



THE EYES and EARS

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. Heard and Seen...

22nd April, 1966 saw the Advance Party of Det 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA depart Sydney, Australia on the H.M.A.S. Sydney for South Vietnam. This was the birth of a camaraderie that has endured some 46 years. It all started with our initial 17 **"Pioneer"** Locators.

The group was - Ian Board, Paul Buss, Brian Campbell, Thomas Checkley, William Crowther, David Doyle, Leslie Frost, Laurence Gallop, Graham Hislop, Paul Jones, Ralph Pearce, Frantz Perry, Donald Simmons, James Townley, Robert White, Victor Moreau and David Martin.

Thanks to **Ernie Newbold** who referred to **"Tracks of the Dragon"** for the list of names.

ANZAC Day 2012 –

A bit of pre-amble - **Ed** had to smile at the first response from **Warwick Brooker** letting us all know where he'd be – "My lounge room?"

Then we got –

...from **John Browne** – "I'll be in Armidale again mate.....I'll see if I can get some mug shots taken. Brownny"

...then **John Chilton** sent in – "Hi Dicko, John Chilton signing in. I will be at Surfers Paradise dawn service, with a good mate of mine, Sidney, he was in a LAA Bty during the 2nd World War. He is 88 going on 70. We do the dawn

service with his son and then head to Jupiter's Casino, Broadbeach for breakfast. Neither of us has ever done the Anzac Day March, but we have a great day. Good luck to everyone, have a great ANZAC day, hope to catch up with some of the boys in Canberra in May. John Chilton"

...and now for the day...

. Bert Blink – the day in **Canberra** - "Hi Paul.



Two photos:-
1st is John Richmond marching with the Air Force contingent (on the left).



And the 2nd of me (on the right)

- according to the Weather Bureau it was the coldest Anzac Day since 1956. With the wind chill factor the Temperature was -1. The Blink family went to lunch afterwards to the Southern Cross Club in Jamison. Bert"

. **Sydney** was the next report to arrive in:



The wind gave the blokes a difficult time in erecting the banner, however that was the only minor drama. After the march it was to Zest for lunch and the photo below lists the attendees and the photo on the right shows **John Blake** with 1/83rd mate **Craig Castona** – great to see him there and he's coming to Canberra.



See the article a bit later from **JB** with some more photos of 1/83rd blokes and **Frank Ipsa** showing some un-before published skills!!

Left to right -
Roger McDonnell, Peter Fletcher, Grahame Dignam, Allen Morley, Ernest Newbold, Ron Rae, Wirey Hackett, Bob King, Phil Endicott, Brian Campbell, Ken McNamara, Nick Proskurin, Jim Fitzgerald, Ged Carroll, Bob Billiards (obscured) Brian Killworth, Vic Danko, George Lane and Merv Nairn.

. **Rob Retrot** gives us the **Brisbane Report** – "Hi Dicko,



I attended the Dawn Service and Breakfast at 20 STA Regt. where I was met and treated with great hospitality. I met with the former and current COs, Phil and Nathan, and was introduced to Allan Harrison; Bob Morrison and Joe Kaplun, from the Locating Artillery Association. As we were seated for the Dawn Service we were startled, along with everyone else, by automatic gun-fire in the distance. Coming closer from several directions, the gunfire grew louder until two or three soldiers came into view and took cover about fifty metres from us. More automatic fire was coming from further away and, eventually, the soldiers who had taken a position near us prevailed and overcame the assault. We

were safe and the Dawn Service could proceed. A congenial breakfast in backyard barbeque format followed, after which beverages of various kinds flowed as did the talking. After a minor hiccup about the location of the assembly point, we found our banners and formed up in George Street at around 0930. There I met an old mate, Greg Green, who is both a QPS and 131 vet, and we were both happy to meet up. Regrettably, we did not see any other vets of 131 from our time in SVN. With Phil Swinsburg, Allan, Bob and Joe, Greg and I made up the van-guard of what seemed like the whole of 20 STA Regiment, all dressed in suits coming up behind us. Brisbane was packed to the rafters, with crowds of people cramming every vantage point. I took a couple of snapshots as I marched and was impressed by the obvious support and enthusiasm expressed by people of all ages.



After a group photo of all the assembled locators on the steps of the GPO, we adjourned to our predetermined water-hole, Paddy Murphy's Liquor Consultants, at the corner of George and Elizabeth. Here we partook of their excellent beverage and some well prepared chicken pieces while, in the adjoining space, those so inclined played 'two-up'. And so it went until we each went our weary way home.
Kind regards, Rob Retrot"

. **Bruce Irvine** reports in from the dawn service in **Bathurst** and the march in **Yetholme** – “Hi Paul, We had a good turnout at Yetholme this year (as did the Dawn Service earlier in Bathurst) with around 80 people



attending our service at 8.30am to brave the cold conditions bordering on sleet (2 degrees) as seen by our attire in the photos. Seven other Vietnam Vets attended as well as several other ex-service personnel. These included a recently retired NZ Navy Commander who has just moved to the area. This gave the service a nice ANZAC balance.



I roped in local resident and friend David Mills (Lt. Col. Rtd) to give the Commemoration Address this year and he did a great job (for an Engineer!).

Following the service we enjoyed a nice hot cuppa (I'd downed my rum at breakfast after the Dawn Service) and home cooked ANZAC biscuits before returning to Bathurst for the Citizens' Service at 10.30am.

Just thought I'd let you know that 131 Det. Div. Loc. was present in our part of the world this ANZAC Day.
Kind regards Bruce Irvine"

. **Leigh Hemming** – gets in the day's activities from **Caloundra** on the Sunshine Coast – “Paul,



I have attached two photos of Al and myself after the march and service in Caloundra this Anzac day (on the left).

Although there were no other 131 Div Loc Bty personnel in attendance we did have the pleasure of meeting with Brigadier Neil Graham A.O. who served with 12th Field Regt in Vietnam in 1971.

He is the Colonel Commandant, Southern Region, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. He is in Caloundra house sitting for a few weeks. In discussions before the parade Al discovered they live a couple of streets away from each other in Melbourne.

The numbers at the Dawn Service and the March were terrific and it just seems to grow bigger each year. This was my first in about four years in my home town.

Al joined Barbi and myself and our daughter Ainsley for lunch after the march. It was great to catch up with him and we are both looking forward to catching up with everyone else next week.

I will send another couple of photos in a separate email of us at lunch (at left) and I will leave it up to your editorial abilities as to using them or not.

Regards, Leigh."



. **Jim Hogn** sends us a report from Coffs Harbour and a query with a photo from his son – “G'day Dicko



Anzac Day photo of myself and my 13 year old granddaughter Casey in her Air Force cadet uniform, had a great day. The Coffs Harbour Dawn Service attracted approximately 2,000 and the main service was the largest ever with estimates well over 4,000. The weather was perfect for once and a great day was had by all.

The other photograph (on the right) was taken in Brisbane CBD and was emailed to me by my son enquiring whether I was aware of any significance to the pack of cards and geranium. He suggested it simply could be a token from a mate who played cards in the trenches with one of the lost soldiers? Or is this from a girl who lost her love to war all those years ago and the cards that were placed in front of the pack



represented the couple (he the joker, she the queen of hearts)?

This simple but significant tribute captured my imagination he said, but wanted to check if anyone had seen one before.

Maybe some of the guys on the mailing list may have some idea. Regards, Hoggy”

Mike Butler lets us know what happened in Melbourne on the 25th – “Hi Paul

Attached are some photos of our small group of 5 at the Melbourne ANZAC Day March - wet and cold deterred a few.

Regards, Mike Butler”



Kevin Farrar sends in the AD happenings from the “Old Dart” on a wet and dreary, but appears to have had a warm and fluid end to it in typical ANZAC style – “Hi Paul

I went to the Anzac Service at the Cenotaph in London in my role representing Australia on the Council of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League. London was thoroughly wet and miserable, but I’m sure less so than the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915.

There are 2 photos attached: one of the Cenotaph itself, taken through the sea of umbrellas during the service (at right), and one of the group of Chelsea Pensioners on parade (below).

The service was led by Chaplain Janie McPhee RNZAF, with music and trumpeter from the Royal Artillery Band. The first wreath was laid by HRH The Duke of Kent, followed by the High Commissioners for Australia and New Zealand, Heads of Defence Staffs, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Agents-General for each Australian State, Representatives of the British Government and Armed Services, and Ex-Service Organisations. The Viscount Slim laid the wreath on behalf of the RSL.

Following the Cenotaph service I attended a Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey. The Australian flag was borne by WO1 Stephan Cheers. The address was given by The Right Reverend Richard Ellena, Bishop of Nelson, New Zealand. Photos not permitted in the Abbey I’m afraid.





To finish off the day I went to an Australian cafe (Taylor Street Baristas) for a lamington and a couple of Anzac biscuits, and on return to Bath a couple of reflective pints at my local pub, the Ring o'Bells in Widcombe. All in all an excellent day, very well attended despite the constant rain. Cheers Kevin"

. **Ed** comes in from across the large pond with a couple or three photos from **Washington DC** taken at the Vietnam Memorial on the right and a great stark shot at the Korean War site (left) with the blokes looking very cold in a silver finish.



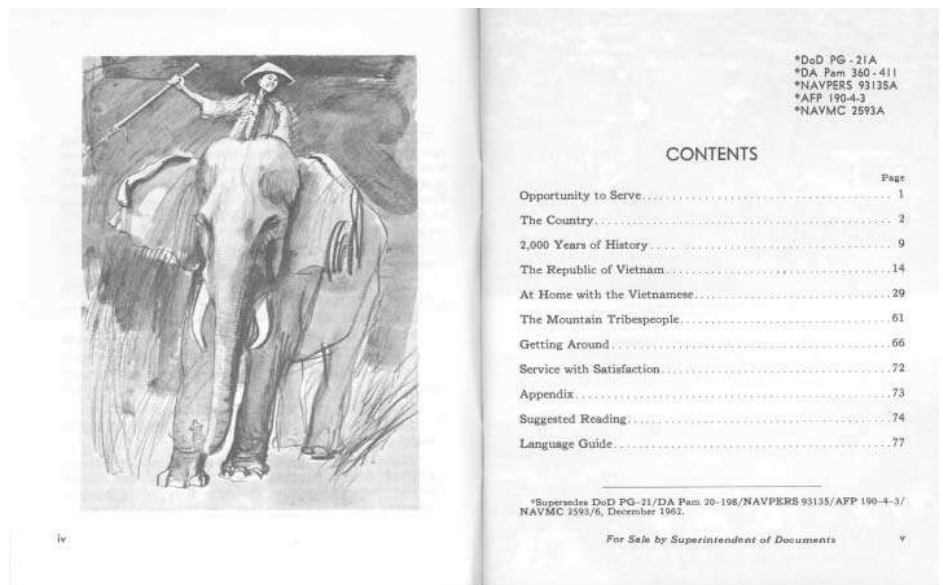
Apparently there was an ANZAC Service held in the National Cathedral in DC which would have been tremendous to have attended

. **Bill Finlay** – re: article in last *Eyes & Ears* edition - "Hi Dicko, I noted P Burge is mentioned in the summary of the cricket tour of 1961, great cricketer he was. It may be of interest to some of the guys to know that Peter's Brother Mick was appointed CO of 1Fd Regt after the unfortunate Dick Cubis was relieved.

I recall an incident which took place one night when I was on duty at arty TAC. 31A reported lights to the NW of Nui Dat, gave a bearing and approx dist, I passed the message to the Duty Officer. Col Burge happened to be in Arty Tac at the time and told me to get a Grid Ref, He then ordered Fire Mission Regt, and told Big Al at 31A to adjust fire. 6rds FFE was ordered (*I kid you not*) 31A gave an adjustment and a further 6rds FFE were on the way. Big Al reported lights out and end of mission. 216 rds were expended on the "lightrep". It should be noted that ammo was supplied by the US for a fixed annual price to the Aust Gov at that time. This was to change in later yrs and each rd was paid for. Cheers Bill."

Ed – Can we get an explanation as to who this pair are - Cubis and Big Al??

. **Peter Ravelje** sent the following in and as it's about 42 pages long **Ed's** going to have the link put on the website so as all of you can read it in your own time...**this** will be the last in this series – just a teaser, as we will put the whole document on the website.



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT VIETNAM?

Why is it often difficult to tell a Viet Cong from a loyal South Vietnamese?

Page

8

Is *nuoc nam* something to wear, something to eat, or the name of an organization?

41

Why would a South Vietnamese be puzzled or offended if you used the American gesture for beckoning him to come to you?

29

Who is Ho Chi Minh?

13

NINE RULES

For Personnel of U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam

The Vietnamese have paid a heavy price in suffering for their long fight against the Communists. We military men are in Vietnam now because their government has asked us to help its soldiers and people in winning their struggle. The Viet Cong will attempt to turn the Vietnamese people against you. You can defeat them at every turn by the strength, understanding, and generosity you display with the people. Here are the nine simple rules:

"Remember we are special guests here; we make no demands and seek no special treatment.

"Join with the people! Understand their life, use phrases from their language, and honor their customs and laws.

"Treat women with politeness and respect.

"Make personal friends among the soldiers and common people.

"Always give the Vietnamese the right of way.

"Be alert to security and ready to react with your military skill.

"Don't attract attention by loud, rude, or unusual behavior.

"Avoid separating yourself from the people by a display of wealth or privilege.

"Above all else you are members of the U.S. military forces on a difficult mission, responsible for all your official and personal actions. Reflect honor upon yourself and the United States of America."



Variety of vehicles speed Saigon traffic.



Farmers plant rice in Vietnam's lowlands.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

If you are bound for Vietnam, it is for the deeply serious business of helping a brave nation repel Communist aggression. This is your official job and it is a vital one, not only for the preservation of freedom in this one country but for the survival of freedom everywhere.

Vietnam is a major testing ground for the Communists' theories of "war of national liberation," and upon our success there depends peace in many other free countries of the world.

The growing American commitment in Vietnam makes it even more important for us to maintain the good relations that exist between Americans and the Vietnamese people. Wherever you go, remember that Vietnam is a land of dignity and reserve. Your good manners, thoughtfulness, and restrained behavior will be appreciated by the Vietnamese. You will benefit, as will the country you represent, in terms of the job you are there to do and in terms of friendship built on a solid foundation of mutual respect.

You can learn a great deal from the Vietnamese, who have been fighting for their country for many years, and you will find, as have

...Ernie Newbold responded to the March edition of *Eyes & Ears* – "G'day Paul, it will be interesting to see how many readers respond to the article on the "Vietnam pocket book" article. I can clearly remember that we were all given a similar publication (Australian version) prior to going overseas. I haven't seen it for many years but do recall that it was a little smaller than the U.S. one that you sent me recently.

The overall message within it was similar to the U.S. one with regards to how we were required to conduct ourselves with the civilian population while we were in South Vietnam.

Regards, Ernie."

...then Ernie gets back with...

"G'day Paul, I have found a link to the Australian Military Forces Vietnam pocketbook.

This one was issued to a member of 161 Bty - use the following link.

<http://www.vietnamwar.govt.nz/sites/all/files/documents/australian-pocketbook/index.html>

Regards, Ernie."

Ed – try as he/we might Ernie and Ed couldn't plagiarise/copy the download of this link so we could run a series of this little gem in *Eyes & Ears* – fairdinkum it's a corker and should be re-visited by going to the link. Even the front cover shows its authenticity!

.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)

Let's look at 1965 to 1968...when on 29.04.65 - Ron Mason, Kevin Thornton, Bernard Erica were all born 20years earlier and Peter Fuhrmann 19 years...

29 April 1965	The Prime Minister announces the dispatch of an infantry battalion to South Vietnam, with an armoured personnel carrier (APC) troop, a signals troop and a logistic support company.
24 May 1965	Advance party from 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), departs for South Vietnam, for service with the US 173rd Airborne Division.
08 June 1965	HMAS Sydney arrives at Vung Tau, South Vietnam, carrying the bulk of the Australian force.
30 June 1965	First national service intake begins recruit training.
17 August 1965	Australian Government approves increase of Australian forces to a battalion group, supported by artillery, additional APCs, engineers, army helicopters, light aircraft and more logistic support.
September 1965	A Morgan Gallup Poll finds 56% of those polled were in favour of continuing the war in Vietnam.
22 October 1965	A demonstration against the war in Sydney results in 65 arrests.
13 November 1965	WO2 Kevin "Dasher" Wheatley refuses to leave his mate, WO2 Bob Swanston, and is killed. His actions earned him Australia's highest honour, the Victoria Cross.
26 January 1966	Harold Holt succeeds Menzies as Prime Minister.
06 March 1966	Holt announces the Australian commitment in South Vietnam will be increased to a 4350-man task force, and will include conscripts. The 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) will include two infantry battalions, a Special Air Service squadron, combat and support logistic units and eight RAAF Iroquois helicopters (9 SQN). The Task Force will be supported by 1 Australian Logistic Support Group (1 ALSG) to be established at Vung Tau. For the first time, national servicemen will be sent to South Vietnam.
24 May 1966	5 RAR deploys by helicopter from 1ATF concentration area at Vung Tau to secure the Task Force area at Nui Dat. Private Errol Noack becomes the first national serviceman and member of 1ATF to die from enemy action.
04 June 1966	Concentration of 1ATF at Nui Dat is completed.
18 August 1966	The Battle of Long Tan D Company, 6 RAR, strength of 108 men, battles North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Viet Cong (VC) forces estimated at between 1500 and 2500 until relieved by A Company, carried in by armoured personnel carriers of 3 Troop, 1 APC Squadron. The enemy leaves 245 bodies on the battlefield while 17 Australian infantrymen and one APC crewman are killed. The Company earns the US Presidential Citation.
19 November 1966	Morgan Gallup Poll finds that 63% are in favour of conscription, but only 37% approve of sending National Servicemen to Vietnam.
07 April 1967	Major Peter Badcoe, AATTV, is killed in action leading two companies of Vietnamese regional forces. For his outstanding heroism in this and two previous actions, he will be posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.
26 May 1967	A New Zealand rifle company - V Company of the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Regiment (RNZIR) - arrives at Nui Dat to serve with 2 RAR. The Australian Battalion is re-designated 2RAR/NZ/ANZAC.

May 1967	Morgan Gallup Poll finds 62% in favour of continuing the war in Vietnam.
18 October 1967	The Prime Minister announces an increase of 1700 to Australia's commitment in South Vietnam, including a third infantry battalion and a tank squadron.
17 December 1967	Prime Minister Harold Holt missing presumed drowned off Portsea in Victoria. His body is never recovered.
28 December 1967	3 RAR establishes itself at Nui Dat as 1 ATF's third battalion.
10 January 1968	John Grey Gorton sworn in as Prime Minister.
29 January 1968	Communist forces in South Vietnam launch what becomes known as the Tet Offensive, with concentrated attacks against every major city and regional centre. Although Tet costs the Communists 45-50,000 troops, it sows serious doubt in the minds of the Australian and American people and leads to major changes in government policy towards the conflict in South Vietnam.
01 February 1968	Tet comes to Baria, the capital of Phuoc Tuy province. A Company of 3 RAR and a troop of APCs fight a savage 24-hour battle to clear the town.
12 February 1968	Prime Minister Gorton indicates that Australia will not increase its commitment to Vietnam.
13 May 1968	The Battle of Coral & Balmoral The Battle for Fire Support Base (FSB) Coral begins with an enemy attack that overruns 1 RAR Mortar Platoon and captures one of 102 Field Battery's gun pits. The base is cleared with the help of helicopter gunships. After a second attack on May 15, Australian casualties around Coral stand at 15 killed and 56 wounded while enemy losses are estimated to exceed 100 dead.
16 March 1968	Massacre of civilians by US soldiers at My Lai village. At least 450 unarmed people are killed.
26 May 1968	At FSB Balmoral, near Coral, infantry supported by Centurions tanks turn back an assault by two battalions of NVA regulars.
27 May 1968	A sweep outside Coral by D Company 1 RAR, supported by four Centurion tanks, smashes enemy bunker systems and kills large numbers of VC and NVA.
28 May 1968	A second attack on Balmoral is crushed by combined infantry, tank, artillery and mortar fire, leaving 47 enemy dead and six prisoners for 1 Australian killed.
6/11 May 1968	Serving as a company commander with a Vietnamese mobile strike force, WO2 Ray Simpson displays outstanding heroism and disregard for personal safety in two firefights with enemy forces. His actions will make him the third member of the AATTV to be awarded the Victoria Cross

Ed – while we're in this era, let's have a look at some news oddities '66 to '69...

- **The Mavis Bramston Show** – ran from '65 to '68 and starred Gordon Chater, Barry Creyton and Carol Raye. Mavis Bramston, the lady with the big black hat with the extra long cigarette holder, had a very small role in the show. Mostly she just batted those false eyelashes and said: 'Daaarling'.
- **Normie Rowe** turned up for National Service Training in 1968 in a chauffeur-driven Rolls Royce. They cut off his long hair and the tresses were sent to his fan club. Fans wept, but Normie had sworn that he would do his duty if his number came up so he went to Vietnam as a recruit, not an entertainer.
- **Ronald Ryan** was the last prisoner to be hanged in Australia on 3rd February 1967... Ronald Ryan escaped from Pentridge Gaol in Melbourne with fellow inmate Peter Walker, using a Salvation Army officer as a shield. They had a wild time as free men for a few days, but then things went wrong. An informant notified police of their whereabouts and during the attempted arrest an unarmed prison officer was killed. Ryan confessed that he shot to wing not to kill, but the jury convicted him anyway.
- **The Kings Cross Whisper** was a Kings Cross newspaper famed for its naughty nudes (pretty tame by today's standards) and its hilarious, boisterous, tongue-in-cheek satire on the issues and the important people of the day.

The *Whisper* was started up as a bit of a fun by two local Kings Cross journos (journalists) in 1964. It was first sold to New Year's revellers in Kings Cross and then over the years sold on the streets of Kings

Cross for just 20 cents an issue. Surprisingly it survived into the 1970s and made a bit of money for its writers.

- In the mid-60s, it was still a fairly conservative time in Australia (even though the Swinging Sixties were happening Britain and America). It was a time when page 3 girls were banned in regular Australian newspapers. The *Kings Cross Whisper* aimed to shock the wowsers and other Respectable citizens -- and it certainly succeeded in doing that. It was forever at war with the authorities and the NSW government and police (not to mention the governments of Queensland and Victoria) were constantly trying to ban it.



...and one more thing – Ernie Newbold discovered a great link which contains more serious and humorous stuff which we'll continue with. Here's the first one with a "political" leaning – don't blame me for the content someone must have voted for both these lots!



Both Labor and Liberal election advertisements highlighted the importance of Vietnam as an election issue, although only the ALP linked conscription and Vietnam. (Australian Labor Party and Liberal Party of Australia)

. **Bert Blink** sent the following in which highlights some interesting reading – “Hi Paul

I recently purchased a copy of "Fire Support Bases Vietnam-Australian& Allied Fire Support Base Locations& Main Support Units" By Bruce Picken, Big Sky Publishing, 2012.

<http://www.bigskypublishing.com.au/Books/Military/5/catmenu.aspx>

It should satisfy most Det 131 members requirements as to details of all Operations and their supporting FSB during Australia's presence in SVN.

The general approach is to cover the topic Year by Operation by FSPB together with some details as to units, purpose& results.

The Appendices& Indices are the most valuable I think :-

(i) Appendices 1 thru 7 list FSPBs by year 1965-1971

(ii) According to Appendix 9, a list of Units that served in SVN, Det 131 DLB served in SVN from 1/04/1966-19/08/1971 a total of 1967 days (inclusive).

(iii) The index is grouped as follows:-

Index of Fire Support Bases

Index of Operations

Index of Area of Operations

Index of Units (Det 131 is listed 26 times across 31 pages, the book is 676 pages. We are fairly evenly mentioned the first time on P14& the last on P611) General Index - Bert"

. **Kevin Maker** – “Greetings,

I am wondering if anyone can help "Brookey" out with this one. I have a Det 131 Div Loc Bty Patch as well as a 131 Divisional Locating Bty Patch and 8-12 Medium Regiment Patch. I can't recall ever seeing patches from the other locating batteries during my service, Any assistance that can be provided would be appreciated.

Don't forget the 60th Anniversary of 131 is only 2 months away.

Look forward to hearing back soon.

Cheers, Kevin R."

...**Craig Cook** replied to Kevin with - "Kevin, 132 Battery certainly did have a unit badge made. In fact we had two. !! Both badges are identical except for the spelling of the word "Battery" The first production spelt it as "BAT" [which as all gunners know isn't the standard abbreviation. It caused a discussion at the time HOWEVER the higher powers that be said in official correspondence that this was the official way to abbreviate Battery. After some discussions""""!!#@*

etc the correct spelling using Bty was approved. Some members of 132 Bty had purchased this one but also purchased a correct spelt one afterwards. No explanation ever came down the line why this had happened. We had serving at the time in the Survey troop a gunner who was the son of the owner of the company that was producing these plaques [Legal] so we had some feedback at the time that our scroll had to have the spelling BAT rather than BTY in it.

If you look at a copy of Tracks of The Dragon on pp219 you will see a copy of the two plaques spelling.

Another "plaque" was a round disc made of cast aluminium that was imbedded in many concrete blocks set on BPs around Puckapunyal range, down in Tasmania in the training area on the east coast [can not remember the name] and in Lancelin ranges WA. These were cast in the foundry at the RMIT Melbourne as a "favour" using the old boy network. There were a small amount cast in brass for presentation to selected people who had assisted the unit in certain ways and they were a thankyou gift. To my knowledge there have never been any cloth badges produced but we did bottle some port later on and there was a paper label produced. See pp218. Finally when the Battery was being wound up a certificate of service was produced for every member currently in the battery. This was a coloured photograph with member's details and time served in 132 written on in pen. A copy is shown on pp217 of the Tracks. I hope that clears up your question re 132 Bty plaques. Craig Cook"

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

Part five

The Anniversary of National Service Medal 1951 - 1972



The Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal (ANSM) was introduced in 2001 to recognise those who completed their obligation under the two National Service schemes that had operated in Australia between 1951 and 1972.

Eligibility for the medal is dependent upon a person's obligation to serve and upon this obligation being fulfilled under the National Service Act 1951 (as Amended), as it applied to the individual at the time of his service. Additionally, he must not have been discharged for disciplinary reasons. No women were conscripted under the National Service Act.

The Medal

The ANSM is a bronze medal with the obverse having a central device derived from the current Australian Defence Force Emblem reflecting, more historically, national service as it related to the defence force during the 1950s and 1960s, with the crossed swords of the Army taking precedence, being the arm predominantly affected by national service. Surrounding the outer edge are the words 'ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL SERVICE' and at the central bottom edge the years '1951-1972'.

The reverse bears a central device of lines radiating from a nucleus, over-layered with the stars of the Southern Cross, representing national service being influential in the machinery of the defence force during a time of need and its broad impact in Australia. Surrounding the central device is a cog, the traditional symbol representing the spirit of cooperation between the Australian Defence Force and the Australian community, thus recognising those who accepted the obligation to serve as part of national service.

The Ribbon

The ANSM ribbon has a central yellow stripe, flanked by two dark blue stripes, which are in turn flanked by white, green and light blue stripes and ochre edges. The central yellow and dark blue stripes represent Australia's national colours of the time, the white, green and light blue represent the Navy, Army and Air Force and the outer ochre stripes represent the soil of Australia.

. "The Australian War" by Paul Ham documentary...ABC - 12 April 2012

Ian Finlay sent information with regards to the documentary I thought I'd get it out and about.

It's a good book and possibly worth a look - I'm interested in your comments?

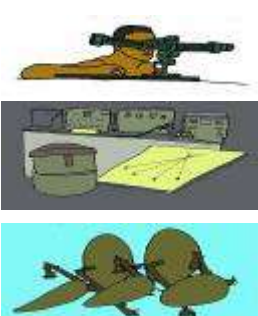
...**Ken Woodbine** sent this interesting response in - "Paul, I met Paul Ham recently at a launch of his latest book - "Hiroshima Nagasaki" (published in Nov 2011) at a "meet the author" in a small library in our community attended by some 30 people - so the atmosphere was friendly and close. Paul H spoke really well, answered questions freely, and also fielded questions about his other books Vietnam and Kokoda. When speaking with him later, with another Vietnam Vet and over a glass of red, Paul H mentioned that this TV show was coming up. I have read his books Vietnam and Kokoda, found them both interesting and very readable, and look forward to watching the TV show on Vietnam. Ken Woodbine"

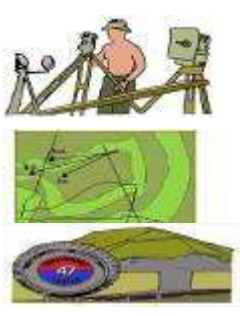
. John Blake sent in the following after letting us know that his 1/83rd mate, Craig Castona, was coming to Sydney and Canberra. The photo of Frank Ipsa is a real bonus - "The guy with a fag in his face - gun crew member. He shared a hut with us in 1/83rd. He and his mate Mike Akerman were good mates of ours, though when I mention them to Guz he has no recollection of them. Afterthought is the B&W of Ipsa and Craig. 5RAR were pioneers and morale was not terrific so an exchange was arranged between the battalion and 1/83rd and Ash Eyles of 5RAR went to 1/83 where he befriended Craig.



Ash and I met Craig at the airport Sat a.m. and Ash is showing Craig the Sydney area then taking him to New Haven then he is coming Canberra then on to Narrandera for a few days then on to ??? He's visiting Bris to deliver a letter to someone then maybe FNQ. We have talked him out of Melb for now unless we can find someone to adopt him there.

He's a lovely bloke - ex-wife, 2 kids and grandchildren and most recently a dog that he has had to kennel while over here."



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

You can contact us at - <http://www.131locators.org.au>

Welcome – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming **John Chilton, Brian Campbell** and **Terry Westerway** to the Association fold.

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

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

All Locators invited. 131 Locators Association will dedicate a Plaque to all locators who served in South Vietnam at the Australian War Memorial Canberra 2.00PM 4th May 2012.

For enquiries contact Grahame 0437 361 602

. **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.

. **web Performance...**the mind continues to boggle!



Countries		Pages	Hits
Australia	au	8,450	27,096
Japan	jp	124	294
United States	us	110	873
Mexico	mx	89	764
Great Britain	gb	13	47
New Zealand	nz	3	27
Ukraine	ua	2	2
Russian Federation	ru	2	2
Austria	at	2	14
Saudi Arabia	sa	1	24
France	fr	0	1
Others		0	0

Not only are the yanks having a squiz, but so is the mob south of the border!

Plus more Ukrainians and Ruskies than Kiwis are being inquisitive!

. **Birthdays in the Battery...**May – Peter Robertson turned 76 this month and we couldn't wish him a Happy Birthday!

May	Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Remarks
1	DENNIS FORSTER	39992	1949	30 04 1969	16 04 1970	
2	NICK ARMSTRONG	43316	1944	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	MICHAEL YOUNG	2786087	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	BRETT RAINSFORD	4719790	1946	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
4	BRIAN KILLWORTH	2782129	1945	04 05 1966	02 03 1967	
4	PETER ROBERTSON	15543	1936	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
5	DAVID CORNELL	5713808	1945	07 08 1966	30 04 1967	
8	JOHN ROBERTS	3787005	1945	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
8	GRAEME OWEN	39453	1948	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
10	KEN WOODBINE	2786077	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
10	MICHAEL QUINLAN	2788865	1946	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	
11	BOB KING	2785420	1946	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
12	MERV NAIRN	2781450	1945	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
12	GORDON WILLIAMS 2Lt	2783891	1945	13 05 1968	26 03 1969	
13	DAVID KEECH	311588	1947	04 06 1970	10 06 1970	131 † 1999
	" "			11 06 1970	26 05 1971	AATTV
15	LESLIE CONNELL	6709098	1948	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	† 2011
17	PAUL ANGELL	2790740	1948	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	
17	KENNETH SANDERSON	3794846	1948	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	
17	LAURENCE MION	3795762	1948	01 04 1970	03 12 1970	
18	PETER COLMAN	2791655	1948	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	
19	DENNIS DYE	2412366	1945	27 11 1969	26 11 1968	
19	TERRY WEEKES	3787197	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	

19	JOHN TICKLE Sgt.	214000	1942	03 03 1971	13 08 1971	131
	" "			14 08 1971	09 09 1971	12 Fd Regt
20	NICK PROSKURIN	2785002	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
21	PETER RAVELJE	3794461	1947	16 12 1969	04 06 1970	
21	STUART TELFORD	2791930	1948	20 01 1970	03 12 1970	
21	SIMON WILLIS	3797687	1948	02 12 1970	29 07 1971	
22	BRIAN TURNER	2412230	1947	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
22	ANDREW CSIVINCSIK	2790320	1947	02 12 1969	04 06 1970	
23	JIM SELLWOOD	1731045	1945	04 05 1966	30 04 1967	
24	JOHN BREWER (M.I.D.)	16220	1944	05 02 1968	07 02 1969	131
	" "			12 03 1970	25 02 1971	4 Fd Regt
26	KEN WHITTLE	2781996	1945	20 05 1966	27 03 1967	
26	BERT BLINK	3789692	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
26	RAYMOND MITCHELL	218731	1951	30 05 1970	10 12 1970	† 24.09.11 - 131
	" "			10 12 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt
28	SYTSE ELZINGA	3787318	1945	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
28	FREDERICK MARWICK	45285	1948	10 03 1971	28 06 1971	131
	" "			28 06 1971	20 12 1971	12 Fd Regt
29	CHARLES O'NEILL	1735063	1946	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	
29	ROGER PRYKE	312827	1951	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
30	ROGER LONG	3788775	1945	05 06 1967	12 12 1967	† 22.05.90
30	RON WEBB	1411172	1943	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	† 29.03.77
30	ANTHONY EATON Capt.	17090	1941	14 01 1969	30 07 1969	
30	WARWICK BROOKER	1732289	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
31	STUART PHILIPSON	3799990	1950	27 04 1971	17 12 1971	12 Fd Regt

Ed – 15 blokes in not highlighted is looking a little better, BUT it's still too many not accounted for!

. Locator Profiles – we've received **88** and we've sent out **82**. **Ed** – it was good to get another 3 more Profiles out this month – 080 – John Country Wilson's then Les Falkai 081 and then Mike Jenkins to round it off at 082. We're still looking for more as we'll go through a few more in May, so don't be coy about getting yourselves onto the web site.

. Ken Osborne made the following comments after reading **Craig Cook's** Profile – "Dear Paul, it was interesting to read his profile (Craig Cook). I was a radar mech at 3 Base Workshops from 1957 to 1960 and was then posted to Woomera. However during the years I was supporting 132 Div Loc Bty at Batman Avenue I got to know Jock McDonald, Rex Gergovitch, Ian Cox and Jimmy Breeze, my friends Frank Perry and Peter Suckling were posted to the Battery at Brighton in the 1970's, so I caught up with some of them that were still in the reserve at that time when I visited the unit.

I did say that I was still in contact with Fred Walter, and Des Bailey who were radar mech and I said I was still in contact with Frank Perry and Ted Doust but forgot to say Peter Suckling is also on my contact list. From Craig's profile I would say that if I have met him it would have been when I came back to Melbourne as I would have been off to Woomera when he joined. However it is a small world, have some slides of the above named locators at Scrub Hill Puckapunyal taken around 1959, which I will have to dig up from my archives and scan to see if they are recognisable, So will keep in touch, regards Ken Osborne"

. Found...

Have a look at the Association's web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au> – you might find some lost mates or get in touch with us and see if we can them for you.

. E&Es Responses –

Relations who served - (Eyes & Ears Mar '12)

. David Dougherty – "Hi Paul, Following Geoff Holden's comments regarding himself and Mick (whom I met on a number of occasions) I note that also at the time that they were in country there was also Ian Amos and myself, 3 in the one unit from Cronulla. I also ran across another acquaintance from Cronulla and a member of one of the concert tours who I knew at school. A total of 6 from one suburb that I know of; how many more were there at the same time? In relation to relatives I had two cousins on my mother's side of the family (regular army does that count?) Bill Lofts (Corp) 2 RAR 19/5/67 - 21/5/68 and Les Lofts (Sgt) 8 RAR 18/11/69 - 10/11/70. Regards, David Dougherty"

Garry Smith – Vic Danko "Heck, how sad. Couple of years ago Garry came up to me before the ANZAC march and said "hello". He didn't know anyone else. I don't even know of his intake number (I'm copying this to Brian Killworth - first intake in case he was in that group).

After the march we took him to Zest. I'm not sure if he was there last year.
 I know he lived in the western suburbs and I called once to get his email address (It was his wife's)
 Sorry to hear this, wish we'd known earlier. Regards Victor"
 "G'day Paul, I am sorry to hear that Garry Smith has passed away.
 We enjoyed his company on Anzac Day and shall miss him this year and in the future.
 Garry is in a photo taken on Anzac Day 2010 in Sydney (second from the right) standing in front of Kanga and
 Warwick.
 A second photo shows Garry enjoying lunch at Zest in the same year. Garry is on the left sitting next to Victor
 Garry served with the Detachment in S.V.N. from 15 Apr to 17 Dec 1970 Regards, Ernie"



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.

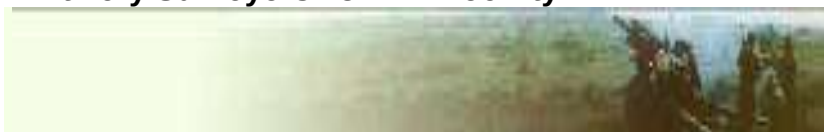
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: Sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join.

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

Web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au/131locators/>

. 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/operations/coburg.html) 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



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/

Action in Vietnam



[Play video](#)

Made by The Commonwealth Film Unit 1966. Directed by John Abbott. In making this film about the Vietnam War, the Australian Commonwealth Film Unit did not look for battles and heroes. This was to be...

00:25:01

Added on 3/1/2011

56,836 views



4. Interesting Links

Got these 2 links from one of our Aussie mates, John Browne.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6E2-OOQo13c&feature=related>

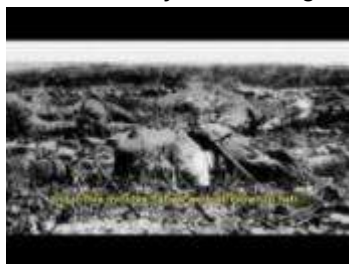
and this one

These pictures were taken from color slides found at the Library of Congress. They are dated between 1939-1943. This wasn't only happening in the United States but also In Canada.

<http://extras.denverpost.com/archive/captured.asp>

...and this as well...

The Band Played Waltzing Matilda - John McDermott (revised)



[Play video](#)

New Version - A very sad, but beautiful, song. One of the best renditions that I know by the Three Irish Tenors. I put together the clips of the real thing: World War I, Gallipoli and Sulva Bay... I...

00:08:08

Added on 10/30/2010

51,673 views



"If you are not aware of it, **ANZAC Day** is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand, originally commemorated by both countries on 25 April every year to honor the members of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who fought at Gallipoli in the Ottoman Empire during World War I. It now more broadly commemorates all those who died and served in military operations for their countries

This is a very important day in those countries and particularly for the Veterans.

The Aussies and Kiwis have always been there for us so please take a moment on April 25 to say a prayer for all the brave souls who sacrificed so much for their countries. Bill"

artillery_83rd@yahoo.com

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

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

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