



THE EYES and EARS

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in Nui Dat, South Vietnam"

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Heard and Seen...

. **Geoff Holden** got this into us for some answers –

"G'day Dicko

Going through my old slides at last and found this one which was taken at FSB Anderson.

Wondered if anyone can recognise the card players in the background? Looks like John Dellaca in front with the aggressive golf swing!

Cheers mate Geoff Holden"



...then Geoff sent this – “This other photo of me and twin brother Martin (Mick to most 131 mates) may also be of interest.

Having the same birthday meant we were both called up in the first intake. I was studying at Sydney Tech and Mick at Sydney Uni so we were deferred until we finished our studies.

As it happened we both finished in the same year and entered the 7th intake in Feb 67. I got to SVN in 67 and Mick was given the option of going seeing I was already there. He wanted to go and arrived in Dec 67 as a Postie with RAASC.

After time in Saigon and Vung Tau he spent 4 months in Nui Dat at the Post Office where lots of our boys would have met him. As well as in Survey lines where he was always welcome for a piss up!

This photo was taken on one of these visits.

I believe a number of brothers served in SVN but haven't done research on this.

Might be interesting?

Mick marches with us on Anzac Day in Sydney most years. Cheers Geoff”

Ed – the “Brothers” bit is interesting as my brother did a tour with the RAAF (though not at the same time) – see comments from him later re. *Eyes & Ears* item

Did anyone else have a brother /relation that did a tour/s in SVN?



The Slouch Hat with thanks to Wikipedia and others...



The name "Slouch Hat" refers to the fact that one side droops down as opposed to the other which is pinned against the side of the crown. This style of hat has been worn for many hundreds of years, especially during the English Civil War during the 17th century when it became associated with the forces of King Charles I, the Cavaliers, but it was also fashionable for the aristocracy throughout Europe during that time until it was superseded by the cocked hat which in modern times has been referred to as the tricorne or bicorne depending upon the depth of the forward peak.

Despite being primarily associated with Australia, the slouch hat style did not originate in Australia; it was created in Nepal. It was introduced into Australia around 1885, and was sometimes described as a "Tyrolean" import, derived from the black "Corsican hat" (Korsehut) with a feather and a leather chinstrap; this hat with an upturned brim was worn by the fifteen battalions of Austrian light troops formed in 1801 after the French Revolutionary Wars. A contemporary painting dated 1884 (in the regimental museum) of the pipe band of 1st Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders in service dress, crossing the veldt in Zululand, shows them wearing khaki slouch hats.

A shortage of cork helmets led to the widespread use of the slouch hat amongst British Empire forces during the Second Boer War,^[2] where it was used by units such as the City Imperial Volunteers (CIV), Imperial Yeomanry, and

King Edward's Horse. After the war, however, many armies rejected the once-popular headwear (as the British Army did in 1905), although it came back into fashion briefly during World War II during the Burma campaign and amongst troops serving in India and Southeast Asia at this time. The slouch hat in gray felt was worn by the Schutztruppe (protection force), the colonial armed force of Imperial Germany, as an alternative to the pith helmet, especially in South West Africa. Different coloured puggarees were worn by the Germans in South West Africa, German East Africa, German West Africa (Togo and Cameroon) and China. The hat had its brim pinned up on the right side with a cockade in the national colors and was worn with the home uniform as well. German colonial police units in South West Africa wore a khaki slouch hat with a small national cockade on the front and the right side pinned up by a metal Imperial crown device.



The slouch hat was frequently worn throughout Africa and in motion pictures about Africa such as Jungle Jim and safari films.

It became associated with the Australian military around the end of the 19th Century and since World War I it has been manufactured in Australia by the Akubra company for the Australian Army. This slouch hat is still worn by the

Australian military today and it has become a national symbol in Australia. A Unit Colour Patch is also worn by members of the Australian Army on their Slouch Hat to indicate which unit they are from.

The slouch hat or Terai hat is also associated with the Gurkha regiments of the British Army and Indian Army (formerly the British Indian Army) and is still worn by the Gurkhas; the hat is no longer worn on active service. The 2nd Gurkha Rifles became the first Gurkha regiment to adopt the slouch hat when they were issued with the Australian variant in 1901. The Gurkha terai hat is created by fusing two hats into one to make the hat more rigid and is worn at an angle, tilted to the right.

The Chindits and other units of Field Marshal William Slim's British Fourteenth Army, who fought against the Japanese in the Far East during World War II, also became associated with the slouch hat (also known as the bush hat in the British Army).^[4] The slouch hat was also used by colonial units of the British Empire, including the Royal West African Frontier Force, the Canadian Yukon Field Force, Canadian Pacific Railway Militia, the Kenya Regiment and troops from Rhodesia.

A Company of the Victorian Mounted Rifles on manoeuvres in Victoria in 1889.

The slouch hat was first worn by military forces in Australia in 1885 when the newly created Victorian Mounted Rifles wore the hat as part of their khaki uniform. On 22 December 1890, the military commanders of the then separate Australian Colonies prior to the Federation of Australia met to discuss the introduction of the khaki uniform throughout Australia. They agreed that all Australian Forces with the exception of the Artillery would wear the slouch hat. It was to be looped up on one side — Victoria and Tasmania on the right and the other colonies (later states) on the left. This was done so that rifles could be held at the slope without damaging the brim.

After Federation, the slouch hat became standard Australian Army headgear in 1903 and since then it has developed into an important national symbol.



Australian Light Horse troops wearing slouch hats (at left), November 1914.

The Slouch hat (also known as a Hat KFF or Hat Khaki Fur Felt) is worn as the standard ceremonial headress for all members of the army, except those belonging to units or corps that have an official headress, e.g., some units wear a beret. As such, it is treated with the utmost care and respect. The Grade 1 Slouch hat is worn with a seven band puggaree, said to represent the six states and the territories of Australia, the soldiers' Unit Colour Patch (right of puggaree), Corps or Regiment Hat badge (front of puggaree) and the General Service Badge (The Rising Sun, on the left brim); and the left brim is folded up and clipped into place. The Grade 2 Slouch hat is the same but with the left brim down and is worn in some units as general duty dress — the wide brim giving excellent sun protection. Most soldiers will have a second hat to wear as their Grade 2 Slouch hat.

The Slouch Hat worn by the Army is one of the ADF's trademarks, but it is not theirs alone: the Royal Australian Air Force wears the HKFF with a dark blue or "Air Force Blue" Puggaree, as a Non Ceremonial head dress for the RAAF; the

Royal Australian Navy is also known to wear the hat when wearing camouflage and other uniforms, and has the same features as the RAAF's HKFF. The RAAF and RAN Slouch Hats do not have unit colour patches, nor do they wear it brim up; instead the only badge worn is the RAAF or RAN cap badge, of a design appropriate to the wearer's rank, at the front of puggaree.

The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) for their slouch hats wear a jungle green coloured puggaree with no colour patch, this dates back to traditions when serving in Malaya. Prior to the RAAF varying some of its Service Dress Uniform the RAAF also used to wear a Blue Slouch hat, with a black or blue puggaree and the Khaki for the HKFF puggaree had a blue band. Staff Cadets at the Royal Military College, Duntroon also wear a darker puggaree, although the origins of this are uncertain, while they also wear the chin strap of the hat the opposite way around from that of the rest of the Army, as the first commandant of the college, William Throsby Bridges, was wounded at Gallipoli (to later die) wearing his slouch hat in this fashion.

Some units of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps such as cavalry and light horse regiments wear emu plumes behind the Rising Sun badge. This is a reference to a practice dating from World War 1, where Light Horsemen would chase down emus and steal their feathers to mount in their hat as a mark of their riding skill.

Within the Australian Army, mixing articles of uniform and civilian attire is known as mixed dress and prohibited.

Removing all badges as well as the puggaree removes the hat's status as uniform and it may be worn with civilian dress.

Slouch hat in New Zealand

The NZ version of the slouch hat, known in the New Zealand Army as the "Mounted Rifles Hat", is currently worn by the various corps and regiments of the New Zealand Army. In all cases the puggaree is khaki-green-khaki, the original Mounted Rifles puggaree, with only the badge denoting the wearer's Regimental affiliation. It was originally reintroduced for wear by Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles in the mid-1990s, but in 2000 its issue was broadened to all Corps for wear with working dress (influenced by such use by QAMR) as well as with service dress. As an alternative to the typical NZ army lemon squeezer the NZ Mounted Rifles Hat is worn on all but the most important occasions, where the lemon squeezer takes precedence. The slouch hat predates the introduction of the lemon

squeezer hat (which did not appear until after the Boer War) and is worn brim down. Historic photographs indicate the brim to have been worn up in the Australian style on occasion.

Slouch hat in the U.S. Military

The slouch has been known in the U.S. military at least since the Civil War, being fairly common among officers. Some American soldiers assigned to units in the China Burma India Theatre of World War II (CBI) such as the OSS Detachment 101 and the 1st Air Commando Group wore British Army issue bush hats with their uniforms without official authorisation.

In the early 1960s when American soldiers went to the Vietnam War, the standard headgear was a fatigue baseball or field cap that offered limited protection from the sun. Local tailors made a slouch hat in a style between a French type bush hat of the First Indochina War and an Australian type bush hat with a snap on the brim to pin one side up that was widely bought and unofficially worn by American troops in Vietnam. The local tailors usually used green fatigue cloth or leopard skin pattern military camouflage from old parachutes. The hat often had a cloth arc emblazoned with the word VIET-NAM on the brim. The U.S. 1st Air Commando Group members adopted the green slouch hat as their distinctive and practical headgear with an AIR COMMANDO arc.

In 1972 the U.S. Army authorized female Drill Sergeants to wear a similar type cloth bush hat with the brim pinned up on the side as their distinctive headgear. The U.S. Air Force female Military Training Instructors were given an Air Force blue slouch hat.

Geoff Holden – Another “famous slouchie “ worn by Les Hiddins with some of his new mates including, Geoff, Disha Dreis, Ian “Stretch” Amos, John Williamson, Clive Dreis, and the “slouchie”...then **Geoff** added - “Yes Paul I remember this photo very well. It was taken at Pandanus Park in far north Q’land.

A group of Vietnam Vets led by Les Hiddins decided to celebrate Vietnam Vets day or Long Tan day in this area of a former cattle station called KALPOWER.

Lots of government interference was faced and beaten which enabled the Vets to celebrate this day.

August 18 2004 saw John Williamson fly in by chopper and give a concert from the back of Clive Dreis’s ute.

The photo is taken the next morning at breakfast.”



. **David Auld** recalls an amusing yarn about his efforts to join the army – “Hi Paul just for info if you can include this in the next *Eyes & Ears* thanks - on national service I was called up early in 70 went to the medical at Wellington NSW, the doc asked if I had tried to join the army which I had, then asked me why I was knocked back and I said probably medical reason and his reply was something along the lines of no use sending you further you can go home. But I only tried to join for 3 years and the recruiting bloke said if it was for 6 years there’d be no probs. I joined the following year after I turned 21 by then they bought the age down - life is strange at times ain’t it? Ubique **DAVID** 😊” ...then he added later – “What it all boils down to, is, if I didn’t tell the doc that I was probably knocked back, from the army, I probably would have been a nasho in 1970. Ubique **DAVID**. 🍷🌹”

Ed – Now that’s another tale of army logic!

.What were you doing in the 1960’s? - Vietnam - Australia's Longest War...this is the decade that most of us spent some time living in a rubber plantation – **Barry Campton** was 23 in 1960!

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)

We’ll kick it the ‘60’s with the first four years...

20 December 1960

Hanoi leaders form National Liberation Front for South Vietnam, which the Saigon regime dubs "Viet Cong", meaning communist Vietnamese.

24 May 1962	The Minister for Defence (Reginald Townley) announces intention to send 30 army advisers to South Vietnam (SVN).
03 August 1962	The first members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) arrive in South Vietnam.
01 June 1963	Advisor, Sergeant William Hacking becomes the first Australian to die in Vietnam when his weapon accidentally discharges after being caught in vegetation.
01 November 1963	Vietnam's President Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu are murdered in a military coup, with the foreknowledge of the US Government.
22 November 1963	Lyndon B. Johnson becomes US president after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and announces that the US will continue support of South Vietnam. By year's end 15,000 US advisors are serving in Vietnam, which received \$500m in US aid that year.
08 June 1964	The Minister for Defence (Hon. Shane Partridge) announces the AATTV will be increased to 83 advisers with expanded role.
06 July 1964	Warrant Officer Class 2, Kevin Conway becomes the first Australian to die as a result of enemy action in South Vietnam.
7 August 1964	Following a reported attack on US ships in Tonkin Gulf, US Congress passes Tonkin Gulf Resolution giving President Johnson extraordinary powers to act in South Vietnam
10 November 1964	The Prime Minister (Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies) announces introduction of national service to increase the army's strength from 22,750 to 37,500. Opposition to the war in Vietnam is not accepted as a reason for exemption.
18 December 1964	Australian Government, responding to requests from the US President and South Vietnam Prime Minister for 200 additional advisers, offers to send ground troops to South Vietnam.

Ed – Just as an aside - Australian cricket team in England in 1961 (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia)

The **1961 Australian cricket tour of England** began with a three day match versus Worcestershire CCC at the County Ground, New Road, Worcester on Sat 29 April, play continuing on Mon 1 May and Tues 2 May. This match was rain-affected and ended in a draw. The tour ended at Trinity College Park, Dublin on 19 September when the Australians completed a 282 run victory in a two day match versus Ireland.

The Australian tour party consisted of these players: R Benaud (captain), R N Harvey (vice-captain), A T W Grout (wicket-keeper), B N Jarman (wicket-keeper), W M Lawry, N C O'Neill, P J P Burge, C C McDonald, B C Booth, R B Simpson, K D Mackay, A K Davidson, F M Misson, G D McKenzie, R A Gaunt, I W Quick, L F Kline.

1st Test at Edgbaston – match drawn, 2nd Test at Lord's – Australia won by 5 wickets, 3rd Test at Headingley – England won by 8 wickets, 4th Test at Old Trafford – Australia won by 54 runs, 5th Test at The Oval – match drawn

After the first match was drawn, Australia had their traditional victory at Lord's (England not having defeated them there since 1934), by 5 wickets on a lively pitch. Davidson did the damage in the first England innings and McKenzie in the second. Lawry's 130 in Australia's first innings, when nobody else on either side made more than 66 in either innings, was crucial.

England won by 8 wickets at Headingley, Australia collapsing in their second innings from 99-2 to 120 all out, thanks to Trueman's devastating spell of off-cutters. He finished with figures of 6-30, having taken 5-58 in the first innings. The Fourth Test at Old Trafford proved decisive. It was won by Australia by 54 runs. The last day was very exciting, seeing many turns of fortune. England had managed a first innings lead of 177. Australia's second innings had reached 331-6 at the close of the fourth day, a lead of 154. On the final morning, David Allen took 3 wickets quickly, reducing Australia to 334-9, and the game seemed won by England. But Davidson then took the attack to the bowlers; hitting Allen for 20 in an over, and with help from McKenzie added 98 for the last wicket. England needed 256 to win at 67 runs an hour. Ted Dexter, well supported by Raman Subba Row, scored 76 in 84 minutes and took England to 150-1, and strong favourites to win. But Benaud went round the wicket and aimed at the bowlers' footmarks, and caused a collapse. He finished with 6-70, and Australia won with 20 minutes to spare, **thereby retaining The Ashes**. The final Test was drawn, after Australia had taken a big first innings lead.

...next month will take us into another section of the '60's.

. **Ernie Newbold's** series continues - **Decorations, Badges and Awards for service in South Vietnam** continues with

Part four
The Australian Active Service Medal
1945 – 1975



The Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975 (AASM 45-75) was approved in 1997. It may be awarded for service in, or in connection with prescribed warlike operations from 3 September 1945 until 13 February 1975.

The Medal

The AASM 45-75 is a nickel-silver medal. The obverse has a Federation Star surrounded by the legend 'THE AUSTRALIAN ACTIVE SERVICE MEDAL 1945 - 1975'. The reverse has a wreath of mimosa surrounding a plaque showing the recipient's details.

The Ribbon

The ribbon has a central thin red stripe flanked by stripes of yellow, pale blue, dark green and purple, these colours being representative of the ribbon colours of the Imperial awards previously issued for campaign service.

Clasps

A clasp with the name of the theatre or action for which the award is made is issued with the medal.

A further award of the AASM 45-75 in another area is recognised by the issue of an additional clasp. Additional clasps are worn above previously awarded clasps, in order of date of receipt.

Clasps Issued

Clasps issued to date for the AASM 45-75 are:

Korea, Malaya, Malaysia, Thailand, Thai/Malay and Vietnam

. **Kenny McNamara** gets a comment in with regards to **“Whisky Lima”** in February's *Eyes & Ears* –

“To put a stop to the malarkey over this.

Surely this was the only way to eat those beans that made you fart.

Question without notice - At Nui Dat, we occupied a rubber plantation owned by Michelin rubber (condom trees).

What tenure did we have on this land? In other words how much compensation did the government pay Michelin over the period of our occupation?

It seems the War Memorial does not want to know.

Hope to see you in May? Kenny Mac”

. **Warwick Brooker** sent in the following, which could /should be of interest to one and all – “Gentlemen, I notice in the latest VV FACT Newsletter, which I’m happy to send to those who would like it (2.5 MB), that DVA will pay for Gold Card holders’ overseas travel vaccinations and reimburse vaccination expenses retrospective to 1 August 2010. There’s also an ad for Defence Health, which Defence and ex-Defence personnel **and their families** are eligible to join (see on the right). Regards Brookey”



DefenceHealth

Defence Health

You're always welcome

Defence Health was first established in 1953 to provide tailored health insurance for the families of serving Australian Defence Force personnel.

But did you know that ex-serving personnel are also eligible to join? Business Relationship Manager, Chris Grigsby, says that many in the ex-serving community don't realise they are eligible to join Defence Health.

“And their extended family are welcome to join too” says Chris. “That means the parents, partners, brothers, sisters and even grandchildren of the serving and ex-serving community can all become members in their own right.”

“If you have ever served, then your service is your family's link to better value health insurance” says Chris.

Most serving and ex-serving men and women have found that Defence Health is their best option for hospital and extras cover. The pricing is very competitive and their service highly regarded. “And Defence Health is a not-for-profit health insurer. So their focus is on maximising benefits for their members, rather than paying dividends to shareholders or company tax to the government” says Chris.

Chris says that “you don't have to sacrifice quality for price. Defence Health delivers the security of comprehensive health insurance at a great value price.”

Contact us:
Phone 1800 335 425

Web: www.defencehealth.com.au
Monday to Friday: 8:30 to 5:00 pm EST

Post PO Box 7518, Melbourne, VIC 8004

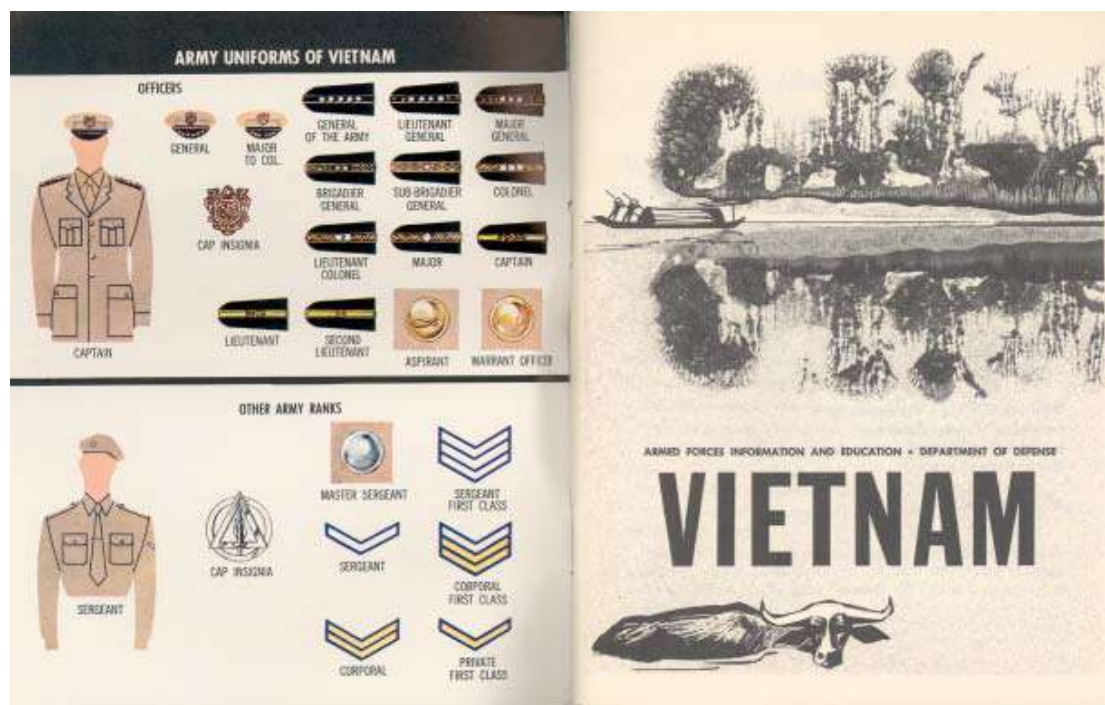
. **Peter Ravelje** sent the following in and as it's about 42 pages long **Ed** thought he would serialise it in *Eyes & Ears* over the following months – “It was sent to me by a mate, Chris Sweeney, who was a nasho 2Lt Tank Commander in 'nam. Stayed in and did 20yrs. Peter”

Ed couldn't help himself (as usual) and Googled it and came up with the following:
Publisher: The Bodleian Library. Full description for “A Pocket Guide to Vietnam, 1962”

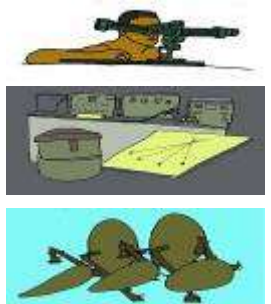
“For many Americans in the early 1960s, Vietnam was a far-away place of which they had little knowledge. Soon, thousands of young American men and women would find themselves on the other side of the globe, fighting and, in many cases, living side by side with the Vietnamese. To lessen the culture shock, the US Department of Defense prepared a publication along the lines of the instructions for servicemen issued in the Second World War. This rather unassuming Pocket Guide was designed to instill in the soldier an understanding of and respect for the Vietnamese, so as to gain their support. In less than 8,000 words, the author of the Pocket Guide creates a highly sympathetic account of Vietnam's history, culture, politics, infrastructure, geography, and people. The author stresses shared values common to both the United States and Vietnam. Viewed from the intervening distance of four decades, this is a fascinating

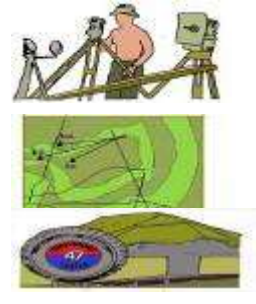


comment on the political aspirations of a former age. It remains a compelling introduction to the enduring qualities of Vietnamese culture."



Ed – I don't ever remember receiving anything similar from "our lot" to lessen the impact of being shot at – I wonder if it would have helped? Maybe it had been so popular it was out of print by '67! The following pages should be ever-so-enlightening rather than just being told to be on your guard when you sight people dressed in black with coolie hats on, especially if they have a push-bike!



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

Welcome – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming the interesting trio of **Dave Doyle**, **Peter Colman** and **David Dougherty** to the Association fold.

Don Simmons – **UPDATE** –

George Lane sent the following in – "Guys, Ged Carroll and myself called in to visit Don at Ryde Rehab Hospital. It was very sad to see him confined to a wheelchair considering he was a very active guy. He was very pleased to see us considering we go a long way back. The reminiscing commenced and it was great to talk about old times. Don has a degenerative condition of the spine which has left him with some movements in his arms but his legs are paralysed. He seems very cheerful considering his state. Don will be moving into Wahroonga Nursing Home around the 4/4/2012. I recommend to you to drop in as I know Don would love to see you. George." Don's mobile: 0414 850 683

Dave Crowther forwarded the following updates and requests – "Hi Dicko,
re: Don Simmons

Since your email in response to my request, I would now appreciate the net being "cast wider" in *Eyes & Ears*.

The only locaters to visit, other than me, were George Lane and Gerry Carrol. Yesterday after 3 months in rehab I find this a poor response and know it would not happen in infantry. I well remember my WO2 brother Jim, 1RAR 65/66 and 7RAR in 70/71, with months to live, visited invalided vets in WA - his "men" - also my brother John, in 5RAR and my cousin in 5/7RAR.

I know the battalions are giant in comparison to our Det.131 but a stamp is still only 60 cents and a hello takes seconds to write. His rehab is located minutes by bus from Strathfield, West Ryde or North Ryde or even a text message to his mobile **0414 850 683**

I spoke to him today and he is down in the dumps as he is back in Royal North Shore hospital, calcium levels too high. For those on the net put up **c6 quadriplegic incomplete** to get an idea of his condition - the condition is degenerative and he will in time/ become **c6 complete**. Don is moving on **April 4th** to a nursing home at Wahroonga, near Hornsby and will hopefully have bedside landline.

Director of Nursing: Melissa Yan

31 pacific highway Wahroonga NSW 2076 phone: 9489 1796 fax: 9989 8347 - please give him some moral support. I have seen the effort put in by him in the gym, to no improvement and witnessed his frustration.

Kind regards Dave Crowther"

...Dave goes on to add...

"Hi Dicko,

A small request, I think, Don Simmons has been classified as a: **C6 QUADRIPLLEGIC INCOMPLETE**

He has been in rehab since just after Christmas as advised in *Eyes & Ears*. In the ensuing period he has had a visit and phone contact by me and a visit from a Field Gunner mate from 50 yrs ago.

For the members info I wish to state that Don at this stage has some use of his hands and fingers but could lose these as his condition deteriorates, thus the **"incomplete" in his classification**.

His recovery requires very a strong will and constant grinding physio each day. The other component for his recovery is **moral support**, this is the reason for my email. My own health and my wife's are not too good at the moment and to visit entails a "tiring for me drive" from the Central Coast to Sydney. I will be making the trip again next Saturday 18th February.

Don's daughter has asked for support from his fellow Vet's. Don was the Radar Sergeant on "A" radar on our initial deployment to S.V.N. in 1966.

He would appreciate any contact: personal, by phone or even by mail the members can make with Don. There are no phones in the wards. Details are listed below and the Hospital is conveniently located and a bus at the front.

Don Simmons - Mobile 0414 850 683

Royal Rehabilitation Centre

Entry: 259 Morrison Road, Putney (Ryde)

Reception: 9807 1144

Monday – Friday; 8.00am – 5.30pm

Spinal Injury Unit - Level 3

Many thanks, Dave Crowther"

Ed – what more can I add other than to say that we need to make an effort, no matter how small, to brighten up the long days this Locator and mate to many is enduring.

. 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.

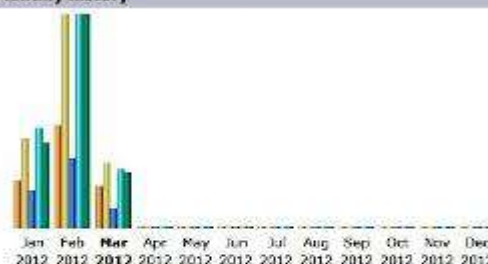
Here's the list of blokes who have notified us with "expressions of interest" in attending (some of us are bring wives and family), so far, as they've come in – Al Adams, Ian Amos, Bob Billiards, Geoff Blackwell, John Blake, Stan Briggs, Bert Blink, Steve Boutlis, Ian Board, Warwick Brooker, Barry Campton, Ged Carroll, John Chilton, Peter Colman, Gave Gow, Vic Danko, Paul Dickson, Grahame Dignam, Dave Doyle, Terry Erbs, Jim Fitzgerald, Greg Green, Barry Guzder, Warwick Hamilton, Leigh Hemming, Kim Hewitt, Bruce Irvine, Geoff Jebb, George Lane, Ken McNamara Rick Marques, Allen Morley, Ernie Newbold, Graeme Owen, Ken Piesley, Nick Proskurin, Rob Retrot, Peter Saint, Ray Smith, John Stanford, Bob Wilson and Ken Woodbine – so far!

. 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?

Monthly history



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Files	Bandwidth
Jan 2012	137	205	10,431	27,672	555.94 MB
Feb 2012	304	629	19,283	59,135	1.62 GB
Mar 2012	123	100	5,511	16,180	428.37 MB
Apr 2012	0	0	0	0	0
May 2012	0	0	0	0	0
Jun 2012	0	0	0	0	0
Jul 2012	0	0	0	0	0
Aug 2012	0	0	0	0	0
Sep 2012	0	0	0	0	0

. **We** were wondering if the **web site** had created some or any interest, well **Bob Billiards** supplied us with the statistics that just over 59,000 clicked onto the site in February and in the early stages of March there'd been another 16,000 plus – hopefully it's not just the rain that's kept you all inside. We think that that's phenomenal!

. E&Es Responses –

Ed's brother **Jim Dickson** sent the following in after getting February's *E&Es* (he gets a copy whether he wants it or not!) – "...Liked the article on AFR Vietnam - the RAAF officer in the photo is Flt Lt (i.e. Army Captain) David (Dave) V Foote AEO (Air Electronics Officer). A great guy who was dedicated to AFR which was supported by Radio RAAF Butterworth and was probably kept on the air with parts whose source is better left unknown. I think that on disbandment the AFR gear was in fact offered to RAAF Butterworth & to another unit but I can't recall the latter. The RAAF Officer kneeling down behind the sign is Flt Lt Denis B Smedley - an Engineer (Radio) officer whose staff would also no doubt have provided support to the Station. I think both Dave & Denis were announcers on AFR for which they received "appropriate" recognition from their mates. They both retired from the RAAF as Wing Commanders (Lt Col). Denis is now a counsellor at the Australian High Commission in New Delhi. I am unaware of Dave's whereabouts.



As well as the reminiscences you mentioned could be added the John Denver favourite "Leaving on a Jet Plane" which was played to death and I think was the most requested song for AFR to play. I also recall that they replayed Australian football games (league, rugby and Aussie Rules) as well as Radio Australia news etc. Did they also at times relay the US Armed Services Radio station in Vietnam without Adrian Cronauer who had RTUSAd by the time I got there? Or perhaps I heard the US station while at US bases...Cheers, Jim"

Ed – my brother did a tour of SVN from Mar 1971 to Feb 1972 dressed in a RAAF uniform – he retired as a Group Captain (Colonel) in 1986. Along with Geoff Holden there must be other brothers who did tours – care to let us know?

. Birthdays in the Battery – Ron "Chalkey" Royal would be 83!

April	Name	Regt No	Y o B	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	DES SPENCER	3787905	1945	03 01 1967	13 12 1967	
1	IAN MORRIS Capt.	243062	1941	10 03 1970	09 07 1970	RAEME
	" "			09 07 1970	11 03 1971	106 Fd Wkshp
2	HILTON HOLLOWAY	1736606	1949	16 12 1970	03 05 1971	131
	" "			03 05 1971	26 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
4	KEVIN MAKER	2251507	1949	26 08 1969	13 08 1970	
4	WILLIAM LAUGHLIN	2788465	1945	13 01 1969	27 08 1969	
7	JOHN McFADDEN	2783243	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
7	DAVID MARTIN	2781662	1945	22 04 1966	29 04 1967	
8	RICHARD BRISTOW	1733143	1945	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
8	LEON DJATSCHENKO	312532	1949	26 08 1969	13 08 1970	
9	TERRENCE MYERS	217798	1950	08 05 1969	30 04 1970	
11	MICHAEL McDONNELL	2781377	1945	04 05 1966	11 04 1967	
11	TERRENCE FOX	1200934	1949	08 07 1968	02 07 1969	
12	KEVIN BEVANS	3798316	1949	10 02 1971	07 06 1971	131
	" "			07 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
15	Martins Van De Nieuwenhof	3798241	1947	10 02 1971	05 08 1971	

19	RON.ROYAL WO2	23552	1929	02 03 1967	20 02 1968	† Unknown
19	PETER CLARKE	3792212	1947	11 11 1968	27 08 1969	
19	BARRY DYSON	3795956	1947	03 06 1970	04 03 1971	
20	ANTHONY TURNER	1202849	1946	27 01 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			01 07 1971	15 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
21	JEFFREY BASSFORD	2792419	1949	29 04 1970	14 04 1971	
21	NEVILLE DAVIS	5716997	1949	11 02 1971	12 08 1971	
22	BARRY CAMPTON Capt.	61270	1937	{14 07 1963	22 07 1963	
	" "			{13 08 1966	28 04 1967	
22	MARK SZYPULSKI	313270	1951	19 08 1970	17 03 1971	4 & 12 Fd Regt.
	" "			18 03 1971	29 07 1971	131
23	MURRAY SMALE	5411587	1948	27 11 1967	20 08 1968	
24	JOHANNES LAS	3792338	1947	23 09 1968	18 06 1969	
25	KEVIN BANKS	3794366	1948	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
25	QUENTON KNIGHT	2412578	1949	09 12 1968	24 09 1969	
26	GRAHAME DIGNAM	2784745	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
26	WILLIAM CROWTHER	215416	1946	22 04 1966	02 11 1966	
27	GERALD YOUNG Maj.	311460	1926	{06 03 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME
	" "			{25 05 1967	22 06 1967	RAEME
28	GARY LOVELL	218160	1950	08 05 1969	30 04 1970	
29	RON MASON	3787154	1945	04 05 1966	03 03 1967	
29	KEVIN THORNTON	2781420	1945	04 05 1966	02 02 1967	
29	BERNARD ERICA	3787334	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
29	PETER FUHRMANN	3789807	1946	21 06 1967	02 04 1968	
30	IAN McMILLAN	215117	1945	15 07 1970	09 09 1970	

Ed – 21 blokes in “white” is still too many not accounted for! We found **Gary Lovell** this month – see below.

. Locator Profiles – we’ve received **86** and we’ve sent out **79**. **Ed** – The “sent out” file is starting to grow – no I’m not getting complacent with **only 7** up our sleeve! C’mon fellas keep ‘em coming! We got Neville Wortlethock’s out at #076, which was followed by Stan Briggs at #077, #78 was Alan Robb and we had Craig Cook at #79.

Ed finds this whole process just so good as it helps to open up new friendships and to get to know a different lot of blokes, plus it’s great now that these Profiles are being securely archived in the Members Section of the web.

. Found...

. Ken Osborne...“Dear Paul, I am happy to be put on the list for mail outs, however living where I am in far south western Victoria I probably will not have much to contribute. I do however keep in touch with a few locators who were with me at Woomera and who also served in Vietnam. Arty blokes are Ted Doust and Frank Perry with whom I get at least a card from each year and on the RAEME side Fred Walter and Des Bailey. Bill Prenter who was a great mate of mine and who died about a decade ago was one who I had a lot of contact with. I was godfather to two of his kids, I still talk to his wife on a regular basis and we shared a lot of things in common, same units, same job, just a short time frame apart.

Anyhow if there is anything I can contribute, just let me know, regards Ken Osborne”

. John Chilton – now let **Ed** try and sort this out - **Grahame Dignam** sent me this email – “Dicko, After Lofty Hayes passed away John wrote his (Lofty’s) widow via the website and I only found it about Wednesday last. He also had tried to sign up for membership which I have addressed.

I noticed in Paul Butcher’s profile he was mentioned so I sent him a copy of Paul’s Profile.

John now asks a Question re “a Dicko” in Vung Tau. This is a test of your memory or a placement in time? Dig”

...John’s email to Dig went like this – “Thanks Grahame, Butch was my best mate. I really appreciate the email. Thank you so much. I will go to the bank on Monday to send you my membership and please advise me if you want me to put the Dinner (Canberra) money into the same account. I will send the documents you require by mail. Thank you for showing me what the profiles are all about. I will try to write something similar to what Butch has given you, Thanks again. “Dicko” is on your website. Is he the same “Dicko” that was with Lofty, Knighty and myself in Vung Tau at the Badcoe Club? There were that many mates, mostly National Servicemen, and they were great blokes. I was on an FSB with 2 of them for 8 weeks, I have film and everything, but God forgive me I cannot remember their names. Maybe when I come to Canberra and show you the film, you might help me with their names. Thanks again Grahame. I’m looking forward to seeing you in Canberra. Kindest Regards John Chilton.”

. Mick Habben – **Jim Hognio** after talking to “**Wirey**” **Hackett** sent **Ed** an email with some contact details who in turn contacted **Grahame Dignam** who contacted Mick (phew!). It only took a day or two for “Dig” to say g’day to Mick, after

a fifteen year lapse from “Hoggy” and about a 10 year one from “Wirey”!! Luckily Mick hadn’t moved out of Stawell in Vic – Mick is our 204th contact to date.

.Vale –



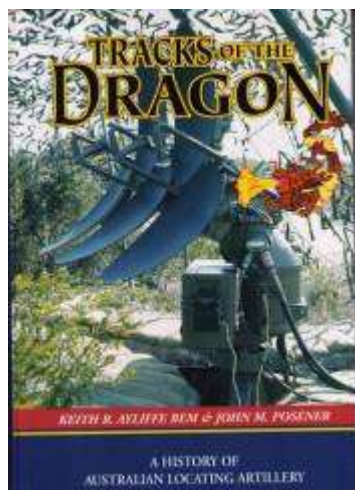
Name Smith, Garry **Rank** Gnr **Regt No** 2792048
SVN 15.04.70 – 17.12.70
DOB 21.03.47 **DOD** 19.01.12

May he rest in peace



Tracks of the Dragon – 131 Merchandise

The locator bible, *Tracks of the Dragon*, written by Keith Ayliffe and John Posner is now out of print. But we are Locators and locate we did. There are ten pristine copies of Tracks available via 131 Locators Association. After that copies will be more elusive than Vung Tau virgins.



Now only
NINE
copies left

For those interested in obtaining a copy of this unputdownable tome, drop an e-mail to president@131locators.org.au or sectreas131locators@gmail.com . Cost is A\$45 each including postage or A\$35 for pickup from Sydney.



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.

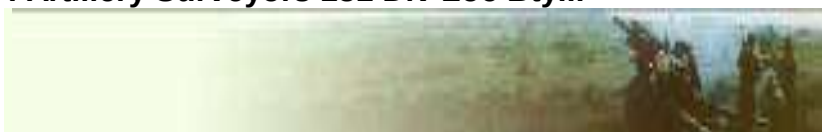
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: Sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join.

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](http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/) for details: <http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/>
<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/operations/coburg.html>

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

. Locating Artillery Association...



LOCATING ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...notes taken from the LAA website –

The next Committee Meeting will be held at Paddington RSL on 20 May 2012. Members are cordially invited to attend.
Annual General Meeting - Sunday 15 July 2012 - Paddington RSL (1115 hrs)



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



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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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

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

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

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