



THE EYES and EARS

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in Nui Dat, South Vietnam"

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Heard and seen...

On 3rd October, 1987 North Head was opened up to accommodate and feed the blokes who attended the "Welcome Home Parade" in Sydney.

And, it just so happened that **Bob King** had a camera and the group was marshalled for a once in a lifetime picture, which surfaced through **Joe Kaplun** giving a box of "stuff" from North Fort Museum to **Ernie Newbold** when it was being closed down and amongst the treasure was the photo below.

The number of Locators in the photo possibly surpasses the manning detail in the Detachment on any given sunny day! Maybe someone can do a count – yeah right?

Now, and this is where **Ed** can't help himself – can anyone have a crack at naming themselves and anyone else for that matter? Hey don't think you're going to get away with just saying "I'm in it!" You've got to name the spot – something like "That's me – on the left hand side, dark shirt, no tie (good head of dark hair – not combed), the bloke on my right shoulder behind me has a tie and sports coat, the bloke behind me in sunglasses has a jacket and tie – I'm in the third or fourth row back"

Ed reckons it's **Ross Gunnell**? I reckon I can guess a few more too!

Ok so c'mon have a crack at it – it'll all be published.

Hey, who's the bloke in the second/third row back on the right hand side of the banner (great old piece of history) with the camera taking a photo?? His photo could be a good shot to have a look at?



Ed – There are many reasons why I enjoy receiving and distributing Locator Profiles and **Rieny Niewenhof's** was no exception. I followed up with Rieny as to his army service in general and also his era in SVN. What got me curious was his path into the Battery then his 1970 – 1971 time spent with the Detachment. He was sent on one of those “via the South Pole” routes to Holsworthy and his involvement with the Det was when there was NO Radars as part of the core activity and no doubt a heap of different activities from when a lot of us were there. Plus I pressed him for some words on what it was like to be there “when the lights were turned off for the last time in the Det in ‘71” and his reduced 2 years National service.

Well this is what he said - “Hi Paul,

Thanks for your reply email to my profile. I'm glad you enjoyed my story. Unlike a lot of my mates I had no long lasting effects - medical or psychological - of my Vietnam experience, in that sense I was lucky.

I'm not absolutely sure but I think I was part of the 19th NS Intake. Or at least we were the first intake of '70 because many of us had been deferred to finish courses, apprenticeships etc. I wanted to be a PTI and was told I had to join Artillery to get into that course, but as is normal in my experience of the Army, that information was not correct and so I ended up in Artillery. I could have joined the Education corps!! But thought I would try something different for two years.

It was a bit strange to end up in an Anti-Aircraft regiment after training at North Head, rather than an Artillery Regiment. I had come first in the course and probably would have become a good signaller. At 16 LAA I had to learn about bofors and aircraft profiles. We spent a fair bit of time firing at drones at Victor Harbour (SA). I also spent time looking for unexploded ammunition at a firing range north of Adelaide. Most of the time was just that 'filling in time' at Woodside.

When I got to Det 131 Div Loc Bty in early 1971 for the first six months things were still in full swing, but that changed when we told we were leaving.

We were the ones who helped turn the lights off at 131!!

I remember having to dismantle tents, collecting gear, cleaning up the site, we spent days burning documents/papers in the last weeks before leaving. The morale was high among the Nashos; I think the ARA blokes wanted to stay. I remember that prior to leaving we had to take a course of pills (malaria??) over a two week period and the last pill was a great big yellow/orange one, we certainly looked forward to that one.

As I said, I was posted to the Southern Command Personnel Depot at Watsonia Barracks after returning to Australia and worked in the Discharge Office. I was able to negotiate an early discharge because I was returning to teaching (and part-time uni). The Officer in charge was very helpful. I also had the support of the Victorian Education Department Director. All this helped me to 'get out early' for 'good' behaviour!!

I have never met or heard from anyone from 131 until I came across the 131 Locators Ass. I look forward to keeping in contact and maybe meeting up with some of the members in the future.

Rieny 'Van' Nieuwenhof"

. **Tianjara** continues with a dot point time line from **Grahame "Dig" Dignam** and some fantastic photos from the "Tianjara Holiday Camp" which he went on –

"By a process of elimination:

.13/7/66 Conscripted - Singleton 10 weeks till 21/9/66

.22/9/66 Holsworthy Kokoda lines -

.Early Oct North Head - Corp Training - Signaller Training / Svy - basic Svy calculating work

.Late Oct Exercises on Holsworthy range over 2 weeks?

.Early November - off to Tianjara for 10days to 2 weeks?

.Late Nov Holsworthy again

.Dec - some on leave - I had to stay at Holsworthy on Range fire piquet duty over Xmas - had hols later

.Jan - leave - mid Jan loading/unloading Jeparit

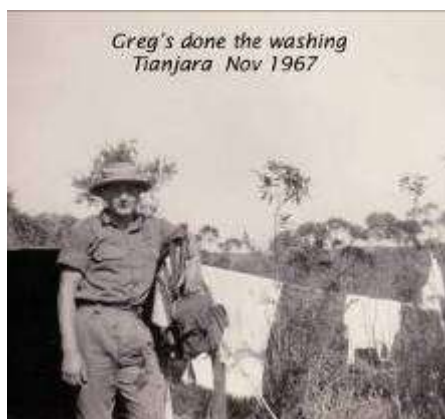
.Feb blank ----help anyone????????

.Then March at Canungra for <http://www.4rarassociationsaustralia.com/battle-efficiency-course.html> (a good read)

. Then pre embarkation leave - turned 21 - then departure 4/5/67



OK there's Geoff Blackwell – thankfully NOT smoking!



Greg Green - doing washing or dixie-bashing??



Steve Boutlis looks like he's on Safari



Grahame Dignam – looks like a fair dinkum shearer!

Ed – A dot point time or more expanded version is interesting, and Dig's is no different to others in theory. However, this subject of what process /journey did you take in your army trip has been the subject of many a discussion. Rieny

Niewenhof's version and along Vic Danko's journey are both prime examples of "what the...?" No doubt there are some classics from the blokes in the ARA as to how they got to 131 and then what did they go onto – that's why the Profile programme is so interesting. There aren't too many the same – if any at all! You can imagine signallers and the like being very transferrable, but what happened to a Surveyor after his 131 days? OK there were Gun Batteries and the Survey Corps, but like the Nashos did you all just get told where you were going without a career path?

Chouffa/choffer...?

Grahame Dignam comes up with another piece of paraphernalia which some of us must remember - "Gentlemen I was searching for the correct spelling of "chouffa" or choffer" after reading the "Cold War" story in the Daily Telegraph when I came across this link. Used properly it could keep any old military man busy for days.

Have a read but remember to put the cat out to-night...

http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix:Glossary_of_military_slang#C

Grahame Dignam

PS I should have asked Ernie first!!!

...Ernie Newbold responds with - G'day Grahame,

There may be optional spellings but I always thought of it as "CHOOFER" or perhaps "CHOOFA". Anyone who ever used one will know that the name comes from the sound it makes when operating.

Would you believe that I still have a Vietnam era Choofer. Unfortunately the seals / o-rings have perished and it is no longer safe to use.

I have seen ex-army ones for sale occasionally at trash and treasure markets, they go for around \$20.00 to \$35.00 each.

There was also a larger choofer which was an immersion heater used for heating water in 44 gallon drums, I don't have one of those though.

You may have seen the larger one in use at the mess (kitchen) or the shower point.

Use the link to see more.

<http://www.mvca.com.au/forum/viewtopic.php?f=117&t=334>

Regards, Ernie."



Stove, Gasoline Burner, M1950 - Personal Stove

. Ron Boaler responded to an email **Ed** sent as he noted a that Ron's Regimental number didn't look "Qld Nasho" enough, plus the "Nominal Roll" had him working in the "Workshop"! Ron was in the CMF prior to being called up. It just makes me laugh at all the discrepancies that occur – we're going to do a segment on a "Locators Path to the Battery and beyond" later so stay tuned.

Anyway Ron responded with – "They are good. I have found many discrepancies over time. I did keep my army number through nashos and back to CMF (which has disappeared altogether but was only for a short time.) There is a change in date from when I went from CMF to Nasho but I have lost the actual date when I moved back to Townsville. When I was in SVN some 7 months, the Provos came to my parent's house looking for my gear as I was "AWOL" from 31RQR. Bloody hard to be in 2 countries and 2 units at once! I was a corporal in CMF but no mention only Lancejack."

.Query Solved – The **Peter Ravelje** photo of the **Q Store in Nui Dat (circa 1970)** – photo on top at the right which was in September's E&Es

- Now gets an answer from **Wayne Jeffrey** who sent this in with the photo at bottom right – "Paul

The photo of the Q store would appear to have been



taken from the 'towers' in this pic, that were behind my tent
Regards, Wayne"

...then we can add the following photo from

Grahame Dignam who supplies the proof to the pudding with the water tanks being delivered – all made a bit easier in '67 without so many of the tall green things! What were they spraying in those early days?



Ian Amos – “Paul,

The photo of the Q store in September E&E was taken from the water towers put up in 1968. During the placing of the second tank, the downdraft from the skycrane flipped half of the roof off a nearby building which I presume is the one behind the landrover in the Q store photo. Attached are a photo of the tank installation and one I took from the tower looking the opposite way over Bravo radar site. Ian”



. Kevin Grime – “Back Again Paul,

Attached is a synopsis of our 2011 Reunion in Mildura, we only had one other Artillery member in our group this year, one David Harris who was at one time CO of School of Arty at North Head. He was 2IC of our unit in SVN in 69/70. I forgot to mention that many of the attendees were officers of the Unit whom are regulars at the reunions and mix in well.

Any way use it if you deem it worthwhile, Mildura really surprised me, it's a big bustling city with lots of history and many things to see and do, our week there was not enough to get around and see all the sights. Best from Me & Her Kevin G”

Australian Civil Affairs Unit Association - Reunion, Mildura 15 – 19th Aug 2011

The 1ACAUA gathers every two years, somewhere in Australia for their reunion. Because the Unit was drawn from all over Australia we have enjoyed reunions in Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide, Hervey Bay, Mandurah and this year Mildura. The Assoc grew from an initial gathering after the 1987 Welcome Home in the Rose Bay RSL in Sydney; we currently have 135 members, including some family members of Unit personnel.

Our Reunions are held in August to incorporate Vietnam Veterans Day and usually 5 days of activities in the selected venue area. This year we based ourselves at the Mildura RSL where we were made feel most welcome, good food, excellent and friendly staff, complimentary Honorary Membership, suitable area for 76 members to gather and dine. At Meet and Greet the assoc were welcomed by RSL President and Local Mayor, whom invited us to enjoy our stay in their fair City. (Recommend a visit)

Our activities included a Cruise on the Murray in a steam powered paddle steamer 'PS Melbourne', through the famed Lock 11. A town tour by Sunraysia buses, on to Trentham Estate winery for tastings and BBQ lunch, guided train ride through the Inland Botanic Gardens by an ex 2 RAR volunteer, Vietnam Vets Day services at the KSEA & Viet Memorial with local TV coverage, ABC Interviews, Reunion Dinner at the RSL, Shopping in the large city CBD with street markets, and farmers markets on the banks of the Murray River and a sad farewell brunch, excellently catered at the RSL, to say goodbye until 2013 in Port Augusta. My wife and I came the long way home so were away for just under four very enjoyable weeks and travelled 4,500kms



...Ed continues on with his odyssey...

There was possibly some conjecture as to whether we were going to the “Funny Farm” or not, but a couple of the following items do underscore a bit of this...



What were they thinking when they printed this stuff?

I think “monopoly” currency looks more genuine!

It states...“MILITARY PAYMENT CERTIFICATE”

(MPC), as it was shortened to, was supposedly –



“FOR USE ONLY IN UNITED STATES MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS – BY UNITED STATES AUTHORISED PERSONNEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS.”



I believe that if you tried to use it elsewhere you may

have been sat in the corner with a dunce's hat on for several months. Who is that woman they used – was it a cousin of Doris Day? I can't really remember what I could get for 10 cent note let alone the one valued at 5 cents even in those days!

...then as a “smoker” (even if you weren't) you possibly had one of these –



“HIGH QUALITY LIGHTER” – a “Penguin”!

The trick was (with a few beers under your belt) you would be lighting a mate's “ciggie” and click the top closed, grab the “durrie” and run off with it!

Today could be an interesting exercise whether to continue this practice especially with the price of “fags” and the cost per litre of fluid you'd have to put in this contraption!

So much for a “Zippo”!
These weren't much of a lighter, but were a great talking piece.



...OK whilst I've got my hands firmly on the podium...let me finish up with this bit of insanity -



I removed Nick Proskurin and Terry Bruce (from the photo below on the left) so as you could concentrate on my deterioration over some 37+ years later.

The photo on the left was taken in 1967 on a “Sunday Off” for a swim down at Back Beach.

The photo on the right is of the same bloke, minus dog-tags and speedos, but looking a little less menacing and a much bigger target, on a beach in South Vietnam in January 2005

The moral to the story is “don't think you can do things, let alone look like you did, as a young bloke!”



Ed – I'll now get back onto my medication!

Tim Ford sent in the **new** website address for the RAAHC – “Hi Paul, Thanks for the Eyes and Ears. Could you also please advise your members in due course of the new RAAHC website at <http://www.artilleryhistory.org.au/> Ubique, Tim Ford”

NEW Series...Ernie Newbold, whilst searching for some background material on another article which we'll publish next February (on an anniversary), came across the following commentary on the war in Vietnam which is written by Ian Kuring whose major work amongst an enormous amount of material he has written is called “Red Coats to Cams” – it's a history of the Infantry. However, having said all of the above we've decided to re-print the following article in small segments in the Eyes & Ears. Even though we don't get a mention, it does approach the conflict in a “removed” sense and gives a good insight or perspective about 1ATF's capabilities and shortcomings. I hope you enjoy the read and would encourage any feedback...here's the first part -

THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY AND THE VIETNAM WAR 1962-1972 AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE OPERATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM 1966-1971 Ian Kuring

On 8 March 1966 the Australian Government announced that 1RAR Battalion Group serving with the US Army 173rd Airborne Brigade at Bien Hoa would be replaced at the end of its tour of duty by an independent Australian Army Task Force. The Australian Task Force would have its own area of operations and be under the operational control of the American 2nd Field Force Vietnam. The area selected for the deployment of the Task Force was Phuoc Tuy Province, located southeast of Saigon.

The 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF)

The 1st Australian Task Force started arriving in South Vietnam during May 1966 and by mid-June had commenced the establishment of its base at Nui Dat (Vietnamese for 'small hill') in the middle of Phuoc Tuy Province. The Task Force was structured around two infantry battalions. Each battalion had four rifle companies, an administration company and a support company that included a mortar platoon of six 81mm mortars.

An operational limitation for the Task Force was that with only two infantry battalions, one battalion carried out operations while the other had to provide a ready reaction force and security for the base. This limitation was not resolved until the arrival of a third infantry battalion in December 1967. Unfortunately at the end of 1970, the third infantry battalion was not replaced at the end of its twelve month rotation and the Task Force was again limited to operating with only two infantry battalions.

The other combat elements of the Task Force included: an artillery field regiment with three batteries, each with six 105mm howitzers (two Australian batteries and one New Zealand battery); an armoured personnel carrier squadron, equipped with M113 light armoured vehicles, which when not carrying infantry was employed on armoured cavalry tasks; a field engineer squadron and engineer support troop; an aviation reconnaissance flight equipped with unarmed light reconnaissance aircraft and helicopters; and a Special Air Service squadron.

A Royal Australian Air Force utility helicopter squadron equipped with eight UH-1B Iroquois helicopters based at Vung Tau provided the Task Force with helicopter support for a variety of tasks, including troop lift, resupply and casualty evacuation. The strength of this helicopter squadron was doubled in 1968 when it was re-equipped with sixteen larger and more powerful UH-1D/H model Iroquois helicopters, and a helicopter gunship capability was added during 1969.

Although the Task Force was considered to be an independent Australian force, the Americans provided it with medium and heavy artillery support, offensive air support, medium and heavy lift helicopter support and gunship helicopter support. When large scale airmobile operations were carried out, the Americans provided additional utility helicopters to assist the Task Force.

The 1st Australian Logistic Support Group based at Vung Tau on the southern tip of Phuoc Tuy Province provided logistic support for the Task Force.

Security of the Task Force Base

The Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat was large, and had a perimeter of approximately twelve kilometres. For the duration of its deployment to Phuoc Tuy Province, the Task Force secured the approaches to the Nui Dat Base through a sustained daily program of patrolling and ambush operations. These patrols and ambushes were usually mounted by platoons and were initially carried out to enemy 82mm mortar range of four kilometres, and later extended to field artillery planning range of ten kilometres.

Other security measures included not having Vietnamese living in close proximity to the base and not allowing Vietnamese to work at the base. The few Vietnamese villages located close to the base perimeter were destroyed and the occupants moved and resettled in other villages.

The Enemy

Prior to the arrival of the Australians, the security of Phuoc Tuy Province depended on local South Vietnamese Regional and Popular Force units and occasional search and destroy operations mounted by Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and United States Army units.

The Viet Cong and their predecessors the Viet Minh had dominated Phuoc Tuy Province since 1945. Viet Cong guerrilla groups operated in most towns and villages, and main force units operated from bases in the hill, jungle and forest areas of the province. In mid-1966, the strength of the Viet Cong in Phuoc Tuy Province was estimated at around 5000 personnel and included two Viet Cong Main Force infantry regiments (274 and 275, each based on three battalions) and D445 Local Force battalion.

The main areas for enemy bases, camps and movement were in the Nui May Tao Hills, the Long Hai Hills, Nui Thi Vai and Nui Dinh Hills, and along the northern border of the province from the Hat Dich area in the north-west of the province through Slope 30, the Courtenay Rubber Plantation and Thua Tich, to the May Tao Hills in the north-east of the province. The enemy also used the bush areas east of Nui Dat and Long Tan and to the east of Xuyen Moc.

Task Force Operations

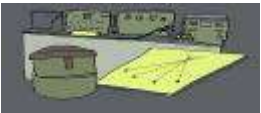
The infantry battalions supported by artillery, armour, field engineers, helicopters and close air support were the basis of all major Australian Task Force combat operations in South Vietnam.

Australian infantry operations were based on light infantry skills and techniques related to small unit operations, in the tropical and jungle environment, with emphasis on patrolling and ambush. The Australian Army was well prepared for this, having placed emphasis on training to fight Communist guerrillas in the jungles of Southeast Asia from the mid-1950s.

Mobility

Helicopters and armoured personnel carriers were usually used to transport infantrymen and their combat support into and out of areas of operations. This meant that infantry and their combat support could be deployed over long distances into an area of operations, with the added operational advantage that the force could be quickly redeployed to another area to meet a changed situation. For the infantry based Australian Army this was a revolutionary development that greatly increased the operational capability of each infantry battalion.

Other methods of deployment into and out of an area of operations included movement on foot, on the backs of trucks, watercraft and by short takeoff and landing transport aircraft (such as the RAAF Caribou). ...to be continued in November's Eyes & Ears.

	  		  
Committee members: President - Paul Dickson, Vice-President – Allen Morley, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam, Webmaster – Bob Billiards, Research Officer – Ernie Newbold, General members – Ian Amos, George Lane. Regional Representatives: ACT – Bert Blink, Qld – Terry Erbs, SA - Geoff Blackwell, Vic (Melb) – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder			

October seems to have passed without too much turmoil – Memberships took a great rise during the month – we say g'day to **Steve Boutlis, Bruce Irvine, Gordon Malcolm, Ralph Mitchell, Ric Marques, Vaughan "Mitch" Miller** and last but not least for the month **Peter Saint** who appears in "Found" below.

Coming up in November is the Association's first **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** which is going to be held at the -

**Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW 2176
at 1100hrs on Thursday 10th November 2011.**

The meeting is open to all Members and it'd be great to see you there.

Grahame Dignam (Treasurer/Secretary) has forwarded out the relevant information as to your (Members that is) possible involvement in submitting agenda items, nominations for committee positions and attendance. Please note that to be able to vote, submit agenda items and nominate to be a member of the committee or office bearer you **must be a Financial Member.**

If you have any concerns or questions please direct them to Grahame at Sectreas131locators@gmail.com

. Coffs Harbour October Reunion –

. **George Lane** – “The Reunion went very well except for the weather it was great to catch up with everyone again. Paul I would really like to give my thanks to Jane Gow, Lois Doyle, Dave Auld and Dave Doyle for a great Reunion and thank them for the effort they put in to organising it all. George.”

. **Ernie Newbold** made his maiden voyage to Coffs and was impressed – “G'day Paul, well I've just returned from my first Coffs Harbour reunion.

What a fantastic time we had up there, waiting at home for me was the September Eyes and Ears, another good one! While in Coffs one of the many old mates I met up with was Pappy Gault and one of the things we discussed was our adventures in Tianjara.

Pappy and I did two "tours" of Tianjara together, the second of which can be described exactly like the one John Blake describes in the September Eyes and Ears. Until now I hadn't been able to remember who I was with on that second "tour" but now I know that both John and Pappy were in the same L.P. group that I was.

You would have loved the get together at Coffs it is a pity that you couldn't be there. Catching up with old mates with whom we served in Vietnam was amazing, it seemed as though only a few days had passed since we last saw each other rather than 40 odd years. Regards, Ernie.”

Ed – fancy Ernie and Pappy failing the first Tianjara course that they had to repeat it!

. **Warwick Brooker** gets into the swing of things, as usual, with his Coffs' report – “G'day Dicko

I have a few photos for you from Coffs, which you're welcome to use. It was another great event, slightly smaller but most enjoyable despite the wet weather that Coffs put on for us.



The Friday night meet-n-greet was as good as ever and is possibly my favourite part of the reunions, as there's no dinner to get in the way of drinking. The finger food provided was pretty good and I didn't really need the meal that a few of us had late in the evening. Saturday and Sunday activities included the AFL and NRL finals, which provided opportunity for a few drinks in front of the big screen at the club. The Memorial Service on Saturday



afternoon concluded with a good dunking that had bystanders and a few diggers heading for cover. I was about to break ranks, but an outraged Steve Boutlis behind me sternly arrested my movement with:

‘Come on, we’ve been through worse than this before.’ I was about to respond with, ‘We were soldiers then and young,’ but I braced myself, switched on the windscreen wipers to clear my spectacled vision and resolved to endure whatever nature could throw at me. That

happened to be an asthma attack (and I didn't have medication with me), sore throat, head cold and a soggy suit coat. Thanks for keeping me strong, Boots! As a result of this unfortunate decision, Sunday and Monday were less comfortable for me, but the satisfaction of knowing that I'd kept Boots happy almost compensated for the discomfort. However, I've decided to take less notice in future of retirees who still aspire to BSM status!

Monday morning was as sad as usual with good mates parting and heading for home. There was time for a last group



breakfast in the mall, after which Jimmy Hogno treated me to a tour of Coffs beaches, lunch and a couple of beers at the Surf Club, followed by coffee and Lesley's scrumptious homemade cookies back at the house. Then it was time to head for the airport.



I'm very grateful to Jim and Lesley for their generous hospitality.

The flights home were smooth apart from delays in Sydney as Virgin altered gateways, then changed flight crews and finally had to search through the loaded baggage to remove a bag that someone had checked in before disappearing. The half hour delay was compensated for admirably by a complementary small bottle of wine with flat bread and salsa dip on the Sydney-Canberra leg.

Many thanks to Dave Auld and his team, plus Dave Doyle and his team for another memorable reunion Brookey”

... and Dave Auld got this in at the shutting of the presses...

"Hi Fran/Paul - We had 88 in attendance on Friday at the meet and greet - the largest meet and greet we have had. Sat morning we had 34 turn out for lawn bowls and as Allan Harrison remarked we needed a 100ft tape at times, the winners were a draw out of a hat and they were Geoff Carthew and Steve "Boots" Boutlis. Lunch was enjoyed by all and then the AFL grand final 1700hrs. We all fronted up for the service which was put back to 1730hrs due to the cadets arriving home from annual camp at 1600hrs. The service went well with Kevin Browning as guest speaker we were almost finished when it started to rain even though David Doyle and the Padre telling us that they had spoken to the Man upstairs and it wasn't going to rain, so guess Him upstairs thought we needed purifying as in the purification of water. We headed inside for some welcome refreshments followed by a lovely meal and some damn fine music. Sun morning turned up at the club for a top breakfast and then headed south to Cex Urunga which is the golf club that Cex Coffs harbour owns, we teamed up with the local breast cancer charity group for some games of croquet from feedback we have had everyone had a great day out. 1500hrs we headed back to Coffs to get ready for the NRL Grand Final (go Marly only because most of us at some stage of our army service lived there) followed by the farewell dinner hosted by David Doyle. I had a special leave pass for this event, and had a special dinner with Rosemary, my lovely wife, to celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary. I believe we will be together again in about two years, so will endeavour to send out some dates early next year as a survey so we can pick the best dates for everyone. So, to everybody from the Locating Artillery Association Northern NSW Branch it's a big happy Christmas and a very merry new year with lots of liquid cheer. B Dave Auld Pres Locarty Nrthn NSW"

. Birthdays in the Battery...November...so John Perry turns 71 – does anyone know where he is? Even Trev Waghorn has a 75th – where the hell is he? Brian Ruddock & Terrence 'Lofty' Hayes both served 726 days in SVN!

November	Name	Regt No	Y o B	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	DENIS SMITH	2789286	1946	15 04 1969	17 12 1969	
1	VAUGHN MILLAR	3411742	1948	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
1	WAYNE JEFFREY	2794772	1946	04 11 1970	29 07 1971	
2	TREVOR WAGHORN	52837	1936	05 05 1967	06 02 1968	
2	KEN HALLIGAN	2788319	1946	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
4	JOHN HENSHAW	3793057	1945	20 01 1969	28 11 1969	
4	HAROLD LITTLE	2789038	1945	21 02 1969	28 11 1969	
5	DAVID DACRE	5716803	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd REGT
10	BARRY UREN	214715	1940	28 10 1966	02 05 1967	
12	THOMAS LEMPRIERE	3412000	1949	02 12 1968	21 01 1969	
13	MICHAEL CAMPBELL	6708462	1946	05 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 1984
16	KEN LONG	2783232	1945	04 05 1967	28 10 1967	
16	ALLEN MORLEY	3788972	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
17	WARWICK HAMILTON Capt.	235190	1939	17 04 1967	12 02 1968	
17	TERRENCE (LOFTY) HAYES	214973	1939	{04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
	" " "			{10 12 1968	10 12 1969	
17	JORG KIENE	3797963	1947	09 11 1970	05 08 1971	
17	BARRY WILLIAMS	3796729	1947	16 12 1970	08 02 1971	
18	DESMOND BURY	1411072	1946	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
19	JOHN PERRY WO2	36026	1932	22 04 1966	07 09 1966	
20	MICHAEL FLETCHER	352778	1945	29 04 1969	16 04 1970	
20	LESLIE BATES	218053	1950	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
22	MURRAY POUSTIE	3787941	1945	04 05 1967	14 08 1967	
22	BRIAN RUDDOCK (M.I.D)	216134	1935	{29 01 1968	21 01 1969	131
	" " Sgt.			{03 02 1970	04 02 1971	4 Fd REGT
24	DONALD SIMMONS Sgt.	212769	1937	22 04 1966	21 12 1966	
25	STANLEY TODKILL	1201908	1946	04 11 1969	17 06 1970	
25	BRIAN PARKER	3793586	1946	20 01 1970	27 05 1970	AACC
	" "			28 05 1970	14 01 1971	1st Armoured Regt
26	MICHAEL O'KEEFE	2787168	1946	08 01 1968	14 01 1969	AACC † 1980
26	FRED WALTER Sgt.	342848	1943	11 05 1967	23 04 1968	RAEME
26	JEFFERY SCHAFFER	2788886	1946	12 02 1969	17 12 1969	
28	JOHN BAYFORD	3791019	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
30	RON SAUNDERS	38516	1947	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
30	GARY STRATTON	2788161	1946	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	

Ed – 21 blokes not accounted for – what are you all doing out there?

. Locator Profiles – we've received **76** (5 still waiting for photos) and we've sent out **62**.

Ed – October saw it kick off with number 059 **Rieny Niewenhof** and Rieny gave us a bit more of an insight to his Army "journey" above, 060 **Kev Reid** gave us a good run down on life after the army, 061 **Mike Butler** relayed a pretty explosive time in SVN and we ended with the very laconic 062 **Bob Wilson**

. Found...

. George Lane on a mission in Coffs found **Ray Smith** – 'Paul I found an original I had not seen for over 40 years, Ray Smith – I will leave him in your capable hands. George'

. Bill Finlay sent in the following with good news about his catching up with a mate – "Hi Dicko, have just read the latest edition of your great publication, stirs the memory bank every time. I remember from time to time some of the blokes enquiring about **Ric Edwards**, had the pleasure of his company recently, and can report that he is as fit as a fiddle, (made me quite envious in fact, probably weighs the same as when he served) he is reluctant to be in touch however. He does read *Eyes and Ears* which is sent to him from a mate. Keep up the good work, Bill."

Ed – Ric glad you're getting copies of this – I hope one day to say g'day.

. Peter Saint got in touch with this email – "Hi, I got wind of your very fine publication from **Mick Butler** and would love to join your Association, I believe you would be wanting a profile, so be it – I will do so when I am allowed into your hallowed organisation.

I was a 131 Surveyor 4 Nov 1970- 29 July 1971 SVN, the rest to follow.

All the best and I really like your *Eyes and Ears* Vol 4 No.9

Keep up the good work. Best regards Pete"

Ed – great to get another '70s vintage Locator on board – Welcome Pete.

.Ross Gunnell – talk about a roundabout way to find someone (whom we should have contacted yonks ago!). First up it comes to Vic Danko's attention, when Rosco's name came up somehow, that he decides to phone him, then after getting his email address Grahame Dignam emails him and this is the response – "G'day Digs. Danko rang me a few weeks ago and said you and him and a couple blokes were going for a "BONDING OUTING" [hee! hee!]. Good to hear from you ol'mate. I haven't been up to much. Things are getting a bit easier on me now that the cook is about 80% back to normal. Unfortunately she will never be fully recovered 'but she can still go crook at me and is always finding things for me to do on her "do-this-do-that" jobs list. Off to Tassie for 3 weeks in 6 days and maybe Sydney early 2012 as kids buying a house at Engadine. Got to go for now as I have suit to pick up as am MC on Saturday. See ya Ross"

Ed – it's great to have him join the list after so long – Ross is #197 that we've "Found"! Who'll be **#200?**

. UN-Vale –

. Bob Billiards – is responsible for our first ever resurrection and bloody quick too – must faster be than the original bloke and Lazarus! He sent this in one day after the September *Eyes & Ears* notified everyone of "Briggsy's" demise.

– **"Paul, I just got off the telephone after a conversation with the late Stanley Briggs and he says that rumours of his recent death are grossly exaggerated.**

He got back from heli mustering yesterday and was having a late start today. He is working casually with QLD Government on drilling rigs in North QLD.

He will get to the plaque unveiling. I told him that if he didn't organise it then a couple of his old mates would get up there and drag him down.

Regards Bob"

...Grahame Dignam sent the following to "HeavenAddress" who listed Stan as no longer with us –

"Subject: Listed in error Deceased's Name: Gnr Stanley John Briggs 1731999 Relationship: Fellow Veteran

Message: We advise that the above named veteran is alive and well. He was last contacted on 2 October 2011. If further verification is required please advise me and I will pass it on. Sec/Treas 131 Locators Association 02 98229218

...and got this response..."Dear Grahame, Thank you for letting us know. We have removed the notice. We have advised Terry the curator of the community as well Kind regards, The Heaven Address Team HeavenAddress - A respectful online memorial community www.heavenaddress.com"

...and in the meantime Ernie Newbold discovered another anomaly...and sent this in..."Please note that there appear to be other errors with the Heavens Address website.

If you open the link to them you will notice that the entry preceding Stan's shows a WO2 George Stanley Briggs who is reported to have died in 1970 but is shown as being born in 2022?? ? ? - obviously a data entry error for this one but for Pablo's listing to show all the pertinent details is more than just a data entry error. Regards, Ernie."



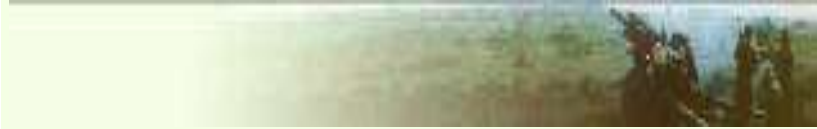
131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the upcoming establishment of the web site we are going to be burdened with the ongoing cost of maintenance etc and we need to be able to support this effort equally.

So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: Sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join.

Memberships are available for 1 or 5 years. Hope we hear from you?

. Other related sites...

. Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

"Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush"

(A quote whose origins are lost, yet the sentiments expressed will not be lost on many who served with 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

This website seeks to make contact with the Artillery Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty. We welcome your relevant contributions of photos, insights and observances so we might endeavour to expand

131 Artillery Surveying Vietnam record, beyond this window. Please use the contacts page for details:

<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/>

<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/operations/coburg.html>

Ed – it's worth having a look at the Surveyors' websites above as they cover Operation Coburg in some very interesting detail.

. Locating Artillery Association...



LOCATING ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...notes taken from the LAA website –

Annual Sydney Reunion

The **Annual Sydney Reunion** will be held on Sunday 20 November at the **Kokoda Track Memorial Walk** at Concord. It is a BYO everything event, food beverages, rugs, chairs etc.

For further details see the [October 2011](#) Newsletter

Committee meetings are held regularly with most held at Paddington RSL commencing at 1115 hrs.

The next **Meeting** will be held at Paddington RSL on **19 February 2012**. Members are cordially invited to attend.



Website link - <http://www.vvaa.org.au/>



Website link - <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

The Dept of Veteran's Affairs has launched a new mental health initiative to assist veteran's experiencing the affects of mental illness and their families. Providing information and fact sheets about understanding mental illness, links and contact information for accessing support, and online resources for health professionals, this website focuses on helping veterans identify early warning signs of mental illness to effectively manage their mental illness and seek treatment. For more info or to access, please visit www.at-ease.dva.gov.au

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much.

It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/8rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

"The reunion was hosted by the 2/94 Artillery in Las Vegas, Nevada from Oct 6-8. They, like the 1/83rd, were an 8-inch, 175mm Self-Propelled Artillery Battalion. Both the 1/83rd and 2/94 were based in the same area at Ft Sill and left for Vietnam at approx the same time in 1966.

The 2/94 went direct to I Corps area, where they remained, while the 1/83rd was in III Corps until Feb 1968 when the 1/83rd moved to I Corps where it remained until May 1971 when the Battalion stood down. The 2/94 has held annual reunions for several years and was kind enough to invite members of the 1/83. We only had 13 from the 1/83rd this time but nonetheless it was the largest gathering of 1/83rd Veterans since Vietnam. We are trying to get enough interest from our group to have our own reunion in the not too distant future. Bill"



Front Row L-R Otto Aliffi 66-67, Neal Schwartz 68-69, Bill Taggart 66-67, Roger Koopman 68-69, Mike Reetz 66-67 and Don Eikenberry 66-67

Back Row L-R Roger Hatcher 66-67, Craig Castona 66-67, Ken Gerrald 66-67, Ken Blank 69-70, Dennis Mack 66-67, Bernie Dugan 66-67 and Mark Hommel 69-70

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

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