

THE EYES and EARS

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Ahh, what a New Year's View – inspirational!!

Ernie Newbold supplied the photo above of 31B at the Horseshoe with the 31A crew, L to R Jeff Reid, shaving, Ross Gunnell, on the roof, Tony Goldsmith, on duty, Vic Danko, thinking, (and me) went out with the 31B group to a FSB in late '67.

Ed – A thought - when we rotated because of R&R's, Operations etc we ALL might have done some interesting temporary posts?

Hope you had a great Christmas and let's see how good 2014 will be to ALL of us

. AN/KPQ-1 RADAR South Vietnam

Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery South Vietnam 1966 - 1970

This document records a brief history of the mortar locating radars used by Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery in South Vietnam...



Keith R Ayliffe BEM
Ex 131 Div Loc Bty

PART 1

General information

This document aims to record the history of the mortar locating radar set AN/KPQ-1 during deployment with 1st Australian Task Force in South Vietnam from April 1966 until June 1970. Although concentrating on the AN/KPQ-1 and the radar operating personnel, the role and input of the other components that completed the Australian mortar locating system cannot be overlooked, and must be mentioned in part to obtain an overall appreciation of the tasks undertaken.

The three components of the mortar locating system were:

- A. The AN/KPQ-1 radar,
- B. The Task Force Artillery Intelligence Office, and
- C. The Listening Posts.

1. Introduction.

In 1966 131 Divisional Locating Battery prepared a Detachment of troops to join 1 Australian Task Force in their deployment to South Vietnam. The Detachment would be officially known as Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery South Vietnam. This was abbreviated to Det 131 Div Loc Bty SVN (for this document Det 131 will be used as identification.)

The Detachment comprised;

- a. Task force Artillery Intelligence Office (TFAIO),
- b. A Radar Section (comprising two (2) AN/KPQ-1 mortar locating radars),
- c. An Artillery Survey section, and
- d. A Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers attachment, officially titled, Detachment 131 Divisional Battery Workshops South Vietnam (abbreviated to Det 131 Div Loc Bty WKSPS SVN). (For this doc 131 WKSPS will be used.)

2. Warning Order.

In 1966 131 Divisional Locating Battery (131 Div Loc Bty) RAA was located at the Kokoda Lines, Holsworthy Army Base near Liverpool, NSW.

The 131 Div Loc Bty routine orders part 1 dated 9 March 1966 warned for overseas service 70 RAA and 5 RAEME members of the unit.

TFAIO Arty Int Operators and LP. (19)

17072	Capt	Townley J.H	214801	Gnr	Ewart M.
212598	Sgt	Finlay W.J	214806	Gnr	Pearce R.W
36029	Sgt	Perry F.J	2781310	Gnr	Campbell B.D.W
17760	Bdr	Doyle	1730813	Gnr	Hastings N.S
42038	Bdr	Thomson A.J	311534	Gnr	Checkley T.W
1410744	LBdr	Minns R.A	215527	Gnr	Dean R.K
214973	LBdr	Hayes T.J	2781311	Gnr	Carroll G.J
215322	LBdr	Price B.D	311357	Gnr	White R.B
2781662	Gnr	Martin D.C	61644	Gnr	Gow R.D
1411072	Gnr	Bury D.			

Det 131 WKSPS (5)

242577	Sgt	Field E.A	243085	Sgt	Forster W.F
243144	Cpl	Luscombe G.W	18646	Cfn	McIlroy T.I
15858	Cfn	Mitchell G.T			

Radar Section (20)

43611	Lt	Opie A.L.D.	5411499	Gnr	Parn H.
211769	Sgt	Simmons D.V.	2781377	Gnr	McDonnell M.E.
29712	Sgt	Lennon F.M.	2781443	Gnr	Buss P.
18257	Bdr	Campbell A.J.	2781420	Gnr	Thornton K.A.
214873	LBdr	Clausen R.C.	2782043	Gnr	Chase E.G.
215416	LBdr	Crowther W.D.	2781429	Gnr	Nairn M.D.
16950	LBdr	Buckley M.R.E.	3787154	Gnr	Mason R.F.
38120	LBdr	Lempa H.	2781630	Gnr	Lane G.
215230	Gnr	Frost L.D.	5713642	Gnr	Gallop L.J.
216324	Gnr	Jones P.W.	3787395	Gnr	Sawyer L.R.

Survey Section (28)

BHQ (3)

3. The mortar locating System

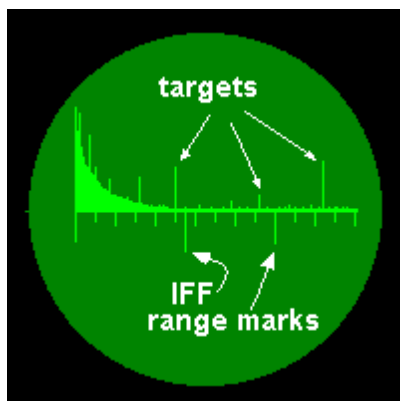
The mortar locating system employed by the Australian forces in South Vietnam (SVN) to locate, identify and produce data on enemy mortars, comprised three components. The listening posts (LP's) which were the physical 'eyes and ears', who initiated the sequence of events by a mortaring report (mortrep), which contained magnetic bearings to the sound or flash of an enemy mortar when heard or seen firing. The Task Force Artillery Intelligence Office (TFAIO) plotted on large scale maps the incoming data supplied by LP's and other data received from all arms reports. Information sent by other arms often arrived late as there was in many cases no direct link to the TFAIO, however, the data was important to build the overall picture of enemy artillery activity. The raw data was then merged to produce a suspected area for the radar to search. The AN/KPQ-1 mortar locating radar electronically searched the suspected area and in the event of an active enemy mortar, map co-ordinates of the firing position were obtained. This information was sent in form of a Location Report (locrep) normally by radio, to TFAIO at Task force Artillery Headquarters (Arty Tac) enabling artillery units/ infantry mortar units to launch Counter Battery (CB) actions as required. Air Strike by allied planes was an alternative method that could be employed in the CB role and this occurred on a few occasions. The elapsed time from the initial report of mortars to CB fire being initiated would normally have been around five (5) minutes.

Contrary to popular belief of the time, the radar did not conduct a continuous search for mortars, being manually directed over a suspected enemy mortar firing position, the electronic signature of hostile projectiles (or our own if required) was identified by an operator, on an oscilloscope type screen called an —A scopell, manually intercepted on

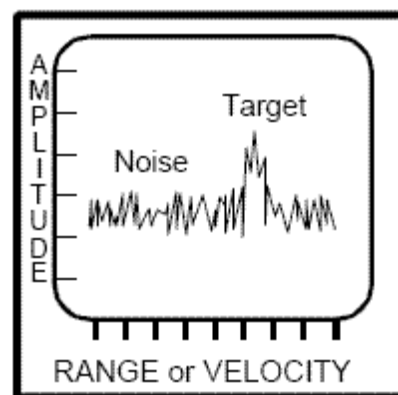
the screen by the operator and automatically tracked (followed electronically). The computer required approximately 8 seconds of track time to accumulate trajectory data on the weapon fired, the computer operator then manually extrapolated on the computer back along the trajectory of the tracked projectile to its origin (or firing position). The locations of the firing weapons were then presented to the operator in digital form of map data Easting's, Northing's and Height by the computer.



The A-scope on the AN/KPQ-1



The A-scope with targets as the operator would see them.



A-SCOPE

Noise or Clutter on A-Scope. This would occur during rain or poor sighting of radar.

When the Australian forces were deployed to (SVN) in 1966, the AN/KPQ-1 mortar locating radar had been in service with the Australian Army for less than 18 months therefore, knowledge of it's use and deployment requirements were unknown to the majority of the Army and little known to the artillery units with whom it would operate. Unfortunately this lack of knowledge resulted in the junior officers and some senior officers expecting the radar to perform in a manner for which it was not designed. At a few Australian Fire Support Bases (FSB) acceptance of the equipment was not forthcoming. An example of the non-acceptance or lack of knowledge is clear, when in early 1968 the radar No.1 was approached late at night at a fire support and patrol base (FSPB) by an infantry major and —orderedll to shut the generator off as his men could not sleep and it was giving the location of the FSPB away. It did not seem to occur to him that the 105mm guns at that precise moment were firing Harassment and Interdiction missions (H&I's). From discussions with radar operators it is clear the radar was far better received in American fire support bases (FSB's), where a good deal of co-operation was obtained, however, they had been introduced to mortar locating radars many years before.

A point that should be made clear is that TFAIO had two (2) meanings:

1. It referred to the office which was attached to the Artillery Tactical Headquarters (Arty Tac) and where the Artillery Intelligence Operators (Arty Int Ops) plied their trade. Ie: Task Force Artillery Intelligence Office.
2. It also was the title given to the Officer Commanding Det 131being the highest ranked Artillery Intelligence Officer in the Task Force. Ie; Task Force Artillery Intelligence Officer.

4. Radar Identification.

All individual components of the AN/KPQ-1 radar systems carried an identification plate. These plates carried manufactures identification codes and were stamped with an Australian identification number (ID) being; A (Australia) and a numeral i.e. 1 (A1)

Originally all components of an individual radar system carried the same identification plate numbers. Although over the years many individual radar units became intermingled within the systems, the A/numeric code stamped on the pedestal identification plate was the main identification for each system.

The log book always travelled with the pedestal unit. The reason was that the pedestal contained a memory drum on which active hours were recorded. For example the A6 Radar may have an A2 transmitter receiver (TX/RX) unit and an A5 computer unit but providing the pedestal is stamped A6 then it is classified as A6 Radar. (Or Alpha 6) At North Fort National Artillery Museum (NSW), in the Locating Artillery section, stands a skeleton AN/KPQ-1.

The identification plate on the computer unit identifies it as A12 computer. Stamped roughly after the word serial.

This Computer would have originally been part of the A12 system which saw service in SVN.

The pedestal of this system is stamped A4 therefore the system is classified as A4 Radar.



There were 6 Systems (radars) that operated in SVN. The radars when in SVN were referred to by the Det 131, as Alpha, Bravo and Charlie radars, however, from May 1967 Det 131 WKSPS referred to the radars by the serial numbers. To try and eliminate confusion, this document will refer to the radars as Alpha, Bravo or Charlie followed by their serial number if known e.g.: Alpha (A6).

Next month we'll get to South Vietnam...stay in touch.

. 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...



Viet Cong soldiers from D445 Battalion.

By 16 August the communist force had been prepositioned east of the rubber plantation at Long Tan, just outside the range of the artillery at Nui Dat. The operation was thought to have been planned by Colonel Nguyen Thanh Hong, a staff officer from the Viet Cong 5th Division who was likely in overall control. Although their intentions have been debated in the years following the battle the aim was likely both a political and military victory, resolving to prove their strength to the local population and undermine Australian public support for the war. The Viet Cong would probably have known one of 1 ATF's battalions was involved in the search of Binh Ba and may have considered Nui Dat weakly defended as a result. Undetected, the force likely consisted of three battalions of the 275th Regiment with approximately 1,400 men, reinforced by at least one regular North Vietnamese Army battalion and D445 Battalion with up to 350 men. Well armed, they were equipped with AK 47 and SKS assault rifles, RPG-2 rocket propelled grenades, light machine-guns, mortars and RCLs. Large quantities of ammunition were also carried, with each man issued two or three grenades, and grenadiers as many as 10 or 12, as well as a reserve of small arms ammunition, mortar bombs and additional rounds for the crew-served weapons. Meanwhile, the 274th Regiment was probably located 15 to 20 kilometres (9.3 to 12 mi) north-west, occupying a position on Route 2 to ambush elements of the US 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment which they anticipated would move down the inter-provincial highway from Blackhorse near Xuan Loc to support the Australians.

Battle - Opening moves, 16/17 August 1966



Battle of Long Tan, 18 August 1966...

At 02:43 on the night of 16/17 August Nui Dat was heavily bombarded by the Viet Cong, and was hit by over 100 rounds from several 82 mm mortars, 75 mm RCLs and an old Japanese 70 mm howitzer fired from a position 2,000 metres (2,200 yd) to the east. Most of the infantry were deployed at the time, with 5 RAR still engaged on Operation Holsworthy, although a small stay behind party remained. A Company, 6 RAR was still on patrol in the north-east of the TAOR, while a platoon from C Company was manning a night ambush to the south-east.[102] Continuing for 22 minutes, it damaged a number of vehicles and tents and wounded 24 men, one of whom later died. The impact was spread over the south and south-east, with the 103rd Field Battery heaviest hit. Despite coming under fire, the guns from the 1st Field Regiment, RAA were quickly brought into action, commencing a counter-battery mission at 02:50. Yet with the artillery locating radar suspected of being faulty this had to be done using compass bearings on sound and flash. After

plotting the likely firing point, a regimental fire mission of 10 rounds was fired from each gun totalling 240 rounds, and the mortaring ceased. With the attack over the Australians remained alert in case of a ground assault; however, no follow up occurred. Regardless, the artillery continued to shell suspected firing positions and withdrawal routes until

04:10. Although the Viet Cong were expected to have withdrawn, a number of company patrols would be dispatched the following morning to search the area east of **Nui Dat in response.**

Townsend ordered B Company under Major Noel Ford to prepare for a patrol to locate the firing points which were believed to be within an area between the abandoned villages of Long Tan and Long Phuoc, and the Nui Dat 2 feature. Having done so, the patrol was to establish the direction of the Viet Cong withdrawal. Meanwhile, C Company was to provide a platoon mounted in APCs to investigate a suspected base plate location south-west of Nui Dat. A Company would also continue its patrol in the vicinity of Nui Dat 2, while 7 Platoon, C Company—already conducting a night ambush on the southern edge of the TAOR—would search a number of sites as it returned that morning. No SAS patrols were deployed as a result of the overnight attack, although several had previously been planned to the north between Binh Ba and the Courtenay plantation in preparation for upcoming operations, and the program remained unchanged. Another patrol was scheduled near the Song Rai, 16 kilometres (9.9 mi) north-east of Nui Dat, and it also went ahead. Soon after insertion on the morning of 17 August it noted signs of significant activity, locating several trails moving west made approximately six hours earlier, possibly by a Viet Cong logistic unit. Yet the patrol was compromised and due to radio interference and faulty equipment the information was unable to be reported until its extraction two days later. Regardless, Australian intelligence continued to assess a ground attack against Nui Dat as unlikely. But with the bombardment a likely indicator of further offensive action against 1 ATF, Jackson felt he would be unable to adequately respond with only one battalion. 5 RAR was subsequently ordered to return to Nui Dat and was expected back by 18 August.

Although SIGINT had earlier alerted Jackson to the possible presence of a strong Viet Cong force in the vicinity of the Nui Dat 2 feature, patrols of the area had revealed nothing and as a consequence B Company did not expect to meet significant opposition. Stepping off early on 17 August they believed they would not be staying out long and were only lightly equipped in patrol order, lacking sleeping gear and rations. With just 80 men—including many due to commence leave in Vung Tau the following day—they were significantly under-strength. Crossing the swollen Suoi Da Bang creek, they soon located the firing point of the mortars as well as signs of their withdrawal as they pushed further east. Meanwhile, A Company, 6 RAR under Captain Charles Mollison, continued its patrol north of the Nui Dat 2 feature, and was involved in three minor clashes with small groups of Viet Cong, killing one and wounding two. B Company was subsequently tasked to remain in the area to search to the north and east the following day and was met by porters that afternoon to supply them with rations. 9 Platoon, C Company returned to Nui Dat with nothing to report, leaving A and B Companies to harbour in their night locations. Speculation about the size of the communist units in the area increased. Captain Brian Wickens, the 6 RAR Intelligence Officer, assessed that the Viet Cong's use of medium mortars, RCLs and artillery likely indicated the presence of a significant force. Due to growing uncertainty about Viet Cong intentions Jackson agreed that the patrol scheduled for 18 August should be increased from a platoon to company size. D Company, 6 RAR under the command of Major Harry Smith had previously been detailed for a three-day patrol south-east of Nui Dat and was instead ordered to relieve B Company the next day to continue the search for the mortar crews. Despite this neither Townsend or Smith were warned of the possible presence of the 275th Regiment.

Patrolling east of Nui Dat, 18 August 1966

After unexpectedly spending the night in the bush, the following morning B Company released the men scheduled to go on leave to return to Nui Dat. At 07:05 the depleted company, by then reduced to a single platoon and Company Headquarters, continued the search east as far as the edge of the rubber plantation, while A Company searched down the Suoi Da Bang towards their position. A number of weapon pits were subsequently located, as were the firing positions of the mortars and RCLs, while discarded clothing and bloodstains found nearby confirmed the accuracy of the Australian and New Zealand artillery. At Nui Dat D Company, 6 RAR began preparations for its patrol, test firing weapons and packing equipment. Despite the earlier bombardment only the standard ammunition load would be carried. Lightly armed, the Australian riflemen carried just 60 rounds for their L1A1 Self-Loading Rifles and M16 rifles, and 200 rounds for each M60 machine-gun. Smith was briefed by Wickens who highlighted the likely presence of a Viet Cong force equipped with mortars, assessing that it would be incapable of mounting an ambush due to the effect of the earlier counter-battery fire. While the size of the force was unknown it was not considered to be small and the possibility it was part of a larger force preparing to move against Nui Dat could not be discounted. The Viet Cong were believed to be able to attack a company-sized force and to launch mortar attacks similar to that the previous morning. Smith then discussed the patrol with Townsend. If B Company had located the withdrawal route used by the mortar crews, he was to follow it with the aim of interdiction; otherwise he was to continue the search until the track was located. Assuming D445 Battalion to be the only Viet Cong unit in the area from the information available, Smith believed they were looking for that unit's heavy weapons platoon of approximately 30 to 40 men. He briefed his platoon commanders accordingly, although he also felt the Viet Cong would have long since left the area. Meanwhile, 5 RAR (minus one company) returned to Nui Dat.

D Company, 6 RAR departed Nui Dat at 11:00 on 18 August. Led by Smith and accompanied by a three-man New Zealand forward observer (FO) party under Captain Morrie Stanley, the 108-man company set-off quickly. Already behind schedule and with B Company having been out for longer than expected, Smith wanted to relieve Ford before more time elapsed and then follow the Viet Cong tracks to continue the pursuit that afternoon. Opting for speed, he adopted single file, with 12 Platoon under Second Lieutenant David Sabben in the lead. Despite the heat the company moved at a fast pace, traversing the low scrub, swamp and paddy fields as they closed in on B Company's position. Meanwhile, the rock and roll acts Little Pattie and Col Joye and the Joy Boys had flown into Nui Dat and were setting up for the afternoon's concert. Many of the Australians were disappointed at the prospect of missing the entertainment, and as they patrolled east they could occasionally hear the music through the trees. At 13:00 that

afternoon D Company married up with B Company on the edge of the Long Tan rubber plantation, approximately 2,500 metres (2,700 yd) from Nui Dat. D Company moved into a position of all round defence and sentries were posted. While the soldiers had lunch, Smith and Ford took a small protection party and inspected the area. The position appeared to have been used by the Viet Cong as a staging area prior to the bombardment two nights before, while signs of casualties having been loaded into carts and evacuated were also located. Blood stains were also uncovered, as was a quantity of equipment and sandals. The mortar and RCL firing locations were also examined. After briefing Smith, Ford and the remainder of B Company returned to Nui Dat. D Company subsequently took over the pursuit. Smith had noted signs of a fresh track leading north-east; deciding to follow it, he called his platoon commanders in for orders.

Setting off into the rubber plantation at 15:00, D Company paralleled a well-defined track which followed a slightly uphill course, with one platoon forward and two back. 11 Platoon—under Second Lieutenant Gordon Sharp—was in the lead, followed by Company Headquarters, with 10 Platoon on the left under Second Lieutenant Geoff Kendall, and 12 Platoon on the right. Each platoon moved in open formation, with two sections forward in arrowhead and one back on a frontage of approximately 160 metres (170 yd). Moving deeper into the plantation, the older trees and patchy undergrowth gave way to clean straight rows of trees which afforded long views in one direction, but limited visibility in other directions. After 200 metres (220 yd) the track divided into two, both of which roughly ran east-south-east in parallel, 300 metres (330 yd) apart. At the track junction D Company found evidence of the Viet Cong mortars having been prepared for firing, while further equipment was found scattered which again indicated a rapid withdrawal and the accuracy of the counter-battery fire. Unable to cover both tracks, Smith radioed Townsend. After discussing the situation it was decided D Company would take the more easterly track, towards the limit of the range of their covering artillery. Considering the terrain, Smith adopted a "two up, one back" formation, with 10 Platoon on the left and 11 Platoon on the higher ground on the right. Company Headquarters would be central with 12 Platoon following to the rear. Well dispersed with about 10 metres (11 yd) between each soldier, the company had a total frontage of 400 metres (440 yd) and was about the same in depth. Amid the rubber observation was between 150 to 200 metres (160 to 220 yd), allowing visual contact between Smith and his platoons. This spacing was standard for the Australians in such terrain, yet was larger than that usually adopted by ARVN and US units.

Initial contact

D Company set off again. Shortly afterwards 11 Platoon's lead section crossed a dirt road running south-west to north-east. Straight, well-established and sunken with a clearing on either side, it was 20 to 30 metres (22 to 33 yd) wide and required the Australians to complete an obstacle-crossing drill as they traversed it. At 15:40, just as the forward sections entered the tree line on the other side but before platoon headquarters could follow, a group of six to eight Viet Cong approached their right flank along the track from the south. Unaware of their presence, the Viet Cong squad continued into the middle of the now divided platoon. One was soon wounded in a brief action after the platoon sergeant, Sergeant Bob Buick, engaged them, while the remainder scattered. They withdrew rapidly south-east, and although the Australians believed it to be just another fleeting contact, artillery was called-in onto their likely withdrawal route 500 metres (550 yd) south. After pausing to reorganise, 11 Platoon moved into extended line, sweeping the area on a broad front in pursuit. The Australians recovered an AK 47 and the body of a Viet Cong soldier killed in the contact. Sharp reported to Smith that the Viet Cong had been dressed in khaki uniforms and pith helmets and were carrying automatic weapons, yet soldiers from D445 Battalion typically wore black and were equipped with bolt action rifles or carbines of US origin. At the time only main force units were equipped in such a manner, but the significance of this was not immediately apparent to the Australians as they attempted to follow up. With the area clear following the initial contact, Smith ordered D Company to continue their advance. Meanwhile, Second Lieutenant David Harris had been at Headquarters 1 ATF at Nui Dat when the first reports came in. As Jackson's aide he was aware of the intelligence being received and was convinced D Company had clashed with a main force regiment. Harris alerted Jackson, before telephoning Major Bob Hagerty—officer commanding 1st APC Squadron—to warn him of the possible requirement for his standby troop.

More to follow next month...

. January in SVN...

January	1969	Vietnam	Australian military commitment to Vietnam reaches a peak of 8,300 service personnel.
9 January	1966	1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in Operation Crimp	The operation became the scene of a major action against a Viet Cong tunnel complex.
24 January	1967	First contact at Bien Hoa, South Vietnam	Fighting at Bien Hoa involved a series of contacts between units of the 1st Australian Task Force and communist forces in the area of the Bien Hoa - Long Binh complex near Saigon. Australian and American units sought to dominate the area and prevent enemy rocket attacks on nearby military bases and installations.

27 January	1973	Conclusion of hostilities in Vietnam by United States forces	The United States government announced a policy of 'Vietnamisation' whereby the burden of fighting the war against the communists would be borne entirely by the South Vietnamese.
30 January	1968	<u>Tet Offensive</u> begins in Vietnam	While the Tet Offensive, named for Tet, the Vietnamese lunar new year holiday period over which the attacks occurred, was a military defeat for the Communist forces it proved to be a propaganda victory accelerating the American public's growing opposition to the war and causing United States military planners to question whether victory was possible.

. The late Fred Lennon collection series continues...



1966 Nui Dat - Shower facilities - 105 Field Battery. Command post in the background.

A very “modest” arrangement. Makes you wonder who pulled the blokes back up the slope in the cart?

. Bert Blink - Alphabetic list of Det 131 Personnel SVN 1966 - 1971

This was, I guess, and continues to be an extremely near and dear to the heart, time consuming project taken on by Bert Blink as is evidenced by the following email from him.

Bert raises the bar to identify some 476 personnel who served in the bounds of Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA in South Vietnam as opposed to the well held belief that there were some 463.

Bert took on what is an amazing exercise to clarify the exact numbers – please read on...

“Hi Paul,

Some time in around 2007 Keith Ayliffe sent me copies of his Nominal Roll as contained in "Tracks of the Dragon" and an alphabetic list of Detachment 131 personnel who served in SVN.

Then some time in 2006/7 I obtained a list of Det 131 DLB personnel from Keith Ayliffe together with an Excel Spreadsheet which was a copy of the Nominal Roll pp 317-326 from Keith Ayliffe & John Posener's book "Tracks of the Dragon" 2004.

Using the two main sources of the names of people who served in SVN

(1) Vietnam Nominal Roll (VNR) <http://www.vietnamroll.gov.au/home.aspx> , and

(2) Vietnam Remembered 1990 (reprinted 1991,1993 & 1996) & Vietnam Remembered Updated Edition 2009 (reprinted 2009).

I managed to obtain what I thought was an up to date list of people who served with Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery and Workshop.

At the end of 2009 and after some negotiations with Keith Ayliffe I sent a list of 32 queries to the people who maintain the Vietnam Nominal Roll at DVA. In late 2013 I sent another 5 queries. Apart from 2 queries (to do with periods of service) all queries have been checked via service records and the VNR updated accordingly. Hence the Number of people who served with the Detachment being finalised as 476.

Note the Vietnam Nominal Roll shows Detachment 131 personnel by Corp as follows:-

Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery *	420
Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers *	41
Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps	6
Australian Army Catering Corps	7
Not on Nominal Roll	3
* Person double counted (Luscombe G.W.)	-1
Total	476

As far as can be determined the Detachment was disbanded as follows:-

July 1970 Radar Section disbanded. Sensor Section commenced.
Oct 1970 Sound Ranging base disbanded.
June 1971 Survey Section transferred to 12 th Field Regiment.
July 1971 Detachment Disbanded.
5 Aug 1971 Last OC of the Det RTA

Bert”

. **Ian Finlay** has found some gems and in finding them has some questions as to who some of the blokes – can anyone help out?

G`day Dicko,

In one of your *Eyes & Ears* News Letters you mentioned Jim Menz’s family looking for old photos of Jim I think? Anyhow going through some old photos I found 3 taken back in 1966 which may be of interest.

Photo (1) at right - taken in 130 Gun Loc Bty Hut L/R - cannot remember, Ian Finlay, Jim Menz, cannot remember.



Photo (2) at right - taken at School of Artillery North Head Sydney 1966, some that I can identify are - Gnr Ian Finlay, Gnr Mick King, Gnr Ron Webb, Gnr Sony Galloway, Gnr Mitch Millar, Gnr Jim Menz & Gnr Denis Dye.



Photo (3) at right - Jim Menz centre in our hut 130 Gun Loc
BTY Lines 1966. (Gnr Ron Webb, Gnr Peter Bennett,
Gnr JimMenz, (?), Gnr ? Thompson,



If anyone can add names to the photo it would be
appreciated faces are familiar but forgotten names
Best Regards, Ian Finlay (Fin)"
Ed – we’ve demanded more...please!

. **Kevin Browning** – dropped us the following dealing with something dear to his heart –

World War I Project

"Hi Paul,

In 1981 when I was BSM of the Battery, strength about 160, we received a signal from the artillery headquarters asking if any of our soldiers would be interested in purchasing a commemorative bottle of port. This would happen every couple of years with mixed responses but it was common for a unit such as a Field Regiment to purchase about 30 bottles. The Field regiment had about 250 soldiers. Anyway in 1981 the message was passed to the TSMs to ask their troop members who would be interested. The result surprised me but was sent off to the artillery headquarters who soon asked for the numbers to be confirmed. Our fine group of Locators had asked for a total 125 bottles but in confirming the number it had to be increased to 126, obviously one soldier had been missed. No we did not have a drinking problem within the unit, there was always plenty to drink. What it did show was the support the locators gave to the RAA.

Based on this I wonder whether I might ask for the support of the members of the 131 Association with a project presently being undertaken by the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC). Many of your members would not know that I have been involved with RAAHC for many years, since 1985 actually. Our original task was to collect, restore and display the heritage and history of the RAA and its Colonial forebears. We did a pretty good job, especially with the collecting side and have gathered together a significant collection of items relating to the RAA. Our members would be pleased to know we have within the collection fine cross-section of the tools of trade of the locators including the AN/KPQ-1 mortar locating radar, survey equipment including the delightful curta calculating machine, meteorological equipment, No 5 sound ranging equipment and artillery intelligence items. We also have a very wide spread range of those noisy and smelly guns that would disturb our sleep and movie viewing.

One gun in particular is the reason for my writing. The RAAHC has an 18 pounder field gun, the standard field gun of World War I, and our intention is to restore it to the highest quality and display it as a mounted living tribute to the many soldiers of the 1st AIF. Stage 1 is the restoration of the gun and an ammunition limber and acquisition of the harness. Stage 2 will be the acquisition of horses, their training and display at events as widespread as possible. Funding will be the key to the complete project but at present we need to complete Phase 1 and I hope our members will assist with a donation towards the work. All donations above \$2 are tax deductible. Information on the project can be found on the RAAHC Website at www.artilleryhistory.org

Some background information might be worthwhile. During World War I the AIF had 60 batteries of 18 pounder guns and 20 batteries of 4.5 inch howitzers plus two batteries of siege artillery 9.2 and 8 inch guns/howitzers (do any of our members remember the large gun inside the entrance to the Barracks at Holsworthy – it was a 9.2 in howitzer). Generally speaking each 18 pounder gun consisted of the gun, and three ammunition limbers. In 1915 the artillery Brigade (Regiment) consisted of three field batteries each equipped with 4 guns. It had a strength of some 800 men and 800 horses. In Australia today there are some 400 German War trophy guns and mortars from World War I but less than ten 18 pounder guns. So the rarity of the gun we are restoring is clear but none of the other guns will be displayed outside a Museum.

Volunteers have come forward to devote their time to the work and the gun is being restored by a chap who in 1988 made the Australia Coach which was presented to the Queen as a bicentenary gift from the Nation. He is being supported by another who I believe is the Australian expert on 18 pounder guns. Between them the gun and limber are being brought back to original condition. We have had assistance from Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom to obtain information on missing parts, particularly the leather cases and instruments. To add to the significance of the project the gun restorer has travelled to the battlefield of France and Belgium to collect 18 pounder ammunition from each of the significant battles involving the Australians. It is intended to place these in the ammunition limber so that when displayed the visitor can instantly see the scope of the Australian involvement.

However, to succeed with the full project we do need donations so please consider assisting and every donation, large or small will go a long way into us achieving the successful completion of the project.

Regards Kevin”

Photos show the gun before restoration commenced, as work progresses and also one of the limber being restored.



. **Ron Mason** – enlightens us with a couple of bits of really interesting news...

“Paul,

I don't know if **Reiny Nieuwenhof** has sent you this bit of info about the story writing & arts competition held in Vic for ex service personal (not sure if it includes current service personal).

Now to the point -

Cat 4A Photography / War Armed Services. First Prize went to Mr **John Dellaca** for a photo called "Early Morning Convoy at Nui Dat 1968" showing a convoy of APCs with troops waiting in line ready to move.

Haven't seen the photo myself but that was the description in the Victorian Vietnam Veterans Assoc news letter. A small snippet of news that may be of interest to the "68" lot.

Re E&E Vol 6 # 11. **Fred Lennon's** photo of a radar. That's not just a radar but "Bravo radar" taken before the Yanks moved in & spoiled the view. At that time the mountains in the background had little brown spots on them after the B52's gave them a bit of a shake one night!

Good work Paul, Ron Mason”

. **Ian Finlay**...the following we have branded - **“Aladdin’s Cave”** – “Fin” has opened a really fascinating archive and he needs help with names – each of the photos tells its own story -

“Dicko,

Some old photos that I have found - I need to stuff around with them a bit more if I can with names etc taken at Holsworthy 1966/67 at 131 Lines and Tianjarra. Some familiar faces that a lot will recognize in these photos. Select photo that is requested and I will add as many names as I can.

Regards, Fin”



OK who are all these “young” Locators in the photos above?

...and we know these two (below) – where were you off to and whose beetle??



Re: The most shot up aircraft of the Vietnam war.

“G'day Guys,

Now this item came out of the blue and I thought that you'd be interested.

I'm sure that you remember the aircraft, a C123, Fairchild Provider that used to fly low over Nui Dat and the Horseshoe spraying insecticide to reduce the mosquito problem.

Yesterday I came across a U.S. website for the 315th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron based at Phan Rang in SVN.

Apparently that particular plane is claimed to be the most shot up plane from the war with over 1,000 hits by May 1969, nicknamed “Patches”. It now resides proudly at the USAF museum in Dayton Ohio.

I could identify the plane from its tail number 4362 from a photograph taken early one morning from the top of Nui Dat (see right) .

Use the link to go to the website of 315 CAMS.

http://geocities-pentagon.com/rick_markel/rickmarkel1.html.

Regards, Ernie.”



...a response from Bob Billiards...

"Here is a better one from 31D where the number is very visible."

Ed – the photo on the right is Bob's, and on the larger photo (before being reduced for this publication) you can very clearly see the numbers.



...then here's Ernie once more...

"Thanks Bob, your photo shows the tail number much more clearly.

Use the following link to see what it looks like now. <http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=310>
Regards, Ernie."

...then Bill Taggart got the final word in...

"Thanks everyone for the photos. I rode in C-123's a few times in Vietnam. It was the first, and only, plane I flew in where I marveled at how half the wheel was still up inside the fuselage. It made it look like the belly was going to scrape the ground. If you all don't mind, I will add the material that Ernie and Bob sent to the 1/83rd site. Bill"

Ed (again) – All of these sightings, photographing and frequent mile accumulations by flying around makes you wonder what we were supposed to be doing up there??

Wait till next month when we get an update on "Patches" from Bill Taggart at our 1st/83rd connection...

. Ernie Newbold sent this in knowing it would put a smile on everyone's face -

Fake war veteran fined for 'offensive' Brisbane Anzac Day march in homemade uniform

By Elise Worthington

Updated Thu 12 Dec 2013, 7:46pm AEDT

Photo: [War veteran fraud: George Carr in October last year](#) (AAP: Dave Hunt)

Map: Brisbane 4000

A man has been convicted and fined \$750 for posing as a Vietnam veteran with his twin brother during last year's Brisbane Anzac Day parade.

Brisbane Magistrate John McGrath today found George Edward Carr guilty of falsely representing to be a returned soldier and improperly using medals.

Mr McGrath noted that Carr, 69, had dishonoured servicemen and women who did not make it home from war.

He said Carr had also caused offence to defence personnel and their families.

The court was told Carr's records showed he never served abroad and was not part of any top secret military missions for which he would have been awarded medals.

Photographic and video evidence tendered to the court showed Carr and his twin brother John Anthony Hines marching in last year's Anzac Day parade in Brisbane wearing homemade uniforms.

Hines was convicted on similar charges earlier this year and was told to seek psychiatric treatment.

Carr remains in custody on unrelated charges.



.Visit to an old 131 Digger from Allen Morley -

"On a warm October morning three Nashos trooped to Wahroonga in Sydney's northern suburbs. The purpose was to visit Don Simmons who resides in a nursing home there. Don was first radar sergeant at Bravo radar in Nui Dat. He also was acting BSM before the arrival of Chalky Royal. Don resided in Nui Dat from April 1966 to end-December of the same year. Thus he was one of the 131 Detachment Pioneers.

Having fallen on health hard times, Don is wheelchair bound. He told us however, that he is on the way back to walking, with the assistance of a frame.

The photo shows Don with two other Pioneers, Ged Carroll (left) and George Lane (centre)."



. David Dougherty... "Hi, thought I would pass on what was to me, an interesting experience. I am a volunteer with NSW Fire & Rescue and was waiting for some new members to turn up for a practical induction. The theory session went for longer than intended and during my wait I started talking to a chap walking his dog. It came out that he had been in the army, so had I. Next he advised he had been in the artillery, so had I. My next question, "Who were you with?" Now you know where it is going, 131 was the reply.

The only part that didn't match was that he was 69/70 me being principally 68. And of course the name that you want is **Jim Ritchie**, resident at Mittagong. He stayed in the army for about 30 years in various postings.

Regards, David"

Grahame Dignam replied to David...

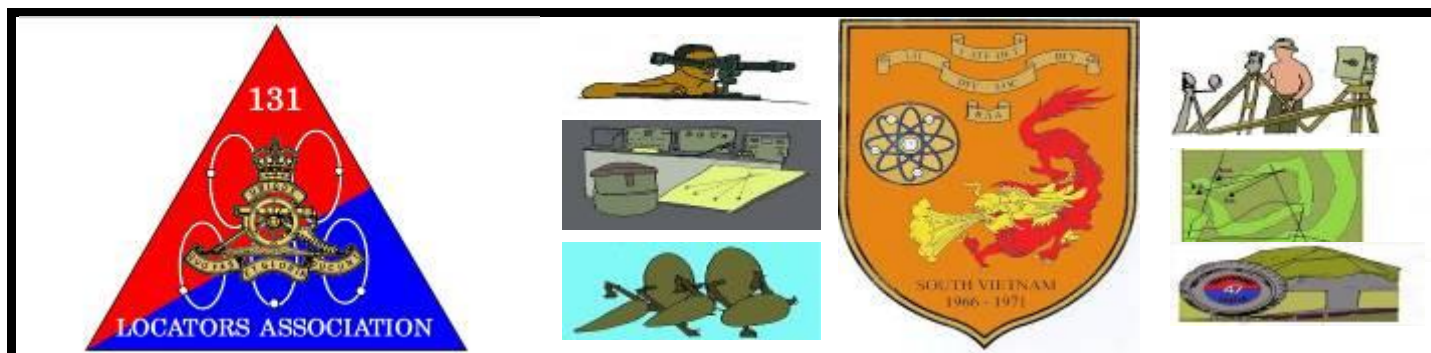
"David,

Jim "Zeke" Ritchie is in contact - we have an email address for him and he should be getting access to the *Eyes & Ears* via the website.

Were you wearing the 131 cap at the time? Are you going to meet for a coffee or to buy a lottery ticket?

And it's good to know you will talk to ANYONE!

Regards, Grahame Dignam"



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 **Russell Hewitt** to the Association fold. Russell did a tour in 1970.

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Thursday 20/02/2014 at 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights for directions -

<http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/> You're all welcome. **Vic Danko** will be pleased to celebrate his belated birthday with you – so turn up and make his day!

Just a quick note from **Grahame Dignam** with regards to the Tuggerah meeting earlier this month -

"We managed to attract a couple of central coasters in **Dave Crowther** and **Russell Hewitt** along and we shared some stories and a few laughs and a beer or two.

After we had a good look around the Museum, we managed to cram in a meeting and a meal before heading back to familiar pastures.

Merry Xmas fellows and see you all in the New Year."

. Peter Suckling – "My apologies for non attendance at the meeting, the tyranny of distance precludes it. Please pass on to all those in 131 post Vietnam that I served with, the very best for Xmas and to all a prosperous 2014.

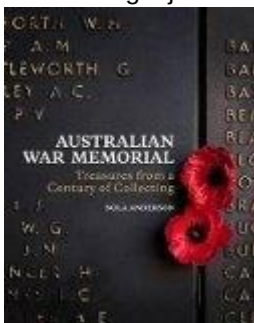
Regards. Peter Suckling"



Presidential perambulations...

It is Christmas Eve as I write this. No sign of Santa in the northern sky as yet. Fortunately it is currently a little cooler than it has been over the past week.

The shoppers are out in force and there is definitely an extra dose of idiot drivers. The threat of double demerit points for traffic rule transgressions does not seem to deter them. The Christmas build up and associated circus appears now to begin just after Easter and continue until early January.



I gave myself a Christmas present that should occupy me for some time. Those readers who attended our plaque ceremony in 2012 at the Australian War Memorial may remember Nola Anderson, who was then acting Director of the AWM, spoke at our plaque ceremony. She has written a book on the AWM collection which has an rrp of \$90. I found it on www.bookdepository.com for \$60 including postage (<http://www.bookdepository.com/Australian-War-Memorial-Nola-Anderson/9781742660127>). I can recommend it for an insight into a fantastic war-relate collection.

Ed gets Eyes & Ears out at the end of each month so it is now a little late to extend Christmas greetings to all our readers. But, not too late to extend New Year wishes, so that is what I am doing. May 2014 be an excellent vintage for all of us and DVA not blight our paths too much.

Allen Morley

. 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...January –

Now let's pick the youngster out for the Month – there are 3 of them – **Arthur Dove, Allan Robotham and Edward Cooper** - Happy 62nd - and we're NOT in contact with any of them, anyway Happy 63rd's to ALL of you, where ever you are?



Here's what **David Negus** looked like back in 1970 when he was 23! The moustache and hair are still part of the persona, but a different colour now! Happy Birthday David!

January	Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	VICTOR DANKO	2783210	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
1	JOE LIBRIZZI	5716081	1947	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	
1	CHRIS CHAPPLE	5716208	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
1	RICHARD CHAPLIN	2791166	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
2	JOHN BROWNE	218367	1949	27 08 1969	13 08 1970	
3	GARY NAVAS	2793162	1949	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
4	PETER PETTIFORD	3792038	1947	08 11 1968	04 06 1969	
5	GRAEME SMITH	6708707	1946	12 04 1968	20 08 1968	
6	ARTHUR DOVE	217348	1950	13 01 1969	28 11 1969	
6	ALLAN ROBOTHAM	6709864	1950	25 05 1971	18 11 1971	
9	PETER SADLER	15138	1941	20 05 1966	28 04 1967	† 2008
9	ROBERT NESS	4717755	1945	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
9	GERARD PIRES	5717069	1949	03 03 1971	12 08 1971	
11	PAUL TRAVERS Maj.	47027	1940	{09 09 1965	19 09 1965	VISIT
	" "			{25 02 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME
11	PETER PIORO	2790931	1948	27 11 1969	04 05 1970	
12	PETER HOPPER Sgt	3787938	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
12	DAVID REILLY	3794901	1948	24 03 1970	13 08 1970	
12	BRIAN JOHNSON	4720991	1949	29 05 1970	05 05 1971	AACC
	" "			14 05 1970	27 05 1970	1st Armoured Regt.
12	LASZLO FALKAI	4721836	1949	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.

13	ROGER HOLMES	3795910	1948	22 07 1970	25 02 1971	
15	GEORGE STAZIKER Lt Col	2108436	1838	14 04 71	01 05 71	† 29.12.12
15	PHIL. ENDICOTT	2783419	1945	06 01 1967	27 09 1967	
16	EDWARD COOPER	44231	1950	26 08 1969	21 01 1970	
16	LESLIE SAURINE	2791863	1947	24 03 1970	17 12 1970	
18	PETER SZABO	38752	1947	26 03 1969	25 03 1970	
19	BARRY HEARD	3788324	1945	02 04 1967	25 10 1967	Honorary 131
19	PETER FIELDEN	3797872	1949	25 11 1970	12 08 1971	
21	PETER SUCKING SGT	55141	1943	05.02.1971	15.11.1971	
21	DON McNICOL	216327	1945	{12 09 1967	17 09 1968	131
	" "			{09 04 1970	02 05 1970	VISIT
22	KEVIN BROWNING Sgt	217743	1948	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	131
	" "			05 04 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.
22	MICHAEL BARLOW	2792252	1949	19 08 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
23	DONALD CHALMERS	3793171	1945	01 07 1969	03 12 1969	
24	TERENCE ERBS	3791713	1947	28 10 1968	04 06 1969	
24	DAVID NEGUS	3794728	1947	24 02 1970	13 08 1970	
25	WALLY FRANKLIN	1411285	1949	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
26	RAY HUTCHINSON	37669	1940	17 04 1967	02 04 1968	
26	GEOFFREY TODD	54254	1943	18 12 1967	10 12 1968	
27	ALAN ADAMS	3788792	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
29	PETER MACKIE	2184557	1949	20 08 1970	08 02 1971	
30	ALAN McDONALD	511355	1947	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
31	COLIN GORDON	16975	1945	15 03 1968	26 03 1969	† 28.03.10

Ed – 15 blokes not highlighted is still 15 too many! There has been a query as to what actually do the coloured background highlights mean in the above chart – crikey you think you'd know by now! Well here we go – **red** is for Association Members, **yellow** is for Affiliate Members, **blue** is for Associates (Honorary), white is for blokes we still need to contact and **black background** signifies Locators, who we are aware of, are no longer with us.

. Locator Profiles – we've received **122** and we've sent out **122**. **Ed** – the cupboard is bare!

. Found...Us!

. Paul Hobson sent the following email to Grahame Dignam – “Hi Grahame, I was in the April 1972 National Service intake and posted to 131 Div Loc Bty Holsworthy, but didn't serve in Vietnam, and discharged 31/01/1973 on the termination of conscription. I was just wondering if I was entitled to become a member of the 131 Locators Assn, not having served in Vietnam, I have never felt as though I was worthy of being associated with the real soldiers of the time.

Kind Regards, Paul Hobson”

And **Grahame** responded -

“G'day Paul,

It sounds like you may have had a peek at the website- well done - 1st test passed!

You may also qualify as the youngest Nasho on our books if you join.!

We have organised this Association to be all inclusive – Regs, Nashos, left overs and blowins - all are welcome provided you served some time in 131 D L B. We are particularly keen on the younger ex serviceman as you fellows have a different story to tell - South Vietnam will never be boring but there have been other conflicts where different technologies were utilised.

If you have a look at the "ABOUT" tab on the website http://www.131locators.org.au/about/131_locators.html there are a couple of references about our origins and the charter we hope to carry out.

Long story short- you are most welcome and you can bring along other 131 friends if you wish.

Now, while I have your attention I am going to attach some Membership forms (the links on the website only generate an email where I have to respond and send them out later - the links are not interactive -we can't afford that!)

Paul, if you have any questions, please call on 02 9822 9218.

Regards for now and look forward to hearing from you soon. Grahame Dignam”

. 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.

Allan Bath sent in the following email after a “chance” meeting – “G'day Paul,
 Had a chance meeting with a fellow in the shop the other day - Kevin Thornton who said he was in 131 and had served OS. He was formally dressed and wearing medals so I don't think there is any doubt about his integrity. Said he had lost all contact with everyone so I have included his email address and you may be able to make contact with him.
 All the best to you and your family for a merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.
 I don't know a lot of the names that arise as I was transferred out of 131 when I left Aus, but keep the emails coming. They certainly are good reading.
 Regards Allan Bath”



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.

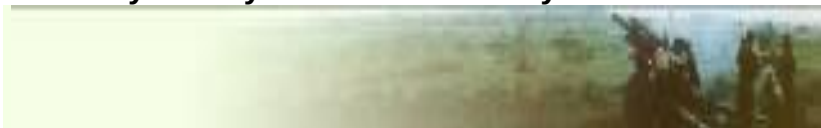
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join.

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 – Committee meetings are held regularly with most held at Paddington RSL commencing at 11.15am.

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



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



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



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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

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

. Bill Taggart - "Hi Paul,

I have just started reading the November E&E (only to page 3 so far) and felt compelled to write a quick note. When I saw the episode that **Geoff Jebb** mentioned regarding the rude greeting his team received at Dong Ha from the base "2i/c" (second in command, I presume) it really bothered me. Confusing Aussies with Brits is ignorant and his comments were rude and uncalled for. He obviously would never have said such things had he had the distinct privilege of knowing and serving with you guys!!!

Please pass along to Geoff that such comments would not have ever been made by anyone of the 1/83rd at Nui Dat or anywhere else where Aussies and GI's served together. Please allow me to apologize for the American knucklehead he ran into. Unfortunately, we have our share.

Now, back to the rest of November's news.

Bill"

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

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