

THE EYES and EARS

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



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. Project - "Identify Yourself and a Mate/s – Welcome Home Parade – Sydney, October, 1987"



First up let me refresh you to a very significant point to the ensuing story and request -

The following extract is taken from a longer story re: “**Our Banner Story**”, written by **Peter Summers**, which was submitted and published in *Eyes & Ears* in July 2010 and now appears on the 131 Locators Assoc web site in full.



These blokes, on the left, formed a committee and it is to them that we owe a great debt of gratitude for something that we hold extremely dear to all of us, as ex-members of Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA –

OUR DRAGON BANNER.

← The committee photo was taken at North Head at the reunion and is from the left - **Merv Nairn** 1966, **Peter Summers** 1970, **Kevin Browning** 1970 and **Jeff Bassford** 1970. **Ged Carroll** (not in photo) also joined them.

Pete goes on with the following, after getting a committee organized they decided to give birth to the banner after the “Welcome Home” parade in Sydney in 1987 in time for the next ANZAC Day parade.
Read on and get re-excited about a piece of OUR history...

“The Reunion

The next thing to address was where to hold the event and a number of venues were suggested. At one of our brainstorming sessions someone suggested that as we had all been through the School of Arty wouldn't it be a blast to have it there. Never one to shirk from a challenge Jeff contacted the Commandant and set up a meeting. Jeff and I duly turned up at the school and had a good conversation with the boss and the RSM. We outlined that we would like to use the school to put the boys up and feed us, we were very happy to pay the costs. We also asked if the caterers would like to do a dinner for us after the march again at our cost.

As the School had never been asked for this before there were a lot of protocol issues to be dealt with. We found the School absolutely fabulous to deal with and without their assistance the whole procedure would have been much more difficult. After due course the RSM got back to us and said that the Army and the School thought the idea was so good that they extended it to the Regiments and Batteries as well. We were quite happy with this idea as the more the merrier. The RSM also confirmed that the School would have a welcome BBQ on the Friday night and breakfast the next morning at their expense. He also said that all returned gunners could stay at the School Friday and Saturday nights at no cost as well. They would put up stretchers in the gym and use any rooms not occupied. This was a great help to us.

Next the RSM said the caterers would be happy to cater for our reunion lunch. So, back to North Head for Jeff and me to discuss the details with the cooks. The menu selected and the times numbers etc worked out they worked out a price. We then contacted all the members we had located and advised the arrangements and costs involved and they were all happy to go.

It was incredibly special to regain contact with mates that in a lot of cases you had not seen since you left SVN and the years rolled back quickly. Before the BBQ was over we were all in our twenties again in our heads.

We all caught the ferry to Circular Quay for the march and again back afterwards for our dinner. The food and company were fantastic and the day just rolled on.”

...OK, that's the heart starter, now back to this edition of *Eyes & Ears* and what we have in hand (well almost)...

The photo above, taken by **Bob King** at North Head, shows possibly one of the largest gatherings of the Detachment **EVER** – well in one place, since SVN. OK, yes there were a few of us in Canberra in 1992 for the Vietnam Memorial Dedication, but we didn't get a total group photo.

Now some 45 years later we're going to have a crack at trying, no **not** trying to, actually naming the blokes who were there. Some of us have had a reasonable guess that we know some of them, but that's only a part of the story.

You'd think after intensive military training that we could stand in straight rows and make naming a bloody sight easier – we still can't do it today as evidenced by recent ANZAC Day gatherings etc.

We've dissected the Group photo above and hopefully the following will explain how we're going to identify the blokes in the photo.

Now following are 8 segmented, numbered photos which have been cropped, enlarged and the heads arrowed and individually numbered.

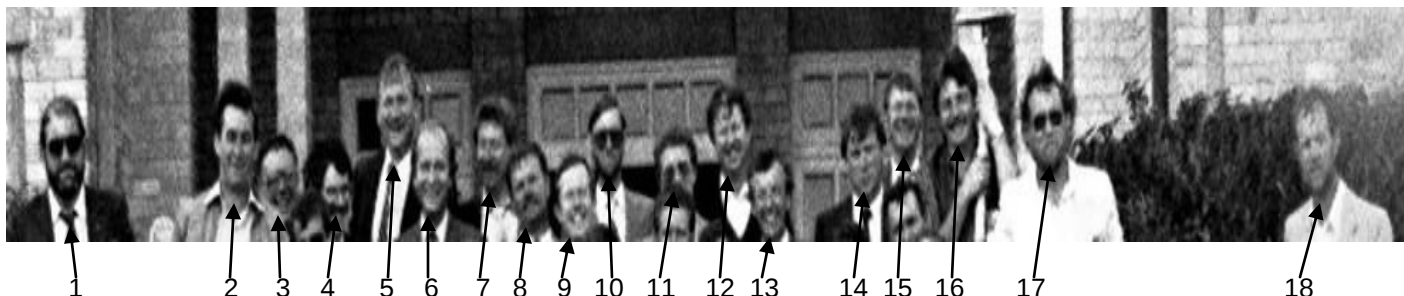
After some careful examination we need you to reply to – “Welcome Home Photo” in the Subject Line - send your id’s to three-zero@hotmail.com or snail mail to Grahame Dignam, Secretary / Treasurer, 131Locators Association, 8 Darling St. ABBOTSBURY NSW 2176 and add something like this –

“That’s me, **Jim Hogno**, #2 in the Third Row photo and I reckon that’s **Ron “Mook” Evans**, #4 in the Fifth Row photo etc etc.” Actually I’m sure that that’s **Bruce Irvine** as #13 in the First Row! I’m not having a crack at any more other than to have a crack at #21 in the Fifth Row as being **John Blake**? And you could hardly miss **Dave Doyle** as #15 Seventh Row – Left!!

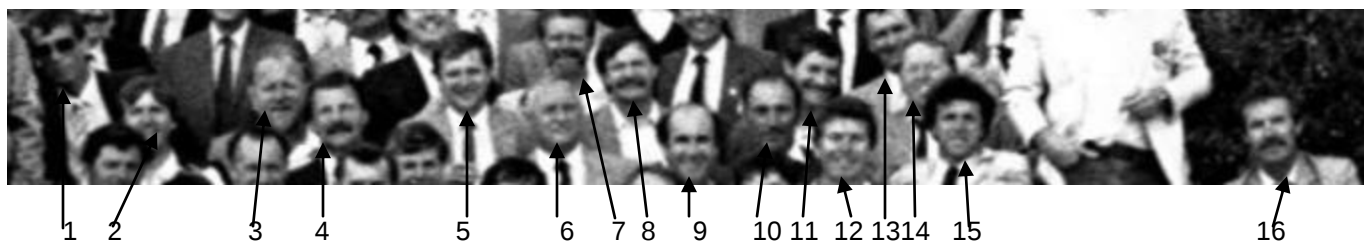
If each of you gives us as many names as possible we’ll hopefully end up with, maybe after some initial confusion, a pretty complete list.

It doesn’t matter if “Mook” identifies himself separately, we just need **NAMES**! I reckon I can identify about 16 and I wasn’t even there!

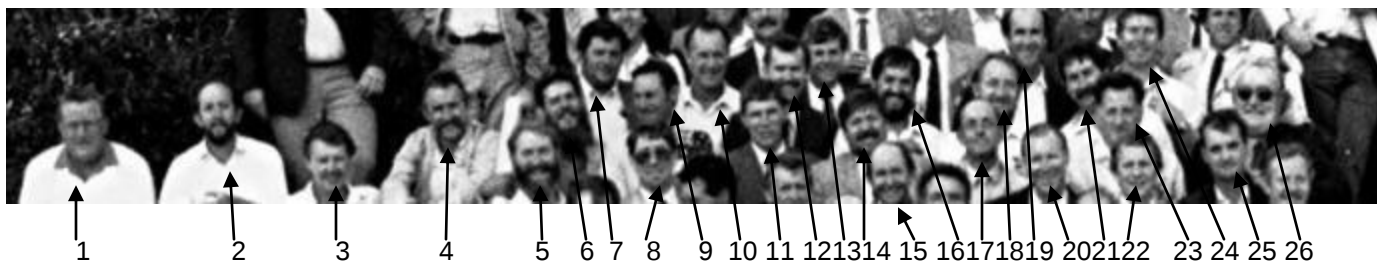
1. First Row



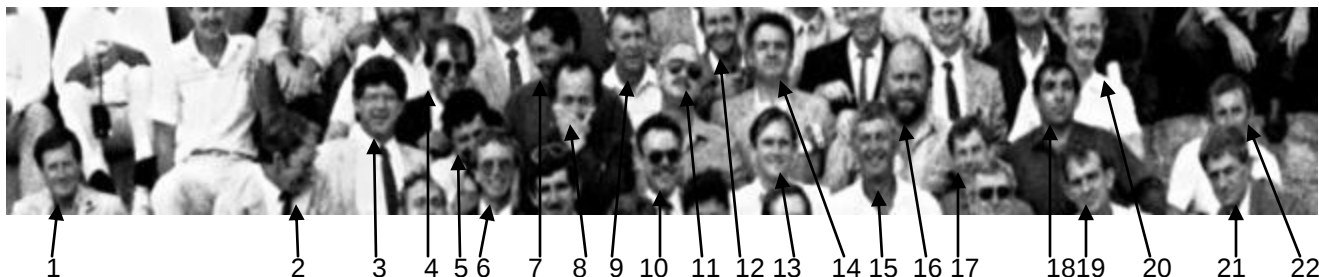
2. Second Row



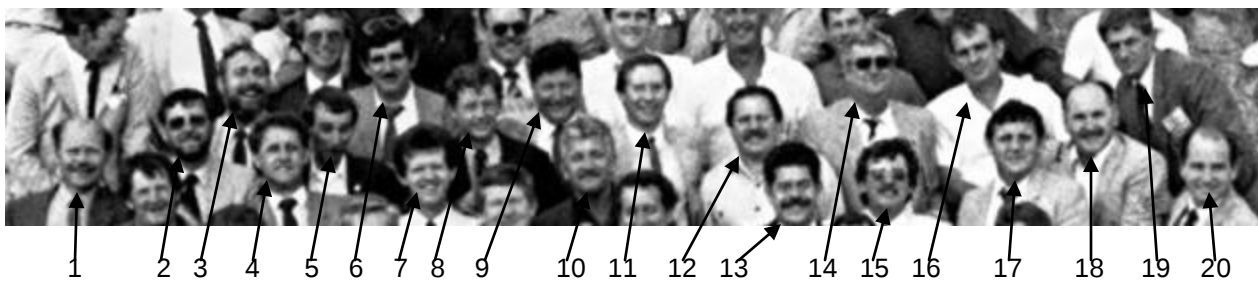
3. Third Row



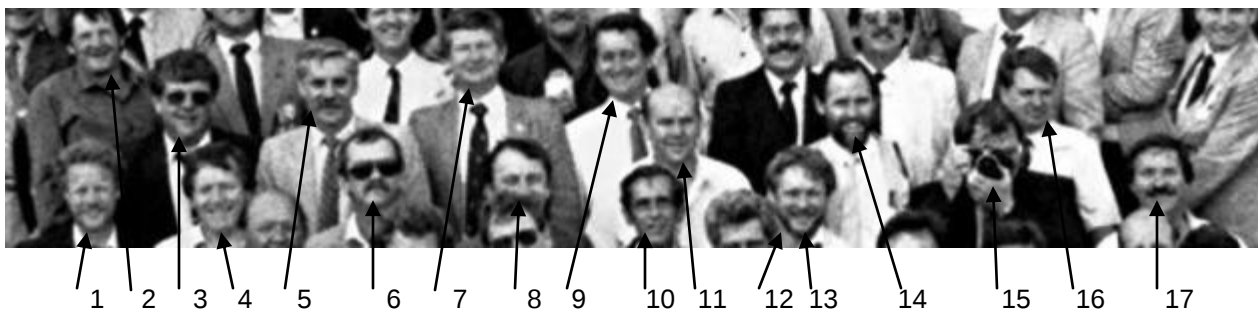
4. Fourth Row



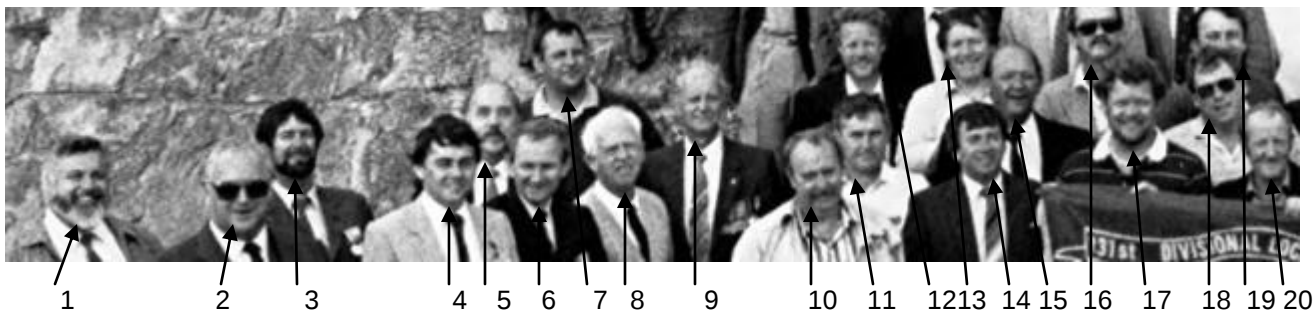
5. Fifth Row



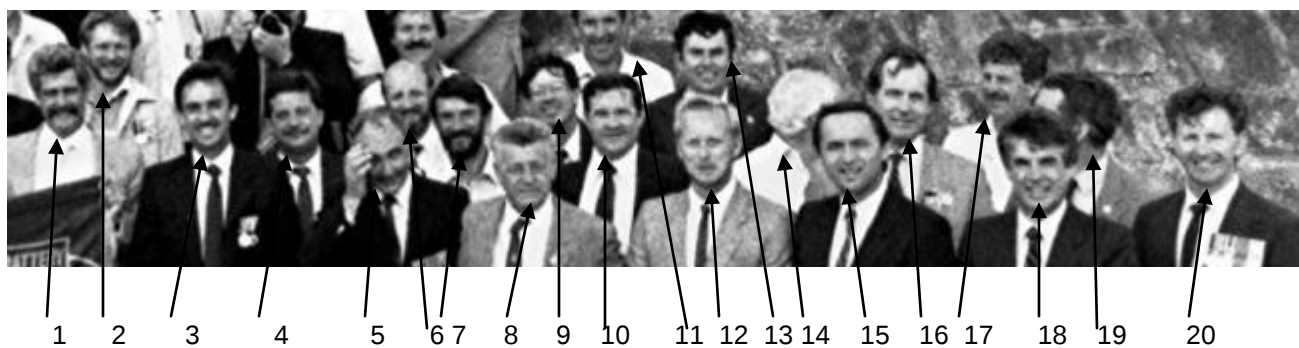
6. Sixth Row



7. Seventh Row – Left



8. Seventh Row – Right



There are some **158 younger looking heads** which we need to identify.

OK – let's get into it – start identifying and notifying!

. **The** following was spotted by **Ed** in the **Mildura Weekly** and thought was worth reporting...

Mildura Weekly

Posted on June 29, 2012

Long Tan Cross is coming 'home'

THE famous Long Tan Cross, erected in a Vietnam rubber plantation in honour of fallen Aussie diggers, especially those who died in the epic battle of Long Tan on August 18, 1966, **is to be put on display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to coincide with the 46th anniversary of the biggest battle of the Vietnam War.**

The cross (actually a replica of the original), is one of the few memorials that have been officially recognised by the Vietnamese Government, and currently forms part of the war collection at the Dong Nai Museum in Bien Hoa Province.

The official news that the cross will be flown to Australian on loan for an indefinite period came in a letter from the war memorial to national president of the RSL, retired Rear Admiral Ken Doolan, only last week.

Ed – my brother, **Jim**, alerted me to this happening and I went to my ever-reliable source, the “Mildura Weekly” and got the scoop. The following is a link to the complete story - <http://www.milduraweekly.com.au/2012/06/29/long-tan-cross-is-coming-home/> an amazing event – it'll make the ceremony in Canberra very memorable. I'd be interested in your comments.



. **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 (Ian Finlay)”

. **Allen Morley** received the following email and forwarded it on to the committee and Regional blokes for comment – “Fellas

What do we make of this request?

A bit vague, but not unexpected that we got this via the website. Most of the Committee were civilians by this time so I am not aware of the 'incident' or context.

Thoughts? Allen...

Dear Sir

My name is David Gibson and I am a researcher with Writeway Research Services, a private research company contracted to undertake research work for the Dept of Veterans' Affairs.

It is that capacity I contact you in an effort to try and confirm an event concerning a former member of Det 131 Div Loc Bty during his service in Vietnam sometime during late 1968 to mid 1969.

I have been unable to find any reference in various war diaries and am trying to confirm that this event did occur.

Are you able to accept my request for information or would you rather not, I understand if this may be the case.

My personal details are I am a former civilian SO1 at CARO (SCMA) (1997-2004) and as a National Serviceman served in Vietnam with 12 Fd Regt (A Fd Bty) in 1971.

Thanks”

...then cautiously Allen replied...

“Hello David

Thanks for your inquiry. I will take it to our Committee which meets tomorrow.

Most of our Committee had returned to Australia by the end of 1968. Can you provide any more information at this stage which might help us to pin down what you are referring to?

Regards

Allen Morley President 131 Locators Association”

...and got this response...

“Hi Allen

Thanks for your speedy reply.

I am trying to confirm an incident where a member of Det 131 Div Loc Bty was returning from FSPB Dampier sometime in late 1968 – early 69 in a convoy led by US Army troops which was ambushed.

It appears the first 2 trucks (American) were hit and they suffered casualties.
The Aussie gunner was with Australians in the next truck and assisted the wounded and was fired at by the enemy.
A US Army gunship arrived after about 10 minutes and fired into the area from which the ambush was initiated.
I have been unable to find anything from the War Diaries and thought that someone there may remember the incident!
David Gibson"

...so the 131 Locators Assoc Committee is seeking assistance in the following email...

"We have had an enquiry from a research group in NSW seeking "to try and confirm an event concerning a former member of Det 131 Div Loc Bty during his service in Vietnam sometime during late 1968 to mid-1969".

The limited information is vague and somewhat inconsistent, but the thrust is that any such incident may have been in association with FSB Dampier (September 1968) and it is suggested that it involved enemy attack on several vehicles.
The information provided reads that:

It appears the first 2 trucks (American) were hit and they suffered casualties.

The Aussie gunner was with Australians in the next truck and assisted the wounded and was fired at by the enemy. A US Army gunship arrived after about 10 minutes and fired into the area from which the ambush was initiated.

If any of our readers remember the incident as described could they contact me on president@131locators.org.au

Any information may help one of our number to have his recollections confirmed.

Allen Morley"

As Bert Blink states – "Unfortunately these are 12 Field Regiment months.

Whatever this guy is looking for it will be getting hold of the "person in question" and not something we can find on the AWM or Archives web sites he will have tried those.

So our best bet is to publicise this as far & wide as we can amongst our members. Bert"

Ed's fluffing around discovered that **Phil Perrin** was the OC at the time of FSBP Dampier, the Surveyors on their web site also mention the Det being at Dampier...Let's see what can be discovered or uncovered?

. George Lane sent in this humorous "war is hell" type story re: "**A Short Arm Inspection**" – hopefully the activity was carried out on a bright sunny WARM to HOT day and NOBODY failed through not being able to see down a clean barrel? I only hope that it wasn't too hard? I can't believe that there are no photos either? –

"Dicko we were all at Bravo Radar when Sgt. Freddie Lennon called us all on Parade. We lined up in two ranks when Sgt. Lennon ordered us to drop our pants. Well you can imagine the look on all our faces and poor old Fred had to give the order again. The question was asked if he wanted in done by numbers which brought out laughter. After being called to attention again and dropping our pants we noticed a nurse and Doctor coming down the ranks checking us for Diseases, Fungus and any other problem you could have on your "Short arm". This was all done out in the open so you can imagine how embarrassing it was for the Unit plus the jokes that came out after. George Lane."

...and continuing one more thing – Ernie Newbold's discoveries. Here's #4 in the series – ah I remember this episode very well!



. **“Concerned”** is back with a good bit of paper spotting –

“Dear Ed

On looking through the Sydney Morning Herald car section I came across this gem. An original old NSW metal number plate.

Maybe **Ernie** could replace his current number plate EGN 001 on the Toyota and so maintain his 131 link. It would probably only cost \$150,000+ Concerned, Sydney”



. **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 third in the series...

The Playing of the Last Post

In military tradition, the Last Post is the bugle call that signifies the end of the day's activities. It is also sounded at military funerals to indicate that the soldier has gone to his final rest and at commemorative services such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

The Last Post is one of a number of bugle calls in military tradition that mark the phases of the day. While Reveille signals the start of a soldier's day, the Last Post signals its end.

The call is believed to have originally been part of a more elaborate routine, known in the British Army as "tattoo" that began in the 17th century. In the evening, a duty officer had to do the rounds of his unit's position, checking that the sentry posts were manned and rounding up the off-duty soldiers and packing them off to their beds or billets. The officer would be accompanied by one or more musicians. The "first post" was sounded when he started his rounds and, as the party went from post to post, a drum was played. The drum beats told off-duty soldiers it was time to rest; if the soldiers were in a town, the beats told them it was time to leave the pubs. (The word "tattoo" comes from the Dutch for "turn off the taps" of beer kegs; Americans call this "taps" or "drum taps".) Another bugle call was sounded when the officer's party completed its rounds, reaching the "last post" – this signalled that the night sentries were alert at their posts and gave one last warning to the other soldiers.

The Last Post was eventually incorporated into funeral and memorial services as a final farewell, and symbolises the duty of the dead is over and they can rest in peace.

. **Coffs Harbour Reunion – 2013.** Here's an early heads-up to help with planning for ALL of us who are attending or who has intentions to get there -

“Dear Graeme,

To help with planning The Northern NSW Branch is giving you advanced noticed for the Coffs Harbour Reunion.

Reunion 2013 will be held on 24th-28th April

The program is as follows -

Wed 24th April - Meet and Greet

Thurs 25th April - Anzac Day

Fri 26th April - Day activities TBA

Fri 26th April - Evening Regt Dinner

Sat 27th April - Day activity TBA

Sat 27th April - Evening Farewell Dinner

Sun 28th April - Farewell Breakfast

Fri & Sat – Bowls, Golf or Croquette to be confirmed

More details to follow

Regards

Fran Sinclair On behalf Dave Auld President Locating Artillery Association Northern NSW Branch”

These details are also recorded on the 131 Locators Association web site in the “Events Calendar” section.

. **Ian Finlay** sent in the following as a thought for those amongst who can spare the time to smell the grass –
“Please see below a farm outside Canberra that looks after ADF Veterans. Located 90 minutes from Canberra on the Cooma/Krawarree Road, our 735 acre property provides a relaxing farm stay retreat for Australian Defence Force veterans.

Subject: FARM STAY FOR VETERANS

We are chemical free and a primary producer of Cattle, Sheep, Goats and Heirloom Vegetables

We also run non-farming activities that mutually support agriculture, land regeneration and wilderness education

Independent and self funded we support the young men and women who have served this fine nation

To find out more about this great property, please go to <http://alternaterv.com.au/>”

. **Trivia Time – Ed** possibly has too much spare time and tends to wander off on tangents! Well, here’s the latest brought about by prior service employment mentioned in Locator Profiles. Off the top we were a very “white collar” lot with 71% (sample on hand) of us coming from that area.

Anyway here’s the breakdown – there were 14 ex Bankies, 14 Survey/Draftees, 13 Clerks of all descriptions, 4 Insurance Wallahs, and 6 Teachers of all levels, 4 involved in Sales and 4 straight form Student ranks. On top of that there were 3 in the Printing industry, 5 involved in Traineeships of one sort or another, only 1 driver, 7 working in Industry (heavy), 7 blokes on the Land, 1 Cop and 3 blokes basically straight into the Services.

Now, I ask you, who in their right mind would have picked this lot to defend our “Girt by sea” territory as the tune goes?

If all of you layabouts completed Profiles we could possibly get a different picture of a more stable lot.

. **Ian Finlay** sent in the following request with regards to helping **Colin “Bones” Gordon’s** widow **Eleanor** find some SVN photos – “G’day fellas,

A quick message to all of you to find out if any of you have photos of Bones Gordon while he was serving in Vietnam, I was talking to Eleanor Gordon (Bones Widow) recently and she asked me if I or anyone that served with Colin had photos of him during his service in Vietnam as she did not have any.

I have sent her the only one that I had, so if you can check out your photos and if you have any of Bones she would love to have a copy of them, just contact me by email ifi53250@bigpond.net.au or phone 0754447619 and I will give you Eleanor’s address.

Hope you are all well, Fin (Ian Finlay)”

Ed managed to send a few. **Colin Gordon was in SVN from 15.03.1968 to 26.03.1969**

. **Grahame Dignam – Late News** – Grahame just got this item into the printing room at the death – it’s a great article...

FIFTY years on Tuesday, 31st July, the arrival of an unusual Australian soldier in Saigon had heralded the start of Australia’s most controversial military deployment.

For the following three years, Colonel Ted Serong, a counter-insurgency expert and true cold war warrior, was to command the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), whose 30 members arrived three days later.

Serong, who died in 2002, remains an enigmatic figure.

After leaving the Australian Army in 1968, he went onto consult on counter-insurgency for the US military and South Vietnamese government, departing Saigon by helicopter on April 29, 1975, the day before the city fell to North Vietnamese forces.

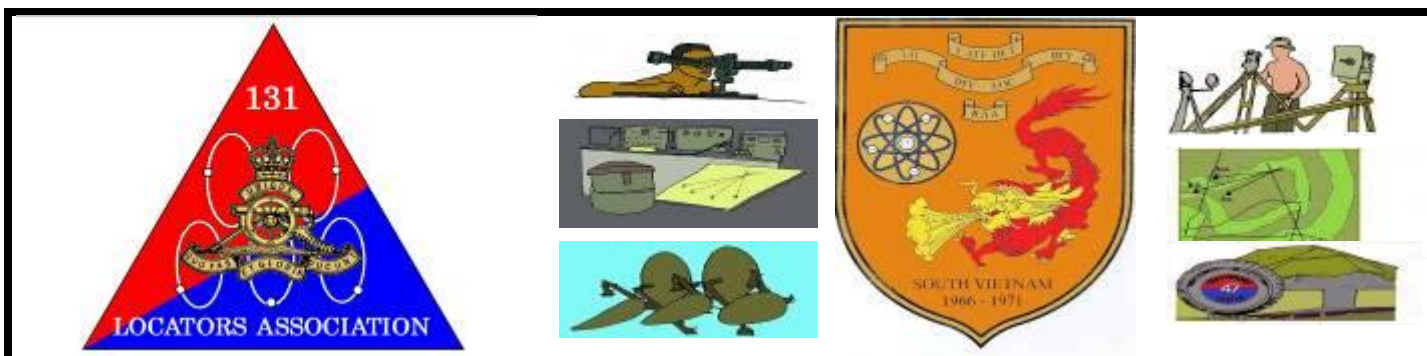
In his later years, he advocated assorted anti-communist and right-wing causes, serving as patron of a pro-gun citizens’ militia group.

The AATTV, commonly referred to as “the team”, was to become Australia’s most decorated unit of the Vietnam War.

Four members won the Victoria Cross - the only VCs awarded in Vietnam.

Editorial – During the month the word “Illustrious” caused a bit on consternation when it was used by **Ed** in conjunction with the group of Locators known as the “Pioneers”. The word for the first group in the Detachment to set foot in SVN, again I think was created by yours truly. Anyway, I floated the word “Illustrious” around a select group and found even amongst a “Pioneer” or two that it may be a bit over an overstatement and overshadowing the efforts put in by ensuing groups.

Just let it be said that I believe that my introduction and activities in SVN were enhanced by my predecessors allowing me to focus on the ever-changing tasks that presented themselves and I think that practice continued over our tenure in the continuously altering landscape. **Ed**.



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 a couple of new blokes – **Peter Dealy and Ken Osborne** to the Association fold.

Ken Osborne sent in a very welcome email – “Dear Paul, I have been scanning my old slides of Vietnam and intend to scan some of the black and white photos that would be relevant to the Div Loc Bty and I thought it would be more appropriate to put them all on a disc and then you can use whatever you think appropriate. So to affect your mailing address would be appreciated. Also I think it appropriate that I join the association if only to keep the website alive, so what does it cost. I await your reply on these matters. Have nearly finished the "Tracks of the Dragon" and there are reminders of the days when I was one of the radar mechs that used to spend time at Chapel Street and Scrub Hill with the likes of Vic Charles and others . So that's all for the present, regards Ken Osborne.”

Vic Danko in his role of Public Officer of the Association has embarked on a recruitment drive with an email appealing to Locators to join the Association. His mission is to ensure the longevity of a possible enhancement of a voice in the wilderness if the Vietnam Veterans security is threatened at some time. Give it some thought who knows what the future may hold.

. Upcoming Events Calender –

The Next 131 Locators Association meeting is an 11.00 AM start on **21 August 2012** 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

Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremonies –

- Sydney - Bankstown Sports Club - Saturday 18 August

2012The Sydney Vietnam Veterans Day commemoration and function will be held at Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown on Saturday 18 August 2012. Bar open at 0900, close at 1030 hours for service commencing at 1100.

Following the service the bar will re-open and lunch will be at about 1230 hours during which the entertainment will begin (**Judy Stone**).

Tickets available through our Granville office at \$30 per head. You may wish to book a table or two. Names to be provided when booking. You can pre-pay and pick up tickets at the door. Phone bookings also accepted with payment made by credit card (eg: AMEX, VISA, etc.). All details will be in the July issue of our Journal.

- Sydney – Springwood Memorial Day – Sunday 19th August - the event will start with the Parade and Service in Macquarie Road Springwood 11am to 12:30pm. In the afternoon from 4pm to 4.30pm the event will continue with Beating the Retreat Ceremony with Lithgow Pipe Band at the War Memorial.

We'll be meeting with the Banner at 1030hrs – it'd be great to see you there!

- Cronulla - Ian Amos got in with this – Vietnam Veterans Day – Memorial Service at Monro Park, Cronulla - Saturday, 18th August, 2012 at 11.30am – All are welcome to attend.

Vietnam Veterans and partners are invited to attend a lunch at the Cronulla RSL following this service. All other ex service personnel are also invited to attend subject to seating availability. Booking required - cost \$35 per head (2 course sit-down lunch) - drinks at own cost - reply with cheque or money to sub-branch office by Mon 13 August. Contacts: - Irene Higley 9523-6833 Ken English 0407 183 428 Kerry Cattell 0433 980 565 **Cronulla RSL Sub-Branch**

- **Geelong – Rieny Niewenhoff** – was next off with this - Here's what is happening in **Geelong**
28th July 10th Medium Regiment RAA Formal Dinner at Geelong RSL
3rd August Geelong and Districts Vietnam Veterans Association (with 2 x 131 Locators as members) will hold a Commemorative Service to unveil a special 60th Anniversary plaque at the Geelong Peace memorial
5th August Geelong & District National Servicemen's Association will hold a Memorial service at Geelong RSL , guest speaker is Lt. Col Harry Smith CG, MC (CO Delta Company ,6 RAR.)
10th August Geelong & Districts Vietnam Veterans 'Long Tan' Dinner
12th August Geelong & Districts Vietnam Veterans Memorial service
18th August Long Tan Memorial Service at Queenscliff (the Army Base there is closing this Year)
- **Narembeen – Peter Suckling** – a short succinct note – “In Narembeen.....SFA.”
- **Adelaide – Geoff Blackwell** – gives a pretty good run down on what to expect – “Hi Dicko
In Adelaide the main ceremonies are at the Torrens Parade Ground in the city and are on **August 19**.
8.00 am Gunfire breakfast at the Torrens Parade Ground.
10.40 am March. From the War Memorial, North Terrace to the Torrens Parade Ground
11.00 am Service at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Torrens Parade Ground
11.30 am A free concert, hosted by Big Pretzel and featuring Beccy Cole and friends
Drinks and lunch are available.
There is also Viet Vets commemorative DINNER (4 course with wine), at the Semaphore & Port Adelaide RSL on Saturday August 18, \$40 per head for Vets. \$50 for others.
Regards, from a very chilly Adelaide Geoff”
- **Perth – Barry Guzder** – gives us a broadbrush stroke of what's planned for his home town – “There will be the usual ceremony at the Vietnam Vets memorial pavilion in Kings Park. I shall round up as many WA 131's as I can to attend and lay a wreath for Jimmy Menz. Regards Barry G”
- **Sunshine Coast, Qld – Steve Boutlis** reports in with – “Hi, Dicko. The Sunshine Coast Sub Branch of VVAA will be commemorating Vietnam Veterans Day on Saturday **18 August**, with a short march to the Cotton Tree Cenotaph for the usual commemorative service.
This will be followed by a sumptuous lunch (if the bull has been finally caught) at the Maroochydore RSL Club, with a few sherberts to make the telling of tall tales and lies come out a bit more smoothly.
The Association is subsidising the day through a successful raffle of a 42 inch flat-screen TV, and money raised through continuing fund raisers. I wish all of my comrades a reverent and memorable VV Day. Cheers, Boots.”

RAA Golf Day – Monday, 16th September - Venue – Georges River Golf Club – use this link for all the details - http://www.artillerynsw.asn.au/ev_660_golf.htm - should be a great day – why not organise a group!

Friday, 5th October, 2012

INVITATION Gunner Dinner 2012 - The President and Committee of the RAA Association (Vic) extend to you, your partners and guests a warm invitation to attend the 2012 All Ranks Gunner Dinner.
The Dinner will be held at the Elwood RSL, 2 Pine Avenue, Elwood **on Friday 5th October, 2012 at 1900 for 1930 hrs.**
Check the website: <http://www.artillerynsw.asn.au/index.htm> for more details.

Warbirds over Wanaka, Easter 2014

Warbirds over Wanaka is a biennial flying event held at every second Easter in the small town of Wanaka in the South Island of New Zealand. In 2014 that equates to 18th, 19th and 20th April – the latter day being the 48th anniversary of the fourth National Service intake.

WoW is internationally recognised and draws crowds of about 30,000 for each of the two flying display days. Some Kiwis bring their favourite ewe along but those numbers are not officially counted.

The idea of a 131 Locators Association was floated to a small group and the bait was taken by about ten of our number. This includes some wives and partners – but not Becky Cole.

You are likely to see and hear:



and



or



or



but not:

If you might be interested in joining a 131 WoW group please let me know on president@131locators.org.au so that planning can proceed. This would be an expression of interest only and not a commitment. Have a look at the website www.warbirdsoverwanaka.com for a taste of what you could experience at Wanaka in 2014. Allen Morley.

. web Performance...the additions keep coming with more photos and stories – keep your eyes out and keep clicking!

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 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.

FIRE SALE!



Get Them while they are HOT

The last six copies of first edition "Tracks of the Dragon" are being held by 131 Locators Association.

Once they are sold that's it. No more are available anywhere.

Copies are available at only A\$45 including p&p Contact Grahame Dignam (sectreas131locators@gmail.com) for orders.

DO IT NOW or Miss Out

. Birthdays in the Battery...July...



Norm McManus wasn't quite 88 when he co-unveiled the Det's Plaque in Canberra in May this year
Happy Birthday Norm for 15th August!! ➡



⬅ Here's what **Stuart "Gottlieb" Sporn** presented to the enemy in 1967-68. He celebrated his 22nd birthday SVN.

Ed asks – "Where the hell did "Gottlieb" come from?"

August	Name	Regt No	DOB	In SVN	Out SVN	
1	PHILLIP ROSS	3794468	1947	06 05 1969	30 04 1970	
1	JOSEPH LOSIAK	218302	1950	04 11 1969	05 11 1970	
1	JOHN LUCAS	3796256	1948	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
2	JOHN GREENAWAY	3790617	1946	24 10 1967	22 10 1968	
3	LES SMITHLESTER	1201202	1949	23 09 1968	24 09 1969	
3	GRAHAM GREENLAND	2792441	1948	15 04 1970	29 07 1970	
4	ANDREW OVERALL Lt.	235330	1946	22 02 1969	21 02 1970	
7	MARTY VAN DRIEL	38954	1944	27 11 1967	13 03 1968	† 08.08.98
7	RANDALL JONES	2788775	1947	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
8	ARTHUR LUXFORD Sgt.	212803	1939	20 01 1969	28 01 1970	† 01.01.08
8	EDWIN LEWIS Sgt.	53909	1935	18 03 1970	11 03 1971	† 26.08.92
9	TERRY WELSH	4721779	1949	03 03 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	GARRY GRIMWOOD	2795771	1949	24 03 1971	01 07 1971	131
	" "			01 07 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
12	ALAN THOMSON	42308	1937	20 05 1966	22 06 1967	
13	BRIAN HACKETT	2783449	1945	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
13	STAN BRIGGS	1731999	1945	27 11 1967	17 09 1968	
13	BOB BRUCE	4718049	1945	11 06 1967	13 12 1967	
15	JOHN POLLOCK	53860	1939	{17 04 1967	24 05 1967	131
	" "			{05 02 1971	07 04 1971	12 Fd REGT
15	KEVIN TAYLOR	2791357	1945	29 07 1969	23 07 1970	
15	NORMAN McMANUS WO2	26202	1924	09 11 1970	19 08 1971	
17	PIERRE GOSS	213990	1936	24 03 1969	25 03 1970	† 06.08.2011
20	PETER BINNS	356367	1947	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
21	NORMAN JONES	5717611	1950	04 05 1971	01 12 1971	12 Fd Regt / AACC
22	JOHN VICKARY	1732218	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	STUART SPORN	4718471	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	ANTHONY COUTTS	1733291	1946	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	† 1988
23	ROBERT ETHERINGTON	66962	1946	04 11 1969	19 11 1970	
24	JOHAN MOLLENCAMP	2795074	1948	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			02 07 1971	09 08 1971	12 Fd REGT
25	LES FROST	215230	1945	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	
25	KEN JONES	2786931	1946	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
25	COLIN WEST		1947	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
26	MAX TROYNAR	3790244	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
26	STANLEY PATTERSON	38451	1947	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
27	LAWRENCE FARR	1734257	1947	27 08 1969	25 02 1970	† 2009
27	KEN PIESLEY	2787174	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
27	GORDON MALCOLM	2785906	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
27	PETER WHITTAKER	2786848	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
27	PETER CREEDON	2790207	1947	31 01 1969	28 01 1970	
27	GRANT PERRINS	1734509	1947	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
29	TIM FORD Capt.	235300	1945	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	
31	STEPHEN PALMER	18820	1946	12 04 1968	30 04 1969	RAEME † 03.12.72

Ed – 19 still not highlighted is far too many for a month like August! Makes you wonder where they are?

. **Locator Profiles** – we’ve received **94** and up to date we’ve sent out **90**. **Ed** – let’s see if we can crank up 6 more this month?

John Browne made this comment about the Profile of **Norm McManus** – “He is one of nature's gentlemen, mate.”

Graham Williams sent in an email and **Ed** extracted a portion re: **Norm McManus** – “Good to see the profile on Norm McManus. As a nasho testing the boundaries on how many charges it was possible for one to accumulate myself along with several others kept Norm well versed in his job but he was and no doubt still is a good bloke and I recall him as being firm but fair so hopefully we can catch up in the future and I will test his memory.....heh,heh,heh.”

Dave Crowther sent the following in after **Peter Suckling's** Profile hit the airwaves – “Hi Dicko, good to hear ‘slurp’s” Suckling still kicking. Had the pleasure of working with him in radar troop at the School, under Warwick Hamilton, and again years later at Proof and Experimental Establishment, Port Wakefield. Keep well, Dave C”

. 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 –

We got the following in from **David Dougherty** in response to an item sent in by **Kevin Browning** with regards to David - “Hi Paul,

In reference to Kevin’s addition to my profile I am not sure whether to abuse him or not in regard to **“that really great facial expression he could muster when he was ‘pissed off’ ”** Carolyn (wife) reckons that I have been working on it since and says it is much more pronounced and that I terrify the grand kids with it. However as his comment regarding serving with me was positive (as well as me with him) I will not pursue him in regard to it.



In regard to my father it is not something I normally promote though his service both in military and civilian life is something I am proud of. In addition to the service that Kevin mentioned he started military life in Sydney University Regiment and before the war he was CO 33rd Militia Btn (Armidale District), dropped rank to Major (still Substantive Lt Col) on enlisting for WW2 as 2ic 2 Btn, (Reg No NX148). After the war he served in CMF and held positions such as GOC 2nd Div., Col. Cadet Corps and member of the Military Board. He was also on Vasey Housing Board, Pres. Legacy and numerous service organisations (you can tell Ken Woodbine I still have Dad’s old key to Bundeena RSL), Director of SES from its formation for about 18 years. A search of Wikipedia will give some more detail of his life.

For me it has brought its disadvantages as well as some positives. The photo (above) Kevin refers to and as with all publicity photos it was staged on base. In the local paper (St George Leader) it headlines “Lived up to his name”. It was generally more like what other people expected and there are many occasions I copped flak including frequently from one unnamed member of 131. I won’t go into details but Gen. McDonald later stated to my father that **“that bloody son of yours caused me a lot of trouble”**. The episode that caused that comment was one of the advantages, as GOC Eastern Command he had had his arse kicked from higher quarters due a course of action I had taken, not dissimilar from one my father was discouraged from taking during the war. Regards, David”



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.

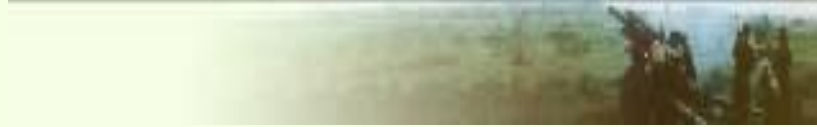
So, if you’re a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: Sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join.

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 will be held at Paddington RSL on commencing at 1115 hrs on **23 September 2012**. Members are cordially invited to attend.

Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the Association's Newsletter LOCREP.



RAA Association (NSW) Inc

website: <http://www.artillerynsw.asn.au/index.htm>

The latest edition of "Cascabel" (Issue 112 July 2012 Quarter) is available to read on the above link.

Members & guests - Our web master, Maj Carl Sarelius has updated our web site with an article by yours truly re the history of Artillery in Vic. It is part 1 of a 3 part series, parts 2 & 3 to follow in due course.

If you would like to view the article, go to http://www.artilleryvic.org.au/arty_in_vic.html

Hope you enjoy Cheers Alan Editor Cascabel



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/

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

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