

THE EYES and EARS

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Here's what we're up to in this edition and some things to search out...

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Then we get into Association stuff talking about the next Committee meeting, ANZAC Day in Sydney, Allen Morley has an interesting article re: **Helping Gunners via 131 Locators Association**, **Ross Gunnell** talks about meeting a Vet on a trip he took, we publish the "Birthday List" and take a few months off **Mike Butler**, still mention missing Locators and look for more Profiles – at **107** we're chugging along, but there is still a need for more – go to the website and have a read – I still go back and have a squiz at one every now and then.

OK enjoy the read...

Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk.



On 9th March 2013 a group of Locators made their way to Seymour in Victoria to attend the opening of the **Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk**. It was a 2 day affair with continuous events happening. The estimated number of attendees was somewhere more than 2,000.

The following are some photos of the site sent in by both **Al Adams** and **George Lane**.

George forwarded this – “Dicko the Dedication of the Memorial Walk was very tastefully done. Julia didn’t front but Warren Snowden represented the Government and I must admit he did a fine job. The temperature was a hot 35degrees in the shade and I would say there were a couple of thousand people there. The “Walk” is very impressive and well worth the trip to Seymour to see. My thanks go to **Ron & Margaret Mason** for looking after us and also **Peter & Ken** from Goulburn Valley RSL ,Looking forward to seeing you again soon. George.”

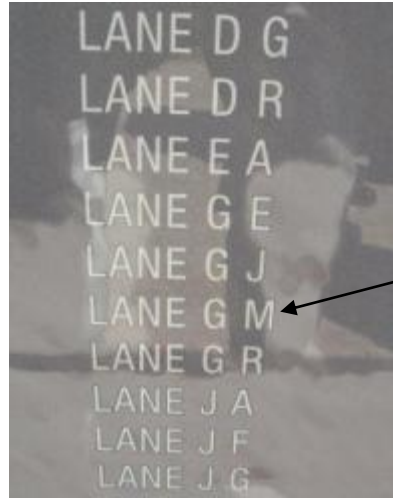


...then Ron Mason sent this in with regards to the group photo, bottom right, following -

“Grahame, the guy with the specs to my right is **Kevin Heenan**, (131 69-70) & President of Goulburn Valley VVA; & to George’s left is **Peter Dealy** (131 in 68-69) with black Locators shirt. Peter & his wife Ann looked after the Goulburn V V V A news letter for many years & it was Peter that put me onto the 131 Loc Assoc.

The weather was a bit on the hot side, the cool refreshments stalls did a very brisk trade. Probably not much I can tell you about the early part of the day when George & Ged were on deck, plenty of music which included plenty of 60’s 70’s numbers, star turn was about an hour where Normie Rowe put on a good show, this was followed by a fire works (about 1/4 hr), *that went off with a bang* & was followed by more music which was still going when we left about 2230hrs.

Regards, Ron Mason”



L to R - GED Carroll, Kevin Heenan , Ron Mason (Sunnies), Al Adams, Geo Lane, Peter Dealy , Terry Westaway and green camper chairs

. **Jill Nieglos** continues on with her accounts of life as a Pan Am “hostie” during the late ‘60’s and this month she includes “Vignettes” from memories she has managed to put to print. Let’s go with...

Vignettes from Vietnam

Richard’s Story: “Tet”

The flight was long. Boring. Scary. My unit had left Travis Air Force base in California forever ago. As we neared the shores of Vietnam, it got really quiet; we were all; we were all lost in our own thoughts. We had seen Vietnam on TV. God knows none of us ever wanted to be here. Drafted. Shafted. A message over the intercom interrupted our thoughts. “We will be landing at Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam in thirty minutes. Please ensure that your seat belts are securely fastened low and tight, and extinguish all cigarettes at this time. Remain seated until we are parked at the gate.” “Holy shit!” I thought, “We’re almost there.” We weren’t close enough to land to see any lights yet, so everything outside my window was black. It was about 9:30 pm Vietnamese time, January 30, 1968. I thought to myself, “It won’t be long until the fireworks start.” I didn’t realize then just how right I was. I don’t think the Pan Am steward making the announcement said, “Welcome to Vietnam,” but I was in a fog and wasn’t paying a lot of attention. While the forward and aft doors were being opened, we grabbed our gear and got ready to deplane. It had been cool and pleasant during the flight, but now...my God, it was hot and humid as hell. This was winter, and night time to boot – what would summer be like?

As we exited, we reluctantly said goodbye to the stewards, the last round-eyed girls we would see for a long time. We trooped out onto the tarmac and lined up. A lieutenant gave us the “Welcome to Vietnam” speech, and then briefed us on current conditions for a few more minutes. He told us that things were pretty quiet since it was the first day of the Tet holiday and a two-day cease-fire had been agreed upon. The briefing over, we were directed to ground transportation.

There were a hundred twenty-four of us, and it was going to take two buses to hold us all. We were in no hurry to board the buses, since none of us wanted to get to our final destination anyway. We stowed our gear on the bus and got settled; things were quiet, no joking around. The bus driver gave us a little welcoming speech. It was the last place on earth I wanted to be welcomed to, but here I was. I introduced myself to my seatmate. “Hi, my name is Richard; I’m from California.” He told me his name was Leroy and he was from Louisiana. He had been drafted, too. Neither one of us were happy campers. As there wasn’t much more to say, we got lost in our thoughts again, hoping for the best, but



not really expecting it. As the buses got underway, we peered through the darkness to see what we could see. For sure, we didn't see any McDonalds golden arches or KFC signs - no smiley colonels to be found here! Instead, for the next thirty minutes, we saw the shells of burned-out jeeps and tanks appear and disappear in the darkness; "fireworks" glowing here and there. Pretty strange for a cease-fire, I thought.

All the windows on the bus were open, but damn, it was hot as hell. We could see sporadic bombs going off here and there, and heard gunfire in the distance. All of a sudden, the sky lit up like a Christmas tree. The bus in front of us got hit with an RPG. Gawd! It blew up right in front of my eyes. All those guys had been on my plane. The bus was toast. Shit! I wasn't expecting the coming year to be real good anyway, considering where I was, but it couldn't have started off any worse. Welcome to Tet 1968. Didn't look to me like this was going to be a very happy new year.

Jill's Story: "A Chance Meeting"

The 707's engines were revving up for take-off. It was always scary being on the ground in a war zone, even for only an hour, and all of us stewards were glad to be leaving. The pilot applied full power, we rolled down the runway, and soon the lights of Tan Son Nhut disappeared from view. We had to climb out steeply in order to minimize the possibility of being hit by hostile ground fire. Sitting in an aft jump seat, I heard funny metallic noises, like something hitting the plane; I looked out my window and fear gripped my heart. I saw the red trails of tracer bullets hitting the right wing. "Holy shit!" I said to myself, "We're being shot at!" Fortunately, we were already high enough that the bullets were spent and were just bouncing harmlessly off the wing. What a close call that was!

We climbed to cruising altitude without further incident. This was totally different than flying around Europe – my God, what a way to make a living!

During meal service, I noticed the name Martinez on one soldier's shirt. While serving his meal, I said, "I know the name Martinez. There was a Tony Martinez in my high school class, and during our Homecoming game, he caught a "Hail Mary" pass with only seven seconds to go. I was a cheerleader and I was right there on the field. It was so exciting - I'll never forget it!" With a surprised look on his face, he asked, "Where are you from?" "Paso Robles, California," I said. "You're kidding!" he replied; "Tony is my brother." I told him I'd be back to talk more as soon as I finished serving.

When we had a chance to chat, he told me his name was Joe, and he really was Tony's brother. We had a great visit. Joe told me an interesting story about Tony. Joe was leaving the post one evening, worried about getting on the road before it got too dark. As he was driving his jeep off the base, he was told someone wanted to talk with him. Travelling after dark was dangerous, so he decided to ignore the request. Before he could get on the road, the request came again, this time in the form of an order. Reluctantly, he returned to headquarters and was surprised to find his brother Tony waiting for him. Joe couldn't believe his eyes; he thought Tony was way up north. Tony had been in the field for days and looked like hell. "How did you get here?" "Well," Tony replied, "I conned a chopper pilot buddy to get me here, and in return, I promised him a cut of the booze I want to pick up for my squad. Hey, I'm a little short – how about lending me few bucks so I don't have to buy the cheap stuff?" Joe anted up some bucks, and off to the PX they went; Tony returned to his squad the next morning, but not before he and Joe had put a major dent in their purchase. I talked with Joe until I had to get back to work. As he was deplaning, I gave him a big hug and told him to say hi to Tony the next time he saw him.

A few years later, I ran into Tony at our next high school reunion. He told me a funny story of his own.

Tony's Story: "Snow on the Mountain"

Three days before Thanksgiving my battalion was ambushed, suffering many casualties. We had to hang in there, however - no options. I was point man for the battalion and picked out a bivouac, a mountaintop which gave us a commanding view of the surrounding area. We secured the perimeter while the medics attended our wounded. War is hell, they say, but we all knew that.

Thanksgiving Day arrived, along with the traditional dinner. We "dined" about noon, and it was delicious. The meal was served from large "ice chests" which had been delivered by chopper that morning. It consisted of roasted turkey with cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, sweet potatoes, and finished off with a flourish – pumpkin pie. It sure reminded us of home and was just what the doctor ordered!

That afternoon, headquarters told us that B-52's would be bombing near our position and ordered us to evacuate. The choppers started arriving about 6 p.m. We had about two hours more to get out of there before it got dark, so we were scrambling. In the midst of this activity, I noticed one of the guys stuff a roll of toilet paper under his arm and head for the bushes, holding his M-16 in one hand and his crotch with the other. He was soon followed by another, then another; pretty soon there were more guys squatting in the bushes than were preparing for our departure.

Every last one of us got the trots that afternoon. At first, we had no idea what was causing the problem. But we finally figured out that during the ambush three days earlier, someone had used our ice chests to carry fuel to the choppers; after the attack, the chests had simply been washed out (but not decontaminated) and then used to bring us that delicious Thanksgiving dinner. Latent traces of aviation gas mixed with our dinner had given us the Vietnam version of Montezuma's Revenge.

As we lifted off and gained altitude, we looked down and saw what looked like a huge ring of snow around the top of the mountain. Of course it wasn't snow (we were in Vietnam, after all), but a massive ring of toilet paper deposited around the mountaintop. As the choppers whisked us away to safety, we all had a good laugh, even as we were holding our crotches.

David's Story: "Travelling Light"

I arrived in Da Nang wearing my semi-formal uniform, but once on base, I quickly changed to fatigues. At first, I wore clean underwear every day, but as time passed, this routine changed. After about a month in-country, I volunteered for my first mobility.

Jungle heat and humidity were merciless. After a week with no bathing or daily changes of underwear, I got my first case of crotch rot. Working sunup to sundown and sweating constantly had allowed the fungus to quickly invade and conquer.

Returning from mobility, I immediately showered and washed all my clothes, then went to a medic to have my newly acquired condition treated. All I got was a big tube of anti-fungal cream, which in this humid environment made things worse. What I needed was some kind of powder, but nothing like that was available.

One day when I was bitching about the crotch rot, one of the short-timers asked incredulously, "You still wearing shorts out there?" I found out that all the guys on mobilities "travelled light," which improved air circulation between the legs and helped to avoid the rot. It also meant one less thing to wash. Guys just wore their fatigues without shorts until they fell apart, and then got another set of fatigues.

Thank God for that short-timer! The day he clued me in was the last day I wore shorts in Nam. The rot calmed down (but never left) and I was much more comfortable. It wasn't until I was transferred to Japan that I could get the anti-fungal powder I needed. The rot cleared up (six months later)!

So when you hear the phrase "travelling light," you'll know what it really means.

Another Jill Story: "Saved by a Picture"

I met Doyle at church when I was ten and he had just turned eleven. It was 1955, and my family had relocated to the small central California town of Paso Robles. I made lots of friends at school, but my best friends – my real confidants – were all from church, including Doyle. I saw him every Sunday; outside the church we played tag, and inside we learned to pray.

A few years later and now a teenager, I hurried into church one Sunday morning, bursting with excitement. I slipped into the pew next to my girlfriends, Marcia and Charnell, to share the most significant milestone in my life so far.

"Guess what!" I whispered, "I got my first bra!" As soon as I said it, Doyle's head popped out from behind Marcia's and whispered - and a rather loud whisper it was - "Congratulations!" I desperately wanted to melt into the pew, and it was weeks before I could look Doyle in the face without blushing. A year or so later, Doyle was responsible for two more firsts - my first date, to a softball game at the local ball field, and my first kiss.

The years flew by. After college, I moved to New York City. Oh, how I enjoyed living in the big city, with all the museums, job opportunities, and eligible men to date. I landed a great job as a Bunny at the New York Playboy Club and was making fabulous money. Doyle had stayed in California, where he attended Sacramento State College on a football scholarship. Just before graduation, he decided to take the OCS test, and passed. Thank his lucky little stars for that! If you had to go to Vietnam... and that was life in those days...it seemed better to go as an officer. So he joined up, and the Army sent him to Ft. Dix, New Jersey for training. Luckily for both of us, that was just across the river from New York City.

When Doyle found out he had been assigned to Ft. Dix, he got my phone number from my mom and telephoned me after he arrived (remember, long distance calls in those days were out of the question for most of us). I was thrilled - somebody from home was coming to visit! Even though I had three roommates and worked nights at the Club, I invited him to stay with us on the weekends. He slept on our couch. My roommates were all of similar age but from different parts of the U.S., and when Doyle showed up, we all sat around chatting and learning about one another. It was fun and entertaining.

Just before he shipped out, I gave Doyle a small photo of myself taken in my Bunny costume at the Club. Thinking ahead about the humid weather in Vietnam, he had the photo laminated in plastic before slipping it into a pocket of his fatigues for the flight to Vietnam. Neither one of us had any idea what an important role that picture would play in his life.

That was 1967. Fast-forward forty-three years to 2010 and a reunion of high school classes held in the VFW hall in Paso Robles. In our hometown, reunions were always a big part of the social scene. Doyle came to the reunion that year carrying a surprise. While I was out on the floor dancing with Billy Minshull to "Wake Up Little Susie," Doyle sought out my husband, Don. He slipped something into Don's hand and said, "This picture has served me well and I couldn't be more grateful; it, and all it represented, saved my sanity and my life, and now I think it's time to pass it back to its rightful owner." He was holding my Bunny photo from 1967! "Don," Doyle explained, "I landed in Nam with this picture in my pocket and carried it night and day. It stayed in my pocket until I got back to the real world. It was my good luck charm. When I was hunkered down in a foxhole being shelled, I would prop this picture up in the dirt right in front of me, pull my tarp over my head to block out Vietnam, the sound of machine gunfire, and the smell of gunpowder." Handing the picture to my husband, he said, "This picture took me back to times of safety, of playing tag at church, and my teen years. In all honesty, it saved my life. But it should be yours now. It's a bit the worse for wear; you know, she gave it to me over forty-two years ago." Particles of black dirt were embedded under the plastic along



all four sides of the photo. As Don accepted it, Doyle added, "This picture of Jill represented America to me – everything I prayed I would be able to return to; but she is your wife, so I would like you to have it. Please tell her thank you for saving my life, and to remember the dirt around the edges is Vietnamese dirt."

...come back in April and see what our "surprise package" comes up with.

Who's that with...? Here are a couple more photos to have a crack at identifying blokes with blokes and so on.



Now here's another classic – anyone got any ideas who these two are?



Kevin Grime- "Hi Dicko, Grimey here, and in need of some assistance, attached is a pic taken at Colonades in the Strand Arcade Sydney in 68 or 69
I am on the left, the two girls came from Ashbury can somebody please tell me the name of the Gunner from 131 on the right.
Cannot for the life of me remember his name, think he was a regular, I sold him my 1936 Black Chrysler Royale Sedan, Rego No WW 689, before I left for SVN in July 69 for \$120.
Would love to catch up with him and find out what happened to him and the car
regards keving"



We got a couple ID'd – left to right in the background Bill Wight, Ian Yerbury, Grahame Dignam and then...

Ken Osborne – "Dear Paul , finally got around to reading the latest issue and I noted that on page 7 you were asking Who that is with . Well the one with Denise Drysdale in it , was from a slide that I took when the Bty was host to the show and the bloke standing behind John Vitkovsky is "**Doc**" **Pimm*** who was my radio mechanic from the Det Div Loc Bty Workshop , who the others are in the background I cannot say . This photo and a few others taken at the same time I included on a CD I sent last year to Grahame Dignam that include Patty McGrath and Warwick Hamilton and others you might recognise .

I was going to call in and see John Vitkovsky when I went to Rocklands in

February for my annual visit there to do some fishing , photography and yabbing but due to the fires in the Grampians at the time of my intended visit and the danger it presented I never went , but hopefully some time later in the year I will make the visit . Regards Ken Osborne"

Pimm, David Leslie – Regt No 215746 ARA Rank: Craftsman RAEME Det 131 Div Loc Bty Workshop SVN 17.04.67 to 23.04.68 (373 Days) DOB 28.08.46 State of Origin: NSW – does anyone know him and where he might be?

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

. **Customs** – This is a continuing 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...

The Lone Charger

ANZAC Day marches and other memorial parades are often led by a lone, riderless horse, with a pair of boots set backwards in the stirrups and the saddle stripped. Ancient peoples, such as the Saxons and Scythians, used to bury a great warrior's horse with him so that it could serve him in the afterlife. This practice was continued in some European countries until the late eighteenth century. In modern times, custom has been kinder to the horse, which has been led in its master's funeral procession with his boots reversed as a sign that a warrior has fallen in battle. A lone charger has been added to some ANZAC Day parades as an additional symbol of respect and mourning, often for the men of the Light Horse units.

Sir Harry Chauvel's horse with the ride boots set in reverse, at his funeral in 1945.



. **Dave Crowther** – “think about this for an E&Es response below!!”

Ed after having read it how could I refuse – these are some classic memories and worth retelling -

“Hi Dicko, kind regards for the new year and keep up the excellent work.

A few points to raise:-

1. I well remember the Cenotaph Guard **George** (Lane) was talking about. All the gunners were Nasho's in my time at 131 at North Fort that nearly did every cenotaph guard. In fact **Terry** (Westerway) is wrong, we formed up near the **Mitchell Library** and from there he is correct, proceeded down Macquarie St, did a right wheel at Martin Place and down to the Cenotaph. The tune played varied with the bands. In the photo George displayed I am the one with the distinctive slope on my slouch. **Fred Lennon** was the Sgt.

2. The picture at 31d is definitely my good friend “**Jock**” **White** (presumed dec'd as all attempts to trace fruitless) although my recollection is that he was with **LBdr Rob Buckley**. I well remember “fisticuffs” between the pair and Jock took over after my rta Nov.1966

3. **Brian Turner** - Brian contacted me through *Eye & Ears*. He was in 31A with me at the Dat. I had not seen or heard from him since my t/fer from 131 at Holsworthy 1967. He ran into some Vietnam Vets bikers in the bush and one was my childhood best mate I enlisted with and was a two-tour SAS Vet, “**Blackie**” **Reid**. The SAS were originally next to 31A prior to taking up their position on the hill and we met up a few time also on the hill (**big Al's** territory). Brian forwarded a photo of “**the Don**”, myself, **Bob Tanner** and **Bob Ness**. One of the few photos of my time in SVN. Brian was the subject of my long running feud with 2Lt **Peter Sadler** - the Survey Officer in the Det. Brian was on duty on the wire in the a.r. pit when Sadler attempted to sneak up on him (from the front and on his r.h.s. at approx 0200 hrs . It was a starless night and he was about 10 mts prior to being challenged. When Saddler came to the Radar post he asked me to admonish Brian. My laconic comment that Brian should have “**let off a burst**” did not endear me and the feud continued at proof and experimental establishment where he was 2IC. It led to my calling it quits. Unfortunately for him I was on very good terms with the OC and used to spar with him regularly. He was an amateur champion.

Just a small flashback

Kind regards dc”



. **Bob King** at the 2011 Mo Awards with **Frank Ifield** (“I Remember You” fame – No.1 in the UK in 1962) – now can you pick which one is which?

. **John Brown** here's some really great news –

"Gang,

My youngest daughter April has been awarded the Long Tan Scholarship Bursary and Award for her Psychology studies over the next 3 years. She has to fly down to Sydney shortly to receive the award.

Well done to my little April. Browny"

. **Coffs Harbour Reunion – 2013.** Here's another heads-up to help with planning for ALL of us who are attending the Reunion 2013 will be held on **24th-28th April**.

These details are recorded on the 131 Locators Association web site in the "Events Calendar" section.

...notes taken from the LS & TAA website – The *Locating Artillery Association Inc Northern NSW Branch* will host its next **Coffs Harbour Reunion** during April 2013 and will include Anzac Day Commemorative Service is on Thursday.

A basic overview of the details are as follows:

- Wednesday 24th will be Meet and Greet;
- Thursday 25th Anzac Day Commemorative Services;
- Friday 26th will include an Evening Regimental Dinner;
- Saturday 27th will be an Evening Farewell Dinner; and,
- Sunday 28th Farewell Breakfast.

Other activities will be arranged during that period and Members will receive information through LOCREP once further information becomes available. <http://www.locatingartillery.org/index.htm>

. **Ed's Meanderings** in March had him catch up with blokes he knew and then put faces to names he now knows...

Melbourne on 13th I caught up with –



Right to left – Al Adams, Mike Butler and the boy from Geelong Reiny Niewenhof. It was great to catch up with Al as usual, but what added to the lunch was talking to a couple of the "kids" who called Nui Dat Disneyland in the '70s! Great to discover another era.



...stopped...and had a look at the "Plaque" in Canberra – overhanging hedge may need a trim **Bert**, but no bird droppings and it looked in good shape.



...caught up with I to r – **Ernie Newbold, Grahame Dignam and Allen Morley** at the "Exhibition" in Sydney for lunch a great catch-up.

. **Peter Bruce** from **The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company** (see link at "Other related sites..."

At the end of this edition) sent in the following email after reading February's *Eyes & Ears* in relation to "Vale" -

"Hello Paul,

Thank you for the latest edition - another worthwhile publication. I was wondering if any of your readers may like to put together an obituary we can use on the RAAHC web site under our obituary section. (see www.artilleryhistory.org)

There were some great stories from various friends of the two (Atkinson and Delaney) and I believe would be of interest to future readers of their life stories. Best wishes Peter

. **Mickey Pettiford – amazing story...**"Hi Paul , My memory is not great but I think this is **Nev Atkinson** taken in Baria, we used to visit (illegally) an orphanage / school run by Catholic nuns. We were in Arty Int in Nui Dat . I have revisited the school about 10 years ago, took a bit of finding but amazing to talk to the now school deputy principal who was one of the kids we used to spend time with. Keep up the good work .Mickey P."



What a great photo.

. **Ernie Newbold** brings up to date with latest in Locating gear with –

Army February 14, 2013 www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews WORLD 11

The sensor in the sky

Unmanned aerial vehicle provides real-time information on battlespace to planners in Afghanistan

Capt Sean Childs

INTELLIGENCE, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) are the cornerstones of a modern commander's battlespace tool kit.

The Shadow, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), is a sensor in the sky over Afghanistan, with Shadow Group 2 providing ISR in Uruzgan since late last year.

Shadow Group 2's Battery Commander, Maj Scott Lehmann, said the Group spent seven weeks training for deployment at the Woomera Test Range in South Australia before being certified.

"The UAV role here in Tarin Kot is to provide the commander and his staff situational awareness across the battlespace, through the persistent capability we have within our payload," Maj Lehmann said.

"The UAV allows the planning staff to get up-to-date information on the battlespace."

The aircraft is flown from a ground control station by an air vehicle operator, while a mission payload operator manipulates the camera and ancillary sensors.

Information collected is passed to the mission command centre, where images are analysed and higher command requests for information are met.

Shadow Group 2's Mission Command Centre OIC Sgt Sue Osborn said the technical proficiency and skill required of Shadow's operators was demanding, with data flow and external variables constantly impelling quick, accurate decision making. Multiskilling is the norm for the team at Shadow Group 2.

"I am an unmanned aerial vehicle operator and I'm dual-hatted with a number of tasks as a flying instructor and a mission commander," Sgt Osborn said.

"I also fly and pilot the aircraft as an air vehicle operator or as a payload operator".

Shadow Group 2 provides ISR for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and coalition partners in Tarin Kot.

The Shadow also provides infrastructure support to the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP), contributing to the transition of Afghanistan's security responsibility to the ANSF.

"With the ANA and ANP we provide an overwatch capability, allowing coalition force assets a timely response to any incidents or application the ANA require to complete their mission," Maj Lehmann said.

Shadow Group 2 has 45 Australian personnel, drawn from the 132nd Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Battery, 20 STA Regt from Enoggera Barracks.

Surveillance: Aircraft technicians and crew chief Cpl Tyrone Tynan prepares a Shadow UAV for a mission in Tarin Kot, Afghanistan.

Photos by Cpl Christopher Dickson

Ed – Is the photographer Cpl Christopher Dickson a distant Locator Relative??



Take-off: A Shadow takes off from Multinational Base Tarin Kot, on a mission in the Uruzgan province.

What happened in **March** way back then...

- 06 March 1966 Holt announces the Australian commitment in South Vietnam will be increased to a 4350-man task force, and will include conscripts. The 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) will include two infantry battalions, a Special Air Service Squadron, combat and support logistic units and eight RAAF Iroquois helicopters (9 SQN). The Task Force will be supported by 1 Australian Logistic Support Group (1 ALSG) to be established at Vung Tau. For the first time, national servicemen will be sent to South Vietnam.

- 10 March 1971 Sir William McMahon replaces Gorton as Liberal leader and Prime Minister.

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

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

- 29 March 1973 Last US troops leave Vietnam.

- 29 March 1975 Australian Government responds to urgent requests for transport assistance from Governments of South Vietnam and United States by hastily dispatching a contingent of seven RAAF Hercules and two Dakota aircraft to Vietnam on a humanitarian relief mission
 The RAAF is utilized in various roles during final weeks of the war, including movement of refugees, transport of Red Cross and UN supplies, and on 4th and 17th April, evacuation of Vietnamese war orphans from Saigon to Bangkok during 'Operation Baby Lift'.

Courtesy of the VVAA Museum Sub-Branch. Includes material from the Special Edition of the Australian on Thursday August 18 1988, with attribution to Stuart Rintoul's "Ashes of Vietnam" (William Heineman, Australia).

. "Grocers and Gunners" tours to Vietnam - Grahame Dignam received the following information and we've included it –

"Hello Graham,

I'm a member of the RAASC Vietnam Veterans Association and the Diamond Valley Vietnam Veterans Association and have been organising and leading the *Grocers and Gunners* tours to Vietnam since 2009 and was wondering if you might like to provide some publicity for the tour in your newsletter and/or website. I've attached a tour brochure for your information. You might also be interested in the 2012 tour article, which is also attached. These tours came about through a conversation with a mate, an ex-member of 131 Div Loc Bty, David Dodd, and it grew from there.

The tour is designed for those who have an interest, not only in Australia's military commitment to Vietnam, but also an interest in the culture of this fascinating country. It's four/five star, all inclusive and designed for couples. On past tours, the Australian Defence Attaché has joined us for one of our dinners, which has been an added bonus. An invitation will be extended to the current attaché to join us for our next tour.

Accommodation for the 2013 tour is:

Saigon: Caravelle Hotel

Vung Tau: Imperial Hotel (built on the site of the Badcoe Club)

Danang/Hoi An: Vinpearl Hotel

Hanoi: Melia Hotel

Ha Long Bay: La Bhaya Cruises

Sapa: Victoria Resort

It would be great to have some *Locaters* join us for the 2013 tour.

Regards Phil

Contact: PR & MP Brookes (brookes1@bigpond.net.au) Reservations need to be confirmed by 15th July 2013."

.Concerned, Sydney...

"Dear Ed

Have you seen the movie *Zero Dark Thirty*? One of the stars is an Aussie actor, Jason Clarke who plays the character Dan. I had the feeling of déjà vu in the early part of the movie. He was a water-boarding specialist. Then it clicked. A face familiar to those at Holsworthy and Nui Dat in the 1966-68 period. Yes, the late Mick Campbell. A doppelganger across the years.

Concerned, Sydney"



. **Did you know - Blokes and Associations...**through general correspondence and the odd phone call (I mean NOT made on a regular basis – NOT "odd" as in a peculiar nature) with **Grahame Dignam** we've often commented on the number of blokes who belong to various organisations which we hear about in emails etc. So it got us to thinking about what if we canvassed all and sundry to gather information on the blokes we have contact with to make up some sort of data base of those and the associations/organisations.

Here we go to list a few names and there's got to be heaps more – Bruce Irvine, Dave Doyle, Peter Dealy, Kevin Heenan, Ken Woodbine, Steve Boutlis, Ken Osborne, Jim Hognó, Reiny Niewenhoff and I know Mike Butler is a member of the Box Hill RSL - this is just to name but a few.

So can we get names and Association/Organisation Names, addresses and what you do with them so we can ~~harass~~ (oops!) list the details for blokes to maybe contact/join or something?

. **Ed gets on his soap-box...**(did I detect a collective groan?)

It's surprising how active the old grey matter gets and things that gnaw away at it or come up in some sort of communication get expanded on.

Well I like to send stuff, initially, to the Association Committee which includes the Regional blokes to drive them mad and create some cross-flow of ideas and maybe just be controversial – so for March I started off with the following and got a mixed response...

An early week puzzle concerning the "Eligibility Clause of the awarding of The Vietnam Campaign Medal " -

"Eligibility

The Australian government maintained the basic qualifying criteria specified by the Republic of Vietnam for allied troops. To be eligible for the medal a person must have completed a minimum period of 181 days, either continuous or aggregated, unless:

killed on active service (KIA); wounded in action i.e. classified as a Battle Casualty and evacuated as a result of those wounds;

or

captured and later released or escaped.

Note that medical evacuation from the area of operations for any reasons other than wounds received in action does **not** constitute an exemption from meeting the minimum qualifying period."

So, dare I beg the following questions for discussion/clarification - the questions posed are based on "am I eligible for the medal?" –

1. What government is this - taken from the above Eligibility clause "the basic qualifying criteria specified by the Republic of Vietnam"? Does the current regime "Republic of Vietnam" recognise my decoration now?

2. Navy - does being crew of a naval vessel that went to SVN (Vung Tau I guess) enough times (including travel) during the conflict to clock up more than 181 days qualify me for the medal? Mind you I could have been at sea for more time than I was in Vung Tau.

3. On a combat mission - I fell out of a helicopter on landing in an operation on my 7th day in country and because of my injuries I was repatriated to Australia never to return. I was not injured by enemy activity. Am I eligible?
 4. I was on a sand bagging job and fell off the truck on my 7th day in country - I was armed - and because of my injuries I was repatriated to Australia never to return. I was not injured by enemy activity. Am I eligible?
 3. As a National Serviceman I was posted to a combat unit in Nui Dat as a replacement, but because I had to return to Australia as the completion of my 2 year term was imminent and this only allowed 180 days service. I was willing to stay on, but I was ordered home. Is there a case based on the fact that I was prejudiced by the unit sending me knowing I could not complete the 181 days?
 4. I was in Ordinance, based in Vung Tau/Saigon only, for more than 181 days - am I entitled?
 5. I was posted to a combat unit in Nui Dat as a replacement, but because the war ended prematurely i.e. I was in country for a period less than 181 days required to qualify? Again I would have stayed on - the decision to prejudice me was out of my hands.
 6. I was incarcerated in SVN in an army prison and returned to my unit after serving time. I was in prison for 21 days and in country for a total of 181 days - do I qualify?
 7. I am a QANTAS employee and made enough flights to accumulate 181 days travelling and in country. Do I qualify?
- I'm extremely interested in your responses. Paul"

...then...I couldn't resist the following items in newspapers -

Gazette - Warragul 12/03/13

Contemporary veterans will need special services

by Carolyn Turner

The Department of Veteran Affairs is going through a period of rapid change and growth with the increase of contemporary veterans requiring services, according to the Department of Veteran Affairs complex case management assistant director Roger Silverson.

Mr Silverson was guest speaker at the 15th annual meeting of the West Gippsland Veterans Welfare Centre held at the Drouin RSL Hall recently.

He cited the example that at the end of 2009 there were 107,600 surviving World War II veterans yet at June last year the figure had reduced to 69,200.

Korean veterans had reduced by 2000 while Vietnam veterans had reduced by 2000.

However contemporary veterans, those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan or in peace keeping forces had increased to 57,000.

"Our older veterans are decreasing every year, while our contemporary veterans are increasing."

"By 2022 we expect to be assisting 99,000 contemporary veterans," he said.

He said working with veterans and their requirements was also changing and resulting in DVA having to change in thinking and move with the times.

"Younger veterans expect a different service delivery model," he said.

"We have found the younger group are more demanding of services."

"They expect prompt, quick, reliable service delivery."

Mr Silverson said internet services were important to providing a speedier service.

Once assessed veterans use a case co-ordinator to manage claims.

The organisation also has staff in each state to

manage widows and families of those who died in service.

"This can be very complex dealing with areas of grief," he said.

Mr Silverson also referred to recent allegations of sexual assault within the defence force.

"These are incredibly complex cases particularly in the area of proof," he said.

In response to a need to provide prompt contact with veterans the department has set up various programs involving SMS and internet.

Mr Silverson said he was also involved with the centenary celebrations at Gallipoli in 2015.

He said Anzac Cove on Anzac Day would be restricted to 10,000 people to be conducted via a ballot.

"No tour company can guarantee you a place at the service. It will be done by ballot so I warn you against thinking companies will be allocated spaces because they won't be," he said.

The ballot will be held later this year or early next year," he said.

West Gippsland Veterans Welfare Centre chairman Graeme Watts said the year had been successful with the organisation assisting veterans or service personnel and their families.

He said in the past year the centre had a total of 583 enquiries from people seeking information for themselves or a dependent.

Mr Watts said the volunteers running the centre had contributed more than 200 hours in the past year.

"These figures demonstrate that the services from our voluntary organisation are indeed required within the West Gippsland community," he said.

Mr Watts was re-elected chairman. He was also elected centre manager.



Department of Veteran Affairs complex case management assistant director Roger Silverson (right) with newly elected West Gippsland Veterans Welfare Centre chairman Graeme Watts.

The article, on the right, from the "Australian" on Saturday, 9th March is a great follow up to the "out of left field" eligibility article I sent out a couple of weeks ago.

Now this article has nothing to do with medals, BUT it has to do with a very fine line of discrimination, between longer term "civilian volunteers" and "short term remunerated entertainers" and possible future care being offered by the Government.

If this is NOT bloody appalling then I don't know what is - surely it's worth a support letter?

...and then...

I'm back - trouble with being in Australia and having access to newspapers etc. Maybe it's just this week that items are appearing?

However, the press this week seems to be inundated with things "needed" by Veterans - mainly the current batch serving since Iraq.

Australian 9/3/13 Pg 17

Minister fights for medics

MARK DAY

A FORMER South Australian governor and the state's Minister for Veterans Affairs have taken up the cudgels on behalf of volunteer civilian doctors and nurses who served in Vietnam but have been denied medical assistance by the federal government.

SA Veterans Affairs Minister Jack Snelling is writing to his federal counterpart, Warren Snowdon, urging that the ban on doctors and nurses receiving Department of Veterans Affairs gold card medical assistance be lifted.

This follows a review by the SA Veterans Affairs Council, headed by former governor Eric Neal, after evidence emerged challenging the DVA contention that the civilian teams never served under army command.

About 450 doctors and nurses served in Vietnam between 1964 and 1972.

About 220 are still alive, with many suffering war-related illnesses such as post-traumatic stress disorders, cancers and auto-immune diseases.

All military personnel, including performers who entertained the troops, have medical entitlements under DVA, but the department argues the medical teams were under the control of the department of external affairs.

A document leaked to The Weekend Australian last month puts the Bien Hoa hospital, run by the civilian teams, under the wing of the Australian and Vietnamese armies. The document has not been validated by DVA.

The SA VAC has supported the civilian teams' claims since 2009 but at its last meeting reviewed the new evidence and urged Mr Snelling to write to his federal counterpart asking that existing policy be overturned.

Have a read of the article on the left. I realise that the current Vets have a different discharge policy, but the Govt for all its postulating still recruits, trains and dispatches and turns boys into supposed men and then does its darndest to NOT accept the consequences.

Then in today's Sunday Herald Sun (Victoria) there are a couple of very prominent articles referring to the lack of services being offered to some fairly horrific cases and a lot to do with PTSD.

All the cases sighted refer to poor understanding brought about by not enough DVA staffing etc.

It all smacks of the "handling" of some of our current mates - who appear to be "brick-walled" and continuously being before review panels, then having to appeal and so it goes on.

Some cases for years.

I don't believe the Govt, or more precisely its servants, realise the continuance of these procedures also contributes to anxiety and other causes that these people are trying to have handled.

I make no apologies for this stuff I write - however, I will desist if it's driving you mad. Paul"

...then the following comes over Ed's desk...

So I got the following out to the Assoc and Regional blokes for comment -



"Morning All,

The following has been dug up and I present it now as a matter of some concern as, on the surface, it appears ambiguous and NOT defined. There are no terms of reference.

But what is the Tribunal inquiry about? Why was it instigated? And submissions have to be submitted by May this year. Has anyone heard of this?

Have a look at the link - is the current Vietnamese Government instigating this?

<http://defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au/2013/03/22/inquiry-into-eligibility-for-the-republic-of-vietnam-campaign-medal/>

Paul"

Can anyone enlighten us on this "Inquiry"?

I firmly believe that we need answers to this perplexing question.

. Grahame Dignam forwarded the following on sent to him by **Fran Sinclair** re: **The Gunner Lunch in Melbourne** – "Hi Graeme

I was meant to send out a notice from Doug in January. Thought I had although I was preparing for a holiday hence it was missed. Here is an updated version.

My apologies to you if you were able to attend and missed out.

Regards Fran"

TO ALL LOCATORS

For some years now I have taken over the arrangements for an annual Gunner Lunch. In earlier times it was held at the Naval & Military Club and now it is held at RACV Club Burke Street Melbourne. We usually get between 75 & 100+ in recent times. This event is organised by me with the support of the RAA Assn (Vic) We have about a dozen WW2 Gunners, a host of retired Regular & Reserve and a good number of serving members. There are a number of Locators now attending and gradually we are seeing an increasing number of VV's. This year we had a roll up from 104 and 108 Bty. Some of our guest travel significant distances to attend as the venue is only a short walk from Southern Cross station.

The event generally does not have speeches and the main highlight is an informal quiz based on early artillery procedures. In the background we run a continuous loop of old 'photos. Next year we will add a group from 104 Bty. I maintain a separate mailing list for this function and if you would like to receive an invitation, please send your email details to me at perry@shepard.com.au Next year's event has already been booked for Wednesday 5 March 2014.

Regards

Douglas Perry

Shepard Webster & O'Neill Pty Ltd

Certified Practising Accountants Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation
Level 1 434 Nepean Highway FRANKSTON VIC 3199 Telephone 03 9781 2633 Fax 03 9781 3073 Email:
perry@shepard.com.au

. Ed – You call that a photo? This can't be right! It's hard to believe but the following two photos have been taken from our website –



131 Locators Association – and it's amazing how much easier it is to recognise **Vaughan Millar** (on the left) as opposed to **Peter Hopper** (on the right).

OK, all kidding aside - we've got 106+ Profiles on the website, so now can we get **51** recent head and shoulder photos for the Profiles that don't have photos.



The photos can be sent to **Bob Billiards** at - billiard@pnc.com.au

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 a group this time – **Chris Bouilly** has joined as a 5 years member.

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 16/04/2013 at 11:00hrs

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

<http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/>

"We buy the first beer or tomato juice, but NOT a Decaffeinated Latte Coffee with skimmed milk, for new attendees and lunch is usually Pizza (other selections are available). GD"

Come along and get involved even if it is only for the great array of pizzas (don't mention colonoscopies to George) – Contact Grahame Dignam and let him know you're coming at: Sectreas131locators@gmail.com

Anzac Day 2013 in Sydney -

The number of 131 Anzac Day marchers in Sydney this year is expected to be significantly reduced. Competition from the biennial LSTAA Coffs Harbour reunion will be the main reason.

Nevertheless, 131 Div Loc Battery soldiers are encouraged to March in Sydney on the morning of Thursday April 25th.

The order of march issued by the RSL has us forming at Bent and O'Connell Street corner

(<http://www.rslnsw.com.au/uploads/ANZACMAP.pdf>). The march begins at 9am, so those marching should be in place before 10am.

Our start point is likely to be in O'Connell Street. We will march with The Locating Surveillance and Target Acquisition Association behind the 131 Detachment banner.

The now usual post-march lunch at Zest restaurant will be held over for this year, unless those members who have advised they desire to attend lunch are sufficient for catering purposes.

Please contact Allen Morley president@131locators.org.au or Ph 02 94283275 to advise:

1) if you will be marching in Sydney and/or

2) if you want to attend the post-march lunch.

. A message from Allen Morley –

Helping Gunners via 131 Locators Association

When this Association was originally set up there was considerable discussion involving what it would be about and how it might work effectively.

Communication – sure.

A website – certainly.

A central forum – absolutely.

Helping members – a given.

But on the latter we have probably been a little slow off the mark. It is time now to begin to make up for lost time.

Your Association's Constitution describes one of its purposes as:

to provide directed advice and information to 131 Battery soldiers who may need assistance for health and related reasons

There are all sorts of organisations currently involved in providing services/assistance/advice ranging from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) through the Vietnam Veterans Association (VVA) and also the RSL. But it can be challenging to find out exactly what your Veteran's rights actually comprise. I believe our thoughts were that members would know how to access their rights. Unfortunately, that is certainly not the case.

For example some of our members have followed the Centrelink path for a full or partial aged pension. Probably the better approach is via a **Service Pension** administered by DVA. I know at Anzac Day last year I was talking to one of our veterans and recommended to him the Service Pension alternative. Sure there are a multitude of questions which realistically pry into your personal affairs and finances, sort of a fiscal colonoscopy. On the upside a Gold Card – Repatriation Health Card - comes with the Service Pension provided you meet the age and financial qualifications for Service Pension. So your medical issues can be taken care of, generally at no charge to you as the Gold Card holder. **Public transport** may be important to you. You may have a Seniors Card issued by your State Government. That entitles you to (in NSW) a \$2.50 ticket for wide ranging travel on any single day. However, in NSW as a Veteran you are probably entitled to an Ex-Member of Defence Forces Pass by RailCorp, which offers similar benefits to the Seniors Card but at **zero** cost.

So how do I find out exactly what are my entitlements? The following list is a starting point to follow up for your specific needs:

* VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service, a service founded by Vietnam veterans 1800 011 046

* DVA – the Federal Government Department; General Inquiries from anywhere in Australia Ph 133 254 or

http://www.dva.gov.au/contact_us/Pages/index.aspx

* Vietnam Veterans Association - <http://www.vvfa.org.au/> or Ph 02 9682 1788; a highly recommended source for assistance and advice to Veterans * RSL - <http://www.rsl.org.au/>

I hope that helps. It is not always an easy process to understand and/or to obtain your full entitlements. It can be frustrating, time consuming, annoying and repetitive. However, your association encourages each member not to give up, despite the road blocks, panji pits and a general lack of appreciation from bureaucrats who line the process pathway.

If you have any questions or clarification or corrections relating to the above please contact me on president@131locators.org.au or Ph 02 94283275.

Best wishes

Allen Morley

President

. 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.**

Ross Gunnell just happened to send the following to **Grahame Dignam** and Dig thought it was a good plug for the Association's Decal/Sticker -

"Went for a trip to Darwin and on way stopped at the 80 Mile Beach Resort. A "Nasho", not unlike us, did a tour in 70's and came over to me due to the sticker [nut sticker to the wife] on the car.

At this place some vets have built a small memorial and apparently visit there each Anzac Day.

Anyway this fellow, forgot his name, came to me very sad and somewhat teary. He came from St George in Qld and had just heard his mate had done himself in. We spent some time at the memorial where I [somehow] helped him say farewell to his mate. We had a couple of beers and I think I encouraged him that his mate would want him to live on.

He seemed to be happy with it and his wife [next day] said that she could see he was going to move on.

I didn't sleep too well for a couple of nights but felt another less lonely "Nasho" to the tally.

The Sticker certainly helps more than you think. The wilderness of society is a lonely place and I felt privileged to have had someone come to me.

Pretty heavy at the time but mateship after the event is sooooo good.

See you later MATE" Regards Ross"

...then **Grahame replied...** "Rosco,

Great story and really demonstrates the power of "mateship" that exists between Vets regardless of times in conflicts. We immediately understand what emotions are being experienced and accept whatever situation - I suppose WE would also look for that reaction if the roles were reversed.

The car sticker was all the introduction you needed to form that immediate connection. And we know how you don't mind having a chat !!! and we know you "Sandgropers" are a compassionate lot!

Well, now that you have started you will have to tell the rest of the story of what you did to Darwin when you got there. Next time you travel over here, give us a yell (allow an extra day) and we will have a small gathering of LP1 personnel and a bit of lunch.

Always good to hear from you and its good that you haven't forgotten how to use the computer.....

Regards Grahame"

. Birthdays in the Battery ...April –

Mike Butler was curious as to why we made him 5 months older in February's *Eyes & Ears* – "Hi Paul

Just a small correction - my birthday is 3 August not 3 March. Cheers Mike"



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

Ed - We correct our copy in February and note that the picture above of Mike showed him 42 years and 7 months ago, NOT 43 years!



Now let's see if we can get **John "Kanga" McFadden** right with him in leaving Sydney in May 1967 – he was about a month shy of turning 22!

Now let's pick the youngster out for the Month – **Mark Szypulski** - Happy 62nd where

ever you are?

April	Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	DES SPENCER	3787905	1945	03 01 1967	13 12 1967	
1	IAN MORRIS Capt.	243062	1941	10 03 1970	09 07 1970	RAEME
	" "			09 07 1970	11 03 1971	106 Fd Wkshp
2	HILTON HOLLOWAY	1736606	1949	16 12 1970	03 05 1971	131
	" "			03 05 1971	26 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
4	KEVIN MAKER	2251507	1949	26 08 1969	13 08 1970	
4	WILLIAM LAUGHLIN	2788465	1945	13 01 1969	27 08 1969	
7	JOHN McFADDEN	2783243	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
7	DAVID MARTIN	2781662	1945	22 04 1966	29 04 1967	

8	RICHARD BRISTOW	1733143	1945	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
8	LEON DJATSCHENKO	312532	1949	26 08 1969	13 08 1970	
9	TERRENCE MYERS	217798	1950	08 05 1969	30 04 1970	
11	MICHAEL McDONNELL	2781377	1945	04 05 1966	11 04 1967	
11	TERRENCE FOX	1200934	1949	08 07 1968	02 07 1969	
12	KEVIN BEVANS	3798316	1949	10 02 1971	07 06 1971	131
	" "			07 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
15	Martins Van De Nieuwenhof	3798241	1947	10 02 1971	05 08 1971	
19	RON ROYAL WO2	23552	1929	02 03 1967	20 02 1968	† Unknown
19	PETER CLARKE	3792212	1947	11 11 1968	27 08 1969	
19	BARRY DYSON	3795956	1947	03 06 1970	04 03 1971	
20	ANTHONY TURNER	1202849	1946	27 01 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			01 07 1971	15 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
21	JEFFREY BASSFORD	2792419	1949	29 04 1970	14 04 1971	
21	NEVILLE DAVIS	5716997	1949	11 02 1971	12 08 1971	
22	BARRY CAMPTON Capt.	61270	1937	{14 07 1963	22 07 1963	
	" "			{13 08 1966	28 04 1967	
22	MARK SZYPULSKI	313270	1951	19 08 1970	17 03 1971	4 & 12 Fd Regt.
	" "			18 03 1971	29 07 1971	131
23	MURRAY SMALE	5411587	1948	27 11 1967	20 08 1968	
24	JOHANNES LAS	3792338	1947	23 09 1968	18 06 1969	
25	KEVIN BANKS	3794366	1948	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
25	QUENTON KNIGHT	2412578	1949	09 12 1968	24 09 1969	
26	GRAHAME DIGNAM	2784745	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
26	WILLIAM CROWTHER	215416	1946	22 04 1966	02 11 1966	
27	GERALD YOUNG Maj.	311460	1926	{06 03 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME
	" "			{25 05 1967	22 06 1967	RAEME
28	GARY LOVELL	218160	1950	08 05 1969	30 04 1970	
29	RON MASON	3787154	1945	04 05 1966	03 03 1967	
29	KEVIN THORNTON	2781420	1945	04 05 1966	02 02 1967	
29	BERNARD ERICA	3787334	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
29	PETER FUHRMANN	3789807	1946	21 06 1967	02 04 1968	
30	IAN McMILLAN	215117	1945	15 07 1970	09 09 1970	

Ed – 20 blokes not highlighted is still way off the mark! Surely we can find a couple of these blokes?

There are – **3** who commenced their tour in 1966, **1** who commenced their tour in 1967, **5** who commenced their tour in 1968, **4** who commenced their tour in 1969, **4** who commenced their tour in 1970, **3** who commenced their tour in 1971. Maybe some of you blokes in these years can start some sort of group search to resurrect some of these Lost Locators?

. Locator Profiles – we've received **107** and we've sent out **107**. **Ed** – we can always do with a few more though!

Ed - I had some correspondence with **Kevin Browning** after receiving his thoughts and photos for February 2013's (last month) Vale section in *Eyes & Ears* after the passing of **Michael Delaney**. My thoughts, hence why I'm writing here under the Locator Profiles section, were and still are based on having blokes complete Locator Profiles as it introduces us to one of our own who we may have thought we knew, may have known incidentally and in a majority of cases not known at all. All I'm espousing and will continue to do is ask, cajole or threaten that we all have a crack at one for the rest of us.

Anyway here's the correspondence -

"Kevin,

Thanks as always for your participation - Russ (Jackson) said that you and Graeme Owen would come good - and it's worked from both of you.

I've archived your photos and will use them in this month's *E&Es* Vale.

Mike's passing is another factor that it would always be great to have Profiles on blokes to have let us get to know a little about them before a tragedy comes along.

Ah well - as long as whoever's mates have kept in contact that's something.

I'm getting either too old or too philosophical! Paul"

...then KB responded with...

"Paul,

Looks like I am becoming too predictable but it is always a pleasure to assist where possible. It is a pity the profiles are not always available but that is human nature. Few people like to think they are writing their own eulogy. What I term the 68/69 Survey Group is one of only a few of the groups formed over the years by those who served in the Detachment and now thankfully to the *E&E* more are joining the fold so keep up the great work
Regards Kevin"

. 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.



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.

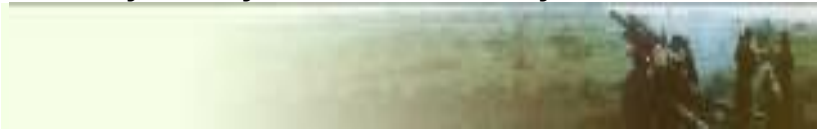
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: Sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join.

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 – The *Locating Artillery Association Inc Northern NSW Branch* will host its next **Coffs Harbour Reunion** during April 2013 and will include Anzac Day Commemorative Service is on Thursday.

A basic overview of the details is as follows:

- Wednesday 24th will be Meet and Greet;
- Thursday 25th Anzac Day Commemorative Services;
- Friday 26th will include an Evening Regimental Dinner;
- Saturday 27th will be an Evening Farewell Dinner; and,
- Sunday 28th Farewell Breakfast.

Other activities will be arranged during that period and Members will receive information through LOCREP once further information becomes available. <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/

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