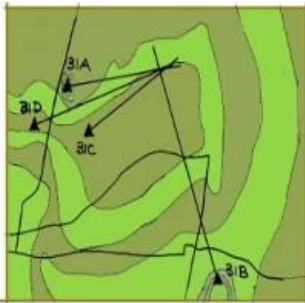
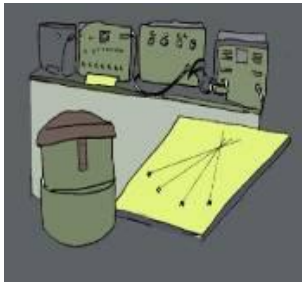


THE EYES and EARS

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Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

email: three-zero@hotmail.com

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Official newsletter of the **131 Locators Association Inc**
ABN 92 663 816 973

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Happy 57th Birthday 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA!

The Old Firm turned 57 this month - 10 June, 2011

"131 Divisional Locating Battery celebrates its birthday on 10th June. It was first established in 1954. It was raised in 1952 as 31 Battery and then re-designated as 131st Locating Battery in 1954."

Joe Kaplun presented to 131 Locators Association blokes, attending the June LAA meeting, a "Pandora's Bag" of archival items rescued from the womb of North head.

We will include the items in following issues of Eyes & Ears.

However, Ed thought we kick it off with short history of the Battery and Detachment leading up to, during and the completion of the Vietnam War...

SHORT HISTORY OF 131 DIV LOC BTRY IN SOUTH VIETNAM

131 Divisional Battery was formed up in 1954 from 31 Locating Battery, with MAJ C.E.H. Rich MBE still in the position of Battery Commander. It was still a CMF unit tasked with survey and sound ranging. In 1957 the battery moved to a new training depot at West Pymble, NSW. In 1960 the battery became an integrated unit under MAJ Nowill, the ratio being 60% CMF to 40% ARA. The recently introduced radar section, and transport were located at North Fort while the survey section moved to a depot at Pittwater Road, Manly NSW.

After the confrontation with Indonesia in 1964 the battery took delivery of four AN/KPQ-1 radar sets from the United States. These new radars were to provide suitable mortar locating coverage for future operations.

On the 20th of September 1965, the unit was reformed as an ARA unit at North Fort under Major Gowans with WO2 'Bruno' Snedden as BSM. This marked the end of the integrated battery formally, however, the strong sense of kinship between 131 Divisional Locating Battery and her CMF sister batteries has continued over the years. The first intakes of the recently introduced National Service scheme quickly brought the battery up to strength. In November 1965 the battery moved to Kokoda Lines, Holsworthy as an independent battery and commenced training in preparation for South Vietnam.

Australian troops were committed to the South Vietnam (SVN) conflict under the 1st Australian Task Force in 1965-66. The 131 Divisional Locating Battery was called upon to contribute a detachment. The detachment was formed under Captain Townley for service in SVN in early 1966. It was to consist of Survey, Radar and Artillery Intelligence personnel. The detachment with three radars arrived in SVN on 27 May 1966. Difficulty was encountered from the start in the form of the AN/KPQ-1 radar's failure to work properly. The detachment had a strength of 72 and it was not long before results could be seen. The survey section placed 1 Field Regiment along with mortars and radars on a Regimental Survey Grid. The radars re deployed with 103 and 105 Field Batteries. The Artillery Intelligence personnel quickly become a functional part of the 1 Field Regiment Artillery Tactical HQ. The section deployed listening posts in Nui Dat and later the Horseshoe feature. The radars although plagued by difficulties did produce some locations which were successfully engaged by air strikes and artillery. It is interesting to note here that often radars "worked when they didn't", that is non functioning sets were still deployed in a manner that would ensure the enemy was aware of their presence hence acting as a deterrent against mortar attack. Operation Hayman was a prime example of this type of detachment psyops capability.

The detachment suffered its first casualties as a result of a mortar attack on the Task Force area on the night of 16/17 August 1966. The injured were LBRDR K. Doehrmann and SGT F. Perry, who incidentally, fell into a weapons pit, (the real killers of the war). The radars continued to be a problem however US forces from as far away as Da Nang assisted in the provision of spare parts which alleviated the problem somewhat. Members of the detachment were seconded to the US Meteorological Section for training in October 1966. The Artillery Intelligence section continued to be very active in the field of crater analysis and on 27 November 1967 confirmed the presence of the RPG 7 in the TAOR.

In February 1968, the detachment suffered its second fatal casualty - LRDR J.L. Menz was killed in action at Fire Support Base 'Anderson' - where a radar had been deployed, (GMR Checkly had been killed previously in a vehicle mishap). 1968 also saw the introduction of a sound ranging base at Nui Dat, however, the function of sound ranging and its method of working was not fully understood by all in the Task Force area. This was amply demonstrated by a frantic call from the Task Force HQ to the sound ranging command post one night with an order to turn on such and such a microphone as there was "a noise on the wire". The effectiveness of the cross base was related by WO2 Gunn then a Sergeant working in the sound ranging command post. "One night, I turned on the recorder and tore off the film as a routine test of the equipment, I was surprised to see the film displayed sounds of mortar fire picked up by the microphones. I had great difficulty getting anyone to believe me until the receipt of mortars from the Horseshoe feature". By this time the radars were operating with a fair degree of success as evidenced by their ability to carry out successful radar fixation for ground troops. The survey section began to carry out airborne fixation schemes with accurate results being achieved over distances over 18,000 metres.

1969 saw increased 122mm rocket activity. Listening posts were able to obtain some good locations for the rocket sites mainly by flash spotting. The CB fire resulting from the locations proved very effective with ground patrols finding the sites and Viet Cong killed in action. The sound ranging base over this period was particularly active and produced some very good results. Problems were being encountered with the base because of the increased wind due to climatic conditions and the nearby helicopter landing pad which made film reading difficult. The year was notable for the decreased use of the radars and in July 1970, the radars were returned to Australia after 4 years in SVN. A change in the operational setting in 1970 proved the end of the sound ranging base too, it was returned to Australia in October 1970.

With the passing of the radars and sound ranging from the scene the detachment was tasked with a new responsibility - the sensor programme in the Australian TAOR. A special section was quickly formed and they equally quickly mastered the new equipments. They laid down a total of 33 'strings' of sensors with monitor stations established on the Nui Dat and Horseshoe features. A certain amount of frustration was associated with the new job. Initially the sensor programme was clouded in secrecy to the extent that our own Infantry and Engineers were unfamiliar with the various pieces of equipment used with sensors. On a number of occasions, the monitor stations could hear Australian Infantry and Engineers as they examined a sensor transmitter station. More than once they heard "I dunno what it is, so lets blow it" and blow it they did, before the monitor personnel could take any action to prevent the destruction of their painstaking work on their part and the SAS. However the intelligence gained by the section led to the laying of several large ambushes, with successful results.

1971 heralded the end of Australian involvement in the Vietnam conflict. In June the section was transferred to 12 Field Regiment. The remainder of the detachment returned to Australia in July 1971. It is worthwhile mentioning here that in five years in SVN the survey section provided survey for over 100 fire support bases throughout Phuoc Tuy and neighbouring provinces for Australian, United States and ARVN artillery units.

Over the years many soldiers have served in 131 Divisional Locating Battery. Some persons of note are; BRIG James H Townley, Commander 5 MD, COL Ford, Director of Artillery, LTCOL Boyle, Commanding Officer 8/12 Medium Regiment and LTCOL P.N. Busby, Commanding Officer School of Artillery.

Ed - we've got a couple of great photos to share next month - so watch this space!!

Heard and seen...

. **Ernie Newbold** gets in with an email after a reconnaissance day trip with **Nick Proskurin** to the Canberra -



"G'day dear editor,
Well that was another great edition of the Eyes and Ears; I particularly enjoyed reading the John Schumann story behind the song, "I was only nineteen", thank you and Keith A. Your efforts seem to know no bounds, the Eyes and Ears seems to be better with each edition.

As you may be aware Nick Proskurin and I recently visited Canberra on behalf of the 131 Locators Association Inc. in regards to site details for a proposed plaque for the Association (a photo in April's E&E's).

While there we also visited the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery National Memorial on Mount Pleasant which is located within the grounds of the Royal Military College, Duntroon. I would recommend a visit to any of your readers who are visiting Canberra at any time.

See photos (above – the panorama, above left – the plaque and right – a descriptive panel about the site) which I hope will give you some idea of what it is like.
Regards,
Ernie."



. **"Spike" Chase** has sent in some classic photos and the following is a ripper -



"Spike" simply labelled the photo "Pissaphone".

Ed - During my time of using one or many of these "implements", generally when there wasn't a tree available, I don't remember one being assembled in such a manner or more importantly in such pristine condition. The "modesty" curtain is also a nice touch for those modest Locators amongst us. Maybe the "Pioneers" weren't as outgoing?

"Pissaphone" – it was available for both long distance and local usage – as long as you could hold your breath long enough at close range!

. **Ernie Newbold** thought the following may shed some light on John Brown's query in May's E&E's – "G'day Paul, in regards to John Brown's 131 patch which I have not seen previously, may I suggest the following colours based on the shape and design of the patch.



It appears to be based on an army vehicle TAC sign as displayed on Australian army vehicles in Vietnam – see left.

The yellow shield with the red kangaroo was a familiar sight at 1ATF. As I recall the kangaroo was normally facing to the left of the viewer and appears to have been reversed for the patch.

The rectangle below the kangaroo would be standard RAA colours of red over blue in this case separated by a diagonal line.

I am guessing again that the 131 numerals might have been blue as they appear to be the same tone as the "blue" section in the black and white image. (I'm trying to read the colours of a grey tone image)

See attached photos of vehicle TAC signs seen on Vietnam era vehicles on display at the Bandiana army museum (above left).

I have modified one of the TAC signs to show it as it might appear on the original 131 patch (photo right).



Hoping that this may be of some help and that someone may be able to confirm or deny my interpretation of the patch's original colours.

Regards, Ernie."

Whoa that's not it...true to form Keith Ayliffe, not one to let a puzzle slip by to the keeper sent this in...

"G'day Dicko

I'm doing good Mate.

John Brown's 131 patch, I remember two similar patches but cannot be sure if it's that one or not.

- a) One was issued for an exercise in Tianjara NSW (About 1959) just after 131 moved to Holsworthy I was in 102Bty (4.2in Mortars) and we had to work with 131 I like everyone else did not know what they did. From memory the colour was yellow.
- b) I remember another patch that was issued on an Exercise in about 1970-71 for an all nation exercise at Wide Bay Qld. There were Yank Marines who did an amphibious assault on of all things the mangroves which gave many Aussie a good laugh as they extracted themselves from the quagmire. The Kiwis also brought over a radar detachment and joined us. I think there may have been other countries as well. There was an Enemy which was I think a Ghurkha unit.



Again the patch from memory was a light green back ground brown Roo.

I have also attached another 131 patch (left) which many may not have seen. It was to be worn as a pocket patch but I don't think it was successful.

Best regards Keith"

. **David Troedel** is looking for a mate fairly urgently with this email – “Hi Paul,
Do you have any information on Tom King?
He was a Bdr and served with 131 Div Loc Bty from 12.12.66 to 12.12.67.
Tom also served with 101 Battery in Malaya from 4.10.59 to 17.10.60, discharged 24.11.61 & re-enlisted 15.2.65.
I am holding an ACB that he qualified for in Malaya.
Thanks David Troedel”
Ed – anyone got any clues that may help out?

. Coral Revisited...

In May's edition of E&E's **Ed** mentioned that he re-read **Lex McAulay's "The Battle of Coral"** and found the exercise more enlightening and somewhat more question-raising than the first time through.

Perhaps it's been meeting and getting to know some of the participants that I raise a few points below as to what did we do during Coral/Balmoral and associated operational activities.

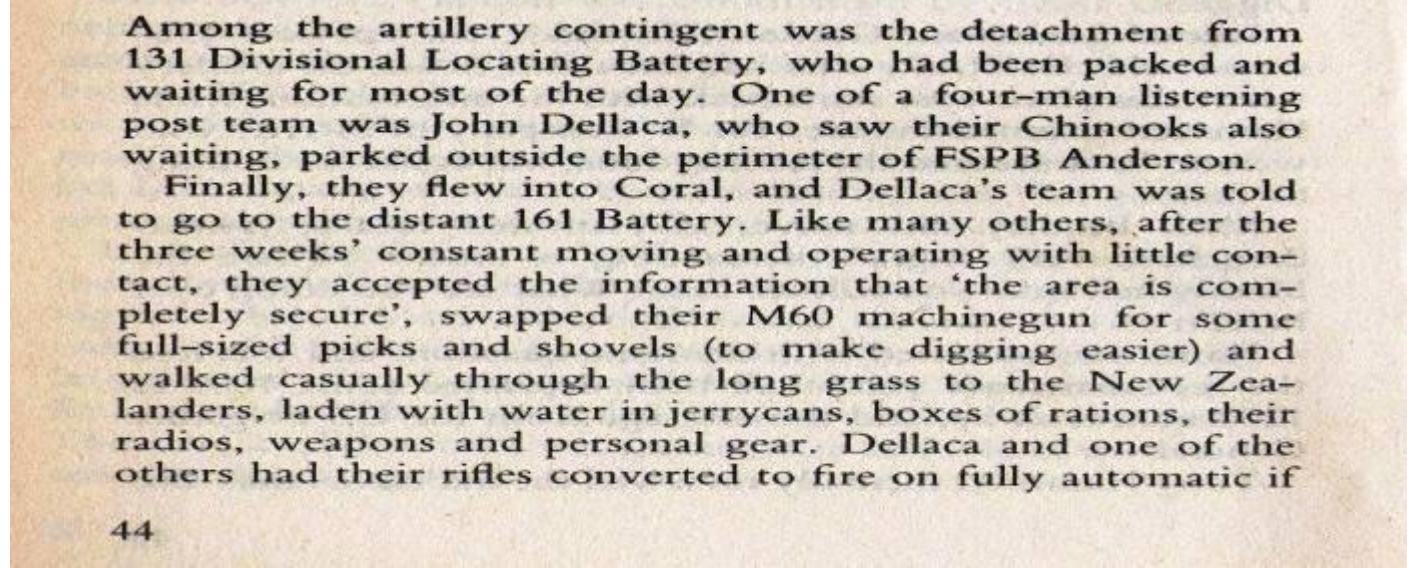
I would like to deal with the Detachment's two components that participated in the Battle –

- a) The Listening Post (LP)
- b) Alpha Radar.

I realise the topics have been covered by Keith Ayliffe and John Posener in their “Tracks of the Dragon”, but I feel McAulay's “The Battle of Coral” doesn't do justice to our blokes who were there through thick and thin of it.

I'm going to use extracts from Lex McAulay to highlight activities undertaken and hope that the questions asked can get some responses –

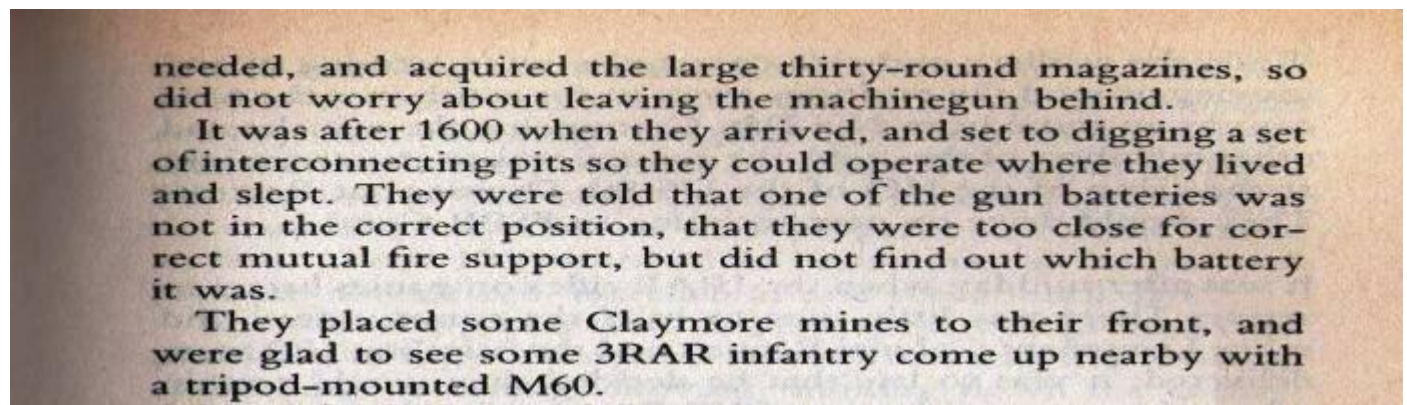
- a) LP



Among the artillery contingent was the detachment from 131 Divisional Locating Battery, who had been packed and waiting for most of the day. One of a four-man listening post team was John Dellaca, who saw their Chinooks also waiting, parked outside the perimeter of FSPB Anderson.

Finally, they flew into Coral, and Dellaca's team was told to go to the distant 161 Battery. Like many others, after the three weeks' constant moving and operating with little contact, they accepted the information that 'the area is completely secure', swapped their M60 machinegun for some full-sized picks and shovels (to make digging easier) and walked casually through the long grass to the New Zealanders, laden with water in jerrycans, boxes of rations, their radios, weapons and personal gear. Dellaca and one of the others had their rifles converted to fire on fully automatic if

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needed, and acquired the large thirty-round magazines, so did not worry about leaving the machinegun behind.

It was after 1600 when they arrived, and set to digging a set of interconnecting pits so they could operate where they lived and slept. They were told that one of the gun batteries was not in the correct position, that they were too close for correct mutual fire support, but did not find out which battery it was.

They placed some Claymore mines to their front, and were glad to see some 3RAR infantry come up nearby with a tripod-mounted M60.

On the far side of Coral, the south-west, was the New Zealand 161 Battery, the 3RAR companies, and with 161, the four-man team from 131 Div Loc Battery. John Dellaca and the other three had lowered their hutchis, and watched 'the massive RPG attack, we could see the RPGs quite clearly, where they were fired from, but they then began to airburst near us, and we all got into our pits. The air was full of tracer. We could hear the splintex fired by 102 Battery, the whoosh of the little arrows, and it alarmed us to know they were using it.'

There was so much noise that the listening post was unable to really locate enemy positions, but they could tell that the mortars and RPGs were fired from different locations. They were not attacked all night, though other elements of 3RAR had minor contact. They sat or lay, listening to the battle and identifying the different types of weapons.

Meanwhile, in the artillery position of the New Zealand 161 Battery, some 1500 metres west of Coral, the listening post team of John Dellaca and the other three Diggers, Pablo Briggs, John Basford and Bluey Piesley, had been told to return to Coral. Far differently from the casual way they had strolled across the previous afternoon, now they adopted a tactical formation and crossed the intervening grassland as alert soldiers. In the grassy area they came across dozens of mortar craters which had been made during the night, 'overs' from the enemy bombardment.

Meanwhile, John Dellaca and the listening post team had arrived back into the artillery area at Coral, after walking back from the distant New Zealand guns. They were put to work with the burial parties, and saw 'many NVA killed in the ditch along the track running into Coral. We'd find a body in the long grass, hook a rope to it and pull it over, then put it into the big scoop on the front of the loader. They were in greens, with pith helmets or cloth hats, with civilian clothes in their packs. Many had been bandaged, but had died, and some were at the end of long drag marks.

'I took a hammock off a dead NVA, and unrolled it, and found it had all these splintex arrows in it.'

A couple of points of interest arise –

- i) Other blokes were rotated through the LP yet no mention is made of them. Who were they?
- ii) There is mention of there being other LP's possibly manned by the Infantry and the Gun Batteries – if so were they on the same network?
Did the all the LP's report continuously during the engagements?

...Let's move onto the Radar...

Lieutenant Colonel Kelly, CO 12 Field Regiment, had never had faith in the ability of the mortar-locating radar, and had

The hapless artillery radars had a minor disaster on the flight out, when the machine itself was somehow dropped from beneath its Chinook, just outside the Fire Support Base, and did not survive the fall.

recommended against its purchase. It could track a single bomb in the air, but became confused if there were more in flight. Kelly, determined to get some use from them, placed them in a visible position so the enemy would fire at them. Then, in the old way, compass bearings were taken to the origin of the enemy fire; these were reported to HQ; and where they intersected was the probable position of the enemy, so was shelled.

(Major General Kelly described this use of the radars in an interview with the author in July 1986. Div Loc Battery members may now realise why their equipment was under fire in 1968.)

I guess I got a shock to re-discover the disdain which the Artillery hierarchy spoke or dealt with not only our Radars, but possibly with the viability of the Detachment in this arena.

I'd be more than interested in comments on the radar being used for enemy target practice and the general operational activity of the Alpha Radar group?

. **Barry Nugent** thought one of his mates (Harold is his name) on Boyne Island made a lot of sense during one of his recent conversations when he said – "I've often been asked, 'What do you old blokes do now that you're retired?' Well...I'm fortunate to have a chemical engineering background (with Alcoa on Boyne Island) and one of the things I enjoy most is converting beer, wine and whisky into urine. I do it every day and I really enjoy it. It keeps me busy."
Ed - Harold should be an inspiration to us all.

. **Grahame Dignam** makes a very serious point in his email below...



"An unsolicited ad for the RED CROSS.

I gave blood yesterday and noticed they had a promotion for the "State of Origin" going.

I also heard that the stock of "O" category blood was at a critical level and this is the critical period for donations so this could appeal could help someone.

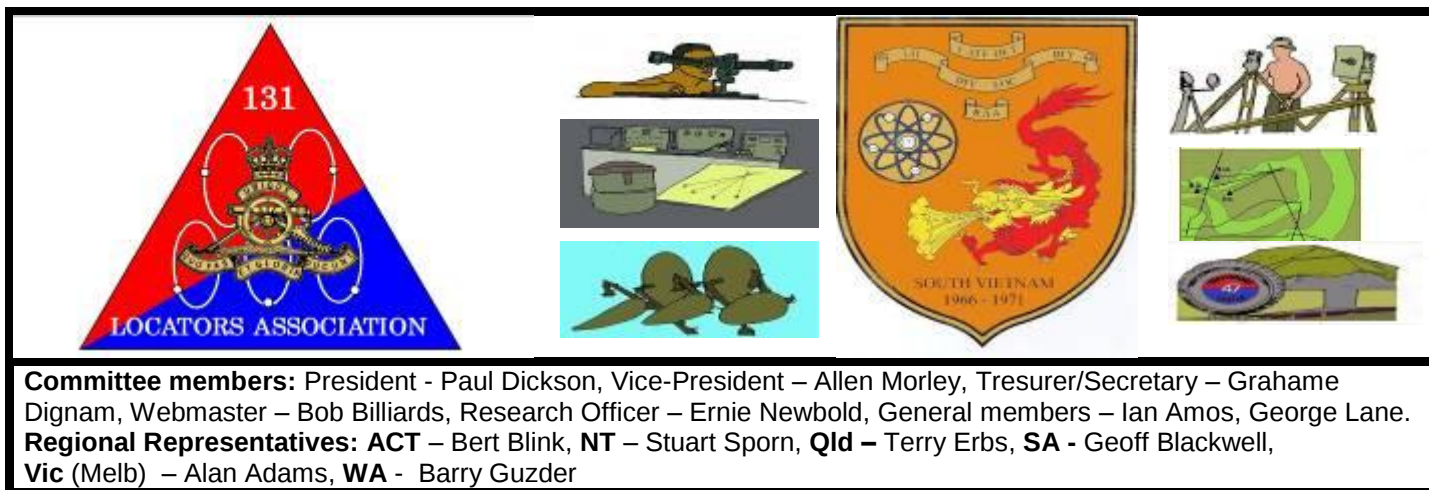
I have completed **46 donations** over the years and I know of people who have done hundreds –
How many have you done?

The challenge is out there so "get off your bums and have a lie down at the RED CROSS - they do great milkshakes and snacks" plus the girls smile while they take their pint. (They have developed an alcohol and bullshit filter so no one need be shy).

I have added a link to the website and there is a centre near you! :

http://www.donateblood.com.au/become-adonor?s_kwcid=TC%7C9818%7Caustralian%20blood%20bank%7C%7CS%7Cb%7C6842956041

Ed – my reply to Grahame was that, yes I know my blood group is A+, but that wasn't an excuse for not giving blood since about 1967, when the Blood Bank in Brisbane said they were only using my blood for plasma (I think the Paludrin given in SVN had something to do with that – a **REALLY POOR** excuse for - a) not persevering or b) for NOT going back at a later stage! OK – I'm getting off my bum.



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

. Association News –

. **New Members** – the Association has much pleasure in welcoming the following Locators as Financial Members – Jeff Evans, Greg Green and Rieny Nieuwenhof.
 Plus we've had a good number of membership renewals.

Thanks to all of you.

. **The Australian War Memorial (AWM)** email sent out certainly got very positive responses in the way of donations and intentions to attend the proposed DVA support sponsored Dedication Service.

To date the Plaque Donation account balance stands at \$757 and we've got 29 positive intentions to attend the Dedication Ceremony.

A real boost to the Plaque funding came in the following email from **Geoff Blackwell** in South Aussie –

"Hi Dicko,

In reference to the funding for the 131 plaque at the Canberra War Memorial I thought I might do a fund raising dinner.

I have been a retired restaurateur for a few years now, but I reckon I still have a service or two left in me. I am just organising a venue at the moment.

I was figuring for about mid July.....when do you need the money for the plaque?

I will send you details as I come up with them.

Regards Geoff"

Ed – that came from way out of left field and is greatly appreciated.

. **The meeting on 16th June** managed to get a few things decided –

The position of **Regional Representative** was discussed and agreed upon. This can be at least one Financial Member in a State who will become an associate of the Committee and an active member of the group representing a geographical area of the country. These blokes will be involved in Committee activities by being able to add meeting agenda items. When we get the web up and going they will have contactable email addresses for further input from outside the Committee.

We approached the instigator of this scheme **Alan Adams**, in Victoria, and he has become our first Regional Representative (RR) and you can see the above list for the list of the 6 blokes so far.

. Coffs Harbour October Reunion –

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

"Hey, I reckon we should turn up this year!" – look who could make it (new ones in bold)- Dave & Rosemary Auld, **Keith Ayliffe**, Nick & Robyn Armstrong, Charles Brewer, John Browne, Ged Carroll, Spike Chase, George Clark, Vic Danko, **Jim Fitzgerald**, Peter (Pappy) and Carol Gault, Dave (Shorty) & Jane Gow, **Peter Joscelyne**, **great news Sue Lock (wife of the late Geoff Lock) could be a starter**, George Lane, Ken & Doreen Long, **Ralph Mitchell**, **Ian "Scottie" McNicol**, Merv Nairn, Ernie Newbold, Graeme Owen (plus his better half).

. Found...

Graeme Owen put us in touch with **Peter "Mickey" Pettiford** who in turn got back to us with – "Hi Paul, Graeme has sent me several past issues of the newsletter so I will be well read over the next few days.

This is the first contact I have had from anybody and it seems it is all coming at once!!

I will get in touch once I have read through and digested all the news.

Thanks for all your obvious efforts. Regards...Mickey (Peter)"

.**Peter Colman** got us in touch with **Peter Joscelyne** - "Hi Paul, Thanks for the contact, and the offer to be added to your mail-out list, which, I would be pleased to be included in.

The newsletters Peter C sent, and last month's mailing, were very interesting. They brought back names and events that, I thought, were long forgotten. Peter is the only locator that I have had any contact with. I intend to join the (Sept-Oct) Coffs Harbour Reunion and catch-up with a few more from 131. I'm looking forward to receiving your next post.
Peter"

. **Graeme "Jessie" Owen** is back with another '69er in the name of **Don Chalmers** – "G'day Paul, Here's another '131' member found and accounted for!
His name is Don Chalmers - He was in SVN in 1969.
Don turned up at the Anzac march in Melbourne this year and joined us for lunch.
He and I have communicated in the last few weeks and he'd be very happy to start receiving the 'Eyes & Ears' etc.
Cheers Graeme 'Jessie' Owen"

. **Birthdays in the Battery**...June – we've made a dramatic change to this section and the idea came from the 1/83rd - don't tell them though, the Yanks can get a bit touchy about plagiarism!!
This will be the only time that two months are shown, but the reason for showing a month in advance will/might give some of you the chance to say "Happy Birthday you old bastard!" to a mate and amaze him for your memory enhancement!
Now, the blokes highlighted in "red" are financial members, the blokes in "yellow" are Affiliates (receive mail from the Association), "black" are our past Locators and "white" are Locators we need to contact.

June	Name	Regt No	DoB	Comm SVN	Fin SVN	Unit Served	Vale
1	GEOFFREY SULLIVAN	3798292	1949	02 12 1970	03 05 1971	131	
	" "			03 05 1971	20 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.	
3	ALLAN MACLEAN	32203	1928	24 05 1967	28 06 1967	RAEME	
5	PETER DEALY	3411983	1947	18 02 1968	21 02 1969		
5	JAMES LOCKHART	6709144	1947	03 06 1969	21 02 1970		
5	VITO CICCOLELLA	2791669	1947	16 12 1969	17 12 1970		
6	JOHN IANSON	2787424	1945	12 04 1968	16 04 1969		
7	BRUCE IRVINE	2783695	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968		
8	EDWIN FIELD	242577	1934	22 04 1966	31 07 1966	†	20.07.96
10	KEITH WHITE	2783029	1945	17 04 1967	13 12 1967	AACC	
12	IAN AMOS	2785676	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968		
12	LAWRENCE SAWYER	3787393	1945	04 05 1966	03 03 1967		
14	PAUL BUSS	2781443	1945	22 04 1966	28 04 1967		
15	KARL DOEHRMANN	38119	1933	{20 05 1966	29 04 1967	†	10.08.09
	" "			{28 01 1970	27 08 1970	†	
15	EDWARD WEBB	29964	1941	27 01 1970	21 01 1971		
16	RALPH PEARCE	214806	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967		Unknown
18	ROGER WHITTAKER	2184592	1949	19 08 1970	05 08 1971		
20	JOHN CHILTON	215855	1946	09 12 1968	03 12 1969		
23	WILLIAM PRENTER	64258	1933	22 04 1966	07 06 1967	†	01.10.97
23	GEOFREY PULLAR	1735623	1949	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131	
	" "			20 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt	
25	PAUL BUTCHER	3411454	1946	01 04 1969	25 03 1970		
26	LINDSAY MEAD	3790714	1945	27 03 1968	26 04 1968		
26	GERRY CARROLL	2781311	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967		
28	BARRY COLLINS	2793213	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131	
	" "			20 08 1970	07 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.	
	" "			08 03 1971	09 06 1971	12 Fd Regt.	
July	Name	Regt No	DoB	Comm SVN	Fin SVN	Unit Served	Vale
1	STEPHEN FOWLER	217186	1948	16 09 1968	17 09 1969		
2	PETER O'DONNELL	213115	1941	24 03 1970	05 11 1970	Sgt.	
3	BRUCE FOWLER	2795238	1949	16 12 1970	29 07 1971		
4	GEORGE WEARNE Capt.	2251140	1937	05 08 1968	20 08 1968	133 Div Loc CMF	
7	PETER JOSCELYNE	2792023	1945	03 06 1970	17 12 1970		
10	BILL FINLAY	37818	1944	20 05 1966	01 05 1967		
10	ROBERT PELHAM	55342	1949	16 11 1968	19 11 1969		

10	REX ARNOLD	424096	1949	16 12 1970	29 05 1971		
	" "			29 05 1971	16 09 1971	Ind 161 Recce Flt.	
11	JOHN JAGGARD	4721862	1949	03 03 1971	02 08 1971	131	
	" "			02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt	
12	NEVILLE ATKINSON	1733449	1947	08 11 1968	05 11 1969		
13	ALASDAIR GOUGH	2105130	1947	27 03 1970	04 03 1971		
14	EDMUND DOUST	53111	1939	04 05 1967	02 04 1968		
14	FREDERICK KRUMINK	6708867	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968		
15	IAN EARLE	3166824	1951	19 08 1970	10 12 1970	131	
	" "			11 12 1970	23 06 1971	33 Dental Unit	
18	KEITH AYLIFFE	217354	1941	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	131	
	" "			08 07 1971	24 07 1971	HQ AFV	
18	ALISTAIR McLEAN	312524	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970		
18	JOE KOCKA	1202703	1951	20 08 1970	29 07 1971		
19	MAXWELL McPHERSON	3795560	1947	27 11 1969	05 11 1970		
21	GRAHAM WILLIAMS	2789698	1947	03 06 1969	25 03 1970		
21	WILLIAM SLADE	44464	1950	22 12 1969	17 12 1970		
21	WILHELMUS Van ZETTEN	3794919	1947	17 03 1970	17 12 1970		
21	PETER SUMMERS	3796803	1948	09 11 1970	09 06 1971		
22	JOHN HOMER	5717596	1949	17 03 1971	02 08 1971	131	
	" "			02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt	
23	DAVID DODD	2790139	1947	03 06 1969	04 06 1970		
25	WILLIAM DOYLE	4719912	1947	17 12 1968	04 01 1969	4 Fd REGT †	05.09.78
	" "			05 01 1969	28 11 1969	131 †	
25	JOHN SMITH	610231	1949	16 11 1968	12 11 1969		
25	PETER BARRY	2794949	1949	17 03 1971	04 08 1971	131	
	" "			04 08 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt	
28	MALCOLM MUSGRAVE	214359	1943	03 06 1969	04 06 1970		
29	RICHARD EDWARDS	218595	1949	03 06 1970	14 05 1971		
30	KEITH HOLLOWAY	15851	1943	20 05 1966	10 10 1966		

Ed – Hell! 32 blokes in *WHITE* – this will be a major task to round up this lot.

As a follow on from this new format above, **Ernie Newbold** has to be congratulated as he has now compiled a record of some **453** blokes who served in the Detachment and in doing this has discovered some real oddities, which we're going to seek follow-up information on from some of our 131 History pundits.

In 1970 and 1971 our **NEW** list highlights the fact that 8 blokes were recorded as serving with the Detachment in SVN for **ONE** day and there was a major migration of others going to the Regiment after also serving very short stints.

OK, the Det was being wound up, but it opens up some interesting scenarios as to what happened during SVN service and then when they returned to Australia – where did they return to etc? Keep watching this space!!

. Locator Profiles – we've received **54** and we've sent out **51**. **Ed** – OK I've got one more complete Profile to send out - c'mon fellas we need a couple more!

.Vale –

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DoB</u>	<u>DoD</u>
Bohl, Michael Owen	Gnr	1411182	LP	1968	28.20.48	15.06.93
Field, Edwin Alfred	T/Sgt	242577	W/shop-RAEME	1966	08.06.34	20.07.96

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

...notes taken from the LAA website –

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 **10 July 2011** and it's the **Annual General Meeting**. Members are cordially invited to attend. Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the *Associations* Newsletter LOCREP.



TPI (Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex Servicemen & Women)

Go to the website below for contact links in your state -

Website link: <http://www.tpifed.org.au/>

. **Joe Kaplun** – has he got a GREAT deal for US! –

Joe is a volunteer **"car negotiator"** for the **TPI Assn** and has access to some pretty good deals (including all the TPI concessions - GST, Fleet discounts, stamp duty, rego etc.)

I can also get good deals for **NON** TPI members.

If any of our members are in the market they should shop around and then contact me to see if I can get them a better deal.

My contact numbers are - 040 774 1473 or 02 9774 1473.

Regards, Joe Kaplun

email: joekaplun@optusnet.com.au SKYPE: joekaplun

Mobile: 040 774 1473 (int'l 61-40 774 1473) Home: 02-9774 1473 (int'l 61-2-9774 1473)

Ed – It really is worthwhile doing some homework and contacting Joe - there are definite savings to be had.



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



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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much. It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

. **Bill Taggart** sent the following email and **Ed** has put it in as Denny may have had Aussie mates – "I am sorry to tell you that Denny Ponsford (66-67) passed away suddenly on June 19. Below is the email I received today from Denny's daughter.

I knew Denny well when we were in the 1/83rd and was very sorry to hear of his death. He was a great guy and a lot of laughs. He had a great sense of humor. He seemed to always be happy, which wasn't a common thing in Vietnam. The address for those who want to send a card is: Ponsford Family, 9055 Central Valley N.W. Bremerton, A 98311 Bill'

Denny's daughters' email ... "Dear Bill, I believe that you were in the Army with my father, Denny Ponsford. My mom requested that I contact you to inform you that my father died on Sunday. Mom and dad were on vacation and he fell ill. Mom tried her best to drive him home from Anaheim, but after 2 days, he collapsed in the hotel room and mom had to call an ambulance. He died in the Rogue Valley Medical Center 4 days later. My brother and I were unable to make it down to see him before he passed, but were able to drive all night down to Medford, OR and meet my mother to help with paperwork and logistics of his passing. We are now home and trying to process all that has happened. Per my dad's request, he was cremated and there will not be a formal funeral service, but in a few weeks time we will plan to have a small family gathering in his honor.

My request is that you help pass along this news to all that knew him. He was haunted by his time in Vietnam and as his daughter; I had a hard time understanding that. I know that he found consolation in speaking with you and others that knew him during that time.

Sincerely, Jennifer Ponsford Sarver Daughter of Denny Ponsford"

Ed – Denny's daughter Jenifer highlights the family involvement in the post Vietnam era stress – our thoughts and condolences go out to not only her but Denny's family. May he rest in peace.

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

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