

THE EYES and EARS

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.Vietnam Veterans Day – 2012

Long Tan cross - 27 July 2012 by Lauren Beckman. Source – Australian War Memorial



Commemorative service held on the site of the battle of Long Tan, 1969, photographed by Christopher John Bellis [EKN/69/0085/VN](http://www.131locators.org.au)

On 18 August 1969, soldiers of 6RAR/NZ (ANZAC) erected a cross in the Long Tan rubber plantation in Phuoc Tuy province (now Ba Ria–Vung Tau province), South Vietnam. The cross marked the site where three years earlier, on 18 August 1966, 108 soldiers of D Company, 6RAR, had fought a fierce battle against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces. Following the communist victory in 1975 and the reunification of Vietnam, the Dong Nai Museum in Bien Hoa City acquired the Long Tan cross. In 1989 the Long Dat District People's Committee erected a replica cross on the original site.

The original cross, on loan from the Dong Nai Museum and the Ministry of Culture, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, will be on display at the Australian War Memorial from 17 August 2012 until April 2013.

. **Allen Morley** got this in quick – “Hi Paul, Hot off the press for you. Even pics! Allen...
A quick report on the Vietnam Veterans' Day at Bankstown Sports Club on Saturday 18th August 2012. 131



Detachment was well represented by Ged Carroll, Jim Fitzgerald, George Lane, Ernie Newbold, Grahame Dignam, Merv Nairn, Nick Proskurin and Allen Morley (photo). A good mix of Pioneers and first replacements. But would you buy a used car from any of these former fine soldiers? The address was provided by Federal MP Jason Clare, Minister for Defence Materials. A range of wreaths were laid, the Ode spoken by John Woodley followed by the Last Post and Rouse. A robust rendition of Advance Australia Fair concluded the service.”

. **Warwick Hamilton** kept the Arty tradition alive in NQ and sent this in – “Hi Paul, we stopped our Northward journey for a while and I attended a service at Cardwell, on the Qld coast North of Townsville. What caught my attention was the large number of motorcycles at the memorial in this small town, then I spotted the Vietnam Vets Motorcycle Club insignia. There were the Townsville and Cairns clubs attending plus some Cardwell locals...and ME! I asked around and found that I was the only Gunner there, so 'the unit representative' (moi) represented all Gunners. Unfortunately I was unable to accept their kind offer of repairing to the Cardwell RSL and then the caravan park where they were all staying...not sure my liver could stand up to it!! It was good to see a really good turnout, and a simple but moving service. Sorry but Kate didn't take any photos. We are still heading North, with our aim Cape York. All the best, Warwick”

. **Ian Amos** attended at Cronulla and reported that approx. 50 people were present for the service.

. **Bruce Irvine** adds some country flavour with what he got up to over the VV weekend - “Regarding 18th August, I spent it rather quietly, laid a wreath at Yetholme privately then on Sunday attended the Bathurst service at the Vietnam Veterans Park where I was kindly asked to lay the wreath for the Association. Good turnout and I'll send a photo if I can locate one.
Regards Bruce

. **Bill Taggart** – see his comments and thoughts on **Long Tan Day** in the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery section at the end of the newsletter. Thanks Bill.

. **Peter Dealy** forwarded this on from **Ron Mason** who put the report together – “Hello Dicko, As requested here is a bit of a rundown on 3 former 131ers.
“The 18th Aug 2012 saw the Goulburn Valley Vietnam Veterans group take a bus to the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. Yes, it was a wet day but once the service started, the rain stopped & in spite of the conditions, the day was well attended. The three in the photo are all 131'ers who served in Viet Nam at different times. All are active members of the Goulburn Valley Vets Group. Kevin is currently President and has held various offices over many years. Peter was our bus driver for the day and with his wife Ann, publishes the group's quarterly

newsletter "Uc Dai Loi". Peter is a long time group member who has also served in many ways including President. Ron is current Treasurer/Membership officer who joined the GV group a few years ago.

The GV group lunched at the Glenroy R S L on the way home and congratulation go to their Staff for the excellent service, keeping the kitchen open for us late comers, 24 in total. Great day of Remembrance and social inter action.

The display by the South Vietnamese at the Melbourne Town Hall (mentioned in *Eyes & Ears*) was very interesting and was well attended by Australian Vets & many Vietnamese. It appeared to me that a number of Vietnamese people were using the display to educate their children and grandchildren about the conflict".

Regards, Ron Mason

Thank you for all your efforts

Cheers

Peter Dealy"



L-R Ron Mason, Kevin Heenan and Peter Dealy

. Springwood – Sunday 19th August –

A report from **Allen Morley** –

"G'day Paul

Blue skies over Springwood in the Blue Mountains this morning for the Vietnam Veterans' Day . Again, elements of 131 wandered to the meeting point for the march. In attendance were **Dave Dougherty**, **Phil Endicott**, **Allen Morley** and perpetually late **Grahame Dignam**. Everyone else had reasons for not being able to parade. At one stage we picked up a mob of un-associated diggers, but they melted away. Behind us were a group of South Vietnam female marchers in their delightful ao-dai outfits.

Although the Salvos band was immediately in front of us they moved so slowly we were forced to shuffle along the main street of Springwood. After the service we retired to the Springwood Sports Club for refreshments and something to eat. Cheers Allen"



Grahame Dignam and Dave Dougherty

...then **Grahame Dignam** waxed lyrical with the following – "The sun rose on a cool dawn but quickly warmed. We experienced ideal marching conditions with clear blue skies smattered with occasional cotton tufts softening the glare on a light breeze. At 11.00AM we stepped off up Macquarie Street threading our way through a swelling village crowd including a throng of knowledgeable visitors.

The 131 contingent was placed behind the Salvation Army Band who provided a great atmosphere for the marching participants to show their parade ground skills undiminished by time. Left was Left and Right was Right and Cowkickers were notably absent!

Although the 131 contingent was small in number, we were ample in size . The banner provoked the occasional comment and captured a lot of photographic attention. The banner was attended by 2 cadets from the 21st Army Cadet unit from Penrith, Cpl Daniel Hines and L/Cpl Mark McNeil who is destined for the ARA in the not too distant future. After the service, large parties retired to the Sports Club to quench thirsts and feed bellies.

Attendees were Allen Morley, David Dougherty , Phil Endicott and Grahame Dignam

Regards Dig"



The fly past by the Caribou was another highlight.



Top left shows
Phil Endicott taking in the moment, then we've got
Dave Dougherty adjusting the Banner

Ron Mason got in touch with regards to attending the Exhibition being held at the **Melbourne Town Hall** – “Hello Paul. Sadly we didn't take any photos of the Vietnamese exhibition in the Melbourne Town Hall. The Vietnam Vets Education Unit had a big presence in the display area on the day we attended, while there were various speakers including an Australian nurse, giving presentations to a packed house in an adjoining space. The audience would have been around 50/50 Australian/Vietnamese and a Vietnamese translation was provided at intervals. Keep up the good work for "Eyes and Ears" and thanks for all you do. Regards, Ron.”

Ed – If anyone has been or is intending to go could you please send in some photos and a few words?

. **A** continuing story from July's *Eyes & Ears*-

“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”.

- consequently **Allen Morley** got this going...re: **DAMPIER**...”So the 131 Locators Assoc Committee is seeking assistance in the following email...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”

...**Bert Blink** stated in a response – “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?

...**Graham Williams** – “G'day Mate,

Sorry about the delay in replying but have been on the road (again) I have heard of a similar incident to that in your enquiry Paul but in this specific case I am unable to confirm as definite at that time as the dates mentioned are well before my time in country. That is the problem. 1) failing memories naturally as to times and places , 2) Lack of any

records available specifically any pertaining to 131 Bty (whoever ordered their burning as read in *Eyes and Ears* was wrong & had I been on the receiving end of those orders then let me assure you all the paperwork would be available now...only in Artillery mate as the Engineers, Cav and every infantry regiment that served have published very specific histories of their respective tours including photos but the only Arty Regt I am aware that published was 12 Field Regiment. It is called "Twelve in Focus", covers the Tour 70-71 and was first published in 1971 and never re-published as far as I know. 131 Bty gets a one page written explanation and 3 pages of 5 photos...no more than an afterthought. Another problem many people may not be aware of is that quite a few of the fire support bases were used more than once over the years and for varying periods of time as operations dictated. If David was indeed in FSB Dampier in 1968 then it was used at another time as I can assure you I was there in July 1969. In my time 161 NZ Bty was there but I am fairly sure 3 FSBs operated over a long period of time in 69. Thrust, Cape and Dampier. It is possible Dampier became operational in 69 as early as March/April but you would need to access 161 Bty records to check. Dampier was to the north of Nui Dat with several other fire support bases including American in close proximity near the province borders and it was not unusual if deploying by road to be escorted by dusters along with a section of 105 mm howitzers. Early July was also the battle of Binh Ba which I have no doubt Artillery at Dampier also took an active role in.

I would be cutting it fine here but say the American arty in Nui Dat at that time was Bravo Bty...5th Battalion, 42nd U.S. Arty and close to the time they were replaced by Charlie Bty so you may get a handle on it through our U.S.

Links...sorry but the best I can come up with...As for the war diaries it would be better I leave off my honest opinion there Paul other than to state they appear as reliable as Wikipedia in many cases I have looked over. Nuff said!

One last thing...Sometime back you asked through *Eyes and Ears* about wanting to know who was in which sections, locations etc during their time in Vietnam. Did you get any feedback for that or what? Anyway the reason I ask is that the memory is still not too bad for me on who was what and where and with a bit of help from a few of the lads could probably come up with a fair bit if you are still interested. Only problem is the starters and riders would only slot into the timeframe roughly circa Feb 69 to April 1970. Up to you mate.

Stay safe...may the force be with you? Best Wishes, Graham Williams."

...more from GW 27/07/12...

"See what happens when you hurry things. Having reviewed my last post to double check facts came across a big oops. As a result correction is as follows Paul. The U.S. Arty I spoke about should read 2/35th U.S. Artillery (Bravo & Charlie Batteries) AND NOT 5/47th U.S.Arty. The former were self propelled 155s and the latter the towed 155s and whom I am fairly sure were the last U.S. Unit to operate from Nui Dat...in fact after a brief re read of the book I told you about "twelve in Focus" I came across the following quote.

"Battery C left us at the end of July to support 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile). We promptly flattened "Husky" as their area in Nui Dat had been called. This was no reflection of our feelings for them or their predecessors. It was a matter of reducing the size of the Regimental area for local defence purposes. With Husky and the Battery C went the last traces of U.S. Artillery from which over the past 7 years the Task Force had obtained much needed support."

It's funny at times to look back on the past for whatever reasons and I am not sure what prompted me to re hash my copy of Twelve in Focus. What is strange is that while the memory is still good it appears to be selective like my hearing these days. Why is that so you may ask? Well the book consists of many photos of the Regiments complement going about their daily tasks etc both in Nui Dat and on ops. Although 131 shared a mess with H.Q. Bty there is not one single face I can recall...with the only exceptions being sergeants or W.O.s from A Bty who I recognized from stints in the respective mess at Holsworthy prior to my going to Vietnam.

As for the FSBs being used on more than one occasion over the years yeah as survey would be registered I suppose but dangerous practice also in some ways. When one thinks about it I would be more inclined to re use those with direct road access but what would I know...I was only a gunner eh?

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.

Miles to go and promises to keep Paul so will be in touch about Bty postings etc down the track.

Happy Trails, Graham."

...and yes there's more from GW 28/07/12... Maybe one day I will get things right mate. The obvious reason I recognized no heads among the O.R.s in 12 field is because 4 field was there when I RTA'd so 12 Field Regt did not arrive in Vietnam until 1971 when 4 field returned...not all that confusing. However that did prompt me to have an even closer look at "Twelve in Focus" this afternoon. Among the photos for 131 Div loc Bty is one of radar...strange as the Radar section was disbanded in July 1970. There is also a photo of Tim Ford who was 131 B.C. in 1971 WITH Norm Mc Manus which raises the question did Norm go back in 71 for a second tour? I doubt that as if he did a full 12 months in Country first time around it would mean he would have had only a 6 month break before returning. Ah, questions eh?

But wait...there's more...included among the 12 field photos and not 131 there is a picture of Kevin Browning taken at the Nui Dat Gun Club skeet shooting? Kevin did do two tours so I would assume this was taken after 131 Div Loc Bty had disbanded and the survivors spread throughout 12 Field Regt.

Maybe the 131 Bty photos are just ring-ins Paul, I couldn't say. Just so you are aware I have tried and failed miserably to find any links to a web master or anyone to turn to for info on the 2/35th U.S. Artillery specifically in Nui Dat. I have lots of photos but it is more information I am looking for. Not to worry.

Regards, Graham."

... **then David Gibson** responds (30/07/12) – "Hi Allen

Just a quick note to advise that I have found evidence of the ambush I was inquiring about and just wanted to let you know not to worry about it anymore.

Appears to have occurred in Vietnam on 20 Jul 69 when a convoy was returning to Nui Dat from FSB Dampier. One US Army soldier was wounded in the action.

Again thanks for your trouble.

Regards David Gibson"

...**Allen Morley** - reported back after finally hearing from David Gibson (above) – "The enquiry re FSB Dampier has been resolved. The principal enquirer has located a person to confirm that the incident did happen in fact."

. "Dear Ed

A follow up on the auction of the historic NSW 131 number plate provided an interesting outcome. Coincidences crossed paths. The successful bidding price was \$131,000.

Ernie Newbold obviously was cashed up.

Concerned, Sydney"



. **Bruce Irvine** found the following - "Hi Paul, thought you might like the attached photo I found in a cleanup. This was taken at the Sundowner in November 1966 and fortunately I had written the names on the back of the photo.



Standing (L to R); Mick Campbell (late), Roger Long (late), Bruce Irvine, Tony Goldsmith, Frank Hurst, Ian Finlay. Seated (L to R); Geoff Flett, "Pablo" Briggs, "Snogs" Cambridge, Roger McDonnell, Alan Keeble, Leigh Hemming, Paul Dickson.

I seem to recall you have had something similar before - hope it's not the same shot!! Regards Bruce." **Ed** – I replied to Bruce along the following lines – "I remember all the faces, however what happened to **Frank Hurst** and "**Snogs**" **Cambridge** (actually, what was his first name?)?" Apparently there was NO problem with drink driving in those days! I have a feeling that I may have been travelling in Roger Mc's FJ. I actually got to drive it on a couple of occasions too! Geoff F would have possibly been first back to Holsworthy in the GT?

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



. **Craig Cook** – “Paul you may be interested in this photo from the 132Bty Sgts mess with Peter Suckling [BSM ARA] and a Kevin Murphy [Chief clerk ARA] around Feb 1976 to Nov 1977 when Peter was there. Kev Murphy came from Field arty and was either HQ RAA 3Div when it was being reduced or he came from 2Fd Regt also based at Batman Ave Melbourne.

132Bty was raised originally at Batman Ave but moved to Landcox St East Brighton about 1966 where this photo was taken. The missing member was Sgt Michael Hopkins although other members during this time were Sgt Barry Jones [ex Met Bureau] and Sgt Ron Fauvel RAEME and ex ARA RAEME radar mech SSgt Bob Miller. Bob was at the School in 1972 when our radar troop attended an ANKPQ1 conversion course with others from 133Bty. Also missing was SSgt Peter Goss the BQMS.



You may note that everyone has their eyes shut. The photographer was ex Tpt Sgt Pete Cox and he set up the shot with our eyes closed, and then invited everyone to open eyes and smile however the timing didn't work! Another mess photo was taken! Regards Craig Cook”

. **Customs** – This is the continuation of the 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.

.Ian Finlay sent in the following as some food for thought to maybe spend some time just getting away from it all -
 “This might be worth a mention in next issue of *Eyes & Ears !! Fin*” -

Carnival Cruise Ships On-board Discounts

For wide dissemination in the retired and serving Australian and New Zealand Defence Forces please

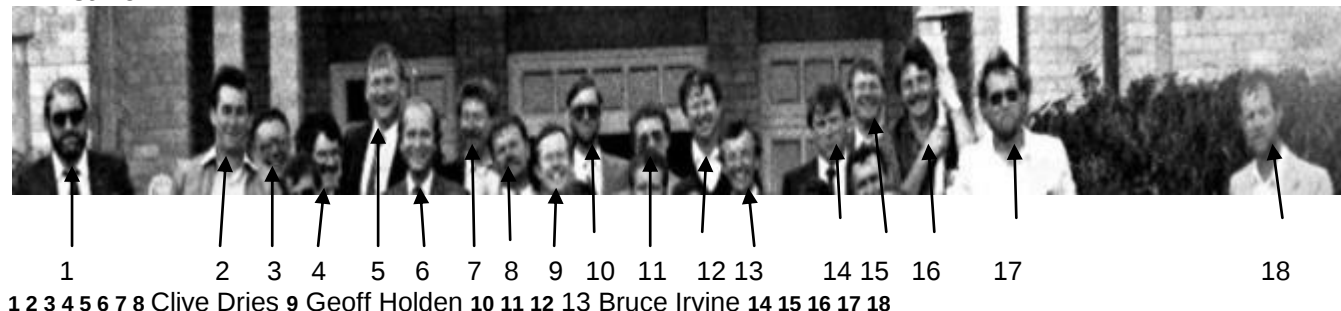
Carnival Australia Cruise Ships Give Back - Rare Payback

<http://www.pocruises.com.au/AboutUs/News/Pages/carnival-australia-gives-back-to-the-defence-force.aspx>

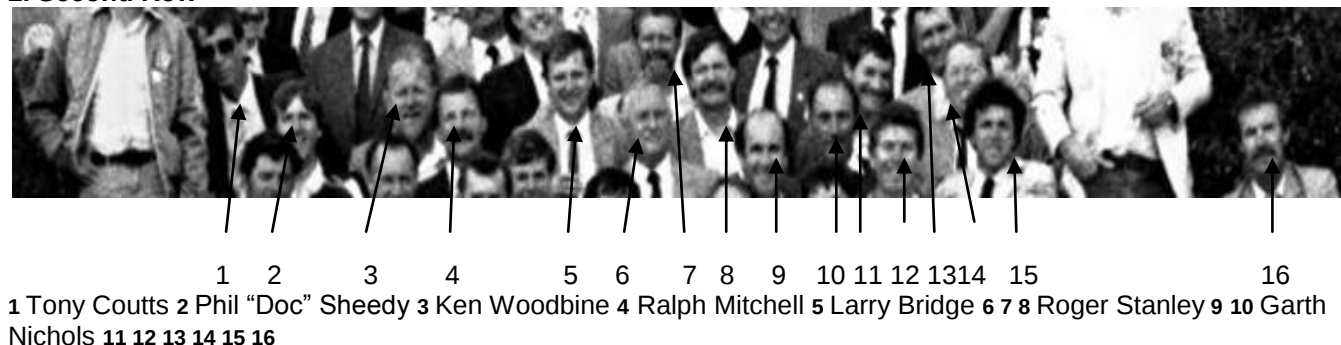
. Project - “Identify Yourself and a Mate/s – Welcome Home Parade – Sydney, October, 1987” – OK here are the results to date and the input has been pretty good – we only need another 100 or so names. Even **Jason Binns** id’s his late father **Ray**.

There might be a couple of “imaginative” ones amongst them, so keep me honest and have a squiz and add some more names.

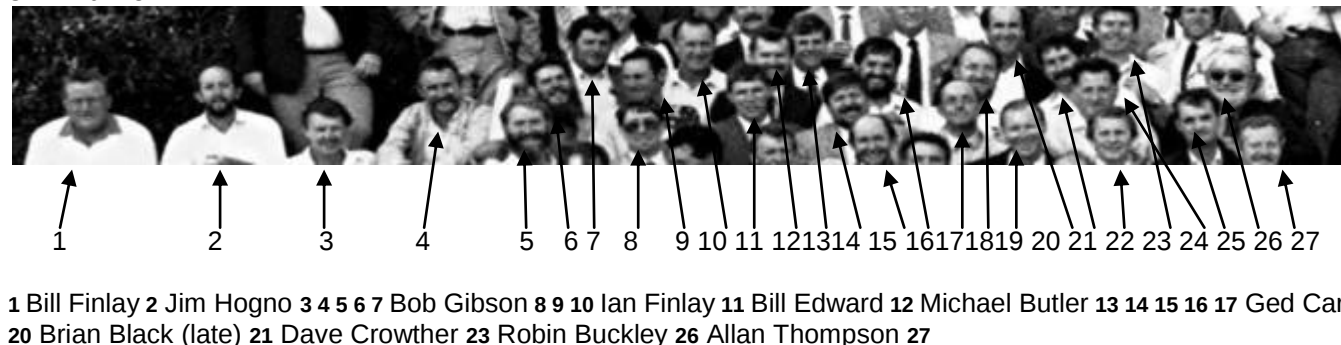
1. First Row



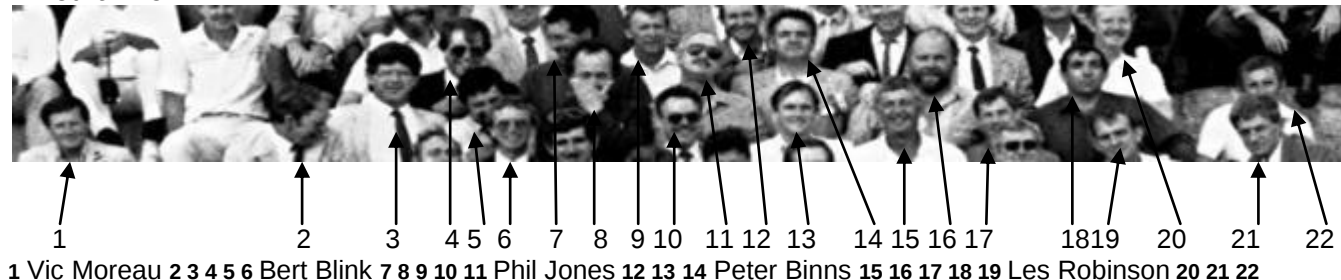
2. Second Row



3. Third Row



4. Fourth Row



5. Fifth Row



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

1 Alan Campbell 2 Ross Gunnell 3 Bob Billiards 4 Ron (Mook) Evans 5 Mick King 6 Murray Smale 7 Peter Bremmer
8 David Dodd 10 Barry Guzder 13 Kim McGrath 14 Ray Minns 15 16 Leslie Robinson 17 Gary Luscombe 18 Jeff Bassford
19 20 21 John Blake

6. Sixth Row



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

1 2 3 Ken Jones 4 5 6 7 Chris Chapple 8 9 10 Andrew Opie 11 Merv Nairn 12 13 14 15 16 David "Shorty" Gow

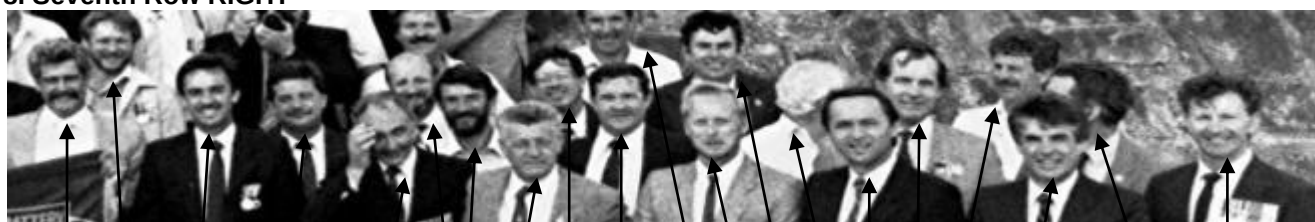
7. Seventh Row LEFT



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

1 Terry Westerway 2 Karl Doehrmann (Late) 3 Edward "Spike" Chase 4 5 George Lane 6 Mick Boyle 7 Anthony Turner 8
Ron (Chalky) Royal (Late) 9 Norm McManus 10 Ian "Scotty" McNicol 11 12 13 14 Mick McDonnell 15 Dave Doyle 16 17
18 Joe Molenkamp 19 Blue Peisley

8. Seventh Row RIGHT



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

1 Jim Fitzgerald 2 3 4 Steve Boutlis 5 6 John Dellaca 7 8 Trevor Waghorn 9 Al Adams 10 Ernest Newbold 11 12 Mick Luff
13 14 15 Vic Danko 16 Merv Dart 17 Nick Proskurin 18 Peter Fletcher 19 20 Warwick Hamilton

. 20th July, 1969 - ? Well it was actually Monday 21st July AEST – the same year though!



Parkes and Apollo 11: receiving the moon walk

In July 1969, the Parkes Observatory claimed a place in history, when they received television transmissions of man's first steps on the moon.

In 1968, the Director of the Parkes Observatory, John Bolton, insisted on a one-line contract with NASA: 'The [CSIRO] Radiophysics Division would agree to support the Apollo 11 mission.'

A few hours earlier, at 6.17 am (AEST) on 21 July 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin landed their Lunar Module, Eagle, on the Moon at the Sea of Tranquillity. It was still some seven hours before the Moon would have risen high enough to be seen from Parkes.

At **12.56 pm on Monday 21 July 1969 Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)**, one giant leap for mankind was taken.

CSIRO's Parkes radio telescope received television signals that allowed six hundred million people, one fifth of humanity at the time, to watch the Apollo 11 moon walk live.

Ok an email was sent out on Tuesday 27th, August as a memory jogger to do with the above date.

The thought came from the following correspondence (obviously too much time on their hands!)

Allen Morley to Me - "Paul, Sad about Neil Armstrong.

I remember exactly where I was - a chemistry practical class at university - at the time. I still regard it as amazing. Cheers Allen"

...which prompted this reply – "Allen, I was on an aircraft flying from Brisbane to Rockhampton - working for Caltex. We were given complementary cards of the moon walk. Paul"

Some of our recipients ask is this a trick question and in a way it was because the Americans claim it as 20th July, a Sunday at the time and of course the landing for us lot was at 0617hrs/0316hrs SVN time and thankfully the moon walk was at a more respectable time of 1256hrs/0956hrs SVN time allowing heaps of us, in Aus at least, time off the drudgery of work-type activities to view on black and white tele and hear those immortal words - "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." ...

...and here come the responses as received –

Ernie Newbold – "G'day Paul, yes I remember that day well. History was made that day and the world watched on black and white television as it happened.

I had to wait until I returned home from work and saw it on the 6 o'clock news. The landing and the fact that men from Earth actually walked on the Moon seems to be the greatest feature of the story.

However I've always thought that an even greater event was the fact that they were able to safely return to Earth and go home afterwards.

When the Apollo 11 mission was launched from Earth they had massive infrastructure to send them safely on their way. When they lifted off from the surface of the Moon they had a hell of a lot less going for them to ensure a safe return.

To my mind the return from the Moon was an even greater feat than the journey to the Moon.

Regards, Ernie."

Raymond Smith – "I was a postman at East Bentleigh Vic. Our Private Box sorter brought his portable TV in and we all sat round and watched Armstrong walk on the moon. Raymond Smith"

Dave Auld – "Hi Paul, I was working for the dept public works on a site in Coolah building sewerage tanks, until lunch then the boss took us to the pub to watch the moon landings got drunk never went back to work until next morning. Dave Auld"

Pater Bennett – "Is this a trick question?"

I was doing LP/Radio training at Holsworthy, probably with Rob Hargreaves, Gary Lovell, Petey-pie McCann, Shorty Gow, et al. We were given time off to go & watch the televised broadcast of the landing. Probably counting the days to departure. What's the prize?"

Neville Smith – "G'day Paul, I was definitely in South Vietnam...Phuoc Tuy Province...I can tell 'cos I have my pay book here to verify it! On 13/08/69 a pay officer by the name of Sgt J Beckett entered \$US 75.00 or \$67.50 Aus which means I must have been in the bush over the end of July. Do you think it could have been danger money?? On the 31/07/68 my pay book was given a boost to the tune of \$67.07 which I feel sure was our fortnightly wage. This was entered by pay officer D Smith...no relation. I have a feeling that I was with Don Chalmers (the Scottish piper) at some Support Base on July 20/07/69...probably sitting up one of those towers where we would spend our evenings. If you ever have the delight of watching replays of "F Troop" I am forever grateful that ours never suffered as many collapses as they did!!

Always enjoy perusing your jottings of 131 and keep it up...thanks for the memories Paul cheers Neville Smith - former Gunner, then Bombardier, then finally Lance Bombardier...even the army could not work out what I was good at!!"

Peter Suckling – “I was on a course at North Head (Op CP Fd) and they gratefully suspended lessons for a time and I watched the momentous event in the TV room of the Sgts Mess. Peter Suckling.”

Graham Williams - “Hi Paul, Is this a trick question? When I first heard about man landing on the moon I was in the James Menz Club in Nui Dat playing darts and having a beer (as you do) after a fun filled day filling sandbags. I remember this day well as it was my birthday. The difference is it was the 21st day of July in Vietnam because of the different time zones. e.g. here now it is 10.34a.m in Tweed Heads on 28/8. In Vietnam it is 7.34a.m. on 28/8.....In Los Angeles it is 5.34p.m. on 27/8 and in Washington 8.36p.m. on 27/8. Hope I have not totally confused you mate. Stay well. Regards, Graham Williams.”

Stuart Sporn – “No idea. Probably working for the ES & A Bank Norwood SA”

Peter Meaney – “Hi Paul, I had only been “in country” for about 7 weeks when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, and I was at FSB “Thrust” on radar (“Zeke” Ritchie’s crew), when word came through. Peter Meaney, 1969/70 lads.”

Neville Wortlehook – “Had just finished leave after returning from our overseas Gov’t paid Holiday and started at 1RTB Kapooka, the TV installer was working frantically to have the set installed so he could see the landing as well, it was an event that will stay forever. Cheers Neville W”

Bill Taggart (1st/83rd) - My wife Ronnie and I were 4 months away from our marriage date (11/22/69). We were at the house of a friend of hers watching history take place. It was amazing to realize what we were watching and amazes me now as much as it did at the time. While I thought I only had eyes for Ronnie, the moon had all of my attention that evening. Bill”

Peter Binns – “Well Paul I was at Victoria Barracks doing a storemans course on that historic day. Little did I know that the course I was doing was to lead me to AQMS School of Arty in 1985. Regards Pete Binns”

Mike Butler – “Paul - Doing Rookie training at Pucka. The Army let us see the moon landing on TV. Very nice of them!! Cheers Mike Butler”

Kevin Browning – (the presses had to be stopped to get this item in – but it was worth paying the overtime to the Cutters and Pasters as per usual KB relates a great yarn) – “Paul, late as usual but needed to confirm a couple of names.

20 July 1969 is well remembered by most as the day Apollo 11 landed on the moon. There had been a lot of media coverage in the lead up to the landing. It was also televised and everyone that could listened in or watched the event. I was one of those that missed out. My recollection of the event is one of wondering whether the landing had been successful and if so whether they actually managed to get back off. On the 18th we had begun another camping trip and were without radio or television so whilst we could wonder at what was happening we couldn’t actually participate. Even some of those with us that might have had radios to listen too found the reception poor or simply kept the news to themselves. So the landing and return to earth had all happened before we knew it had been successful. One joy of the event is the camping trip had been paid for by other. Our camp site was called FSB Dampier and we shared it with our Kiwi Cousins of 161 Battery and elements of 9 RAR. C Company 9 RAR struck one of our neighbours, 274 VC Main Force Regiment, bunker systems. We had only just arrived at the camp site and for the next six hours worked nonstop carrying the ammunition from the LZ to the guns. Luckily I was working with the gun furthest from the LZ. If you ever though brickie labourers worked hard spare a thought for the ammo carriers. 161 fired nonstop all day helping to plough up the field in rural areas. One small step for man was a giant leap forward for humanity. Regards Kevin”

...the last word (well for this edition anyway) from the conversation instigator – “Hi Paul

A quiz, eh? I have told you what I was doing already. But, in context -

By that time I had been a civilian again for 15 months. My time was spent at university dumbing-up after my two year’s incarceration. As the moon landing took place I was successfully completing a chemistry practical class and watching the event on a black and white TV in the laboratory.

Melbourne was chock a block with long haired, protesting gits at the time. I had spent Anzac Day with Roger Long and Frank Ipsa at the MCG watching Melbourne vs Essendon. We did not march.

A cat to disturb the pigeons. Was the moon landing moon time and date, US time and date or downunder time and date? I have no idea at all. Cheers Allen PS What seat number were you on the aircraft? I bet it was a smoking seat.”

Ed – interesting topic and some great memories – and yes aisle seat, drink in hand and definitely in the smoking section! Bugger the wowsers in those days.

*Times above are accepted as accurate based on the source information – one would only hope that there is NO need to consider daylight saving, full tide/full moon, global warming or any other such vagaries. Thanks fellas for participating.



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

Welcome – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming another group this time – **Gary Lovell, Phil Sheedy, Peter “Mickey” Pettiford and Johan “Joe” Molenkamp** to the Association fold.

. Upcoming Events Calender –

The Next 131 Locators Association meeting is an 11.00 AM start on **25th September 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

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

Well members – well at least with names commencing with A to I should have a squiz at the “Member Galleries” and do a bit of “clicking” to see some of the photo albums. **“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.

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.**

Web links- **“a Notice Board”** has been suggested for the website. This has been dealt with by directing the enquirer to the “News and Events” tab on the website.

Bob Billiards forwarded the following email correspondence he’d received and replied to with regards to one of our late Locators: **Minns, Raymond Arthur**, L/Bdr, 4410744 Arty Tac SVN 1966-67

“Bob,

I came across your website whilst researching my father’s Army days and notice in your honour roll that there was no DOD. I can confirm that dad passed away of a heart attack 24 May 1997. He was pretty damn proud of his time with the 131 Div locators so I thought it was appropriate to let you know of his passing for your records. I have recently received his AASM and ADM to add to his collection, I have enjoyed looking through your website and will ensure I keep it in my favourites.

Regards,

Jason Minns”

Warrant Officer, Strategic Communications, Duty Officer, DEFCAMSAUS

...and Bob’s response...

“Jason,

Thanks for completing the details and glad that you found our web site. Please keep in contact with the website for any upcoming events where you might want to participate. Any contribution about your father and his service with 131 would be appreciated. We would be glad to post any photos of your fathers on the website for other members.

Member’s photos are not on public display.

Regards Bob”

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...September –

Crikey **Ivan Mills** cracks it for 78 on the 7th – **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** wherever you are! A few other known names crack it for birthdays too – Maurie Arch, Jim Lawler and John Davies – shame we can't embarrass them with all of this!



Here's what **Frank Ipsa** looked like on his birthday in 1967 ready to go on duty! The aircon couldn't have been working that day? I wonder if the guitar was loaded or was it only Frank?

SEPTEMBER	Name	Regt No		In SVN	Out SVN	
1	ERIC THOMPSON Sgt.	44153	1948	18 02 1968	18 02 1969	
	" "			13 05 1971	04 06 1971	VISIT
2	PHILIP MULGREW	3411756	1948	29 04 1968	07 05 1969	
3	MILLS BUCKLEY	16950	1937	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	† 02.04.07
3	PETER SAINT	45033	1949	04 11 1970	29 07 1971	
6	JOHN DELLACA	3791355	1945	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
7	STEVE BOUTLIS	3787962	1945	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
7	GARY BESTER	3411737	1948	08 01 1968	03 12 1968	
7	IVAN MILLS S/Sgt.	213051	1934	31 01 1969	05 11 1969	
8	WILLIAM EDWARD	2789911	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
12	BARRY NUGENT	1411039	1945	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
12	LARRY BRIDGE	2786506	1946	15 03 1968	18 03 1969	
12	PHILIP JOHNS	4719086	1946	16 09 1968	18 03 1969	
12	STEVEN VOSS	1735605	1948	29 04 1970	18 03 1971	
12	KEVIN GEOGHEGAN	219351	1951	16 12 1970	02 06 1971	131
	" "			02 06 1971	23 12 1971	HQ AFV
13	VICTOR CLAXTON	4410991	1948	17 01 1968	23 12 1968	
14	MERV DART	37821	1942	03 01 1967	09 01 1968	† 2001
14	FRANK IPSA	3786657	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
14	RUSSELL HEWITT	2792435	1948	03 06 1970	04 03 1971	
16	FRANK PEPPER	216683	1948	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	† 27.12.89
16	RONALD DEAN	215527	1944	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
16	BRIAN BLACK	2786469	1946	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	† 18.01.11
16	ALLEN WHEATLEY	2790305	1947	16 09 1969	04 06 1970	
17	JOHN BLAKE	1731550	1945	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	
17	BARRY GUZDER	5714500	1945	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
17	MAURICE ARCH	43350	1937	02 01 1967	14 11 1967	
17	ERNEST GALLOWAY	216708	1948	08 01 1968	22 04 1968	
18	BOB WILSON	3791425	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
18	JIM LAWLER Sgt.	28523	1936	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	
19	ROBERT DAVID GOW	61644	1944	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
19	HUBERT ANDREWS	2790121	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
19	WESLEY HINDMARSH	2791313	1947	30 09 1969	13 08 1970	
19	PHILLIP WAPSHOT	3793468	1947	27 11 1969	18 03 1970	
21	GARRY LEPLAW	217182	1948	05 02 1968	11 02 1969	† 06.12.83
22	IAN BUBB	2792358	1948	13 05 1970	11 03 1971	RAEME
23	GREGORY TOMMASI 2Lt.	3791966	1946	10 03 1970	25 08 1970	131
	" "			25 08 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
24	BOB BILLIARDS	2785702	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
24	GEOFFREY CARTHEW	2793339	1949	03 06 1970	09 06 1971	

26	KEN McNAMARA	2783740	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
26	JOHN DAVIES Sgt.	29351	1937	07 10 1966	30 04 1967	
26	RONALD BOALER	130230	1948	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
28	LEONARD WALKER	3798942	1949	16 12 1970	30 06 1971	Det 131 † Unknown
	" "			30 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.

Ed – 21 blokes not highlighted is disastrous – fellas we've got to locate them!

. Locator Profiles – we've received **96** (yep, we got one more during the week!) and we've sent out **93**. **Ed** – we're waiting for another overdue delivery!

Bert Blink gets back to us in response to **Ken Osborne's** Profile with - "Hi Paul - Ken mentioned Fred Walter as being omitted from "Tracks of the Dragon". True he is not listed on page 326, but he is listed on page 320 No 134. Keith's research didn't have him as RAEME but this is corrected in a revised list. Bert"

. 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.

. Ian Finlay gave us contact details for **Joe Molenkamp** and he replied with – "Hello Paul, I was very pleased to receive your email – thanks to Fin for passing on my details. I would like to receive your newsletters. I will email Secretary Graham Dignam to get relevant forms to join 131 Locators Association and pay subs. Many thanks for your efforts. Joe Molenkamp."

. Peter Bennett got back to us, after we contacted him with this - "Paul, Thanx for contacting me. Graham Williams has been at me for quite some time to contact you, but I guess I'm still a "gunna" after all these years. My apologies. I've received a few copies from Pete Meaney & Graham, but would love to get onto your association asap. Please send details of membership/application. Best regards Peter Bennett (alive & kicking!)"

. Ian Brignell is another Locator we've discovered and he sent in the following – "Paul, Thank you for Eyes & Ears newsletter, please include me in future editions much appreciated Ian Brignell."

. Gary Navas was discovered in an email forwarded by **Grahame Dignam**. Here's another '70-'71 bloke.

. E&Es Responses –

. Stuart Sporn - The Origin of "Gottlieb"

"In the 1970's in Darwin someone walked up to me in the main shopping drag and said "You're Stuart Sporn aren't you?"

From then until now I haven't got a clue who it was but I quickly responded "No I am his twin brother 'Gottlieb' and he disappeared!!

Both Hans Weber and I share a Germanic Heritage! Stuart"

.Vale –

. Honour Roll – we've had another "Lazarus" (thankfully) in realising **Peter Bennett** is alive, well and in Victoria. Peter follows on from **Stan "Pablo" Briggs** who started this phenomenon last year after we'd written him off! It's great to hear from Peter and we can only hope that the trend may continue.

. A brother from the 131 Detachment family has died.

On Thursday 16th August 2012, **Bob Billiard's** older brother, **Kenneth Frank Billiards** died on the Central Coast of NSW.

On behalf of Association Members I want to extend our collective condolences to Bob and his family.

When our own Members join the 131 Detachment Honour Roll we mourn the event. In your case Bob we also recognise and mourn your loss.

Allen Morley

President

131 Locators Assn Inc

ABN 92 663 816 973

May he 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 will be held at Paddington RSL on **23 September 2012** commencing at 11.15am. Members are cordially invited to attend.

Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the Associations Newsletter LOCREP.

. The **Royal Australian Artillery Association (Victoria) Website**

- The home of "Cascabel" - website: <http://www.artilleryvic.org.au>



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/
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I should have included this item in this week's update and missed doing that. I just sent this email (see below) to our Aussie and Kiwi mates on the 46th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. If you are not aware, August 18th is one of the most significant anniversaries for our Australian and New Zealand allies. Here is some background on this battle:

About Long Tan

Late afternoon August 18, 1966 South Vietnam - for three and a half hours, in the pouring rain, amid the mud and shattered trees of a rubber plantation called Long Tan, Major Harry Smith and his dispersed company of 108 young and mostly inexperienced Australian and New Zealand soldiers are fighting for their lives, holding off an overwhelming enemy force of 2,500 battle hardened Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers.

With their ammunition running out, their casualties mounting and the enemy massing for a final assault each man begins to search for his own answer and the strength to triumph over an uncertain future with honor, decency and courage.

The ensuing Battle of Long Tan becomes one of the most savage and decisive engagements in ANZAC history, earning both the United States and South Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citations for gallantry along with many individual awards. But sadly not before 17 Australians and more than 500 enemy are killed.

Here is my email:

To all my Australian and New Zealand mates, I want to let you know that we at the 1/83rd are thinking of you on the 46th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. We know how significant a date this in history for all of you and we want you to know that we stand by you to remember those who fell in this battle along with all the other brave men of your countries who died, were wounded, or otherwise suffered in any other way as a result of the Vietnam War.

Our best always.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/history-repeats-as-rain-soaks-vietnam-solidiers-20120818-24exx.html>

Bill

artillery_83rd@yahoo.com

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

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