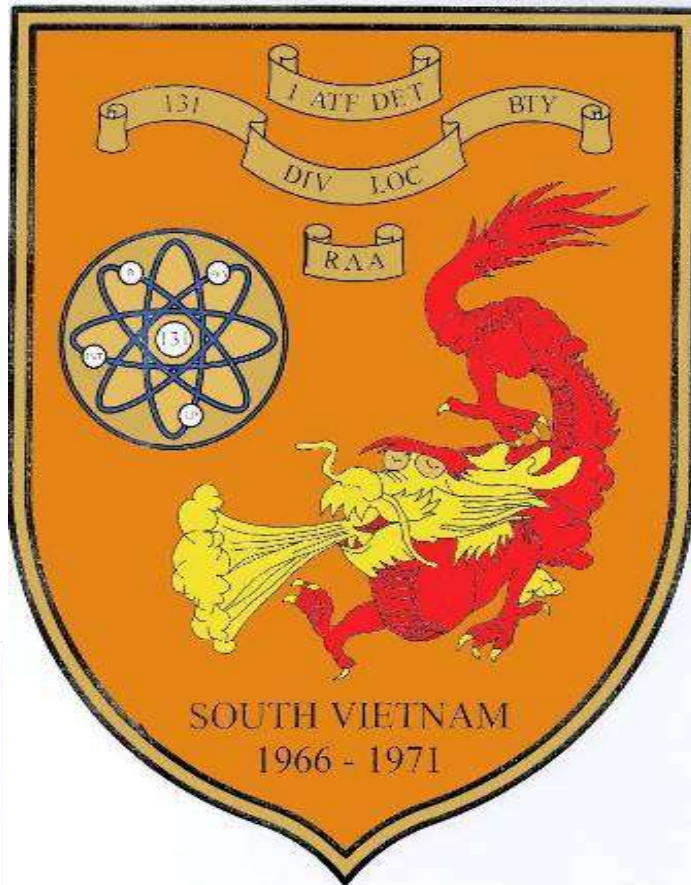
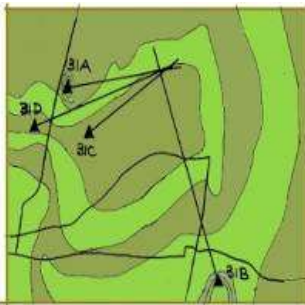
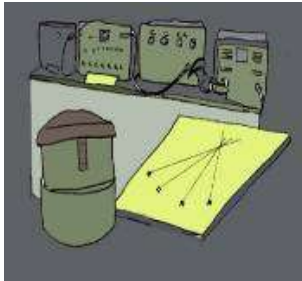


THE EYES and EARS

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Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

email: three-zero@hotmail.com

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ABN 92 663 816 973

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Heard and seen...

. Springwood Report – 14th August, 2011...Allen Morley -

"Today a detachment of Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery marched through the cool streets of Springwood in the Lower Blue Mountains. On parade were former Gunners Bob Billiards, Grahame Dignam and Allen Morley. The 131 Banner also paraded. Army Cadet Corporals Josh Bocksell and Matthew Sloss from the 21st Penrith Army Cadet unit, Penrith kindly carried the banner.

The photos show only two 131ers because they would not take my photo.

We found an old Army Land Rover in the street. Two aspects raised questions for Ernie to investigate, i.e. the kangaroo logo and whether the stand in the back of the vehicle was for a 50 cal.

The event was the 45th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. It was organised by the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces. Numbers marching were probably in excess of 500, an excellent turnout for a winter's day.

We encourage all Sydney-based ex-131ers to turn up next year to fill our numbers.

Cheers

Allen Morley GMA"



. **Terry Erbs** sent in the following and the link is certainly worth having a look at – “Giddy Fellas, Lots of coverage in the Brisbane media about Long Tan and 6RAR, but not surprisingly no mention of artillery support, however the 2 helicopters of 9 Squadron resupply mission during the battle gets a worthy mention in this article <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/chopper-hero-who-braved-the-storm/story-e6frea6u-1226116925302> From: Courier Mail August 16, 2011 ‘ONE of the nation's greatest military injustices will finally be rectified on Thursday’. <http://www.couriermail.com.au/story-e6freomx-1226115491618> Cheers, Terry”

.**Al Adams** got the following to us after the service in Melbourne on the 18th -



“Hi Paul

Melbourne started as the usual grey day, but fortunately the rain stopped before the service. Met up with the boys and then had drinks and lunch at ‘Transport’. A good day had by all. All the best, Al”

From left to right - Damian McManus, Mike Butler, Al Adams and Beau Roberts.

. **Allen Morley** is back to us with a report on the 18th from Bankstown – “Hi Paul

It was a very good 131 turnout today for the Vietnam Veterans - Long Tan celebrations at Bankstown. On duty were (photo on right) Ernie Newbold, Merv Nairn, George Lane, Ged Carroll, Ian Amos, Ken Woodbine - a new grandpa for the first time yesterday - Grahame Dignam, Jim Fitzgerald and self. All attended the 11am service, which was a stand up event for most, because not enough chairs were available. For some of



us it was the longest we have had to stand still for so long since recruit training pass-out parades.

The bar was slow to open and I suspect they had some work experience kids behind the bar. A queue of about 15 minutes to get a beer was almost too much for some of the grumbling veterans. And then they nearly ran out of some beer. We sat down to lunch with a request that we not take too much from the buffet because they had not catered enough as many turned up on the day without pre-booked tickets.

It was nevertheless an enjoyable day, and the entertainment from *Double Exposure* was appreciated. George almost had palpitations when one of the blonde singers bent down to get something from the floor and her short dress rode up. Ernie and Grahame were successful in the raffle. We packed up about 2.30 and went our separate ways. That certainly would not have been the case forty-five-ish years ago.

The troops attending are all reported to be well. Cheers Allen”



"Double Exposure" above and a Long Tan replica cross.



Brian "Cambo" Campbell sent **Ed** the following email after the "Birth date" mystery was mentioned in last month's E&Es – "Paul My birth date being the 20th march and being called up you would think that there would be hundreds of nashos with that birthday. I never met, in 2 years, another nasho with the same birth date. I wonder how many others had the same result.

Regards Brian Campbell (Cambo)"

Ed – it is a good point – just for the exercise in the "**Birthdays in the Battery**" below (September) there are - 2 blokes born on 12/09/46, 2 born on 17/09/45 (now did John Blake and Barry Guzder know that??) and there are 3 born on 19/09/47 – what's the likelihood of any of them knowing this fact and knowing one another?

. Geoff Blackwell contributes "just some thoughts" on one of his reflections of "**Coral**"

- "Hi Dicko, - Just a few thoughts on Coral - as I remember them.

I left Nui Dat with Phil Perrin and Jim Lawler with 161 Bty at the end of April. We were a 3 man forward Arty Int Command Post.

We were loosely based out of Bear Cat, briefing and being briefed by the Yanks on general intelligence matters.

On May 3, we left Bear Cat to work our way back to Nui Dat via our FSB's in the area, arriving at 'Andersen'.

There was a change of plans, and on May 12 I went to FSB Coral, Phil Perrin had returned to Nui Dat for admin duties.

As is well known, the drop in was a "SNAFU" from the start, and when I got there around 1600hrs things were decidedly testy.

Major Murtagh was given command of base defence ahead of the Infantry blokes. We gave Murtagh an intelligence briefing, and it was decided to send an LP to the 161 location. Murtagh wasn't crazy about the idea, but we did it anyway.

When I saw where they had stuck the radar antennae my immediate thought was 'Perrin is not going to like this'.

Murtagh wouldn't budge on it, (He had the support of Jack Kelly on this.)

There was another LP, not far from the CP, manned by Rick Marques and his crew. This one seems to be forgotten. Most of our intelligence on May 12/13 came from this source.

The CP that night was, well, a shambles. I think Keldie, the Tankie took charge and Murtagh was shifted out not long after.

It is true that Murtagh got on the radio and demanded that our infantry stop firing because it was coming our way. The infantry net just came up and calmly asked what colour the tracer was. "Green" he almost shouted, whereupon the grunt, still calm, replied "ours is red". I just sat at the desk having a quite chuckle.

The other funny aside of an otherwise bleak night came from Rick Marques. It must have been 0300 hrs. He came up on the net with a "greens" resupply. This was a normal thing on this day, the LP's would send in their laundry requirements, we would total them up and send it off to the Q Store.

Now for all those that know Rick and that dry sense of humour of his, this was a bit of light relief. Then he added on the end of the transmission, "You had better send some extra sets, we are shitting ourselves down here."

Murtagh didn't see any humour in it at all; he wheeled around, glaring and almost shouted "I want that man charged for frivolous use of the radio. What's his name?" I tried to explain that it was a routine admin transmission and we expected to be here and alive in the morning needing clean greens, (he himself I am sure had doubts). It didn't help, so I said we had new troops on the line and I couldn't recognize the voice.

The next day Rick, Murtagh and I were gone.

Not before Jim Lawler and me had to brief Phil Perrin. He was not a happy man, especially with the radar being in such an exposed position and well and truly shot up.

Rick and I returned to Australia bit over a week later and I was out of the army just over a week later.

An interesting aside was that we were due to return to Australia in early April but a group of us were busted for drinking in the lines (farewell drinks), charged, convicted, fined \$10 and as an additional penalty had our tour extended. I am pretty sure this was the first time anyone in Vietnam had their tour extended as punishment. This was Phil Perrin thinking outside the square, he was able to change over troops when he wanted to. He simply just kept us there. Remember 12 Field had just replaced 4 Field at this time; there were a lot of green troops around.

- Just some thoughts Regards Geoff."

Ed – It's interesting to note that Geoff was out of the army a few months later and was off to Uni with a scholarship to further a career in Survey, though that wasn't his future claim to fame! It possibly wasn't the time to talk about "Vietnam" at Uni, plus they wouldn't have understood what this young bloke had been through – I find that the fascinating bit. Like all of us, Reg / Nasho, no one understood us and we couldn't understand some of the Australian reaction to us.

.Another "Coral" Memory – Grahame Dignam forwarded on a letter he'd received from **Geoff Jebb** and **Ed** has included "Coral" memories from it – "Dear Grahame, I received your letter and thanks for going to so much trouble for me. Looking through copies of Eyes and Ears" has brought back many memories of events and people, while not entirely forgotten, are beginning to fade from my 80+ memory. A question that popped up was where were the Surveyors during "Coral"? They were there but only for a short time. The Surveyors were called forward on the morning of 14th May. The survey presented no problems. The weather was fine, FSB's Coral and Coogee were only about 2000 metres apart and astride a common dirt road which provided a clear path for traversing. FSB Balmoral was not included as it had no artillery, only mortars. A Bty 2/35 US Regt was co-located at Coral about 300 metres south of 102 Bty. The task was completed by mid-afternoon and the Surveyors returned to Nui Dat. On the 15th May the CO (Jack Kelly) tested the survey by shooting. 161 Bty and 102 Bty fell together, but A Bty was somewhere else. A furious CO got on the blower and we were all told to return and sort things out. On the 16th we were back at Coral. A discussion with the BC solved the problem. Despite assurances at the time, they didn't have a clue as to what was required and promptly binned their BP and carried on as before with no change of grid. They didn't like the idea of re-setting up and having to amend their recorded data, but when it was suggested we discuss the matter with the CO they played ball and when the survey was re-tested, all was well. There was no re-survey and we were back at Nui Dat that same afternoon. That's an outline of the Surveyors' role in OP Surfers. As per SOP just as well we had a spare BP for A Bty. I thought I'd mention the above just to clear a few things. A bit has been left out like the recce on the 12th etc Perhaps another time. I enjoyed our talk the other night. It was good to make contact. Regards, Geoff"

Ed – it's always great to read thoughts and memories from blokes who were there and retold while the detail is still fresh.

. Ed picked up on an article in June's E&Es by **Ernie Newbold** with regards to Locators arriving in SVN in '71 and being transferred to 12 Field Regt. immediately in some cases. Well, as usual, I couldn't help myself so I sent the following off to **Jeff Evans** for comment – "Jeff, In June's issue of E&Es I mentioned a topic raised by Ernie Newbold as to Locators arriving in SVN and some only being in the Detachment for what it looks like only one day then being transferred to 12 Field Regt. All of this appears to have happened after August 1971 and I'm aware that the reasons would have been the Det's winding up. However, I was wondering and in awe of your extreme wisdom (ah, that should work!) if you would have any knowledge of this occurrence and if yes, can you answer a couple of questions it begs and add any more comments - a) Would it be more than likely that the guys when they were with 131 were trained as Arty Signallers? b) Being seconded to a 12 Field Regt on arrival or shortly thereafter, would they have returned to Aus with that unit and spent their remaining time with it? c) Would they be designated as 12 Field Regt members for service records etc? They're possibly the questions in the main that arise. I look forward to any response you may be able to come up with. Paul"

...and Jeff got back to me with... "Hi Paul, Wisdom, I **may** have some; Memory, well that's another matter altogether???" Have copied Kevin B in on this as his memory is better than mine, and he may be able to correct my distorted memory. Yes, I saw the reference to 'postings', and I think you will find that, in the main, we are talking about postings to 12 Fd Regt. As I recall, Det 131 was folded in about June 1971 (if I could just find my AAB 83) I would be able to confirm the date, but it has turned up lost at present. Always happens just when you need something - it turns up lost!!! At that stage, we had the 'el supremo' Surveyors of course, a bunch of Sensor operators (ex Radar Ops perhaps), and I think some Arty Int guys in Arty Tac - what used to be the FSCC. But Tim Ford (the OC) and the DSM both came home and there may have been some gunnies as well, not sure. I do know the surveyors were posted to 12 Fd, as I was, and so was Kevin B, the Svy Sgt, and I came home as a member of 12 Fd Regt, and stayed there for a further year (1972, at beautiful downtown Ingleburn) before being posted to the School in 1973. I would think that the surveyors, sensor and Arty Int guys returned as members of 12 Fd, and were discharged or served on from there in 12 Fd. I have found a small reference to events of the time - "Since the withdrawal of Det 131 Div Loc Bty, the entire responsibility for gun survey data now rests solely with the Regimental Survey Section. It has therefore become essential for the regimental Survey Officer and all members of his Section to be fully competent in all the duties...etc."

This was in a Report included in the Commander's Diary (12 Fd Regt), for Jul 71. There was nothing in the 'daily' reporting in the Diary to show when the withdrawal of Det 131 occurred.

Does this help? Regards, Jeff

...then there comes **Kevin Browning's** (Grandfather extraordinaire) response -

"Jeff and Paul,

Sorry for delay but have been doing the grandfather bit.

Paul,

The only way we could get a clear and accurate answer to your questions would be to ask the individuals themselves. I cannot give an official date for the disbandment of the Det but July is mentioned in the 12 Fd Regt History. But the actual date could be closer to 1 Aug but the only people remaining in the Detachment at that time were those destined for RTA. John Tickle was BQMS and would have been responsible for closing down the Q account. John RTA'd on 13 Aug. Tim Ford was OC and he RTA'd 5 Aug, Norm McManus was DSM and he RTA'd 19 Aug. I was transferred to 12 Fd Regt 30 Jun as were a number of the Det's troops. The surveyors were transferred and became part of the 12 Fd Survey Sect, actually those of the Det survey section that remained became the backbone of the 12 Fd sect and we received about six surveyors from the 12 Fd Sect (they had been in the command post since arriving) who we had to train up in their survey skills.

I would suggest that those who were posted to the Det for only one day were surplus to Det needs and were transferred to a Gun Battery/HQ Bty, there were a number in Aug 70, and a year before the Det came home. I think they could have been posted as Radar operators but the radars went home. Sorry I do not have the time to go through everyone but if you look up the DVA Vietnam Roll and key in the individual's service number you can see those who were transferred to a Regt and when they came home. eg Norm Jones was with 131 4-5 May 71 5 May to 1 Dec with 12 Fd. Laurence Darcy was with 12 Fd Regt 5 Feb -18 May 71 and 131 19 May to 5 Aug 71.

Where people went when they returned would have depended on many factors. Nasho's, who knows, most would have taken discharge. Regs well I was posted to 12 Fd as Svy Sgt in Vietnam, though they had a survey sergeant, not survey trained, and on posting in Vietnam I was actually asked by the BC A Bty to become his BC Ack which I thanked him for but declined, on RTA I went straight back to 131.

Hope this helps at least a little Regards Kevin"

...Ed - Well I guess that turns the light bulb on a bit – **Ernie Newbold** added a bit more with the possibility that the blokes, who were transferred, would have gone to similar roles in the Field Regiment such as signallers, survey etc and not as crew on the guns.

. **Steve Boutlis** – "Hi, Dicko Another enjoyable and enlightening E&Es.

Can you in a future edition, give some more detail about the ID card as I do not recall having been issued or carried one. As to the passport, I vaguely remember having one issued to me but was never in my possession. Bad memory but I think that they were in the keeping of whoever was in charge of the detail (in my case, Doc. Halliday) in transit, and then in the OR safe? Were we allowed to keep them when we RTA'd? I do not remember.

I will send detail of our VV Day lunch which will be held on 18th August at the Caloundra RSL Entertainment Centre after a Memorial Service at the adjacent small memorial. We expect about 150 members to attend.

Would you ask any of our mates who were at Coral/Balmoral and those later at the Battle of Bin Bah, to write up an account of their experience for E&Es? I have read a few accounts of the battles but nothing much of a personal nature. I recall someone writing in E&E about how they may not still be with us if a small incident had not occurred. Everyone who served in Nam must have remembrances of funny and funny-ha-ha episodes that they could relate to the rest of us. Let's tell some "lies" in E&Es.

I look forward to meeting up with all at Coffs, and please E-mail a Membership Application Form to me for the 131 Locators.

Cheers, Boots"

...Ed – **Boots** makes a good point about stories as some guys have either made or kept notes or just have damn good memories. But, whatever, it's always great to get blokes reminiscences of things that happened – any things -

. **Ernie Newbold** is always good for something out of left field –

"G'day Paul and Victor,

I know that you both did basic training at 3TB Singleton so I thought that you might enjoy reading the story about the route march from Greta to Singleton.

Use the following link to open the website.

<http://amvif.com/ninth/Heartbreak%20Hill.htm>

The story has a few

differences to what I can remember but I found it interesting all the same. Paul, I am not suggesting that you copy and paste it to the Eyes and Ears but perhaps you could supply the link for former recruits to help remember something of their basic training. Regards, Ernie."



Ed – well the article is a good read and rather long so I've just included the link. Here are a couple of photos (above) of that fateful day – breakfast before the “trek” which saw me on light duties for a couple of days in non-issue thongs!

...**Allen Morley** read an advert in the same vein in a Sydney daily as **Ernie** and spotted (advert on the right) and sent this in –
“G'day Dicko

I am still in disbelief. The attached advert was in today's Sydney paper. Why I wonder would ANYONE want to write about Tianjara? My memory is of an August 'tactical' exercise where I was the coldest I think that I have ever been. No fires allowed so it was cold rations for consumption. The rain, wind and general lousy conditions sometimes revealed wisps of smoke from totally illegal fires. There was an injury to one of the HQ guys who had his arm out of the window of a Land Rover and had that limb come in contact with a vehicle going the other way. I don't recall that he was too messed up and probably slept on hospital between clean sheets that night.

I guess your readers will have differing feelings and memories about the place.
Cheers Allen Morley”

Ed – I must have been on the same picnic, however, the accident with bloke's arm (bloody hell I can't remember his name) happened in the back of a truck and yes it took some stopping of the vehicle to get the poor bugger attended to. I remember digging the biggest hole (actually CP) known to mankind – mind you I hadn't dug things much bigger than a hole to put a plant into prior this and certainly NOT in the bloody rain! I did learn how to keep the fags dry though.

...and now this comes from way out of left field from **Bob Snedden** (advertiser for “Calling All Experts” in **Allen Morley's** piece above) – “Hello Paul, I have been referred to you by Doug Decean a former serviceman. I am doing historical research on the Artillery Training Area at Tianjara.

I understand your book may have some information in this regard.

Can you please provide details of how I might be able to obtain a copy? Cost contact details etc.

Thank you in anticipation. Cheers Bob Snedden”

Ed – how spooky is all of this? Well, does anyone have a memory (good or bad) of the land of constant rain, sleet and cold?

. **Bob King** dug this out of somewhere and sent it in as an interest piece –

“Hi Paul,

This might interest you - German radar WW II.

Regards, Bob.”

Ed – Keith A may have to go and change his underwear after spotting this! Though to me it looks more like something out of an amusement park for dwarfs!!



arrived in Wollongong
13, 1863. Contact Pam,
vab@actlifebrokers.com.au.

CALLING ALL EXPERTS

Tianjara artillery training area
Seeking former members of the defence services who had involvement with the artillery training area at Mount Tianjara and plateau in Morton National Park, 1943 to 1980. I am currently researching the history of the use of this region and the military component is highly relevant. Community input to expand the understanding of this is very important. Confidentiality will be respected where requested. Contact Bob Snedden, 0403 196 288.

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

We get to welcome a few new Association Financial Members in August - **Geoff Jebb** who was a member of the ARA and being born in 1930 makes him a senior member who served as a WO2 with Survey and Sound Ranging in SVN 1968-69. We'll forgive him for living in the ACT though! **Russell Jackson** who hailed from Victoria and as a Nasho saw service in SVN from February to November 1969. Finally, **Bob King** gets time between photo gigs to sign up –

Bob for the “non-groupie” lot is s a famed photographer of many famous musicians who as a Nasho from NSW cracked a tour in 1967-68 – welcome fellas!

Also thanks to the blokes who renewed their Association vows as well.

The Association survived its first official audit, in the safe hands of **Jim Fitzgerald** which is part of our getting the DVA grant.

. **George Lane** sent the following email in with regards to **Vic Moreau** – “Vic is now in Westmead Rehab. I know he will get exceptional care (from experience) and have told him so. Like me he developed, amongst other things, fluid around the heart and had to be opened up again. He is slowly recovering but is very tired. **Ged Carroll** and I will visit him when he gets stronger. George.”

Ed – that’s great news – give the best from all of us and keep us in touch as you are doing.

. **Coffs Harbour October Reunion – DON’T** let this opportunity slip – not this year –
Applications to attend close on 1st September!

“**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, Peter (Pappy) and Carol Gault, 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 Nairn & Spike Chase (they’ve really thrown down the gauntlet to other groups!)

C’mon fellas it’s less than 1 month to go!

. **Birthdays in the Detachment...** now who do we send a birthday g’day to in September?

September	Name	Regt no	DoB	In SVN	Out SVN	Notes
1	ERIC THOMPSON Sgt.	44153	1948	18 02 1968	18 02 1969	
	" "			13 05 1971	04 06 1971	VISIT
2	PHILIP MULGREW	3411756	1948	29 04 1968	07 05 1969	
3	MILLS BUCKLEY	16950	1937	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
3	PETER SAINT	45033	1949	04 11 1970	29 07 1971	
6	JOHN DELLACA	3791355	1945	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
7	STEVE BOUTLIS	3787962	1945	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
7	GARY BESTER	3411737	1948	08 01 1968	03 12 1968	
7	IVAN MILLS S/Sgt.	213051	1934	31 01 1969	05 11 1969	
8	WILLIAM GORDON	2789911	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
12	BARRY NUGENT	1411039	1945	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
12	LARRY BRIDGE	2786506	1946	15 03 1968	18 03 1969	
12	PHILIP JOHNS	4719086	1946	16 09 1968	18 03 1969	
12	STEVEN VOSS	1735605	1948	29 04 1970	18 03 1971	
12	KEVIN GEOGHEGAN	219351	1951	16 12 1970	02 06 1971	131
	" "			02 06 1971	23 12 1971	HQ AFV
13	VICTOR CLAXTON	4410991	1948	17 01 1968	23 12 1968	
14	MERV DART	37821	1942	03 01 1967	09 01 1968	† 2001
14	FRANK IPSA	3786657	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
14	RUSSELL HEWITT	2792435	1948	03 06 1970	04 03 1971	
16	FRANK PEPPER	216683	1948	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	† 27.12.89
16	RONALD DEAN	215527	1944	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
16	BRIAN BLACK	2786469	1946	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	† 18.01.11
16	ALLEN WHEATLEY	2790305	1947	16 09 1969	04 06 1970	
17	JOHN BLAKE	1731550	1945	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	
17	BARRY GUZDER	5714500	1945	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
17	MAURICE ARCH	43350	1937	02 01 1967	14 11 1967	
17	ERNEST GALLOWAY	216708	1948	08 01 1968	22 04 1968	
18	BOB WILSON	3791425	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
18	JIM LAWLER Sgt.	28523	1936	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	
19	ROBERT DAVID GOW	61644	1944	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
19	HUBERT ANDREWS	2790121	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
19	WESLEY HINDMARSH	2791313	1947	30 09 1969	13 08 1970	
19	PHILLIP WAPSHOT	3793468	1947	27 11 1969	18 03 1970	
21	GARRY LEPLAW	217182	1948	05 02 1968	11 02 1969	† 06.12.83

22	IAN BUBB	2792358	1948	13 05 1970	11 03 1971	RAEME
23	GREGORY TOMMASI 2Lt.	3791966	1946	10 03 1970	25 08 1970	131
	" "			25 08 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
24	BOB. BILLIARDS	2785702	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
24	GEOFFREY CARTHEW	2793339	1949	03 06 1970	09 06 1971	
26	KEN. McNAMARA	2783740	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
26	JOHN DAVIES Sgt.	29351	1937	07 10 1966	30 04 1967	
26	RONALD BOALER	130230	1948	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
28	LEONARD WALKER	3798942	1949	16 12 1970	30 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.

Ed – 25 blokes in bold is still too many not accounted for!

. Locator Profiles – we’ve received **56** and we’ve sent out **53**. **Ed** – however **Dicko/Ed** is off on a mission to bolster the Profile archives so look out for partial blanks being sent out for the recalcitrant’s to complete otherwise they’ll end up on the web site looking decidedly bare! Now you wouldn’t want to look skeletal for the entire world to see forever? I’ll be starting from “A” and working my way to whatever the last letter is. I know who you are, soon the whole world will!! **Late Press** – this week has seen two Locator Profiles sent in with photos still to come, BUT it’s rattled a couple of chains – thanks **George** and **Craig**!

. Found...

Grahame Smith is rediscovered after **Ed** had recorded his email address incorrectly (it doesn’t get any easier for me!) – “Hi Paul, my name is Grahame Smith and I served with 131 from May 70 to May71. I have been told that in your latest newsletter is a photo of the Sensor team in Vung Tau taken during our training. If I am correct I took that photo in B&W and did copies for all present. Could you send me an e-mail of your latest newsletter? Many thanks Grahame Smith”

...this isn’t so much of a “Found”, but **Ed** got an email from **George Clark** who asked to be put in touch with **Paul Butcher** and bingo they’re in touch again with some common flying interests rekindled – puts a bit of warmth back in the heart!

.Vale –

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DoB</u>	<u>DoD</u>
Goss, Pierre Ramon	BQMS	213990	Det HQ	1969-70	17.08.36	06.08.11

If anyone has any photos or memories of Pierre they would be gratefully accepted?

...you blokes never cease to amaze me (even before E&Es hits the newsstands)...**Craig Cook** sent the following in – “Hi Paul, re Pierre Goss query. I am not sure if it’s the same person but we had a BQMS S/Sgt Peter Goss at 132Bty from 21-7-1976 to 5-12-1977 and he came from 16AD Regt. I don’t have his Regt no to look up if the same person. I do not think we ever had him in a mess photo so cannot see but I think he may have worn SVN ribbons. After he left us, I have no idea where he went to either and haven’t heard from him since. Regards Craig Cook” – **Ed** – How fantastic is that – it has to be one and the same?

. Peter Meaney sent the following email and photo attachment (on the right) in response to our **Vale** section in July, 2011 with regards to the passing of **Les Connell** – “Hi Paul, Enclosed a couple of photos of Les Connell (at least I think it is Les), who I believe passed away recently. Refer to Eyes & Ears vol #7 – Ian Amos I remember Les as a quietly spoken gentleman who did his part in the war. Regards Peter Meaney”



. Peter Ravelje also sent in a similar cropped photo and the following – “G’day Paul, I was sorry to hear that Les Connell had passed away. I knew him in Vietnam, fairly quiet bloke.... pretty sure his posting was Radar Op. Cheers, Peter.”

Connell, Leslie Phillip Gnr 6709098 SVN 23.09.1969 – 13.08.70 DoB 15.05.48 DoD 2011

.Ed sent out a general email to the committee with regards to a photo taken at the 1993 ANZAC Day March in Sydney (see the lousy photo below) and questioned the name of the bloke between **Ernie Newbold** and **Pete Fletcher**. Well thanks to **Grahame Dignam**, **Ian Amos** and **Barry Guzder** I discovered it was **Ean Thomas**. What is sad though is that **Ean** is no longer with us and we're searching for dates of his passing. From accounts he was with 130 Gun Lock Bty and moved around a fair bit, catching up with Barry and **Bill Breheny** in WA many years ago.



According to Grahame he worked for Baulderstone Hornibrook and was in SA for a while. Both Grahame and Ian state that he passed away from cancer several years ago.

Ean will be added to Roll Of Honour, however we need more information on Ean as to some sort of army history, regimental number etc and his date of death if possible – can anyone help?

May they rest in peace



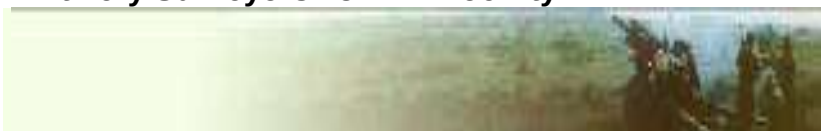
131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the upcoming establishment of the web site we are going to be burdened with the ongoing cost of maintenance etc and we need to be able to support this effort equally.

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

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

. Other related sites...

. Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

"Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush"

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

This website seeks to make contact with the Artillery Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty. We welcome your relevant contributions of photos, insights and observances so we might endeavour to expand 131 Artillery Surveying Vietnam record, beyond this window. Please use the contacts page for details:

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

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

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

. Locating Artillery Association...



LOCATING ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...notes taken from the LAA website –

There is no meeting scheduled for September.



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



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much. It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/8rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

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

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