

THE EYES and EARS

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



Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

email: three-zero@hotmail.com

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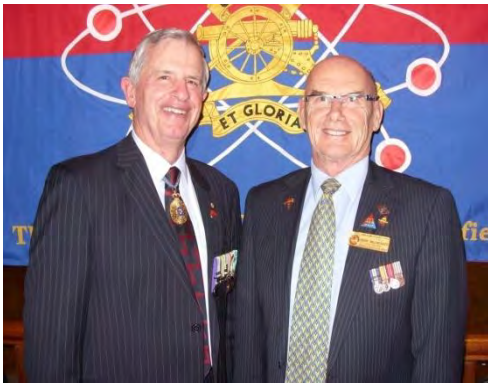
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. **Heard and Seen...131 Div Loc Bty's 60th in Maitland...**All the crew in true living colour (below) – what a great turnout, it must have made **Graham Campbell** and **Kevin Maker** and the crew very pleased and proud.



Rieny Niewenhoff sends in a good response and also a heap of photos, plus as usual some great thoughts on possibly a comparison collage of photos highlighting the times in SVN (go and have a look at Rieny's "My Album" on the web site in "Member Galleries" for a start) – "Hi Paul, You're sure quick off the mark, well done. Find attached

some photos I took, I'm sure there are others who also took photos and I hope they send them in. I am especially proud of the photo of me with Major General Tim Ford AOM, who was my OC at Det 131 Div Loc Bty in SVN in 1971. He didn't remember me, but of course I was there only a brief moment really and he went onto much greater things, besides I am much more handsome these days! The address by Tim was very interesting, as was the address by President Allan Harrison about the changes to the Locators Artillery Association name change. I wasn't aware of the relationship between the Locating Artillery Association and the 131 Locators Association, but thanks to Ernie I understand now. It was great to meet Ernie and Grahame, so often seen in the Locators newsletters who were displaying the 131 Locators Association badge (and Detachment banner).



Tim Ford and Rieny Niewenhoff - certainly look "Et Gloria"

The thing that struck Ernie, Grahame, Bruce, John and Warwick as we spoke were the physical changes that had happened to the Det 131 Div Loc Bty by 1971 after they had left Vietnam.

The photos Ernie had in his album showed a very different Nui Dat LP and the Horseshoe, one could say that it looked much more 'primitive'. I also shared the story of the remaining 131 Locators' who had to disassemble the Detachment's HQ, tents and so on. You may have seen the photo where a number of us had to burn countless files, no paper shredders in those days.

Anyway I met quite a few chaps and to share some past experiences with them was great. I purchased a copy of "Tracks of the Dragon" and have identified all those who served with 131 who came from Victoria. In the near future I intend to compile that list and forward to you to see if any details are known about them. Rieny"



The food certainly has everyone concentrating!
And (below) Tim Ford got Grahame Dignam's attention while Ernie Newbold and Bruce Irving recognised the camera person!



Left - Kevin Browning, Tim Ford and Graham Campbell



On the right -

Back row – Rieny Niewenhoff, Grahame Dignam and Tony Sargeant

Front Row – Ernie Newbold, John "Kanga" McFadden, Bruce Irvine and Warwick "Brookey" Brooker



Warwick Brooker adds some of his own reflections and a couple of extra photos -

"G'day Dicko

A brief outline of my experience at Maitland last weekend follows -

**60TH ANNIVERSARY OF 131 DIV LOC BTY
HELD AT MAITLAND NSW ON THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 2012
THE YEAR OF HER MAJESTY'S 60TH JUBILEE CELEBRATION**

On Thursday 7 June I drove from Canberra to East Maitland, where I was very graciously accommodated by Kevin and Gail Maker and their son Andrew. As usual, Kevin and Gail organised the anniversary event on behalf of LocArty's Hunter Valley Branch. While they were hoping for better attendance, they did manage to attract 51 faithfuls, which made for a pretty decent function. Attendees came from near and far, including Southern Victoria and Western Australia. Guest of Honour was Major General Tim Ford AO (Retd) and Master of Ceremonies was Kevin Browning OAM.

In customary manner, those who wished to meet on the Friday evening for a yarn over a few drinks did so at Shenanigans (Irish Pub) at the Imperial - photo at right. This wasn't part of the official program, but what else would one do on a Friday evening in unfamiliar territory than look for some mates with whom to enjoy a few beers. Kevin ('Soul') and I hit Shenanigans at about 5:30pm and it wasn't long before familiar faces appeared through the front door. Soul's good mate Don Hanley turned up first, closely followed by John 'Kanga' McFadden, who had travelled all the way from Ashford, and mountain man Bruce 'Irvy' Irvine from Yetholme. Next on the scene was stalwart Kim McGrath Esq., accompanied by his chauffeur, son Liam. The Guinness and beer went down well, but not wishing to exhaust our verve before the main event on the following evening, we put a brake on the



shenanigans after several pints and a decent pub meal and headed for our respective lodgings.

On Saturday morning, Kanga, Irvy, Soul and I journeyed to Newcastle to visit Ken and Doreen Long. 'Longy' had both knees replaced very recently and couldn't make it to the dinner. He's now looking forward to a few active decades with his new titanium knees - photo at right.

Having driven up from Sydney on Saturday afternoon, Major General Ford arrived at the Maker homestead about 5:15pm and kindly chauffeured Soul and me to the dinner venue at Maitland City Bowls, Sports and Recreation Club. The event kicked off around 6pm with a meet-n-greet over a few drinks, followed by a reasonable dinner.

I shared a table with Kanga, Irvy, Grahame 'Dig' Dignam, Ernie Newbold, Rieny Nieuwenhof (who had driven from Geelong for the event), and Tony and Joan Sargent. Dig and Ernie had brought the Detachment 131 banner with them and displayed it prominently... lest we forget.



Anyone dance?



Graham 'Wheels' Campbell gave the official welcome and proposed a toast to departed comrades. The other official toasts were proposed by Major General Ford, Brian Boughton CSC OAM (RSM Retd) and Harry Lynas. General Ford and Allan Harrison gave informative addresses and, to mark the occasion, Kevin Maker JP presented a large poster (to be framed) to 20 STA Regiment from the Locating Artillery and 131 Locators associations.

For some, the sad part of the evening was the announcement that this would probably be the very last celebration under the LocArty banner. The Association name and banner will change within the next couple of months to reflect the subsumption in 20 STA Regiment of all 'locating' units.

I am very grateful to Kevin, Gail and Andrew for having me at their home for the weekend and I'm sure that all event attendees fully appreciate the effort Kevin and Gail put into making the occasion a success. I drove back to Canberra on Sunday.

Major General Ford's attendance is also much appreciated. He had to drive back to Sydney on Saturday night after the dinner, for an official appointment on Sunday. It was, therefore, very good of him to make the effort to be with us on this special occasion.

Best wishes Warwick 'Brookey' Brooker"

Grahame Dignam sent in the following – "The Dinner celebrating the raising of 131 Div Loc Bty on 10th June 1952 and was attended by Tim Ford AO and approximately 52 locators and wives including some of whom had travelled from WA for the occasion.

The MC, Kevin Browning marshalled the programme which included a welcome by Graham "Wheels" Campbell, President of the Hunter Valley branch of the Locating Artillery Association, Grace and Prayer to the Queen by Mrs Suzanne Roe, an address and Loyal Toast by Tim Ford AO, Toasts by Allan Harrison RFD, Brian Boughton CDC OAM, Harry Lynas and a presentation by Kevin Maker JP among other dignitaries.

The Programme included the presentation of a plaque to 20 STA Regiment donated by the Locating Artillery Association and 131 Locators Association.

The assembly dined to music provided by a quintet of musicians from the Australian Army Band Newcastle

Grahame Dignam

Secretary / Treasurer

131 Locators Assn Inc"

. Allen Morley...Allen sent the following observations in, which in some detail lists and notes, including photos, the building development which took place during his tour of SVN in 1967. It's a great reflection as the photos show some pretty familiar faces and others that NEED identifying and the skills some of the blokes had which came in pretty handy. It is interesting to see that Allen did note **Jim Hogno's** supervisory role (whether intentional or by design) as photos do show him with the "hands-on-the-hips-supervisor-stance", while **Trev Waghorn** man-handled a shovel. Anyway enough of **Ed** – read on and send in comments...

"The Gunners' Sheds at Nui Dat" – story and photos by Allen Morley

"Inspection of my Nui Dat photos showed a significant number following the construction of two huts in the 131 area. The story below would be of interest for those who came before or later in the time cycle.

In the dreamtime – alternatively identified as late 1967 - at Nui Data a construction project began and was completed. The sandbagged HQ and Q-store tents and the social club were superseded by two buildings which arose from an area formerly covered by rubber trees.



Clearing the area - L to R:
Jim Hogno, X lifting log, Peter
Furmann, X with hat behind,
Ric Marques and X on right

Clearing and cutting activities
- L to R: Trevor Waghorn,
Ray Hutchinson, Stuart
Sporn, X, Roger Long and
Jim Hogno supervising again



The work was carried out predominantly by those off shift at the time. Roger Long 'controlled' the chain saw and provided impassioned lessons to anyone who would listen. It was good to see some of the NCOs getting their hands dirty at the time. There were no ready-mixed concrete trucks in Nui Dat at the time, so although the mixing of cement was not totally manual, there were many bucket loads of ingredients fed into the concrete mixer. There was no shortage of labour, although there was a certain lack of enthusiasm amongst those involved.



Concrete mixer with RAEME area in the right background

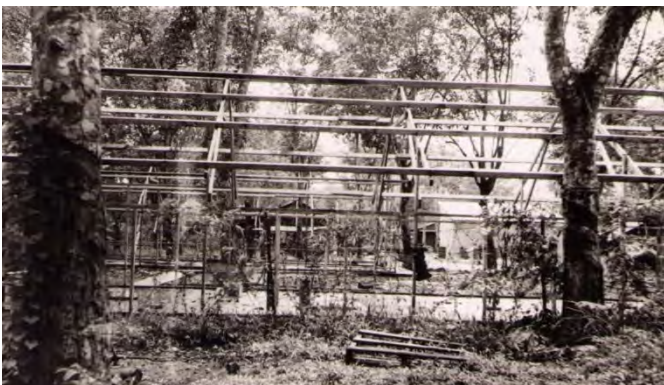
The concrete mixer employed was not exactly an antique, although as can be seen from the photo above, it was not far from ancient. But, it and the gunners did the job.



Slab farthest away from the road. Note the HQ throne room in the background, sensitively camouflaged by bushes

The first slab was laid, then its partner.

I have no knowledge of the Army design specs for buildings timber with corrugated iron roof, 20x60 ft (approx) but construction proceeded apace, with completion planned for prior to the arrival of the wet season. Bill Thomas was a carpenter and my memory is that he led the building process. He also built the Rec Hut bar which was well patronised...



Timber frame in place. The roof trusses seemed to be pre-fabricated

The two sheds were externally decorated by a flagpole and the Detachment sign. An attempt was made to grow grass between the buildings. That had only middling success before my RTA. In 1968 the recreation hut was named after the late Jimmy Menz and the name is perpetuated at the 20STA HQ at Enoggera.



In December the project completion was celebrated by a BBQ. The event was well attended and probably involved two cans each of Reschs DA, Baria bread and buffalo steaks.

The celebration BBQ. Ian Amos has his bread strategically located in his pocket. Note the bamboo screening off living quarters



Nearest building is the Orderly Room and Q-store. The far building is the Rec Hut, with the Transport Office in the tent to the rear left.
I wonder if the straggly plants in the foreground might be Vic Danko's roses?

My RTA was at the end of January 1968 so it would have to be up to a later Nui Dat attendee to close off the story.
Allen Morley"

. **Ian Finlay** sent in the following link to a website of a tour group who take guided tours of Vietnam and the link contains some very up to date photos of Nui Dat and surrounds with some interesting comments – the link is worth having a squiz at and re-jogging some memories – “Photos of Nui Dat. There are other photos on the web site. Look under photos then select an area - <http://www.monkeybridgetours.com/gallery/nuidat.html#> Fin”

...and continuing one more thing – **Ernie Newbold's** discoveries. Here's #3 in the series – well somebody voted Sir Bob and those who followed!



. **Ernie Newbold** sent this interesting Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) link to a contact/message page which could be of interest and value if you are trying to broaden your scope of contact etc – it's worth having a look at – “G'day Paul,

I came across this webpage today and thought that you might find it interesting too.

use the link:

<http://users3.smartgb.com/g/g.php?a=s&i=g35-04730-1b>

perhaps we could post a notice for the 131 Locators Assn. or we could use it to search for somebody.

Regards, Ernie.”

. **Steve Boutlis** copied Ed on the following email – “Hi, all.

While researching for 1ATF events during June, I came across this interesting site where 131 actually gets a mention on several occasions, including what we actually did. Whilst I only checked out the June '67 period, I am sure that we will be there for the rest of the unit's tour.

I haven't the time to check it all out right now but will after I finish this month's newsletter.

It certainly helped me to remember some of the ops that I was on, and no doubt it will jog your memories as well.

The only op name that I can remember as a true memory is Ainsley. The other names I haven't known, let alone been able to remember, in association with an event or location. This site helps.

Dicko, will you please pass this website onto all of our other mates.

<http://www.ausvets.com.au/vietnam/1967/ops1967.htm>

Cheers, Boots."

...ok, so here are the links covering the Det's time span in SVN - I hope this makes it a bit easier to source the info by using these links and I'll get Bob Billiards to put the links on the web site as well. If you're not into all the Operations and detail, you can skim through and reading the "131" bits – it's really interesting to see the scope of work the Surveyors were tasked and the wider involvement of the Det in general in the very late '60s and '70s.

If you're in for more detailed activities click on the following links (it's all contained in the Surveyor's section in the links at the end of this newsletter) which will get you to our Surveyors - <http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/>

<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/operations/coburg.html>.

Just cut and paste and have a look at the Operations in South Vietnam –

<http://www.ausvets.com.au/vietnam/1966/ops1966.htm>

<http://www.ausvets.com.au/vietnam/1967/ops1967.htm>

<http://www.ausvets.com.au/vietnam/1968/ops1968.htm>

<http://www.ausvets.com.au/vietnam/1969/ops1969.htm>

<http://www.ausvets.com.au/vietnam/1970/ops1970.htm>

<http://www.ausvets.com.au/vietnam/1971/ops1971.htm>

. Late Stop Press -



The ever-watchfull **Allen Morley** noticed this hidden "throw away" and makes the following comment – "Hi Paul They conscripted us, got us shot at, messed with us on our return and still we are social lepers. It still does not seem fair nor reasonable. Allen"

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

Part seven deals with the Army/Infantry Combat Badge and we have listed both versions as there is a distinct difference in design and in award description...

...Army Combat Badge



The purpose of the Army Combat Badge (ACB) is to recognise the unique service of a member operating with an Arms Corps Unit within a warlike area of operations.

The purpose of the ACB is not to recognise combat duties but to recognise service with a combat element through formal force assignment.

To be eligible to be issued the ACB, a member must have:

- (1) been force assigned to a combat team for a period of either a continuous or an aggregate of 90 days satisfactory service; or
- (2) been physically deployed in the same geographical location as a Combat

Team and have a primary role to directly support that Combat Team for a period of either a continuous or an aggregate of 90 days satisfactory service.

And:

- (1) been serving on warlike operations; and
- (2) not been previously issued the Infantry Combat Badge (ICB) or ACB.

For more information on the ACB, please read Defence Instruction (Army) Personnel 119-1.

The ACB is to be worn by eligible personnel on the left breast above medals or medal ribbons and aircrew badges.

The ACB is only awarded once to an individual.

...Infantry Combat Badge



The Infantry Combat Badge (ICB) is awarded to a serving member of the Australian Army for service as an Infantryman in warlike operations.

Defence Instruction Army - Personnel [DI (A) Pers] 97-5 Infantry Combat Badge (ICB) details the policies and procedures applicable to the ICB which has been instituted for recognition of infantry service in warlike operations. The Defence Instruction covers the following:

- Definitions
- Authorisation to wear the badge
- Description
- Eligibility
- Designated areas of qualifying service
- Action by units
- Action by Soldier Career Management Agency
- Issue of the badge
- Wearing of the badge
- Forfeiture and restoration
- Qualifying service since 1951.

...**Ernie adds an addendum item** to a query from **Ed** about the “**Vietnam Campaign Medal**” as to the significance of the “1960 - ” bar on our medal not having another year or completion year on it?

Ernie replied – “G'day Paul, see the following extract from the subject as covered in Wikipedia
“**The Vietnam Campaign Medal**”

The medal is issued with a device known as the “1960 Bar”. The bar displays the date of 1960 followed by a dash and a blank space.

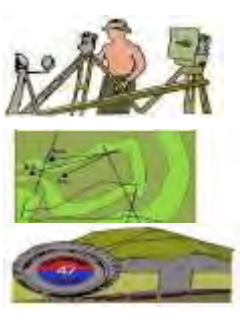
The unusual appearance was caused by the government of the Republic of Vietnam stating that the 1960 bar would show the dates of the Vietnam War from start to finish, with the ending date placed on the 1960 bar after the South Vietnamese had triumphed over North Vietnam. Since South Vietnam fell, and the government ceased to exist, an ending date for the 1960 Bar was never established. **Ernie**”

Ed – just thought I'd ask.

. 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 second in the series...

The Laying of Wreaths

Flowers have traditionally been laid on graves and memorials in memory of the dead. Rosemary, symbolising remembrance, is popular on ANZAC day. Laurel is also a commemorative symbol; woven into a wreath, it was used by the ancient Romans to crown victors and the brave as a mark of honour. In recent years, the poppy, strongly associated with [Remembrance Day](#) (11 November), has also become popular in wreaths on ANZAC Day.



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

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

Welcome – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming Kevin Maker, Peter Suckling and Peter Furhmann as Members and Dave Auld as an Affiliate in June.

Peter Furhmann added this to Grahame Dignam – “Hi Grahame I've completed the application forms and forwarded them by mail today. Have also paid the \$80 by EFT into the 131 account.

Wasn't sure how much was needed on these forms but I'm sure you will let me know if anything vital is missing.

Looking forward to getting into the members' area to see who is doing what.

Regards Peter Furhmann”

Now Ed believes that **Gary Lovell** and **Steve Fowler** might be close to joining the crew as well??

Isn't about time you did?

. Upcoming Events Calender –

The Next Locators Association meeting is at 11.00 AM start on 24/7/2013 at Canley Heights RSL –

26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/>

“We buy the first beer for new attendees and lunch is usually Pizza (other selections are available).

GD”

Come along and get involved even if it is only for the great array of pizzas – Contact Grahame Dignam and let him know you’re coming at: Sectreas131locators@gmail.com

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

The “**Member Galleries**” are up to date – NOT complete, BUT up to date! Go and do a bit of “clicking” to see some of the photo albums. There some classics amongst them.

This month we’ve also added a couple of good yarns to do with memories of a couple of years in SVN – see them in Members – there’s a collection on Long Tan and recollections of the ‘66, ‘67 and ‘68 eras.

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

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...July –



HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY
131Locators Association!!
for 8th July



HAPPY 45th BIRTHDAY
EYES & EARS!!!
for 22nd July



...Then came the disbandment of – Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA on **31st July 1971.**

Some 463 Soldiers served with the Detachment and made those who supported them extremely proud.

OK now let’s pick the youngster out for the Month – Happy 61st **Roger Pryke** where ever you are!



Here’s what **Graham Williams** looked like some 42 years ago in March 1970 waiting to go home and be in time for his 23rd birthday on 21st July!

July	Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	STEPHEN FOWLER	217186	1948	16 09 1968	17 09 1969	
2	PETER O'DONNELL Sgt.	213115	1941	24 03 1970	05 11 1970	

3	BRUCE FOWLER	2795238	1949	16 12 1970	29 07 1971	
4	GEORGE WEARNE Capt.	2251140	1937	05 08 1968	20 08 1968	133 Div Loc CMF
7	PETER JOSCELYNE	2792023	1945	03 06 1970	17 12 1970	
12	NEVILLE ATKINSON	1733449	1947	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	
10	BILL FINLAY Sgt.	37818	1944	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
10	ROBERT PELHAM	55342	1949	16 11 1968	19 11 1969	
10	REX ARNOLD	424096	1949	16 12 1970	29 05 1971	
	" "			29 05 1971	16 09 1971	Ind 161 Recce Flt.
11	JOHN JAGGARD	4721862	1949	03 03 1971	02 08 1971	131
	" "			02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
13	ALASDAIR GOUGH	2105130	1947	27 03 1970	04 03 1971	
14	EDMOND DOUST Sgt.	53111	1939	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
14	FREDERICK KRUMINK	6708867	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
15	IAN EARLE	3166824	1951	19 08 1970	10 12 1970	131 / 4 Fd Regt.
	" "			11 12 1970	23 06 1971	33 Dental Unit
18	KEITH AYLIFFE Sgt.	217354	1941	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	131
	" "			08 07 1971	24 07 1971	HQ AFV
18	ALISTAIR McLEAN	312524	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
18	JOE KOCKA	1202703	1951	20 08 1970	29 07 1971	
19	MAXWELL McPHERSON	3795560	1947	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
21	GRAHAM WILLIAMS	2789698	1947	03 06 1969	25 03 1970	
21	WILLIAM SLADE	44464	1950	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	
21	WILHELMUS Van ZETTEN	3794919	1947	17 03 1970	17 12 1970	
21	PETER SUMMERS	3796803	1948	09 11 1970	09 06 1971	
22	JOHN HOMER	5717596	1949	17 03 1971	02 08 1971	131
	" "			02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
23	DAVID DODD	2790139	1947	03 06 1969	04 06 1970	
25	WILLIAM DOYLE	4719912	1947	17 12 1968	04 01 1969	4 Fd REGT †
	" "			05 01 1969	28 11 1969	05.09.78
						131 †
25	JOHN SMITH	610231	1949	16 11 1968	12 11 1969	
25	PETER BARRY	2794949	1949	17 03 1971	04 08 1971	131
	" "			04 08 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
28	MALCOLM MUSGRAVE	214359	1943	03 06 1969	04 06 1970	
29	RICHARD EDWARDS	218595	1949	03 06 1970	14 05 1971	
30	KEITH HOLLOWAY	15851	1943	20 05 1966	10 10 1966	

Ed – 18 blokes not highlighted is a lot for July or any month for that matter – let's see if we can reduce that?

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 88 and we've sent out 86. Ed – we can always do with a heap more!

. **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 132Div 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"

. **Kevin Browning** not being one to let too much, or anything for that matter slip under the radar (so to "Locator Speak") sent the reminiscences and a photo of **David Dougherty** in – "Hi Paul, I'm about to depart for the 131 60th Birthday function at Maitland so please excuse the rush.

Enjoyed reading Dave's profile and as always he is very modest in his efforts. I was very much privileged to have served with him in SVN in the SVY/SRg group. Dave of course was one of the old and bolds by the time I arrived. What Dave didn't include in his profile is the fact he is the son of the late Major General Sir Ivan Dougherty CBE, DSO and Bar, ED who amongst many notable military ventures commanded 2/4th Infantry Battalion, 21st Brigade, 8th Brigade and 2nd Division. I can recall David being ordered to have his photo taken in Vietnam for 'propaganda' purposes. He was far from pleased with the matter but did as ordered. All I can say is the photo showed that really great facial expression he could muster when he was 'pissed off'.

Regards Kevin"



. 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”

. **Ron Mason** sends in a sequel to last month's *Eyes & Ears* article which featured (photo at bottom) a rather unruly looking lot of Bravo Radar-ites –



L to R : Sgt Fred Lennon, “Spike” Chase, John McGregor, George Lane, Laurie Gallop, Bdr Allan Campbell

At right -

Back row – Allan Campbell, George Lane, John McGregor, Helmut Lempa, Garry Luscombe - RAEME, Laurie Sawyer, Ray Smith

Front row - Ron Mason, Laurie Gallop

“Paul,
Photo 'B' Radar '66 at left (Shirts just back from cleaners)

I'll hunt up some more photos & maybe even a profile one day.

One question, has a date been set for the next Coffs Harbour reunion?

Keep up the good work.

Ron Mason”



A Campbell, G Lane, J McGregor, H Lempa, G Luscombe, L Sawyer, R Smith
R Mason, L Gallop

.Vale –

Bill Slape – some more lasting memories from **Richard Chaplin**...

“Hi Paul,

Re: latest Eyes and Ears Newsletter.

Like many of us I was saddened on hearing of Bill Slape's passing. I remember him well from my time in SVN in 1970 and particularly the nashos vs regs banter mentioned by Pete Ravelje.

In 2009 I was doing a written piece (drawing on my diary I kept while in SVN) on the final months of the radars in SVN, and what the radar operators did in SVN after the radar equipment had been shipped home. Keith Ayliffe asked me if I could do this for inclusion in his detailed document “AN/KPQ-1 RADAR South Vietnam – Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery, South Vietnam, 1966 – 1970”. Keith did a remarkable job with this comprehensive historical account of the radars in SVN and it makes for a very interesting read for radar operators who served there. The document was up on the LocArty website for a period, however I notice it is no longer there, and anyone interested in a copy can email Keith (go to <http://www.locatingartillery.org/notice%20board.htm>).

While working on my small contribution to the document I tried to put ‘names to faces’ in some of my old photographs of that time (1970), and an old friend (Chris Chapple) suggested I contact Bill Slape at the Hellfire Pass Museum in Thailand. I emailed the address on the museum website and within an hour Bill emailed me back with the names I was missing plus some pictures of his Thailand home and the museum!

I have attached the 131 photograph which includes Bill and a bunch of 131 guys enjoying a show put on by “Peter Pie Productions” (a group of musically talented Nashos from the battery) at the farewell BBQ for 13th National Service Intake guys in James Menz Club on 31 May 1970.

The photograph below lists the names below:



31 May 1970 - James Menz Club (Nui Dat)

Standing from left - Craig Stott (back lighted by window), Pete Ravelje (blurred face - Bty HQ), Grant Perrins (cigarette in mouth - Radar), Bdr Mal Musgrave (Radar), John Lucas (Radar), LBdr Mick Davis (Arty Int), Robert Hargraves (moustached and with beer in right hand). Burt Jacka (Radar - white shirt),

Front centre - **Bdr William Slape** talking to 'Big Willie' (real name not known),

Front and smiling - Al Wheatley (Radar), **RH corner** face only - Chris Chapple (Radar).

Thought this may bring back some good memories of Bill to some of your readers.

Kind regards, Richard Chaplin”

Terry Erbs sent in an email with photos – here's an extract – “The wake of William “Bill” Slape's was held in the Southern Cross Room at Kedron Wavell RSL (photo at right).

Bill's family and many friends heard his great mate, Major Eddie Bradshaw, deliver a moving eulogy. So with many thanks to Eddie, here is Bill's story. (following)”



. **Eddie Bradshaw** sent the following in as additional background on **Bill Slape's** activities in Thailand and the impact he had on other people's lives -

"Paul, Sorry about the delay on the info you requested hope it is useful for the June edition of Eyes and Ears.

Regards, Eddie"

Bill was a returned serviceman who served in Vietnam in 67-68. He continued on serving and finally completed 35 years service in the Australian Regular Army and Active Reserve collectively.

On his discharge from the Army Bill found employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs as the Manager of the Hellfire Pass Museum in Thailand. Bill was an energetic and a resourceful individual who always put the wishes and requirements of his friends, guests and employees first. Although not the first person to be involved in looking after Hellfire Pass Museum, Bill made it his own. His dedication to the task, his enthusiasm for the history, his respect for the memories it held were the hallmark of his time there.

Over the years Bill made many friendships and went out of his way to support and help people and organisations visiting the Hellfire Pass Museum. One group in particular was the Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association which is run by a group of POWs who worked on the railway during the Japanese occupation of Thailand in WW2. This group would take annual trips to Thailand to celebrate Anzac Day. Bill went out of his way on these occasions to ensure these elderly veterans were well looked after. This was not a simple task when you consider the local terrain and the difficulty associated with moving wheelchairs and frail people in stature up and down hundreds of steps through rocky and undulating ground in order to get to the memorial site.

In 2004 Bill at short notice volunteered as a Thai interpreter as part of the Australian Embassy Team. He was attached to the multinational police 'Disaster Victim' team just after the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004 that engulfed parts of coastal Thailand. During this operation Bill did more than provide services as a linguist. He sought approval for the international medical teams to use two temples as temporary mortuaries. He also sourced equipment and supported the Australian Federal Police (AFP) staff with their requirements. Bill worked non-stop for 16 hours in an environment of chaos and turmoil.

For his efforts with the AFP, Bill was recognised and awarded the AFP Operations Medal. The operations medal had never been awarded to a civilian before; it was awarded at the direction of the AFP Commissioner, Mick Kelty. At the time Bill was described as being 'bankable and rock solid'.

Not long after the tsunami clean up Bill was approached by a former senior officer of the Australian Embassy and asked if he would agree to be the Australian Consular Warden in Kanchanaburi. Bill's response at the time was what does that mean?

It means you help Australians who are in trouble. Without hesitation, Bill signed on and became the Warden in Kanchanaburi- he was a natural - helping others was in Bill's DNA. Bill had an innate sense of 'the right thing to do' - he did not just see it, he would act on it too.

Only recently Bill was diagnosed with a heart condition, unfortunately he passed away suddenly on Friday the 11 May from a heart attack. He was doing what he enjoyed doing most, swimming laps in the pool. He will be sadly missed by all who had the opportunity to meet him and know him as a friend. Bill was a true 'stand up guy', a man of integrity, compassion, dignity and conviction.

E.J. BRADSHAW, MAJ - HQ Regional Health Services-QLD"

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.

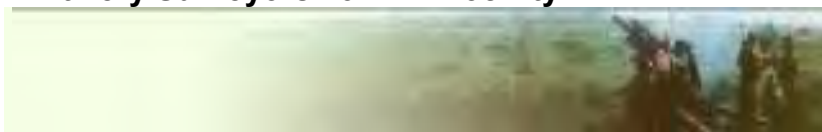
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: Sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join.

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/

. **Bill Taggart** sent the forwarded the following enquiry, and **Ed** did a search and couldn't find the bloke concerned on our database – Can anyone shine some light on this subject – please? – “Hi Paul, I had a question. We just added a new guy to our list, **Ron (Doc) Skormisley** who was a Medic with us at Nui Dat in 66-67. I had a long conversation with him yesterday and when I told him that we had some Aussies as part of the group he asked if I knew of a "Gunner" Reeves (not sure of spelling) who he knew at Nui Dat and apparently shared a

tent with him. He thinks that this guy was attached to our Metro section. Doc apparently was in the same tent as our Metro section. Is that someone from your group that you know of?

Bill

artillery_83rd@yahoo.com

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

Ed – I took the liberty to cut and paste part 2 of Bill Taggart's - "1/83rd - Weekly Update 2012 - Week of May 28 - June 1, 2012" – we're just keeping the link alive...

"2. Memorial Day

I received several emails from our Aussie Mates expressing their thoughts and good wishes on Memorial Day. As I have told you before, our Aussie mates have been long time friends and continue to be so, now and forever.

Here are a few of those emails:

1. Just to let you know that my thoughts will be with you and not only our friends at 1/83rd, but ALL American Veterans who we, as a nation, have shared many a conflict during both our countries' short histories.

Ubique

Paul Dickson

Editor, Eyes & Ears

Official newsletter of the 131 Locators Association Inc.

2. Personally and also on behalf of our Association, I would like to express our respect and appreciation for the service and sacrifice given so freely by your association members and your nation to your neighbours and other free world countries around the globe.

At our ANZAC DAY March recently, flags of many nations were displayed, but from our group, after the Aussie flag, the Stars & Stripes appeared the largest and most colourful.

We hope you have a wonderful, peaceful memorial holiday weekend.

Kind regards,

Grahame Dignam

Secretary / Treasurer

131 Locators Assn Inc

3. I guess your Memorial Day is similar to our ANZAC Day. I wish you and all members, indeed all U.S. war veterans, a blessed day of commemoration and reflection. I'm sure that many Aussies who served with you in Vietnam and other wars will be thinking of you on this day, and of those who sacrificed their health and lives in service to their country.

With best wishes,

Warwick Brooker

Artillery Survey Section, Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery

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