. BRAVO Radar. Moved to HORSESHOE (YS 491623) on 17 Aug to complete siting tests and to support a series of operations to the SOUTH EAST, SOUTH and SOUTH WEST of the feature. It will provide cover for the villages along "The Fence" and route 23 towards BARRA up till the elections on 3 Sep 67. A quite good site has been established which covers an approximate arc of 1900 to 4300 mils. Problems were encountered with the computer and tracking resulting in limited operation until 20 Aug 67. From then on, the set has been fully operational. Results on mortars from the feature itself have been good, and the guns from DAT DO have been tracked, but no enemy mortars other than 60mm mortars, have been active in the area.

...and Survey was noted doing 2 things...

15. The first task was to provide theatre grid to a PSB at YS 434 714 which was being established to support operation BALLARAT. On 5 Aug 67 a recon party from 106 Fd Bty and Det 131 Survey Section went to the PSB. It was decided to survey the PSB that day, prior to the move in by 106 Bty on the following day.

19. The second task undertaken by the survey section was twofold:

- a. Establish a new Bty centre and director position for 108 Fd Bty at the HORSESHOE.
- b. Establish a calibration point approx 1000 meters NORTH of the HORSESHOE.

...then there was the conclusion...

27. Health was generally good with only a few minor complaints.

28. Morale was generally good with the exception of the fact that some members would have to RTA early and this was causing some discontent amongst them. Almost to a member, the preference was to stay on.

. **Dave Doyle**... "Paul, have a look at these I am sure that it will bring back some memories to a lot of our Bty mates
Regards DD" - <http://www.hotkey.net.au/~marshall/images/Burkhill/atfma175.html> **Ed** - interesting memories.

. **Dave Crowther** picks up the story and continues on with the Alpha Radar saga which **Steve Boutlis** commented on in June's E&E's...

"Paul, I was radar Bdr to Sgt **Don Simmons** on Alpha Radar on initial deployment to the dat in '66. Our sec.com was a "very green" one and against all advice from the "baggies" we were sited on the perimeter in front of 103 Bty. Not only were we stuck with all clearing patrols and more than our fair share of t.a.o.r. patrols but when the monsoons came, being down hill, the obvious flooded radar Cmd post came not once but twice. Need I say more without facing further disciplinary action.

Kind regards Dave Crowther."

Ed – how's the hearing after being stuck in front of the 103 Bty?

. **Ken Taylor** responded to an email from **Lionel Outen** which contained "A Poem" – "Hi Paul, I have seen it before when I was in the States back in 2000. I met the bloke who wrote it. He was a bit of a character and had me and Les (**Les Frost**) in stitchers at times. He only had one good arm and leg and got around in a wheel chair. We all got well and truly wiped out in a "Howl At the Moon" bar, and we did Howl at the moon, until the cops came and told us to keep the noise down. That was a bit of a fun trip. We went both ways across America in a bus. Did 6 weeks travelling and hardly ever washed or shaved. God did we stink at times. But then we were on a budget. Catch ya, Ken T"

Ed – someone sends something in and you'll almost always get a response!

. **Kevin Browning** sent in the following...



Paul,

Attached is another sign from over there. It was in the James Menz Club and clearly shows the thoughtfulness of the Nashos towards us mere mortal regulars in providing some simple interpretation.

Regards

Kevin

. **Bob Billiards** comes to life with his trip to SVN -

My trip to South Vietnam in September 12th, 1967...

Unlike many of the first trips by 131 Battery members, the group that travelled to and from SVN at this time of the war travelled on the "Champagne flights". My recollections of the flight seem to have disappeared from my fading memory, so

it must have not been very exciting. It was a first as it was my first flight on a jet powered aircraft, a Rolls Royce powered B707.

Several of us returned from Pre-em leave to South Head on Monday 11th September to be confronted with the situation of leaving the next day. A problem as we had been told by many that we would get there and spend the possibility of weeks painting stones and therefore didn't bring any kit with us. Fortunately we were allowed to head back home and get our kit and a driver to bring us back by 1800. I dropped off Kenny Woodbine at Yagoona and after arriving home in Cabramatta, packed my bags and let family and friends know that we were leaving on the morning plane. At least no suspense about where we were going?

Next morning we were on a bus from South Head to KS airport, Mascot. With my Family and girlfriend there to wave me off, I could hold the tears until my old man broke down crying. I walked to the plane with just Ian Amos, Woody, Geoff Holden and (Ian) McNicol – see the attached photo. Our flight was Sydney to Darwin for possibly a pick up as it should have had plenty of fuel. After taking off from Darwin it was a change to civvies as we were refuelling in Singapore and they and Indonesia did not support the war and therefore couldn't be seen as assisting the western imperialist pig puppets in getting there.

Must have been another couple of hour's flight to Saigon, once again a clothes change to Pollys. After arriving in Saigon, a trip to the dreaded "Camp Alpha" where we spent the night. Can't remember it much, except that I didn't like it there!

Next morning the trip to Nui Dat was with Wallaby Airlines in their lovely little Caribou.

My Trip home on 17th September, 1968 (1 year and 6 days as 1968 was a leap year)...

Same blokes again different direction and all a lot smarter, I believe. Arrive at Saigon and await the flight back, but it is delayed in Singapore because of an aircraft breakdown on the main runway!! May not be going tonight as it would break the 11pm curfew by the time it took off from Saigon, but it did arrive and we did arrive in Sydney a bit after the 11PM curfew. Didn't see any protesters, just good to be back in the fresh air again.

I may as well fill the rest of this page. One thing that stands out in my memory is the air smelt very different and my first home cooked meal. I can remember that the peas tasted so different, and a T bone steak. What can I say?

It was a champagne flight on the way home, but not too many people did have a drink.



Mac, Stretch, Woody and Geoff at Singapore

. **Ken Taylor** (see below in "Found") **wrote** the following – "Paul, I was in Tibet for just on 4 weeks. I go up there once or twice a year now. The area we go to, it rain just about every morning for about 2 or 3 hours, if it isn't snowing, but no trouble with the flooding - just the mud and roaring river. All the flooding is lower down where the rivers come together. It is mostly the Chinese who get into trouble with the floods so it doesn't matter much. There are the odd land slips near where we are, but these are usually along the road ways. If you aren't hit by them they will not bother you. Most of the roads have a 1,500 foot drop off or there about, some bigger. A couple of picks added. Catch you latter, Ken T."



The group bonding before China...

Minnie and I - she awakened memories...

The Children of the future

Ed – I'll run more of Ken's letters and Newsletter article in a later edition of E&E's

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

. **Joe Kaplun** -

'OK Dicko, you wanted a car story from the 60's - here goes.

The place

Kokoda Lines, Holsworthy - mid 60's to early 70's. 19 Composite Regt/8 Medium Regt/8/12 Medium Regt.

131 Bty was in 'A' Block, 123 Trg Bty in 'B' Block, HQ Bty in 'C' Block, followed by 102 Bty and 103 Bty (103 Bty was across the road at the old Gallipoli Lines in the earlier days).

The scene

Accommodation was in the old WW2 style huts with up to 26 diggers in the main room of the hut. If you had a stripe or two, you were lucky enough to get one of the two 'jack' rooms at the end of the hut. I had 2 stripes at the time, so I was ensconced in a 'jack' room. The 'jack' room was also the place that was made available for 'private fornicating' if someone brought a 'generous' female back to the lines (*heaven forbid*). Not too many of the blokes had a car in those days, so if you owned a vehicle *and* a 'jack' room, you were most probably one of the most popular guys in the place - especially on paydays/ weekends!

I guess I was one of the lucky ones; I had a 'jack' room *and* a souped up EJ Premier - bucket seats in the front and seating for 3 in the back.

The place to go to in Liverpool was the 'Rails'. The beer was OK, they had a couple of dartboards, a few local chicks and on pay Thursdays and weekends you usually got a f**k or a fight - and a fight was alright.

The car story

After knock-off on pay Thursdays/pay weekends and a few 'rounds into the butts' at the Whittle Club, it was usually time to head into Liverpool. These were the days before RBT and seat belts, and the coppers weren't too fussed how many passengers were in the car. So.....into Joe's car. With the driver, at least 2 in the front passenger bucket seat and 5 in the back seat, we were off. That wasn't too bad, but the return journey was usually a bit more exciting. The 5 in the back sometimes turned into 7, with maybe 1 or 2 in the (open) boot - (Did I mention the open longnecks being passed around?). It wasn't unusual for one of the ones in the back to be a local tart from the 'Rails' laying across the guys laps and by the time we got back to the lines you needed a crowbar to get the smile off her face. That was before she was introduced to the 'jack' room!!

I imagine a few of the guys will remember these types of antics.

How things have changed with the introduction of RBT, seatbelts, OH&S and political correctness.'



. Steve Boutlis -

Hi, again, Dicko.

Yes mate, I had a little bus, made at the time, by Czechoslovakian slave labour. It was a Skoda, blue and chromie. Folls called it the Scrotum and still refers to it as such.

It was the first car in Australia to have front lap-sash seat belts as standard and had a huge 50,000 mile (yep, *mile*) or 50 month warranty, labour and parts.

Unfortunately it did not have a massive support dealership for servicing and this cost me when I was going from Holsworthy to Melbourne and it developed a knock in the motor.

When I managed to make Melbourne, I was charged \$80 for labour and 25c for parts as I did not have it serviced by an Authorised Dealer while I was in Sydney. The dealer had moved and was not listed in the Sydney phone book, so I had it serviced at the Shell servo at Liverpool. As Shell was not the Authorised Dealer, they would not honour the warranty. Remember that at the time we were being paid about \$53 a fortnight so \$80 was a huge amount to fork out in one hit! The bastards!!!!

That car was trouble right from the beginning!

Pete Hopper and I were driving to Holsworthy from Pucka and late at night all of the lights, dash, high and low beam, tail, all went caput as we were barrelling along the Hume at about 100km/hr, and remember in those days it was a twisting, narrow highway without side edge markings.

I managed to stop without tumbling off the edge of the road.

It transpired that lanky Pete's knee had pushed the light switch that was mounted on his side of the dashboard as he stretched.

Another time, coming back to Holsworthy from Melbourne, the bloody distributor decided to pack it in at the halfway mark and I could not get it fixed until the morning which meant that I would have been AWOL. Getting a telegram to the BSM via Canberra on a public phone when I only had enough money for petrol and none for a mechanic was great fun. The mechanic was real nice and did the job for free as it did not take him long and he was sympathetic to Nashos (I had my pollios on) and he threw in a couple of gallons of petrol to boot.

When I finally got to Holsworthy, the BSM told me that I was on a charge for being AWOL (the telegram had not yet arrived) but this was finally dropped.

Gunner Phil and I had a few hair-raising moments in The Scrotum around the unknown parts of Sydney after sessions in the Canopus Room.

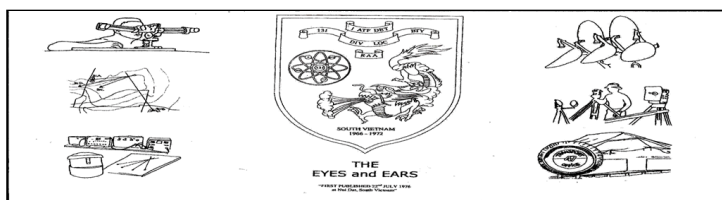
To top things off, The Scrotum was repossessed while I was at the Dat due to my allocation to the finance company not being sent by the Pay Section. But, being "one of the smartest of the gunners", I knew my National Service Act and threatened the finance company with a date in court if they did not immediately release The Scrotum. All debts by Nashos were put on hold by the Act until we re-entered Civvy Street. After they obviously checked, they offered to garage the car and put it on blocks until I came back to Oz, which I accepted.

I learnt to fix cars, thanks to The Scrotum! The bloody thing had the most vicious gear stick whose knob was at the height of my left knee. I still feel the pain of it when I think about it. I finally sold it to a lady in the neighbourhood for \$300 in about 1974.

Cheers,
Boots.

Ed – we’ve only got two more stories to go coming up in September and that’s it for “Boys and Their Toys”! So if you’ve got a story GET IT IN!

. 131 Locators Association Inc...



This is a new section to keep you, the reader, in touch with what we’ve been doing since our last communication. Here are some timelines and activities -

. **3rd August** - We received and responded to an assistance call to support concern for the future of the North Head /North Fort precinct with our major focus on the continuance of the RAA National Museum. We corresponded with John Gallagher, Manager Australian Army Artillery Museum. We received positive feedback from Kevin Browning and Robert Sealey who are vigorously probing the draft plans. Vic Danko, our Public Officer, has taken up the role of liaison with the Sydney Harbour Forefront Trust (SHFT) and will co-ordinate our activities in this direction. There appears to be little or no other support and it is believed even the Army is keen to see the facility removed to Puckapunyal. We’ll keep you in touch with this concern as reports etc come to hand.

. **13th August** - The application for DVA assistance for our website establishment was submitted.

. **We have exchanged** correspondence with the Locating Artillery Association (LAA) with reference to the establishment of the 131 Locators Association Inc and our continuing relationships. These, at the preliminary stage appear to be positive, but will be clarified with the upcoming LAA Committee meeting to be held at the Paddington RSL Saturday, 29 August 2010 at 0900hrs. Our Association is on the agenda for discussion. Committee Members from the 131 Locators Association, as also members of the LAA, will be in attendance. We should be able to report on the outcome next month.

. **We cracked** the 150 barrier for members of the group this month – **153**. The spread of blokes is becoming interesting as there has been as a number of the newer ones have come from 1966 – The Pioneers – and as I said to someone they drove home the first peg, we’re now looking for more of you who took the last peg out back to home!

. **Locator Profiles** – we’ve received **43** and we’ve sent out **39**.

Ed - The tap has been turned on slightly with a couple more this month – how about a twisting the handle a little more?

. **26th August** saw some of the Committee “engine room” get the financials organised over a “good merlot” at a Brazilian Restaurant in the very Italian part of Sydney Leichhardt – sounds different (from left Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam and Vic Danko). The conversation contained part of the following which was in Allen’s email – “Vic regaled us with his journey via Singleton, North Head and Adelaide to 131 at Holsworthy. Grahame and my paths to 131 were much more pedestrian. Victor and I achieved the trifecta of Tianjara, Barrawinga and Canungra. Grahame only managed the daily double of these adventures.



Victor insists that Barrawinga was at 'Strawberry Creek' near Rockhampton; whereas the other combined view was that it was at Tin Can Bay (or was that Shoalwater Bay?). Could we ask for some clarity on that from your readers, please? Maybe 131 a trivia question.”

Ed’s recollection of places is that Barrawinga was certainly in the Rockhampton region and at Shoalwater Bay. I have three memories from that exercise -



1. Of sleeping in the overhead parcel rack in the train on the way up and then driving back with Tony Dodds in a 'rover.
 2. A Pommy Red Beret was killed when a possum fell out of a tree on him.
 3. My mother sending me a 21st Birthday cake, which arrived in-tact, and my cutting it with a machete. (Photo - Bob "Woofers" Bruce and I – after blowing the candles out!)
- If I'm out of whack could someone straighten out our memories or loss of same?
Tin Can Bay certainly has some Defence installation/s?
Then where is "Strawberry Creek"?

. Birthdays in the Battery...another 33 made it in August...

The month started off with **Phillip Ross** and **Joseph Losiak** arriving on 1st (3 years apart), the next day 2nd and back a couple of years was **John Greenaway**, **Les Smithlester** got a look at the world on 3rd, **Andrew Overall** arrived on 4th, the late Marty Van Driel (07.08.44 – 08.08.98) shared the 7th with **Randall Jones** who being born in '47 got him to SVN in '69, both Arthur Luxford (08.08.39 - 01.01.08) and Edwin Lewis (08.08.35 - 16.08.92) are Late Locators who had 8th to themselves, the 12th saw Alan Thomson make an entrance, Brian "Wirey" Hackett made a trifecta with **Stan Briggs** (still can't contact him in the back of Qld) and **Bob "Woofers" Bruce** on 13th, **John Pollock** and **Kevin Taylor** gave their respective Mothers a smile of relief on 15th, **Pierre Goss** now there's name – I'm sure he gets to the ANZAC Day march in Melbourne every year (didn't quite make the finish the year I was there) – he make 17th his own, Peter Binns arrived 3 days and 11 years after Pierre on 20th, another trifecta on 22nd with John Vickary, Stuart Sporn (twins on the same year) along with the Late Anthony Coutts (22.08.46 – 1988), **Robert Etherington** took his first breathe on 23rd, the another trifecta on 25th with Les Frost, **Ken Jones**, and **Colin West**, speaking of Russians, which we weren't, along came that "voice" of **Max Troynar** on 26th and **Stanley Patterson**, then came an absolute explosion on 27th with a sextet – all within a year of each other – the late Lawrence Farr (27.08.47 - 2009), **Ken Piesley**, Gordon Malcolm, **Peter Whittaker**, **Peter Creedon** and Grant Perrins – and I think ALL Nashos – was there glue on marble for that date?, then one of our Late RAEME workshop mates Stephen Palmer (31.08.46 – 03.12.72) who was with us in SVN in 1968-69 just got there before September started.

Ed – c'mon fellas we're dragging the chain a bit - here's another **19 blokes (in bold)** that still need to be found before we have to look for another mob next month. Some of these blokes were on this list this time last year!

. **Damian McManus** sent in a reflective comment after Keith Dean's Locator Profile hit the streets – "Nice to read Deano's Profile. He was one of a good bunch of the Reg's in 131. Not that there were any bad ones, just some like Deano made our conscription more tolerable in circumstances we would not have anticipated only 8 months earlier. Do you still stick the Comb (hair) in the back of your Budgie Smugglers Deano? All the very Best Wishes Deano. Overall - Good Memories, Damian McManus"
Ed – was Keith a lifesaver in his former life and maybe Tony A noticed him on the beach?

. Found, lost...

. **Keith Ayliffe** gave me **Bruce Bohl's** contact details, the younger brother of the late Locator **Michael Bohl**. Now, not wanting to confuse things, but **Ed** contacted Bruce and to talk to a nicer bloke you'd have to go lots of kilometres – here's a bloke who possibly found out more about his brother through **Mike's** mates **Keith A** and his brother's best mate **Dave Murphy**, who both went the extra metre to assist in this process. Now, Bruce then gave me his daughter's phone number to get an email address. **Ed** was very fortunate to speak to **Fiona**, Bruce's daughter, who also lives in Bundaberg and got an email contact address. To make this sort of connection is just so good – please accept a genuine thanks **KA**.
Ed – let's hope through this connection we all become a little richer with some information on Mike.

Fiona got back to us with...

"Hi Paul, Thank you for your email. Dad was really pleased that we spoke.

I will keep him advised of any communications and I will talk to him about which photo's I can provide. I am sure I have a back up of the entire old photo's on a disk in a safe place ... I just have to find the safe place! Regards Fiona Bohl"

. **Dave Crowther** got us in touch with **Keith Dean** who sent this in – "Paul, We got your email via Dave Crowther. The photo attached to your email is actually one of our photos. We have a few photos of Tom Checkley. The other people in the photo are Ray Minns (deceased) and me.
Keith Dean"

Ed – Keith you're our **136th** Locator!

. **David Auld** sent in the following introducing us to **Graham Williams** (SVN 1969-70) – "G'day Paul another name for you Graham Williams. Graham is looking for **Peter Creedon** - hope you can help? Cheers David." **Graham** got back to us with..."Paul, Many thanks, your attachment bought back a lot of memories. I would appreciate it if you could add me to your mailing list. Before going any further though I would like you to know that as well as being "follickley" challenged that technology also takes its toll on me so I am understandably not to flash on a computer. Therefore I would ask before I get too involved here if you could humour me with a phone call so we can speak about this. There is probably quite a bit I may be able to tell you but I'm not sure what it is exactly what you are looking for information wise so phone would be the easiest way for me to get it across. Graham." **Ed** – I actually got to speak to Graham – and discover another era. Graham makes it in at Locator #137.

. **Ken Taylor** got in touch with the following and also his earlier story with regards to his work in Tibet – "G'day Paul Just arrived back from Tibet and saw your email. Yes I would like to get the news letter each month. Thank you. Ken T."

. **John Strautins got back** to us with – “Paul happy to receive the monthly publication. Regards John Strautins”

. **Tim Ford got back promptly** with – “Hi Paul Thanks for the email. I would be very pleased to get the Eyes and Ears by email. Best Wishes, Ubique, Tim Ford” **Ed** – watch this newsletter for more of Tim Ford – we may have to run special editions from one of our former BC's.

. **Edward “Spike” Chase responded** to an email with – “Hi Paul. Sorry I didn't get back to you earlier, but have been pretty busy. I would love to receive your monthly news letter. I went to the funny place from Richmond on 4th may '66. I went as part of Alpha radar. When all the ANK/P1 radars “fucked up” (**Ed** – is that Radar-Speak?) a lot of us were sent out into L.P's. Myself, Paul Buss, Bluey Clausen & Paul Jones established an LP at 6RAR, D company. We were there when D Company went to Long Tan. For some reason the next morning we were sent to B Coy 5 RAR. We were sent all over the place until a lot of us were sent home in December '66. But that's another story. I've only recently started to read some of the Unit history, being in the early detachment I have many photos of the early days, in Vung Tau & the early days at Nui Dat.

I hope I have as good a memory as I think & find some discrepancies in both your Web Site & also the locating site. As I had received a 35mm camera for my 21st Birthday I took it with me. Most of the other blokes expected to buy a cheap camera over there, but didn't have a chance until they went on R&R. So I have some photos which were taken during our acclimatising period in Vung Tau as well as original photos of setting up at Nui Dat before anyone else had a chance to buy a camera. If I can help History in any way please ask. Edward “Spike” Chase.” **Ed** – “Spike” send it in!

. **Jeff Schafer replied** an email – “Hi Paul, I could also have signed off a seven-zero (1969 - Survey/ Sound Ranging with a stint at LP 31Bravo at the Horseshoe).

Thanks for your email. I am interested in receiving your newsletters.

I am a member of Locating Artillery Association and have social contact with a group of fellow surveyors including Kev Browning. Cheers, Jeff Schafer” **Ed** – another 1969-er – Jeff you're our **148th Locator**!

. **Col Wood** responded to one of **Ed's** double takes (I'd lost his email OK) – “Dear Paul, Egad! I thought I had already sent an e-mail saying yes. I'm looking forward to the progress of this worthy aim. Col Wood” **Ed** – I apoligised1

. **John Browne** responded to an email with – “Hi Paul, Yeah mate, add me to the list. I'll pass this email on to Paul Angell and Peter Ravelje. Not sure if they are already in the group, but I'll send it anyway Ta, Brownyn”

Ed – why did we wait so long to get in touch – Brownyn's even sent in his Locator Profile.

. **George Lane** is into recruitment and gave me **Donald McNicol's** contact details and “**Scotty**” got back with – “Hi Paul, got your email, thanks. I only arrived back in Vic yesterday after travelling 3500kms in 5 days from Pandanus Park. The eyes are still a bit blurry from staring at asphalt & white lines.

I'm happy to be aboard with the Eyes & Ears, but I'm very new to computers & associated technology, but I'm picking it up pretty quick.

Re my details - You got it all right except I've never used Donald as my first name except when I was in the army, due to it being on my birth certificate. I prefer to be called Scotty. Regards Scotty McNicol”

. **Damian McManus** ran into **Paul Butcher** at the Rye RSL on Vietnam Veterans Day, gave me his email address and we got this back - “Paul great to hear from you, I'd be very pleased to receive your newsletters. My tour was 68-69 in Alpha Radar and I recognised Mal Musgrave and Lofty Hayes in your email. Regards Paul Butcher” **Paul you're Locator #152!**

. **George Lane** sent a fun response with – “Paul thanks for the surprise phone call it spurred me into action. Finally got hold of **Jeff Bassford** and he put me in touch with a **Pete Summers** who can answer any questions you have about the Banner. These two gentlemen are also new recruits for the Eyes and Ears as well as joining our happy band of brothers. Paul, Pete Summers can be reached by phone if need be but he is just as happy to answer by email. Jeff will also answer any questions he can by email George. **Ed** – I can't wait to get responses from Jeff and Peter.

. **Ken Taylor** gave us a link to **Les Frost** (another '66 Pioneer) and Les got to back to us with – “Hello Paul, Les here. I would appreciate it if you would put my name down for the newsletter. Thanks for sending the current one to Donna. I look forward to hearing from you. UBIQUE... LES”

Les
makes our 155th Locator.

. “**The Pioneers**” – **Ed's** nickname for the first Detachment blokes and **Ed** managed to get them a little testy and active with some errors in last month's E&E's

So here's the incoming...

. **Bill Finlay sent** this in - “Hi there Dicko, have just finished reading the latest issue of E and E and must commend you and your contributors for a very enjoyable read.

I noticed the manifest of the first members of the Det to depart for SVN in 66, included amongst them was Paul Jones. I remember Jonesy as a terrific bloke who was liked by all. He spent a lot of his time as the CO's driver

As we all did, Jonesy saved lot of cash, and when he returned to Aus he purchased a chic magnet, was an MG I seem to recall. Sadly he was involved in a fatal smash while on leave which we all thought a very sad occurrence after a year in Nam.

He was afforded a full Military funeral, a guard of honour from the Bty, which I was part of. Maybe some of your readers were also involved.

Anyway that's the story and perhaps the roll can be amended - Cheers Bill.” **Ed** – it has been “amended” pronto.

. **Dave Crowther** also corrects **Ed** for **Ray Minns**

Hi Dicko, I am sure there are photos out there. I will get in contact with "Deano" (Keith Dean) re photos of Tom Checkley. They were best of mates and we all played for North Head. I have a clipping from the S.M.H. – "List of 500 KIA. Ray Minns was also an original and deceased. A few names below did not go to Vietnam and there are some not listed. Mal Ewart went to SAS in mid 65 and served in Vietnam with them. I was made full Bdr in mid 65 so "Warning TFAIO" was about that era. Will get back to you with more details, Regards dc"

OK, Dave you mention a Football team and here's the photo of 1965 team – photo courtesy of **Keith Dean**...



Back Row - Norm Bullen, Tom Checkley, unknown, Russ Parker, Dave Bonser, Tilly Devine,
Front Row - Barry Nugent, Tim Perrin, Mal Hewitt, unknown (Engineer), Hughie Hoddy,
Allan Campbell, Me

The Photo was taken at Vic Barracks Sydney North Head Rugby Union Team 1965 Grand Final.
All the players were 131 Div Loc Bty except for the unknown Engineer guy and the Coach Russ Parker.

Ed – anyone got any clues on the nameless blokes?

. **George Lane** - "Dicko I noticed that **Kevin Thornton's** name is not down on our deceased members list. Kevin was in country in 66-67 in Alpha Radar. He developed cancer of the bowel and died very shortly after he returned home. George."

Dave Crowther – "Dicko me again, did some digging on Chris. Spoke to George again as I had a hunch it was in Coober Pedy S.A. he said I was right. Found a **Chris Armshaw** buried in the old cemetery there.

I have sent letter to CP Hist Soc re any info. Tonight I struck pay-dirt. George will see if "Baldy" Nairn has any further info Regards dc."

. **Edward Michael Chase** - call me "**Spike**" or "**Mick**" sent this in – "Hi Paul.

Good to get your message so promptly, yeah poor old Jonesy (Late **Paul Jones**) came home & bought an Austin Healey Sprite, he had not long gotten engaged to a girl I think from Sans Souci. Apparently they had been out & he rolled the car on the way back to camp. I was pretty good mates with Jonesy, in fact we were going to go on R&R together but he came down with some mystery illness which I don't think they ever worked out. He was from Campbelltown, but was adopted so I wouldn't know where to go to find out any more about him. The last time I heard of **Paul Buss** he was in the Fire Brigade at Manly, but as he was 1st intake as well he would be retired by now. **Bluey Clausen** can be found at North Fort at the Arty Museum most days. He does guided tours through the old gun emplacements & the Museum. It's well worth the trip up there to see them. I was posted up there for a while & didn't even know what was virtually under my feet. I went up there to fill in a day about 12 months ago & was highly surprised to run into "Blue" as I hadn't seen him since '66. We spent some pretty hard times in temporary L.P's.

I'm Secretary at our Golf Club here & at the moment & our C/ships are on. After that I'm giving it a bit of a rest, so will get some photos off to you. Unfortunately I left a lot of slides under the bed so to speak before I got around to putting them on disc, but quite a few are still reasonable so will get some off to you when I get a bit more time. All the best - Spike."

. **Dave Crowther again** – "Hi Dicko, It's Dave C again. I gave you a bum drum yesterday. On checking my F.O.I. records I find I was not made up to full Bdr until 2/11/65. In my mind I was a Bdr at the first intake at Marrickville as a supervisor. But on clearing the cobwebs I realized my error. **Mal Ewart** would have finished the footy season prior to transfer to S.A.S. and was still there when I married 2/10/65. The purpose of this e-mail is that conspicuous omission of Gnr **Bob Ness** from the list with Jim Townley T.F.A.I.O.

Bob was in my tent and was 1st intake nasho, a good digger and a good bloke. He hailed from Murray Bridge in S.A. On the morning prior to Long Tan at approx. 0245 hrs, Bob and I were moving from our recently acquired tent to relieve. I was going to the radar command post and Bob to the machine gun post on the wire. About ½ way there was an explosion about 30 mts away on the wire, instantly I sent Bob rushing back to alert the rest of the section as I raced to the radar command post.

In my opinion it was only Nussy (a big man) and his sprint to the lines that saved us from further casualties. A 120 mm mortar exploded alongside our 4X4 man tents - two were shredded. One had L/Bdr **Carl** (shitz for brainz - his favourite expression for incompetents) **Doehrmann** who had a "bummer" R.I.P. in it and L/Bdr **Lofty Hayes** in my tent, both wounded. We also had a Gunner (?) from 103 Bty in our tent who suffered shrapnel wound to the temple. Three of the (I think 24 wounded) were in our Section tents.

In my opinion his action deserved a M.I.D. as it was done under fire.

Sgt **Don Simmons** would not be with us today if he had been in his tent. He was in the C.P. which did not suffer even though the 1st round was approx 20mts away. The bombardment started on the wire between us and the engineers at the Water Point and proceeded in a crooked line up to S.A.S. Hill (coincidentally where Mal Ewart was based).

Kind regards, Dave"

...and Dave continues...

"Dicko Prior to the bombardment, the three nights prior, we had movement on the wire and the taskforce was "stood to". Carl liked his sleep and on the night of the bombardment he expressed to me in his usual "dialect", "I am sic zan tired of these f.....g false alarms, zey can getz f....d". The 120 mm mortar that exploded next to our tents took a cheek off his arse and he was R.T.A. My endearing greeting at the welcome home parade was that and Carl turned around "Itz gotta be Bdr Crowther. This was our first meeting in 12 yrs.

Regards Dave"

Ed – "The Pioneers" – great group – let's hope we can elicit more stories and photos out of the group.

.Vale –

Thankfully this is another nil report month for August.

. A memorial to Ron Webb...



Webb, Ronald Adrian

Gnr 1411172

Survey

SVN 1967-68

30.05.43 – 23.09.77

May he rest in peace



Bruce Irvine sent the photo of **Ron Webb** on the Tellurometer – 1967, and **Peter Hopper** confirmed that the photo was taken at North Head. The photo of the Dragon Shield prototype was sent in by **Grahame Dignam**.

Ron has been credited with drawing the prototype, as per Grahame's photo above attests, of the Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery's shield in 1967 in South Vietnam with "our Dragon".

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

- Timings for the next Committee Meeting were NOT available for September at the time of sending this edition. More details of scheduled Committee meetings 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 26 September; 2010.
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.

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