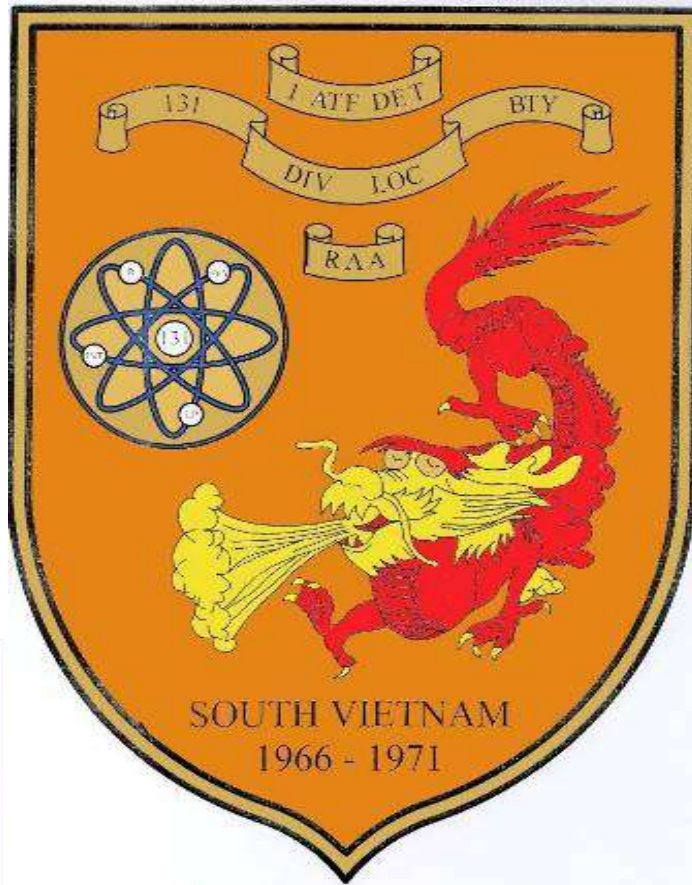
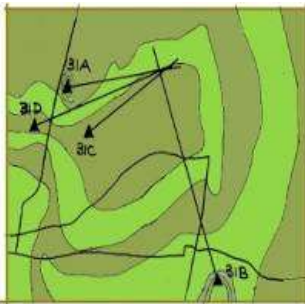
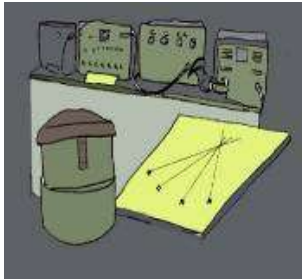


THE EYES and EARS

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Ed – Errors and Omissions – In February's issue I misspelt Phillip Perrin, by calling him "Perry" and left the last part of the sentence out of the opening paragraph – it should have read -

"It's a far cry from the 12 blokes we started with to now over some 175 who are on our database."

Sorry fellas!

• **Ian Amos**, after a recent meeting, brought the following articles to light from some Women's Weekly cuttings he'd had stored in a suitcase under his bed in an email he sent to **Vic Danko** recently –

Ernie Newbold isn't one to let a couple of attractive sheilas pass him by, so replied with this offering – “G'day Ian, L to R – the group is Bruce Irvine, Ian Yerbury, John Vitkovsky and possibly either Ray Hutchinson or Joe Clendinen. I'm more inclined to say Joe Clendinen going by his hairstyle. Regards, Ernie.”

. Grahame Dignam weighs in with – “Joe Clendinen definitely - based solely on the hair (as did Ernie). Grahame”

. Allen Morley comes up with – “A mob of senior citizens trying to remember faces and names from 40 years ago!!!! My vote is that again, Ray Hutchinson is the bloke on the right. Allen”

Ed – I’m just curious as to how, and possibly more interestingly why Ian was getting the “Women’s Weekly” in SVN? I thought the PX only had “Playboy” - was there a demand for Ita B. in those days?

Womens Weekly

On-sale price of The Australian Women's Weekly: New Guinea, 34c; New Zealand, 13c; Malaysia, 5c; 10c (Malaysian currency).

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PATTI MEETS THE BOYS

● GTV9 television personality Patti McGrath recently returned to Melbourne after touring Vietnam. Now she is giving messages to "the folks at home" from "the boys up there."

PATTI McGRATH, one of the most popular concert party artists to visit troops of the Australian Task Force in Vietnam, above, entertains a large group at Nui Dat.

PATTI McGRATH, one of the most popular concert party artists to visit troops of the Australian Task Force in Vietnam, above, entertains a large group at N

. **Bob Wilson** had sent me an email with regards to the passing of **Brian Black** which we had in Vale in last month's issue. Well, in my reply I asked Bob what the hell was that "instrument" that was in the photo with Brian (on the right) which prompted the response from **Bob** –

"Paul I think it's some kind of perimeter radar or infrared people monitor. It was a "Yank" thing and was mounted on a tower inside the FSB...Pretty sure it was at Balmoral.

Ed – can anyone shed any light on the "instrument" on the right?



...then the following was added...



The photos I have are looking over one of our Radars – left and right. Have attached a couple more Photos....Maybe someone else can shed some light on them Regards Bob"

Ed – where and how did Bob get to take them??



. **Keith Ayliffe** hands out the quiz prize to **Bob Wilson** for his naming the 2 blokes in the photo (last month's E&E's) as

Ken Jones aka "The Werris Creek Warrior" and Vaughn (Mitch) Miller."

Ed – great work **Bob** with not all that clear photos.

. **Bill Slape** sent the following in - "Hi Paul

Please let all our members know that the post March lunch in Kanchanaburi Thailand is awesome.

Cheers

Bill Slape and Team Thailand Ayr, Yor & Joy"



. **Craig Cook** sent in this reflection – "Hi Paul, I read with interest the editions of Eyes and Ears as they are published and think it's great that after this long time you can still catch up with mates like you do. I look for names that I remember who I may have served with on combined Locating Exercises or with postings down to 132Bty. They seem harder to remember faces now. Anyway looking at the latest "who is it" Survey Xmas 1967 and that chap on the front LHS looks like [in profile] a younger Arthur Penn. ?? Could I be right?

Anyway all the best and keep up the work.

Craig Cook ex 132Bty"

. **Steve Boutlis has** a couple of items worth us giving a hand with – “Hi, Dicko.

- 1) Barry Hampson, who is the son of a Vietnam Vet, is wanting to write a book concerning the 521 Australians KIA in Nam, and would like to interview any comrades who served with them, and any of the families of those killed.

His request can be seen in full in our current VVAA Sunshine Coast newsletter, Ricochet, at www.vietnamvetssc.org.au on page four.

Would you send an APB to our unit mates. Those who served with Jimmy may want to take part and help Barry.

- 2) Our Sub Branch is gearing up for pre Anzac Day merchandise sales at local supermarkets. We raise a lot of money, mainly from our digger hat penny key-rings. They have become very popular, especially among Vet's children as they can buy them in their dad's year of birth. We get big orders from all over Australia from RSLs, Legacy, VVAA and VVFA branches. Our nomad members take some with them and sell quite a lot to other Vets that they meet in their travels.

The key rings are made using dinky-di circulated pennies, by our members. We have a press to “bash” the pennies into a slouch hat shape and then they are drilled, polished and the key ring is attached. The enterprise has not only financial benefit for our branch, but also provides social therapy for our members. The money is used to fund our retreat homestead, finance our drop-in-centre and fund our Pensions/Welfare Team.

Would you include the above info in an Eyes and Ears and please extend an invitation on behalf of our branch, to our mates, for them to have a peaceful stay at our retreat, Alaric, next they are anywhere near Charleville. Details are on page six of current Ricochet.

Cheers, Boots”

. **What was** a simple plea in an email from **Bill Slape – “Tunnels at Horseshoe?”** Well it prompted one of another series of unbelievable responses that I get from some amazing blokes. This time around it came from **Geoff Owen - “G'day Paul,**

For the last year or so I've been doing bits and pieces on a Personal Narrative (poor man's book if you like), about things that have happened through my life. It's not for publication - just for my family to have good old read when I 'kark it'.

I'm not writing it in chronological order, only separate stories.

Since I've been transferring my Vietnam slides to digital (jpeg's) it's inspired me to note down a few stories about my army days.

I had the Horseshoe story half scratched together, but having the pics enabled me to put it together in the basic format I'm using for the whole book.

There was a query from someone about the Horseshoe in the last issue of 'Eyes & Ears' so thought I'd just send the complete chapter/story to you and you can decide whether it's worth passing on to them or not. I'm quite happy to send any pics they want as separate Jpeg's.

Perhaps others who were never at the Horseshoe might like to read a bit about it too.

A slight problem is that because I've scanned the pics at a fairly high quality level for inclusion in my book (even though the transfer system from slide to jpg results in fairly crappy quality anyway), it means what I've sent you, even as a PDF, is very large - I HOPE IT DOESN'T CLOG YOUR EMAIL SYSTEM!

An alternative, if this causes a problem, is to send the written material as a 'Word' document and the pics separately or perhaps even send separate PDF pages. Anyway, let me know what you think.

I have another chapter/story which the blokes might like to read, about an 'event' at Holsworthy just before I travelled to SVN.

I'll send it by another email and you can decide whether it's usable or not.

I've been a bit slack on putting my profile together but will try to get it done this coming week.

Cheers Graeme 'Jessie' Owen”

“Scattered Moments - Glimpses into the Life of an Ordinary Bloke (ARMY DAYS)”

- Graeme “Jessie” Owen

The Horseshoe!



During March-April 1967 the Australian Task Force in South Vietnam established a permanent fire support base for a rifle company and section of artillery on the Horseshoe feature, located on the northern outskirts of the town of Dat Do, approximately 10 or 12 kilometres from Nui Dat. This enabled 1 ATF to extend operational influence into a heavily populated area that was simper-thetic to the Viet Cong, and to provide fire support for operations in the southern parts of the province from Dat Do to the Long Hai Hills, and to the east of the province toward Xuyen Moc. 'The Horseshoe' was also ideally situated for an Artillery 'LP' (Listening Post/Observation Post) at the very top of the hill, which became the responsibility of 131 Div Loc Battery.

Most of the Surveyors and Arty Int blokes at '131' in Vietnam did a stint out at The Horseshoe, which was actually a small, horseshoe shaped hill, which was the rim of an extinct volcano. At its highest point it was about 100 metres higher than the surrounding flat countryside, providing a terrific 360° view for many miles. It was a fortified area with the heavily wired perimeter always guarded by a Rifle Company of Australian or New Zealand Infantry who rotated in and out on a weekly or fortnightly basis. The 'grunts' generally viewed a week or two stationed at The Horseshoe as a bit of a holiday, although they did continue to undertake regular patrols into the surrounding districts using The Horseshoe as their base. The Horseshoe was one of three 'LP's permanently manned by '131' personnel in the region. The others were back at Nui Dat, one being similar to this one on top of 'SAS Hill' and the other at a high point on the wire at Nui Dat. Working predominantly at night time, these three higher land points enabled us to observe and report any unknown or



unusual activity, lights, gunfire, noise, movement etc. By reporting a bearing and estimated distance to whatever was being observed, (particularly if also seen or heard by one or more of the other 'LP's' facilitating a cross reference), it enabled 'the chiefs' at Nui Dat to determine whether further investigation was needed by troops on the ground, or perhaps a few rounds of Artillery to be dropped in the area.

There were four of us stationed out at The Horseshoe at any one time, and the general length of time for a stint out there was 3 to 4 weeks, although my stay was closer to 6 weeks and I have no idea why that was the case. Perhaps they

forgot about me, which was fine by me because it wasn't a bad place to spend some 'in-country' time, albeit a little boring.



All of the serious work was done at night time. I can't remember the exact shift structure but I think it was 4 hours a night for three nights, rotating from 6.00 pm to 6.00 am and the fourth night off, with a half day manning the 'LP' every second day. There was not a lot of 'observation' work to be done during the daylight hours, but the 'LP' still needed to be manned. It meant that every second day, even though you had a break from 'LP' work there was usually a bit of stuff to be done around our living & sleeping quarters, sand bags to be filled and added to the site, and generally at least once a week a chopper ride back to Nui Dat for the day to arrange laundry, collect mail, and if lucky jump on the convoy heading down to 'Vungas' (Vung Tau) for

the day.

This Map Shows Phuoc Tuy Province Which Was the Area of Responsibility for 1 ATF in South Vietnam

Living at the Horseshoe

Living and working at The Horseshoe was fairly 'stress free', well away from the chiefs and all the bullshit that often went on at Nui Dat. Workwear during the day was generally just a pair of shorts and thongs, and we spent a lot of our time off playing cards or darts. In fact after a stint out at the Horseshoe, most blokes had become very proficient darts players.



We ate in the 'grunts' (Infantry OR's) Mess, which was halfway down the hill on the inside of the 'horseshoe' as was the 'shower shed' and the dunnies. Although we had our own 'outdoor pissa-phone' right on the top of the hill. A room with a view, but you had to be careful on windy days!

The interesting aspect about being at The Horseshoe is that basically we lived and slept underground.

Our main living quarters were directly below the 'LP'.

It was a very comfortable room lined with painted corrugated iron.

There was a ladder leading directly up into the 'LP', plus table & chairs,

bookshelves and the ubiquitous darts board. Lighting at night time was from pressure lanterns which worked extremely well.



A short underground 'tunnel', half lined with metal, led from the living quarters to the sleeping quarters which contained two timber 'double-bunks'. There wasn't much room but it was comfortable enough. There was an entrance into the living quarters from the top of the hill and an open doorway into the sleeping quarters from the side of the hill. It was often 'blow' on top of The Horseshoe so it was inevitable that dust was always getting into stuff - including the beds. But it was a short price to pay for the freedom and 'friendly' working conditions!



Entrance To Living Quarters Located Under The 'LP'.



On Duty In The 'LP' (Looking Up From The Living Quarters).



Living Quarters (Dart Board Is Behind Photographer).



Sleeping Quarters.



**Photo on the left -
Underground Tunnel
Heading To Living
Quarters**

**Photo on the right -
Underground Tunnel
Heading To Sleeping
Quarters**



Getting To / and From 'The 'Shoe'

Generally once or twice a week we'd hitch a ride on a 'chopper' across to Nui Dat for the day to catch up with mates and get some chores done and as already mentioned occasionally we'd get the opportunity to jump on a vehicle heading down to Vung Tau for the day. (See the chapter - 'Vung Tau & the Peter Badcoe Club'). The chopper flights to and from Nui Dat, particularly the ones back to The Horseshoe late in the afternoon, were about as scary and exhilarating as you could ever imagine. Although there was a lot of helicopter activity in and around Nui Dat during the day (there was a large paved expanse known as Kangaroo Pad), no helicopters ever remained there at night. They all made their way back to the Australian Logistical Support Base at the much safer Vung Tau. Consequently each day at about 5.00pm there was mass exodus of helicopters leaving Nui Dat and heading to Vung Tau, but one of 'The Huey's' (we always reckoned it was the crew who drew the short straw that day), had to go via The Horseshoe - and so therefore would be late getting to 'Vungas', late for the showers, late for dinner etc. That last chopper left Kangaroo Pad at 5.30 pm sharp, and if you were a minute late you missed it! Which was always a problem coming back from a day at Vung Tau because the convoy which was supposed to be back by 5.00 pm was invariably running late. So by the time we picked up laundry/mail etc and got a lift down to the pad, it was often touch and go. On several occasions I was literally dragged onto an already moving chopper by one of the crew, trying to manage bags of laundry, rifle etc, and find somewhere to sit.

The pilots on these flights were always in a hurry and the chopper seemed to hardly ever get more than about 20 feet off the ground, following a creek bed most of the way. It's amazing how none of the bags and things on the floor ever fell out the open doors as the chopper would swerve from one side to the other, seemingly below tree-top level. It was always the same as they approached The Horseshoe. They'd head directly towards the hill at a great rate of knots until what seemed to be the absolute last second, and then suddenly pull 'the stick' so that the aircraft instantly gained a heap of altitude up and over the hill and then perform like a 'stop pivot' turn, and drop quickly down to the small helicopter pad on the inside of The Horseshoe - leaving everyone's stomach behind!

No sooner would the chopper have touched down than the crew would be pushing you out the door and chucking your bags on the ground before zooming off in swirl of dust.

A second instalment will be continued in March's Eyes & Ears.

Ed – these are just such great memories accompanied with some classic photos, the likes of which I've never clapped eyes on before. The following is a line from Graeme's email – **"Perhaps others who were never at the Horseshoe might like to read a bit about it too."** Count me in this group – I only made it on a resupply run one day – and I thoroughly enjoyed reading every word. Can we get more "Scattered Moments" from not only Graeme but others of you who have some memories to share?

You'll see another interesting coincidence with regards to **Graeme** below in **"Found"**.

. Graham Williams got this to us - "Just a quick line to keep in touch & thank you for everything you are forwarding on. Having just returned from another visit to Vietnam I wished to take the opportunity to reply to your email re. Anzac Day, for starters, in Sydney & regret that it will not be possible for me to make an appearance in that respect. I had hoped as a first to travel to Brisbane for the event this year but the fact it coincides with Easter put paid to that also so I will be doing my own thing here in downtown Tweed Heads again instead.

Don't give up hope on my profile. It will be in the mail as they say once I find out how to include pictures...as a rejecter of all technology that seems to be taking longer than anticipated but I will get there in the long run & in the meantime look forward to all the Locating news.

As you seem to have a handle on everything I was hoping you may be able to help me out by way of contacting someone. I have tried in the past by various means to contact **PETER SZABO** who I served with both at Holsworthy & in Vietnam in 1969. I actually got to speak with his ex-wife. While she had not seen him for some years a mutual friend ran into him in the mid 90's at North Ryde R.S.L. At that time he had changed his name to **PETER TAYLOR** or was using an alias. No one is sure so thought I'd try a new tactic via the web.

Re **Bill Slape** - I also served with him at Holsworthy & in Vietnam & recall a funny??? incident at the former. I think Bill had just received his first stripe & was detailed to take a herd of us on a run presumably to clear the area for visiting dignitaries. He had the whole squad singing as the Yanks do as we ran but as we ran past the Cav lines must have got bored as the chant changed to "we want Normie". Of course we ran on for quite some time but on our return again went with the "we want Normie" chant passing the Cav lines & all hell broke loose. Every Cav officer on duty came out, halted us & proceeded to give Bill the biggest serve of all time before turning their attention to us, the herd. I never expected to hear such a severe dressing down again (but did after getting caught in Vung Tau in a stolen jeep ferrying a party of bar girls around) While I have no regrets with that it's sad to say I did have photos of Bill at the Vietnamese Xmas Concert in Nui Dat in 1969 when he broke ranks, took a flying leap on the stage & was last seen shakin' his booty with the 2 foxy dancers. Unfortunately this EVIDENCE has gone missing during one of my many relocations over the years. However, I do have several photos taken at the Horseshoe of L.P. 31 Bravo he may like to have copies of as per his request so feel free to pass him my email address. Once he contacts me with his handle I can send them on.

It's the same for **"Jessie" or Graeme Owen**. Although from different sections we always chatted in the boozier over the odd ale or 2. There is quite a decent photo of him he may like me to send on. Jesse was Aussie rules obsessed as I am with League & I recall not long after my arrival in Vietnam. There was some kind of inter Bty sports-fest between 131 & 1 Field H.Q. Bty who of course the latter came up with further ring-ins from the gun batteries. They fair walloped us in cricket but we reversed the decision with rules & rugby league. Although the field left a lot to be desired (having everything on it with the exception of grass & mines) it was a bloodbath none the less with the R.A.P. working overtime after the event. I have several pictures of that disaster that have survived. Not sure but either the 1 Field "numer-uno" or the Task Force Commander arrived to watch in a Huey so have that moment also preserved in print. Anyway Paul miles to go & promises to keep.....Best WishesGraham Williams.

P.S. Love the new Locators Badges."

. **Extracts from “Cracker’s” Blotter – March 1968 and beyond...**...mores the pity, but we’ve drawn a blank with reports pertaining to the Detachment’s activities from this point onwards.

Ed – I managed to scribble a note off to **Phillip Perrin** (having been given his email address by **Keith Ayliffe**) and got this response – “G'day Paul, good to hear from an old locator and well done on resurrecting your newsletter, however I can throw no light on the disappearance of my op reports - the last time I saw a complete set was in the BC's safe of 131 Div Loc Bty in 1972! I sent a copy of each report when written to the School of Arty and of course 131 Bty in addition each report was attached as an annex to the commanding Fd Regt - well at least by 4 Fd Regt. When 12 Fd Regt was in country there is apparently no record of Lt Col Jack Kelly's reports in available archives - maybe lost when records moved from Vic to ACT!!! With the reorganisation of units and the passage of time maybe many files were thrown out as useless "history" of a dark time. Sorry I can't be of any assistance. Good luck with your newsletter - regards Phillip.”

Ed - However, drop down to the link to the Surveyors' site and there is an interesting read on Operation “Coburg” which covers the period into March 1968 with photos of some of the blokes.

...and a bit of a continuation...

. **Ernie Newbold** has dug up some more interesting stuff to read about this period in time and addressed the second part to **Bob Billiards** as well – “G'day Paul, I have found it again, the nominal roll of artillery personnel who were involved in Operation TOAN THANG which covered Fire Support Bases, Coral, Coogee & Balmoral.

This is a 12th Field Regt site and it is a compiled list made up from recollections of people who were there. It lists the names of many locators but there is a possibility as they say on the site that there may be other names that have not been recalled.

Perhaps you could publish the list in a future edition of the Eyes and Ears to see if anyone can recall someone who is not on the list.

Those people who are listed will probably be interested and want to read more.

By the time this operation had begun we were back out on Civvie Street and so missed out on all the fun of Toan Thang.

Bob,

It was interesting to see 2Lt Terry Earle was in the Arty Tac section during this operation.

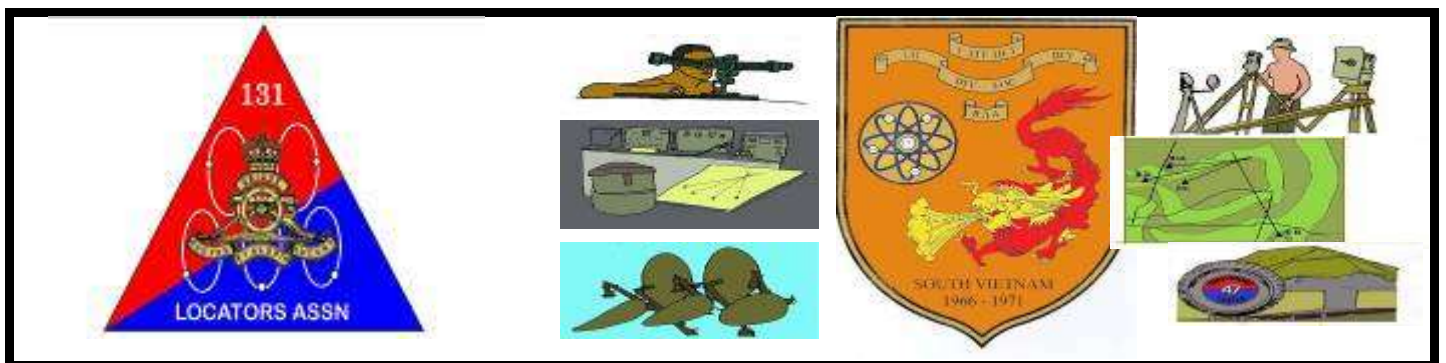
See the link below.

Regards, Ernie.”

http://12fieldregiment.com/nominal_roll_vietnam.htm

. **Peter Binns** has a query as to the two blokes in the photo with him. – well **Bob Billiards** responded with the following -

“Ian would have given you the names of the blokes with Peter B. I presume? The one sitting is “Woody”. The name of the other escapes me. Bob Billiards”



What's been happening in the 131 Locators Assn -

. **28th February** – we had a meeting out at the Granville RSL (we had Yum Cha for lunch – **Ed** thought that they only served that on Sundays!!), anyway the main focus was establishing the website. We got the pro-forma design/content worked out. **Bob Billiards** got the “guts” off to the designers on the 8th March.

. **7th March** – **Bob Billiards** got the Association Domain name registered (how does he hold down a regular job?) – So keep your eyes on the Ethernet for a low flying “**131locators.org.au**” appearing somewhere near you!

. **10th March** – Committee meeting at Canley heights RSL where **Bob Billiards** talked us through the first content layout of the website – it was good to see the first signs of life with this part of the project!

Bob did express that there was possibly a need for “better” quality photos of what distinguished us as “Locators” eg. LP's, radars, survey equipment etc – side on stuff that shows outlines. I guess Radar would be the most distinctive.



After the meeting Ernie took Allen and me over to the Westmead Private Rehab unit to catch up with **George Lane** who was going great guns after a setback after a recent heart operation. Late Press: George went home on St Patrick's Day.

. 29th March – we had another Committee meeting and progress on the website was one of the main topics. **Bob Billiards**, webmaster, is asking for more photos from the SVN era. He's after photos in landscape mode and somewhere between 1 to 2 MB in size to go as banners on various pages. Photos can be sent to Bob at billiard@pnc.com.au It'd be handy if he could get them in the next week or two.

. Health and general wellbeing – at one of the recent Committee meetings the conversation got around to a bit of “Did you know...” or it might even have been “Are you covered for...?” - That's one of the problems I have with getting old – remembering things!

Anyway, it was decided that we should put in a link to the Vietnam Veterans Assn and the DVA – see below (there will definitely be links on the website when it's up and running) as the sites are worth having a long look at for a host of topics even if you do receive benefits and even more so if you have done nothing about becoming acquainted with the Vets Assn or the Department.

We're NOT going to set up as an advisory body, but just hopefully nudge you into some action even if you've started a process of some kind.

However, again better still, contact the nearest Vietnam Veterans Assn and speak to one of the Advocates who should be able to answer a myriad of questions and possibly clear up any misconceptions you may have – it could get the ball rolling and a positive result. Even your local RSL Sub-branch can be of real assistance.

And also, even if you've completed the process the DVA website has all sorts of topics that you may not be aware of.

Don't be coy or be of the opinion – “I'm OK - nothing is going to happen to me!”

Hey, simple things like - did you know that you may be entitled to public transport travel concessions?

Fellas, I'd like to hear from anyone with stories or anecdotes of any DVA activities. **Ed.**

Here are the links – VVA - <http://www.vvaa.org.au/>

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

.TPI Association – Now here's another group that could do with some support. **Ernie Newbold** and **George Lane** bought the subject to light as they are both members of the NSW Assn and like most Vet groups need the support of numbers. The work these groups do are essential to provide support for the TPI community.

By going to this link - <http://www.tpifed.org.au/> - you may discover that they may be of help to you now and who knows – in the future?

. ANZAC Day...

OK here comes Queensland – well Tweed Heads and Gladstone are coming to Sydney this year and the team goes like this – “Hi Dicko Just like to advise you to add to the lunch table **Ken McNamara, Barry Nugent and myself.**

Thanks and looking forward to catching up once again. Cheers mate **Wirey**”

However, apologies were sent in and we won't see Leigh Hemming or Al Adams this year in Sydney.

The group photo from Sydney in 2010 had 19 blokes out of the 34 that marched – I reckon we'll need a camera with panorama capabilities this year!

Sydney for the Detachment blokes – we gather at the corner of Phillip and Bent Streets by 1030hrs and will march behind the 1ATF Det 131 Div Loc Bty Banner. Following the march will be there's a luncheon on at “Zest Restaurant” in the City Tattersall's Club, 198 Pitt Street, between Market and Park Streets. Don't forget to let us know if you want to attend – Vic Danko needs numbers urgently – so just email me. We're also going to have a walk-by drink on the way to Zest with other mates at the Civic Hotel, cnr Goulburn and Pitt Sts.

LATE NEWS on ANZAC Day – **Warwick Hamilton, OC** in SVN 1967-8 is going to join us and has proudly accepted the offer to act as point man and lead the Detachment. Like a heap of us this'll be his first time to march in Sydney. Also of real interest is **Ian “Stretch” Amos** volunteering to march as Right Marker and set the March standard.

Now there are other marches (let's not get too Sydney-centric!)? Can we get some commentary and photos of you and/or groups wherever you may be? Last year we heard from Canberra, Coffs Harbour, Melbourne, Port Lincoln and Townsville – surely the Perth mob could do one before the pub shuts?

. Sydney - Pre-Anzac Day Social Lunch

The Committee of 131 Locators Association invites members and readers of *Eyes and Ears* who are in Sydney, to a pre-Anzac Day lunch. It is an opportunity for partners to be involved in a relaxed, social event.

The details are:

date: Sunday 24th April 2011 at 12.00 noon
venue: Dolcissimo Italian Restaurant
location: 98 Ramsay Rd Haberfield, Ph 02 9716 4444
drinks: BYO wine
cost: expected to be \$45 per head for two courses.

RSVP to Allen Morley on locators131@y7mail.com or Ph 02 9428 3275 by 20th April.

We hope to see you there.

. **Coffs Harbour October Reunion** – OK it's time to start the ball rolling with only 6 months to go and numbers need to be confirmed for all sorts of logistical reasons. **Ed** is going to start a "definite possibilities" roll in the E&E's from here on in. We're all getting a tad older – ALL of us have passed the 60 mark and most of us have cracked 65 or will add another one two years this year, so the next reunion isn't for another 2 years and 6 months from now – this should be the year! Just think when you see the list in editions of E&E's and you see "bloody-what's-his face's" name – hey, and conversely he sees your name – it'll make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up!

DON'T let this opportunity slip – not this year!

"Hey, I reckon we should turn up this year!" – look who could make it - Dave & Rosemary Auld, Nick & Robyn Armstrong, Charles Brewer, John Browne, George Clark, Vic Danko, Dave (Shorty) & Jane Gow, Ken & Doreen Long, Ernie Newbold, Graeme Owen (plus his better half), now how's this for a group of "Pioneers" who are going to turn up en masse - George Lane, Ged Carroll, Merv Naim & Spike Chase (they've really thrown down the gauntlet to other groups!)

. **Birthdays in the Battery**...March – I can't believe it – there are 39 of us born in MARCH!! What the hell was going on with our parents in July in the prior year?? March even cracks it for a Quintet!

There is a slow start with only **Ezio Lombardo** (a "Pioneer") kicking it off on the 1st, Geoff Holden and **Peter Bennett** share the 2nd with 3 times SVN participant and "Pioneer" Det OC **James Townley**, **Peter Bennett** gets in before the maternity ward became chockers on the 3rd with Ric Marques, **Ray Smith**, **Grahame Lee**, **Roger Stanley** and Ralph Mitchell making up the Quintet, **Joe Clendinen** snuck in on the 4th, then the wards had to be closed until the 8th when **Russell Jackson** and **Barry Cooke's** mothers were rushed in, **Bob Tanner** shared the 11th with Peter McKie, another "Pioneer" James Fitzgerald made it on the 12th, **"Jack" Heyes** beat the late Allan Campbell (13.03.46- 2009) by a year by arriving in '45, Neville Wortlehock opened the eyes on the 14th in 1947, the late Geoff Lock (17.03.45- 09.09.10) arriving on the 17th started a rush of more "Pioneers" with Vic Moreau (1939) having **Roy Clausen** (1941) share the 18th, then Brian Campbell (1945) on the 20th along with 3 others – Barry Follington, Iain Kennedy and **Ronald Robards**, Garry Smith shared the 21st with the colourful **Mick King**, **Gregory Peck** played his first role on 22nd, Derek Hinde shared the 23rd with **Martin Kryntjes**, Garth Nicholls who cracked it for 2 tours of SVN has a definite twin in **Robert Hargreaves** with both of them arriving on the 25th in 1948, George Lane whose CV contains 131 Locators Association Committee, "Bravo" Radar expert and remembers and is remembered by everyone who he ever served with, made his appearance 66 years ago on the 26th, **Jeff Reid** made it on the 29th, **Frank Halliday** got a hold of the 30th 8 years before Edward Chase came along, then the month closed out on the 31st when **Leslie Cahill**, **Graham Hislop** and Phil Sheedy wound it up with a trifecta.

Ed – 22 blokes in bold is far too many not accounted for! C'mon fellas put your "Locator" radars on and come up with a heap!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **52** and we've sent out **48**. **Ed** – I'm going to chase a couple of the blokes to see if I can get photos to complete the Profiles, but that said it'd be great to get some more in.

...**Charles Brewer** sent the following in after reading **Ron Ray's** Profile – "Thanks Paul for sending these Profiles through – it's always interesting reading about Locators; and seeing who they served with. Several in Ray's case I know, too, being ex 133 DIV LOC. Regards – Charles Brewer."

. Found...

. **Steve Boutlis** gave us a lead to **George Clark** and we received the following – "Paul, Thank you very much for your email and the copy of the Eyes and Ears. I would be very happy to be placed on your mailing list. I look forward to hearing from you soon and if I can be of any help I would be pleased to do so. Cheers for now. George" **Ed** – it is just so good to hear from George some 43 plus years later!

Ed – the following is a fairly amazing set of consequences, so please bear with me – as most of you would be aware I sent out the following re: ANZAC Day in Sydney...

"This subject was raised yesterday at a Committee meeting and it was suggested that we canvass intentions for blokes who want to attend the post March lunch.

Venue: Zest Restaurant at Sydney Tatts Club in Pitt Street.

Vic Danko has booked a table for 20 - he has the opportunity to book for more, but we need to do it pretty smartly.

Could you please drop me a line if you reckon you're a goer? I think the march is going to be a corker this year and it'll be great to catch up with, and especially for me, to meet a whole bunch of blokes who I've had contact with, but not met.

We're going to join the blokes at the Civic for a heart-starter on the way to Zest too.

Look forward to hearing from you. Paul"

and that prompted this response from **Peter Larkin** - "Paul Have just been reading the latest Eyes and Ears (Feb), and note that **Graeme Owen** has now been found. He was in the unit the same time as me. I was in fact the one that travelled home with him. Was wondering if you could please forward his contact details - would love to make contact with him prior to Anzac Day this year, as a few of us are getting together in Melbourne. Thanks heaps Peter Larkin"

...then bugger me before I can email Graeme, the next morning I receive this from **him** – "G'day Paul, Thanks for the note on Anzac arrangements for this year.

After just one Anzac March in 40 years (back in the 80's), I've decided to jump in at the deep end and join you guys in Sydney for this year's march!

I'm in Melbourne so not sure of travel arrangements at this time, but will probably fly up on the 24th April and back late on the 25th or leave it till the following day.

I'd definitely like to attend the 'Zest' luncheon (and anything else that's planned for the day, or evening of the 24th).

Let me know if you need payment or deposit etc.

I guess there'll be communication of some sort prior to Anzac Day with details of where to catch up with '131' blokes before the march etc.

Looking forward to it, Cheers Graeme 'Jessie' Owen"

...so I type one off to Graeme – "Graeme, Great to hear back from you and I can't believe that I got the following email from Peter Larkin - it's absolutely bloody amazing! Peter's email was sent at 10.53pm last night and I get yours today!

I don't give out email addresses when asked that's why I'm sending Peter's info to you to let you decide if you want to contact him.

Could you please let me know if you are going to contact him or not? This might change your plans to come this far north for ANZAC Day? Paul"

...Graeme responds with – "G'day Paul, Thanks for the note from Peter.

I haven't spoken to him in quite a few years so it'll be great to re-connect with him.

I will email him today and alter my plans to join 'the march' in Melbourne rather than Sydney. (Luckily I hadn't made travel bookings).

I'd still like to catch up with your lot in Sydney and from other states so hopefully there'll be a reunion or other get-together I can plan for.

On another subject with regards to the request in the latest 'Eyes & Ears' for details and pics from The Horseshoe, I spent 6 weeks out there and have discovered amongst my slide collection a number of pics I took while stationed there. They're still in slide format (I'm gradually changing them to JPG's but it's a slow process!). I'll get those particular ones done in the next day or so and pass them on for use if they're helpful. A couple are of the sleeping quarters, underground tunnel and living quarters so they may help.

I can't remember why I spent so long out there; I think the normal time was about 4 weeks. I do know my stay out there finished abruptly when I was stung (bitten?) by a scorpion. - Sick boy for a day or two.

Cheers for now Graeme 'Jessie' Owen"

Ed – now that's bloody amazing! Just so good to re-unite two mates!

. **Allen Morley** in his whimsical way sent this in – "Hi Paul Re **Frank Ipsa**. He was a Victorian Nasho who departed for SVN on 4th May (another one) and had an early return on 12 Dec 1967. Like someone else we know! Number was 3786657. He was good friends with Roger Long and has not been involved in activities remembrance in recent years. He knew of Roger's death.

I found his paver on Memorial Walk at North Fort so was able to track him down. Frank is rebuilding his house in Marysville which was destroyed in the Victorian bushfires of 2010. Fortunately he and his wife were in Sydney at the time. John Blake was his best man at his wedding.

I sent a copy of Eyes and Ears to him and a photo from Locators Lounge at Nui Dat which included him.

Frank is pretty occupied with re-building so may not want to be too involved until it is finished.

We need to do a tour of North Fort walk to see if we can identify any other 131ers who are not on your database.

Best wishes 3788972."

. **Keith Ayliffe** got us in touch with **Phillip Perrin** – see more information in - **Extracts from "Cracker's" Blotter – March 1968** above.

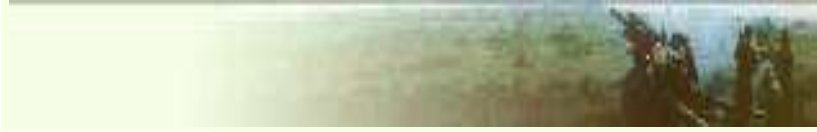
.Vale –

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DoB</u>	<u>DoD</u>
Gordon, Colin Barry "Bones"	Bdr	16975	Radar	1968-69	31.01.45	28.03.10
Webb, Ronald Adrian	Gnr	1411172	Survey	1967-68	30.05.43	29.03.77

May they rest in peace

. 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



Just to start this section off **Allen Morley** was in attendance at the LAA meeting held at Paddo on Sunday 6th March and a photo record had to be made as **Ed** actually got to his meeting – mind you they were both late!!

Left to right seated – Wayne Nash, Joe Kaplun, Allan Harrison, Tony Foster and Bob Morrison.

Allen and Paul had to stand at the back as they were late – the photo was taken after they were allowed to leave the corner where they'd been standing with dunce's hats on!

...notes taken from the LAA website –

. 25 April 1915 is a date etched in Australia's history. Its anniversary each year is commemorated across the country and overseas as ANZAC DAY. Although there was no military victory at Gallipoli, the Australians displayed great courage, endurance, initiative, discipline, and mate-ship. Such qualities came to be seen as the ANZAC spirit. Services will be conducted at various locations throughout Australia and overseas to commemorate the anniversary of ANZAC Day. The timings for the various Commemorative Services either around the country or overseas may vary and the *Association* strongly recommends you contact your local RSL, your Travel Agent/Tour Guide or the coordinators organising the Commemorative Service.

In Sydney, we will gather at the corner of Phillip and Bent Streets by 1030hrs and we will be following the 131 Banner. The re-union following the march will be the Zest Restaurant in the City Tattersall's Club, 198 Pitt Street, between Market and Park Streets.

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

The next Committee Meeting will be held at the Paddington RSL on **5 June 2011**. Members are cordially invited to attend. Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the *Associations* Newsletter LOCREP.



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



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

. 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 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

. **Bob Billiards responded** to an email from **Bill Taggart** - Part of Bill's email went like this –

“1. I have just heard from the last of our New Zealand mates and all are okay and have weathered the recent earthquake.

2. Regarding the new Tools of the Trade section on the website, how about if the Aussies and Kiwis in the group send me some of the "tools" and weapons they used. I am still waiting for more input from the US contingent as well. Also, does anyone know the actual model name and number of the riot guns we used in Vietnam? We had them on our Guard Posts and while I know what this shotgun looked like, all I ever knew it as was a "Riot Gun".”

Bob responded to this part -

Re: “Regarding the new Tools of the Trade section on the website, how about if the Aussies and Kiwis in the group send me some of the "tools" and weapons they used. Bill”

“Bill - Your Point 2 - In 31D we were well supplied by you blokes as we eventually were loaned: -

1. Browning 12g pump action shotgun (5 or 6 rounds in the magazine). It was a really nice shotgun.
2. M79 Grenade launcher (Which we used quite frequently - a nice toy)
3. Starlight scope - the story is that one night a couple of officers came down to our LP with it on an M16 and let off a few magazines into the bush. About 2 weeks later one of your officers came to us and asked if we could make good use of it, which we did. We could verify that the sound detectors were actually picking up the local farmers cattle. We did also see one of the locals walking near the perimeter fence. The m79 gave him the hurry up!
4. Sound detection equipment made mention by another one who wrote something about the equipment. We didn't stamp our feet as we were on top of one of the guard posts (refer the 1/83rd compound photo from Ernie Newbold on the photo site) – we did hear quite a lot of cattle, so it was probably useless for detecting insurgents.

Regards Bob”

..and one more from Bill Taggart –

“I am directing this email specifically to our Aussie and Kiwi members. I hope that you will also participate in our health survey.

http://home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/Health_Wellness/Health_Survey.htm

Bill

artillery_83rd@yahoo.com

1/83rd Website link... http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/

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

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