



THE EYES and EARS

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

Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

email: three-zero@hotmail.com

Vol. 5 No. 2 – 29/02/2012

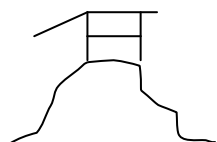
Official newsletter of the **131 Locators Association Inc**
ABN 92 663 816 973

web site: 131locators.org.au

Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs

Its 3 years since we re-birthed *Eyes & Ears*...

...and this is how it looked 36 months ago -



Eyes and Ears

No.0001 February, 2009

31A, 31B, 31C and 31D – Are you awake? Over...(followed by a long pause)

Well I warned you that I would start something, so here goes!



Thanks everyone for the support...now let's get on with it!

. **Allan Bath** sent this in...**Australian Forces Radio Vietnam (AFR) 14 Feb 1972 - 40 years ago!**



“At 0000hrs the playing of the national anthem – God Save the Queen – the station closed down.”

It's really worth going to the link below and seeing what they have put together and the eerie closing down.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9HT-REGLYE>

The station began operating on 30th November 1969.

Ed – Hey, 1969 also saw - Creedence Clearwater Revival release “Willy and the Poor Boys” in November, Richmond (85) beat Carlton (60) in the VFL Grand Final, Balmain (11) def South Sydney (2) in the NSWRL Grand Final even without Keith Barnes, The 1969 Hardie-Ferodo 500 was won by the newly formed Holden Dealer Team with Colin Bond and Tony Roberts with team mates Peter Brock and Des West finishing third in their Holden Monaros with the team's third car finishing sixth. In between them in second position were Bruce McPhee and his single-lap co-driver Barry Mulholland driving the first Ford Falcon, Rod Laver defeated Andres Gimeno 6–3, 6–4, 7–5 and Margaret Court defeated Billie Jean King 6–4, 6–1 at the Australian Open and **Ron Boaler** joined 131 DLB – what a year!

. **How ‘Advance Australia Fair’ became the national anthem...**

Ed thought the following could be a good continuation item after the **AFR** item (above) closed down to the dulcet tones of our then National Anthem “God Save the Queen” in ‘72...

The official anthem was ‘God Save the Queen’ (or ‘King’) from 1788 to 1974, although numerous commercial and official competitions were held over the years to find a substitute. The first was held in 1840.

John Dunmore Lang, who published an ‘Australian Anthem’ and an ‘Australian Hymn’ in 1826, was an early advocate of a distinctively Australian anthem. ‘The Song of Australia’ was written in 1859 by Caroline Carleton, and it was suggested to the Prime Minister in 1929 as a possible national anthem.

The issue of a truly national anthem was raised persistently before the 1956 Olympic Games, which were held in Melbourne. ‘Advance Australia Fair’ and ‘Waltzing Matilda’ were the two songs most strongly favoured then as the new anthem. ‘Waltzing Matilda’ was composed in 1895, with lyrics by one of Australia’s best known poets, AB ‘Banjo’ Paterson.

On Australia Day, 26 January, in 1972, the number of entries (more than 400) received in an Australia-wide national anthem quest gave an indication of the interest in a new anthem.

Exactly a year later a government-sponsored competition was announced, which drew 2500 entries for the words and 1300 for the music. The judges selected six entries for the words, but rejected all the musical entries.

The polls and what followed -

The quest for an Australian national anthem continued. In 1974 a public opinion poll sampled an estimated 60 000 people to select from three possible anthems: ‘Advance Australia Fair’, ‘Waltzing Matilda’ and ‘Song of Australia’.

‘Advance Australia Fair’ polled 51.4 per cent.

Following this result the then Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, announced that ‘Advance Australia Fair’ would be the national anthem, except on specifically Royal occasions, when both it and ‘God Save the Queen’ would be played.

In 1976, after a change of government, ‘God Save the Queen’ was reinstated for Royal, vice-regal, defence and loyal toast occasions, with ‘Advance Australia Fair’ to be played on all other official occasions.

In May 1977, however, a national poll was conducted to ascertain the public choice of a national song. This time more than seven million people were issued with ballot papers.

The results were:

‘Advance Australia Fair’ 43.2 per cent,

‘Waltzing Matilda’ 28.3 per cent,

‘God Save the Queen’ 18.7 per cent

and

‘Song of Australia’ at 9.6 per cent.

Despite the poll results, adoption of the new national anthem met widespread opposition.

It was not until April 1984 that the Governor-General issued a proclamation that ‘God Save the Queen’ was designated the Royal Anthem, to be played at public engagements in Australia attended by the members of the Royal family.

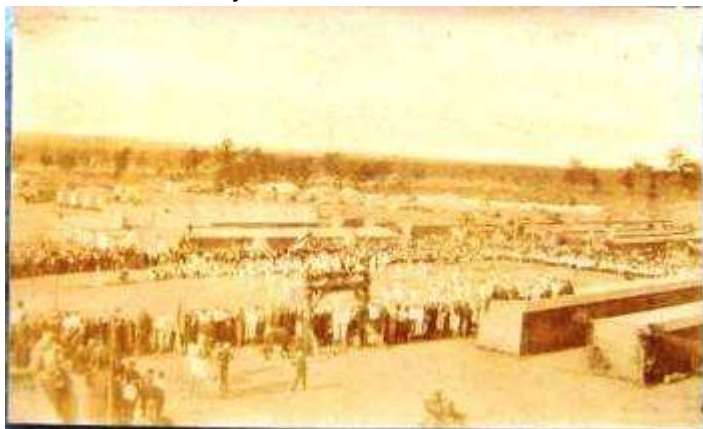
‘Advance Australia Fair’ was finally declared to be the Australian national anthem.

Usually ‘God Save the Queen’ is played at the start of Royal functions and ‘Advance Australia Fair’ at the end, unless it is more appropriate to play both anthems at the start. ‘Advance Australia Fair’ is played at all other official functions.

Ed – “Hey True Blue” didn’t even get a look in!

. **John Browne** sent this in – “Hi Paul,
A bit of history here for anyone interested.

A 1916 postcard of Holsworthy, NSW - that at the time was a Concentration Camp for Germans during WW1.
It was listed on EBay, and bidding ended yesterday. I put \$15 on it, but it sold for \$70.99.
Pics below - Brownny”



. **Bill Finlay** shot off the following after reading **Ed** and **Ernie Newbold's** collective responses with regards to the Association's Badge design in January's issue of *Eyes & Ears* (responding to **Bruce Irvine's** enquiry) – “Ernie's contentions about the use of triangulation in radar and sound ranging are sadly amiss. Sound ranging relies on the hyperbola, (or the asymptote to the hyperbola to be more precise) and the radar computer used extrapolation from the bearing, range and elevation data gathered during the tracking phase. Don't mean to be pedantic but!!! Regards, Bill”
Ed – at the time it sounded good to me and as we couldn't differentiate between our “hyperbolas” and our “asymptotes” we decided on “triangulations” for safety's sake! We were chasing symbolisms.

. “**Whisky Lima**” was this the call sign / id for our network in SVN?? **Nick Proskurin** and **Ernie Newbold** had a somewhat amicable verbal stoush at the January Assoc meeting as to whether or not “**Whisky Lima**” was a figment of Ernie's imagination. **Ed** was hand-passed the question as he spent most of his time in Arty Tac, supposedly paying attention, as to his recollections. It drew a complete blank – he initially thought he didn't drink his scotch with lime, but the notion of “whisky lima” existing did stir some of his remaining brain cells and he feels he should agree with Ernie and say yes it did exist.

Having said all of the above - does anyone else have more astute memories?



...**When Ernie Newbold** heard that we were running this “Whisky Lima” story he got this response in very promptly – “G'day Paul, do you have any recollection of saying “Whisky Lima, this is Whisky Lima Three Zero, radio check over” Then the Listening Posts would normally reply in order acknowledging your call.
In this context “WHISKY LIMA” covered all of the Arty Int / L.P. net. Ask the radar and survey guys if they had the same or a similar radio network prefix .

Due to the fact that there could have been hundreds, possibly even thousands of units with the call sign THREE ZERO, THREE ONE ALPHA, THREE ONE BRAVO etc. operating at any one time in South Vietnam a prefix was applied to distinguish each net from all the others within a certain operating radius in case of radio frequency overlap.
Nick does not recall the Arty Int net having a prefix.
Regards, Ernie.”

.**What were you doing...in the 1950's? - Vietnam - Australia's Longest War**...most of us would have been at least 3 to 6 years of age by 1950 – **Graham Hislop** would have been 15!

A Calendar of Military and Political Events - Courtesy of the VVAA Museum Sub-Branch - it includes material from the Special Edition of the Australian on Thursday August 18 1988, with attribution to Stuart Rintoul's “Ashes of Vietnam” (William Heineman, Australia).

14 January 1950

Nationalist leader Ho Chi Minh, who had trained in the Soviet Union but received aid from the US to fight the Japanese during World War II, declares that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is the only legal government. This is recognised by the Soviet Union and China, but Australia supports the French-sponsored government of Emperor Bao

Dai. The US provides military and economic aid to the French in Indochina.

- 7 May 1954 French defeated by Viet Minh at Dien Bien Phu, after a 55 day siege. The defeat signals the end to French presence in Indochina.
- 1955 The US begins to funnel aid directly to the Saigon Government and agrees to train the South Vietnamese army.
- September 1957 South Vietnam's President Ngo Dinh Diem visits Australia. Prime Minister Menzies reaffirms support.

We'll continue this time-log over a few *Eyes & Ears* editions.

.The National Service Scheme, 1964-72 by Sue Langford

Appendix from Peter Edwards, *A nation at war: Australian politics, society and diplomacy during the Vietnam War 1965–1975. The official history of Australia's involvement in Southeast Asian conflicts 1948-1975*, volume VI (Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 1997)

Statistics:

- .Between 1964 and 1972, **804 286** twenty-year-olds registered for national service and **63 735** national servicemen served in the Army...
- .Balloted out: **567, 238**
- .Granted indefinite deferment: **566 513**
- .Awaiting 'next' ballot: **725**
- .Balloted in, not eligible for ballot, elected to serve in the Citizen Military Forces, and volunteers: **237 048**
- .*Exemptions*: **3563**
- .Theological students, ministers of religion and members of religious orders: **553**
- .Physical or mental disabilities: **1768**
- .Conscientious objection determined by a court: **1242**
- .*Indefinite deferments*: **35 548**
- .Married before the date of call-up: **20 502**
- .Members of the Citizen Forces: **7197**
- .Citizen Forces whose obligations completed: **7849**
- .*No longer liable to be called up*: **102 134**
- .Death subsequent to registration: **916**
- .Served or serving in Permanent Forces: **2194**
- .Rejected as not meeting the medical, psychological and educational standards required by the Army: **99 010**
- .Imprisoned for refusal to obey a call-up notice: **14**
- .*Unavailable for call-up as at 31 December 1972*: **21 876**
- .Granted or being considered for deferment **15 526**
- .Granted or seeking deferment on grounds of exceptional hardship: **470**
- .Under investigation for suspected breaches of National Service Act: **3890**
- .Granted permission to leave Australia: **610**
- .Migrants not included elsewhere, not yet due for call-up: **1380**
- .*Called up and enlisted in the Army*: **63 740**
- .*Available for call-up subject to meeting the standards required for Army service and the outcome of applications for exemption or deferment*: **10 187**

Ed – just a couple of interesting stats –

7.9% of the blokes that received call-up notices served

and...

12.3% didn't meet standards.

Ed - Some of those must have been really bad because I stated that I have every symptom known to mankind to try and miss out but was still classified medically A1 (I wonder if it was an animal Vet moonlighting who did my medical?). Though, once in, I wouldn't have missed it.

I had a bit of a further look into the stats and was surprised to find that my birthday (10th October) was pulled out of the hat 9 times in the 16 ballots that were held! Thanks Mum and Dad!

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

Decorations, Badges and Awards for service in South Vietnam

Part three

The Vietnam Campaign Medal



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal was issued by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam for service in the prescribed area of operations in Vietnam during the period commencing on 31 July 1962 and ending on 27 January 1973 for Australian personnel.

The Medal

The medal is a gold and white enameled star with a green, red and gold centre motif.

The Ribbon

The ribbon is green with three white stripes. A ribbon device bearing the inscription '1960 – 'is worn on the medal ribbon. A smaller device with the inscription '60- 'is worn on the ribbon bar.

Eligibility

The Australian government maintained the basic qualifying criteria specified by the Republic of Vietnam for allied troops. To be eligible for the medal a person must have completed a minimum period of 181 days, either continuous or aggregated, unless: killed on active service (KIA); wounded in action i.e. classified as a Battle Casualty and evacuated as a result of those wounds; or captured and later released or escaped.

Note that medical evacuation from the area of operations for any reasons other than wounds received in action does not constitute an exemption from meeting the minimum qualifying period.

Ed – the series continues next month with - **The Australian Active Service Medal 1945 – 1975**

. **Ed's** back with some more mystery musings – the other day when I got the boot polish stuff out – yes, I do clean my shoes and still wash my own car, though at the cost of having it done for you in my neck of the woods would have you asking the question “why bother?” But, however, these are still a couple of things I enjoy doing. Anyway, I digress, I happened to note that the “Kiwi” product I was using is branded “Parade Gloss” then I glanced at the bush I picked it up and noted “D↑D” – well the “arrow” is something similar to what is stamped on it!

The bloody brush is older than most of your kids!

I couldn't believe that I had it and it was still in great condition, unlike like my “hats bush” which is suffering from paint stains and has shrunk (or my head has expanded along with my waist line) from excessive washing!

I couldn't resist taking a photo. However, I do have a couple of more comments and they are – the brush was possibly made in Aus, perhaps Botany somewhere, BUT the polish is definitely somewhat newer as it was made in Indonesia (fair enough), but for bloody Sarah Lee – what has cake-mix got to do with boot polish? Ah well, back to the medication.



. **Rieny 'Van' Nieuwenhof** got in touch with us with this – “Hi Paul,
 Thanks for the 'heads up' about ANZAC 2012. I would love to come to Sydney but have just been elected Vice President (Commemorations) of the Vietnam Veterans Ass. here in Geelong and will be required to represent the Veterans at a dawn service and the March, here. There may be 131 Locators in the western side of Victoria who might like to come to the Geelong March. I know some go to the Melbourne dawn service and march.
 Anyway thanks for the info and the latest locator profiles, a great job as usual. I look forward to the 'The Eyes and Ears' editions and the sharing of information. With your permission I would like to start a 'profile' page for members of our Vietnam Veterans branch, there about 250 of us, both regular and National Service veterans from army, navy and air force. We are a very diverse lot really but enjoy our get togethers. We have been able to secure a building, now with an extra two years lease, on Osborne House (former Shire of Corio Council Offices), where we meet and have 'pay-day' BBQs. We have also set up a Vietnam museum in one of the rooms and people/school children come to have a look on a regular basis. It's a great venue and more intimate than an RSL club.
 Anyway, hope all is well and regards to all former 131 Locators. Rieny 'Van' Nieuwenhof”

. **Peter Ravelje** then **Ian Finlay** sent the following in and it needs reading and understanding –

Important for Viet Vets - The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour

The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour is being constructed to be a place of remembrance and reflection for Vietnam Veterans and their families.

We have at this stage completed the replica Luscombe Bowl, used here as an interpretive centre, and have a Memorial Cairn set in engraved pavers in the forecourt.

We have secured a Centurion Tank and have applied for M2A2 Howitzers, an Iroquois helicopter and M60 door guns, and a Long Tan Cross is being constructed to be set in the Plantation. These will be placed in areas to give the best aesthetic effect. In July we will be planting Spotted Gum trees in plantation style and the grasses to represent rice paddies.

The Commemorative Walk Project group is at the stage of putting out tenders for the design and construction of the Walls with the names of all who served in Vietnam and the DVA are giving us access to the Nominal Roll.

What we need is to have the roll checked for the names.

We need to know if there is anyone in our system that does **not** want his or her name on the walls.

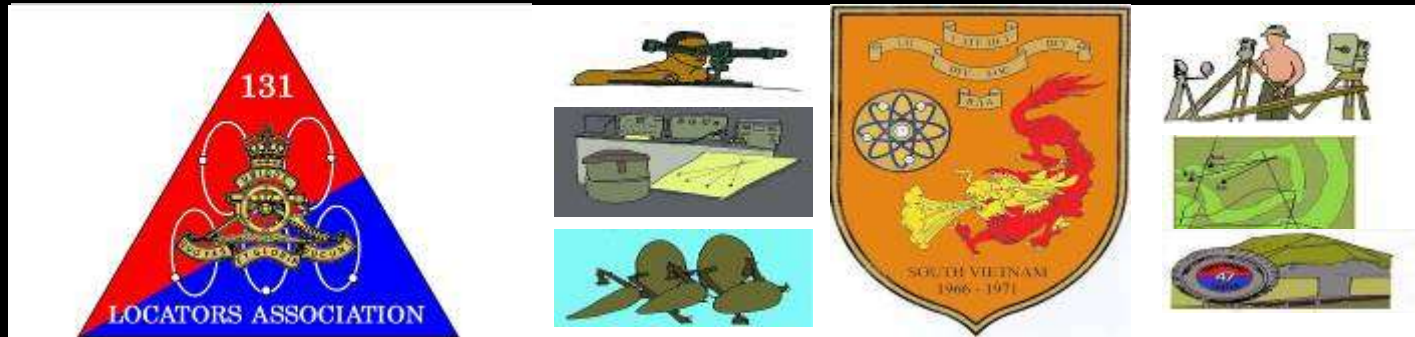
One of the conditions placed on us is to make sure there is no one on the roll that doesn't want to be there, and that everyone that went there and wants to be part of it is named. This information is available under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI).

We need to know that all is above board by Anzac Day.

The walls will have a sign indicating that the information contained on them is accurate as of 30th April 2012 and any alterations will be acknowledged as an addendum at a date to be set into the future.

Responses to Ross Gregson - (03) 57923227 / 0417 973 573 / vvaamitchell@westnet.com.au

Peter Bright, Secretary, Victorian State Branch (VVAA) secretary@vvaavic.org.au 03 9747 8125 0438 597 932



Committee members: President – Allen Morley, **Tresurer/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

The Association would like to welcome our newest members – **Peter Binns, Stan Briggs, Mike Butler, John Dean, John Lochore, Rob Retrot and Ray Smith** – a bit of a bumper season! Thanks fellas.

Grahame Dignam doesn't need or want anyone to mention lemons or for that matter lemon trees – no jokes either as the ribs are still somewhat tender!

. Upcoming Events Calender –

- . **Wednesday 25th April 2012** - Anzac Day, wherever you may be – c'mon fellas let us know where you'll be.
 - **Bathurst/Yetholme - Bruce Irvine** - My **ANZAC Day** will be spent in **Bathurst** and I will conduct a small service at **Yetholme** for our local community.
 - **Sydney – Vic Danko** is still waiting on responses for the after March "Zest Restaurant" - numbers need to be finalised to ensure that there will be enough space made available. Don't muck around fellas otherwise you could miss out!

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

Here's the list of blokes who have notified us with "expressions of interest" in attending (some of us are bring wives and family), so far, as they've come in – Vic Danko, Ged Carroll, Grahame Dignam, John Blake, Bob Billiards, Paul Dickson, Geoff Blackwell, Nick Proskurin, George Iane, Barry Campton, Bert Blink, Ernie Newbold, Jim Fitzgerald, Ken Piesley, Stan Briggs, Geoff Jebb, Barry Guzder, Allen Morley, Ray Smith, Terry Erbs, Rick Marques, Peter Saint, Ken McNamara, Greg Green, John Stanford, Al Adams, Leigh Hemming, Warwick Brooker, Bruce Irvine, Dave Doyle, Bob Wilson, Tim Ford and Stuart Sporn

. **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.

Hey if 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?

. **E&Es Responses** – just some varying incoming from some of the blokes...

Graeme Owen – "G'day Paul, just finished reading the January 'Eyes & Ears'.

Geoff Jebb's story about Nui Chau Chan prompted me to drag out the attached photo (on right).

That's Geoff operating the heliograph and me on the theodolite. (You can tell by the new 'greens' I'd only been in-country a couple of weeks!) I've never caught up with Geoff since Vietnam so he won't have seen this pic. Would you mind passing it on to him?

Thanks Graeme 'Jesse' Owen"



Bernard Erica – "Dicko, You do a fantastic job, with all of this "STUFF", where in the bloody hell do you get the time, clearly you are not a one finger typist!!!! Best Regards Bernard Erica
ps Arrived back in Melb last week from the US return end of March"

Stuart Sporn – "Good edition as always - We have the 70th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin coming up on the 19th February

Not many Australians understand what happened as the Government of the day "protected' them from the knowledge and most still don't know

The same carrier based Japanese Fleet which attacked Pearl Harbour did the trick including the flight commander. Twice as many bombs were dropped on Darwin as Pearl Harbour Cheers Stuart"

John Lochore – "Hello Paul, I originally didn't join up to your association, but I enjoy reading your 'E&E' and the profiles, so I guess I better join up.

How much is it a year, and can I pay by internet? Or what's best?

Also, I thought I saw that there is a WA rep – is it Barry Guzder? Can you provide contact details, please?
Cheers, and thanks, John"

. **Web Site comments...**let us know if you've had a squiz?

Rieny Niewenhoff had some thoughts on the new web site and past them onto **Bob Billiards** – "Congratulations what a fantastic achievement. All the hard work has paid (and is paying) off. To see the Locators own website on the Internet is just great and inspires me to become more actively involved. Well done to all involved.

Rieny 'Van' Nieuwenhof – Geelong"

John Browne shot off an email to **Grahame Dignam** – “Wow.....good site mate.I took a quick look; I'll look at it proper tonight.

Today I have to visit my widows, and start the Legacy Newsletter (I should have stayed a builder...I worked less hours



John Browne”

The web site is getting hits and **Bob Billiards** is getting it populated with Profiles and other items – so keep an eagle eye on it. Maybe you need to send stuff in and or join the Association so as you can have a squiz at ALL that it contains?

. Birthdays in the Battery...let's have a look at March. A “Pioneer” Graham Hislop cracks 77 this month!

March	Name	Regt No	Y o B	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	EZIO LOMBARDO	216284	1946	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
2	GEOFF HOLDEN	2785828	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	JAMES TOWNLEY Maj.	17072	1939	14 06 1963	22 06 1963	103 Fd Bty FARELF
	" "			22 04 1966	19 08 1966	131
	" "			30 04 1970	28 05 1970	HQ AFV
2	PETER BENNETT	3794060	1948	26 08 1969	04 06 1970	
3	RIC. MARQUES	3790008	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
3	RAY SMITH	3787666	1945	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
3	GRAHAME LEE	2787457	1947	23 04 1968	23 04 1969	
3	ROGER STANLEY	2788155	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
3	RALPH MITCHELL	2788073	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
3	MICHAEL BUTLER	3796958	1948	03 06 1970	09 06 1971	
4	JOE CLENDINEN	17648	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
7	RODOLFO MARSANI	3796861	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
8	RUSSELL JACKSON	3793090	1945	24 02 1969	28 11 1969	
8	BARRY COOKE Sgt.	54886	1946	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	RAAOC
8	DES.McGIUGGAN Sgt.	214722	1944	20 01 1970	21 01 1971	
11	BOB TANNER	6708362	1945	21 05 1966	28 04 1967	
11	PETER McKIE	2787728	1947	22 04 1968	23 04 1969	
12	JAMES FITZGERALD	2782044	1945	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
12	GREGORY LUCAS	1735725	1949	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	29 10 1970	4 Fd Regt.
13	JOHN (JACK) HEYES	3791085	1945	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
13	ALLAN CAMPBELL Sgt.	18257	1946	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 2009
	" "			05 02 1968	31 03 1968	
14	NEVILLE WORTLEHOCK	54941	1947	29 04 1968	30 04 1969	
17	GEOFF LOCK	2782439	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 09.09.10
18	VIC MOREAU	1200577	1939	22 04 1966	23 01 1967	
18	ROY CLAUSCEN	214873	1941	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
20	BRIAN CAMPBELL	2781310	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	
20	BARRY FOLLINGTON	2783144	1945	12 12 1966	27 09 1967	
20	IAIN KENNEDY	3791023	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	RONALD ROBARDS	216900	1948	21 02 1968	21 02 1969	
21	GARRY SMITH	2792048	1947	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	
21	MICK KING	216504	1948	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
21	WARREN JAENKE	1735584	1946	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
22	GREGORY PECK	2790401	1948	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
23	DEREK HINDE	2787403	1947	01 07 1968	14 05 1969	
23	MARTIN KRYNTJES	5715291	1947	26 08 1968	04 06 1969	
25	GARTH NICHOLLS	216381	1948	{05 02 1968	11 02 1969	
	" "			{05 11 1969	28 11 1969	1 Fd REGT
25	ROBERT HARGREAVES	2790343	1948	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
26	GEORGE LANE	2781630	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
27	ERIC WINN	219656	1951	30 05 1970	07 08 1970	131
	" "			07 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.

29	JEFF REID	3790495	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
30	FRANK HALLIDAY Sgt.	215105	1937	02 01 1967	13 12 1967	RAEME
30	EDWARD CHASE	2782043	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
31	LESLIE CAHILL	2412281	1947	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
31	GRAHAM HISLOP Sgt.	15290	1935	22 04 1966	03 03 1967	
31	PHILIP SHEEDY	4719418	1947	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	

Ed – 23 born in March blokes still need to be located!

. Locator Profiles – we’ve received **84** (however, 6 still require photos) and we’ve sent out **75**.

Ed – We got the month off to a flying start with Geoff Jebb at #073, then #074 introduced John Lochore to us and to finish off Rob Retrot was published at #75.

Brian Killworth was prompted to pen the following re: **Geoff Jebb’s** Profile – “Dicko, I enjoyed reading Geoff’s profile; I wasn’t aware he had any association with 131.

Geoff along with Les Kidd were our Survey instructors at North Head early 1966...both, not only brilliant instructors but gentlemen with it!

Memorable time for us all...Chris Armshaw, Ken Whittle, John Roberts, Ash Price, Jim Sellwood with Peter Sadler (our boss) joining us for the advanced stage of the course. Every afternoon surfing, back up the hill for a quick shower, just in time to make mess, then frock up for the "Can" (the then "in" and now the legendary place in Manly) that night.

All good things of course come to an end...we took pre-embarkment leave immediately following the course, me in the advanced party leaving on my 21st birthday (4th May 1966)

Les Kidd, I do recall arrived in SVN in 1966 as the RSM?

Cheers, Brian (Killa)”

. Found...

Ken “Kenny/Mac/Major Mac – or whatever he’ll answer to” McNamara has discovered the internet and has entered the 21st Century. **Brian “Wirey” Hackett** broke the news to us just recently and after checking thoroughly that it wasn’t a spam message we welcomed the “Mayor” of Banora Point via the internet. It’s amazing how this happened so quickly after electricity was finally connected to the suburb on 1st February this year - bitumen roads will no doubt be coming soon!



131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. The web site is established and getting into the growth stage plus our ongoing costs for maintenance etc have commenced - 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?

Web site: www.131locators.org.au

. 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

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 **20th May 2012**. Members are cordially invited to attend. Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the *Associations Newsletter LOCREP*.



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



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 put the following out to his crew on the group's database and **Ernie Newbold** thought it was really appropriate for us to –

"Band of Brothers Brotherhood

Brother, life is too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right.

Forgive the ones who don't, just because you can.

Believe everything happens for a reason. If you get a second chance, grab it with both hands, those of you who served in Viet Nam, Iraq, Afghanistan other wars, and dangerous high risk military training know this.

If it changes your life, let it. Take a few minutes to think before you act when you're mad. Forgive quickly. God never said life would be easy, He just promised it would be worth it.

Today is Band of Brothers' Day; send this to all your brothers, fathers, sons and fellow veterans you know.

Happy Brothers' Day!"

To the cool men that have touched my life. Here's to you!! I was never a hero, but I am thankful I served among them.

A real Brother walks with you when the rest of the world walks on you.

Send to all your Band of Brothers, because the fake ones won't.

Bill Taggart sent this in – "Paul, one of our guys (Dennis Donati) sent this. Bill...

I met a patient at the VA who was on a ship in VN. I said, "Oh, you had the really big guns!" He said their biggest was a 5". I told him we were 8" & 175. We got to talking and he told me he worked with some Aussie FOs. He said they weren't afraid to work solo in enemy territory. They frequently hid in tree tops and called in fire practically on top of themselves.

Ed thought it was worth a response – "Bill, Just on a light side - maybe...

a) They didn't want to get their boots dirty

b) There were snakes on the ground

On a serious note there are some interesting accounts from operation contacts where FOs advanced fire missions within metres of "friendly" positions - both from the ground (and trees) and choppers. We had a good one (well one that I was acquainted with) who was always scarily fun to talk to and swap yarns with. He's sadly no longer with us (post SVN thankfully).

The forces were inundated with interesting characters from all walks of life that were capable of all sorts' of activities. Paul"

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*.