

THE EYES and EARS

"FIRST PUBLISHED 22nd JULY 1967 in Nui Dat, South Vietnam"



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The Detachment in SVN...

. **The** following is an amazing story which is evolving into a really interesting find as to history of the Detachment in SVN. Up to now, on what we've been able to discover, our history has almost been limited to 1967 in the main, but read on and discover what is in the pipeline...

Allen Morley hatched an idea on 13th January, 2014 to develop the history of 131 Div Loc Bty. The first attempts proved daunting as advice to him from Dr Jeffrey Grey, Prof of History at UNSW, was such that it would be too longwinded, very complicated and was a long time ago.

After a discussion with **Grahame Dignam** at a subsequent meeting, the focus changed to a project to gather information from the Detachment's former OCs with regards to gleaning information in relation to Operational Reports. As a result, the OC's were approached to provide their recollections of their time in a general manner fit for public consumption.

However, whilst stalking the portals of the AWM website in Canberra, researching the hard data the Association had access to, Grahame became somewhat disoriented, much to a great result. The following emails describe what has prevailed...

...from Grahame... - "I was wandering (surfing) around the War Memorial site and I was lost - so I put Det 131 Div Loc Bty into the search box and got a return so I perused it.

There are (see attached) 40+ references to Det 131 but with a warning that the records are paper and cover - A topo survey info, Operational reports 1966), Battle Int reports on 107mm rockets etc, Arty Int reports etc.

I spoke to Bert Blink who is investigating further with a view to having the records digitised at a cost to our Assn of about \$16 per record. If they provide good info I am sure the Surveyors would also like access to them. Or do we approach DVA for a grant to cover the cost?

We don't yet know if all would be required so this is just a "heads up" of what's in the wind."

...Bert responds... "Hi, When Grahame first found details of AWM372 the bit that really got his attention was this:-

"Battery history - This comprises of two major sub series, the first is all of the operational reports for the Det 131 Div Loc Bty whilst in Vietnam, "

Having spent some time collecting Det 131 DLB "Operational Reports" this was also of great interest to me.

I have attached two pdf documents:-

(1) AWM372 CS 3/2 - Index of Det 131 DLD Records (created Oct 83).

(2) Det 131 Operational Reports (a Summary of those we know about & have copies of)

According to (1) "Operational Reports SVN" there were only 30 Operational Reports written (Reports 1 & 2 cover four months & I suspect Report 3 is an addendum to the August Report). This got most of my attention. Hence I got a photocopy while I was at the AWM.

Unfortunately it is wrong. Document (2) Appendix 2 has links to two other Operational Reports Dec 67 and Jan 68 not listed in (1). However it did indicate that only a proportion of Det 131 DLB Operational reports were known about.

My next move is to await the arrival of the CD from the AWM. This will then hopefully give me copies of Operational Reports covering 32 months of our time in SVN. We should then move copies of these to somewhere on our website. I will then see if I can find this Major J B Evans (see AWM372 CS 3/1), hopefully Keith Alyiffe may be able to help, and work on the possibility that there are more ORs waiting to be found. Bloody 12th Field Regiment must have stored their records somewhere.

Enjoy the read, spot any errors let me know. Bert"

...Bert continues..."Hi all.

After visiting the AWM on Tuesday & Friday I managed view all 47 items in AWM372 collection, an interesting read.

To date I have requested copies of a total of 174 pages at a cost of \$89.15. The remainder will cost approximately \$170. However, all I could manage was to get my 174 pages copied to a CD, not as is possible with National Archives placed on the web for general access. Will need to pursue this at a later date but most of these documents, in digital form, really belong here <http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/AWM95/3/11/>.

I attach a summary of my reading, for your perusal, this will give you slightly more detail as to the contents of AWM372."

...then Bert adds...- Hi -An update.

Today I received a CD containing the 33 Det 131 Operational reports I requested be copied by the AWM.

So I now have copies of every Det 131 Operational Report currently know to be in existence.

One interesting thing I discovered is that among these operational reports appears the signatures of each of our OCs (but not Tim Ford - as he was OC Aug 70 to Aug 71).

So Grahame one task in our "Through the OCs eyes" project is to get Tim to look through his filing cabinets and retrieve one, two or more of his Det 131 Operational reports (the last few would be interesting as then we have coverage of the beginning & end of our time in SVN).

PS - Attached a summary of Det 131 Operational Reports (updated) Bert."

Now how exciting is this getting! Watch this space for more information as it is revealed.

. Operation Santa Fe...

The following has been copied from the Surveyors, brilliant web site at :

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

This and more can be viewed by going to –

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

See the link below immediately after the Association's section.

SANTA FE (27th Oct - 18th Nov 1967)

DESCRIPTION

Another huge combined forces search and destroy operation involving most elements of the Taskforce. It was centred on a wide area around Thua Tich to the coast. This area had long been used for bases, staging areas, communication routes and food production for the VC. The multi-brigade basis involved the following US forces, 1st Inf Bde, 9th Inf Div HQ, 11th Armoured Cav, 3/5th Cav, 2/35th Artillery Bty, 1/83rd Artillery Bty and an Army Aviation Coy. Aust forces included 2RAR, 7RAR, 1ARU, A Sqn 3 Cav, 4 Fd Regt, 1 Fd Sq (Engineers), 1 SAS Sqn, 161 Indep Recce Flt., No 9 Sqn RAAF. ARVN force involved was one Regiment of the 18th Inf Div.

131 SURVEY FSB WILTON (YS 5478)



Heading out of Duc Thanh towards FSB Wilton. Photo courtesy W Brooker.

On the 27th Oct, 131 surveyors joined Arty Recce Party and A Sqn 3Cav when they proceeded to the proposed FSB Wilton that centred north of Route 327 near Ap Quang Giao.

Theatre grid was provided by the surveyors to FSB Wilton YS 538778, by traversing from a known Topo point on the eastern side of Xa Binh Gia YS 507774.



above: FSB Wilton traverse.

4 Fd Regt comprising 108 Fd Bty and 106 Fd Bty moved to FSB Wilton by Chinooks later that day. Theatre grid was given to their Bty centres

The next day A Bty 2/35th US moved under APC escort to FSB Wilton. Theatre grid was passed to their position.



22. On the 27th Oct a regimental Fire Support Base was established at YS 5476 as part of the preliminary operation SANTA FE. Theatre grid was provided by a traverse from a Topo Svy point at YS 507774 to YS 538778 and thence to the gun area.

131 Bty Reports Survey Section Oct '67

SECONDARY ROLES

LP 31 D was moved from Nui Dat to FSB Wilton. It was to be positioned within the FSB but considered only "reasonable". The LP was split and another forward LP, 31 G was positioned on a ridge with a section of A Sqn 3 Cav. FSB perimeter defence and fwd LP work was not unfamiliar to 131 surveyors so it is expected that the "Wilton" surveyors supplied some of the manpower for LP 31G.

131 Survey FSB Lion (YS 6181)



131 Surveyors and Recce Party arrive FSB Lion. Left to right: Gnr W Brooker (back), Gnr P Fuhrmann and L/Bdr J Menz. Photo courtesy P Hopper.



131 Artillery Surveyors FSB Lion awaiting orders. Left to right: W Brooker, P Fuhrmann and J Menz.

A second FSB was to be established close to Thua Tich. The survey to it presented as many problems as it had for FSB Mike in Op Paddington. It was envisaged that a long traverse from FSB Wilton along Route 327 then up Route 328 to FSB Lion (Thua Tich) be attempted with protection being supplied by 3 Cav. This was discounted by the Sqn as the rate of advance was far too slow.

On the afternoon of the 2nd Nov, 131 Surveyors and Arty Recce Party flew into the Thua Tich area, secured by 7RAR, to prepare coordinates and bearing of FSB Lion, for the incoming 4th Fd Regt.



The infantry/cavalry group presumably had as their prime objective something other than protecting a group of artillery surveyors strung out along the road. The surveyors could easily have been left in the lurch if contact had been made and a pursuit of enemy forces carried out.

That this plan to carry survey down Routes 327 and 328 should receive serious consideration shows that previous experience was again being ignored. During Operation PORTSEA in March/April 1967 the then survey section commander had looked at ways of carrying survey. Forward to the Xuyon Moc area for a similar sort of distance along Route 23 from the vicinity of Dat Do.

PS Sadler Doc 8 Ch 4 Survey Sect Pt D

We spent the afternoon providing survey and didn't finish until it was dark. Consequently we had no time to dig weapon pits and spent the first night hiding behind ration boxes. Gnr Menz heard a noise to our front and leapt up and crept out to check it out. We waited anxiously for him to return and I was worried he might be mistaken for a VC. Anyway he crawled back and gave us the all clear. Whatever it was had moved off.

Act Svy Sgt Hopper Nov 1967

Jimmy Menz joined the surveyor ranks in Holsworthy early '67. Not only did he show a great aptitude in the practical skills required but his background in the timber industry proved a valuable asset in field survey. He was well liked and respected by all who knew him.

J McFadden Nov 2006

20. The second FSPB, LION was established at THUA TICH – YS 6181. This FSPB caused quite a headache survey-wise as there was no control in the area. Prior to the commencement of the Op this problem was discussed with TOPO Survey and the initial plan was to traverse along Route 327 and 328 starting from FSPB WILTON at YS 5476. The protection for this job was to come from the Infantry and Cavalry elements who were to move along this Route. However after discussions with the Infantry and Cavalry it was found their rate of advance would have been too fast and consequently this plan was dropped. The next possible alternative was provided by a move of 2 RAR HQ to a hill at YS 566764. A quick recce of this hill proved the idea impractical owing to very dense trees and undergrowth.

131 Bty Reports Survey Section Nov '67



4 Fd Regt flies into FSB Lion. Photo courtesy W Brooker.



Above and below. 3/5 Cav Mobile bridge used to help A Bty 2/35th negotiate Song Rai crossing on

Route 327. Photo courtesy W Brooker.



The morning of the 3rd Nov, 108 Fd Bty and 106 Fd Bty departed FSB Wilton and were airlifted to FSB Lion. 131 surveyors worked all day till last light to get them on Regimental Grid.

Later that day A Bty 2/35th US moved under APC escort from FSB Wilton along Route 327 and up Route 328 to FSB Lion.



L/bdr Irvine, Gnr Brooker, Gnr Menz, Gnr Fuhrmann and myself set to tying in the Btys and placing them on a provisional grid.
Act Svy Sgt Hopper Nov 1967

It is interesting to note that on pp261 of "On the Offensive" by McNeil & Ekins, it reads;
"On the 4th November several VC penetrated the perimeter of 108 Fd Bty and laid 4 Claymore mines. They exploded 2 as the guns were firing. A gunner later died of his wounds received in this incident".



News of this event reached us the following morning. We were fortunate the VC didn't try to enter the FSB where we were stationed.

Act Svy Sgt Hopper Nov 1967

Obtaining Theatre Grid

Theatre grid for the FSB was still a priority. After consultation with Topo Survey, a long distance single leg traverse to Thua Tich from a known Topo trig point at Nui Chau Chan was employed. Nui Chau Chan was some 40 odd km north of Nui Dat near Xuan Loc in Long Khanh Province. This seemed to be the only feasible method of getting theatre grid to FSB Lion.



Geoff Holden at Thua Tich making contact with Nui Chau Chan. Photo courtesy W Brooker.



Geoff Holden at Thua Tich. Photo courtesy W Brooker.



Nui Chau Chan. Photo courtesy Kevin Browning.



20. The only remaining workable solution was a long range scheme using Nui Dat, Nui Chau Chan (YT605102), an RO south of Saigon and Thua Tich. This scheme was to be done in conjunction with Topo Survey who were to establish a third order trig point in Thua Tich.

22. The plan to establish this point was to use the first order trig point at CHAU CHAN, RO on a point just south of Saigon (Marked by 66 Engineers Topo Survey US ARMY) and measure the angles and distances to NUI DAT and THUA TICH. This plan was put into effect on the 5th Nov and successfully completed on 6th Nov. Our surveyors assisted TOPO Surveyors at NUI DAT and THUA TICH and LT YERBURY went to CHAU CHAN to control the scheme.

23. Once the coordinates of the point in Thua Tich were found a change of grid was carried out and theatre grid established for the guns.

131 Div Loc Bty Operational Reports, Survey Section Nov 1967



left: Map underlay comes from Ian McNeil and Ashley Ekins' "On the Offensive"



left: FSB Lion.



left: [SURVEY](#)  from Chau Chan to Thua Tich and Nui Dat North.



Surveyors' hootchies FSB Lion. Photo courtesy W Brooker.



Topo Surveyors at Nui Dat or Nui Dat North. Photo courtesy P Hopper.



Act Svy Sgt Hopper on the tellurometer at Nui Dat or Nui Dat North. Photo courtesy P Hopper.

The plan was put into effect on the 5th Nov and successfully completed on the 6th. 131 surveyors assisted Topo surveyors at Nui Dat and Thua Tich. Lt Yerbury flew to Chau Chan to control the scheme.

Survey Section

4. Survey Control

b) Op Santa Fe: During this operation it was proposed to establish two control stations AASO25 Thua Tich and AASO26 Nui Dat North, to third and second order accuracy respectively from a first order station Nui Chau Chan. Azimuth was to be from a further first order station Nui Chau Thoi. Unfortunately due to inclement weather this was not possible and although distances were measured successfully, azimuth to AASO25 Thua Tich only was observed off a 4th order azimuth mark on Nui Chau Chan. A radio aerial tower was also coordinated on this hill allowing an azimuth, for artillery purposes to be computed for the station Thua Tich. Provisional coordinates for AASO25 are as follows;

E 760 045.0m N 1181 404.5m Ht 106.5m

AASO26 (Nui Dat North) was planned to be established as close as possible to AASOO1 (Nui Dat), which is not intervisible with Nui Chau Chan. These two stations could then be connected by a simple traverse. It was hoped that the values of AASOO1 obtained in this manner could then be compared with the present values and some assessment made of initial data used to compute values of AAS001. This experiment will be carried out when operations allow.

A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp Op Report No 19 (Nov 67)

Once coordinates of Thua Tich was established, a change of grid was applied to the Regimental coordinates and the batteries upgraded to Theatre grid.

When Bravo Radar was deployed to FSB Lion alongside 108 Fd Bty, survey was taken to their position. YS 614811.

SECONDARY ROLES

After [SURVEY](#) was completed, surveyors were deployed on perimeter defence duty. Some were placed in defensive positions guarding the radar while others manned the composite forward LP 31G YS 609809 on the SW of FSB Lion.



US Cavalry join the FSB perimeter near surveyors. Photo courtesy W Brooker.



Surveyors at FSB Lion. Photo courtesy W Brooker.



Jimmy Menz at Surveyors section of FSB Lion Perimeter. Photo courtesy W Brooker.



131 Surveyors; Geoff Holden, Terry Bruce and Kenny Woodbine. Photo courtesy W Brooker.



Act Svy Sgt Hopper tubbing on Santa Fe. Photo courtesy W Brooker.



Kenny Woodbine and Jimmy Menz sandbagging, FSB Lion. Photo courtesy Ken Woodbine.

On the 6th Nov FSB Lion was mortared along with probes to the NE and southern perimeter.



We surveyed the radar in and set ourselves up on perimeter defence to protect it. We only had our SLRs at the time and I was worried that this would be totally inadequate if we were attacked. The following day we were attacked. One of the US Cavalry Units arrived that afternoon. We could hear them coming for miles off. One of the tanks was unserviceable so they left it about 100m to our south. They then lined up along the perimeter defence.

I contacted HQ requesting a break in piquet duty for that night as the US were going to provide it. I was told to be on full alert.

Sure enough we were sprayed about 8pm that night. I remember the tracer bullets coming directly over our weapon pit. Gnr Menz jumped in an immediately opened fire. I also fired in the general direction of the tracer bullets. I knew the fire was coming from behind that unserviceable tank, The VC had got in behind it and used it for protection.

Act Svy Sgt Hopper Nov 1967

I shared a weapon pit with Nick Armstrong over several days after our survey work was finished, when we were 'guarding' the Bravo radar - some 20 metres to our rear. He was keen to get off a shot or two that night also but wasn't allowed. The shooting had almost finished when the 'stand to' was called. I was in my hootchie (about 2 metres back and 3 sandbags down) watching the VC tracers going over my head. Mostly VC tracers anyway - we later found out that they also shot at our infantry across the way and encouraged them to shoot back (pity we were in the line of fire when Charlie bugged out).

Gnr Furhmann Nov 1967

24. During and on completion of the Survey in FSPB LION the surveyors acted as protection for the radar and one of the LPs deployed in the area.

131 Bty Reports Survey Section Nov '67

Word eventually filtered through to Nui Dat HQ that the defensive firepower allocated to surveyors protecting the radar was woefully inadequate.



The day after being sprayed, a 131 section officer, arrived by resupply chopper to hand us some trip flares, 2 Claymore mines and an M60. He was also most concerned that we vote in some mindless ½ Senate elections being held in Australia. I had more important things on my mind and was in no mood for his total lack of appreciation of the position we were in. I refused his offer. He did not stay long and returned to Nui Dat on the next chopper.

Act Svy Sgt Hopper Nov 1967

Training in the use of M16s, M60s, trip flares and Claymore mines is not that essential inside Nui Dat. However it was becoming obvious to surveyors manning defensive positions at FSBs that some training would be most appreciated. For some time now, training consisted of "in the field" trial and error.



I spent the rest of the day learning how to use the "new" weapons at our disposal. I got all the surveyors together and took them down to the wire to show them how the trip flare worked. Unintentionally I set one off. The Claymore mines also worried me because we'd heard about the VC creeping in and turning them around with disastrous results. After the trip flare incident I left the "workings" of the Claymore for another day.

Act Svy Sgt Hopper Nov 1967

Night piquet is always a tense time. After being mortared, having the perimeters probed and infiltrated, the tenseness is acute. Possibility becomes probability.



On the 16th Nov, the Radar, the LPs and surveyors returned to Nui Dat.

I was in the weapon pit with Gnr Brooker and we both heard noises on the wire to our south. I released the safety catch on the M60 and was ready to fire. We still had to get permission from HQ, but I thought if we don't open up we could all be killed. I was about to squeeze the trigger when I heard the grunting of a pig!

We were both so relieved.

Act Svy Sgt Hopper Nov 1967



It was a most dangerous time for the artillery surveyors. In the end most of us were merely providing protection for radar sets that never seemed to work properly. We were relieved to get back to Nui Dat.

Act Svy Sgt Hopper Nov 1967

. AN/KPQ-1 RADAR South Vietnam

Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery South Vietnam 1966 - 1970

This document records a brief history of the mortar locating radars used by Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery in South Vietnam...the reproduction of which has been granted by its author –

**Keith R Ayliffe BEM
Ex 131 Div Loc Bty**

10. The mortar threat - NVA and VC

The mortar was ideally suited to the terrain of SVN and the tactics of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and, in particular, the Viet Cong (VC) (An irregular military force operating in SVN). Being extremely portable and simple to operate a well trained mortar team could set up a mortar, fire off a number of rounds at maximum range and be moving away from the firing site before the first rounds impacted on the target. Such manoeuvrability severely restricted allied counter-mortar fire or retaliation by air.

Because of the mobility and VC employment of the mortars, the AN/KPQ-1 radar was restricted in its ability in locating these mortars, requiring initial sighting/sound reports normally by the LP's and search bearings from the TFAIO.

Although this process was rapid, on short attacks, the mortar had generally finished firing and had left the area before, in many cases, before the radar could place its beam over the suspected area. Under more sustained attacks the radar would on most occasions produce results.

The Americans introduced to the Vietnam war the system of the fire support base and fort like installations of their major base areas, which the Australian forces also adopted. The mortar proved particularly adept at attacking these types of targets as mortars were far more accurate and had a greater rate of fire than the more destructive rockets. The NVA and the VC used a variety of mortars in SVN, ranging in calibre from 50mm to 120mm. The country of origin of these weapons was Russia, the Peoples republic of China (PRC) and North Vietnam (NVN). AN/KPQ-1 Page 15 of 49.

The 82mm mortar was the standard calibre of the communist block, however, the PRC and NVN produced 81 mm mortars mostly as copies of the American M1. These weapons were mainly for use by the VC, with the PRC manufacturing 81mm fragmentation projectiles based on the American M43A1 ammunition. Because of an allied misconception that all enemy medium mortars were 82mm, the 81mm mortar used by the VC on many occasions was more than likely reported as an 82mm. The NVN M1 copy 81mm was popular with the VC being capable of dismantling into three man portable loads. (baseplate, bipod legs and barrel section)

The weapons most used by the VC against Australian troops were the 81mm & 82mm mortars (classified as medium mortars) as they combined high portability with firepower. The 60mm mortar was probably used more by the NVA (FSB CORAL) but did seem to appear more often in the later half of the Australian involvement. Because of its short range, therefore, limited time of flight, the 60mm mortar proved extremely difficult to 'track' by the radar, the AN/KPQ-1 radar required a minimum of 8 second of track time (or Time of Flight of the projectile).

When observing the table below, it becomes clear as to why these weapons were ideal for the hit run method that was one of the tactics successfully employed by VC forces. With the most used types of weapons combining range, high rate of fire and light weight

Type of Mortar	Firing Weight (Mortar with bomb)	Range	Rate of fire
60mm mortar - CHICOM Type 31	20 kg (44 lb)	1,530m (1,673yd)	20-30 rounds per minute (RPM)

60mm mortar - CHICOM Type 63	12.3 kg (27 lb)	1,820m (1,990yd)	15-20 rpm
81mm Mortar – CHICOM NVA - M1 Copy	57 kg (114 lb)	3040 meters (minimum 100 meters)	15-25 rpm
82mm mortar - CHICOM Type 20	57 kg (114 lb)	3040 meters (minimum 100 meters)	15-25 rpm
82mm Mortar - SOVIET M1937	57 kg (114 lb)	3040 meters (minimum 100 meters)	15-25 pm

Next month we'll get into **Time to Relax...**

. Vietnam – Calender of events...

01 November 1963	Vietnam's President Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu are murdered in a military coup, with the foreknowledge of the US Government.
22 November 1963	Lyndon B. Johnson becomes US president after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and announces that the US will continue support of South Vietnam. By year's end 15,000 US advisors are serving in Vietnam, which received \$500m in US aid that year.
10 November 1964	The Prime Minister (Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies) announces introduction of national service to increase the army's strength from 22,750 to 37,500. Opposition to the war in Vietnam is not accepted as a reason for exemption.
13 November 1965	WO2 Kevin "Dasher" Wheatley refuses to leave his mate, WO2 Bob Swanston, and is killed. His actions earned him Australia's highest honour, the Victoria Cross.
19 November 1966	Morgan Gallup Poll finds that 63% are in favour of conscription, but only 37% approve of sending National Servicemen to Vietnam.
12 November 1970	8 RAR returns to Australia at the end of its 12 month tour in South Vietnam. It is the first 1ATF unit not to be replaced.
07 November 1971	4 RAR moves out of Nui Dat to Vung Tau, ending Australian combat operations in Phuoc Tuy province.

. **Here's another John Blake "Poser Pic"!** Can anyone name ANY of these blokes? Yes we know that they're Americans and they were in SVN in 1967. However, we want names. We can take a pretty good guess at the bloke not wearing a cap!



. Ernie Newbold lets us know about some important **LSTA Assn information...**

"G'day Paul,

One item that you might wish to add to the E & Es is a notice for the annual end of year reunion for the LSTA Assn to be held on Sunday 16th November at Paddington RSL Club starting at 11.15am. we have reserved tables and an opportunity for an informal get together with some old mates over lunch and a few drinks.
Regards, Ernie."

...some late news Department...

. Barry Guzder was responding to another email and sent in the following – hope he and Carol have a great trip – by the time this edition hits the airwaves Barry will be clocking up serious jetlag -

"Hi Fellas, nothing to do with the original email, just a quick way to get in touch with everybody!

Carol and I are off to Europe and will be there for Armistice Day on the western front. We are taking four sets of dried Aussie flowers (sprigs of wattle etc) to place on graves.

So, if any of you have relatives buried there we shall do the honours for you. Barry Guzder."

. Chris Chapple had sent in a change of email address note and I queried his health etc and got the following great response – "All very well here Paul. A bit out of range for 131 matters but never forgotten. All my passwords include 131...something. Also after 30 years living here I have found a Canungra type walking trail just around the corner and have started stretching out along it each morning. I have lost 12 kilos and in the best shape for a very long time, and only the one ambulance trip, all checked out OK. Chris."

. Bill Edward in responding to an email forwarded the following not great news regarding **Graham Greenland** –

"Hi Paul, For your information **Graham** is in Lismore Base Hospital with Cancer. Not a well man.

Regards Bill Edward."

If anyone wishes to contact Graham – here are a couple of options –

Lismore Base Hospital - Uralba Street, Lismore, NSW 2480, Australia Ph - (02) 6621 8000

Or send me an email - three-zero@hotmail.com

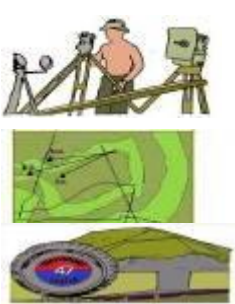
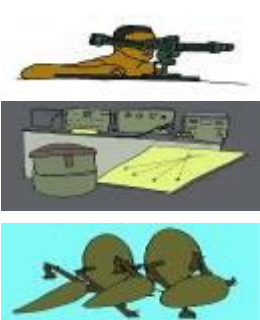
. Jill Nieglos – c'mon you remember her – the PAN AM Hostie that ferried not only American blokes on R&R but us as well to Australia etc – she wrote a whole series articles published in Eyes & Ears back in 2013. Well, she sent this to me – have a look at it and keep the tissues handy!

"This is a great video of our guys who were in North Vietnamese prisons. I have never seen this before and I had no idea how these guys felt all these years about Nixon. This may be duplicate of what you have seen before but I don't recall anyone sending this outstanding video out on the net.

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/LemllfcAY8A>

**Thanks for the emails fellas and Jill – it's good to hear from you and keep the comms alive.
How about dropping me a line re: anything of interest or whatever, it's great to keep in touch
– we are interested.**

Paul Dickson at: three-zero@hotmail.com



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 – October came and went with no new members, but thanks to all our current ones. Maybe we might get some “newies” in November??

Presidential Perambulations

Our association is seeking to add several more initiatives to your social calendar. After accusations of being Sydney-centric, a suggestion that we hope is not true, we are planning two events in the first half of 2015. The first is a commemoration on May 4th at the Seymour (Victoria) Vietnam Veterans Walk. Seymour is near Puckapunyal, and hopefully we can include a visit to the army base there where so many of us suffered during Recruit Training. The second is the laying of a commemoration paver on the North Fort (NSW) Artillery Memorial Walk. That will bring back memories – nightmares? – of times spent training at North Head. Grahame Dignam is seeking out any remnants of the Canopus Room, the scene of many forgettable nights. We would try to move the Memorial Walk away from Sydney, but it is not ours to do so.

The two events will not take place simultaneously, but reasonably close together. Both are intended to celebrate the Detachment Pioneers arrival in SVN in 1966.

Keep an eye on the website for details as both programs evolve.

You will see from Birthdays in the Battery below that Ken Long and I are twins. And Warwick Hamilton nearly made it triplets, although he was a few years early.

Regards

Allen Morley

. Notes to keep your eye on –

The **Annual General Meeting** of Members of 131 Locators Association Inc. will be held on Tuesday 25th November 2014 commencing at 11.00 AM at Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Road, Wakeley, NSW 2176

- for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/> You're all welcome.

You will have received the email with regards to the meeting – this is just a follow up.

. Pertinent Points from the Association meeting held on 28th October, 2014...

. Recent Correspondence (uncirculated) included:

- A reply from MP Chris Bowen supporting our DVA Grant
- A receipt for a \$200 donation to RAAHC for “18 Pounder” Gun Project

. Memberships - 8 renewals of yearly memberships are outstanding and members will be advised of their Association and Website status.

Financial Membership is currently 129 with another 2 Associates and 9 Affiliates totaling 140.

. WEBSITE – Bob Billiards will arrange urgent action to restore MODX software ASAP to allow us to restore our update capability. Funding will be required.

. All OC's of Det 131 have been re-contacted and a “Sitrep” has been requested. The OC's were advised of our recent find of “missing Operational Reports” at the AWM. Brian Kennedy has supplied his finished version. It was very well received and provided his interesting insights as was hoped for.

. Seymour Dedication ceremony agenda proposed as :

2015 May 2/3	Sat/Sun	travel days -
May 4	Monday	Ceremonial unveiling of plaque a formal Dinner
May 5	Tuesday	Day trip to Puckka - subject to access approval
May 6/7	TBA	other activity (proceed to Phillip Island for a visit.)

Presidents report.

Allen provided a copy of a Grant request that will be submitted via the “Saluting their Service” programme to assist with the placement of a Det 131 unit paver at the North Head Memorial Walk. The Grant application will need additional letters of support from Local MPs Abbot and Hockey.

The LSTAA End of year function will at 11.15 AM at Paddington RSL on 16 Nov 2014. There will be a separate table where meals will be ordered individually and drinks will be subsidized by the Assn.

Other Business.

. Ern Newbold attended the latest LSTAA meeting - President Joe Kaplun visited 20STA Regiment and is cementing their relationship. The Regiment is raising another Battery to supplement 131 and 132 UAV Btys and have mooted a possible name change to reflect the relevancy of their roles.

. Ern Newbold mentioned the discovered OP Reports at the AWM. Joe replied that he had possession of “Daily reports “for a period? The meeting agreed to approach Joe with a view to obtaining copies for our archives and possible access via the website.

. Bert Blink mentioned he needed a copy of one of the daily reports to take to the AWM research section to see if any ever got to the AWM or National Archives. We need to get this material to Archives and in easily available digital format. Surveyors website will be offered access if items are relevant .

. Web Performance...

...a few more comments from Grahame Dignam...

"UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE THE 131 LOCATORS ASSOCIATION WEBSITE CANNOT BE UPDATED.
Repairs are being made and We will advise when it resumes proper operation."

Current impending event
AGM on 25 November 2014
commencing at 11.00 AM at Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club,
26 Humphries Road, Wakeley, NSW 2176
Followed immediately by a general meeting
A separate message will issue shortly for Advice on Proxies,
Copy of the Audit Certificate for 2013/4 Financial Year
Nominations for Committee and Minutes of 2013 AGM.

If you've got more photos that you want added, just send them to: - Paul Dickson – web Photos
three-zero@hotmail.com – **BUT DON'T FORGET TO ADD TITLES/NAMES ETC.**

. Birthdays in the Battery...November –

OK ignore the coloured sections (below) we know they are alive and well. Concentrate on the others white background ones.

For example, does anyone know **Harold Little** – he was in SVN for 10 months in 1969 – he's a New South Welshman – a few of you were there in '69 and came from NSW!

Now this is ridiculous, but bloody good – I was speaking to Grahame Dignam less than 4 hours ago and was mentioning things E&Es and I said something about the blokes on the current Birthday list below and how I was going to run a bit on Harold Little ie. Does anyone know where he is ? (See above)

Now, bugger me, I kid you not, the following is the email below Grahame sent within 4 hours – he's amazing –

"Dicko, Not photographic but the memory is working...here's what was in the Eyes & Ears in the April 2014 edition...

Peter Pioro got in touch with this – "Allan & Paul,
The attached photo was taken at the Woonona/Bulli Sub-Branch 25th April 2014.
With me (neck collar) is **Harold Little** who departed South Vietnam on 28th November 1969. He was Radar I think.

I arrived in South Vietnam on 27th November 1969. We did not meet in country only when I joined the Sub-Branch.

The collar is a protection from snapping the work the surgeon did.

My lower back was badly affected by activity in SVN and as I collapsed prior to discharge the Army doctors told me I will need surgery. Well it has taken all this time for me to agree for a slice and dice.

I know I have issues with discs and other problems in the lower back. One the sciatic nerve has been sorted however on checking my total spine the surgeon found two discs in the neck had collapsed and were pushing the spinal cord against the spine. (I was getting issues with my arms) The issue is no one checked the total spine till now.

All this originated in SVN. (I have been on a TPI Pension since 2008 as a result)

I have been campaigning since 2008 for Ex-Service personnel to have themselves checked if they have back or other problems and or see an ESO and submit a claim to DVA.

As a Welfare / Pension Officer I have seen and referred over 30 who fall into this hole. I have released Leaflets "YOU'RE NOT ALONE" in Townsville and am working with the sub-branch to do so again.

I am getting WW2 diggers with various problems who have not claimed and or not had their pension reviewed.

Anyway all the best to all. I will look to catching up soon. Next year my wife and I having booked and paid for a cruise will be in Gallipoli for ANZAC Day.

Regards, Peter Pioro"



OK, Peter how do we get in touch with him, please????????????????

How about giving a "find one of the blokes on the Birthday list" some thought? It'd be great to continue reducing the "where-are-they".

Can we get a handle on some of these 14 blokes (below) – a phone number, an email address, last known address – we need a starting point to find these guys who were and are our mates!

NOVEMBER	NAME	REGT NO	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	DENIS SMITH	2789286	1946	15 04 1969	17 12 1969	
1	VAUGHAN MILLAR	3411742	1948	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
1	WAYNE JEFFREY	2794772	1946	04 11 1970	29 07 1971	
2	TREVOR PRIDEAUX (WAGHORN)	52837	1936	05 05 1967	06 02 1968	
2	KENNETH HALLIGAN	2788319	1946	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
4	JOHN HENSHAW	3793057	1945	20 01 1969	28 11 1969	
4	HAROLD LITTLE	2789038	1945	21 02 1969	28 11 1969	
5	DAVID DACRE	5716803	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
6	PETER WERTHEIMER	355747	1941			Ares 132 '60-'88
	" "			20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd REGT
10	BARRY UREN	214715	1940	28 10 1966	02 05 1967	
11	BILL TAGGART		1946	00.10.1966	00.11.1967	US 1st / 83rd
12	THOMAS LEMPRIERE	3412000	1949	02 12 1968	21 01 1969	
13	MICHAEL CAMPBELL	6708462	1946	05 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 1984
16	KEN LONG	2783232	1945	04 05 1967	28 10 1967	
16	ALLEN MORLEY	3788972	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
17	WARWICK HAMILTON Capt.	235190	1939	17 04 1967	12 02 1968	
17	TERENCE (LOFTY) HAYES	214973	1939	{04 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 14.12.2011
	" " "			{10 12 1968	10 12 1969	
17	JORG KIENE	3797963	1947	09 11 1970	05 08 1971	
17	BARRY WILLIAMS	3796729	1947	16 12 1970	08 02 1971	
18	DESMOND BURY	1411072	1946	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
19	JOHN PERRY WO2	36026	1932	22 04 1966	07 09 1966	
20	MICHAEL FLETCHER	352778	1945	29 04 1969	16 04 1970	
20	LESLIE BATES	218053	1950	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
22	MURRAY POUSTIE	3787941	1945	04 05 1967	14 08 1967	
22	BRIAN RUDDOCK (M.I.D)	216134	1935	{29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
	" " Sgt.			{03 02 1970	04 02 1971	4 Fd REGT
24	DONALD SIMMONS Sgt.	212769	1937	22 04 1966	21 12 1966	
25	STANLEY TODKILL	1201908	1946	04 11 1969	17 06 1970	
25	BRIAN PARKER	3793586	1946	20 01 1970	27 05 1970	AACC
	" "			28 05 1970	14 01 1971	1st Arm Regt
26	MICHAEL O'KEEFE	2787168	1946	08 01 1968	14 01 1969	AACC † 1980
26	FRED WALTER Sgt.	342848	1943	11 05 1967	23 04 1968	RAEME
26	JEFFERY SCHAFER	2788886	1946	12 02 1969	17 12 1969	
28	JOHN BAYFORD	3791019	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
30	RON SAUNDERS	38516	1947	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
30	GARY STRATTON	2788161	1946	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	

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



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

So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam** sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add your name) to the associations account at "A/c Name: 131 Locators Association Inc. Bank: Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW BSB No: 032 166 A/c No: 264133"

Hope we hear from you?

Website: <http://www.131locators.org.au>

. **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



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



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



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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much. It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

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

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