



THE EYES and EARS

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in Nui Dat, South Vietnam"

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. Heard and Seen...

. **Geoff Holden** only just missed the close-off day for the last issue of *Eyes & Ears* with his coverage of ANZAC Day in Marysville – "G'day Paul"

Sorry I missed your April edition but I am on the road and things don't happen so quickly when doing lots of stuff!

I decided to miss the Sydney Anzac march this year as I had a northern trip planned via Victoria and South Aust.

Then decided to revisit Jim Menz's grave in Marysville and got in contact with the local Sub Branch who were very inviting for me to join the Marysville march and afters.

I also tried in vain to contact Ron Menz (Jim's brother who I met about 10 years ago) and thought he must be on holiday.

Unbelievably Ron was there and we got together, spending time at his daughter Marianne's place watching footy and having dinner at the Buxton Pub where the Menz name is known and respected.

It was fantastic to spend a family day with them – Marianne's husband Alan, daughter Alicia and son Matthew were great company.

The photos are of the march, service at the cenotaph and one of Ron and I at the Bowling Club (at right).



It was for me a very special time to be with Ron once again. Unfortunately his wife and best mate Phyllis died 5 years ago.
I hope all the blokes had as special Anzac Day as me.
All the best Geoff Holden”



. **Craig Cook** gets in touch with us with 2 interesting topics – “Hello again Paul, congrats again on a well placed read for the Anzac edition. I enjoy reading them very much and would like to make a suggestion about the **pack of cards** on the memorial in Brisbane CBD. I wonder if it's a take on the "Monologue" record that was made many years ago called the “Deck of Cards” and was about the soldier pulled up for having his cards out while in church. He explains that his deck is his bible, Prayer book and Almanac and so on. It was very popular in the 50s on the radio and I still hear it sometimes on nostalgia radio programs. Interesting to hear others ideas.

Secondly was interested to see comments from Ken Osborne re his time at 3 Base Wkshps and Jim Breeze, Jock MacDonald and the late Rex Gurcovitch at 132 Bty. I remember Ken and think he visited our mess and may have met him at RMIT where I worked with Jim Breeze. I would certainly like him to dig out any old photos he can find concerning the battery and in particular the 3 Mk7 Radar as I am about to compile some further historical matters about our units and the period through from c1957 to 1970's when we last had them prior to getting two AN/KPQ1s Ken may care to know that just tonight I have received some extra photos of the battery's two 3 Mk7 with Mack tractors and Studebakers lined up on asphalt at Batman Ave depot C1958-60 that came from Jim. Should Ken care to make contact pass on my email to him. Jim is still in Melb and has email while Jock is now in Brisbane also should Ken wish to contact.

I would also like to know about Frank Perry and Peter Suckling who I knew when they were posted to 132 Bty. Look forward to hearing more. Craig Cook”

. **Rieny 'Van' Nieuwenhof** - “Hi Paul,

Find attached a photo which you may wish to share in E & E (below right).

The photo records a presentation to young footballers at South Barwon FC, Geelong VIC. Another Vietnam veteran, Geoff Miles (on the left) and I (on the right) gave a talk to about 100 young footballers and the coaches just prior to ANZAC day. We spoke of the significance of ANZAC day and our own experiences in Vietnam. The talk was well received and the boys listened with interest as we shared our stories. There are many parallels between a football team and the ideal of 'mateship' we regard so highly. There were many questions at the end of the talk, especially about our Vietnam experience and in my case my experiences as a member of 131 Divisional Locating Battery at Nui Dat and the Horseshoe FSB.

On ANZAC day itself I returned late in the day to make medal presentations to the winning teams (Netball and Football). Here in Geelong two clubs, South Barwon FC and St. Joseph's FC, play a special game on ANZAC day and the Geelong and District Vietnam Veterans Association is asked to make the presentations for best on ground and the winning teams. It was a privilege to represent all Veterans on this important day for all Australians.

PS - I have decided to attend the 60th Anniversary dinner in Maitland and made the appropriate bookings. I hope to meet you and other Locators there.

Regards, Rieny 'Van' Nieuwenhof”



. **Grahame Dignam**, the ever-watchful “peruser” of things Football (ARL for the rest of the world) managed to be grabbed by a couple of dead give-away lines in an article in the Sydney “Tele” on 22nd May, 2012 (at right), the name “**Irvine**”, then the words “was driving to Bathurst to attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service with his **FATHER**”.

Dig (ARL Aficionado extraordinaire), knowing who Damian Irvine was but it became even more blatantly obvious with the Bruce “Mr Dawn Service in Bathurst” Irvine had to be his **FATHER** – that’s Bruce in the photo below holding forth!



How bloody ironic is that?

Now Dig, being the Assoc Treasurer, and being ever mindful of funds got to wondering if there might be any major branded groups that may want to feature a Dragon – perhaps the St George Illawarra mob may want to do a reverse and throw us a lazy \$ grand a year deal and use our little bloke?



. **Peter Pioro** sent **Ernie Newbold** a USB drive with an amazing collection of his SVN odyssey and Ernie gave it to **ED** in Canberra (Plaque Dedication) and I’m slowly going through them and the following one had names with it and blow me over here is **Peter Colman** (on the left) with **Greg Peck** in the middle and of course Peter Pioro in full view. Now Peter Colman was one half of the Plaque unveiling team along with **Norm McManus** and I thought it fairly appropriate to show him in another light or pose! Never good to be sitting on the old “crapper” when a Yank fire mission stated!



. **Ken Taylor** got in touch with – “G’day Paul, Sorry I haven’t been able to get back to you, and most of all I missed the dedication of the Plaque in Canberra. I have been down a bit with a few medical problems. However I am still alive and most times when awake up right. Misses reckons I have too much to finish before I can pull the pin. I’ll get my membership payments off to you ASAP. Looks like everyone had a good time down there in Canberra, again sorry I missed it. Thanks for keeping me in the loop. Really appreciate the newsletters and the info’ in them. Keep up the good work and all the best. Regards, Ken Taylor - 131 Div Loc Bty - 1964-65”

. **Ron Mason** sent this photo in of the Bravo Radar lot sometime in 1966 and the names on the photo go like this -



Back row – Allan Campbell, George Lane (smoking eh!), John McGregor, Helmut Lempa, Garry Luscombe - RAEME (how come they named the airfield after a RAEME bloke?), Laurie Sawyer, Ray Smith
Front row - Ron Mason, Laurie Gallop

Now this is the original Bravo radar group according to George L's Profile.

Must have been laundry day for shirts!

. **Kevin Browning** – in response to an item in an earlier edition of *Eyes & Ears* regarding “Bothers/Relations in the Armed Services during SVN...” Kevin submits an amazing story – “Hi Paul,

As promised a few of photos to support the following.

My brother Tom Browning served on HMAS Perth on its two tours of Vietnam. The first tour commenced in 1967 and the photo of he and myself on the ship was taken on a family day organized by the Navy a week before it left. During that tour Perth was hit by coastal artillery fire. The shell went through his bed (they were four tiers high, so not roomy) before exploding deeper down in the ship. Luckily he was on duty at the time. I was on my gun course at the School of Artillery. As your readers will remember we used to line up for breakfast each morning and whilst waiting could buy the paper off the young paper boy. It was a Friday and as I stood in line reading the paper I saw a short news article saying HMAS Perth had been hit. For the rest of the day my mind was far from the course and it wasn't until I went home that night that I found out he was unhurt.



The second photo is from the AWM and was a Navy photo taken on Christmas Day 1968, his second tour. Also a photo of HMAS Perth as we approached. I think it is a great example of what a great unit we belonged to. HMAS Perth, anchored off Vung Tau that day and a signal had gone out inviting relatives on board. This was totally unknown to me. But the Battery HQ arranged for me to visit, I cannot recall how they would have known I had a brother aboard but they certainly knew. Had lunch on board and one of those 'bloody' big cans of beer the navy drank. I suspect all the fire extinguishers had to be re-filled next day as it was the only way of getting the beer cold quickly. As everyone would appreciate it was a real treat for us to meet up. On board was another friend of ours and his brother was serving with 9 RAR at the time. He didn't even know the visit had been possible. So well done 131.

Regards Kevin”



. **Brian Campbell** – **HOT NEWS!!** – “Dicko!!!

Spotted in Budgewoi shops car park a commodore s/wagon with VVA Stickers etc on rear windscreen and No plate was **NSW RAA.131** Left note on front door inquiring if they were one of us didn't hear back, thought someone might know the car? Cambo”

Ed – now someone has got to have the gen on this. If it's not a LOCATOR, then who the hell is impersonating one of us??? This is serious and we want answers! The central coast is full of mystery and intrigue!

...this will be the last in this series – just a teaser, as we will put the whole document on the website...however, **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 late 1960's? - Vietnam - Australia's Longest War...this is the decade that most of us spent some time living in a rubber plantation – **Graeme Owen, Paul Angell and Peter Colman** all turned 20 in April 1968!

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 24th May 1969 to stumps on 30th April 1975...by 1971 Det 131 Div Loc Bty RAA had returned to Australia...

24 May 1969	WO2 Keith Payne, also a company commander with a mobile strike force, earns the AATTV's fourth Victoria Cross.
06 June 1969	The Battle of Binh Bah Two companies from 5 RAR, supported by APC and Tank troops and Australian helicopter gunships, engage in house-to-house fighting to clear the town of a strong force of NVA regulars. The fighting destroys much of the town and costs the NVA more than 100 dead for the loss of one Australian.
August 1969	Morgan Gallup Poll finds 55% want Australians brought home from Vietnam.
3 September 1969	Ho Chi Minh dies in Hanoi, aged 79.
16 December 1969	Following the withdrawal of 25,000 US troops from South Vietnam, and plans by the US Government to withdraw another 50,000, the Prime Minister (Sir John Gorton) advises any further substantial reductions will include Australian forces.
22 April 1970	The Prime Minister announces 8 RAR will not be replaced at the end of the year, some support elements will be withdrawn from South Vietnam and the AATTV will be increased by about 120 soldiers.
08 May 1970	Anti-Vietnam War protesters stage the first moratorium marches in Australian cities (70,000 in Melbourne, and about 120,000 throughout Australia).
18 September 1970	About 100,000 people take part in a second moratorium march.
12 November 1970	8 RAR returns to Australia at the end of its 12 month tour in South Vietnam. It is the first 1ATF unit not to be replaced.
10 March 1971	Sir William McMahon replaces Gorton as Liberal leader and Prime Minister.
30 March 1971	Prime Minister McMahon announces further cuts in Australian forces in South Vietnam, including withdrawal of the tank squadron, RAAF Canberra bomber squadron and some Caribou transport aircraft.
30 June 1971	Third and last of the big anti-war rallies. About 110,000 demonstrate in State capitals.

18 August 1971	The Prime Minister announces the bulk of Australian forces in South Vietnam are to be withdrawn, leaving only a modified training team. The period of national service is reduced from two years to 18 months.
06 October 1971	3 RAR is airlifted onto HMS Sydney, leaving only one battalion at Nui Dat.
07 November 1971	4 RAR moves out of Nui Dat to Vung Tau, ending Australian combat operations in Phuoc Tuy province.
27 January 1972	USA and North Vietnam sign a peace agreement.
05 March 1972	The last Australian logistic units leave Vung Tau and Australia's commitment in South Vietnam returns to a training role with the 150-man Australian Assistance Group, Vietnam (AAAGV) and the AATTV.
02 December 1972	Australian Labor Party elected to Government.
05 December 1972	Conscription ends, draft resisters are released from jail and pending prosecutions for draft resistance are dropped.
08 December 1972	Australia's military commitment in South Vietnam ends, although controversy about the precise end date of the war continues.
23 January 1973	Nixon announces agreement that has been reached for 'peace with honour'.
27 January 1973	Ceasefire begins.
26 February 1973	Prime Minister Gough Whitlam announces establishment of diplomatic relations with Hanoi, but retains recognition of South Vietnam's Government.
29 March 1973	Last US troops leave Vietnam.
10 April 1973	International Conference on Vietnam receives first official complaints of violations to the ceasefire.
30 June 1973	The Saigon Embassy Guard Platoon are the last Australian troops to leave Vietnam. After departure of the Embassy Guard, Transport Support Flight Butterworth continued their regular Saigon courier service.
04 January 1974	South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu declares that war has begun again.
29 March 1975	Australian Government responds to urgent requests for transport assistance from Governments of South Vietnam and United States by hastily dispatching a contingent of seven RAAF Hercules and two Dakota aircraft to Vietnam on a humanitarian relief mission The RAAF is utilized in various roles during final weeks of the war, including movement of refugees, transport of Red Cross and UN supplies, and on 4th and 17th April evacuation of Vietnamese war orphans from Saigon to Bangkok during 'Operation Baby Lift'.
17 April 1975	Phnom Penh, Cambodia falls to the Khmer Rouge
25 April 1975	Australia closes its embassy in Saigon, completing withdrawal from Vietnam on ANZAC Day. The final task of Australia's military in the Vietnam War is conducted on ANZAC Day, when the RAAF participates in evacuation of the Australian Embassy and final withdrawal of personnel from Saigon
30 April 1975	Communist forces capture Saigon as the last Americans leave in scenes of panic and confusion.

Ed – let's have a look at some news oddities in '69...

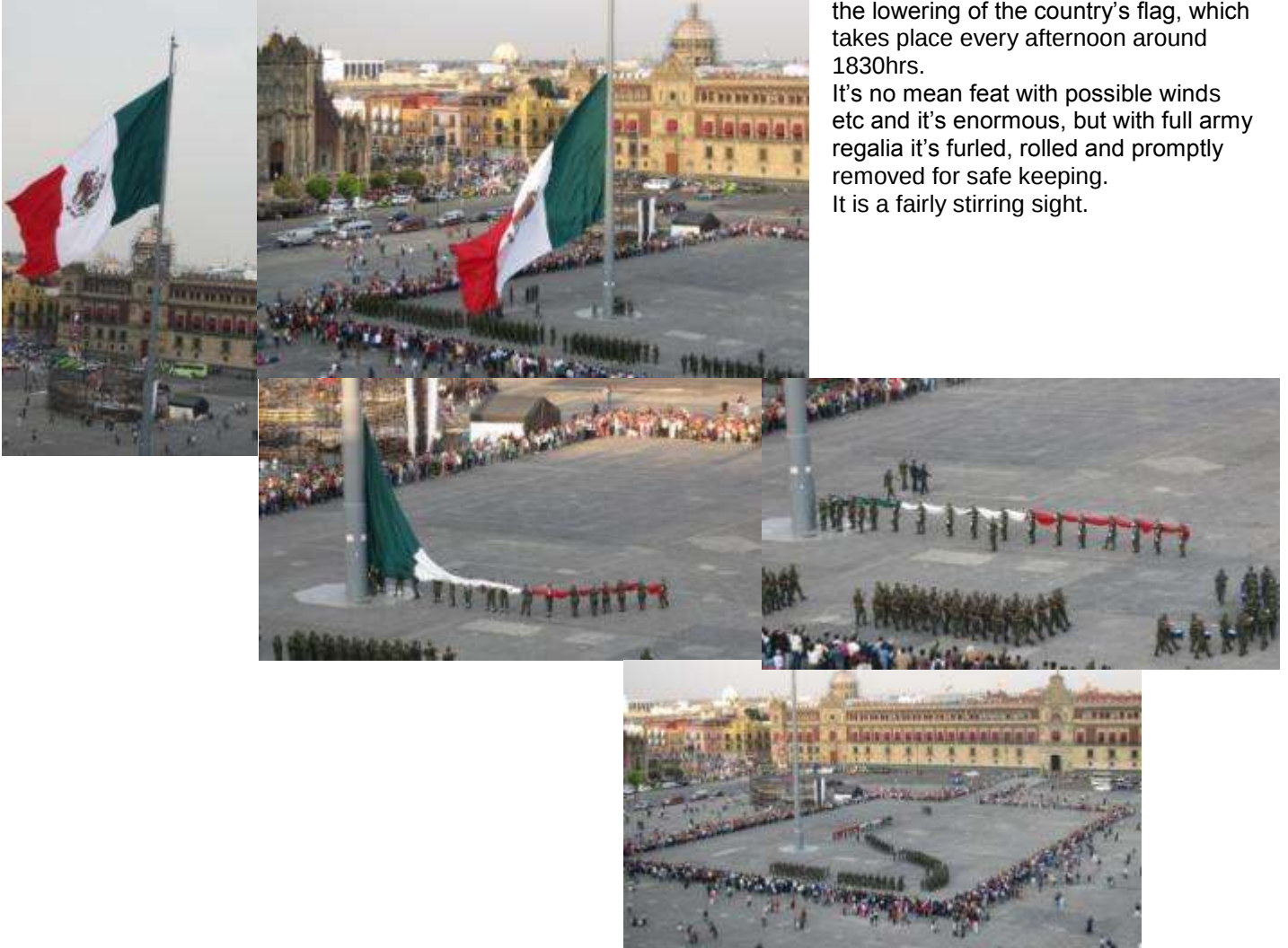
. Australian light aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne slices the destroyer USS Frank E. Evans in half killing 82 of her crew

. 21 January – Boxer Johnny Famechon becomes world featherweight champion, when he defeats Cuban Jose Legra in a bout at the Albert Hall in London.

. First Concorde test flight is conducted In France

- . First transplant of human eye
- . Seiko sells the first Quartz Watch
- . The Harrier Jump Jet enters service with the RAF
- . The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is founded
- . The Boeing 747 jumbo jet makes its debut. It carried 191 people, most of them reporters and photographers, from Seattle to New York City.
- . Bell Bottom Jeans and tie-dye shirts become part of the teenage fashion scene
- . July 16th Apollo 11 Launched from the Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39 in Merritt Island, Florida carrying Neil A. Armstrong (Commander) Michael Collins (Command Module Pilot) and Edwin "Buzz" E. Aldrin, Jr. (Lunar Module Pilot)
- ...that'll do.

. **Ed** was recently in Mexico City and was fortunate enough to witness (from a hotel balcony) the following ceremony, the lowering of the country's flag, which takes place every afternoon around 1830hrs.
It's no mean feat with possible winds etc and it's enormous, but with full army regalia it's furled, rolled and promptly removed for safe keeping. It is a fairly stirring sight.



...and continuing one more thing – **Ernie Newbold's** discoveries. Here's #2 in the series –



Let's hope the Yanks had, and still do have a sense of "Aussies" humour!
Published in the *West Australian* 1965.
The Diggers arrive in Vietnam.

"Tell your fifty thousand to relax General!! I think their worries are over."
. **Ernie Newbold's** series continues -

Decorations, Badges and Awards for service continues with

Part six

The Australian Defence Medal



Australian Defence Medal

The Australian Defence Medal (ADM) has been established to recognise Australian Defence Force Regular and Reserve personnel who have demonstrated their commitment and contribution to the nation by serving for an initial enlistment period or four years service whichever is the lesser.

Her Majesty the Queen approved the Regulations and Letters Patent for the medal on 20 March 2006 and these were promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. S 48 of 30 March 2006.

The Medal

The ADM is a cupro-nickel medal with the stylised version of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms used on the Australia Service Medal 1939-45 surrounded by the inscription 'THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MEDAL' above a sprig of wattle on the obverse. The reverse has the inscription 'FOR SERVICE' below the Crown of St Edward all surrounded by a wattle wreath. The use of the wreath acknowledges the sacrifice of those who have died in service or been discharged due to injury resulting from service, a secondary qualification for the medal.

The Ribbon

The ADM ribbon is red with black edges, the colours of the Flanders poppy that represent the Anzac spirit of the Australian armed forces. The white stripes divide the ribbon into three, to denote the three Services and also represent service contributing to the peace of Australia.

Eligibility

The Australian Defence Medal recognises Australian Defence Force personnel who have efficiently completed either: an initial enlistment period, or four years service, whichever is the lesser, and all of the relevant service was **after 3 September 1945**.

Included are former Defence Force members who did not complete the qualifying period because they: died in service, were medically discharged (based upon individual circumstances), or left the service due to a Defence workplace policy of the time. (For example, in the past a woman was required to resign on marriage.)

World War II veterans are **not** eligible for the Australian Defence Medal unless they completed the qualifying service after **3 September 1945**. The Australia Service Medal 1939-45 is the Australian award for the recognition of World War II service.

. Customs – This is going to be the start of a series suggested by **Ernie Newbold** from the AWM site <http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/customs/recitation.asp> - they're not totally peculiar to the Australian Armed Forces, but they deeply rooted traditions which can make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up and produce a lump in the throat – here's the first, which prompted the series with this being given by **Dave Doyle** at the Plaque Dedication ceremony in Canberra earlier this month..

The Ode

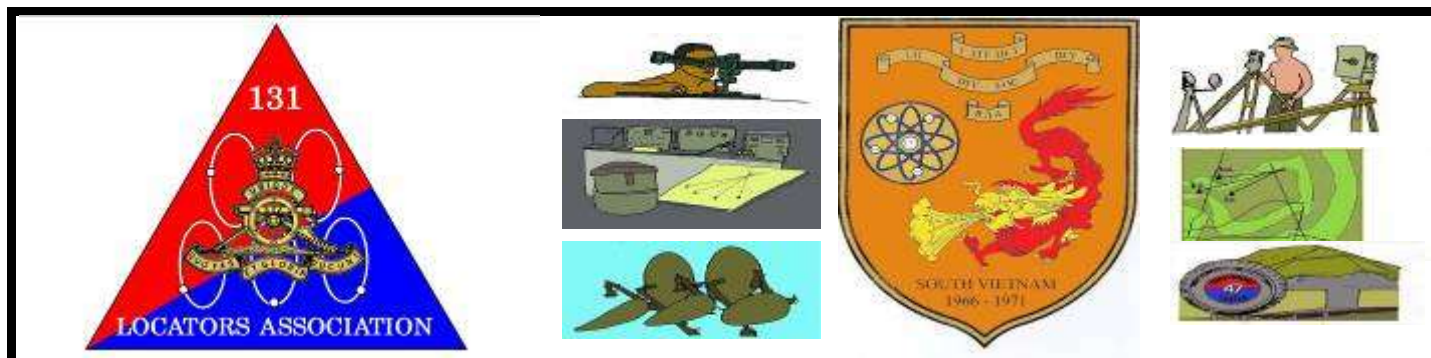
In most ceremonies of remembrance there is a reading of an appropriate poem.

One traditional recitation on ANZAC Day is the Ode, the fourth stanza of the poem [For the fallen](#) by Laurence Binyon (1869–1943). Binyon was the assistant keeper of prints and drawings at the British Museum, and the author of several volumes of verse. *For the fallen* was first published in the London *Times* in 1914 and later in many anthologies of war verse. It was selected in 1919 to accompany the unveiling of the London Cenotaph and, like so many memorial traditions, passed into common use across the Commonwealth. Its use on ANZAC Day might have originated with the Queensland ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee, which printed the poem on the cover of a collection of sermons

and addresses for ANZAC Day, published in 1921. Binyon's poem was also read at the laying of the Inauguration Stone at the Memorial in 1929.

The most well-known lines are:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them



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

<http://www.131locators.org.au>

Welcome – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming a great group this time - **John Chilton, Ron Mason, John Blake, Barry Campton, Norm McManus, Max McPherson, Frank Ipsa and Jeff Bassford** to the Association fold. There's over a hundred of us now – and still growing!

. Upcoming Events Calender –

. **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.

. **Sunday 15th July** - The Locating Artillery Association Annual General Meeting to be held at the Paddington R.S.L. Club at 11.15hrs.

. **4th August** - The Gunner Dinner (Sydney) to be held at the Parramatta R.S.L. from 19.00hrs. contact Paul Vanderveer, 64 Fallon Drive Dural N.S.W. 2158.

. web Performance...well somebody has been burning a bit of midnight oil!

Well members – well, at least with names commencing with A to K should have a squiz at the “Member Galleries” and do a bit of “clicking” to see some of the photo albums. Once you've opened one up click on the photo and start the slide show. “**Spike Chase's** collection – there are some great shots in there. Week by week there'll be more added, so keep having a bit of a look. NOT all the bloke's albums have photos and others don't have captions for the photos – so there's a lot more stuff to be supplied.

If you've got more photos that you want added, just send them to: - Paul Dickson – web Photos three-zero@hotmail.com – **BUT DON'T FORGET TO ADD NAMES/PLACES/DATES (month/year) ETC to the photos.**

Now if you're having trouble logging on etc then contact **Bob Billiards** - billiard@pnc.com.au . You can always use the “Contact” page to get in touch and send a message.

. **Birthdays in the Battery...June** – it's a shame we can't wish **RAEME Capt Allan McLean** a happy 84th by him getting this newsletter! Interesting to note **Geoff Sullivan, Geoff Pullar and Barry Collins** did short stints with the Det in 1970 then transferred when it departed, I gather.

June	Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	GEOFFREY SULLIVAN	3798292	1949	02 12 1970	03 05 1971	131
	" "			03 05 1971	20 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
3	ALLAN MACLEAN Capt.	32203	1928	24 05 1967	28 06 1967	RAEME

5	PETER DEALY	3411983	1947	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	
5	JAMES LOCKHART	6709144	1947	03 06 1969	21 02 1970	
5	VITO CICCOLELLA	2791669	1947	16 12 1969	17 12 1970	
6	JOHN I'ANSON	2787424	1945	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
7	BRUCE IRVINE	2783695	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
8	EDWIN FIELD Sgt.	242577	1934	22 04 1966	31 07 1966	† 20.07.96
10	KEITH WHITE	2783029	1945	17 04 1967	13 12 1967	AACC
12	IAN AMOS	2785676	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
12	LAWRENCE SAWYER	3787393	1945	04 05 1966	03 03 1967	
14	PAUL BUSS	2781443	1945	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	† 28.09.11
15	KARL DOEHRMANN Sgt.	38119	1933	{20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 10.08.09
	" "			{28 01 1970	27 08 1970	
15	EDWARD WEBB	29964	1941	27 01 1970	21 01 1971	
16	RALPH PEARCE	214806	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† Unknown
18	ROGER WHITTAKER	2184592	1949	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	
20	JOHN CHILTON	215855	1946	09 12 1968	03 12 1969	
23	WILLIAM PRENTER WO1	64258	1933	22 04 1966	07 06 1967	† RAEME 01.10.97
23	GEOFFREY PULLAR	1735623	1949	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt
25	PAUL BUTCHER	3411454	1946	01 04 1969	25 03 1970	
26	LINDSAY MEAD	3790714	1945	27 03 1968	26 04 1968	
26	GERRY CARROLL	2781311	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
28	BARRY COLLINS	2793213	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	07 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
	" "			08 03 1971	09 06 1971	12 Fd Regt.

Ed – 10 blokes not highlighted is looking a little better, BUT it's still too many not accounted for!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 89 and we've sent out 83. Ed – we can always do with more though!

. **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 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"

.Vale –

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>DOD</u>
Buckley, Mills Robin	Bdr	16950	LPs/Radar	1966-67	03.09.37	02.04.07

Dave Crowther - Hi Dicko, Been trying to track down some of the missing "pioneers". Here is one, his nom. Roll link below. **ROB BUCKLEY**. With luck might get photo of memorial on grave.

Hoping this will suffice; refer to d.o.b. on NOM. ROLL. IT IS ALSO IN HIS TERRITORY. Hard to track , **WITHOUT DETAILS OF DEATH**, on B.D.M. if death in last 50 yrs.

Kind regards, DAVE CROWTHER"

Brian "Killa" Killworth has some fun lasting memories – "Buck!!!

In all my experience, I've yet to find a more complicated, hilarious, intriguing character than Robin Buckley!

Buck, as a one stripe bombardier was in charge of the 2/35th US arty battery LP which included Jock White, Terry Westerway, Les Cahill, Damien McManus and myself. The charming side of Buck saw him secure from the yanks whatever we wanted; we were better armed than the 173rd airborne brigade! Many stories here that can't be put into print!

A "warie"...Buck and I were in the weapon pit, operation "Hayman Is," with 5 Battalion mortars when we came under fire; a bell "spotter" pilot who had just landed (a big guy) took us and our M60 out when he dived into our pit - Buck wasn't impressed!

Fast forward a few years...I was now a Qantas flight steward on a one day return trip to Christchurch. Boarding was an army rep rugby union side returning from a NZ tour...unmistakingly with two of the best black eyes came Buck! He had been sent off in every game they played, in one game twice...sent once from the field, the second time to the dressing sheds after he "coathangered" an opposing player from the sidelines! Anyway, after filling him with drink, he got off in Sydney with me his very best mate!

Have not seen or heard of him since; as I now have time to reflect, I smile, yet my eyes seem to well!

Brian (Killa) Killworth"

Ray Smith in responding to an enquiry from **Steve Boutlis** mentions a memory in SVN – "Yes Steve I remember him (Bob Buckley). The fellows were talking about him while we were in Canberra. We would hear it was raining in Saigon and he would say "get the tent flaps down Smithy", every time. Yes, I remember him. Smithy"

Merv Nairn also took the time to add some memories – "G'day Dicko,

By the way I am sure someone has told you but Buck's first name was Robin, anyhow enough of the picky stuff just to let you know Buck served with me at Bravo radar although unfortunately I don't have any photos of him. There is a photo of what I thought was the whole crew of Bravo minus me because I was taking the photo, but George Lane pointed out to me that also missing from the photo was the Sergeant Fred Lennon & also Bucko. One story I can give you on Buck, and I am sure you have received a few because he was quite a character and had a bit of a name in the battery. Any way Here I go digressing, the story I can tell you is about the night the Task force was mortared 16th. August 1966, we had all headed into the weapon pits and pushing as far back as was humanly possible without taking a shovel to the back wall when with the sounds of the mortars still dropping someone came across the top of the pits saying anyone down there want a drink of water we looked up and there was Bucko jerry can in hand, we yelled you silly B----- get back in your hole. I am sure you have been told about Buck always trying to bludge a drink loved the booze but hated paying for it. Some of his legendary sayings were if he walked into a group having a drink was " why am I the only one without a drink in his hand " and he would rub his hands together like Fagan or he would say " can't somebody lend an old digger a dollar. There were a lot of his lines that I am sure some others of my era can remember. The last time I saw Bucko was at the concert on the weekend of the opening of the Vietnam War Memorial. It was pouring rain and a lot of the guys had gone home, Ged Carrol and I decided we would brave the elements and go to the concert. When we arrived at the concert there was Bucko standing under a tree in the pouring rain and wonder of wonders had a carton under his arm. Ged and I spent the rest of the afternoon watching the rest of the concert and drinking Bucks beer for a change. At the time Buck was working in the public service in Canberra and that evening drove him back to the Queanbeyan Leagues club where we had dinner with him and unfortunately lost contact with him again. He was one of the legendary characters of the battery of which there were a few but stories about them are often talked about when we all get together, anyway mate I have prattled on enough for this time but I don't get the computer very often and my grandson is now hassling me to give it back to him so until next time, oh by the way send me one of those blank forms and I may get around to finally filling it out, all the best mate.

Merv (Baldy) Nairn"

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>DOD</u>
Slape, William	Bdr	44464	LPs/Snd Rg	1969-70	12.07.50	12.05.12

Reid, Steven Date: Monday, 14 May 2012

Subject: Mr William Slape - confirmed funeral arrangements [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]



The funeral arrangements for William 'Bill' Slape who very sadly passed away on Saturday morning (12 May) in Kanchanaburi are as follows:

Bangkok

1.00 p.m. Tuesday 15 May

Christ Church

11 Convent Road, Bangkok, Bangkok 10500, Thailand (02-234-3634)
(corner of Sathorn Road and Soi Convent, next to Bangkok Nursing Home Hospital).

Directions to Christ Church can be found on the website:

www.christchurchbangkok.org/

Kanchanaburi

Following the service in Bangkok, Bill will be returned to Kanchanaburi for services at the Wat Nua temple in Kanchanaburi as follows:

Wednesday (16), Thursday (17) & Friday (18) nights commencing 7.30 p.m.

Cremation Service: 1.00 p.m. Saturday (19 May).

Yours sincerely,

Steven Reid

Warrant Officer

Office of the Defence Attaché

Australian Embassy, Thailand

Kevin Maker – “Gunner Down” - It was with sadness that I was advised of Bill's demise.

I knew Bill well. He was the Line Bdr. for the Sound Ranging Base. I can recall one day he was checking the Batteries that were on charge for the Sound Ranging Base. It was a calm day and no breeze when he walked under the shelter covering the batteries with a lit cigarette in his mouth, this caused the hydrogen that the batteries were discharging to create a flame flash. Poor old Bill looked like a cartoon character with singed hair and smoke rising. It got a great laugh from the boys drinking in the Menz Club. Thank God he didn't suffer anything worse than a singe and a good reason to give up the smokes.

Hope you are well.

Keep smiling, Regards "Soul".

John Williams - I apologise that I will not be able to attend the wake on the 25th May as I will be in Canberra for parliament. I first met Bill in February 2004 and since then we became good friends. Not a month would go by without Bill and I talking on the phone and emailing.

I took a group of 25 people to Thailand for Anzac Day this year and once again Bill was there to help us. It did cost me a bottle of single malt scotch for him and his 'boys' (6 Thai workers), also some Australian caps for the boys and we would never arrive without a bottle of red for Ayr.

I was saddened to hear of his death. I phoned Bill last Saturday week which was about 3 hours after he had passed away. My wife Nancy and I still talk every day about Bill.

When the Senate resumes after the next 2 weeks of senate estimates I will make a speech in the parliament dedicated to Bill and send a copy to Ayr.

Please apologise for me for not being able to get to your gathering?

Sincerely, John Williams

Nationals Senator for NSW

Peter Ravelje - Paul, I was with Bill @ 8 Med Regt & later in VN, even tho we put shit on him for being a Reg. especially at Holsworthy, we got along great all the same, so sad to hear of his passing.....this is the only pic I have of Bill, manning the M60 on a shotgun trip, carrying timber, cement etc, for 17 Const, - to Xyuen Moc during Tet Jan.70 where 17C were rebuilding a school.

We were armed to the teeth....but it turned out to be a swan.....

The other head in the pic I believe was Steve Hall (survey)"



Ian McMillan sent this in – “Hi Paul,

I just received your email about Bill Slape. Just to let you know I will be attending the wake so I will report the outcome to you. Best wishes IAN MCMILLAN”

Dave Doyle – a piece taken from Dave's Profile – I'm sure he won't mind if I (**Ed**) use it – “We have been to Thailand to date with NZ coming at Christmas and Canada in June 2010. In Thailand I caught up with Bill Slape and his lovely

wife Ayre. Bill was in SVN 69/70 I know he was there when I arrived as he was posted back to the School of Guns in late seventies early eighties. He was living on the old Hellfire Pass sight for 5years but has now moved into Kanchanaburi. He has done a magnificent job of looking after and setting up the Pass to present to the world a piece of history that should not be forgotten especially the atrocities that were committed by the Japanese during WWII."

The following is an extract from January 2012's *Eyes & Ears* just to remind us all of what a special character this Locator was -

"**John Stanford** initially commented on the passing of "Lofty" Hayes then included another subject – read on...

"Paul, I assume you received a copy of the VETAFFAIRS newsletter (Summer 2011).

There is an article in there (Page 9) about **Bill Slape** receiving an award for his efforts in the 2004 Thailand tsunami.

In case you didn't know he is a 131 old boy, SVN 1970 (I think). Regards John S"

Here's the extract from the VETAFFAIRS newsletter -

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

Ed – who said "Old soldiers fade away"? Well our memories DON'T.

May they rest in peace



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](#) 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

...notes taken from the LAA website – The next Meeting is the **AGM** and will be held at Paddington RSL on 15 July 2012. Members are cordially invited to attend.

Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the Associations Newsletter LOCREP. Meetings scheduled for 2012 to be held at Paddington RSL commencing at 11.15pm are as follows:



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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