



THE EYES and EARS

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Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

email: three-zero@hotmail.com

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Just thought we'd start this issue of Eyes and Ears off by letting you know that this edition commences our third year of publication and this is number 28, as we've done some specials during the two years.

It's a far cry from the 12 blokes we started with to now over

I'd like to thank all of you for keeping this dream alive and I'd like to express a special heart-felt thanks to those who have contributed in various ways – it's made the job a sight easier.

Heard and seen...

. **Ernie Newbold** - "G'day Paul, the "West Australians" appear to have a "Gunners Day" each year, I've not heard of it before, have you? http://www.artillerywa.org.au/archives/2005_4.pdf
Regards Ernie."

Ed - "Gunners Day" - It's been changed recently to the 1st Sunday in Nov - see this link -

http://www.army.gov.au/7fdbty/Gunners_Day_2008.asp Do any of the "Quokkas" know anything about this? Take part in event etc? Could you let us know something about it?

. **Ron Boaler - ANZAC Day Brisbane 2011** - here's Ron's email with an ironic start - "Paul,

A group of very new gunners arrived at Holsworthy from North Head one Friday afternoon when the Battery was stood down and no one knew we were coming. Not like the Army at all! When phoning Major Davenport to tell him that he had 14 more troops than he thought, the NCO described us as "A funny little Lot". And so we proudly became the "Funny Little Lot".

We are having a get together for a few days around ANZAC Day and while we will be doing our thing we are looking forward to seeing as many members at the ANZAC Day March in Brisbane City this year (2011). **The only member we cannot contact is Mick Davis.** Mick hailed from South Australia and was a 16th intake nasho who got into those new things called computers on leaving the Army and did very well for himself, working in Canada and other places. We "Googled" Michael Davis and all sorts of computer terminology but found something like 200 Michael Davis' who dabble in computers. If anyone knows of Micks whereabouts please let him know we would love to get in touch.

Ron Boaler"

Ed - his is definitely a worthwhile cause - I only have Davis, Michael J as a member of the Det - no dates, service number or anything - fellas can we see what we can do. Hey **Ron** can we get some photos of the day too!

. **Bert Blink follows** up with - "Hi Paul

You might want to put this in the next Eyes & Ears & encourage some of our Melbourne members to attend & give us all a report Bert - "Hi people, **This is an open invitation to all Vietnam Veterans**

Well it has finally arrived, the finalised date for the official opening of stage One Luscombe Bowl **30th March 2011** it all starts at **2.30 pm** so be there 15 - 20 minutes before and we can all meet and greet, or whatever. Sorry about spreading the rumour about the 9th but that made us get our act together and push this thing along. At the moment Luscombe bowl is being fitted out, the memorial Cairn to our fallen is in production and the timeline looks good.

Please let all your Vietnam Veteran contacts know and if there is any information required on accommodation, let me know. I will be letting all Seymour's hotels and motels know you will be coming and to expect an influx. We are working on some sort of celebration after it is all over and will let you know as it is worked out.

Ross Gregson Secretary Commemorative Walk Committee

email: vvaamitchell@westnet.com.au ph. 03 5792 3227 mob. 0417 973 573"

Ed - some feedback from anyone who visits the site would be good?

. **Lost Medals Australia** - now this is another interesting website dug up **Ernie Newbold**



First up **Ernie's email** that got things going - "G'day Paul, have you found Stephen Fowler, 217186 who served with the detachment from 16.09.1968 to 17.09.1969?

If not then here is a link that is very interesting, it is called "Lost Medals Australia" It seems that at some time past

Stephen Fowler lost his Vietnam medals and the person who re-unites lost medals with their owners was able to track him down to return the medals.

We could offer our help to Lost Medals Australia with our contacts if ever required in the future. They may be able to offer

to help us contact Stephen Fowler if we have been unable to do so.

What do you think about that?

Regards, Ernie -when you open the website scroll down to 26 October 2010 to read the Stephen Fowler story.

<http://lostmedalsaustralia.blogspot.com/>"

...and it produced some unexpected results. **Ed** did as instructed and contacted a Lt Col Glyn Llanwarne and it produced the following with a very prompt response

-

1. An email address for Stephen which sadly didn't work. So if anyone knows of his contact details – he lives in Stephen FOWLER3 Irwin Road EMBLETON WA 6062 Telephone: (08) 9375 7038
2. It introduced us to Glyn and prompted **Ed** to get a bit of a biog...

Lieutenant Colonel Glyn Llanwarne

Glyn was born in Perth, Western Australia and was educated at Christ Church Grammar School. In 1982 he enlisted in the Australian Army Reserve and posted to the Western Australian University Regiment. In 1985 Glyn enlisted in the Australian Regular Army and spent 6 years posted to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. Glyn remained with 2 Cav Regt until June 90 having been promoted to Corporal on the way.

In July 90, Glyn entered RMC Duntroon and graduated in December 91. He was appointed to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corp and has had postings to many units and locations in Australia. While his specialty is logistics he has had several staff and training appointments.

Glyn is a graduate of the Australian Staff and Command College and has a Masters in Management (Defence Studies) from Canberra University. Glyn's active service includes deploying to East Timor from September 99 to February 2000 and deploying to Christmas Island in support of the Australian Government's response to the MV Tampa crisis.

Glyn was recently posted as the Commanding Officer of Joint Logistic Unit (North Queensland) located in Townsville and then spent six months in Iraq as an embedded officer with the US Head Quarters. He is now posted to Canberra.

. Keith Ayliffe - Now Keith has a puzzle regarding the 2 blokes in the photos following...

I'll leave it to your members to see if they can identify the two people posing in the photos below?



Here's a response -

"Hi Paul

The two photos your need names for are Ken Jones aka The Werris Creek Warrior and Vaughn (Mitch) Miller. Would have been taken Sept / Oct 1967

Regards
Bob Wilson"

...Ed – Well Keith how close is Bob?



. Peter Binns has a query as to the two blokes in the photo with him. –

"Hi Paul the photo (on the right) is taken at 31A between Aug and Nov 68 I am the one on the right and the other two cannot remember their names.

I don't have many pics – I wish I did.

I spent my 21st birthday at 31A and celebrated at the SAS canteen dam good night!

My TET experience as I can remember spent about twenty odd days at FSB Harrison then moved to FSB Anderson and was there the night Jimmy Menz copped it. I slept in his spot the night before .I missed out on Coral as I was at horseshoe at that time, but I saw Mick Bolhes boots with plenty of holes in them - lucky he was not wearing them!

That's about all thank for sending me the newsletters
Regards Pete"

Ed – OK, so who has any ideas with regards to the 2 blokes on the left of Peter are?? They look as though they're on our side!

Are they "Army" issue steel plated "thongs" Pete and the blond bloke are wearing?



.Ken Woodbine sent the following email in reply to one of mine I'd sent to him with regards to one of his photos...



“Paul, “**Xmas in the Survey lines 1967!**”

Sorry about being such a slackarse – not much changes from all those years ago! But, for what it's worth, here are the names of the guys in the photo.

Back row (from left) Ian Yerbury (our Lt), Roger MacDonnell, Marty (Dutchy) Van Driel, Jack Heyes, John Greenaway, Geoff Holden and Mick Holden (the Postie)

Front row (from left)??? (You have Maurie Arch but I don't know), Bruce Irvine, Jimmy Menz, Terry Bruce.

Less than 2 months later Jimmy Menz was killed, and Dutchy Van Driel was seriously wounded at FSB Anderson.

Jack Heyes and John Greenaway were both Victorian nashos, who we enjoyed our time with in the Survey

lines, but we haven't seen for some 40 odd years. Ken Woodbine”

Ed – OK we're looking to solve “Front row (from left)???” above – can we get some help?

...then Ken got back to me with...”Paul, I sent the Xmas '67 photo off to Ian Amos and Geoff Holden. Response from GH is below! KenW

Looks like **Peter Fuhrman** to me “Woody” - Geoff Holden”

Ed – Anyone got any contact details for Jack Heyes or John Greenway?

. Keith Ayliffe – “Paul - The “white squares” I thought somebody would have known...

They are actually maps yes maps waterproofed showing location of unit.

Attached is a photo from Terry Erbs which when enlarged does show the maps.

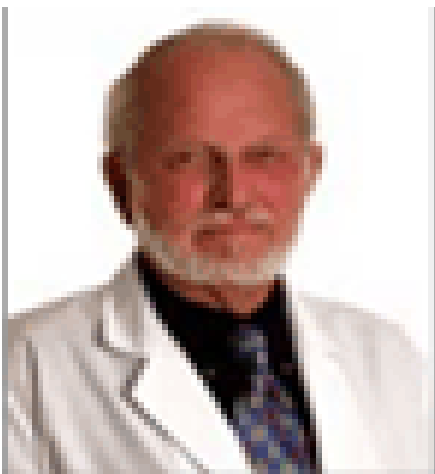
They were put there in 1968 I think by the sound rangers. The SRG CP is to the rear of sign .extreme rear is the original orderly room or HQ

It may be of interest, to note that the Unit board has a radar with 108 Bty, This Bty left SVN in May 68 well before the SRG base arrived, somebody forgot to update board.

Keith”



. Bob Billiards couldn't believe his eyes when he saw this double act...



...appearing in some sort of quasi-Gold Coast Casino type act and touting themselves as visionaries or whatever!

It's hard to work out – we need answers as to who is who?

This is their statements -

“I'm Dr. William Campbell Douglass and I've been called medicine's most popular mythbuster.”

And...

“I'm Gordon Malcolm and I've been called 131 Div Loc Bty's most



popular Radar Operator.”

. **Ernie sent in the following** from the Army Newspaper from a few years back and it makes interesting reading...

“G'day Paul,

I found this item which is probably about five to six years old but thought that you might be interested anyway.

The army's locating section is certainly a much bigger outfit than when we were in Vietnam

<http://www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews/editions/1121/topstories/story17.htm>

Regards, Ernie.”



UAVs will raise STA profile

By Lt Simone Heyer



Keeping an eye out: Locators from 131 STA Bty wristwatch for enemy fire. 131 STA Bty will become part of 20 STA Regt next year.



Weapon Locating Radar

WHEN 20 Locating Regt was disbanded 35 years ago, few would have imagined that the addition of tactical UAVs would see the regiment raised again.

20 STA Regt's implementation team is a small staff of surveillance and target acquisition (STA) specialists led by Lt-Col Phil Swinsburg, who are putting the groundwork into what will be one of the Army's key capabilities.

The STA regiment's capability of ground surveillance, target acquisition and UAVs, when linked with the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, the future fire support systems under project Land 17 and the Abrams tank, will make for an extremely powerful addition to the modern land Army.

In 2006, 131 STA Bty will be absorbed into 20 STA Regt with the regiment formally being raised in 2007. The new regiment will comprise a HQ and three batteries – 131 STA Bty, 132 UAV Bty and a CSS Bty.

Growth of the regiment will be significant by current manning standards. It's planned that by 2012 manning will grow by more than 100 per cent. Extra land will be allocated to the regiment's expansion within Gallipoli Barracks with the building of the UAV unit, including world-class UAV simulators.

20 STA Regt's implementation team's Maj Russell Hamsey said the team had taken a lot into account. “There's been a lot of brainstorming and thinking. I haven't had this much fun in years,” he said.

“During the introduction into service period, the UAV trade will be linked to ECN 250, the current Artillery Meteorological and Survey trade. We expect that in the coming weeks an ECN review will be conducted to determine whether the UAV will become separate trade or remain a linked trade to ECN 250.”

He said that for a short period of time, an invitation was open to all corps for members to transfer into the UAV troop, provided they meet the education and pre-selection standards. All transfers however will be assessed by SCMA for suitability.

He said that he had a job for the PlayStation generation – because not everyone could handle an airborne vehicle from the confines of a shelter on the back of a truck.

Key members of the UAV troop will undertake 12 months training in the UK. On return they'll develop the doctrine and TTP for the UAV and conduct training for the UAV battery.

Maj Hamsey said the UK and US had more than 50 years of combined experience with UAVs and the Australian Army would learn from that experience. In addition to the UK attachments, the implementation team will also be seeking to conduct attachments with US units, commencing in 2006.

“Part of the reason we're sending soldiers to the UK is so we don't need to make 50 years' worth of mistakes to reach a high operational standard,” he said.

The UAV troop training will be conducted at Gallipoli Barracks.

Maj Hamsey said training would likely be conducted by civilian contractors from the chosen UAV tenderer, and by

trained Army members. Flying ops for the UAV would take place in Queensland and NT military ranges. The unit will be a direct command unit of HQ 1 Div with the RHQ working with the intelligence and targeting staff in DJFHQ.

Maj Hamsey said many countries used UAVs for various reasons, and that the Australian Army would strike a balance between reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition tasking.

"The UAVs will bring the capability to project live video imagery of the battlespace into a brigade a battalion HQ like never before," he said.

"We're treading on new ground. The challenge is making this work inside a brigade HQ that is not used to receiving such real-time information and ensuring that this results in situation awareness for the commander and not simply more information."

Lt-Col Swinsburg said that the regiment would link current 131 STA Bty capabilities with the UAVs.

"STA support to a brigade will increase by over 500 per cent with the regiment's establishment and CONOPS," he said.

"Being in direct support of Bde HQ means increased levels of Int and staff to deal with the information flow and situational awareness."

He said combining the STA coverage with the UAV troop would provide real-time imagery at brigade, battalion and company levels simultaneously.

"With coverage 24 hours a day, linked to a wider and layered STA coverage of the brigade's AO, you start to see the powerful information gained," he said.

"My aim with the regiment is to provide commanders with the most accurate and timely information possible to inform better decisions. The STA capability is linked into a broader engagement network through either indirect fire, manoeuvre or strike aircraft."

. Ernie Newbold then discovered the following link and thought that some of you may be interested in the position/s being offered. Pay and conditions seem ok – a far cry from the 1960's plus! However, don't get too many ideas the age group they're seeking may discount most of us!!

<http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/army/jobs/OperatorWeaponLocatingRadar/>

The first paragraph starts off...

"Become a respected security specialist, gain some great experiences and get paid very well for your skills as a Weapon Locating Radar Operator. You will become a highly trained operator of ground surveillance radars, thermal surveillance system, unattended ground sensors, sniper observation kits, image capture and transfer systems, as well as covert local area sensor systems for intruder classification."

Ed – Does this sound familiar? Was this what got those Radar "Geeks" rushing to apply for 131 Div Loc Bty RAA back that many years ago?

. Extracts From "Cracker's" Blotter in February 1968...we now get a new perspective with the the reports being done by Capt Phillip M Perry

Annex ~~4~~ to 4 Fd Regt RAA
Operational Report. *no 7*

OPERATIONAL REPORT
1 ATF DET 131 DIV LOC BTY RAA
1 Feb 68 - 29 Feb 68

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

General

1. Operation COBURG continued throughout this period. During the second week of February the bulk of the TF returned to NUI DLT, whilst a Battalion continued the operation centred at FSB ANDERSON, which consisted of elements of Cavalry, a battery of 105mm artillery a battery of 155mm artillery, necessary forward HQs, with an Infantry company providing FSB defense.

2. Two "Gordon and Search" operations were conducted to which were detached an LP/Lrty Int team under control of the Div Int Unit. The areas into which these teams went were HOA LONG and LONG DIEN. On the former they operated with Div Int but there were no Lrty Int activities during the period, whilst on the latter they functioned as an LP deployed with Bn HQ.

ARTY INT SECTION

3. During the February period two Arty Tacs were employed, one forward at FSB ANDERSON, the other at HQ 1 ATF. Both functioned satisfactorily with regards to the ARTY INT complex.

4. An idea was tried during the closing stages of Op COBURG which placed Arty Int Sec in a 'Local Defence CP' which was also manned by the Bn RPG. Line was laid direct between Radar, LPs and selected infantry posts, with another direct line to Arty Tac. The idea was to have the Bn mortars at priority call to the Local Defence CP for immediate engagement of targets and the capability of passing information direct to Arty Tac for possible heavy retaliation or CB.

5. This system also allows for smaller, or less crowded CPs and dispersion against concentrated mortar attack.

6. The infantry Bn found the system most acceptable and the DS Bty BC has stated it is a workable arrangement under the existing conditions of a FSB.

7. A mortar and RPG attack occurred at FSB ANDERSON at 180100H Feb. The attack commenced with the firing of a red flare to the SW of ANDERSON at an approx range of 500 metres. The first barrage of mortars cut straight through the centre of the FSB. The second barrage appeared to be adjusted by an increase in range as the rounds overshot the FSB and landed on the perimeter. A further group of rounds fell about 400 metres N of the FSB. It is estimated that approx 40 rounds were fired, 25 landing within the FSB. All rounds fell in the Eastern sector of the FSB, whilst the RPG attack was directed against the Western sector which contained the main Artillery, Cavalry and Engz equipments. The mortars were identified as 82mm, and the RPGs as M40's (RPG 2). Two rounds of B41 (RPG 7) were found near a VC body but had NOT been fired. It is estimated that up to 60 rounds of RPG 2 were fired at the FSB.

-2-

8. Examination of the mortar baseplate area, indicated four base plate positions each set out about 20 metres apart with whitish sticks positioned at the approx main points of the compass. The sticks were NOT in fact on bearings of the compass as we know them; but if the enemy use 6000g as a full circle then the N/S sticks were pointing a bearing of 5100g which cut right through the line of fire, e.g.,

Allies System

6400 g

Bearing of N/S Sticks

5500 g = 5100 g

Enemy System

6000 g

9. An open tin of mortar incremental charge bags was found also, and later were identified as 120 g charge bags. It is possible that the enemy used some of these charges on an 82mm mortar and this could possibly account for the group of bombs that landed NORTH of the FSB by approx 400 metres. A 120mm primer was also found unfired in the area.

10. The suspected base plate area was engaged with mortars initially, then the 105mm Bty and 155 mm Bty were used for engagement. Retaliatory fire was on the ground within 5 mins of the initial attack. Inspection of the baseplate area showed it was straddled by our artillery and signs of bloodied bandages.

11. A second mortar attack occurred at FSB ANDERSON on 280100H Feb. This attack again commenced with a flare fired to the SW. Again the mortars lifted their fire by approx 100 metres this time covered the whole FSB. It was estimated that approx 25 rounds of mortar bombs fell within the perimeter. The bombs were identified as 82mm.

12. CB fire was employed and inspection of the base plate locations indicated rounds on target. At those locations the patrol found 32 x 82mm nose caps, 3 x Chicom 82mm mortar bombs, 3 x 82mm fuses and 2 x 120mm mortar bombs. Metal wheel tracks were discovered along the Northern edge of the rubber plantation, where the wheeled item was apparently connected to a vehicle (LIMBERTA ?) and moved in a Southerly direction. This wheeled item may have been a heavy machine gun. The discovery of the 120mm mortar bombs, plus the 120mm charge bags indicates that the enemy intended to use such a weapon, but it was not used on either of the attacks on the TSB. The same use of stakes was employed at one of the mortar baseplate positions.

13. Grid for TSB ANDERSON was YF 208128. Mortar base plates at YF 221125; YF 220120; YF 213120; the latter being used for both attacks.

14. As H&A's were being fired throughout each night, it is assumed that the enemy moved into position and prepared for the attack under cover of our gunfire. On each occasion lights were seen in the area after initial bombardment, but wisely disappeared upon further engagement.

15. At TF Base NUI DIA on 010300H Feb a mortar attack occurred but did not breach the perimeter. The suspected base plate position was engaged within 8 mins by a 105mm Bty and the 8" howitzers. Approx 20 rounds fell during the attack and were identified as 82mm mortars. A patrol was sent to the baseplate location and reported it appeared to have been rapidly vacated, the enemy leaving behind 25 x 82mm mortar

R.I.R. SPS.

19. During the first three weeks of the Op COBURG there were many locations and the standard procedure was CB by a regiment, initiated by Arty Tac. Due to operational commitments, few were confirmed whilst VR did state some could possibly have been base plate locations. Only two such locations were directed against the Op COBURG area. One locrep was passed to Arty Tac as a possible rocket site and the location was engaged by eleven batteries over the III Corps Fire Direction Net. American sources confirmed a rocket sighting from that general area during the night, and later 3 Bn R.I.R found a 122mm rocket carrying case in the general vicinity.

20. During the mortar attack on 180100H Feb, the locrep supplied by the radar was very accurate, and CB engagement straddled the base plate position. Approx one hour prior to the mortar attack on 280100H Feb, the generator failed ~~and~~ was ~~not~~ functional at the time of the attack ~~despite R.I.R. efforts.~~

21. Until now, radar defence stores have NOT been part of the airborne load on deployment, but without carrying such prepared stores on operations, preparation time is trebled, so future deployments will include defence stores. We are presently working the problem of their carriage and results will be made known. Defence stores consist of beams, PVC and/or sheet iron; all up-weight averaging 700 lbs.

22. Whilst Op COBURG was in progress, one radar remained at NUI DIA and had one confirmed locrep and three suspect. During the mortar attack on 010300H Feb the locrep received was bombarded and the mortar silenced. The two suspect locations were engaged as CB targets but NOT confirmed baseplate positions.

23. During mortar firing from the HORSESHOE feature, a range of 7200 metres from the radar location, repeated attempts have been made to obtain a track, but negative results continue. The radar site appears ideal, but the radar apparently does NOT function effectively at this range.

24. Tests are to be conducted for radar adjustment using the 155mm howitzer and results tabulated. Radar adjustment has been carried out previously with good results, using the 155mm howitzer but no records kept; if they were kept they have been mislaid.

LISTENING POSTS

25. The activity during last months both at Op COBURG and activities around the TF Base, has kept LPs busy and some very good

results have eventuated. Response and accuracy of reports are in the main responsible for of active CB. During mortar attack, and engagement of lights, movements etc., outside the perimeter the LPs acted as observers and although their corrections at times were not bold enough, they should improve with experience.

26. During the first three weeks of Operation "COBURG", LP 31G in FSB ANDERSON was manned by 5 members of Svy Sec. Two members of the Section were also sent to help man LP 31G. The rest of the Sec remained at HUI DIT carrying out maintenance on the tellurimeters and acting as replacements to the other LPs. An attempt was made to put FSB HARRISON on THE GRID by Triangulation from HUI DIT and HUI CHUL CHUN (YT 60 10). This failed as HARRISON was covered from view by timber. 106 and 108 Btys, together with the radar and Mor P1 3 R/R were put on Regimental Grid - the method used being a Map spot and Sun Observation for orientation. Projection required to escort Svy party for traverse to HARRISON/ANDERSON could NOT be used due to operational commitments and the common grid was accepted. All troops were subsequently withdrawn to FSB ANDERSON, and 106, 108 and B Bty 2/35 Lrty were put on Regimental Grid in a similar fashion to that used at FSB HARRISON.

MANNING

27. This month was a strained period for changeover of personnel due to enemy activity and the replacement of so many 'Key' members over a short period.

28. A complete changeover of personnel on Op COBURG was affected during period 10-24 Feb; practically all members of the unit spent some time on the operation due to normal replacement required by R/R and medical.

29. The general standard of replacements in the radar section are far below the required standard and do NOT appear to have an understanding of radar theory which is a necessary basis for continuation of training in theatre.

MORALE

30. Morale is at a very high level, due in the main, I feel to the recent confirmed locations, and a feeling by the Detachment that they have paved themselves of value to the supported arm.

CONCLUSION

31. An active month in which the Detachment gained much experience in all fields. New arrivals found themselves being initiated in the best style, whilst all members had the opportunity to prove their worth and came through better trained. A continuation program based on lessons learned is planned.

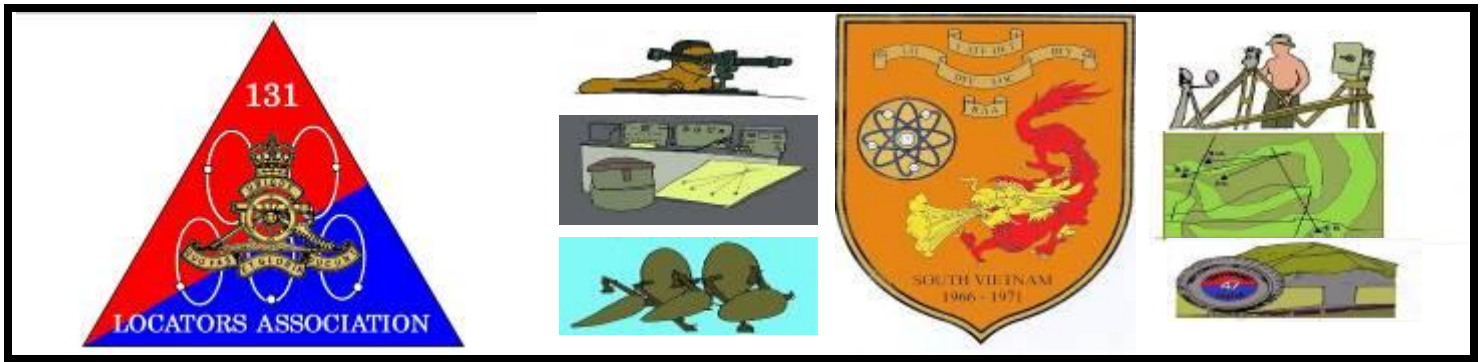

OC 1st ATF DEB,
131 Div Loc Bty RM.

Capt

. Warwick's Quiz continues...

Q. And now the killer...What range would you consider to the base plate? A. Looking at the pattern on the concrete, and knowing the max range of the 82mm mortar was about 3000m, (and if you were there you would work out where the 'front line' was likely to be), it is not max range, nor minimum full charge, so about 2000-2500m would be a good answer.

Ed - No one, and I mean no one had a bloody clue!



The lapel pin – we got it out and only managed to lose a couple in transit (keep an eye on eBay!!), but it was really refreshing to get the following from **Paul Butcher** – “Paul, the badge is top quality in design and production, congratulations to everyone involved, I for one will wear it with great pride, thanks for stirring all those memories of people and places in my youth. Paul Butcher”

...the Locators Association welcomes a new member as at 24th February –
Member – John Browne

And thanks again for the additional funds we've received in the way of donations.

. **Tim Ford sent** the following which does clear up points and highlights the continuing discussions being held with SHFT -



Update on AAAM, North Fort and RAAHC 23rd January 2011

Dear Gunners and Friends

I am writing to further update you all about recent activities concerning the Australian Army Artillery Museum (AAAM), Army's presence at North Fort and the artillery collection under the care of the RAAHC. This update outlines progress since my message of 11th December 2010 and the outcome of a range of recent meetings involving the Army, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, the RAAHC and groups of volunteers.

The Australian Army Artillery Museum

In accordance with the Army decision in early December, the AAAM officially closed at North Fort on the 19th December. The Army History Unit and Army staff at the AAAM are now preparing to vacate North Fort by mid 2011 and to transfer the AAAM collection initially to storage at Bandiana. AHU moved some large outside items owned by the AAAM to Bandiana before Christmas and will move more in the next few weeks. Army advises that access to North Fort to visit the Memorial Walkway and for volunteers to assist the transition is available from 9AM-3 PM Monday to Friday. Army will hand over the tunnels and external access to the North Fort area to SHFT from 1st February.

Army have confirmed that a new Army museum to display the artillery collection will definitely be built at Puckapunyal where the School of Artillery is now located. It is likely to be a new combined Australian Artillery and Armour Museum built on the perimeter of the base to allow easy public access. The Deputy Chief of Army has assured me that every means is being examined to quickly build this facility, and he will advise further on planning for this soon. The Army has allocated considerable funds to ensure the move of the AAAM items to Bandiana is professionally handled. I am assured the Collection will be securely housed there under cover and in waterproof and aired containers. A curator will be specifically assigned to account and care for the Collection, and funds approved for quarterly inspections by experts nominated by the Regimental Committee. Nevertheless, it is of concern that the AAAM collection may be stored in Bandiana for some years. While it is proposed that items from the RAAHC collection that most appropriately should be held by the AAAM will be loaned to Army as part of the future AAAM collection, alternative arrangements are required for some RAAHC items that would deteriorate in storage or to which the Regiment and the public needs access to in the interim. This includes the library, the Whitelaw collection, some of the uniforms and other valuable items.

North Head and the SHFT

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT) was set up by the Australian Government to conserve, protect and improve public access to former Defence and Commonwealth sites around Sydney Harbour. The sites include Cockatoo Island, North Head Sanctuary, Headland Park, Chowder Bay, Woolwich Dock and Parklands, Macquarie Light station, Marine Biological Station, Snapper Island and HMAS Platypus. The SHFT aims to develop these sites into public spaces that

offer tours, education programs, events, exhibitions, parklands, walks and business tenancy. It has a current charter as an independent organization through until at least 2033.

In recent years the SHFT has developed a management plan for the North Head area (called the North Head Sanctuary – NHS) which recognizes the historical links that the military have had at North Head through the School of Artillery, and acknowledges responsibility to maintain the various fortifications and tunnels on North Head, the Defence of Sydney Monument and the Memorial Walkway. The Trust's Management Plan for the NHS was adopted on 3 September.

SHFT has clarified that they fully support the further development of North Fort in accordance with their management plan. They plan to open the complete NHS area for public access as soon as possible after 1st February including an Orientation Centre and a refurbished Café at North Fort. They intend to use the NHS to interpret the story of the Defence of Sydney. They propose to keep and develop further as appropriate the Battle of Sydney Monument, the Memorial Walkway, the 9.2 in Gun emplacements, tunnels and associated fortifications, and they will support the establishment of a significant Defence of Sydney museum that will also acknowledge the artillery and School of Artillery history at North Head. As a result of recent meetings at North Head, they have recognized the valuable work and projects being undertaken by the volunteer guides and workshop groups at North Fort, and are looking at how they can best maintain this capability. It appears the SHFT will wish to retain at North Head a maintenance capacity and guided tours of the tunnels, fortifications and their Museum. The SHFT has agreed that the RAAHC can maintain the existing library at North Fort in its current building for the interim, and to provide other support to the RAAHC during the transition period.

The RAAHC is prepared to loan a few appropriate items to the SHFT for display at NHS and elsewhere around Sydney. Consultation on what this might entail has commenced. It has also been agreed between SHFT and the RAAHC that the Memorial walkway will continue to be administered by the RAAHC with the support of the SHFT. It is intended to complete the walkway and conduct an opening dedication during 2011.

The RAA Historical Company (RAAHC)

In late 2010 the RAAHC refocused as a national artillery organization with the aim to foster, maintain and promote the heritage of artillery throughout Australia. In this respect it plans to work closely with all federal, State, regional and local organizations interested in the past and present history and heritage of Australian artillery. The RAAHC will be contacting State and regional artillery organisations over the next 6 months or so to further develop a partnership that appropriately develops a national perspective on all artillery matters.

The RAAHC has a valuable artillery collection; some under trust from individuals and benefactors, mainly located at North Head with a portion on loan to some other artillery organizations around Australia. A good amount of its collection has been on loan to and displayed at the AAAM at North Fort. The Collection includes guns, field, locating and air defence artillery equipments and ancillaries, vehicles, uniforms, maps, special collections, books and pamphlets, and artillery memorabilia. Multiple numbers of some items are held in the collection.

Discussions are underway with the AHU to clarify the ownership of some items in the current holdings at North Fort. It is the intention of the RAAHC to loan to the Army all those items that should be most appropriately displayed in Army museums including the future AAAM. Other items in the RAAHC collection might be loaned to other national, state, regional or local organizations, including the SHFT, that may have a close historical association with items or can best display and maintain the items, but the process to finalise this allocation will take time. In the interim, the RAAHC is therefore negotiating with the SHFT to temporarily retain some of the Collection at the NHS for further classification and repair. We will continue to need RAAHC members and volunteers to support this process.

The RAAHC has also agreed with the SHFT and the AHU to maintain its library at North Head for the foreseeable future as a national artillery research centre, possibly including a Sydney fortifications section. It will remain in its existing building at least for the next 12 months. We will need volunteers in the Sydney area, and elsewhere where technology allows, assisting in the development and maintenance of the Artillery Research centre.

Websites

The RAAHC currently manages the North Fort website www.northfort.org.au/. In light of what is happening at North Head and the revised focus of the RAAHC, this is not now appropriate as the RAAHC website. This website will therefore close soon and a new RAAHC website will be established. The official Army artillery website is www.army.gov.au/RRAA/. This website is managed by the RAA Head of Regiment staff and has recently been revised and improved. All official information on RAA matters, including history and heritage, will be displayed on this website. There are also a large number of other Artillery related websites operating in Australia based around regional RAA Associations, past and present artillery unit associations and interested organisations. I encourage all these websites to be linked and to assist in informing all gunners, past and present and all interested individuals about artillery matters.

Future

The RAA Regimental Committee and the RAAHC Board will continue to closely monitor, and influence where possible, the development of this situation. We are determined to ensure the preservation of the artillery collection at the future AAAM and around Australia. We see this process as an opportunity to ensure a better national perspective and approach to artillery matters.

I will keep you informed as the situation develops. We encourage the constructive support of all Gunners and friends through this process, and encourage the continued support and assistance of our volunteers both during the next few months and as long-term supporters of the RAAHC and the Regiment.

Ubique,

Major General Tim Ford, AO (Retd)
Representative Colonel Commandant and Chairman RAAHC
23rd January 2011

. Found...

. **Graeme Owen...out of the blue** sent this in – “G’day Paul,
Having recently retired, (and now with the time to do a few “me” things), I decided to get stuck into something I’d been planning for 40 years!
Transfer all of my old ‘Vietnam’ slides into digital format! Of course it’s been a great trip down memory lane, and a couple of the pics got me doing a bit of research on Fire Support Base names etc. Somehow in one of my ‘Google’ searches I stumbled across the March ’10 issue of ‘Eyes and Ears’.
What a great ‘stumble’ it was!
I’d love to be involved and receive issues of the newsletter (back issues too if it’s possible). I’ve had very little involvement with anything associated with my army days (one Anzac Day March back in the ‘80’s), but the time is right for me to ‘come in from the cold!’
I served with ‘131’ in Vietnam from November ’68 to November ’69 as an Arty Surveyor (and Arty Intelligence “know nothing!”). I’ll enjoy hearing the stories and information about people I lost contact with a lifetime ago. I guess that was one of the difficulties with Detachment Units in SVN, the ‘Group’ connection was more tenuous because of the constant coming and going of individuals, and it was easy to lose that connection.
For instance there were only two of us from ‘131’ who returned home at the same time.
I have a few good stories and pics I’d like to share when the time is appropriate, not just from SVN but from Holsworthy too. For instance I was a member of the ‘131’ Aussie Rules team which won the mid-week (Wednesday afternoon) football competition in 1968 - against the NSW Fire Brigade I think, (obviously a lot of good ‘southern state’ players available from the National Service ranks in those days). The after-game celebration has remained in the . . . “what happened on the bus stays on the bus” category, but after 42 years, I guess the statute of limitations (?) would now allow a small level of elaboration!?
Cheers for Now (Gnr) Graeme ‘Jessie’ Owen Army No – 39453”
Ed – It’ll be great to hear more from Graeme as time goes along.

. **Dave Doyle** passed the following email from **Bill Slape** – “Dave & Paul
Thanks for the reply guys. What we guys of 131 Div Loc Bty need is the photos of inside the bunker and horseshoe. Our guys who lived in the bunkers for more than 50 days at a time and have respiratory condition need this evidence for DVA claims. Keeping Vigilance and sleeping with Rats mice + dust & constant night work is what DVA counsellors need to have proof of hardship etc
I served Dec 69 to Dec 70.
Thanks Dave old SGT”
...and Dave adds...
“Bill
Hi Mate got your message so I thought the I would float it on to Dicko master of the locating web which you should and could be a member as you served in Nam from 69-70 I think, any way lets open it up to the Loc net and see what response we get . How are Ayre and the rest of our extended family? When are you retiring????? Regards David /Lois - Paul (Bill has been the back bone of Hell fire pass for in excess of 8yrs if my memory serves me right. It is a credit to him and Ayre his better half)”
Ed – can any camera snap happy bloke help Bill in his serious quest for photos?

. **Birthdays in the Battery**...February is always tinged with a bit of sadness as we are reminded of 5 Locators who are no longer with us, however we still have heaps of multiple births to make us smile...
The late Jim Menz (01.02.46- 18.02.68) kicks off the month followed by the “man-mountain” himself Roger McDonnell on the 2nd, then the first of our twins **Robert Gibson** and **Edward Henson** on the 3rd, **Olaf Asmanis** gets in on the 4th before the late Ian Yerbury (05.02.44- 1989), **George Clark**, who like Ian did two stints in SVN, **Richard Flavell** and **Stephen Hall** all made the 5th worth remembering, **Mick Habben** claimed the 6th all to himself, then the late Lindsay Black (07.02.40 – 2008) another two stinter in SVN had the 7th all to himself, **Robert Ramsay** had the 8th alone, the late Geoff Wood (09.02.45 – 16.04.07) and Chris Armshaw (09.02.45 – 10.02.70) shared birthdays with **Gary Worrall** and **Neville Hastings** were all born on the 9th, **Dennis Malloy** made his appearance on the 11th ’45 just one day before **Ross Gunnell**, Leigh Baker and **Anthony Sheldrake** got the trifecta on the 12th, Ernest Newbold our E&E’s superstar shared the billing with **Kevin Heenan** on the 14th, Damian McManus started a run on 16th leading the field comprising of **Luigi Lanera** and **Terrence Hunt** both 2 years later, the 17th saw **Adrian Spencer** take his first breath, followed by **Bill Wight** on the 21st, then **Jeff Jebb** and **Grahame Salter** on the 23rd, Greg Green shared the 24th with **Albert Jacka**, **Norbert Kroll** closed the month off with Brian Mitchell on the 28th.

Ed – so the tally this month of 22 blokes in bold is 4 more than in January – horrendous – don't you blokes know any of them?

. Locator Profiles – we've received **51** and we've sent out **46**. **Ed** - The tap has had an extra turn and we've stock-piled a couple. We still need more – at least we're getting closer to getting 50 out!

.Vale –

		
	Black, Brian Gnr 2786469 SVN 1967-68 16.09.46 – 18.01.11 May he rest in peace	

. Peter Binns – “Hi Just wondering if you received my email about the death of Brian Black Who passed away on the 18 Jan 2011 after a long battle with cancer. Brian was in Nam 67/68 one of Brian's jobs was Warwick Hamilton's driver and at 31A with me from August till RTA in November hoping his passing can be put in the magazine regards Pete Binns”

. Bob Wilson - Paul, I've attached a couple of photos of Brian Black. These Photos were taken at Balmoral....I Think!!!! My memory, she ain't what she used to be!!! Regards Bob Wilson

.Bob Billiards – “Paul, Very sad news. Blackey was a really nice bloke and one of the 67-68 group that I lost contact with. We used to meet at a garage along Victoria Rd (not organised) Ryde as we both seemed to be buying cheap petrol at the same time. He had a courier business at that stage. In SVN we did get out on a couple of operations together and I think that he did a stint at 31D at some stage.

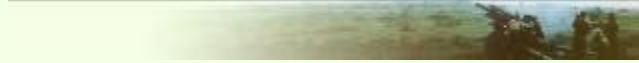
I will look to see if I have any photos of him, but I can't remember any of him. Not sure what section he was in either. Regards Bob”

February Remembrances...

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DoB</u>	<u>DoD</u>
Armshaw, Christopher	Gnr	2781291	Survey	1966-67	09.02.45	10.02.70
Menz, James Leslie	L/Bdr	38833	Survey	1967-68	01.02.46	18.02.68

May they rest in Peace

. 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/>

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

The next Committee Meeting will be held at the Paddington RSL on **6 March, 2011**. Members are cordially invited to attend. Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the *Associations* Newsletter LOCREP.

Meetings scheduled for 2011 to be held at Paddington RSL commencing at 1115hrs.

. 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/

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

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