



THE EYES and EARS

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Official newsletter of the **131 Locators Association Inc**
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Heard and seen...and let's start off with a **"Special g'day for 2012!"**

. **131 DIV LOC BTY ARTY SVYS AT NUI CHUA CHAN SVN 1968 – 1969**

"A Recollection" by Geoff Jebb

Chua Chan is located in Long Khan Province about 60 km east of Saigon and 10km east of Xuan Loc. Xuan Loc was where the last major battle of the Vietnam War was fought in March/April 1975.

Chua Chan rises on the eastern edge of a plain to a height of 837 metres. Its summit gave uninterrupted views from the south east to the North West, to a distance of about 25km.

In 1966 the Americans established a base on Nui Chua Chan as a radio relay station and observation post. It bristled with radio antennae and was only accessible by helicopter. The summit was cleared of all vegetation to about 50m down



the slope and ringed with wire, mines and well constructed bunkers. With heavy machine guns and mortars it was very defensible. The VC made occasional probes and in May and August 1968 they made serious assaults without success.

131 Artillery Surveyors' interest was the French Trig Station established there in Colonial times. This provided a reliable point of origin when FSBs were deployed in the area sweeping from south to the west. Given the right conditions, a direct line of sight could be achieved, if not into the FSBs proper, then to points close by. For the Survey task a small party would be choppered to Chua Chan, the remainder would deploy as near the FSB as possible. Here they would set up and establish a computing centre.

It was not always plain sailing! At times smoke, haze, rain, mist and low cloud made visual contact difficult. The use of heliographs and even magnesium flares usually solved these problems.

Data was passed by radio to the command centre and because we were usually operating outside our AO, our particular frequency was often taken by another Unit. Data transfer by radio, often resulted in harsh words being exchanged; especially when dealing with chopper pilots!

Once these problems were overcome, the survey task could proceed. Long traverse legs- diamond, closed, or parallel for closure, and the job was well underway. The Svy Sgt would handle things at the other end, manage the computations and issue the BP cards.



While working and waiting at Nui Chua Chan, we would be looked after by the base and nothing was too much trouble. More often than not our survey involved an overnight stay. Meals, hot tubs and accommodation would be provided, all precious items in this isolated rocky outcrop. Probably the most precious was the appearance of "Jack Daniels"!!! Needless to say, we always managed to include a few cases of VB and Fosters in our load. This all approved and paid for by Regt Funds in the interest of good PR!

"Those who went to Chua Chan would remember the experience!" - Geoff Jebb

. **Kevin "Soul" Maker's** profile contained photo which made the ever "eagle-eyed" **Ernie Newbold** take a second look (only 'cause he didn't need to look again!) and noticed something awry with the two subject's equipment. For a couple of Locators preparing for the rigours ahead they seemed ill-equipped...read on...

"G'day Paul, Did you notice that this photo was taken at North Head and that these guys are still wearing boots AB and gaiters in January 1969? Regards, Ernie."

Ed - he's correct - was there that much of a surplus that they were still being issued? Hey and not to mention the extra cleaning - I still remember the bloody little brass buckles you had to slide the leather through to tighten them!



Chris Chapple and "Soul" doing a sig test or checking the surf report!

. Grahame Dignam & Ed share a dark dim secret back in the '60s...we both worked for the Commonwealth Bank and on getting back into the ~~drudgery~~ (oops!) swing of it in 1967 we both attended "Ex-Servicemen's Courses" at Park Street in Sydney.

Recently I was having a "Reflective Moment" (for lack of a better term) and decided to drive the CBA insane by seeing if they had an archive department and once finding out that they do, I pushed on. Actually they were very good and more than helpful. I think Grahame's connection might have done the trick as mine was somewhat of a lost cause to put it mildly.

Below are photos of Grahame and I attending courses – at least he's smiling – I may have been asleep and they air-brushed the eyes open.

Grahame continued on until he retired and I was gone by the September that year – I left of my own accord – seriously! My departure had nothing to do with my producing a .38 in another bank's branch one Friday as the chief teller and I went to get some change!

I had inadvertently put the "Ned Kelly" size revolver in the money bag in my pocket and of course when asked for the bag to put the money in I pulled the cannon out in full view of some customers so as I could hand over the bag! If the woman who fainted had been a half reasonable looker I would have offered some sort of mouth to mouth! But and more importantly, I guess luckily there was not the security that they have today otherwise I would have resorted to "contact left" and have found some fake indoor plant to scramble behind and opened fire possibly only to find that the revolver explode from dust up the barrel – that's if it was loaded!

Anyway, the real reason for including these photos is to see if other blokes did a stint with the CBA and attended one of the courses or any other institutions for that matter.

Ed has extracted copies of all the archived National Service Call-up dates, discharge dates and photos of course.

HOWEVER and there is almost always a "however", the archives only go into 1969 – maybe they gave up after that in frustration with blokes like me returning!

But if you are an ex-vet-ex-bankie and you'd like to see what can be produced just drop me an email plus any other info you may have.

Even if you weren't an ex-CBA/ or bankie bloke and have some fun archival stuff – please send it in.



EX-SERVICEMEN'S COURSE No. 6

Standing – Left to right:

G. Carter, R. Oranes, B. Heath, K. Campbell, L. Fordham, G. Downs, A. Fenerty, P. Hewitt, J. Gubbins (Tutor), I. Scully, P. Logue, D. Rapp, M. Esh (Tutor).

Seated – Left to right:

R. Gentle, I. McMillan, A. Weertman, B. Wilkison, K. Broughton, P. Dickson, B. Cornell, D. McDonald, J. Thornton, D. Fairclough, K. Moore, G. Hughes, J. Faint.



EX-SERVICEMEN'S COURSE No. 7

Left to Right

Front Row – E.J. CALLAGHAN, G.H. TARDREW, J.A. PIRRIE, P.A. EVENDEN, L.J. MUGRIDGE, J.P. ROGERS, G.C. DIGNAM, J.R. BREWER

2nd Row – C.J. OAKMAN, G.J. MEAKIN, R. BARBARA, J.W.J. MANNING, D.M. WILSON, C.R. BURDON, R.E. MERRICK, D.F. SMITH

3rd Row – D.A. HUTCHINSON, G.M. JOHNS, W.R. USSFELLER, K.R. CUSWORTH, G.E. PRECIANS, E.J. MORRIS, J.C. KUMNICK, T.J. McLOUGHLIN

Standing – Tutors

M.J. ESH, J.G. GUBBINS, D.J. LOCK, D.S.B. MORE, L.G. ROBERTSON

. **John Stanford** initially commented on the passing of “Lofty” Hayes then included another subject – read on...
“Paul, I assume you received a copy of the VETAFFAIRS newsletter (Summer 2011).
There is an article in there (Page 9) about **Bill Slape** receiving an award for his efforts in the 2004 Thailand tsunami.
In case you didn't know he is a 131 old boy, SVN 1970 (I think). Regards John S”
Here's the extract from the VETAFFAIRS newsletter -

“**Extraordinary service** - In a ceremony held at the Australian Embassy in Bangkok, DVA's **Bill Slape**, a Vietnam veteran locally employed by DVA in Thailand, was presented the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Operations Medal by Deputy Commissioner Michael Phelan for his efforts in support of the AFP tsunami relief operation in Thailand in December 2004.”

Ed – who said “Old soldiers fade away”?

. **Ernie Newbold** loves a challenge and none more-so that the question posed in last month's E&Es where **Ed** displayed a solo M60 and raised a question about a piece of wire. Well here's the email response complete with another photo of the same M60 – “G'day Paul, In the December Eyes and Ears you asked a question about a photo of an M60-GPMG showing a wire hook attached to the sling loop on the butt.

What do you suspect was the purpose of the wire hook? – **see at end of this email...**

That particular M60-GPMG was located at LP-3 (31C) as most locators who served there will remember. The mount being used to support

the gun allows for the gun to be traversed over a wide arc while in use, whereas the bipod mounted at the front of the gun would not be as versatile. The mount appears to use the same mounting position as the M122 tripod mount. Without the wire hook the muzzle end of the gun would be heavier than the butt end and would be resting on the ground in front of the L.P. See the following link for some more information on the M60-GPMG

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M60_machine_gun

Attached is another photo of the same gun (this time with **Bob King** of “Darkroom Fame” with the '60's version of the “Ghetto Blaster” – is Bob whistling to something on Armed Forces radio from Saigon?), taken on a different day which more clearly shows the gun mount. You may also notice the used B3A can from a C-Ration pack to improve the ammunition belt feed into the gun.

Regards, Ernie”

Ed – my thought on the “wire” was to stop it tilting when firing, BUT I think Ernie's reason is correct – “Without the wire hook the muzzle end of the gun would be heavier than the butt end and would be resting on the ground in front of the L.P.” My reasoning falls short also because with the wire in place you couldn't “traverse” the gun. I suppose we could have had signs to direct “Charlie” to walk in single file directly in front of the LP.

Hey! And what about the “used B3A can from the C-ration pack” – that's bloody ingenious!

. **Barry Guzder** - RE: Eyes & Ears Vol 4 No 12 December 2011

“Hey Dicko, just a small, but significant amendment to my postings in Vietnam - I started at 31D (yanks) and was there building and rebuilding the bloody post from inception for almost 7 months. I only relieved at all the other L Ps for a few weeks at a time in between going out on ops. We started out in pup tents (which flooded) and ended up in proper yank barracks many many months later. Geoff Blackwell only came down for awhile because he heard the Playboy Bunnies had arrived! You can put all that in the next E &E. Regards Barry Guzder”



. **A Bob King** archived photo grabbed my attention as these 3 likely suspects – Bob, Leigh Hemming and Peter “Pappy” Gault seemed to be ready to imitate the three wise monkeys, then I discovered the next one which added **Des Spencer**, but I can't recognise the bloke between Pappy and Des, plus I've forgotten the bloke with the cap between Des and Leigh.



However, it's got me stumped as to where they were, who was their barber and were they waiting for the laundry to return their shirts?

. **Ernie Newbold's** second in the series on Service Medals for South Vietnam...

Decorations, Badges and Awards for service in South Vietnam

Part two

The Vietnam Medal



The Vietnam Medal was instituted in 1968 and awarded for service in Vietnam between 29 May 1964 and 27 January 1973. Service from 24 December 1962 until 29 May 64 was recognised by the General Service Medal 1962 with clasp SOUTH VIETNAM.

The Vietnam Medal was issued under the Imperial system but was mainly awarded to Australian and New Zealand personnel.

The Medal

The Vietnam Medal is a cupro-nickel medal with the effigy of the Queen on the obverse. The reverse bears the words 'VIETNAM' above the symbolic representation of the ideological war in Vietnam depicted by the figure of a man between spherical shapes.

The Ribbon

The ribbon has three central pin-stripes of red on a yellow background to represent the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) flag. Beside this are stripes of red, dark blue and light blue representing the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The source document for the Vietnam Medal is:

Royal Warrant dated 8 June 1968

Ed – we'll move onto the Vietnamese Campaign Medal - South Vietnamese Government Award in February.

. **John Blake...** "Paul - I have been in contact with **Craig Castona** from my hut at 1/83rd when I was with 31D. His name popped up about a year ago on a "member found" e-mail from 1/83, as one that had come out of the wilderness. I had been trying to contact him for many years and we have had an irregular correspondence since then. He's coming to Australia next year with the intention of being in Sydney 21st April. I am not sure that he understands yet the significance of 25th of April but I will let you know and will be asking him to be there at that time if he can. John Blake"

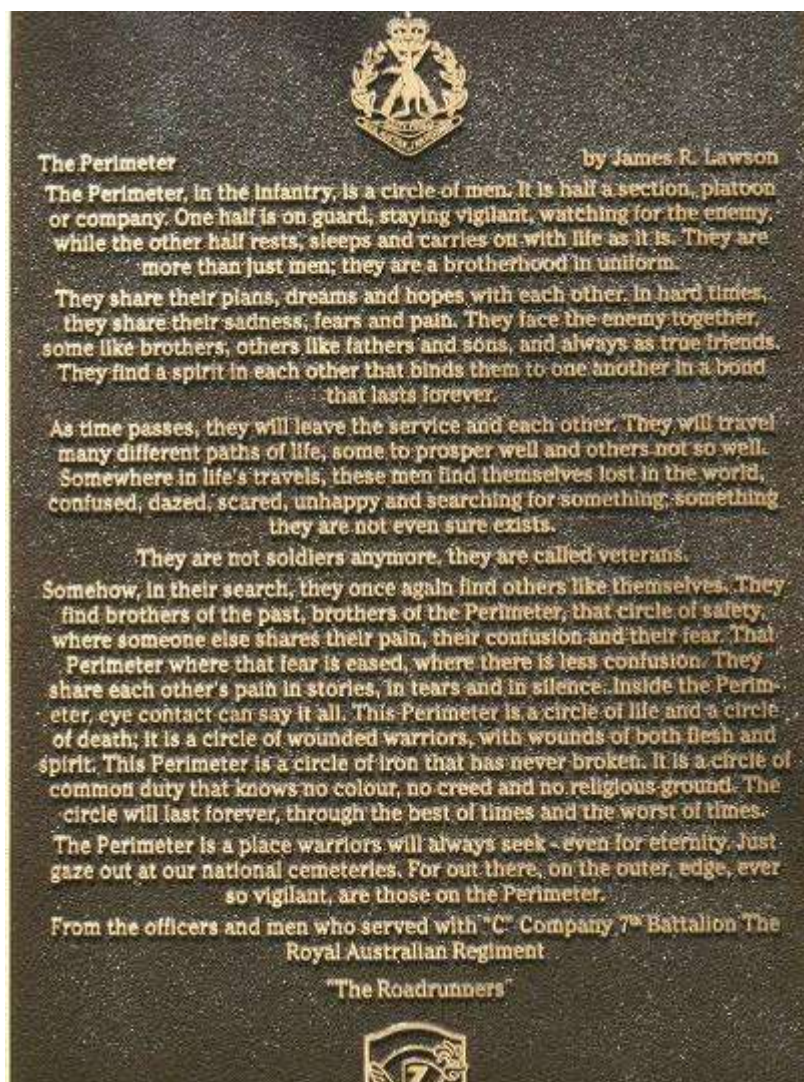
Ed – Keep us informed John as he would be a welcome inclusion wherever he may be at that time to join in with us.

. **Ian Finlay** sent in the attached (on the left) and **Ed** thought it was worth including as it conveys some very a great common bond theme – not peculiar to the Infantry or any conflict -

"This plaque is worth reading, I think it expresses the thoughts of all who served together. Fin"

"The Perimeter" -

Thanks to James R. Lawson and "C"
Company 7th Battalion The royal Australian
Regiment.



Keeping us posted... **Peter Meaney** brings us up to date with **Brian Kennedy**..."Hi Paul, Last Wednesday (18th January, 2012) I visited **Brian Kennedy** in Burnside War Memorial Hospital Adelaide. He is recovering from a bowel operation. Brian served in Vietnam as Detachment Commander from 27/08/1969 to 27/08/1970 (think that is correct). Mick Curry, TPI Welfare Officer is visiting Brian on a regular basis. Coincidentally, Mick and I were in the same hut in Puckapunyal way back in May 1968! I'm sure some of *The Eyes and Ears* readers would be interested in contacting Brian, and as soon as I get his contact details I will forward them. In the meantime keep up the good work, will be in touch soon. Regards, Peter Meaney"

...and then...

. **Murray Poustie** sent the following into **Grahame Dignam** re: **Barrie Follington** – "Hi Grahame, I called in to see Barrie on the way home from Coffs Harbour in October last year and he was going OK then after a few more health problems earlier in the year. Nothing seems to worry him and he and Bev are keeping busy and still travelling a bit. Regards - Murray"

. Bruce Irvine sent the following email in after a trip to Canberra – “Subject: RE: Point of Interest on 131 badge

Paul, I was in Canberra yesterday and visited the War Memorial. On walking in from the car park, I was naturally drawn to the commemoration plaques along the pathway in particular anything with colours red and blue.

I noticed several were triangular in shape (like the 131 badge) and thought that maybe in your research to establish the badge, you had discovered that our 131 Locators origins stemmed from the triangle or the like.

I was amazed to learn however that all of the plaques bearing a triangle with red and blue colours (the internal breakup of the colours differed) were for **Anti-Aircraft** Units (example on right).

Does this mean we are a spin-off or have the DNA of anti-aircraft units???

As Pauline Hanson would say - please explain? Does this mean we will have to change the shape of our badge to say a square or something?

Yours curiously Bruce Irvine”



...I did my best to respond with...

“Bruce, now that's a take, or curiosity, from way out of left field.

I'm copying Ernie Newbold on this response as he, as our doyen of all things "out of left field", may wish to add some thoughtful comment.

Now back to the story at hand - on deciding on the 131



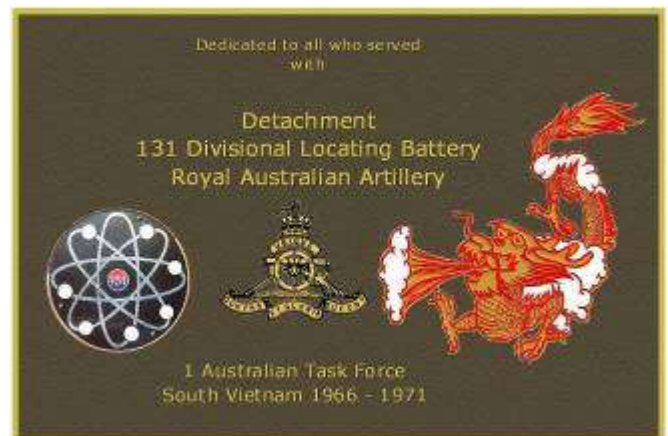
Locators Association badge we did do a lot of searching for a combination that would be different from past and possibly standard type symbols to reflect our differing non-military association. By non-military it is meant that we would all be equal under our constitution and ranks would account for nil.

We had about 37 differing designs - round (too close to the last 131 Assoc), square, rectangular, oblong, hexagonal and so on.

The triangular shape we settled on allowed for an expanded design at the bottom; it gave three points to designate the 3 most important/distinguishable locations of the Battery - radar, survey and LPs; it allowed for the distinguishing orbits synonymous with 131 and of course the Artillery cannon. We also saw the top apex of the triangle as a "reaching for the stars" symbol.

Now to add to your curiosity 131 does have links to 16 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment in Woodside (SA) with current members of the Assoc (one even being the Public Officer) having the fledgling Arty beginnings in that unit. That's more like "spooky"!

However, Bruce after all that rambling we liked the design as it is different, highly recognizable - Nick Proskurin and Ernie came up with it, so it was in-house so to speak and to be completely honest we had NO idea about Anti-Aircraft unit designs - let's hope they're not a litigious lot and decide to sue or deface our badges on sight! As for Pauline - what the hell is she doing now?



The AWM Dedication Plaque

The Plaque we're dedicating (above right) at the AWM in May contains no triangle, in fact it has no relevance to the Association whatever - the only colour is contained behind the figures 131 on our symbolic orbit - see attached. Hey good to hear from you - did you get anywhere else other than the ACT on your trip? What are you doing for ANZAC Day this year? One more question - how was Coffs? Hear from you soon. Paul”

...then Ernie Newbold sent in his response...

“G'day Bruce and Paul,

As Paul has said we went through many varied design shapes when originally designing the 131 Locators Assn badge. We started off with a circular shape but considered that from a distance it looked just like other Artillery Association badges. Considering the actual size of the badge it is not easy to read and recognise from a distance.

After trying numerous shapes, square, diamond shape, oval, rectangular with square corners, round corners etc. we finally came to the triangular shape. At first we thought that it didn't look too bad as that shape fitted the Artillery Corps badge, which itself is more or less triangular in outline. Then the significance of the triangle for our unit became so clear that we knew that it had to be a triangular badge.

Locating Artillery, firstly our own guns, radars and listening posts was done using trigonometrical survey and locating the enemy guns by triangulation of the bearings sent in by the Listening Posts. I'm sure that the computers attached to the AN-KPQ/1 radars also used triangulation as did the Sound Ranging and Sensors.

Bruce, your observations of the triangular emblems of the Anti Aircraft batteries at the AWM is spot on. However, from our observations they all appear to have the diagonal division between the red and blue going the other way to what we have chosen.

Our research has found that Army colour patches have changed considerably from what was used during WWII and as far as we could determine there are no Anti Aircraft batteries using the triangular colour patch anymore.

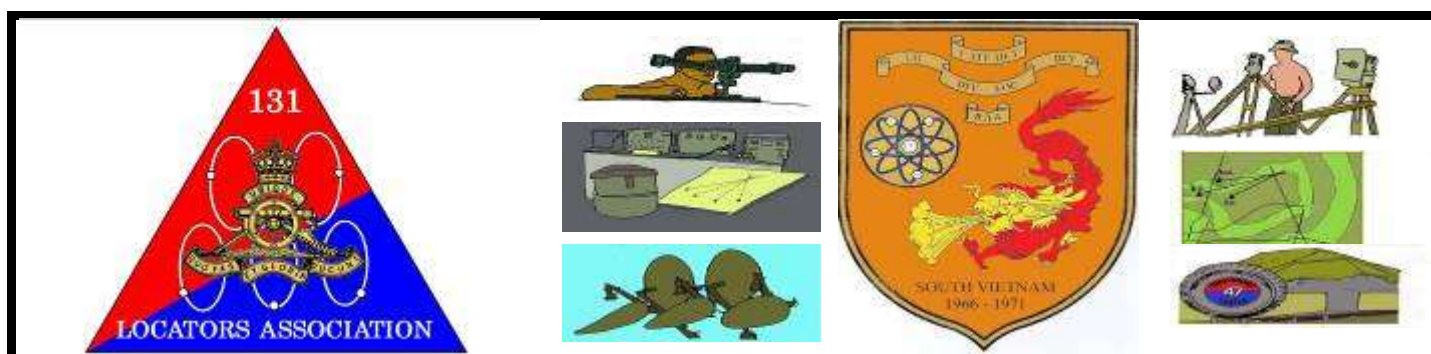
Those Anti Aircraft unit plaques that you saw at the AWM all appear to be from units that served in WWII.

We could not find any red/blue triangular colour patches in the current Australian Army.

If you see someone approaching you at any ex-service function, wearing a triangular badge with red over blue then we feel certain that it will be someone from the 131 Locators Assn, even if you don't recognise their face or name.

"I say again", trigonometrical survey and triangulation was how we located artillery and we wonder why the Australian Army didn't come up with a triangular symbol for the Locating Batteries (regular and reserve) before now.

Trusting that this explanation is not too confusing and that you might agree with the triangular design now that I have explained our reasons for choosing it? Regards, Ernie."



Committee members: President – Allen Morley, **Treasurer/Secretary** – Grahame Dignam, **Public Officer** – Victor Danko, **Webmaster** – Bob Billiards, **Research Officer** – Ernie Newbold, **General members** – Ian Amos, Ged Carroll, George Lane. **Eyes & Ears Editor** – Paul Dickson

Regional Representatives: ACT – Bert Blink, **Qld** – Terry Erbs, **SA** - Geoff Blackwell, **Vic (Melb)** – Alan Adams, **WA** - Barry Guzder

On a personal note the Association wishes to let our members living in S.E. Qld and N.E. N.S.W. know that our thoughts are with them due to the wet weather and flooding that they are experiencing again in recent days/weeks.

Keep your internet mailbox clear as very shortly we'll be sending you detailed info on the upcoming Plaque Dedication Ceremony in Canberra on 4th May, 2012.

. Upcoming Events Calender –

. **Sunday 19th February 2012** - Locating Artillery Association meeting at Paddington RSL (Sydney) 1115 hrs.

. **Wednesday 25th April 2012** - Anzac Day, wherever you may be

. **Friday 4th May 2012** - unveiling / dedication of the Detachment 131 Div Loc Bty, R.A.A plaque at the A.W.M. Canberra

. **Sunday 20th May 2012** - Locating Artillery Association meeting at Paddington RSL (Sydney) 1115 hrs.

. **Saturday 9th June 2012** Locating Artillery Association, Hunter Valley, Dinner to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of 131 Divisional Locating Battery, R.A.A.

Just as an afterthought on upcoming events – do any of you blokes, regional areas as well, have any meetings, gatherings, having a coffee with some one that other blokes might like to join in with if they are around and about?

. Birthdays in the Battery...February...Geoff Jebb tilts the scales at 82!

February	Name	Regt No	Y o B	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	JIM MENZ	38838	1946	10 10 1967	18 02 1968	† 18.02.68 KIA
2	ROGER McDONNELL	2784019	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
3	ROBERT GIBSON	2787361	1947	29 01 1968	07 02 1969	
3	EDWARD HENSON	2788331	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
4	OLAF ASMANIS	3796272	1947	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
5	IAN YERBURY Capt.	43129	1944	{05 05 1967	05 03 1968	131 † 1989
	" "			{05 02 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT
5	RICHARD FLAVELL	3791902	1945	23 09 1968	04 06 1969	
5	GEORGE CLARK	2412252	1947	{20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
	" "			{09 01 1967	27 09 1967	1 ARU
5	STEPHEN HALL	4720327	1948	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
6	MICK HABBEN	3788307	1945	05 05 1967	20 12 1967	
7	LINDSAY BLACK Sgt.	213794	1940	30 04 1970	04 08 1970	131 † 2009
	" "			05 08 1970	12 03 1971	4 Fd REGT
8	ROBERT RAMSAY	2788108	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
8	IAN CAMPBELL	3798378	1949	10 02 1971	07 06 1971	131
	" "			07 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	GEOFF WOOD	2783898	1945	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 26.04.07
9	CHRIS ARMISHAW	2781291	1945	04 05 1966	27 10 1966	
9	GARY WORRALL	43796	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
9	NEVILLE HASTINGS	1730813	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
10	ERIC WILLIAMS	1735449	1948	13 02 1970	04 02 1971	
10	GRAHAME SMITH	2792939	1947	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
11	DENNIS MALLOY	3795057	1948	22 07 1969	16 07 1970	
12	ROSS GUNNELL	5714499	1945	05 05 1967	27 09 1967	
12	LEIGH BAKER	3789657	1945	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
12	ANTHONY SHELDRAKE	5716358	1948	04 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	ERNEST NEWBOLD	2783771	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
14	KEVIN HEENAN	3794777	1948	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	MARCUS ROBINSON	2791229	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
16	DAMIAN McMANUS	3787689	1945	20 05 1966	29 05 1967	
16	LUIGI LANERA	3795443	1947	25 11 1969	12 11 1970	RAEME
16	TERENCE HUNT	3792120	1947	19 02 1968	21 02 1969	
17	ADRIAN SPENCER	3794631	1948	28 10 1969	13 08 1970	
18	TERENCE McMANUS	44277	1950	30 05 1970	09 10 1970	
21	WILLIS (BILL) WIGHT 2Lt.	39136	1945	12 01 1967	23 04 1968	
23	GEOFFREY JEBB WO2	24660	1930	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
23	GRAEME SALTER	3792618	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
23	GRAEME JENNION	3796241	1947	24 03 1970	04 03 1971	
24	GREG GREEN	2784565	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
24	ALBERT JACKA	39856	1950	16 12 1969	11 03 1971	AACC
27	DONALD PERRY WO2	38675	1936	15 04 1970	19 11 1970	
28	NORBERT KROLL	218285	1948	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
28	BRIAN MITCHELL	2412582	1949	14 03 1968	26 03 1969	

Ed – 26 blokes with “white” backgrounds need accounting for! Where is **Mick Habben**?

. **Locator Profiles** – we’ve received **79** (plus another 5 with photos **still** to come) and we’ve sent out **72**.

Ed – We’re always in the market for more? At #069 **Ric Marques** got the new year off to a start, #070 was **Kevin “Soul” Maker** who accused us of having “more spies than the CIA” when we dug up some photos – he was “stoked to see the photos” and thanked us, then **Peter Hopper** introduced himself to the group at #071 and finally for the month **Ian “Fin” Finlay** gave us another “bushie” take on life.

Steve Boutlis wrote this after reading "**Fin's**" Profile – "Dicko, I have just enjoyed Ian Finlay's profile and enjoy it very much (as I have all the others'). Wally Franklin looked familiar. Does anyone know if he owned a Belette car? Is anyone in touch with him?

Ian lives a suburb away from me and I am pretty sure that he was at one of our Locators' reunions, where I recognised his lovely wife Dalene as a member of the VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub Branch POSH (Partners Offering Help and Support) ladies' group. Until then, I was not aware of him.

I must ask them if a non-veteran male married to a Veteran female, is eligible to join them!? Cheers, Boots"
...then added in another email – "Sorry, Dicko. That car should have been an Isuzu Bellet. Boots"

. Found...

Rob Retrot thankfully has a son who "found" us and prompted the following email – "Hi Dicko, It has been a long time since I was in touch with anyone from 131 - must be overdue. My son was messing around on the net and came across "the *Eyes and Ears*". He promptly notified me and I have had a ball looking through various editions, the photos and the stories. What a blast! And I must thank you for the time and effort you have put in so that others, like me lurking in the suburbs, can be informed about the past and current events relating to 131'ers. I have recently converted my old slides to digital format and enclose a few for your edification.....Not sure what I can do to give your readers access to all these old slides - maybe my son can put them on a website or something. Best wishes for the festive season and a very happy New Year!
Regards, Rob Retrot."

.Vale –

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>DOD</u>
Evans, Jeffrey Bruce	Maj	3789164	Survey	1971	11.10.45	23.12.11

May he rest in peace

Kevin Maker sent this in – "Paul, please find photo (at right) of Jeff Evans. The photo is courtesy from Paul Hanley. Cpl. Medic AATTV a good friend of the association. Regards "Soul"

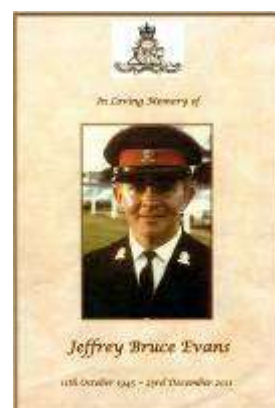
David Auld shares a memory – "Hi Paul- That's 2 - we're falling like nine pins. I had the privilege of driving him, as he was then Capt Evans, around Holsworthy, Singleton and Tianjara when I was posted as a driver at the school 74-76
David"



Kenneth Taylor sent this simple message with regards to Jeff – "**A Soldier Died To-Day.**"



Both **Allen Morley** and **Ernie Newbold** represented the **131 Locators Association** at Jeff's funeral and submitted the following photos from the Service Sheet -



. **The following** two memorials to “Lofty” Hayes were supplied by Keith Ayliffe in conjunction with LOCREP the official newsletter of the Locating artillery Association...

Vale Lofty



Photo from personal collection

A personal view...

“Gnr Hayes (pause) Riiiiight Marker” roared the BSM Steve Rawlings and out from the gathered troops marched this tall soldier who obviously enjoyed/relished his position in the Battery.

Once the Bty was formed and the OC Maj R Donaldson was on parade, again the BSM roared – “GNR’s Hayes and Ayliffe front and centre”. After the initial shock and the obvious question of what had I done, I found myself standing next to the tall man in front of the OC who promoted us both to Lance Bombardier.

That was mid 1967 when we first met and found we both had a liking for good scotch as we celebrated to the wee small hours. From that moment on, I don’t think I did a locating course at the School of Arty and its offshoots without Lofty. Everything from a short 14 day course to a long 6 month course.

I may not have known him the longest, but certainly got to know him well after many late night sessions on a bottle of White Heather, Black Douglas etc. I once plucked up the courage early in our friendship to ask how tall he was. 6 Foot seven and a Quarter came the reply. In astonishment I said 6 Foot seven. “AND A QUARTER” roared Lofty. I know from talking with others that this scenario was repeated with other fools like me.

So who was ‘Lofty’ Terrence James Hayes, a singer, a teller of yarns, a comedian, a radar operator supreme, (certainly not a Surveyor – Sorry mate) a loyal friend to many, a private person and for a spell, a Bird Gunner. To me ‘Loftus’ as a few of us called him was all this and more. I believe there would be few who crossed his path who would not have a yarn to tell about their experience/s with Lofty.

As a singer he made his debut at the Manly Hotel amateur nights singing country and western. He actually won a couple (maybe it was his outfits that won), but his piece de resistance came one night when he had to follow a couple of girls who went on stage and stripped....would you believe someone complained, the cops raided and arrested the girls. Loftus, as one of the contestants, was asked if he recognised the girls, he said in all honesty he could not remember their faces. ?

Once Loftus had met a person, even if only for a short time he had the knack of being able to recognise that person and recall his name years later, I think it was his way of showing respect to others. When regaling us with his stories of exploits gone wrong, he not only described it fully but gave the names of all involved.

We will all miss you mate, Rest in Peace.

Keith Ayliffe

The Last Parade Of 214973 Terrance James Hayes



Photo courtesy Terry Erbs

Born - Wee Waa NSW

DOB 17-11-1939 DOD 14-12-2011
Enlisted 1963 Discharged 1989

Active Service - Malaysian Emergency 1965 111 Air Defence Regiment
SVN 04-05-66 28-04-67 Det 131 Div Loc Bty (SVN)
10-12-68 10-12-69 Det 131 Div Loc Bty (SVN)

A short report on the Funeral

by Keith R Ayliffe BEM (MIL) on behalf of the Locating Artillery Association of Australia.

We arrived at what I thought would be early at the Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, in the north Brisbane suburb of Bridgeman Downs, However, within minutes of our arrival the car-park began filling and it appeared that nearly every second person was wearing service medals. The numbers swelled and after the ceremony it was estimated between 250 to 300 people had attended.

Joining Lofty's family, friends and neighbours were many faces I recognised from the early days of 131. Attending also were ex-members from Vietnam, current serving members of 20 STA Regt and ex- members of 111 AD Regt. From his after service civilian career staff from Greenslopes Hospital (where Lofty worked for years after his discharge from the army) also attended.

The Service commenced with the song "True Blue" to a packed and silent audience, with not a vacant seat inside the small Chapel, people crowded around the walls, while many others stood outside. This was commented on by the Celebrant as he remarked that the numbers certainly indicated the high esteem in which Lofty was held.

Mr Greg Beahan (Lofty's son in law and ex 131 member) spoke on his and the families memories and of the loss they now endured.

Kim (Kimbo) McGrath (President of the Australian Artillery Association Website) then spoke of his times and knowledge of Lofty during service in Locating.

Mr Ray Edwards (Representing the Greenslopes Hospital) spoke next of Loftys' other life as a civilian and his good effect on the moral of his workmates.

The service finished to the tune Pretty Woman by Roy Orbison.

After the service tea and coffee was served at which time I conveyed the deepest sympathy on behalf of the Locating Association of Australia Inc. to Mrs Ethel Hayes (Lofty's Widow) and to Greg Beahan.

RIP



Photo courtesy of Terry Erbs

In attendance:

From L-R - Philip "Doc" Sheedy, Lionel Outen, Keith Ayliffe, John Bristow, Ian "Fin" Finlay and Terry Erbs



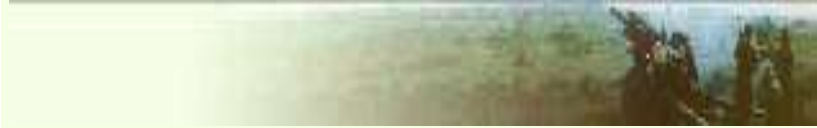
131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the upcoming establishment of the web site we are going to be burdened with the ongoing cost of maintenance etc and we need to be able to support this effort equally.

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...



LOCATING ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

Committee meetings are held regularly with most held at Paddington RSL commencing at 1115 hrs. The next Meeting will be held at Paddington RSL on 19 February 2012. Members are cordially invited to attend. Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the *Associations* Newsletter LOCREP. <http://www.locatingartillery.org/index.htm>



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

Bill Taggart gets an email out looking for answers – "I have a couple of questions for our Aussie and Kiwi contingent..

First of all, take a look at Rich Magin's email below. Rich was our Battery Clerk in 66-67 at Nui Dat. From what some of you have told me in the past, our area was heavily sprayed with Agent Orange. Do I recall that correctly? As much as many of us were kept in the dark, even if I did see spraying of any sort, I probably would have thought it was for "critter-control". We all drank water from the same wells, I suppose, so it is amazing that more of us haven't shown ill effects.

Second, do any of you know who moved into the 1/83rd Camp Everett area after the 83rd went north to I Corps in Feb 1968? Thanks.

PS. there was a story in our local Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper last weekend showing how you guys in Australia and New Zealand celebrate your Christmas holidays. Here is a link to that story if you are interested...

http://www.philly.com/philly/travel/20111225_Christmas_Down_Under.html

A very Happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous New Year to you all!!

Bill

artillery_83rd@yahoo.com

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

...now here are some responses...

From: Ted Harrison webmaster@5rar.asn.au **Sent:** Friday, December 30, 2011 1:48 AM

Subject: Re: 1/83rd - Question for the Aussies and Kiwis

. G'day Bill,

The arty that replaced you blokes was Battery A of The 2nd Battalion/35th (Medium Self-Propelled) Artillery Regiment of the U.S. Army, and they arrived at 1 ATF Nui Dat from Long Binh with six M109 155mm Self Propelled Howitzers on 22 July 1966. See Here: <http://www.5rar.asn.au/gallery/us-m109a.htm>

Also, you might remember that the 5RAR perimeter consisted of a couple of strands of concertina barbed wire tied to star pickets. This was sprayed with an herbicide to keep it clear of weeds so that our field of fire was clear. I can't say if it was Agent Orange though.

Cheers mates. Ted. PS. A healthy new year to you all.

. **From:** Colin Campbell colinrcampbell@bigpond.com **Sent:** Friday, December 30, 2011 5:50 PM

Subject: Re: 1/83rd - Question for the Aussies and Kiwis

Bill, hi

RE: AGENT ORANGE. There was a major commission that looked at Diggers' and Kiwis' exposure to Agent Orange, when, where, who and outcomes. Many were exposed. Access to the files is available. While cancer rates were multiple times those of the control group, our government decided that there was no adverse effect from exposure. This is not surprising, as our government will fight any claim for compensation by servicemen all the way to the High Court (read Supreme Court equivalent).

It might be interesting to note that service pensions have the lowest rate of indexation of any government pension.

The commission noted at there was also "critter control" for mosquitoes, which was sprayed from vehicles and aircraft.

Re Camp Everett, I don't know as I left in mid Feb 68.

Regards Colin

. **From:** Don Donaldson <dondonaldson@xtra.co.nz>

Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2011 4:02 PM **Subject:** RE: 1/83rd - Question for the Aussies and Kiwis

Hi Bill

If this helps you with your query at least it's something.

Just prior to leaving Vietnam after my first tour was complete in 1996 we were out on a major operation designed to clear the road from Bien Hoa through the Vung Tau area and then on to Nui Dat where 161 Bty was moving to. We were certainly subjected to aerial spray at that time, but not when we were in the area of the Courtney Plantation. But the rest of the surrounding country got a heavy drenching. Even to this day I still get the taste in my mouth. Brigadier General Williams or Williamson the Commanding General of the 173rd Bde had published a general order stating that troops were not to be bothered about the spray as they were only killing mosquitoes. What a load of crap that was from him!!!

On my return to battle in 1967, we landed at the Vung Tau Air Base and drove by vehicle up what at that time was a partly red road from Baria onwards. I couldn't help noticing that the beautiful foliage of the jungle areas I had seen about 11 months previous, were either dead or dying. That to me was an indictment on the bastards who authorised the spraying. Whilst the actual Nui Dat Base was not sprayed during my second tour, I do know for sure that the taste in my mouth while out on operations during that time proved to me, that those bloody C125s or whatever they were, were not spaying for mosquitoes. It was some sort of anti defoliant spray that's for sure. I can't say it was Agent Orange, but I'll bet my left testicle that it certainly was an anti defoliant spray.

So in answer to your query: Yes our AO was heavily sprayed, but not the base camp. Nod

. **From:** Lyn Guy <lynianguy@bigpond.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2011 3:49 PM **Subject:** Re: 1/83rd - Question for the Aussies and Kiwis

Hi Bill

During late 67 through to late 68 land rovers did tour the base of an evening supposedly spraying against mosquitoes. I was told that it was Malathion that they were using. Supposedly dangerous if ingested through the skin or a scratch/cut or that is what was told to my brother in law in the 80's. He was a wheat, barley, oats and sheep farmer and the Doctors at Peter McCallum Cancer Hospital in Melbourne gave him this information. Why does your wife always say to "are you mad or just stupid" when you do something wrong -must have been in something you drank!

Parts of 7RAR and 131 I think?

Kiwis are different to us on the Mainland -being sheep shaggers for one. Nothing much happens on Christmas day except for the local Fire Brigades driving around town giving out lollies etc to the kids. Shorts, singlets/t-shirts are worn with thongs (flip flops up your way) and the main thing is to see how much beer one can drink before passing out. These days the meal is usually sea foods or cold meats and salad followed by Christmas pudding with custard or cream. In times gone by we all sat down to a hot meal but those days are past. 30c to 40c+ is not the weather for hot food. 38c up here this year!

Most shops are now open on Boxing Day with stores in larger cities/towns having big sales to get rid of their Christmas stock. More subdued shoppers in the country areas but in Sydney and Melbourne it's better than the WWE -and that's just the female shoppers.

Being from the best State it is also the first day of the Boxing Day Test match (Cricket) at the "G", MCG aka Melbourne Cricket Ground where the crowd can range from 40,000 (small) to 100,000+. We have only done it once in 1968 - 120,000 in attendance - couldn't get a beer by about 330 pm so we left or maybe it was because the 2 males just back from Vietnam (October) had drunk too much?? Ian

. **From:** Ernest Newbold <ernest.newbold@three.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2011 8:25 PM **Subject:** RE: 1/83rd - Question for the Aussies and Kiwis

G'day Bill,

Firstly may I wish you, your family and all the guys from the 1st 83rd all the best for the New Year?

My recollections are that the area around Nui Dat wasn't sprayed with the herbicide, "Agent Orange" while I was there during '67-'68 but was subject to spraying of an insecticide, especially during the "wet" season to control mosquitoes and to reduce the risk of malaria.

I have attached two photos below, one of a USAF C123 spraying herbicide around the Nui Dat area. Just above the tip of the C123's tail are the buildings occupied by the 1/83rd. These flights were carried out very early in the morning just after sunrise (as you can see by the long shadows) while there was negligible wind to affect the spray.

I have often wondered if this plane was used at other times for spraying Agent Orange and if it was, how well the spray tanks may have been washed/flushed before being used to spray the insecticide.

The second photo shows an Australian army Landrover fitted with a fogging machine being used to disperse an insecticide during the wet season for mosquito control.

The smell of the insecticide used in the C123 and the Landrover was very similar to me and although I would have difficulty describing the smell, I would still recognise it today.

Regards, Ernie Newbold.

And one more from Ernie - G'day Bill,

I returned home to Australia at the end of January '68 and the 1/83rd were still there at that time so I don't know who occupied Camp Everett after Feb '68. Bob Billiards was still there after I came home so he will know but Bob has been away for a few days over Christmas. Regards, Ernie.

. **From:** "Billiard@pnc.com.au" <Billiard@pnc.com.au>

Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2011 3:34 AM **Subject:** Re: 1/83rd - Question for the Aussies and Kiwis

Bill,
Not sure that I was ever in defoliated areas, but we were mosquito sprayed by the same C130's that sprayed the defoliant.

When you blokes left the compound we had a company (I think) of infantry from 7 RAR for a few weeks and when they left for OZ we had a company from 2 RAR as they replaced 7 RAR. It was a bit scary when they went on ops as there were only about 30 blokes in the compound and I always had my rifle cocked when walking down to the LP. We did have an incursion when 7 RAR were in the compound, probably recon, of the base since the guns had gone.

Sometime in July the compound was given to the ARVN and so we moved out the infantry back to their normal lines and we (31D) were deployed to other areas of the task force base until I departed in September 68.

Regards and a happy and prosperous new year - Bob



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

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