

THE EYES and EARS

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Christmas Greetings



Happy 59th birthday 131 Loc Bty!

On 24th November 1954, 131 Locating Battery came into being. It morphed from 31 Locating Battery and was located at Pymble in the northern suburbs of Sydney. 131 Loc Bty was a CMF unit (similar to the present Reserve) in 1954. Its BC was Major CEH Rich. In 1960, with additional roles, it was re-designated as 131 Divisional Locating Battery under the then guidance of Major Eric Nowill. Our own **Norm McManus** was survey section Sgt.

. Geoff Jebb - WO1 GEOFF JEBB OAM RECOLLECTIONS

– taken from the ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY web site using the following link - <http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/jebb.html>

This is a continuation from October's *Eyes & Ears* initiated by an email from **Bert Blink** which re-acquainted us with some fascinating memories – this is the conclusion of the series – our thanks to Geoff for his allowing us to reproduce this wealth of information...



VISITING THE DMZ OCTOBER 1968 The Geneva Convention in 1954 established 10k wide buffer zone between North and South Vietnam at the 17th parallel. From the South China Sea the 60k long 10k wide zone followed the Ben Hai River then tracked west to the Laotian border.

In 1966 the US Marines established a series of combat bases along Route 9, 10 - 25ks south of the DMZ - Khe San, The Rockpile, Camp Carroll, Cam Lo, Con Thien, Gio Linh and Dong Ha. They were located for mutual support and were heavily contested until overrun in 1972. About the same time the McNamara Line, a barrier of surveillance devices, mine fields and observation posts was being established along the southern edge of the DMZ. This included a sound ranging base controlled by a command post at Gio Linh. Dong Ha was developed into a major supply base and was the HQ for the 3rd Marine Division. By 1968 the sound ranging base had been established at Nui Dat, and our OC, Phil Perrin, felt we should check out the base at the DMZ, the only other sound ranging base in SVN. The CO [Jack Kelly] agreed to a party of four going; Brian Smyth, Kev Browning, Phil Perrin and me.

All began well, a Beechcraft Queen Air 65 was provided, much superior to our usual mode of transport. The pilot was surprised that anyone would want to visit the DMZ. The first stop was Qui Nhon for fuel and our first hiccup - there wasn't any - no problem, we could make it to Da Nang and refuel there. As we continued the weather began to deteriorate and approaching Da Nang, we flew into a serious storm with very thick clouds. Progress was slow with fuel heading south at an alarming rate and to add to our woes the airport was closed to all traffic. Then came a break and the airport reopened - at that stage we were over the South China Sea eyeing off an aircraft carrier as a possible landing site. We landed at Da Nang with the gauge on "empty"! After refueling we continued our journey north. Dong Ha was reached just before dusk, our escort was waiting, a quietly spoken captain who seemed much bemused by our visit.

The following morning we were introduced to the base 2i/c. The meeting went something like this: Phil throws a smart salute and we stand to attention, he waves his hand towards his head, 'Who are you and what are you here for? I didn't think you limeys had any interest in this war.' Phil began to explain the difference between us and the Brits, but is pulled up short. 'Makes no difference you're all the same to me.' Then to our escort: 'Look after them and see they get what they came for'. And that was that!

We were given a briefing, and then preparations were made for a trip to Gio Linh, situated just below the DMZ, about 10k north of Dong Ha, along Highway One. [The Street Without Joy.] Our escort checked our weapons - he was happy with Brian and Kev's SLR's but when Phil and I pointed to our pistols - 'You will need more than that here.' We proceeded to the armoury and were issued Garand Assault Rifles which weighed and looked like small canons. With 50 rounds of ammo, steel helmets and flak jackets it was apparent this was a serious place we were in.

A mini convoy, jeeps front and rear mounting 50 cals and two for us in between, set off along a battered Highway One. With rice paddies and hamlets on either side, we were assured under observation for the 15 minutes it took for the trip. The sound ranging command post at Gio Linh was located about 200m north and on the right flank of the line of microphones [unusual.] The equipment used was the US WW2 GR8 system, later used by 131 Bty when the more modern Brit No5 was no longer available, a step back in technology at the time. The fort was sighted on a small plateau about 25m above the surrounding area. The size of a couple of football fields it provided good all round observation, Con Thien, Cam Lo and Camp Carroll could be clearly seen and The Rockpile stood out on the horizon. It was manned by marines and some specialists, with mortars, machine guns and a mortar locating radar. With artillery support from Dong Ha plus air and naval support, it was very defensible.

It all seemed peaceful quiet but the word was - don't stay overnight. The day was spent being briefed and shown the ropes - nothing was too much trouble but when a look at the microphone positions was suggested it was 'We are not going out there!'

Late afternoon after a really good visit it was time to return to Dong Ha. Then came the news that the highway had

been breached and would need to be crossed. We joined a convoy of trucks and headed south. It was quite a decent break with water gushing from the rice paddies. The possibility of an ambush crossed our minds but when a few locals began to gather it was considered unlikely. A winching party from Dong Ha arrived and a short time later we were back, just in time for their nightly fireworks.

The following morning Phil and I hitched a ride with the resupply convoy to Con Thien where we spent the day taking in the sights, a story in itself - perhaps at another time.

The next morning at Dong Ha as we were preparing to leave the heavens opened and continued non - stop for three days and we weren't going anywhere. When it finally stopped we made our farewells - even the general saw us off, probably making sure we left! We then went to the strip to wait for our plane. There was much activity with aircraft of all sizes coming and going. Marine helicopters were taking supplies to outposts much of it slung in cargo nets. One had to abort its load as it took off, dumping a load of ammo not missing us by much. Our Beechcraft eventually arrived and we were on our way to Saigon. Not to be. The pilot was ordered to Da Nang where our plane was commandeered by the CIA who were answerable to no one.

Out of our depth and with no friends we made our way to AATTV HQ and R&R centre where they reluctantly put us up. Then the rains came again this time causing serious flooding with much havoc and distress, grounding us for two weeks. Eventually we were able to cadge a lift to Saigon on a C123 transport, roped in together with many others. Back at Nui Dat there was much scepticism about our delay - we were having such a good time we'd extended our stay? The CO's response - 'never again,' but I can say on behalf of us all, even though The Dat never felt so good, the trip was very worthwhile and a great experience.

Postscript.

In March 1972 four NVA divisions swept across the DMZ sweeping all before them. By then the Americans had been replaced by the ARVN and they couldn't withstand such an assault. The NVN were finally halted with the help of American Air Power 40k north of Hue where they remained until the 1975 offences ended the war. .



Fellow Travellers, Brian Smyth, myself & Kev Browning



Beechcraft Queen Air 65, Our Transport.



Our jeep being winched



Grounded at Dong Ha



Hwy 1 breeched between Gio Linh & Dong Ha

. 1st Australian Task Force – (source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>) The following is the continuation of the account of our involvement in the conflict in South Vietnam...

Preliminary operations



National Servicemen from 6 RAR before deploying in 1966.

With 1 ATF established at Nui Dat subsequent operations included a series of search and destroy missions to gain control over Phuoc Tuy. As the task force sought to extend its influence beyond Line Alpha, in early July 5 RAR

patrolled north through Nui Nghe while 6 RAR cleared Long Phuoc to the south, removing a number of former inhabitants who had returned since May. 5 RAR then began operations along Route 2, conducting a cordon and search of Duc My on 19–20 July in preparation for the clearance of Binh Ba. Meanwhile, the SAS conducted long range patrols to the edge of the TAOR to provide early warning of Viet Cong concentrations. Despite such measures the Viet Cong eluded 1 ATF, with the 274th and 275th Regiments believed to be in the north-west and north-east of the province. Yet with the 5th Division assessed as able to concentrate its total strength anywhere in Phuoc Tuy within 24 to 48 hours, it remained a significant threat. As 1 ATF began to have an impact on the Viet Cong's freedom of action a response was increasingly expected. Small-scale probes on the perimeter at Nui Dat and mortar fire had been anticipated and both had since occurred, with such activity a possible prelude to an attack. Regardless, intelligence assessments of Viet Cong intentions changed from those of May and June. Whereas previously a full-scale assault against Nui Dat was expected, as the defences were strengthened an attack against an isolated company or battalion was considered more likely. Other possibilities included continued skirmishes as part of routine patrolling and ambushing, or an attempt to interdict a resupply convoy from Vung Tau.

By the end of July a large Viet Cong force had been detected by SAS patrols east of Nui Dat, near the abandoned village of Long Tan. In response, 6 RAR launched a battalion search and destroy operation and during a series of fire-fights on 25 July a company from D445 Battalion bounced off C Company, and in the process of retreating assaulted B Company which was occupying a blocking position, before being driven off with heavy casualties. In the following days further clashes occurred around Long Tan, resulting in 13 Viet Cong killed and 19 wounded, and Australian losses of three killed and 19 wounded. Yet with the former inhabitants resettled, the village fortified, and the perimeter regularly patrolled, the Australians considered the area secure. However, with the 274th and 275th Regiments still at large, uncertainty resulted in growing tension among 1 ATF. Meanwhile, believing Viet Cong sympathisers had returned to Long Tan, they planned to search the area again on 29 July. That afternoon, as 6 RAR commenced a detailed search following its initial sweep, Jackson ordered its immediate return to Nui Dat in response to South Vietnamese reports of a large Viet Cong presence close to the base, and the battalion was airlifted out by early evening. Although the reports were unconfirmed and an attack against Nui Dat was considered unlikely, 1 ATF was re-postured in response. A number of company patrols were sent out in each direction over the following days, but little of significance was found. Jackson had seemed to over-react, and his requests for assistance from US II FFV were denied. Further intelligence later discredited the original reporting and the crisis soon subsided. Regardless, it was indicative of the alarms 1 ATF experienced during the first months of its lodgement and the effects they caused. In early August 5 RAR continued operations along Route 2, including the cordon and search of Binh Ba which had been postponed in late July. The clearance of Binh Ba was key to opening the north of the province and linking Ba Ria to Xuan Loc in Long Khanh, yet it was dominated by the Viet Cong, and with a population of 2,100 the operation would be complex. 5 RAR moved to seal off Binh Ba before first light on 9 August, supported by two companies from 6 RAR, as well as APCs, engineers and artillery. Accompanied by South Vietnamese police, they methodically searched the village while the inhabitants were provided with food and medical aid, followed by further searches of Duc My and Duc Trung. By 10 August Binh Ba and its approaches had been cleared and the Australians commenced searching the areas east and west of Route 2. Although little contact occurred, on 14 August a group of Viet Cong approached an Australian harbour, killing one during a brief fire-fight. Regardless, Route 2 was opened to civilian traffic on 18 August. By the conclusion of the operation South Vietnamese authorities had apprehended 17 Viet Cong and detained a further 77 suspects, eliminating the Binh Ba guerrilla platoon, crippling the infrastructure of the insurgency and bringing the village under government influence, with a South Vietnamese commando company subsequently stationed there to maintain control. Achieved at little cost, it was believed a significant success. Warr considered cordon and search operations vital to the pacification of Phuoc Tuy, arguing they were the only way to neutralise the communist support network and were an essential first step in defeating the Viet Cong main forces even if their effectiveness relied on the questionable ability of the government to rapidly establish competent administration and security.



Australian soldier during operations in Phuoc Tuy.

After two months 1 ATF had moved beyond the initial requirements of establishing itself and securing its immediate approaches, commencing operations to open the province. The Australians had penetrated the Viet Cong base areas to the east and come off the better during a number of clashes with companies from D445 Battalion. Further operations had been conducted in the Nui Dinh hills to west, while road operations along routes 15 and 23 demonstrated their viability, Binh Ba had been cleared of Viet Cong influence and Route 2 opened to civilian traffic. Yet the ongoing need to secure Nui Dat reduced the combat power available to the task force commander, and it was

evident that with only two battalions—rather than the usual three—1 ATF lacked operational flexibility, as while one battalion carried out operations the other was required to secure the base and provide a ready reaction force. Significant logistic problems also plagued the task force as 1 ALSG struggled to become operational at Vung Tau, resulting in shortages of a range of vital equipment. By the middle of August the Australian troops were growing tired from constant day and night patrolling with no respite from base defence duties. A program of rest and recreation began, with many granted two days leave in Vung Tau, but this further stretched the limited forces available to 1 ATF. Meanwhile, in response to the growing threat posed by the Australians the commander of the Viet Cong 5th Division finally ordered the 275th Regiment to move against Nui Dat.

For several weeks Australian signals intelligence (SIGINT) had tracked a radio transmitter from the headquarters of the 275th Regiment moving south to a position just north of Long Tan using radio direction finding; however, aggressive patrolling failed to find the unit. Provided by a top secret unit known as 547 Signals Troop, the reports began on 29 July at the height of the false alarm, with the transmitter detected moving westward from a position north of Xuyen Moc. It continued at a rate of 1 kilometre (0.62 mi) a day and by 13 August had been tracked to a position near the Nui Dat 2 feature, a hill in the vicinity of Long Tan, 5,000 metres (5,500 yd) east of Nui Dat. Although direction finding only indicated the movement of the radio, and no transmissions had been intercepted, it suggested the presence of the 275th Regiment, or at least a reconnaissance party of that unit. While deception could not be ruled out, Jackson took the threat seriously and a number of company patrols were sent out. Yet the existence of a SIGINT capability was a closely guarded secret, and knowledge of the source of the reports had been limited to Jackson, his two intelligence officers, and the 1 ATF operations officer, while neither battalion commander had access to such intelligence. On 15 August D Company, 6 RAR patrolled to the Nui Dat 2 feature and returned through the Long Tan rubber plantation. The following day A Company, 6 RAR departed on a three-day patrol on a route which included Nui Dat 2 and the ridge to the north-west. Any sizeable Viet Cong force in the vicinity would have been located, but neither patrol found anything of significance. Meanwhile, SAS patrols focused on the Nui Dinh hills to the west.

More to follow next month...

. December in SVN...

17 December	1967	HMAS <i>Perth</i> under fire	HMAS <i>Perth</i> comes under fire off Dong Hoi, Vietnam.
31 December	1967	3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment arrives in South Vietnam	The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, sailed to Vietnam on HMAS Sydney.
22 December:	1966	The Australian Government announces further increases in the military contribution to defence of South Vietnam.	
16 December:	1969	With US forces gradually being withdrawn, the Australian Government advises that Australian forces will also be withdrawn.	
5 December:	1972	Conscription ends.	
18 December:	1972	The withdrawal of the AATTV and AAAGV marks the end of Australia's military commitment to South Vietnam. Some troops remain to guard the Australian Embassy.	

...and for something totally un-SVN...

29 December	1860	Action at Matarikoriko, New Zealand	Sailors from the Victorian Colonial warship, Victoria, take part in the action at Matarikoriko, New Zealand. The Victoria's service in New Zealand waters during the second Anglo-Maori war, represents the first overseas military operation by an Australian unit, the beginning of Australia's overseas war history.
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...who would have known that!!

. Ed thought the article sent to him by his brother **Jim** was worth sharing as it does relate greatly to the eventual escalation of Australian troops in South Vietnam via the then Prime Minister, Harold Holt, with the "All the way with LBJ" scenario. During the '60s and into the '70s the US seemed hell bent on "dabbling" in politics in South East Asia and Central and South America with disastrous results. The following is one obvious chapter...

OPINION

The Day That Turned the Vietnam War

By MARK MOYAR

Fifty years ago Friday was the most important day of the Vietnam War, when South Vietnamese generals staged a coup against President Ngo Dinh Diem at the behest of the United States. By wrecking the South Vietnamese government, the coup—and Diem's assassination soon after—set in motion the events that brought U.S. combat forces into Vietnam in 1965 and kept them there for seven years. Some of the mistakes and misdeeds that led to that day bear disturbing similarity to current events.

A lesson in the dangers of Washington putting politics ahead of national security.

On the morning of Nov. 1, hours before rebel forces moved on the presidential palace, the plotters arrested or killed the key loyalist commanders in the Saigon area. They blocked the routes by which other loyalist forces could enter the city. Diem still had armored forces that could have captured the rebel leaders after the fighting began, but he turned down a recommendation to authorize such a mission, hoping to minimize bloodshed among the nation's military. The rebels showed less restraint, bringing tanks to bear on the palace. Bullets flew outside the palace in the afternoon and into the night.

Once Diem and his brother Nhu determined that they could not ob-

tain sufficient loyalist reinforcements, they fled the palace through a secret tunnel. The next morning, they accepted a rebel offer of safe passage out of the country. The generals dispatched an armored personnel carrier ostensibly to take the brothers to the airport, but then had them executed en route. The coup leadership announced that Diem and Nhu had committed "accidental suicide."

U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam Henry Cabot Lodge had pushed the generals into the coup in defiance of orders from President John F. Kennedy, who failed to rein in Lodge because he decided to put partisan politics ahead of the national interest. A few months before the coup, Kennedy had appointed Lodge in order to entangle the leading contender for the 1964 Republican presidential nomination. When Lodge sought to foment the coup behind Kennedy's back, the president shied from firing him because a candidate Lodge could then have accused Kennedy of playing politics with the ambassadorship.

Presidential subordination of U.S. foreign policy to partisan politics has occurred all too frequently in recent years. As journalist such as Bob Woodward and former Obama administration officials such as Vali Nasr have detailed, partisan operatives within the current U.S. administration have dictated national security policy based on approval ratings rather than the national interest.

The complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, the abbrevi-



South Vietnamese President Diem, who was assassinated in 1963.

ation of the Afghan surge and the rapid downsizing of the U.S. presence in Afghanistan rank among the most baleful consequences of this politicization.

Ambassador Lodge and the journalists upon whom he relied for information—particularly David Halberstam and Neil Sheehan—believed that replacing Diem's autocracy with a more liberal regime would placate the government's critics and bolster the war effort. Their arguments resembled those of the neo-conservatives who advocated democratizing Iraq and the liberal internationalists who championed regime change in Egypt and Libya.

Lodge dismissed the advice of knowledgeable Americans, such as his predecessor Frederick Nolting, who emphasized Diem's strengths and warned that liberalization

Vietnamese Communist leaders hailed the coup as a "gift," telling the Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett that "the Americans have done something that we haven't been able to do for nine years and that was get rid of Diem." The government's ineffectiveness led to the fall of successive South Vietnamese governments, stimulating the North Vietnamese offensive that compelled the United States to intervene on the ground.

During its remaining years, the Obama administration might have to decide whether to promote the removal of autocratic leaders in places like Syria, Egypt and perhaps even Afghanistan. Unfortunately, today's policy makers may be led astray by most of what they have read on Vietnam. Gordon Goldstein's book "Lessons in Disaster," the favorite Vietnam book of this White House, recycles past caricatures of Diem as a hopelessly corrupt and ineffective autocrat, and it ignores the difficulties of governing an authoritarian society at war.

Such renderings of history sustain a narrative of Vietnam as inherently unwinnable. The guardians of that narrative defend it at all costs, for it undergirds the aversion to military intervention that has predominated among American liberals since Vietnam. In truth, the U.S. stood on the right side in Vietnam. But individual Americans behaved badly and led the U.S. and South Vietnam to disaster.

Mr. Mojar is the author of "Triumph Forsaken: The Vietnam War, 1954-1965."

. The late Fred Lennon...collection series...



This was recorded by Fred as –
“Open air dining Vietnam”! circa 1966.

Ed's curious to know what they did in the “dry” season and I suppose they dined by candlelight for dinner?

. **Kevin Browning** – Ed- Kevin is a great communicator (I'm not sure how he fits it all in with his schedule), but ask him a question, forward something on etc and his responses are just so damn interesting. The latest set, and I hope he won't mind me airing them, came about after **Kevin Salter** read October's *Eyes & Ears* when he sent this in - “Dicko - have just read the latest *E&E*, very, very good. Would you have Kev Browning's email address, I had it but it has now disappeared. His VALE articles on both Geoff MacCauley & Jock Gunn were well written. If you do not feel OK about sending it to me, would you mind emailing him to email me. Kevin Salter”

...I duly contacted KB and his responses flowed...

“Hi Paul,

Please feel free to pass my contact details on to any of the locaters that may want it. I feel confident I have few who want to make contact for the wrong reasons.

Kevin Salter was my WO2 instructor on my first survey course and we have been in touch on many occasions since. He actually undertook the Long Gunnery Course (Loc) in the UK just before me and his advice to me before I left was the best advice I had ever received. I had been married only a few months at the time and he said don't forget the family is with you. You will be judged on the course results so you need to work hard on that but on Friday put the brief case in the corner and pull it out Sunday night. The rest is history.

He was the first WO1 BSM of 131 and after he retired went to work for a mining company undertaking survey work. He would visit the Battery when we moved to Enoggera and borrow some of the survey gear. We put it down to field trials. When 131 became a joint Regular/ARes unit he joined the Battery again. He is another of life's gentlemen. Glad to be back in touch with him. I had actually meant to ask you for his contact details so another small world.

I haven't received *Eyes and Ears* yet. Regards, Kevin”

...then here's the next one...

“Paul,

John Chilton called me today about a paver at North head. He didn't know it was my number so we both had a great surprise when we worked out we knew each other. He mentioned *E&E* and I mentioned I hadn't received notice of it. He then suggested the bloody obvious have a look at the website. Damn amazing these computers. Have now read the latest edition, a great read as always. I noted an error in my story on Jock Gunn. It was 1973 not 1993 the stocktake incident.

Never think dinosaurs are extinct. One appears in my mirror on numerous occasions.

Regards, Kevin”

...it continues...

“Paul,

Found another photo with Jock in it but this one gives a clearer look at him. Pictured left to right is Jeff Schafer, Jock Gunn and myself. The FSB was just being established and could provide no escorts for us so Jock borrowed the M60 and off we set up the fire trail to see if we had any lines of sight we could use. You could imagine how lucky it was for the others they never stumbled across us, four surveyors with weapons would have made it an unfair fight.

Regards, Kevin”



...here's more...

"Paul,

Just sent you another photo of Jock. You may recall the email below, well Kevin Salter sent me an email that explains what I had previously thought may have been the problem. I will leave it to you whether you want to include this in E&E.

On his first tour he was in an FO Party that consisted of the FO, FO Ack (Jock) and Sigs were Gnrs Greg Bentley and Richard (Dickie) Cliff. They were the FO Party for D Coy 6 RAR. On Op Tambourine (1-8 Feb 1967), sadly on 6 Feb the FO called for a Fire Mission, a foul-up in the 161 NZ Bty CP (believed to be a plotter error) sent the wrong fire data to the guns. This resulted in the mission falling into D Coy HQ. Jock was unharmed but the other 3 were all wounded. Dickie Cliff died of his wounds shortly after the mission was stopped. D/6 RAR suffered 3 KIA & 14 WIA. The fact Jock was unhurt used to trouble him as Dickie was alongside Jock & took all the shrapnel from a shell burst. When we met up & had a few ales he would say why, why! I would try to console him but it never worked, he just could not get over it. His reasons for a second tour was he thought it might help but in hindsight it was the worst thing he could of done. To me he was a great friend.

Amongst those killed was WO2 Jack Kirby who had been awarded the DCM for his actions during the Battle of Long Tan.

Regards, Kevin"

...Ed – how could you NOT like KB? He's a gem and it almost makes you want to start an "Ask Kevin" segment! Thanks Kevin as always.

. Ernie Newbold after one of his "surfing safaris" sent in the following article from Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO), which is an interesting nostalgic read.



July/August 2009 \ [Next article](#) \ [Back to current issue index](#)

Remember when ... we had the AN/KPQ-1?

An AN/KPQ-1 Mortar Locating Radar set up within a sand-bag lined pit at Nui Dat, Vietnam. The MLR was introduced into service in the early 1960s and served in Vietnam for most of the time of the deployment.



By Mike Cecil

Head of Military Heraldry and Technology
Australian War Memorial

The current upgrade of the AN/TPQ-36 Weapon Locating Radar will provide the Australian Defence Force (ADF) with an efficient, state of the art system for tracking in-coming rounds. Such radar systems saw rapid development in the post-Second World War period, with the AN/KPQ-1 introduced into Australian Army service in the early 1960s. The United States (US) unified electronic nomenclature system gives this Mortar Locating Radar (MLR) its nomenclature: 'AN' is the system indicator for a complete operating unit, 'K' means an amphibious system, 'P' indicates a radar and 'Q' indicates that it is for a specific, special purpose. '1' simply indicates this is the first of its type. At first glance, the type letter 'K' for an amphibious system would seem incongruous for a land-based system, except that this MLR was originally developed for the US Marine Corps for use on amphibious landing ships.

In Australia, the MLR equipped the Divisional Locating Batteries. As the name suggests, the MLR was able to track the flight path of in-coming, high trajectory projectiles and the attached computing system was then able to extrapolate back to the point of origin. This information provided the gun battery command post with an immediate target for counter-battery fire. The radar was capable of detecting incoming rounds out to a range of 8,515 metres. While very capable when tracking individual mortar rounds, the computer tended to get a bit muddled when tracking multiple rounds from multiple sources, which reduced the system's effectiveness.

The AN/KPQ-1 MLR detachment consisted of 11 soldiers. The Detachment Commander, five radar operators, three signallers (two of whom also acted as drivers), a radar mechanic and a driver. All 11 crew were fully engaged when coming into and out of action, as there was a lot of individual sections that had to be unpacked and set up. Once the radar was deployed, four crew were required to operate it: three radar operators, and a signaller. One operator acted as the commander providing bearings, elevations and ranges, while the other two operated the Control Indicator and the Ballistic Computer respectively. These two positions were interchanged frequently to avoid eye strain. The complete equipment was carried in three modified ¾ ton Land Rovers and trailers. The first vehicle carried the crew's personal kit and towed a trailer carrying a generator. The second vehicle carried the various interconnecting cables on their reels and towed the special trailer with the tripod for the radar antenna. The third vehicle carried the antenna pedestal and towed a trailer carrying the antenna assembly.

The AN/KPQ-1 was successfully deployed to Vietnam during the 1960s and provided support for the task force at the Nui Dat base and various fire support bases throughout Phuoc Tuy Province. Upon returning to Australia, they were refurbished and upgraded by Hawker De-Havilland Ltd at Bankstown in Sydney, before soldiering on into the 1980s until replaced by the more modern - and capable - AN/TPQ-36 Weapon Locating Radar."

Ed - Any comments from the AN/KPQ-1 "aficionados" with regards to the content of the article?

. Dave Auld is giving us a heap of warning about the bi-annual Re-union in Coffs Harbour in 2016 – "Hi Joe/Paul. had our last meeting of the year yesterday 13th Oct next reunion which is the 50th anniversary of Det 131 going to SVN also the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan so we are putting the dates out early so people have time to save up for it. Ubique Dave Auld"

...then responded with dates...

"g`day, loose as a goose I was, reunion dates as follows

Fri 30/9/16-1,2,3/10/16 over the Labour day weekend. Dave, Ubique"

. Rob Retrot sent in the following great news and we congratulate he and Judith –

"Hi Paul

I'm very proud to announce that Judith and I were married on the 2nd of November. I think many people will remember Judith as my partner at the Canberra Plaque Presentation in 2012 and the Coff's Harbour reunion earlier this year. We are planning to attend many future reunions of 131 Veterans together and hope to catch with you and other friends again soon. I thought I would send a photo of us on the happy occasion to post in the Newsletter if you think it appropriate. Best wishes to all for the festive season which is not too far away now.

Rob Retrot

PS: Loved Mick Habben's profile recently and his story about the late Mick Campbell who stayed a few days at my house decades ago when he apparently needed a place to camp. He left earlier than he wanted to at the instigation of my "then" wife. The new Mrs. Retrot would never do that!"



. Bert Blink did a road trip which included some interesting sites and forwarded in the following. Maybe the next time you're close, even fairly close, it could be worth a side trip to have a squiz –

Trip to Phillip Island and Seymour – 23/10/2013 – 29/10/2013

24/10/2013 – National Vietnam Veterans (NVV) Museum – Phillip Island

[Vietnam Veterans National Museum Website](#)

Initially, our plans had not included visiting the NVV Museum on our trip through Victoria, but advice suggested this was a short detour from Drouin (one of our overnight stops) and was very worthwhile.

The museum started life as a travelling exhibition, on the back of a trailer, being towed around Australia until its permanent home on Phillip Island. There are a lot of displays, in particular the AATTV and SAS, a Centurion tank and an Apache attack helicopter. At the back is a garden of reflection and a replica Long Tan cross. The museum is impressive and if you go to the website you will see they have a number of plans to make the Museum even better. There is still a lot of work to be done and they are continuously working on material to exhibit..

What got my attention, however, was that Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery is not represented in any way whatsoever.

So I became interested in the various Unit Panels that surround the outer walls; for example this, 5 RAR display (see photo at right).

There are many others, for example, The Tunnel Rats. The Museum is well worth a visit.



28/10/2013 – Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk (VVCW) – High Street Seymour

[Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk](#)

In general when visiting the VVCW most people show their photos of names on one of the panels, so here is Gunner Blackwell;

Apart from taking lots of these photos, for various people in Canberra, I took particular note of the layout, its current maintenance, and some facts about the organisation of the panels.

Panels - The name panels are arranged as two back to back curved walls 53 panels facing High Street and gardens representing rice paddies and 53 panels facing the back street and a large number of young gum trees. The majority of panels have 8 Columns of 72 names. The panels are in alphabetical order by Service with panels 1 – 73 covering the Army (note this includes 11 Tracker dogs listed at the end of Panel 73), panels 74 – 97 covering the Navy and panels 98 – 106 the RAAF.

Mention was made at one of our meetings that there was no seating near these panels where people could sit and contemplate. Please note, in the original design of the commemorative walk, seating is shown, thus.

Also note, that at this stage, the name panels were to be stainless steel and two walls were contemplated well apart.

As it is today, the trees and plants have a lot of growing to do:

Moving to the left of the above photo is the Honour roll then another area of trees which contains a replica of the Long Tan cross, next to this is a centurion tank (I believe a Huey & a 105 mm Howitzer are also in the pipeline in this area) then a replica of Luscombe bowl in front of which is an area where people and units can place named pavers.

I had one concern in that some of the gum trees were dead and parts of the rice paddy squares were not doing well. I couldn't see signs of a watering system anywhere

Anyway I enjoyed the experience and I am

glad that I have seen it with my own eyes. Also, it was the first outing in Phillip Island and Seymour for the 131 Locator caps and hats.



28/10/2013 – Australian Army (AA) Artillery Museum – Bandiana (Wodonga)

I couldn't work out if this museum was in the locale or not so had to wait until I got home to find out where it currently is. Apparently, it is still to go to Puckapunyal but this is now not due until about 2021. It will be a combined Artillery/Armour Museum. UBIQUE (Everywhere)

Bert Blink 15/11/2013



. **Rieny Nieuwenhof** sent the following in to highlight some of the activity from the Geelong area in which he is deeply involved – “Hi Dicko, Thought I would share the following special events here in Geelong.

1.- pic below left - Alan Hughes, past President of the Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans Ass and State President of the VVAA for three years, was awarded Life Membership of the VVAA at a recent State Council meeting at Port Fairy (Vic.)

2. – pic below right - Ken Simons, President of the Lara RSL for over 20 years and a member of the Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans Ass. received Life Membership of the RSL at a special ceremony at the Lara RSL. The award was presented by the RSL State President David McLachlan AO.

Two fine achievements by two Geelong men who have devoted much of their lives to helping veterans.

Rieny Nieuwenhof"



. Grahame Dignam sent in the following after a recent visit by Ross Gunnell to Sydney –

"Dicko,

Having found out that Ross Gunnell travels to his daughters' home in Engadine for a summer holiday I made a note to arrange a meeting this November. I hadn't seen Ross since a trip to Perth in '09 (see pic at right) so I gave him a call at the end of October and arranged a lunch date on the 9th November at the local RSL.

I was able to cobble together another couple of vets, Allen Morley, Ern Newbold and another SHIRE local, Des McGuigan, to share a beer and an hour or three reminiscing. I just missed out on Vic Danko who, earlier that morning, left for China – you would have thought he might have delayed that trip for an old mate! (Allen had to bolt and missed the photo - see below right – Des was the snapper).



Ross is keeping well and puts in a decent days work – enough to put some younger guys to shame – says jobs would get done a lot quicker if Morning Tea, "Smoko" and Afternoon tea were given the boot!

To those who remember Rosco, he hasn't changed at all – still iron willed –tells a good story - wouldn't back down for anything- has a great vocabulary including *&*%\$# and a ready laugh. I'm proud to call him a mate.

GD"



. Bert Blink forwarded the following update. If you haven't been following it's worth connecting on the link/s and have a read, then make up your own mind –

Re: Update about 'Australian War Memorial: Commission a new account of the Vietnam war's Agent Orange controversy.' on Change.org

Date: Sun, 17 Nov 2013 09:04:09 +0000

From: Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia< mail@change.org>

Reply-To: "Change.org"< no-reply@change.org>

Subject: Update about 'Australian War Memorial: Commission a new account of the Vietnam war's Agent Orange controversy.' on Change.org

We are moving forward, though slowly. The petition was presented to the full Australian War Memorial Council on 12 November. The matter was considered further. There should be a decision early next Year.

But a rear-guard action is still being fought. Supporters of the flawed and insulting FB Smith account of the Agent Orange controversy are still trying to derail a full study from the time the issue was taken up by the Vietnam Veterans Association to the present. They want to pretend FB Smith's account was correct when it was written and only subsequently were further facts revealed that made his history obsolete.

But of course, that is simply not true.

FB Smith omitted the two findings of the Agent Orange Royal Commission that vindicated the veterans' campaign then accused the veterans of bad behaviour.

It is the behaviour of these apologists that, in our opinion, needs looking at.

We shall keep you informed.

Regards,

Tim McCombe , National President

This message was sent by Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia using the Change.org system. You received this email because you signed a petition started by Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia on Change.org: "Australian War Memorial: Commission a new account of the Vietnam war's Agent Orange controversy." Change.org does not endorse contents of this message.

[View the petition](#)

[Unsubscribe from updates about this petition](#)

. A long time in the shadows - Shadow 200 team celebrates a major operational flying milestone in Afghanistan – an extract from “*The Soldiers’ Newspaper Army*” – October 24 2013 – this item was submitted by the intrepid **Ernie Newbold** -

AUSTRALIAN personnel deployed with the third Shadow 200 Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) rotation in Afghanistan celebrated 10,000 operational hours on September 22. The Shadow 200 UAS has been launched more than 2300 times by 20 STA Regt personnel in Uruzgan province and achieved the historic operational milestone in just over 18 months. Gunners from 131 Bty RAA along with Navy maintainers and image analysts from the Air Force's 1 Topographical Survey Sqn deployed to Tarin Kot in April. Shadow has been used to conduct intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance missions to support Australian and coalition troops.

Battery Commander Maj Dave Klomp said 10,000 operational hours was not just an achievement for those who had operated Shadow in

Afghanistan but was celebrated as an achievement by the whole unit.

“The regiment has been deployed here since 2007, which represents a huge commitment by 20 STA,” he said. “For many of those who have

served with the regiment it has been a challenging six years maintaining the training and developing the UAS capability, and for many of us there have been multiple deployments.” The Shadow 200 UAS carries a suite of sensors, including high resolution cameras, communications and

laser systems, operating high above patrolling troops to provide detailed intelligence about ground activity.

Ground troops are able to view footage and data from the aircraft in real-time on ground terminals. WO2 Melvyn Wood said Shadow would soon complete its mission as the Afghan National Security Forces continued to plan and conduct independent operations across Uruzgan.

“As we are the last rotation to deploy, we will have the honour of bringing this equipment home,” he said. “For 20 STA Regt so much has changed and the employment of the UAS has matured. We expect a great deal from our personnel, they are most certainly delivering.”

Before their deployment, the ADF operators and maintainers attended five months of training conducted by the US Army's 2 Bn, 13 Avn Regt, at Fort Huachuca in Arizona.

Bdr Carly McAllister, of 20 STA Regt, has been with the regiment since 2008 and was the mission commander as Shadow's 10,000th hour ticked over. “Having previously deployed as an air vehicle operator with Scan Eagle in 2009, I felt very proud to be a part of this milestone

in UAS operations in Afghanistan,” she said.

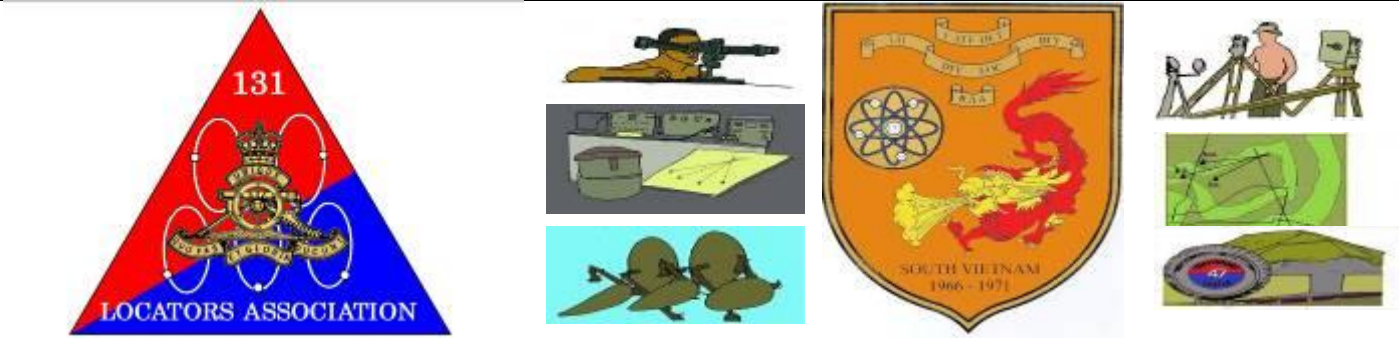
“It is an honour to work with this team of operators, imagery analysts and maintainers. It has been a new and exciting experience to work with Navy personnel. “I am looking forward to safely bringing this kit home to Australia by the end of the year.”



Maj Dave Klomp



Prepare for liftoff: A Shadow 200 UAS is primed to launch on the cusp of the Australian contingent's 10,000th hour of operational flying



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 – There were no new members this month, but as **Grahame Dignam** would no doubt add - “If you haven't done so, it's safe to send in the Membership papers now the AGM is over and there is no danger of being elected to ANYTHING!”. Plus it gives him some paperwork to fill out!

If you're racking your brain and finding it difficult to come up with a **Christmas present**, then check out the “**Notice Board**” section on the web site for the exhaustive range of gifts - including some NEW items!

...actually whilst on the subject of things caps etc **Grahame Dignam** received the following email from **Jenny Jaques** (daughter of **Fred Lennon**) which contains some very supportive comments...

“Hi Grahame,

I deposited the money (\$25) this morning at my local Westpac Branch.

Look forward to receiving the cap, and I will wear it with pride, it means a lot to me to be associated with your group. Since receiving the password (I had no trouble logging in, it was easy) I have been looking through old newsletters and I think I have read nearly all of them. Lots of good information to be absorbed by reading them, it's been great!! And I look forward to receiving the new one each month. I have also had Paul publish some of Dads photos, and it's a real thrill for me to see them. Also had a couple of your members email me, which has been wonderful. Thank you so much for everything, it's very much appreciated.

Kind Regards

Jenny”

...thanks Jenny from all of us.

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday 17/12/2013 at 1300hrs

Venue: The Tuggerah Lakes RSL : The club has reserved a room for the meeting and arranged for the Museum to be open from 11.00AM for our perusal (closes at 1.00PM). RSL Club 315 The Entrance Rd Long Jetty NSW 2261 (02) 4332 4992 <http://www.diggersattheentrance.com.au/>

Presidential perambulations

“A recent flurry of controversy relating to the Australian War memorial may have been missed by many of *Eyes and Ears* readers. The following provides some background and context.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier within the AWM was dedicated by then PM Paul Keating. His speechwriter, Don Watson, wrote the speech which included the words, ‘He is all of them. He is one of us.’

(<http://media.theage.com.au/news/federal-politics/keatings-1993-unknown-soldier-speech-4913644.html>).

CEW Bean (1879-1968) worked with a team of researchers on the Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–18. Bean played a critical role in the establishment of the AWM. He believed strongly that the eventual AWM should not be sectarian in any sense at all.

AWM Director Brendan Nelson sought earlier this year to replace the almost universal words used in monuments encompassing Unknown Soldier tombs, 'Known Unto God', with excerpts from Keating's speech, including the quote above. The AWM use of the term did not officially appear on the Australian Tomb of the Unknown Soldier until 1999. First World War battlefields headstones record these words in huge numbers.

Its proposed removal was, I believe, offensive to most former soldiers, whether they be non-believers, religious or somewhere in between.

Vic Danko wrote to Nelson personally to register his protest. He received a wishy-washy response. This included the sentences: "The Council of the Australian War Memorial reviewed this matter in mid-October and resolved to retain the phrase Known Unto God on the bevelled marble surround of the Tomb in its present form and place. The Council has also agreed to permanently recognise the Eulogy to the Unknown Australian Soldier by replacing the printed version, which has been displayed outside the entrance to the Hall of Memory since shortly after the internment in 1993, with a bronze cast."

Storm in a teacup? A proposed anti-religious action? Political correctness? It was probably none of these. More likely just a stupid idea by someone being insensitive to situation and all the soldiers the words spoke for.

Allen"

. 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.**

. Birthdays in the Battery...December –

So **Rod Beasley** gets to "officially" retire on the 19th!

Ironically we said this in November 2012's edition of *Eyes & Ears* –

"Fred Lennon cracks 85 this month – Happy Birthday Fred where ever you are!"

Here's what **Peter Meaney** looked like when he was 22 – he cast a formidable shadow some 44 years ago. Happy birthday Pete for the 22nd!



December	Name	Regt No	DOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	DAVID DOUGHERTY	2786594	1946	17 01 1968	04 02 1969	
1	KEVEN BUSH	3792069	1946	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	
1	NEVILLE SMITH	1734352	1946	01 07 1969	25 03 1970	
3	RAYMOND MINNS	4410744	1941	20 05 1966	28 02 1967	† 24.05.97
3	CLIVE DREIS	2785766	1945	05 02 1968	03 12 1968	
6	ALAN ROBB	5715343	1946	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
7	ANTHONY O'MARA	38334	1940	15 03 1968	18 03 1969	RAEME † 01.01.85
7	TERRY WESTERWAY	215818	1945	04 05 1966	07 05 1967	
8	ROBERT WHITE	311537	1937	22 04 1966	16 05 1967	† 1992
9	ANDREW OPIE 2Lt.	43611	1944	04 05 1966	06 01 1967	
10	HANS WEBER	3789591	1945	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
12	MICHAEL DAVIS	4720736	1948	20 01 1970	30 01 1971	
12	CHRISTOPHER BRAZIER	2792185	1948	24 02 1970	25 02 1971	
13	JOHN STANFORD	217765	1949	29 01 1969	21 01 1970	
13	LAURENCE DARCY	215649	1945	04 03 1968	04 02 1969	12 Fd Regt.
13	" "	215649	1945	20 05 1971	05 08 1971	131

14	PETER FLETCHER	2783429	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
14	CHRISTOPHER SELF	66981	1949	1969	1970	† UNKNOWN
14	TOM KING	1411018	1937	12 12 1966	12 12 1967	
15	GEOFFREY PRICE	5715931	1947	08 05 1969	25 02 1970	
16	PHILLIP PERRIN Capt.	53105	1936	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
17	TONY. GOLDSMITH	1732029	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
18	JIM HOGNO	2783680	1945	03 01 1967	27 09 1967	
18	TOM CHECKLEY	311534	1938	22 04 1966	05 08 1966	† 05.08.66 KBA
19	GEOFF BLACKWELL	4718307	1945	20 06 1967	21 05 1968	
19	PETER GAULT	2783644	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
19	RODNEY BEASLEY	3797746	1948	04 03 1971	05 08 1971	
19	MICHAEL FERRIS	1733794	1945	23 12 1968	28 03 1969	1st Armoured Regt.
	" "			30 03 1969	03 12 1969	131-RAEME
21	BOB RETROT	1731922	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
21	MICHAEL BOYLE Lt.	217004	1946	17 02 1970	11 02 1971	
21	BLAIR SHEPPARD	1735563	1948	01 04 1970	04 03 1971	
22	JOHN MCGREGOR	3787376	1945	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
22	MICHAEL BURGESS	242895	1938	24 03 1968	26 03 1969	RAEME
22	PETER MEANEY	4719804	1947	03 06 1969	25 03 1970	
22	RONALD RYAN	2793176	1948	19 08 1970	09 06 1971	
24	RON. EVANS	3789614	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
25	STEWART McALPINE	2787471	1946	08 07 1968	04 06 1969	
25	ROBERT HOLDSWORTH	3793058	1945	04 01 1969	03 12 1969	AACC
25	PETER BREMNER	1734544	1947	16 04 1969	16 04 1970	
26	CHRIS BOULLY	4717884	1945	17 04 1967	12 12 1967	
26	DAVID BILLINGS	2793071	1946	19 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
28	GEOF. MACAULAY WO2	35753	1936	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	† 27.04.13
28	LIONEL OUTEN	1732195	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
28	JOHN MARTIN Lt.	43613	1941	25 02 1968	21 02 1969	
29	BRIAN HAWKEY	1200572	1946	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	AACC
29	FRED LENNON Sgt.	29712	1927	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 25.07.13

Ed – 17 blokes not highlighted is 3 better than this time last year – a 15% improvement! Let's go for another 20% this year.

. Locator Profiles – we've received **PP** and we've sent out **TT**. **Ed** – we can always do with a few more though!

Locator Profile # 120 – Negus, David - OK, here are some clarifying responses to the question of names for the blokes in the group photo...

Bert Jacka comments - "I do remember David, he drove me to Melbourne in a 1967 VC Valiant, (Regal) I think, white with a black vinyl roof (around 69-71), David had no concept of speed limits or red lights if my memory serves me correctly. He drove me home to Dandenong (I think we shared fuel costs) Everything else is blank, I do remember the Mo, he was famous for it!

I have enjoyed this, Seeya Bert"

Peter Meaney responding to **Dave Negus's** query in his Locator Profile re: a couple of names not remembered, came up with the following - Hi Paul, Re locator profile David Negus, the guy on far right looks to me like **Maxwell McPherson**, not sure about the other un-named soldier! Face is familiar, but name escapes moi.
Regards, Peter Meaney"

Max McPherson responds with – "Hi Paul, great to see David Negus's profile - the guy in the centre was a RAEME Techo who worked on our radar the guy at right hand end is none other than me.

Max McPherson."

Now let's sort of complete the photo...

Radar troop in Nui Dat 1970 –

from left to right – Les Connell, me, **RAEME Techo**, Dave Reilly, Chris Chapple and **Max McPherson**



. Located...

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.



131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the establishment of the web site we continue 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 – The next **Committee Meeting** will be held on **9 March 2014** at Paddington RSL. Members are cordially invited to attend.

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



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



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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