

THE EYES and EARS

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Officially it ended 40 Years ago!



. **This story** began with a couple of emails with articles in the press. But, what is intriguing is the chronological order of events that pre-empted this "official" action being taken by the then Governor General and then a continuance of our role.

It's interesting to note the "will" not to succeed originated from Governments in 1969 even though Locators continued to be conscripted; ARA Recruits trained and sent on a "door closing" exercise...

16 December 1969 Following the withdrawal of 25,000 US troops from South Vietnam, and plans by the US Government to withdraw another 50,000, the Prime Minister (John Gorton) advises any further substantial reductions will include Australian forces.

22 April 1970 The Prime Minister announces 8 RAR will not be replaced at the end of the year, some support elements will be withdrawn from South Vietnam and the AATTV will be increased by about 120 soldiers.

12 November 1970 8 RAR returns to Australia at the end of its 12 month tour in South Vietnam. It is the first 1ATF unit not to be replaced.

30 March 1971 Prime Minister McMahon announces further cuts in Australian forces in South Vietnam, including withdrawal of the tank squadron, RAAF Canberra bomber squadron and some Caribou transport aircraft.

18 August 1971 The Prime Minister announces the bulk of Australian forces in South Vietnam are to be withdrawn, leaving only a modified training team. The period of national service is reduced from two years to 18 months.

06 October 1971 3 RAR is airlifted onto HMS Sydney, leaving only one battalion at Nui Dat.

07 November 1971 4 RAR moves out of Nui Dat to Vung Tau, ending Australian combat operations in Phuoc Tuy province.

27 January 1972 USA and North Vietnam sign a peace agreement.

05 March 1972 The last Australian logistic units leave Vung Tau and Australia's commitment in South Vietnam returns to a training role with the 150-man Australian Assistance Group, Vietnam (AAAGV) and the AATTV.

02 December 1972 Whitlam Government elected

05 December 1972 Conscription ends, draft resisters are released from jail and pending prosecutions for draft resistance are dropped.

08 December 1972 Australia's military commitment in South Vietnam ends, although controversy about the precise end date of the war continues.

23 January 1973 President Nixon announces agreement that has been reached for 'peace with honour'.

27 January 1973 Ceasefire begins.

29 March 1973 Last US troops leave Vietnam.

30 June 1973 The Saigon Embassy Guard Platoon are the last Australian troops to leave Vietnam.

After departure of the Embassy Guard, Transport Support Flight Butterworth continued their regular Saigon courier service.

04 January 1974 South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu declares that war has begun again.

29 March 1975 Australian Government responds to urgent requests for transport assistance from Governments of South Vietnam and United States by hastily dispatching a contingent of seven RAAF Hercules and two Dakota aircraft to Vietnam on a humanitarian relief mission

The RAAF is utilized in various roles during final weeks of the war, including movement of refugees, transport of Red Cross and UN supplies, and on 4th and 17th April, it helped in the evacuation of Vietnamese war orphans from Saigon to Bangkok during 'Operation Baby Lift'.

25 April 1975 Australia closes its embassy in Saigon, completing withdrawal from Vietnam on ANZAC Day.

The final task of Australia's military in the Vietnam War is conducted on ANZAC Day, when the RAAF participates in evacuation of the Australian Embassy and final withdrawal of personnel from Saigon

30 April 1975 Communist forces capture Saigon as the last Americans leave in scenes of panic and confusion.

...now to the email and continuing stories - Ernie Newbold – "G'day Paul, Something of interest from the Daily Telegraph. On the 11th January 1973 the Vietnam War officially ended for Australia.
Use the link for the story.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/breaking-news/end-of-australias-vietnam-40-years-ago/story-e6freuz0-1226551410750>. Regards, Ernie."

End of Australia's Vietnam 40 years ago From: AAP January 10, 2013 8:47PM

Friday will mark 40 year since the official end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war. *Source: AAP*

THE 40th anniversary of the official end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war will be marked in Canberra on Friday.

In 1973, then governor-general Paul Hasluck proclaimed the cessation of hostilities by the Australian government in the conflict.

From 1962 to 1972 more than 60,000 Australian men and women served in Vietnam.

More than 500 were killed in the conflict and another 3000 wounded.

But for those who returned home the psychological scars were possibly the worst.

Australian War Memorial head of military history Ashley Ekins said the proclamation of the war probably meant



little to those when it was signed off by Sir Paul Hasluck on January 11, 1973.

"It wasn't a big deal when it was announced back in 1973, simply a proclamation by the government by the governor-general," Mr Ekins said.

"But really the troops were out; it was all over for them."

Mr Ekins said it spelt the formal end of the most controversial and divisive war the nation had known.

The conscription of young Australians to fight the war, the anti-war movement and the reaction troops faced on their return left a lasting impact on Australia as a nation that is still felt.

At the Australian War Memorial in Canberra the anniversary will be marked with a short address during the closing ceremony where each day the Last Post is played by a bugler or a lament played by a piper to remember the sacrifice made by Australian troops.

Human cost of slow withdrawal from Vietnam – The Canberra Times – Date: January 12, 2013

The Vietnam War ended 40 years ago on Friday, writes Andrea Hayward.

Military historian Ashley Ekins. *Photo(left): Graham Tidy*



As far as documents go, the 1973 proclamation by then governor-general Paul Hasluck at the cessation of hostilities in Vietnam was about as pedestrian as they come.

But its significance on Friday, the 40th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, is perhaps more understood now than ever.

It marked the formal end of Australia's involvement in an unpopular war in which more than 60,000 Australian men and women served from 1962 to 1973.

The conflict claimed 521 Australian lives and more than 3000 defence personnel were wounded.

Ashley Ekins, head of military history at the Australian War Memorial, says the official proclamation meant little to most Australian soldiers who served at the time of its issue.

"It wasn't a big deal when it was announced back in 1973," he said, describing it "simply a proclamation by the government, by the governor-general".

"But really the troops were out, it was all over for them."

Australia's Vietnam veterans now regard the event with poignancy and clarity, bringing a formal end to the most controversial and divisive war the nation had seen, Ekins says.

Veterans Affairs Minister Warren Snowdon says Australians should remember the sacrifice of the dead and wounded.

"And [the] many more who continued to suffer the effects of the conflict long after coming home," he said.

The withdrawal from Vietnam was as protracted as the build-up of troops, Ekins says.

"That build ... reached a peak about the middle of 1968 and lasted for nearly three years until the end of 1970.

"It then took about 2½ years to withdraw."

Its protracted nature, pace and approach came at a human cost.

It was in contrast to the views of senior army commanders, who argued long and hard that if troops were to be pulled out, it should be "one out, all out".

A hundred Diggers died and another 1000 were wounded after the decision was made to pull out.

Ekins says the withdrawal was piecemeal.

"We did it in stages and we didn't have a large enough force to effectively do that," he said.

The view of military commanders that any withdrawal be swift turned out to be warranted.

"They said you'd forecast to the insurgents, the enemy who would then know our program, they'd know we were leaving.

"All they would have to do is bide their time and wait."

The staged withdrawal signalled to the enemy that Australian troops would be gone from Phuoc Tuy.

Just two months after the Australians left, the control they had managed to achieve in the province collapsed.

Back home, Australians who had initially supported the war when it began in 1962 were starting to lose faith in its worth.

"It had gone on so long, there was no resolution and of course, the costs kept mounting and we couldn't really prove any conspicuous advances," Ekins says.

Australians had developed counter-insurgency techniques and were an effective force, but they didn't have the numbers or the strength to secure the province. Parliament was being told a different story, as the government touted the success of Australian forces.

"That's not what the soldiers were saying," Ekins says.

"In fact, they were saying it was never fully really under control."

"They never had the numbers to do that."

Ekins says it wasn't the Whitlam government that brought the troops home, but previous conservative Coalition governments.

"In the last instance it was Whitlam who came to power with a promise of ending the war and getting us out of it in 1972, but the troops were already home.

"What he did do was change policy very rapidly within days of being elected."

Whitlam ended conscription, changed the whole posture of Australian defence policy within a week or so of Labor's election in December 1972, and recognised North Vietnam.

By then, the damage was already done and Australian soldiers returned home to a nation divided by an unpopular war.

"Many came home with the idea that their service was either disparaged or at least treated with indifference or at times, sometimes even with hostility that they had served there," Ekins says.

The war faded very quickly from popular perceptions.

"I think the massive communist victory in April of 1975 came as probably no surprise to many Australians and almost inevitability."

Snowdon says the present Australian government is committed to ensuring the treatment endured by many Vietnam veterans never happens again.

"That the service and sacrifice of those who wear Australia's uniform are not forgotten," he says.

Ekins believes there are lessons to be learned in the withdrawal and its consequences.

But perhaps the most valuable lesson of the war was the effect of combat operations on the military personnel involved.

"We started to get a new appreciation of what the long-term effect of military service can be," Ekins says.

In the past it was almost disparaged. World War I shell shock was for a long time viewed as a weakness. "We realise now that Vietnam was one of the pivotal points in what we realised is part and parcel of the risk of military service in combat operations."

Ed – Never let us let those who controlled our destiny then, forget their responsibility now and ongoing.

. Terry Westaway is not one to let one slip through to the 'keeper and responded to George Lane's reminiscing about a stroll through Martin Place in Sydney on a Thursday – "Re George Lane's article in the "Eyes and Ears" Newsletter (December 2012) – you're wrong George, The Cenotaph Guard formed up in Macquarie Street, just in front of Parliament House and marched down to Martin Place. Did a right wheel into Martin Place and then down to Pitt Street (I think) where we did a slow march up to the Cenotaph. When we stepped off in Macquarie Street (and for some distance down Martin Place) the band was playing "The Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines". There was at least a week's practising for the Cenotaph Guard on the back road behind the Barracks at North Head (under Bruno Snedden's beady eye) – on the day we were bundled into a P3 at North Head carrying all our good clobber and taken to Victoria Barracks to change and let Bruno have a final run through the Cenotaph ceremony, before being taken to Macquarie Street.

Terry Westerway

PS – Spike, would you pass this on to George?"

. Kim McGrath gets in touch with some of his "incoming" mail –

"Hi Guys,

I have just received this photo from Henry Siudak who was a Nasho in the 131 Div Loc Bty RAA. I am on the top of the 'stack' with Henry behind. The red-head BDR/CPL was either one of us operators or an ever present RAEME Radar Mechanic.

This picture was a Holsworthy (about where the Railway Station is now) in about late 1970 – around the time of SGT Paddy Best et al. Talk about a blast from the past.

Ubique, Kim"



. **Brian Turner's late Mum** needs to be congratulated for her devotion to her son, because what Brian has sent in contains some fantastic images on items I've never clapped eyes on before – they're classics. Thanks Brian.

"G'day Paul, Hope this helps you out.

Pic 1 Is the front cover of the unit Christmas card from 1966 my late mother kept it all this time, pic 2 Is the 3rd page with unit down the bottom, pic 3 Is page 2, pic 4 Is a Christmas card from 1965, pic 5 Is the 3rd page with 1st Recruit Training Battalion, pic 6 Is alpha radar taken in 1966, pic 7 Christmas Day 1966 at the Dat. Brian Turner"



1966 Unit Christmas card Page 1



Page 2



Page 3



1965 Unit Christmas card Page 1



Page 2



Alpha Radar -1966



Christmas day in Nui Dat - 1966

. Ed – we're continuing on with series from **Jill Nieglos** who takes us back to what she hoped was going to be a dream job and what developed...

LEAVING AMERICA BEHIND

When I started work for Pan Am at age 23, I had been looking forward to a life of fun and luxury, seeing the capitals of the world. This I had been enjoying, but the job of ferrying soldiers in and out of a war zone was neither fun nor luxurious. Now, at age 24, I was carrying papers identifying me as a second lieutenant, should I become a prisoner of war, a scene not even remotely in my mind when I applied for the coveted job of Pan Am stewardess.

Since we left at midnight, my passengers were fast asleep soon after takeoff. The previous few hours had been stressful for them, and sleep had come quickly. I walked down the aisle checking seatbelts, using a small flashlight so as not to disturb the guys. As I was tucking them in I surveyed their faces, the faces of innocence. Most were several years younger than I was, and had only seen the TV version of what they were about to face. I had been there, several times. I had already seen things nobody should see. I knew. I had seen the body bags being loaded for the trip back home. We were taking them to hell. As I made sure their blankets were snug around them I was thinking, "Oh my goodness, they are barely old enough to shave!" Sometimes I would ask myself, "Who will come home in the belly of my plane instead of a seat? Would it be this one?"

Once while checking seatbelts I noticed the glint of something shiny. Looking back at me were the eyes of a small teddy bear, tucked almost invisibly a soldier's arm with only its furry head showing. Smiling, I gave Teddy a pat on the head before continuing my duties. Imagine a young man going off to war carrying his teddy bear.

This leg of their journey would take them to Japan where we would change crews. The next crew would take them on to the hell we all called "Nam." All I could do for these young men now was to assure their safety while they were on my plane. After that, they would be in the hands of God.

LANDING IN "NAM"

After many hours of flight we neared the shores of Vietnam. Pretty beaches with beautiful white sand and transparent aqua water passed below us. I am sure the men on board could not see the beauty, for their fear transfixed them. They were quiet, lost in their own thoughts. Ahead was the unknown, the horror that up till now they had only heard and read about. The silence was deafening. Their fears were now about to become reality. We told them to put their seat belts on early, way before final approach. We came in high, very high. Our pilots had been instructed to land this way. We dropped like a rocket into Tan Son Nhut. This was SOP for Nam. We had been warned. Reason was: we would catch fewer bullets this way. Our planes were checked after each landing for bullet holes. Reassuring, right?

This time we were safe and I was thinking "So far, so good." Slowly we rolled closer to the terminal. Looking out the windows, I craned my neck to see what was going on. I saw maybe six other Pan Am planes on the ground and F4s. The earth was scarred with huge bomb craters. Smoke was rising from several places. We saw tanks, lots of tanks. Military vehicles of all sorts covered the landscape. Some were intact, some in pieces. Military and Pan Am uniforms everywhere. The fellas we were going to take on R and R were waiting in a group in front of Pan Ops.

The portable stairs were rolled up to the plane and the doors were opened. Heat. Unimaginable heat. Palatably wet heat. Our bodies were instantly drenched. Both the front door and the back door were opened, and within minutes the plane was like a sauna. Our clothes were sticking to us - especially with girdles and stockings on, per Pan Am's uniform code. Forget the white gloves, though. The joke was we were wearing our "all weather uniform" by Evan Picone (read too hot for Vietnam and too cold for Fairbanks). This is the Vietnam I knew and they would soon know. With the doors now open, we were assaulted by the noise of F-4's taking off and landing, the smell of jet fuel, and the chaos of bombs and rockets exploding. Welcome to Vietnam.

... Stay glued for the next instalment in February...

...**Graeme Owen** was quick off the mark after December's *Eyes & Ears* with regards to our ongoing article from **Jill Nieglos** re: her involvement with Pan Am –

"G'day Paul,

I know it's probably too much of a coincidence, but here are a couple of pics taken on my R&R flight from Saigon to Sydney via Pan Am in early May 1969.

I was heading home to see my lovely wife and my new baby and it was also my 21st birthday.



The blonde 'Hostie' could be your friend I suppose - I'm not good at these things.

But anyway it was around the same time, so she may recognise the young ladies in the pics (below). If she would like bigger size ones I'll send them separately.

From what I can remember (not much really) they were terrific on the flight. The first 'round-eyes' in 6 months so they were very popular.

Most on the flight were Americans with just a few rows of 'Aussies'. It was only the married Aussies who headed home when they started taking Americans to Sydney!

Cheers Graeme

PS - I'm the one on the window - I had hair in those days!"



...and continuing one more thing – Ernie Newbold's discoveries. Here's another...



Just the place to spend your hard earned MPC.

. **Customs** – Ernie Newbold's series from the AWM site continues

<http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/customs/recitation.asp> - they're not totally peculiar to the Australian Armed Forces, but they are part of our deeply rooted traditions.

The Unknown Soldier



Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier (at left).

The original Unknown Soldier was entombed in Westminster Abbey in London on 11 November 1920, two days after being brought from France. His body had been selected by General Wyatt from among four, each draped in the Union Jack; they had been recovered from the British battlefields of the Somme, Aisne, Arras, and Ypres. The soldier was assumed to have been British (though he could have been a Canadian, a New Zealander, or even an Australian) but he was intended to represent all the young men of the British Empire killed during the Great War. On the same date, an unknown French soldier was buried under the Arc de Triomphe, and several other allied nations soon entombed unknown soldiers of their own.

Plans to honour an unknown Australian soldier were first put forward in the 1920s but it was not until 1993 that one was at last brought home. To mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the body of an unknown Australian soldier was recovered from Adelaide

Cemetery near Villers-Bretonneux in France and transported to Australia. After lying in state in King's Hall in Old Parliament House, Unknown Australian Soldier was interred in the [Hall of Memory at the Memorial on 11 November 1993](#). He was buried with a slouch hat and a sprig of wattle in a Tasmanian blackwood coffin, and soil from the Pozières battlefield was scattered in his tomb.

. Coffs Harbour Reunion – 2013. Here's another heads-up to help with planning for ALL of us who are attending the Reunion 2013 will be held on **24th-28th April**.
These details are recorded on the 131 Locators Association web site in the “Events Calendar” section.

. John Brown sent the following - “Paul, re: Allen Morley after reading a Peter Ravelje's Locator Profile wrote in with (E&Es Dec 2012) -

“Paul, I enjoyed PR's Profile. Informative for us early 131ers.

My last year in High School in Melbourne - yes I did get that far - a fellow student was Peter Szabo. Peter says he has lost touch with 131's Peter Szabo. Just a coincidence of names? Probably, but not certainly.

My memory is reading somewhere that the 131 Peter Szabo had changed his surname, but that is the sum total of my knowledge. For now that is where the mystery will have to lie unless one of your readers knows otherwise.

Cheers Allen”

...**John continues**...Peter Szabo was with me in SVN circa 1969 to 1970.

The last I saw of him was at the welcome home march...he had changed his name to Peter Taylor, was working for Chubb Security and lived in Winston Hills, Sydney. I used to have his business card, but I think I've lost it.

Brown”

. Ernie Newbold does a bit of follow up work on the **Ron “Mook” Evans'** piece in December's *Eyes & Ears* with regards to murder Appeal Case - “G'day Dicko, a couple of explanations for words used in the latest issue, in case anyone should ask.

The word “fragging” comes from the use of a fragmentation grenade to kill someone, as in the Lt Birse case.

The term mentioned by **Jeff Evans**, i.e. P.O.G.O. was normally used by soldiers who went outside the wire to refer to those soldiers whom they considered stayed behind the wire.

P.O.G.O. means Personnel On Garrison Operations.

Perhaps a soldier who operated outside the wire would be a P.O.N.G.O. (Personnel On Non Garrison Operations)
Regards, Ernie.”

. John Vitkovsky sent in the photo on the right and enquired as to who was standing “on his left” (actually on HIS right!) outside the Det Orderly Room (well tent – actually, was it all that “orderly” as far as tents go?).

Anyway, through the airwaves came the following response from

Ernie Newbold – “G'day again Paul,

I have received a call from our old mate George Lane who is able to identify the person standing next to John Vitkovsky (on John's right, not his left as mentioned in the caption). It is **LBdr Robert (Jock) White** one of the “pioneer group” who returned to Australia on 16th May 1967.

John Vitkovsky arrived in SVN about the 2nd March 1967 so that gives us around a 10 week period to date the photo.

George informs me that Jock was responsible for setting up the original L.P.4. (31-D) at the 1st/83rd compound.

George asked me if I would pass on the information to you as he was still working his way through the December edition of the *Eyes and Ears*. Regards, Ernie.”



. **Steve Boutlis** – “Hi, Dicko.

Happy and Healthy 2013 to you and yours, mate. And to all of the 131 lads.

Are Nick Proskurin and Norm McManus brothers?

As I looked at the photo on page 11 of the December E&Es, I was very cheered to see Norm looking so healthy. Shock, it wasn't Norm! I know that I haven't seen Norm for a couple of years, but hey, am I the only one who thought that Nick was Norm? Or is it that Old Timers Disease?

I am so pleased to finally find that John Vitkovsky has joined the fold! He and I went on R&C to Vungas and my recollection is that we enjoyed each other's company. I have a few photos of him, and his signature in my pay-book.

Would you please ask him if I may have his contact details?

Cheers,
Boots”

Ed responded with – “Boots,

Now to Nick v's Norm - ok they both have grey hair (and thinning), they are both ex-Locators, both went to SVN (though Norm has more medals!) etc etc

Attached is a photo of Norm at the Plaque Dedication Ceremony in May 2012 - he shared the unveiling.

Now what do you think? Dicko”



Luckily Norm is wearing ALL his medals to remove any confusion!!

Ed – now we go to the “really interesting” department -

In December, just passed, I received the following email, which I initially thought was possibly going to develop into “Spam” but I thought let's see what evolves.

Well to my absolute surprise I found I was enveloped in one of those very unique *Eyes & Ears* moments of possible re-discovery and re-connection.

Read on and get engrossed as I did (some personal contact details have been removed) -

“Dear Mr Dickson

I'm not a soldier, but I taught one of your members (who apparently first contacted you last year) back in, I think, 1965... He is described in your newsletter – May 2011 issue – as ‘Vaughan (Mitch) Millar. At least I think it is the school student Vaughan Millar I taught at Lyndale High School, near Dandenong. He would have known me then as ‘Miss Callander’. As I remember, Vaughan left the school to join the army and I know he served in Vietnam.

I left Australia myself in 1966 and we had a short correspondence after I arrived in England, but no further contact. I have thought of him often over the years – not least because I felt bad that I had not written to him in Vietnam – and was delighted to see mention of him in *The Eyes & Ears*. (I found it after Googling his name...) What a great little publication! Congratulations.

I wonder if you might do me a favour and FORWARD it to him so that, should he want to, he can contact me through my email address – or by snail mail.

Meanwhile, thanks in anticipation and Happy Holiday Season to both of you. Cheers, Margot Holden”

...Ed duly forwarded the email onto Vaughan and the connection was made! The web for all its sinister possibilities is far outweighed when you can have a result, which 40 odd years ago we would not have ever thought to be possible. Hey, we also cracked a photo of Vaughan looking relaxed – ah, another Locator sighted!



. **“Military Heritage Weekend” - Seymour, Victoria - 9th & 10th of March 2013.**

Ron Mason sent in the following email and I inadvertently (brain spasm) left it out of December's *Eyes & Ears*, so here it is plus some other details about the event -

“Paul, I'm not sure how far this info has managed to spread.

On the 9th of March 2013 in Seymour (info for those north of the border - Seymour is near Puckapunyal -“Pucka”) anyway, on the **9th & 10th of March 2013 Seymour is holding a “Military Heritage Weekend”.**

Why is that of interest to Vietnam Vets? **On the 9th the much anticipated Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk will be opened.**

What is the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk I hear you ask? The walk has a wall of the names of **everyone** who served in Vietnam, plus a tank & Huey & a reconstructed Luscombe Bowl (not the canvas make-shift I saw in '66) with history and lots of other stuff.

To find out more go to < mitchellshire.vic.gov.au > & as they say follow the links (try typing Vietnam in the search box) & that should lead to more information.

There will be a number of 131'ers there. Vast numbers of also-rans also expected. The wall of names is really something!

It is a must see.

Hope everyone has a safe Xmas & Happy New Year. Ron"
Here's the link to the web site -

http://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/tourism-and-business/tourism/seymour_military_heritage_weekend.aspx

Together with local and regional community groups, individuals and businesses, Mitchell Shire Council is proud to announce the second annual [Seymour Military Heritage Weekend](#) to be held over the 2013 **Labour Day weekend: Saturday 9 March and Sunday 10 March 2013.**

The weekend long celebration of Seymour's long standing relationship with the Australian Defence Force will take military enthusiasts up close to the action, equipment, and heritage sites that will bring history to life. Events will be held all weekend long in various locations across Seymour:

This is the program of events

SATURDAY 9 MARCH - Stage Two Opening of the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk

1pm High Street, Seymour

- **Parade** - Commencing in High Street and Concluding in Kings Park, Tallarook Street, Seymour

3.30pm To participate in the parade please complete the following form:

<http://static.squarespace.com/static/5052a766c4aab5c707209b55/t/50ceb272e4b0a7200de4e36c/1355723377999/Parade%20form.pdf>

- **Concert** - Local Band and Entertainers from the Vietnam Era will perform a concert.

4.30pm Kings Park, Tallarook Street, Seymour

- **Fireworks** - 9pm Kings Park, Tallarook Street, Seymour

- **Outdoor Movie** - The Sapphires 9.30pm Kings Park, Tallarook Street, Seymour

SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2013 - Guided tour of Australian Light Horse Memorial Park

10.30am and 2pm Australian Light Horse Memorial Park, Goulburn Valley Highway, Seymour.

Bookings Essential, please contact: 5734 6200 or tourism@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Ron Mason came up with some more mail – “Also received a text from Ray Smith saying that " George has booked for Ged Me (Smithy) & possibly Baldy Nairn & Spike Chase".

This booking will be in Shepparton, can't recall which motel at moment, accommodation in Seymour is well booked so I hear. Ron Mason”

. **Peter Bruce** from the RAA Historical Company got in touch with the following – “Hello Paul,

We have added a link to your association on our web site. Have a look at www.artilleryhistory.org and follow the drop downs to the link. A very good newsletter you put out too. Perhaps you could put a little article in your next newsletter re our obituary listings and if anyone would like to add any they can always contact me direct or via the link on the obituary page.

I see Joe Kocka has a site as well. I haven't seen Joe for many years and will have a good look at his photos etc. We go back to the late 60s in the RAA on the Gold Coast.

Perhaps you could ask if the RAA Historical Company web site could be listed as a link in your newsletter.

All the best, Peter”

Ed – Have a look at the website – the link is listed in the “link” section at the end of this edition.

. **Ernie Newbold** continues to be as “eagle-eyed” as ever with the following – “G'day Paul, I'm sure that you remember the photo of the twin brothers who appeared

In “fancy dress” in Brisbane on Anzac Day, well the first of them has appeared in court.

Click on the link for more of the story.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/breaking-news/digger-impersonator-appears-in-qld-court/story-e6freuz0-1226551940416>

.Regards, Ernie.”

. **Digger impersonator appears in Qld court...**

by: *Miranda Forster*

From: AAP

January 11, 2013 11:54am

A MAN who allegedly masqueraded as a digger has appeared in a Brisbane court.

George Edward Carr, 68, who is in custody over an unrelated conviction, appeared in the dock of the Brisbane Magistrates Court on Friday during the mention of charges against him and his twin brother, John Anthony Hines. Both men were arrested in September last year after reports they were pretending to be returned servicemen and wearing real war medals.

The men were charged with one count each of falsely representing a returned soldier, sailor or airman and improper use of service decorations.

Mr Hines wasn't required to appear at the mention of the matter, which was adjourned until February 1 to allow the brothers' lawyer to advise her clients.

Neither man is required to appear at the next court mention.

Four Vietnam veterans wearing medals watched proceedings from the public gallery.

One of them, Bob Meehan, told reporters outside the court that veterans were "sick to death" of people wearing fake medals.

"We lost 503 in Vietnam and these guys are trading off as Vietnam veterans," he said.

"They've got no right to do it. We're sick and tired of it."

Mr Meehan said the publicity from this case would act as a deterrent to others.

"Once those two get nailed, all these other wannabes out there, they are on notice that they are going to get busted," he said.

Related Coverage

[Twins appear over fake digger allegations](#) *The Daily Telegraph*, 1 hour ago

[Sham 'hero' resigns as RSL flag-raiser](#) *The Daily Telegraph*, 14 Oct 2012

[Accused dodgy Diggers seek psych audits](#) *Herald Sun*, 10 Oct 2012



The twin brothers accused of impersonating returned war veterans.

. Rieny Niewenhoff – A Geelong & Environs update - "G'day Dicko, Happy New Year. How are things up Sydney way? Some news from down south.

1. Stan Paterson sent the attached film (I don't know if he also sent it to you?) about entertainers who came to Vietnam. While a lot of the footage is American there are also quite a few segments featuring Aussies. I think Stan was able to identify at least one 131er in the footage from Nui Dat. Well worth having a look at. I don't know if it can be shared with others via the website?
 2. The reunion at Coffs Harbour looks fantastic. Unfortunately, I'll be fairly much involved in celebrations here in Geelong.
 3. I have contacted those whom I know live in Victoria about the Heritage Weekend at Seymour on 9 -10 March. I believe, via Ron Mason, that some guys from NSW are coming over for the weekend. Bert Blink is coming across from Canberra. I'll also be there on the Saturday. I'm trying to convince members of the Geelong Vietnam Veterans to also go.
 4. The Artillery Regiments here in Geelong have been disestablished; members are heading north to become part of infantry mortar platoons?? and I believe Infantry will take over the barracks.
 5. The military Staff College at Queenscliff (Vic.) has now closed. Personnel have transferred to Canberra.
 6. The Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans Association continues to grow in membership now that we have a stable home. While there are no 131ers in the Association we do share our stories about our time in Vietnam. I continually have to educate them about the difference between an artillery gunner and a locator, I impress them by arguing that I was in the business of 'target acquisition', this always impresses them and stops them calling me a 'drop short'. Anyway, keep up the great work with E & E, it is a great publication. I also regularly check the 131 Locators website for new 'bits'.
- Regards, Rieny"

. Barry Guzder sent in the following from the **Gunners Day Parade** held annually at Guildford in Western Australia – "The following are some photos of Gunners Day (poured with rain) last year. You may find it interesting, especially the overweight gunner in the light jacket! Barry Guzder"

Ed - Apparently the day was changed to the first Sunday in November for "more reliable weather"! But seriously go to the web site via this link - Web Site: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au> and have a read about the origin and tradition of the Annual Gunners day at Guildford WA – it goes back to 1914 and there is a great story about the original flag and what proceeded.



...**Grahame Dignam** responded to Barry G's general email thus – "Barry, Thanks for that insight into the Artillery traditions as they happened in the West. You had a decent rollup even in the wet!

I note the British ensign heading the march - Mook would be chuffed...

Can you turn the heater down over there, the temperature and the westerly winds are affecting my tomatoes.....? Dig"

...even **Bob Billiards** got into the act with – "What happened to that slim, trim, taught body?? Get back to mowing lawns!!

Good turnout for a rainy day. Please send some here. It is 44 outside!! Bob"

. **Ian Finlay** has relayed the following on with regards to the **Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk** coming up over the weekend of 9th March. It could be something **NOT** to be missed! Plus **DO** check out the web site.

"G'day All, Looks like Seymour might be an interesting place to be on 9th March...Please check out the website and pass on to any you know who I have missed, Cheers, Paul "The Reg".

Subject: 2012_12_19 RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Assoc. re Vietnam Vets Comm. Walk, Seymour

Date: Wed, 19 Dec 2012 19:05:29 +1100

Subject: 2012_12_19 RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Assoc. re Vietnam Vets Comm. Walk, Seymour

Hi, I spotted your website when I was doing some research. I am involved with a volunteer committee manufacturing the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk here in Seymour. I just thought I'd let you know, in case you haven't heard of what we are doing. Stage One was completed a couple of years ago - a replica of Luscombe Bowl at Nui Dat. It contains storyboards of the war and some of the major battles. We also placed a beautiful cairn in front of the Bowl in honour of the three sections of the Australian military who served in the conflict. The ground around the cairn and Bowl are covered in pavers with the names of those who served or their families and friends. It is all detailed on our website listed below and I've also attached a photograph for you to see.

Stage Two is opening on the 9th of March - brochure above. It is an 80m long x 7' high, double-sided digiglass wall which depicts both a photographic history of the war whilst at the same lists the names of all those Aussies who served in the conflict. I've attached a sample pic of The Wall which appeared in one of our local papers. There are still gardens going in which will represent the rubber trees and rice paddies, paths, artefacts and all sorts of other things, hopefully all in place for the opening. It's only two and a half months away.

Please would you have a look at what we are doing and pass the word? Our project is huge and almost completed but still, very few people know about what we are doing. We'd love to see all of you come along.

Kind regards,

Carolynne Burgess VIETNAM VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE WALK www.vietnamvetstalk.org.au"

. **Barry Heard**, one of our erstwhile Association Associates, author and all-round bloody good bloke sent in some information of what he'll be up to on a return visit to Sydney – Vic Danko and I caught up with him in 2009 and thus began our connection.

Anyway see if you can catch him as well at Newington College – he's some detail –

Newington College 200 Stanmore Rd STANMORE 2048

PHONE WORK: (02) 9560 5355

You or your mates may want to come along as my guest. I speak to Senior students.

I am talking at the Newington Writers Festival on the Thursday, 21st March and Friday, 22nd March

Also of interest is my book "**Well Done Those Men**" came out in Hard cover last year after being voted number one in Victoria for the National year of Reading.

As there are limited numbers of books I thought some of the guys may be interested in copies. (We got rid of 200 copies at our reunion!) Each copy contains a special wax seal of my initials given to me by my Vet mates. I am trying to restrict them to Vets only. The price of the book is \$39.00. If you are interested, I will bring them up when I come to Sydney. Also of interest, after the book won, we have now signed a film contract. Quite a few of my mates will be involved to maintain authenticity. Both the Director, Script writer and Barrett casting are from Sydney. I will be meeting them all when I come up.

Don't go to too much trouble with the books, just an idea I had and have been meaning to contact you since I got your email some weeks back

I hope you are well, would be good to catch up.

Below are my details,

Take care old man

Barry

Barry Heard, 27 Mitchell Street, Bairnsdale. Vic. 3875. 03 51 52 2801 0409 522 801 bheard@southernphone.com.au
www.barryheard.com.au"

Ed – I remember after reading "**Well Done Those Men**" that the story could have been mine and countless others around and following the SVN era – well worth the read.

. **Ed – 26th January, 2013** marked 225 years since our first Locator ancestors possibly stepped foot in Botany Bay. They thought the area would get too noisy once the airport really became big time and the noise that cursed desalination plant would also be intolerable so it wasn't long before they moved to the more suitable area where they started work on the Opera House. Dame Joan's relatives (hopefully not in chains) liked the view too, especially for the fireworks displays to come! Besides, putting THE SCHOOL in Botany Bay would have been too far from the "Canopus Room" on a Saturday night!

HAPPY 225TH AUSTRALIA – belatedly!



Committee members:
President – Allen Morley, **Vice President** – Bert Blink, **Treasurer/Secretary** – Grahame Dignam,
Public Officer – Victor Danko, **Webmaster** – Bob Billiards, **Research Officer** – Ernie Newbold,
Designs and Development Officer – Nick Proskurin, **Eyes & Ears Editor** – Paul Dickson
General members – Ian Amos, Ged Carroll George Lane.
Regional Representatives: **ACT** – Bert Blink, **Qld** – Terry Erbs, **SA** - Geoff Blackwell,
Vic (Melb) – Alan Adams, **WA** - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

. **Welcome** – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming **Peter Bennett** as a 5 Year member to the Association fold.

. **Upcoming Events Calender** –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting

Location: Goulburn Soldiers Club

Club Address: 15 Market Street, Goulburn, NSW, 2580

Phone: (02) 4821 3300

Fax: (02) 4822 1107

Email: info@goulburnsoldiers.com.au

Date: Tuesday 19/02/2013 at 11:00hrs

. web Performance...

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 **Grahame Dignam** raises a good point about the number of members that have **NEVER** accessed the website. So if you're having any problems logging on, please contact Grahame by email sectreas131locators@gmail.com or phone 02 9822 9218 as he can reissue the password and help you get onto the website.

...Grahame Dignam again..."**Association Car stickers \$5ea or 5 x \$20** Add "stickers" to bank deposit details or mail a cheque to "Sec/Treas 131 Locators Assn 8 Darling St Abbotsbury NSW 2176" – they could be handy to find that white coloured car in the supermarket car park!

. Birthdays in the Battery...February –

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



Here's what **Roger "Mac" McDonnell** looked like some 46 years ago in 1969 – he was engrossed in a conversation with the OC, Warwick Hamilton at the time.

February	Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	JIM MENZ	38838	1946	10 10 1967	18 02 1968	† 18.02.68 KIA
2	ROGER McDONNELL	2784019	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
3	ROBERT GIBSON	2787361	1947	29 01 1968	07 02 1969	
3	EDWARD HENSON	2788331	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
4	OLAF ASMANIS	3796272	1947	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
5	IAN YERBURY Capt.	43129	1944	{05 05 1967	05 03 1968	131 † 1989
	" "			{05 02 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT
5	RICHARD FLAVELL	3791902	1945	23 09 1968	04 06 1969	
5	GEORGE CLARK	2412252	1947	{20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
	" "			{09 01 1967	27 09 1967	1 ARU/131
5	STEPHEN HALL	4720327	1948	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
6	MICK HABBEN	3788307	1945	05 05 1967	20 12 1967	
7	LINDSAY BLACK Sgt.	213794	1940	30 04 1970	04 08 1970	131 † 2009
	" "			05 08 1970	12 03 1971	4 Fd REGT
8	ROBERT RAMSAY	2788108	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
8	IAN CAMPBELL	3798378	1949	10 02 1971	07 06 1971	131
	" "			07 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	GEOFF WOOD	2783898	1945	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 26.04.07
9	CHRIS ARMSHAW	2781291	1945	04 05 1966	27 10 1966	
9	GARY WORRALL	43796	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
9	NEVILLE HASTINGS	1730813	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
10	ERIC WILLIAMS	1735449	1948	13 02 1970	04 02 1971	
10	GRAHAME SMITH	2792939	1947	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
11	DENNIS MALLOY	3795057	1948	22 07 1969	16 07 1970	
12	ROSS GUNNELL	5714499	1945	05 05 1967	27 09 1967	
12	LEIGH BAKER	3789657	1945	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
12	ANTHONY SHELDRAKE	5716358	1948	04 11 1969	13 08 1970	

14	ERNEST NEWBOLD	2783771	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
14	KEVIN HEENAN	3794777	1948	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	MARCUS ROBINSON	2791229	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
16	DAMIAN McMANUS	3787689	1945	20 05 1966	29 05 1967	
16	LUIGI LANERA	3795443	1947	25 11 1969	12 11 1970	RAEME
16	TERENCE HUNT	3792120	1947	19 02 1968	21 02 1969	
17	ADRIAN SPENCER	3794631	1948	28 10 1969	13 08 1970	
18	TERENCE McMANUS	44277	1950	30 05 1970	09 10 1970	
21	WILLIS (BILL) WIGHT 2Lt.	39136	1945	12 01 1967	23 04 1968	
23	GEOFFREY JEBB WO2	24660	1930	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
23	GRAEME SALTER	3792618	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
23	GRAEME JENNION	3796241	1947	24 03 1970	04 03 1971	
24	GREG GREEN	2784565	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
24	ALBERT JACKA	39856	1950	16 12 1969	11 03 1971	AACC
27	DONALD PERRY WO2	38675	1936	15 04 1970	19 11 1970	
28	NORBERT KROLL	218285	1948	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
28	BRIAN MITCHELL	2412582	1949	14 03 1968	26 03 1969	

Ed – 24 blokes not highlighted is horrendous! Where the hell are you?

Peter Suckling – HAPPY 70TH FOR JANUARY – he'd discovered he was missing on the "Birthday List" for January and got onto us – "Reading the list of birthdays for January made me think that I missed that item on my fact sheet. Anyway for what it is worth 21 January 2013 makes me 70 and recognized in the lawn bowling circles as a veteran. A Happy New Year to all and 1 day I hope to get to the east coast to catch up with as many oldies as possible."

. Locator Profiles – we've received **103** and we've sent out **103**. Ed – I'm still waiting for the next 77!



Allen Morley thought **Vaughan "Mitch" Millar's** Profile was too good to pass up –

"Hi Paul

Great to see another Profile hit the newsstands. It was great to catch up with 'Mitch' Millar again. Another Victorian helping to balance out you Queenslanders. My memory of Mitch was more at Holsworthy than Nui Dat and environs. His reputation of entertainment activities on picquet was one for the books.

By Military law he was clean shaven, but look at him now! His has now morphed into his nemesis, the 1960s Mitch Miller. The goatee and moustache seals it, as the comparison pictures show.



. 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.

.Vale –

Name	Rank	Regt No	SVN	DOB	DOD
Addison, George William	WO2	2410040	16.04.69 – 16.04.70	16.04.30	27.12.12
Staziker, George Stuart	Lt Col	2108436	14.04.71 – 01.05.71*	15.01.38	29.12.12

*23rd Field Regiment, CMF (attached to 12th Field Regiment)

- **Addison, George William**

Kevin Browning and photo In this morning's Telegraph (NSW) the passing of ADDISON George William is listed. WO2 George Addison took over the Sergeant Major Survey/Sound Ranging position from Geoff Jebb in April 1969. I had not heard of George for many years and in fact had thought he had passed away several years ago so when I saw the notice this morning I was not sure it was not our George. When he wasn't listed in Keith's roll the Vietnam Roll was searched and 2410040 WO2 George William Addison is shown as a Det member from 16 April 1969 to 16 April 1970. His date of birth is given as 16 July 1930. This corresponds with the Death Notice in today's paper. He died on 27 December 2012. His funeral service is to be held at Macquarie Park Crematorium corner of Delhi and Plessey Road North Ryde on Thursday 3rd January 2013 commencing at 11.15 am in the Palm chapel.



From left to right:
Unknown, Brett Rainsford (with mou), Mick Delaney, Brian Smyth (back to camera), unknown, George Addison, Garry (Jack) Stratton. Photo taken in 69 Garden at Menz Club 1969.



Mick Quinlan, Russ Jackson, Jeff Schafer, Peter Szabo (& Others!) – far right George Addison

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.

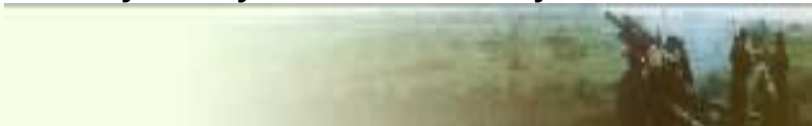
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: Sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join.

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 , Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...notes taken from the LS & TAA website – Committee meetings are held regularly with most held at Paddington RSL commencing at 1115 hrs.

The next Meeting will be held at Paddington RSL on **10 February 2013**. Members are cordially invited to attend. Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the *Associations* Newsletter LOCREP. <http://www.locatingartillery.org/index.htm>



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org

<http://www.artilleryhistory.org/>



Website link - <http://www.vvaa.org.au/>



Website link - <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

The Dept of Veteran's Affairs has launched a new mental health initiative to assist veteran's experiencing the affects of mental illness and their families. Providing information and fact sheets about understanding mental illness, links and contact information for accessing support, and online resources for health professionals, this website focuses on helping veterans identify early warning signs of mental illness to effectively manage their mental illness and seek treatment. For more info or to access, please visit www.at-ease.dva.gov.au

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much.

It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

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

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