



THE EYES and EARS

"FIRST PUBLISHED 22nd JULY 1967
in Núi Dat, South Vietnam"

Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

email: three-zero@hotmail.com

Vol. 4 No. 9 – 30/09/2011

Official newsletter of the **131 Locators Association Inc**

ABN 92 663 816 973

Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs

Heard and seen...

Ed – What started as an innocent enquiry from Allen Morley to Ernie Newbold ends up in some sort of "Shed Discussion". Allen asks Ernie – "We found an old Army Land Rover in the street – photo on the left (from E&Es August 2011's issue - The event was the 45th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. It was organised by the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces). 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? And of course Ernie responds with – "G'day Allen, Bob and Grahame - well done lads. Good to see the banner on an official outing.



Allen the old Landrover looks very good as it is, stripped down and ready for action. By the look of the vehicle "tac" sign of white numerals on a plain red background I'd say it is meant to appear as a former Infantry vehicle, assuming that the "tac" signs are original.

I can't read the number plate on the vehicle, was it an army plate or a civilian rego plate?

If I were to buy an ex-army Landrover I'd soon fit it up with Det 131 "tac" signs i.e. "47".

The "National distinguishing symbol" i.e. the red leaping kangaroo facing left,

indicates that the vehicle has been used overseas.

The pole is interesting and I'd agree with Allen that it was probably for a machine gun mount, either M60 or .50 cal. However I suppose that in civilian life it could now be used as a mobile pole dancing vehicle. Imagine how the enemy might have reacted if it had been used to transport pole dancers during the war, perhaps they might have changed sides.

Can you imagine Fletch driving Capt. Warwick back from Vung Tau with a couple of pole dancers performing in the back of the 'Rover'? - Ernie"

...hey hang on there's bloody more – Ernie adds – "G'day guys, use the attached link to see what a "Vung Tau gun buggy" looked like – photo on right.

It is very similar in appearance to what Allen photographed in Springwood yesterday.

Note that it is fitted with not one but two M60s. http://www.adgies.net/vung_tau_gunbuggy.html

Regards, Ernie."

Ed – Ernie's not one to leave a stone unturned!!



...Now here's a coincidence and could really suit a "weekend warrior" – no names mentioned!

Grahame Dignam got this out of the Sydney Daily Tele on Friday 9th September. Maybe there could be a real traffic jam and fight for parking spaces at ANZAC Day next year – would they consider a bulk purchase??

Ed's wondering if the Assoc could buy one for business use? Maybe we could transport "The Pioneers" in the ANZAC Day parade – for a price! Hey John Blake could run "Tianjara Tours" in it? Read the next article.



The mind boggles!!

. John Blake gives us another look at **Tianjara** in this really interesting dialogue - "Paul "Tianjara"

I was in the back of that truck heading down there – seating troops with backs to the road sides. "Longtack" James (I am sorta certain that was his was his surname) was sitting on the right side with his arms spread fore and aft with his hands on the side rails of the truck and on the inside of the canopy. A civilian water tanker coming the other way sideswiped our truck and, through our canvas canopy, picked up Longtack's right arm dragging it back to where his left arm should be. The other truck did stop and it was established that he had a non-standard illegal bar projecting wide enough to hit our truck, with both vehicles on their respective correct sides of the road. Longtack was taken to hospital where he was treated for some fairly serious arm, hand and shoulder injuries. I remember his hand was pretty pulped and bones in his hand were fused to allow him to hold a pen and he was given a job in the orderly room. Over time the bones changed their shape and he needed to have the bones broken again to make his hand functional. I was on a listening post at Tianjara. The hike out to our designated position started out as exceedingly cold and a bit wet but at one point became very warm. We had at least one Mexican in our group and he let us know that when it goes as warm like that it's about to snow. I was looking forward to the snow but it did not happen. Our listening post position from the map was found only after a hard climb to the top of scree where we found a cave in which to hide from the weather. I had this sneaking suspicion that the last person in this cave was pre-white man and that if we had done some serious digging we would have found evidence of indigenes. Where we had a hidden fire {don't tell anyone about the fire} we did do a bit of a dig to about a foot down but found nothing. Apart from that we paid respect to the site leaving it in pristine condition when we left however we found later that a gun battery blasted shit out of the site after we left. So much for conservationism! We were a bit ahead of our time. John"

Ed – as always its great some info from our "resident dentist" – his writings are just so "Blakey" (like all of you with your own persona coming through) – thanks John.

Ed – On the email I sent with Augusts' E&Es I asked if anyone knew **Barry Campton's** email address (I had the one he used in high school!) and within minutes **Bert Blink** sent to me, then Tony Foley sent this in later in the day and I thought the email was worth publishing as it goes to show how we all inter-twined somewhere/somewhat – "Hi Paul, re: Barry Campton, I don't know what you have? But I have xxxx (email address supplied). Good luck & give him my Best Wishes - He was my Divisional Survey Officer & I was his Sergeant at 131 Div Loc Bty in '62/'63. Cheers Paul, Tony Foley."

. **Pierre Goss** – a continuation of reminiscences between **Craig Cook** and **David Troedel** – “Hi Craig, I saw your reply to Paul in the latest Eyes & Ears.

What I have on Peter Goss is 213990, GOSS Pierre Ramon - born 7.8.1936 - enlisted 24.4.1961. SVN: 131 Div Loc Bty 24.3.1969 - 25.3.1970 Sgt 16 LAA Regt c73. SSgt Discharged 1.6.1981.

The DVA Vietnam Nominal Roll lists him as 213990.Born Melbourne 7.8.36. He was T/Sgt, Detachment 131 Div Loc Bty from 24.3.1969 to 25.3.1970.

I now remember him at 132 Div Loc Bty as the BQMS; he had quite a few kids. I also remember him in 4 Fd Regt 1962 to 1964 when we returned from Malaya, I think he was in HQ Bty with me but cannot remember his posting.

I was posted from 101 Bty to the Regimental Survey Troop in April 1962.

Regards David”

...then Craig’s response...

“Hi Dave, thanks for reinforcing my data on Peter Goss. In case you haven’t sent onto Paul I am sending this at same time. I didn’t realise you were with us in Bty when Peter was there. By the way Dave we caught up with Frank & Judy Kohleman when in Perth recently and spent the day with them. Not sure if you remember him as BQMS as he was before Peter [8/9/69 - 21/7/75] which overlapped Des Hansen’s time because Frank was still on strength somehow when he went to 3RRC [recruiting].

He later went over to Port Wakefield before discharge in Perth his home town.

Peter Goss came after Des left us in 1975. There was some gap without a BQ then.

Paul there is an end now I guess to missing info on Peter.

- I never knew him as Pierre, only Peter. What nationality were his forebears??Craig Cook”

Ed – he was always “Pierre” to me – got any answers, anyone?

. **Bert Blink** sent in the following which was taken from the Veteran Search Result -

Name: Mead, Lindsay **Service No:** 3790714 **DoB:** 26.06.1945 **Rank:** (Temp) Bombardier

Place of Birth: Benalla, Vic **Corps:** Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery **National Service:** Yes

Summary of Unit Name(s)	Start Date	End Date
Detachment, 131 Divisional Locating Battery	27/03/1968	12/04/1968
Vietnam Waters - 2300hrs to 2200hrs	08/04/1968	09/04/1968

...and **Ed** extracted this from his email –

“Hi, an aside:-

While printing some info I noticed Lindsay Maxwell Mead who served with the Detachment

(<http://www.vietnamroll.gov.au/VeteranDetails.aspx?VeteranId=1250169>) in country for just 17 days (but this was in Mar/Apr 1968). No idea what the Unit “Vietnam Waters 2300 hrs-2200 hrs” means, he is the only Army person with this Unit reference? Bert”

...to which Grahame Dignam responds with – “Ahh, looks like 2 tours - First on ground then maybe as a passenger (Seconded) aboard a navy vessel accompanying cargo-radars etc??? Obviously he was on Night shift!!!!

Dig”

...Bert responds with – “Hi Grahame - No not two tours the “Vietnam Waters 2300 hrs-2200 hrs” was inside the 17 days. My guess was that he went on an operation, fell sick, evacuated to a Naval Vessel then to a shore hospital then home? Bert”

Ed – OK we’re in serious need of help! **Can anyone enlighten us to the story of Lindsay Maxwell Mead??**

Ed (again) – I’ve taken the following photo from **Peter Ravelje** out of the following Vale section as it is a curiosity to me – the **Q Store in Nui Dat (circa 1970)** – my memories have it a more “tentified” spot in the plantation, NOT with the Balmain Tigers (as they were then) – Pierre Goss’s favourite Rugby League team colours emblazoned on the front door. The Rover is parked correctly (were there parking restrictions?), they look like fire extinguishers hanging on the outside wall to the left (was there a “hazchem” mat though?) – the place looks very orderly – it looks as though someone’s done an “Emu” bob! Peter took the photo from a tower not far away – a tower for what??



. Grahame Dignam sent in the following clipping out of the Sydney Daily Telegraph (on the right) as it tickled his fancy and also bought a smile Ed's crooked countenance. Dig accompanied the cutting with the following – "Dicko, Article from D TELE 31/8/2011 - Bombs, bullets and IUDs still kill you but in this day and age, we need to be clean and green. "A tidy soldier is a good soldier" but, "gee they have turned off our hot water and now we have to go cold!" Just where did our waste water end up?? How many of us had a shower off the tent fly? Were we responsible for the global warming because we were ignorant of the phosphates? Dig"

Ed couldn't resist with getting down and dirty with the photos in the archives (so far) based on Dig's "shower off the tent fly" comment and found the following selection –

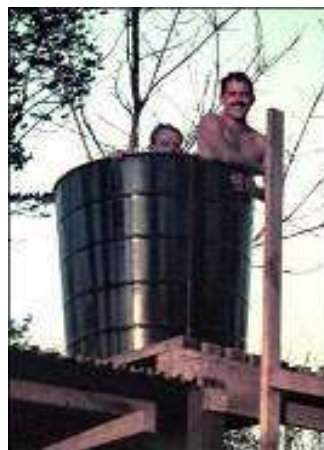


On the left -
Laurie Gallop
with
George lane

Dicko's "tent fly shower"



Above - Bob King's communal shower photo



Graeme Owen's
slight
exaggeration!



. Ernie Newbold – intrepid investigator – on one of his "Voyages of Discovery" found the following web address and is currently trawling and sending me updates for our Roll of Honour (currently our Roll has the names of 57 Locators). The web site does have discrepancies and inaccuracies in some detail (regimental numbers and the like), but may help those of you who have enquiries about misplaced mates. Obviously it relies on input, so is not the definitive answer to all enquiries.

<http://www.heavenaddress.com/Community/tabid/171/ctl/GroupNoticeDetail/mid/711/GroupID/25/currentpage/5/Default.aspx>

. **Vic Moreau** – for the blokes who know him and those who don't the following is a photo **Ed** found in **Keith Dean's** collection with **Vic** in it -



Vic Moreau, Alan Thomson, Jim Fitzgerald, Neville Hastings, Shorty Gow, Keith Dean, Alan Johnson (from 103 Bty) Artillery Re-Union Coffs Harbour

. **Richard Chaplin** got in contact recently with an email that Ed couldn't help with, so we're giving his request a go here – "Hi Paul,

My name is Richard Chaplin and I was a member of the 131 Div Loc Bty Radar section in SVN during 1970. I also made a small written (from my diary kept while in Vietnam) and photographic contribution to the 2009 AN/KPQ-1 Radar South Vietnam history compiled by Keith Ayliffe.

However, the purpose of this email is to ask if you have contact details (email?) of **Mick Davis** who attended the Brisbane 131 Reunion and Anzac Day reported in LOCREP May 2011 Vol 48.

Mick (who was with Arty Int in SVN) and I were good friends before and while in Vietnam, however we lost contact 3-4 years after returning to Australia.

If you do not have Mick's contact details, I notice **Blair Shepherd** organised the Brisbane 131 Reunion, and if you have Blair's email address that may help.

I have already contacted the Locating Association regarding this however as Mick Davis and Blair Sheppard are not members (neither am I), they have no record of them.

Anyway, if you are able to help it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks and regards,

Richard Chaplin

National Serviceman 1968-70 2791166"

Ed – can anyone give me a hand to help Richard to re-connect with Mick and Blair?

. **Kevin Grime** asks... Paul, did you ever find out the names of all the guys in that Radar detachment photo at north head

I sent some time back?? I can remember all the faces but only couple of the names

Ed – now there has to be someone out there in the "Radar" world who can help Kevin and even us lot fill in a few names?



. **Kevin Maker** sent the following in which should be of real interest to our recipient veterans:

"Minister for Veterans' Affairs Subscription List

Tuesday 20 September 2011 VA078 - INCREASE TO VETERAN PENSION RATES ON 20 SEPTEMBER

Some 320,000 veterans, partners and war widows and widowers will now receive increased pensions and income support payments from 20 September 2011, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon announced today.

Mr Snowdon said the increase was part of the bi-annual pension indexation process and will help to support veterans and provide extra assistance to those who need it most.

"The indexation reforms introduced by this Government have delivered a fairer pension system for our veteran community and will help them to meet the increasing costs of living," he said.
This increase will affect all DVA pensions, including the Service Pension, War Widow Pension and Disability Pension. The first full payments under the new rates will take place on 6 October 2011.
The table below highlights the changes to some of the key rates per fortnight.

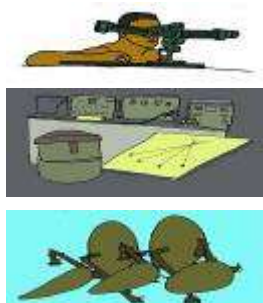
Pension	Old Rate	New Rate 20 September	Increase
Service Pension—single	\$729.30	\$748.80	\$19.50
Service Pension—couples	\$1,099.40 couple \$549.70 each	\$1,129.00 couple \$564.50 each	\$29.60 \$14.80
War Widow Pension	\$738.70	\$758.70	\$20.00
Income Support Supplement	\$220.80	\$226.80	\$6.00
Special Rate (TPI) Pension	\$1,113.70	\$1,143.80	\$30.10
Intermediate Rate Disability Pension	\$755.80	\$776.30	\$20.50
Extreme Disablement Adjustment	\$614.80	\$631.50	\$16.70
100 per cent General Rate of Disability	\$395.70	\$406.40	\$10.70

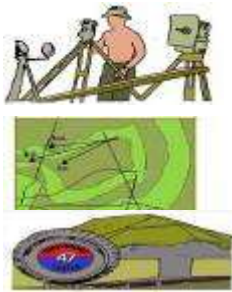
A full list is available on the factsheets section of the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au or by calling 133 254 (metro) and 1800 555 254 (regional).

Pensions are indexed twice a year in March and September to the highest of three measures: the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) and the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI).

Media inquiries: Minister Snowdon: Alice Plate 02 6277 7820

Department of Veterans' Affairs Media: 02 6289 6203"



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

Just an advance notice that the Association's first **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** is to be held at the Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, [26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW 2176](#) at **1100hrs on Thursday 10th November 2011.**

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

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

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

. Coffs Harbour October Reunion –

"Hey, hope you have/had a great time catching up with some of the best blokes in the world!

Some photos and yarns would be great for October's E&Es!

. Birthdays in the Battery...41 blokes saw the light of day in October!

OCTOBER	Name	Regt No	Y o B	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	IAN BRIGNELL	2789405	1946	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
2	TERRY BRUCE	2783213	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
2	PETER TEATHER	3790242	1945	12 04 1968	06 08 1968	

2	LESLIE ROBINSON	217662	1949	09 12 1968	28 11 1969	
4	LEIGH HEMMING	1732039	1945	04 05 1967	11 12 1967	
4	MIKE LUFF	2783725	1945	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
4	DAVID LAHORE	3791183	1945	02 09 1968	04 03 1969	
5	JAMES MERCHANT	2788817	1945	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
7	GARY CHILLINGSWORTH	313477	1951	29 11 1970	05 08 1971	
8	JOHN O'NEILL	243505	1949	09 11 1970	11 11 1970	RAEME
				11 03 1971	12 05 1971	RAEME
9	BRIAN SMYTHE	1201484	1946	02 09 1968	03 12 1969	
10	BRIAN KENNEDY Capt.	213488	1942	02 03 1965	11 03 1965	3 RAR
	" "			26 08 1969	27 08 1970	131
10	PAUL DICKSON	1732012	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
10	BARRY BONSER	37661	1941	03 01 1967	27 09 1967	† 03.09.98
11	PAUL JONES	216324	1946	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† 09.09.68
11	JEFFREY EVANS Lt.	3789164	1945	10 02 1971	02 06 1971	131
	" "			02 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
12	ALAN CLEASBY WO2	36053	1937	02 12 1968	10 12 1969	131
	" " "			11 06 1972	20 11 1972	AATTV
12	BARRY FOUNTAIN	3798485	1949	03 03 1971	20 08 1971	131
	" "			21 08 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
13	PETER SALI	1735560	1948	24 02 1970	18 02 1971	
13	DENNIS AVERY	4720906	1948	19 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt.
14	TONY DODDS	16776	1944	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
14	NORMAN LINDROOS	3410957	1939	20 05 1968	24 05 1969	
14	PETER McGANN	55672	1950	27 11 1969	19 11 1970	
16	WILLIAM THOMAS	16727	1944	{07 01 1967	19 03 1967	1ARU
	" "			{20 03 1967	26 09 1967	
17	TORIN WHITE	218372	1945	21 02 1969	25 02 1970	
18	HELMUT LEMPA	38120	1946	20 05 1966	06 12 1966	† Unknown
18	ARTHUR JUX	2792371	1948	29 04 1970	18 03 1971	
19	IAN FINLAY	2412363	1948	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	ROBERT HARRIS Sgt.	213514	1942	10 02 1971	29 07 1971	
23	JOHN VITKOVSKY	4718271	1945	02 03 1967	12 03 1968	
23	NORMAN BULLEN	214545	1944	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
22	IAN BOARD	213879	1943	22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
25	MICHAEL DELANEY	2789205	1947	17 02 1969	28 11 1969	
28	MICHAEL BOHL	1411182	1948	08 02 1968	17 12 1968	† 15.06.93
28	DAVID DOYLE Sgt.	17760	1943	{22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
	" "			{24 09 1970	08 02 1971	
28	IAN MURLEY	38503	1946	12 04 1968	23 04 1969	
28	PAUL TYS Lt.	235362	1946	17 03 1969	18 03 1970	
29	JAMES "ZEKE" RITCHIE Sgt.	2411899	1940	21 05 1969	09 04 1970	
29	PETER LARKIN	3793067	1946	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
30	GRAHAM O'TOOLE	61497	1943	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	

Ed – 27 blokes NOT Highlighted is still too many not accounted for – c'mon fellas someone has got to have an inkling where at least one of these blokes might be? There are 2 x "Pioneers" from '66, 3 in '67, 8 in '68, 7 in '69, 5 in '70 and 2 in '71!

. Locator Profiles – we've received **73** and we've sent out **58**.

Ed - The "scourge" is starting to work - number 054 **Peter Binns** – a 20 year man who by the looks of doesn't mind a yabbie! #055 introduced to **Harry Lynas** a Yorkshireman who calls Queensland home, #056 **Robert Morrison's** Locator Profile got a positive response from **Grahame Dignam** – "I have met Bob, he's a very interesting bloke. He has a million stories and I have only heard 3 of them. Dig", #057 **Russell Jackson**, a Nasho, had his teaching career adjusted by a marble, we managed to get #058 **Neville Smith's** profile in before the end of September.

. Paul Butcher got a tremendously rewarding response from the emailing of his Profile (#053) - "Paul, thanks to my profile I had a phone call from locator **Col West**, 32A 69/70, he sussed my telephone number through Google, he coached my memory along reminding me of sharing daily drives from Manly to the Battery and return each day, later

we shared 12 months in SVN.

Col now lives in Nowra, I've sourced his photograph, then and now, by going through previous issues, I'm not sure if he's a signed up member but he has at least a mate who is.

Problem is I failed to get Col's phone number or email address, if anyone can help I will be most obliged.

Some of us live a little isolated from our past and it can be a shock to initially chat to someone not remembered for a while, I hope to make contact with Col again.

More strength to you Paul, thanks...Paul Butcher"

Ed – we got Paul in touch with Col.

. **Kevin Browning** has increased his cred as a super sleuth with the following, though he may not endear himself to the Surveyor / WO mob, though **Ed** reckons he could have added the Radar lot – “Hi Paul, Just finished reading Russ's bio (**Russell Jackson's Locator Profile**) and yes he was one of a great bunch of guys, as all Locators are. The last photo he has a Sgt (???) indicated. A bit hard to get the detail but I doubt Sergeants stood with their hands on their hips, surveyors and Warrant Officers maybe but not Sergeants. I think it may be our Sound Ranging Section Sergeant Major, **WO2 George Addison**. Regards, Kevin”

. **Michael Delaney** took the time to comment on **Russell Jackson's Locator Profile** – “Thanks Paul and a good read Russ!!!!!! See you in Sydney for ANZAC - can't make Coffs. Trust all goes well - Cheers Mick”

. **Found...**well this time we didn't do the finding **Richard Chaplin** found us – see the item above where Richard is looking for **Mick Davis** and **Blair Sheppard**. Richard is our 190th Locator on our contact database – fantastic! Welcome Richard; let's hope we can find Mick and Blair.

. **Vale –**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DoB</u>	<u>DoD</u>
Briggs, Stanley John	Gnr	1731999		1967-68	13.08.45	Unknown

Jeff Reid sent in the following email when informed that “Briggisy” had passed away –



“Paul, Sorry to hear about Briggisy.

My memory is not too good about the whole Vietnam affair and the names of people I served with is terrible. (Much to my frustration)



As for Briggisy I remember him as a bloke who never really showed any upset or frustration and just did what he had to do, always in a cheerful mood.

I have attached four photos of Briggisy, one at the Sand bag point (negotiating price on a drink no doubt,) another although totally out of focus, was the killing of a snake that had crawled into a tent. The photo on the top left is Briggisy, again this time doing some washing and bottom left doing what Briggisy perfected – wreaking havoc! Jeff”



<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DoB</u>	<u>DoD</u>
Walker, Leonard	Gnr	3798942		16.12.70 – 30.06.71	28.09.49	Unknown
			12 Fd Regt	30.06.70 – 30.10.71		

The following is an extract from an email sent in by **Mike Butler** with regards to a late mate **Len Walker** (above in “Vale”) – “Paul I noticed you have Len Walker listed in the birthday list (August 2011 Eyes & Ears).

Unfortunately, Len was drowned in a fishing accident a couple of years ago in the Goulburn River. I went to his funeral in Ballarat where he was from and am still in contact with his sons. He was very isolated and it's a pity he didn't get to enjoy his retirement.

Len and I were involved in a mine explosion that destroyed our Land Rover in Feb 71. “Tracks of the Dragon” has a bit on it. Four of us wounded - Dave Doyle, Peter Mackie, Len and I - Kevin Browning took photos of the aftermath!! Len and I were sent back to Nui Dat after hospitalisation at Vung Tau and Dave and Peter sent back to Oz. Am in constant contact with Peter Saint who witnessed the explosion and is now living in Canberra - went up to see him a couple of years ago.

I'm a member of VVAA and meet with other vets (mostly tankies, grunts, and ginger beers) at the Box Hill RSL every month for a get together. The group at Box Hill is very social and very supportive of Viet Vets - president is ex - SAS. Cheers Mike Butler"

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DoB</u>	<u>DoD</u>
Mitchell, Raymond John	Gnr	218731	4 Fd Regt -	1970 1970-71	26.05.51	24.09.11

Ian Finlay emailed us re: the Passing of **Ray Mitchell** – “For those who do not know Brian - "Busby" his brother passed away suddenly yesterday 24/9/11 - **Raymond John Mitchell** aged 60 years. Brian's brother also served in 131 Div Loc in Vietnam 1970, it is a coincidence that we found “Busby” through his brother (John) as he was known, through putting a (looking for add) in the RSL newsletter some years ago.
If you wish to contact “Busby” his phone number is 0428366357 home 0738903753.
Best Regards Fin.”

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DoB</u>	<u>DoD</u>
Buss (Rafferty), Paul	Gnr	2781443	Radar	1966-67	14.06.45	28.09.11

Peter Ravelje advises us of the following – “G'day Paul -It is with a sad heart that I convey the news of the passing of a good mate and fellow 131 Gnr, 2781443 **Paul Buss**. Paul served in the Radar troop in SVN from 22/04/1966 to 28/04/1967.
He came back and joined the NSW fire service and retired from them around 2000. He changed his name from Buss to Rafferty many years ago as Buss was his stepfather's name and he wanted to be known by his real father's name.
He was a member of the VVMC Qld Chapter for many years and even after moving from the Gold Coast to Hill Top near Mittagong NSW still attended the Club's meetings in Qld, riding his 'Honda Goldwing' up and back regularly. He was diagnosed with a very aggressive pancreatic cancer only 10 days ago, had a chance to say goodbye to his family and that was it. He will be sadly missed - Peter.”



. **Pierre Goss – Peter Ravelje** sent the following after the article in Augusts' E&E – “G'day Paul, Just reading your story on Pierre Goss. My sincere condolences to the Goss family - we knew him as Peter, he was the S/Sgt QM at the Bty when I was there in 1970 (see photo on right). Being a “Balmain Tigers” supporter he had the door of the 'Q' store painted in Black & Gold stripes.
I last saw him on Anzac Day 2010 whilst in Melbourne. He wasn't travelling real well and he joined the March riding in the back of a beautiful late model 1940's Buick Eight Special.
I took this photo of him then, wearing the red Nike cap and talking to John Dellaca. Cheers ...Peter”



Our Roll of Honour now contains the names of 59 Locators - May they rest in peace

 bullet and email	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>



LOCATING ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...notes taken from the LAA website –

There is no meeting scheduled for October, 2011



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



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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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

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

Bill Taggart sent the following out in one of his 1/83rd Weekly Updates and it got Ed to thinking that maybe, just maybe, one of our illustrious "Pioneers" may be able to throw some light on it – "Apparently in early 1966, the 1/83rd had towed 8-inch howitzers. A couple of our 66 buddies, Otto Aliffi and Rex Hon remember this. Rex recently brought it to my attention. When I got to the 83rd about June 1966, I don't recall that but, on the other hand, I can't always remember what I had for breakfast a few hours later. Anyhow, I thought you might find that interesting. Bill"

Ed – anyone got any thoughts?

Vale –

In conjunction with Bill Taggart we are commencing this section to commemorate the passing of our 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery mates, with whom we shared a common goal.

Name	Larry DePriest	Dennis Ponsford	Leon Skeen
Rank	Sergeant First Class at retirement	Specialist 4	Chief Warrant Officer 4
Bty Location	"C" Battery, 4th Gun Section	"HQ" Battery, Survey	Battalion Helicopter Pilot
SVN	1966-67	1966-67	1969-70
Dob	12/11/1946	6/1/1947	2/20/1945
DoD	9/21/2011	6/19/2011	8/20/2011

May they rest in peace

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

All material that is included in *Eyes and Ears*, official Newsletter of the 131 Locators Association Inc remains the property of 131 Locators Association for its sole use. Prior written authorisation for the use of any material whatsoever contained in the Newsletter must be sought from 131 Locators Association Inc. Any material approved for use by third parties must acknowledge 131 Locators Association Inc as the source. No responsibility is accepted for unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or photographs, or for the accuracy of information contained in the text of *Eyes and Ears*.