

THE EYES and EARS

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1987 → The start of an era for reflection...



At North Head - 1987

Back Row - Grahame Dignam, Nick Proskurin, Lionel Outen

2nd Top - Jim Hognog - ? - ?? - Peter Bennet - ?

3rd Top - Leigh Hemming, Peter Fletcher, Ernie Newbold, Ron Evans, Bob Billiards

Front Row - Bob King, Vic Danko, Ross Gunnell, Ron "Chalky" Royal, John Blake, Frank Ipsa, Stan Briggs, Barry Guzder, Bert Blink, Warwick Hamilton, Trevor Waghorn

Ed – That banner – what happened to it??

1987 began another era in the ongoing history of the Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA and for the Battery itself, which is a testament to a group of blokes who after the 1987 "Welcome Home Parade" in Sydney saw the need and felt that they should do something about continuing our brotherhood into the future. This era saw the birth of the Det 131 Div Loc Bty Association. Mention of this was made in Vol 3 No 23 of *Eyes & Ears* September 2010 edition as part of a great article sent in by **Peter Summers** covering the "Our Banner Story". It's all pretty amazing as these blokes worked in the days of "snail mail".



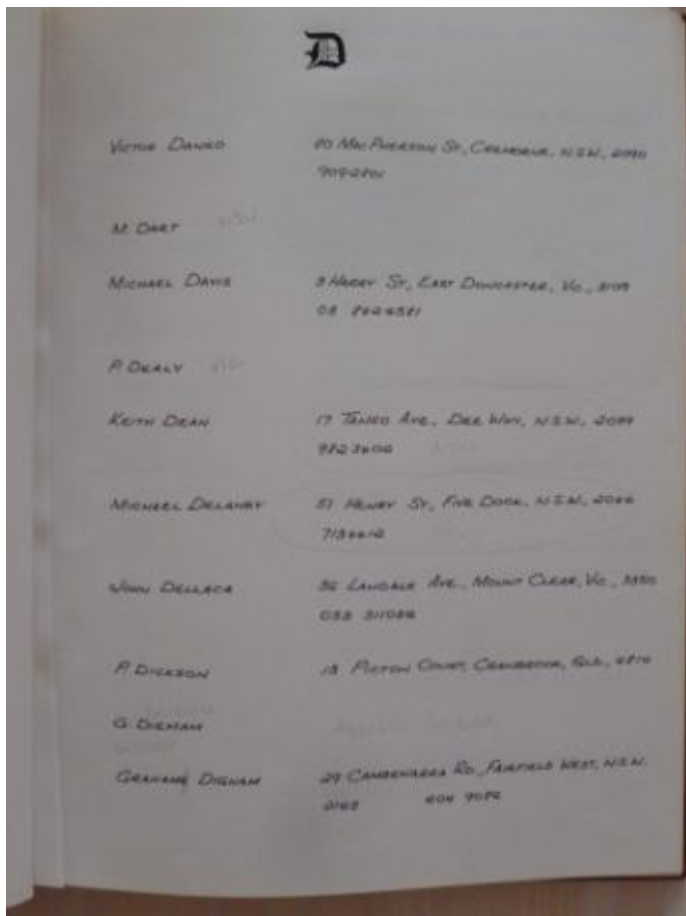
Ed – I had to include this photo as it contains someone who played a “special” role in the Plaque laying ceremony in Canberra in May, 2012. The little girl holding his dad’s hand in 1987 is Joanne Billiards (Bob’s youngest daughter) , who was in Canberra last May taking photos profusely of us lot! Then on the right is Tim Billiards who as a member of the RAAF band and he played in Canberra – a real Billiards affair! Some 25+ years later!



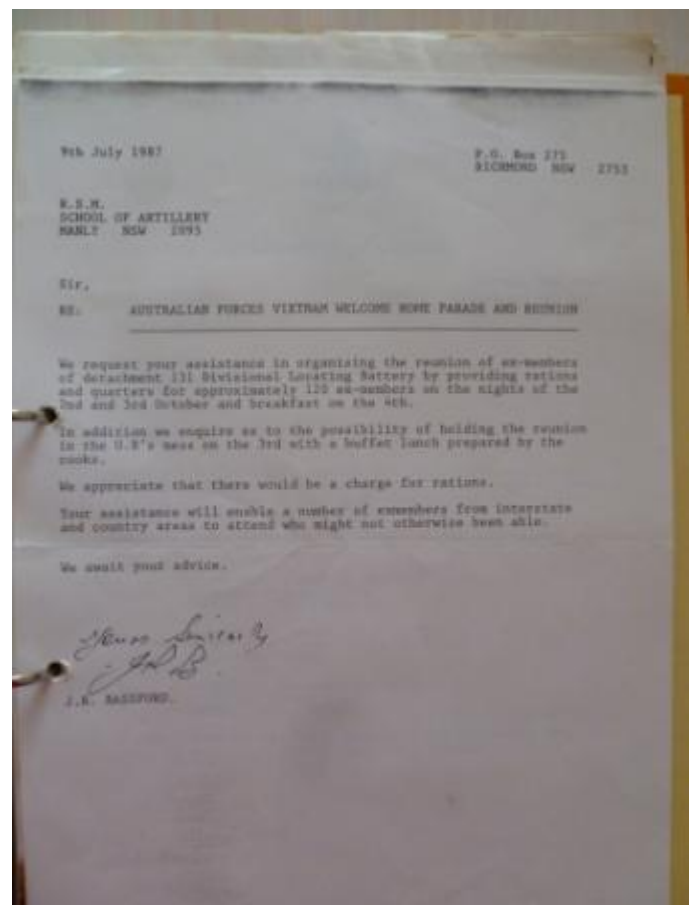
Oh, ok, the other “uncles for the day” (above) are – Ross Gunnell, Bert Blink, Barry Guzder, Grahame Dignam, Ron Evans and Nick Proskurin.

Anyway, by coincidence the current Association is continuing to put together a “Locate a Locator” programme under the stewardship of **Vic Danko** and out of the blue **Ron “Mook” Evans** sent in some fascinating correspondence from that 1987 Group which he had obviously hoarded away and it set in motion more emails to discover what lay out there under beds, out in the sheds and wherever. **Grahame Dignam’s** revelation of his secret cache came to life – all too much to publish here, so we’re going to infiltrate the web site. However, here is a smidgeon of the stuff that first came in...

How about the following amazing copies covering the lead-up work for the Welcome Home Parade...



On the left is obviously the register containing the names of the members alphabetically – hand printed!



On the right is a letter from **Jeff Bassford** to the **RSM of the School of Artillery** enquiring about assistance for “rations and quarters for 120 ex-members...and breakfast”



And then this came out of the dark caverns...not fancy, but to the point! No confusion there, except maybe country of origin. There were blokes at all stages doing something.

1989 – The following is an extract taken from correspondence from Peter Summers regarding a much larger topic (run in *Eyes & Ears* last year) re: activities leading up to the Welcome Home Parade (1987) and afterwards...

“The Det 131 Div Loc Association

Everyone was caught up in the idea of keeping in touch so we formed the first version of the Det 131 Div Loc Bty Association. The association was duly formed with the same committee that had organised the reunion and everyone there was now a paid up member. We arranged branches in QLD and VIC with SA and WA having a contact person as well. The idea was that each Anzac Day we would all meet and march together. Decisions that the committee organised before handing over were the Battery banner and the James Menz portrait detailed later. After a period of time the original committee was finding it hard to continue with the commitment. Jeff’s job had suddenly increased fourfold; the company I was with went bankrupt; Kev Browning was on pre-discharge leave from the Army and job hunting; Ged Carroll had a work accident and lost a leg, and Merv Nairn was in the same boat with family and work commitments. The Qld branch was by then well organised and took over the running of the show. They did a great job in keeping in touch with everyone and arranged a reunion/Anzac Day march at the Battery some years after. Again we were put up by the Army in tents and had the Dawn Service and a gunfire breakfast at the Battery. After the March we adjourned back to the Battery and looked over all the new gear they had, plus some from our vintage.

At around this time my family decided on a change of scenery and moved to Canberra. We had a good group for the 93 opening of the Vietnam Memorial from the Detachment. At one stage we had 16 blokes sleeping on the floor of my family room and some of their families scattered throughout the rest of the house. It was a great weekend and memorable, with our teenage boys laughing with their mates as they saw all these old teenagers going into the peep shows and sex shops. Their merriment dried up when they spotted their Dads among the crowd.

After this I lost touch with the Association as I was going through a rough patch. As I have been told, but it is only hearsay and not to be taken as fact, the then committee QLD???? Other???? Decided to open up the membership and make it a Locaters Association. This included Reserve Batteries, pre and post Vietnam. This, as I believe, is the current position.”



Merv Nairn 1966, Peter Summers 1970, Kevin Browning 1970 and Jeff Bassford 1970.

The following **letter (not email!)** was sent out by **Kevin Browning** welcoming blokes to the newly formed 131 Div Loc Bty Association and it’s dated 11 April, 1989...



3 Ohio Place
KEARNS NSW 2558

// April 1989

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 131 Div Loc Bty Association and we hope that from here that we will grow to a stronger organisation and that our aim of keeping ourselves in touch with each other is maintained in an enjoyable fashion.

At the time of writing we have 78 members, which is an encouraging response to our initial call. The names of all members is attached and we hope that you will look closely at this list and note the names of your friends that have not joined and that you talk to them about joining. In all we sent out 217 letters to addresses that we had from the Welcome Home Parade weekend. The following letters were returned to sender with the note 'left address':

M Quinlan, Y Troynar, A Dove, P Mulgrew, Q Knight and A Thompson.

If you know the were-about of these people please either let us know their address, or let them know about the Association. We also suspect that a number of the letters would have been lost in the mail and that a number of people have been going to reply but haven't as yet got around to it. It is now up to us all to encourage our friends to join.

Enclosed you will also find the List of Addresses. The list was printed for us in late March and incorporates all changes of address as advised by our members. We have received a number of registration forms since the list was printed and it is now necessary to make the following amendments to the list supplied:

Asmanis insert first name Ollie.

Navas Gary change address to read 73 Lae Road HOLSWORTHY NSW 2173

Ravelje Peter change address to read 8 Fleet Street BIRKDALE QLD 4159

If you are aware of any other errors please let us know so that we can advise members in the newsletters.

We have not enclosed the Association Badge as promised. Unfortunately there have been production problems which we hope have now been overcome but we have been informed that production will still take several weeks. The design is the same as the stamp appearing at the top of this letter and also on your receipt. We feel sure that you will be pleased with the final product and we regret the delay especially as we would have liked to have had them available for Anzac Day.

With Anzac Day now nearly upon us we ask all of you to make the effort to participate in the March in either your local town or, if you can get there, at your Capital City and take the opportunity to talk to other Detachment members (encourage them to join if they haven't already done so). In Sydney we will be marching under our own distinctive Banner in the post World War 2 Artillery section. In Brisbane we believe you will be marching under the 131 Div Loc Bty Banner (as it appears in the Reunion Photo). Look in the local papers for details of forming up points. After march watering holes will be advised at the forming up point. In the first newsletter we will give details of the banner we use in Sydney as we hope to be able to have similar ones made for other States. Last Anzac Day we used this Banner and felt great pride in marching behind what is a very notable banner especially when the number of Detachment members

outnumbered all other Artillery participants.

Enclosed for those members that have requested it, you will find the photo taken at the Reunion at North Head. We hope that you are pleased with the photo and we would like to thank our member Bob King for his assistance in producing them.

As you have possibly noticed I make note of the future newsletter. I do this because I would like to call this one a letter and hope to be able to produce the first Newsletter of the Association within a couple of months. This may seem like a long time but it will be necessary to allow sufficient time to obtain news for inclusion and we now ask you for information to be included in the newsletter as well as ideas on what you would like to read about. It is vitally important for the success of the newsletter that we have regular articles and also contributions of stories from our members.

A couple of the stories that will appear in the first newsletter include the banner currently used in Sydney, The James Menz Club at 131 Div Loc Bty at Enoggera Brisbane and I will try to include a list of names of all those who served with the Detachment in Vietnam a list of over 400 names. We would also like to include some ideas on functions that will allow social contact even though most will have to be on a regional basis. Also any suggestions for a name for the newsletter?

Before closing I would like to remind you to send information for inclusion in the Detachment History and would like to thank those who have already contributed. No information is too small and let me expand on that; one member recently wrote and told me how little he remembered but could name the people who served with him. Of the 10 names provided 8 had not been previously recorded and I had thought that I already had every name. Also if any one would like to assist with the collection of the information or it's final collation all help is welcome. I genuinely believe that we have a unique story to tell so let's get that information in.

In closing may we again welcome you to the 131 Div Loc Bty Association and look forward to a long and very enjoyable future.

Regards
Kevin Browning

Enclosures:

1. Receipt

Ed - It's a great read as it states that there are 78 members and that the Detachment's numbers outnumbered ALL other Artillery units at the ANZAC Day March (I presume that refers to Sydney) – there's even a request for suggested names for the forthcoming newsletter! Plus nothing much has changed we're still searching for more blokes contact details some 24 years later – we send out this publication to 217 blokes of which 128 (at last count) are officially connected to the 131 Locators Association. So as you can see, even with modern technology and four years of publishing *Eyes & Ears*, we've only managed to grow the Association by about 50 more Locators, but I guess we've located and contacted a few more. Mind you, sadly, our Honour Roll has grown.

Jill Nieglos continues on with her accounts of life as a Pan Am "hostie" during the late '60's and in these articles...
R & R FLIGHTS FOR PAN AM

I had been working as a Pan Am stew over a year now, alternating between the excitement of my New York base and the beautiful antiquity of Europe. Paris and Prague were far different than the California ranching community where I grew up. But being a California girl at heart, I jumped at a chance to transfer to San Francisco and fly the Pacific. There I experienced a new life, with new capitals to visit, new crews to enjoy, and entirely different cultures to explore. This was the part of the world that used chopsticks instead of knives and forks. Pan Am was doing a lot of business with the U.S. government then, shuttling troops between America and points east, and very soon I was assigned to an R & R flight. Before the flight, I was surprised to be given papers identifying me as second lieutenant in the army, in case I became a prisoner of war. Wow, what a shock! The flight routing was SFO-HNL-GUM-SGN-DWN-SYD-DWN-SYD-DWN-SGN-GUM-HNL-SFO, twelve legs in all. I flew that route many times over the next two years. The Pacific is



huge, and the trips were long. Normally my crew had a day's layover at each stop, but in Darwin we had a three-day layover before we did the two Sydney turns, then another 3 days in Darwin before heading back to Nam and then home.

I was used to staying in the elegant European accommodations with five stars, many of which Pan Am owned. So, you can imagine how surprised I was to see the one-star "Darwin Intercontinental" for the first time. I was in shock. Our Darwin hotel was a run-down structure of perhaps fifty rooms, in a town with less than 3,000 people and only two paved streets. The rooms didn't have your usual walls – to our surprise, they were made of shingles. Shingles! Worse, they were only one shingle thick. OMG! Seeing this for the first time, I would never have believed that this faded structure would hold the most vivid memories of my Pan Am years.

After some period of time, all "in country" personnel were allowed one week of R & R. Single guys usually chose Thailand or Sydney. Hello! These places were full of girls, which is what they were looking for. The married fellas and those with sweeties went to Hawaii. Pan Am had special fares for wives of U.S. servicemen, making their reunions more affordable.

We flew into Tan Son Nhut, Cam Rahn Bay, or Da Nang, and from there we flew to Darwin and then Sydney. This meant we flew from Guam to Vietnam to Darwin in one day, changing crews in Darwin. Another crew did the Sydney turn while we enjoyed a three-day layover. Those three-day layovers became legend, because normally there were three or four crews in Darwin at the same time. Party time! Darwin was on Fannie Bay on the north shore of Australia, and in 1969 was a small and uninteresting place. Our crew consisted of the Captain, 1st Officer, 2nd Officer, and Navigator (3rd Officer), plus a relief pilot because the flights were long. And there were six of us stews in the cabin. The odds were good all around.

One of my favorite memories is the night fifteen of us went to dinner at a restaurant on a nearby island. While we were waiting for the ferry, our crew captain brought a bottle of Remy Martin to the dock and the party started. The other pilots had brought "God knows how much beer" for the 20-minute ferry ride – all the booze was gone by the time we reached the island. After our dinner and the consumption of yet more alcohol, we all adjourned for dancing on the cement patio behind the restaurant. When the Stones' "Satisfaction" began playing, my friend Jim asked me to dance. All went well until he failed to catch me on one of the dance moves. While Jim was trying to help me out of the bushes, the rest of the drunken crew was doubled over with laughter. I don't know who was more embarrassed. I know I will never forget that night! Maybe we partied so hard because working these R & R flights was always such an emotional experience for us and we needed this relief. But we could never escape a nagging question in the backs of our minds - "How many of these young men will make it home alive?"



ON THE PLANE

Leaving Nam, the soldiers entered our plane quietly, their clothing sweat-stained from the moist heat of Vietnam. We cheerily welcomed them aboard, but some were anything but cheery. When I first started flying these R & R flights, I had expected 100% happy faces to be boarding my plane...after all, they were all going on R & R. I was surprised, though, to find many emotionless faces. The transition from foxhole to Pan Am plane might have been more than they could process so quickly. Most called me Ma'am, which I thought strange, since I was only three or four years older than they. Military protocol, I suspected. To help get them out of this funk, the experienced stews had learned to make our safety announcements with a lot of humor - not our standard procedure, but very effective. What a great idea that was! We loved to hear them laugh, since we suspected it might have been a while since they had had anything to laugh about.

We knew that we stews were giving them a little reminder of home. They wanted to hear English being spoken by a "round eye." Soldier after soldier asked me, "Where are you from in the world?" "California, a little town near the coast called Paso Robles." Only one guy ever knew where that was; he was actually from the same area, a pleasant, but very young fella, and we had a nice chat. I thought about him often and always said a quick prayer that he would make it home.

It never failed...on every trip, the guys would ask if they could serve the meals for us. Maybe it gave them something to do – it did give us more time for chatting with them. That's what they wanted most right then, even more than food; they just wanted to drink in our looks, our accents, and our chatter. Every trip we laid blankets on the floor across from the galleys and played cards. Oh my, how they loved to play cards! We traded jokes with them as they slowly loosened up. We ask them about their hometowns and their families. They showed us pictures of their moms, dads, dogs, little sisters and brothers, and girlfriends. Most just wanted to talk, to have some "normal" time with "normal" American girls with "normal" accents. We spent the entire flight, every flight, keeping them engaged and lightening



their mood. We knew we had an important part to play in preparing them for their adventure to come. But some were still a bit withdrawn, and for them I had a little surprise.

Remember the days when we actually served meals onboard and asked you “chicken or beef?” If the quiet one (or anybody in that row) asked for chicken, he got the surprise. I kept my special surprise back in the galley – a standard issue rubber chicken. I substituted my rubber chicken for his entrée and delivered his meal tray with a flourish. It never failed to illicit roars of laughter from everyone who saw it.



Leaving Sydney, the guys seemed normal, and the conversations flowed easier than they had on the way to Sydney. They had had a *lot of fun* in Sydney, a beautiful city with lots of pretty girls, and related their adventures to us with great animation. On the Sydney - Darwin leg they were always happy and excited. Our crew deplaned in Darwin for our layover, and the next crew took over. Every time the crew flying the Darwin - Vietnam leg made the destination announcement to the guys, the excitement disappeared. The mood on the airplane changed to one of dread and worry. The silence became deafening.

...come back in March for the next instalment...

. Who's that with...? This is going to be a new section to have a crack at identifying blokes with blokes and so on.



← OK so let's start off with one **John Vitkovsky** sent in recently – we ALL know **Denise Drysdale** and it's Vit with the beer in-hand, but give us a run-down on as many of the others that can be identified? Surely we can name 4 of them?



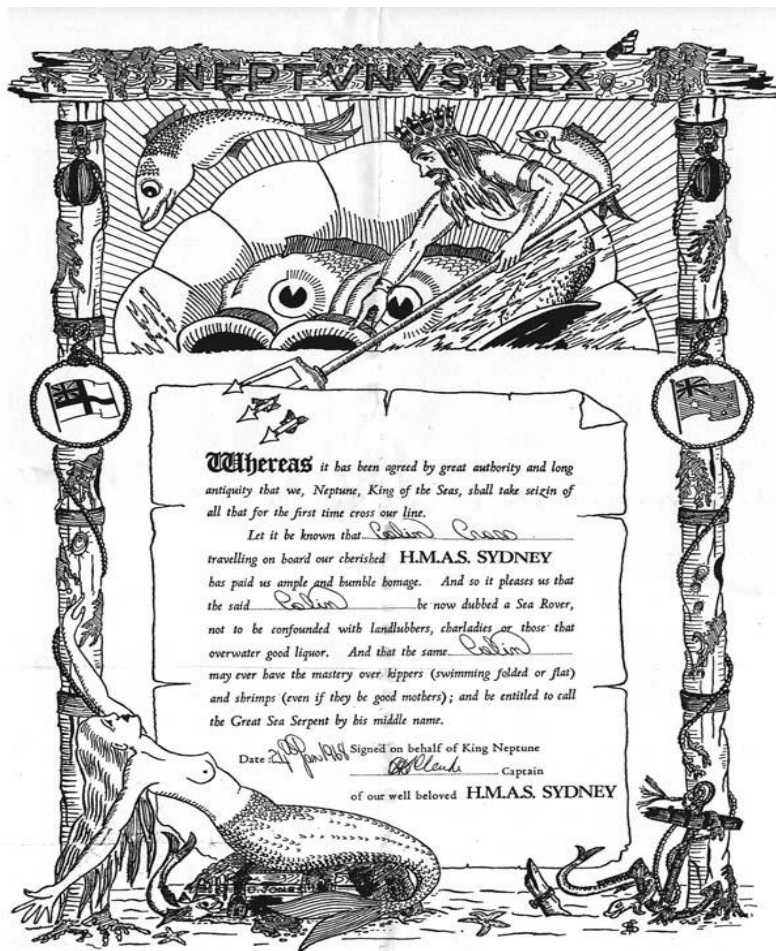
Then this lot in one of **Graeme Owen's** photos of the Radar mob in the 1968-69 era.

OK so who are these blokes?

. TV in South Vietnam – did you know? Television was introduced to South Vietnam on 7 February 1966 with black and white FCC system. Covering major cities in South Vietnam, started with one hour broadcast per day then increased to six hours in the evening during the 1970s. There were two main channels.

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

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



Some guys get to cruise the Pacific.
Jan 1968 - Certificate awarded to Colin Cross for
crossing the equator on HMAS 'Sydney'

. Customs – Another item in the ongoing series suggested by **Ernie Newbold** from the AWM site <http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/customs/recitation.asp> - they're not totally peculiar to the Australian Armed Forces, but they are deeply rooted traditions which we identify with...

Reversed Arms

The tradition of reversing and resting on arms – that is, leaning on a weapon held upside down – has been a mark of respect or mourning for centuries, said to have originated with the ancient Greeks. Descriptions of sixteenth-century military funerals provide the earliest documented instances of carrying arms reversed in more recent times. Although Australian soldiers still rest on arms as a mark of respect for the dead, the short Steyr rifle, the present Australian service rifle, is difficult to carry reversed.



Remembrance Day ceremony 1999, showing Catafalque Party with reversed arms.



Then there is the SLR version in Martin Place in 1967 – it wasn't that easy!

. **Graeme Owen** – we finally got Graeme's photos loaded onto the web – there are more than a few of them I assure you. It's certainly worth the effort to go and have a browse, plus read his commentary at the beginning of his albums and then on the photos. His albums provide a great photo journal and commentary of the 1968-69 era in SVN.

. **George Clark** – Ed asked George some time ago for some photos and they duly arrived, then I started on the third degree regarding the photos etc – “Hi Paul, Gary Worrall and Maurie Arch were both Bombardiers on tour in 1967.

My father (photo at right – taken at the Greenbank RSL in 2011 – his Dad looks fantastic – he was a bomber pilot in WW2) turns 90 in June and yes he does look okay, but my mum died in a motor accident 5 years ago and that put him back a bit.

The scar (Ed had to ask!) on my head came about from an accident at work. I was walking past some pallets of frozen export lamb when one of the forkies knocked a stack over and buried me under the freight. I had 74 stitches at the time and 6 weeks of work. So I went and bought my boat (see below).

I think that the B.C. would have been Maj. Donaldson at the time of your mentioned indiscretion (Ed getting charged for a dirty rifle on guard duty – got off on an insanity claim). Paul Jones (another photo), a Lance Bombardier was I think one of the originals, if not the advanced party to SVN. He died as a result of a motor vehicle accident in late 1968, and was buried with full military honours at Rookwood Cemetery. He was one of nature's gentlemen and was a very good mate, and I try to visit his gravesite whenever I am in Sydney.

I hope the information I have passed on is useful to you Paul and I am sure that you will ask if I haven't cleared everything up for you.

Best wishes to you. Your mate, George.”



George does catch a good one when he sets his mind to it and the “head accident” didn't affect his choice of boats!

. **Bill Taggart** our 1st/83rd Associate sent this in – “In case you guys were not aware of this...

[Australian general gets key US Army post](#)

Bill

Email... artillery_83rd@yahoo.com

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

“Australian general gets key US Army post

By AUDREY McAVOY, AP 01.02.2013

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Maj. Gen. Richard Burr* salutes with his palm facing out, like he's shielding his eyes from the sun. He wears a wide-brimmed felt "slouch hat" with a brown and green camouflage uniform.

The two-star general in the Australian Defence Force stands out amid the American soldiers donning berets and green and beige fatigues at the U.S. Army's headquarters for the Pacific. But he's responsible for directing their training and exercises as U.S. Army Pacific's deputy commander for operations. The Army is also making Burr their liaison to New Zealand, his homeland Australia and countries in Southeast Asia.

Burr's appointment — it's the first time a non-American has served in such a high-ranking position at a command like this — symbolizes the Army's push to connect more with allies and friendly nations in the Pacific as it implements the Obama administration's policy to "rebalance" national defence strategy toward the region.

Burr reports to Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, a three-star general and U.S. Army Pacific's top commander since 2011. Wiercinski is responsible for most U.S. soldiers in the region, except those in South Korea.

Burr said his presence in Hawaii tells others the U.S. Army is open to broadening its relationships.

"I think it sends a very positive message to all countries in the region — not just our two countries — that stronger partnerships is really the way to go," Burr said in an interview Wednesday, one month after arriving in Hawaii for the new job. "And building from bilateral to multilateral partnerships is the key to a stronger, more stable region."

The position reflects a deepening of an already close relationship between the U.S. and Australia, two nations who fought together in World War II and whose alliance was formalized by treaty in 1951.

More recently, Australia sent troops to fight alongside the U.S. in Afghanistan and Iraq, even when those decisions were unpopular with voters at home.

Burr was among the deployed. He commanded Australian troops in Afghanistan in 2002 and during the invasion of Iraq the following year. In 2008, he commanded all coalition special forces — including Americans — in Afghanistan. The 49-year-old said these experiences mean Americans know him, and know he takes the responsibility of commanding U.S. troops seriously. This helps the U.S. feel comfortable placing him in such a critical position.

"This is quite unique. You're sort of letting someone in to look in your undies drawer. You want to have trust," he said.

So far, Burr has been to Japan where he partnered with a Japanese general to run an annual U.S.-Japan exercise called Yama Sakura. Soon he'll go to Thailand to do similarly for the Cobra Gold exercise involving six nations: Thailand, the U.S., Singapore, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea and Malaysia. Australia will send an observer.

Burr said it's good to have people from different militaries work together daily so they're already used to each other when they have to respond to a natural disaster or go into combat. Nations tend to act as a multinational coalition, whether to deliver humanitarian assistance or send troops to fight, he said.

"My personal view is the more you can organize and practice that in a day-to-day sense, the better you will be at responding to those challenges, which usually happen at short notice," he said.

Ralph Cossa, president of the Pacific Forum CSIS think tank, said putting a foreign officer in the direct line of command shows "unprecedented closeness."

Denny Roy, a senior fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu, said Australia has long partnered with major powers holding similar values — first Britain and now the U.S. — to influence the much more populous, sometimes dangerous, economically larger world to its north.

Burr's appointment shows Australia is firmly in the inner circle of U.S. allies. Being there helps Australia influence its partnership with the U.S. and get its voice heard. It also gives Australia access to the latest intelligence, and helps it understand how the U.S. thinks and acts.

"Australia is in," Roy said. "Australia ought to take this as a very positive vote of confidence and signal of strong partnership between the U.S. and Australia," he said.

Burr said he's looking forward to taking in Hawaii's water sports during the couple of years he expects to be in Hawaii, like diving, kayaking and surfing. He's already tried stand-up paddle-boarding.

"Despite coming from Australia, I'm not a surfer. But I will be by the time I leave," he said."



*Major General Richard (Rick) Maxwell Burr, DSC, AM, MVO, born in 1964 - he joined the Australian Army at the age of 17 as an officer cadet and attended the Royal Military College, Duntroon. After graduation from Duntroon, Burr served as a platoon commander in the 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

. Vic Danko sent the following email in which caused a good deal of surprise especially with the subject being **Ed** — "OK fellas, this is serious.

Please go to www.awm.gov.au/shop , Right hand side of the screen, "Help and Info ", "ordering on line ".

Next page, "How to order reproductions of the ... etc." Click "search the collection ".

Next page, in the first space type in Ward, Barrie Thomas Burrill (this is the name of the official army photographer) Then in the space below, scroll and enter "Vietnam War"

Ward's photos will then come up. On the very first page ID VN/67/0130/23

THERE IS OUR OWN PAUL DICKSON. Keeping his identity confidential, he's not named and described as a "training instructor for Iroquois winch operators."

What leaves me a little uncertain is that I never saw you with that type of watch on your arm and having given you a few haircuts, I don't think that "cow lick " is just right.

But how could you do it? Did you get paid twice? What else were you doing?

Regards"

...then **Ernie Newbold** responded – "G'day Victor, What a find!!!

It looks as though the sleeves have fallen off his straight jacket. The watch is genuine; it is the one he wore in Australia and in the early days at Nui Dat. Prior to buying a new one. The Cow Lick is probably due to the down force of the Huey hovering overhead.

Well spotted that man!

I am sure that Geoff Blackwell was there that day too so he may remember the occasion. I have a photo somewhere of Geoff being winched aboard the Huey.

Regards, Ernie."

...Ed got into the action with – "Victor et al, That is absolutely amazing - well two things - 1) your being on that website, which begs a serious question and 2) of course me appearing in an "Army instruction photograph for use of Iroquois helicopter winch".

Actually when I followed Vic's instructions it was not the lead photo, but using the photo's code in the "Help" box got me to it.

Ernie remembering the occasion and broadcasting it has possibly ruined a chance of a ripper yarn to get Vic wetting his pants!

It is me as that rather "uninteresting watch was given to me by Mum and Dad for passing my last year of primary school - a family tradition - it was inscribed with the date and their love. It is recognisable in other SVN photos.

However, I do remember the occasion, but of course not the photographer being there - I agree with **Barry (Guzder)** that the photo was possibly re-touched to remove the brown stains running down my legs - the halo effect around my head does add a certain aura!

I had a browse through quite a few more of his photos and discovered that they were in the main RAAF based and there are not that many actual photos - was my print there because it was used in some RAAF / Army instruction manual?

Anyway with the lack of photos it is just gob-smackingly incredible that Vic stumbled over it and recognised it without a name. I need to know what he was looking for and how he got there?

If Ernie or Geoff have any comments I'll run with it in E&Es. Paul"

Here's the amended photo and description -

ID number: VN/67/0130/23 Photographer: Ward, Barrie Thomas Burrill

Object type: Black & white - Film original negative 120 safety base Place

made: Vietnam Date made: 1967

Collection: 1732012 Gunner Paul Granville Dickson of Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) is shown in an Army instruction photograph for use of Iroquois helicopter winch.

The instructional photo – 1967 →



...Geoff Blackwell cleared things up with – "G'day Boys.

It is Dicko all right.'

I think the photo was taken in late August 67 when Hammo sent some of us on an 'Airborne Evacuation of Wounded by Dust-off Helicopter Course'.....the ' Medivac' course.

Ernie, dig out the photo and send it to me.....I would like to see that! Regards Geoff."

...then **Vic Danko** sent this in to explain his ferreting around with AWM web site... – "Hi, The way I came upon the photo was an extraordinary coincidence.

Back in '67 a photo with me in it appeared in the Mosman Daily (because it was "Operation Mosman "). My bride to be kept a copy of the relevant page (that in itself was a coincidence in that my bride lived in Mosman, read the Mosman Daily!). I still have it (the page, not the bride!).

Last year when we went down there for the plaque ceremony I was wandering through the AWM, library, and archives section. I asked one of the ladies if it was possible to view photos from specific operations (this being the only reference I had) - she found the photo.

She printed the reference details (have a look, ID: GIL/67/0690/VN, photographer - Gillman, BWF)

So yesterday I decided to buy the photo.

When I got to the "Search the collection..." I thought I needed to find the "Photograph" section of the collection.

So I typed in "Photographs" then Vietnam. And the extraordinary coincidence is that the first page on the screen is the work of the photographer, Ward - and there is the Dickson look alike!!! Regards"

Here's Vic's photo and description -

ID number: GIL/67/0690/VN

Photographer: Gillman, Barrie Winston Farleigh

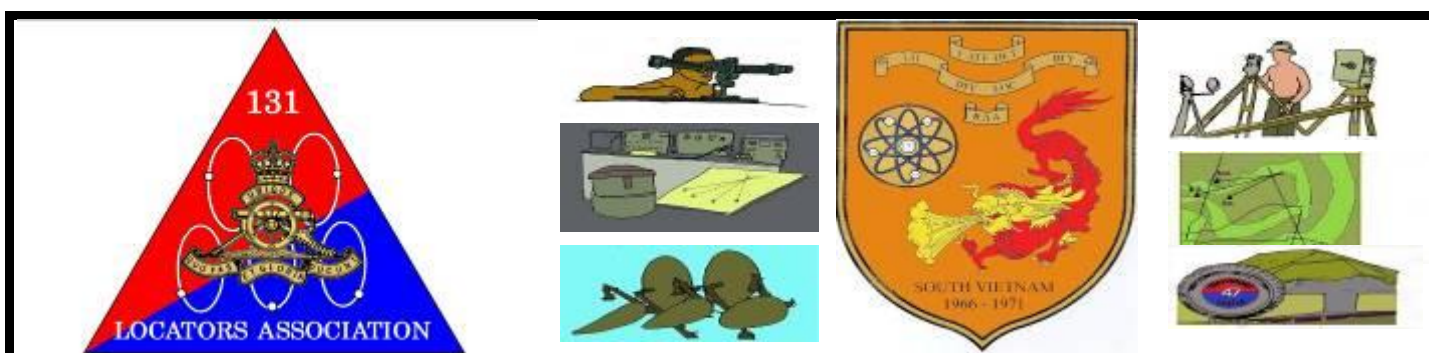
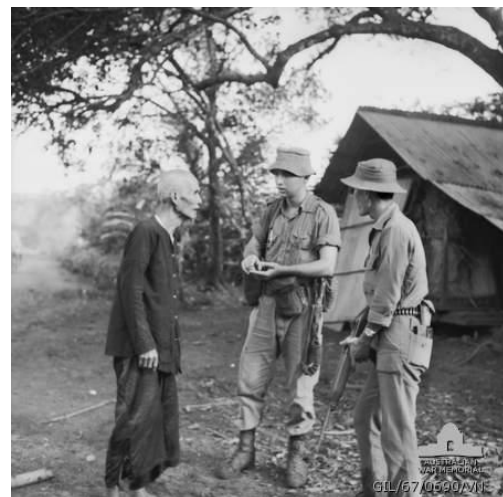
Object type: Black & white

Date made: 1967

Physical description: Black & White

Description:

Hoa Long, Vietnam. 12 August 1967. Vietnamese Linguist Lance Bombardier (L Bdr) Vic Danko of Newcastle, NSW (centre), questions a hamlet chief (left) of the village during Operation Mosman. With them is a Vietnamese sergeant. L Bdr Danko spoke with several villagers concerning possible Viet Cong presence in the area.



Committee members:

President – Allen Morley, **Vice President** – Bert Blink, **Tresurer/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 **John Dicks** as a 5 Year member to the Association fold.

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 19/03/2013 at 11:00hrs

Venue: **Lane Cove Library**, Library Walk (off Longueville Road), Lane Cove 2066 Ph. 9911 3634 - 3 hour free parking under the building via Sera St or Austin St Email: library@lanecove.nsw.gov.au

The meeting on 19th February was at the Goulburn Soldiers Club and the following photos are proof of a quorum...

Who turned up – from right to left – Grahame Dignam, Allen Morley, Bob Billiards, George Lane, Vic Danko, Ged Carroll, Ernie Newbold, Geoff Jebb and Bert Blink. Great to see Ged and Geoff make it.

. Ed had to get Graham Dignam in (obviously he took the larger photo to the right).



. 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.**

Ed – Whilst on things web – I hope you ALL noticed the comments in an early piece with regards to **Graeme Owen's** Gallery Photos now on the web – they are really worth the effort perusing.

Anyway, we now have **104 Profiles** on the web, thanks to the diligence of our web Master, **Bob Billiards** and they are a great way of re-acquainting yourselves with those you don't know and the blokes you thought you knew!

However, can we have a concerted effort, NOT only to get more Profiles completed, BUT to get some recent "head'n'shoulder" shots to replace the Rising Sun badges that fill the spaces where the "mug-shots" should be.

Send them into me and I'll make sure they're put in.

There's one more "however" – you DON'T have to be a member to scan through a fair bit of the web site, BUT you have to be an Association Member to access the Member's section on the web and get into "private mens' business", so you'll have to join!

Now if you join the first year will cost you the \$15 annual fee plus a once only \$10 fee which covers the Association's Lapel Badge, so for \$25 or 6.85c per day per year or 6.83c per day if it's a leap year you've got your entre into the depths of OUR web. Then after that it's ONLY 4.11c per day per normal year – bugger all! You can't buy the local rag for that!

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

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



Ed's not too sure what the "Playboy Bunny" is doing in the left hand corner!

. Birthdays in the Battery...March –

Now let's pick the youngster out for the Month – **Eric Winn** - **Happy 62nd** – hope you enjoy the day where ever you are! ALL proceeds go to help Association projects.



Here's what **Mike Butler** looked like some 43 years ago in Vungers – didn't look old enough to drink!

March	Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	EZIO LOMBARDO	216284	1946	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
2	GEOFF HOLDEN	2785828	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	JAMES TOWNLEY Maj.	17072	1939	14 06 1963	22 06 1963	103 Fd Bty FARELF
	" "			22 04 1966	19 08 1966	131
	" "			30 04 1970	28 05 1970	HQ AFV
2	PETER BENNETT	3794060	1948	26 08 1969	04 06 1970	
3	RIC. MARQUES	3790008	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
3	RAY SMITH	3787666	1945	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
3	GRAHAME LEE	2787457	1947	23 04 1968	23 04 1969	
3	ROGER STANLEY	2788155	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	

3	RALPH MITCHELL	2788073	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
3	MICHAEL BUTLER	3796958	1948	03 06 1970	09 06 1971	
4	JOE CLENDINEN	17648	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
7	RODOLFO MARSANI	3796861	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
8	RUSSELL JACKSON	3793090	1945	24 02 1969	28 11 1969	
8	BARRY COOKE Sgt.	54886	1946	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	RAAOC
8	DES McGIUGGAN Sgt.	214722	1944	20 01 1970	21 01 1971	
11	BOB TANNER	6708362	1945	21 05 1966	28 04 1967	
11	PETER McKIE	2787728	1947	22 04 1968	23 04 1969	
12	JAMES FITZGERALD	2782044	1945	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
12	GREGORY LUCAS	1735725	1949	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	29 10 1970	4 Fd Regt.
13	JOHN (JACK) HEYES	3791085	1945	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
13	ALLAN CAMPBELL Sgt.	18257	1946	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 2009
	" "			05 02 1968	31 03 1968	
14	NEVILLE WORTLEHOCK	54941	1947	29 04 1968	30 04 1969	
17	GEOFF LOCK	2782439	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 09.09.10
18	VIC MOREAU	1200577	1939	22 04 1966	23 01 1967	
18	ROY CLAUSCEN	214873	1941	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
20	BRIAN CAMPBELL	2781310	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	
20	BARRY FOLLINGTON	2783144	1945	12 12 1966	27 09 1967	
20	IAIN KENNEDY	3791023	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	RONALD ROBARDS	216900	1948	21 02 1968	21 02 1969	
21	GARRY SMITH	2792048	1947	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	† 19.01.12
21	MICK KING	216504	1948	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
21	WARREN JAENKE	1735584	1946	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
22	GREGORY PECK	2790401	1948	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
23	DEREK HINDE	2787403	1947	01 07 1968	14 05 1969	
23	MARTIN KRYNTJES	5715291	1947	26 08 1968	04 06 1969	
25	GARTH NICHOLLS	216381	1948	{05 02 1968	11 02 1969	
	" "			{05 11 1969	28 11 1969	1 Fd REGT
25	ROBERT HARGREAVES	2790343	1948	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
26	GEORGE LANE	2781630	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
27	ERIC WINN	219656	1951	30 05 1970	07 08 1970	131
	" "			07 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
29	JEFF REID	3790495	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
30	FRANK HALLIDAY Sgt.	215105	1937	02 01 1967	13 12 1967	RAEME
30	EDWARD CHASE	2782043	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
31	LESLIE CAHILL	2412281	1947	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
31	GRAHAM HISLOP Sgt.	15290	1935	22 04 1966	03 03 1967	
31	PHILIP SHEEDY	4719418	1947	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	

Ed – 22 blokes not highlighted is **4** better than this time last year – a 15% improvement! Let's go for another 20% this year.

. Locator Profiles – we've received **105** and we've sent out **104**. **Ed** – It's nice to have one up our sleeve as we head into March – let's see if we can add 3 more to get the one a week pace into place!

. Found...

Have a look at the Association's web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au> – you might find some lost mates or get in touch with us and see if we can for you.

. Eyes & Ears – **Ed** - Over last weekend I had a cursory look at the Archived copies on the web of *Eyes & Ears* and was quietly surprised that November 2012's edition was the **50th** in the current format.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed – we just need to keep it up!

.Vale –

Name	Regt No	Rank	Section	Served in SVN	DOB	DOD
Atkinson, Neville Ross	1733449	Gunner		08.11.68-05.11.69	12.07.47	14.12.1996
Delaney, Michael Joseph	2789025	Gunner	Survey	18.02.69 - 28.11.69	25.10.47	17.02.2013

Nev Atkinson -

Jeff Schafer originated the search for Nev Atkinson with a comment he made in an email concerning Mick Delaney and this got us to verifying the possible passing of Nev. The following is an extract from that email. – “Hi Paul, ...Mick was a great storyteller...
...Mick told us that Nev Atkinson died some years ago, so the photo of them together is poignant...
Cheers. Jeff Schafer”

Graham Williams responded to the plea with regards to Nev which led to us contacting Nev’s widow, Gerry in Brisbane. The following is an extract from Graham’s email – “...Paul, yet another mystery for me to solve now...I am presently looking at the Bty Roster from ‘69 (Personal addresses) - at that time it shows Neville as residing at... (Street number and name supplied) Bentleigh, Victoria and also came across a list forwarded to me by Graeme Dignam which may (or may not) have come from “Australia Remembers” which Neville is shown as attending. The more recent address for that is (street number and name supplied) Everton Hills, Qld. Nothing is ever easy eh...”



Graham’s photo

L.P. 31Bravo – L to R – Nev, Jeff Schafer, George Clark and Torin “TC” White. In fact this may be one of Quentin Knights photos and taken by him.

Ed – It was then time to pass the ball to **Grahame Dignam** who made the phone call to Brisbane and got to speak to **Gerry** who is Nev’s widow – this is his follow up email after the phone call - “Hello Geraldine, Thank you for the chat this afternoon and the information you provided. It is great when we find another piece of the grand puzzle which is life. We want to be sure Neville’s service and sacrifice will not be forgotten. Just to be sure, I have included the detail again as I don’t want to get any of it wrong.
“Neville Ross Atkinson passed away on 14 December 1996 after a 5 year battle with Multiple myeloma - a condition accepted by the DVA as War caused.
Neville is survived by his wife Geraldine and a daughter (should have asked her name).”
Thanks again and any photos are appreciated. We hope to get some tributes from his mates to also include.
As I said we will send on a copy of the newsletter for you when it issues.
Best Regards Grahame Dignam”

...Gerry Atkinson replied to **Grahame Dignam’s** email – “Hi Grahame, Yes, your details are correct re Neville’s death. Our daughter’s name is Karen, and our son is John. I remembered the other Mick’s name as soon as I hung up the phone. It was Mick Quinlan, so Mick Delaney and he were Neville’s mates in Vietnam. I believe they were both from Sydney. I am attaching two photos (below), one of Neville (on the left) and the other is with one of the “Micks” but I am sorry I cannot confirm which one it is. I have two black and white group photos which I will get scanned and send to you. However, I have no idea who the others are in the photos. I will also go through the slides and see if there are any group photos amongst them.
Kind regards, Gerry”



Mick Delaney -

. **Russell Jackson**, a good mate of Mick's, got in touch with us – "Hello All, Sad, sad news has come in today with the news of the death of Mick Delaney in Cairns over the weekend. His illness was obviously a lot more advanced than we all realised.

I took a call from his brother Paul only a few minutes ago and he has asked that I pass the news on to you all.

There will be a family funeral in Cairns this Wednesday and Paul has indicated that there will most likely be a memorial service for Mick in Sydney in about three weeks time.

He will let me know what the details are after the family has got through this week.

What a great bloke our Mick was. Russ"

...and Russ continues... "Hello Paul, I sent the following emails out today to the group of 131 blokes who were with Mick in training and in Vietnam.

Most of us won't be able to get to Cairns for the funeral service but obviously if the memorial service in Sydney goes ahead, it will be well attended by his army coppers.

Regards, Russ Jackson"

... "Paul,...He was ill and had been receiving treatment for cancer. His death though, from what I was told by his brother, was unexpected.

Our group had planned our Anzac day March for Brisbane this year and even though Mick had indicated that he wouldn't be able to come down from Cairns because of his situation I was looking forward to following up the march with a visit to Cairns to see him.

My wife and I will still go to pay our respects to a wonderful mate. Russ"

...Russ concludes with... "Paul, Mick was a very skilled surveyor and was part of a group that KB described as one of the best ever survey contingents in SVN. Russ"

. **Graeme Owen** sent in a couple of photos (below) and some thoughts – "G'day Paul, Saddened by your news today of Mick's passing.

It's only been in the last couple of years that I've re-connected with the Survey group from my era, after 40 odd years, and found Mick to still be the friendly helpful bloke he was all those years ago.

Our group is getting together in Brisbane for this year's Anzac March and I was looking forward to catching up with him again in his home state.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sad time.

I've included a couple of pics I found of Mick in SVN. Regards Graeme"



Working From The French Fort on Route 15 - Surveyors are Michael Delaney (no shirt) & Brett Rainsford



Michael Delaney has a 'quick beer' at a 131 bar-b-que

. **Kevin Browning** speaks from the heart – “Paul, Mick Delaney will be sadly missed by all those that knew him. Russell Jackson would perhaps be best to provides details but every time I had the pleasure to meeting up with Mick you knew you were welcome and in for an experience. Mick had an infectious laugh, enjoyed a drink and loved classical music. If a Reg could be given some culture then Micks love of classical music gave me a little nudge to that world. He was one of the survey/sound ranging group of 1969 which was predominantly made up of Nashos and dare I say smart ones too. I met up with Mick after his return from Vietnam and spent a number of days enjoying a party at his place in Ashfield where it appeared the teaching community of Sydney let their hair down. Unfortunately I lost contact with him when I returned to the holiday centre at Nui Dat in 1971. It wasn't until 1987 that we met up again and in more recent times the survey/sound ranging group of 68/69 have met annually on Anzac Day. Whilst none of them have really changed it was Mick that perhaps changed the least. We missed him last year when he couldn't make it to Sydney and whilst we knew he was not enjoying the best of health the news today came as a real shock. Regards Kevin”



.On the left: Shows Terry Erbs and Mick Delaney.



.On the right: Mick Delaney on tellurometer, Rick Mahoney on Theodolite and Jock Gunn booking.



. On the left: Proves Mick did own a shirt which he wears whilst on duty in the Sound Ranging Command Post. Mick's talents can be clearly seen as he mans three phones, two radios and writes his letter home. The weather station to his upper right and fire extinguisher were to fill in those spare moments. Behind his head is the paper speed calibrator used to check the speed of the sound ranging recorder.



. On the right: Brian Smyth, LT Andy Overall Peter Larkin and Mick Delaney. Mick and Andy were real optimists as can be seen by them wearing the tropical raincoat or as we probably know it better as 'Smock Psychological'



. On the left: Michael Quinlan, Terry Erbs, Mick Delaney, Kevin Browning, and Peter Larkin (back to camera). Mick's infectious laugh is clearly evident as we await a cool drink to arrive.



.On the right: Mick Delaney with Mrs Larkin, Creedon and Erbs

Jeff Schafer adds his thoughts and photos – “Hi Paul,
There will be many photos of Mick. He was a very popular guy.
These are some of mine, from Nui Dat and Anzac Day reunion.
He was a great storyteller.
Mick told us that Nev Atkinson died some years ago, so the photo of them
together is poignant.
Cheers. Jeff Schafer”



Nui Dat



Anzac Day reunion

Russell Jackson – found some photos (below) of Mike and expressed some feelings – “Hello Paul,
I hope I am not too late with all of this
Please find attached three photos of Mick.
Mick was a heavy smoker and was known to keep his cigarettes in his boots by his bunk so that he knew where they
were first thing in the morning.
On one occasion we had to bail out of our Land Rovers, while under cross fire and our only shelter was a fairly
shallow ditch on the side of the road. While still under fire Mick decided to light up a smoke which of course was a
dead giveaway of our position. We all laughed about it later but it was a fairly tense situation at the time.
He was a very skilful surveyor and was totally reliable and dependable.
He was also a thorough gentleman, a loyal and warm friend, an amazing raconteur with an engaging and at times
outrageous sense of humour. His laughter in relaxed situations was frequent and pervasive.
He was my groomsman at our wedding in 1970 and our family has had a wonderful relationship with him for what
seems like forever.
I will miss him greatly. Regards Russell”



In the first he is demonstrating his barbering skills with a shirtless Graeme Owen in the background looking not too impressed.



In the second, Mick is hard at work with tellurometer and theodolite down south on the Mekong.



Last one is in our Nui Dat sound ranging bunker on night shift with Michael Quinlan in the foreground.

John Vickary, who lives Cairns, went to Mike's funeral and sent in the following heartfelt story – "Hi Paul, Thanks for the "heads-up" about the passing of Mick and his funeral in Cairns. I have to admit I didn't know Mick, but as a fellow Locator I felt it would be appropriate for me to attend. I was quote "prepared to hover in the background" wearing my Locators shirt but that didn't last long as is turned out that - despite not knowing each other - we had a great number of mutual friends who were in attendance. I was quickly introduced to the family - lovely people - who promptly made me welcome. The ceremony itself was impressive - low key but very moving - and there wasn't a dry eye in the room, mine included. I believe that there will be a memorial service in Sydney when a whole lot of Mick's Locator mates will have the opportunity to farewell him. JV"

Michael Quinlan – says it right from the heart –
The Last Post
Gunner Mick Delaney 2789025

Not too many people come into your life like a whirlwind and leave with great sorrow. Mick Delaney did! Mick trained as surveyor at North Head for the 10 week crash course in April/ May 1968, one of 23 of us. He was always the best turned out for guard duty and was duly relieved for a night of revelry on the town. In those early days Mick endeared himself to all of us with his infectious sense of humour and a never ending array of jokes and anecdotes. We all moved after "graduation" to Holsworthy and due to the rigor of Army life were only too pleased to be posted to Vietnam. I arrived in SVN November 1968 only to be followed by my good mate Mick in Feb 1969 and of all coincidences ended up in my hut. Mick was always the last to rise and the last in bed. He would often wake up in the wee hours of the morning pull up the mozzie net and have a "fag" and when asked in the morning did he have any recollection of his nocturnal activity he would have no memory of it what so ever. (The "Badcoe" bar may have contributed) As a surveyor/sound ranger Mick was always dependable not to make too many errors no matter what the scale of hangover he was supporting. From memory Mick went to Thailand for R&R in July and with the help of fellow surveyors we put broken used razor blades in the pissaphone on his arrival back to SVN in an effort to convince him he had contracted a venereal disease.

Mick had a very strong sense of the value of his family and often spoke lovingly of them. He trained as a Primary School teacher in NSW and returned to the profession after demobbing. After several years of unrest Mick couldn't settle down, tried a little politics then as a corporate trainer made his mark. Wanting a clean break Mick recently moved to Cairns and when I had lunch with him in 2011 he was on top of the world. Mick attended almost all of our ANZAC Day marches and was a willing helper when a mate needed a hand. He will..... be missed!!

Michael Quinlan (2788865)
22 Feb 2013

And last but not least...



...A fitting photo of two mates sharing a very happy moment – more than likely from previous comments it was something Mick said.

Vale - Nev Atkinson and Mick Delaney – South Vietnam 1969

May they rest in peace



131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the upcoming establishment of the web site we are going to be burdened with the ongoing cost of maintenance etc and we need to be able to support this effort equally.

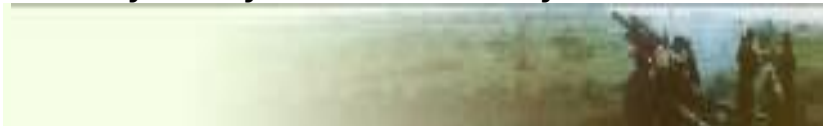
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: Sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join.

Memberships are available for 1 or 5 years. Hope we hear from you?

Web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au/131locators/>

. Other related sites...

. Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

"Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush"

(A quote whose origins are lost, yet the sentiments expressed will not be lost on many who served with 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

This website seeks to make contact with the Artillery Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty. We welcome your relevant contributions of photos, insights and observances so we might endeavour to expand

131 Artillery Surveying Vietnam record, beyond this window. Please use the [contacts page](#) for details:

<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/>

<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/operations/coburg.html>

. Locating , Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...notes taken from the LS & TAA website – Committee meetings are held regularly with most held at Paddington RSL commencing at 1115 hrs. **The next Meeting will be held at Paddington RSL on 19 May 2013** - Paddington RSL commencing at 11.15pm. Members are cordially invited to attend.

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

<http://www.locatingartillery.org/index.htm>



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



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/

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

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