

THE EYES and EARS

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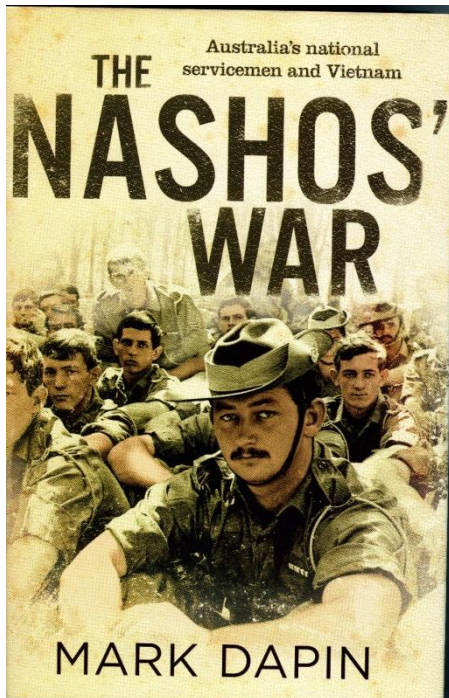
.Bert Blink forwarded the following interesting article written by Chris Sheedy concerning a 150 interviews conducted by Mark Dapin with National Servicemen – it's worth reading...

The conscription contradiction

By Chris Sheedy



As the jungle war against the Vietcong intensifies in Vietnam, Australian soldiers of the 1st Battalion scatter for cover after landing from helicopters to start a search and destroy operation in War Zone "D" in early July, 1965.
Photo: Stuart MacGladrie



In 150 interviews conducted with national servicemen - "conscripts" by another name - award-winning writer and UNSW Canberra PhD scholar Mark Dapin says it was not at all unusual for interviewees to be moved to tears as they recalled their experiences.

All had served in Vietnam. Some had seen action and had watched their friends die on the battlefield. Some had supported the war effort in other ways on various army bases.

The strong emotion of interviewees' some 45 to 50 years after their National Service experience was not related to the level of action they had seen. Nor was it connected to the violence and bloodshed they witnessed. Something else brought the sadness on. Dapin says it was a sense of loss.

"In other cultures when people are telling war stories, veterans tend to put their own heroics at the centre of the stories," says Dapin, whose book *The Nashos' War: Australia's National Servicemen and Vietnam*, was recently released. "But often I found with these men that their regrets were most of what shone through.

"Their sadness was sometimes to do with friends that had died. They invariably blamed themselves for the deaths of their friends. But even people in non-combat roles cried. At first I thought they were crying because of terrible things they'd seen. Then it occurred to me that I was in a room with these very tough guys in their 60s who were crying for their lost youth, not because they had seen somebody get their head blown off."

Records and reports show that our national servicemen were fine fighters in Vietnam, the main arena of war into which our conscripts were sent during the 1960s (others served in Borneo, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and the Pacific Islands). The accepted wisdom within the army was that those who did not want to serve in Vietnam were allowed to stay home. But of course the truth is far more complicated, as is the case with the many contradictions of conscription.

When the Menzies government re-introduced National Service in 1964, Cabinet's reasoning was that the army's numbers needed a boost. The military had operated on a relative shoestring since the end of World War II and, especially since National Service had been phased out five years earlier, the army was not the mighty and well-equipped fighting force that national security demanded.

Now a new threat was emerging, a potential regional spread of hostilities from the "Confronts", the Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation. Australian military personnel were being sent to Borneo, but with World War II still fresh in the minds of the public it seemed logical to ensure our national security in case the skirmish in our neighbourhood erupted into something larger.

"People tend to forget that we were fighting a war in Borneo," says Professor Jeffrey Grey from UNSW Canberra, series editor and author of *The Centenary History of Australia and the Great War*. "People also forget that we had a direct defence responsibility for Papua New Guinea. A cross-border war of the kind that was being fought in Borneo and also being fought contemporaneously between Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea would have been a very serious issue. National Service wasn't, as people believe, introduced for Vietnam. There had been no military commitment made for Vietnam at that stage."

The introduction of conscription made sense in such an environment, except for the fact that the army opposed its introduction. National Service did not necessarily attract the types of people the army required, Dapin explains. It did not necessarily even attract people that had any interest in being in the army. And it would be a drain on resources, including many of the army's finest personnel, as tens of thousands of new conscripts each year required training, administration, accommodation, meals, gear, weapons and ammunition.

A better way to attract people, the army argued, was to increase the pay and improve the conditions offered to military personnel. Then those who had an interest in serving in the armed forces would be more likely to come forward.

"This all led to a situation where in 1964 the government felt the army had to expand," Dapin says. "They did raise the pay conditions, but decided they had to expand very quickly in the face of the perceived threat from Indonesia."

"So rather than raising the army pay conditions further, or even waiting to see whether the initial raises took effect, the government decided to bring National Service back in."

Men of service age whose birthdays corresponded with a number drawn from a TattsLotto barrel had to present themselves for National Service. A minimum of six months of training was followed by a maximum of 12 months of overseas service (which could be voluntarily extended).

The number of balls drawn matched the required intake, but there were exceptions. Those completing apprenticeships or degrees could defer their service until their education and any necessary work experience had been completed, for instance.

Some professions argued for exemption from National Service. "Everybody was in favour of National Service for everybody else, but not for themselves," Dapin says. "For instance, jockeys in some states tried to get an exemption because they didn't want to bulk up through physical training. But in the end there were no blanket occupational exemptions.

"There was a lot of public support for police not serving. People thought the police service had already given young people what the army would give them - it made them wear their hair short! Plus, many members of the public supported National Service because they thought it is a good way to get criminals off the street and into the army. "But what actually happened was that people that had completed police training were perfect for the army, so a lot of police officers went into the army. Then, of course, criminals stayed out because the army didn't want them. So the army did exactly what society hoped they would not do."

Of about 60,000 national servicemen, about 25 per cent served in Vietnam. The army weeded out the conscripts it couldn't work with it and then chose, where possible, its finest men to serve in Vietnam.

The national servicemen who served overseas were a good fit with the regular army and, it was broadly argued, they all wanted to serve in Vietnam. If men did not wish to serve in a war zone, many believe, then they were not forced to do so.

"This makes good sense," Grey says. "It is not in the army's interests to take people into a war zone who are either a danger to themselves or to anybody around them, or who really don't want to be there. There is no mileage in that. But some people say that if you were in the army at the time then you were going to war no matter how you felt about it. It depends on who you talk to."

One of the national servicemen Dapin discussed this issue with was Jim Booker, born in Melbourne but interviewed in Sydney. It was a conversation that brought both interviewer and interviewee to tears.

"His story was just so poignant," Dapin says of Booker, who died of cancer soon after their interview. "This was a guy who wasn't a very good soldier and who never wanted to be in the army. He was against war.

"He had wanted to work on the railways but his parents wouldn't let him because they believed the railways were a hotbed of communism. So instead he was drafted in to fight a war that he didn't think should be fought.

"The army made Booker a 'blowfly', which is the sanitary guy - the toilet cleaner - at Nui Dat. He was so proud of the great job he did and at a recent battalion reunion he was upset when he found out that other people were called 'blowfly', because it meant he was less significant. He had thought he was the only blowfly. His story was a mixture of pride and regret.

"The regret came from the fact that Booker hadn't wanted to spend two years of his life in the army. He was robbed of those years. Booker still played with Meccano when he went into the army. Other guys had worked on oil rigs. One of the army's selection criteria was supposed to be that men had sufficient emotional and intellectual maturity to live outside home."

Some of the national servicemen Dapin interviewed for *The Nashos' War* strongly resented the time they spent in the army. Others stayed on and made careers of it. But what came as a great surprise, he says, was the fact that most still felt that young men should do National Service.

"They often qualified this, saying it wouldn't necessarily have to be in the army but perhaps it should be extended to the emergency services," he says. "But the majority strongly believed it would be a good thing if young men did National Service. Even those that had been wounded and who had seen their mates die still had a belief that National Service never hurt anybody."

This article was researched and written with the assistance of leading military historians at UNSW Canberra, the Canberra campus of UNSW at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/the-conscription-contradiction-20141128-11vnph.html#ixzz3KP4XQcsc>

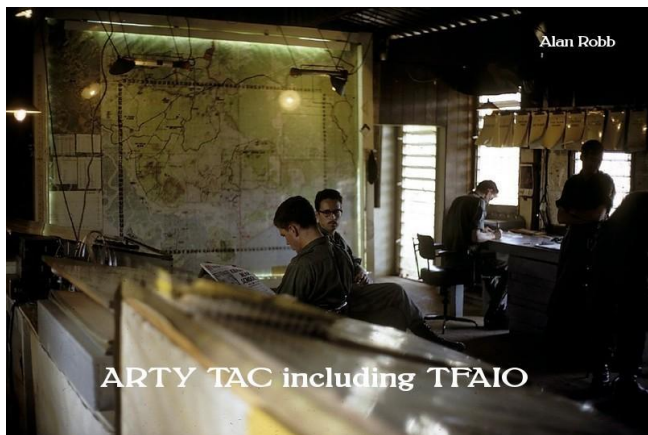
. AN/KPQ-1 RADAR South Vietnam

Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery South Vietnam 1966 - 1970

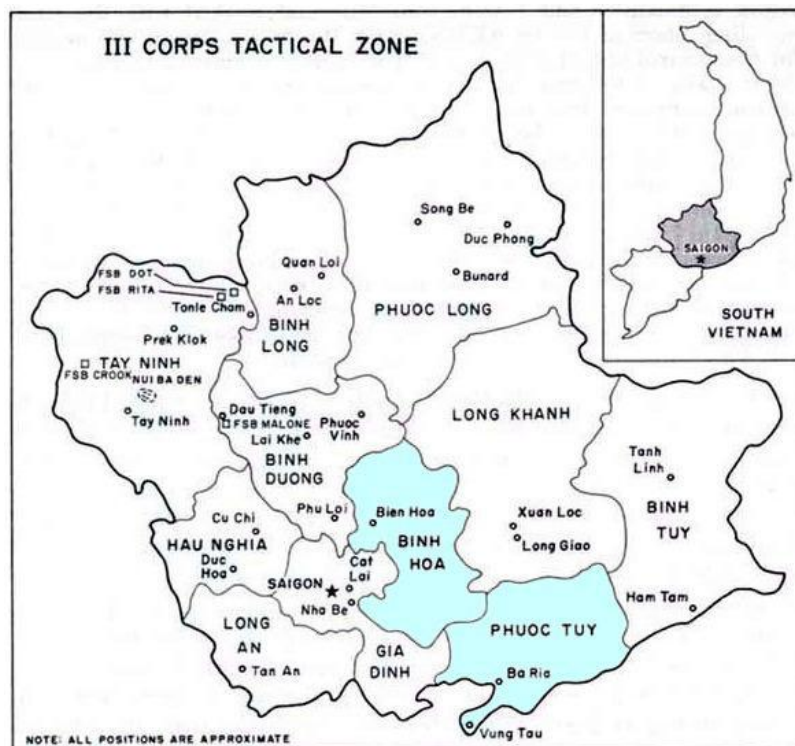
This document records a brief history of the mortar locating radars used by Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery in South Vietnam...the reproduction of which has been granted by its author –

Keith R Ayliffe BEM
Ex 131 Div Loc Bty

Part 2 Radar Operations - 1 ATF Operations in which the radar/s participated



Artillery Tactical Headquarters (Arty Tac) Nui Dat, the nerve centre of all Australian Artillery operations co- located with Det 131 Task Force Artillery Intelligence Office.



Coloured area of map shows the main area of Australian/New Zealand Artillery operations/FSPBs for 1 ATF in SVN.

The following Det 131 members Al Adams, Grahame Dignam, Bert Blink, Max Troynar, Ron Evans, Geoff Blackwell, Paul Dickson, Bob King, Pete Fletcher, Ernie Newbold, Bob Bruce, and Nick Proskurin all served in Arty tac at some stage of their tour. Many did duty in LPs and some in Det 131 orderly room.

1966

23 Apr – Appointment: Officer Commanding Det 131 (TFAIO) Captain James H. Townley.

06 June - About 2000hrs the first location of an enemy mortar by Det 131 radar in SVN occurred when an Australian clearing patrol was fired upon by an enemy mortar south east of Nui Dat. After a long day of moving and setting up, Alpha Radar was conducting tests and was actually laid on a bearing, which coincided with the direction of the firing mortar. Although the computer was not functioning correctly and the servo drives for the antenna failed to work, Alpha was able to determine a range and bearing from which the grid reference could be obtained. The radar No.1, Sgt Don Simmons, sent in a Locrep to Arty Tac and at the same time alerted his mates in 103 Fd Bty to come to a stand-by bearing. Arty Tac confirmed the threat and ordered 103 Fd Bty to commence CB fire resulting in the mortar position becoming silent. Although Sgt Don Simmons was congratulated for his quick thinking, he was also reminded firmly that there was a correct reporting method, which must be used in future. No further information is obtained as to number of rounds fired or any follow up search of the suspected position.

09 June – 1ATF Nui Dat receives its first enemy mortaring incident. Locreps are recorded by a radar. No record on the number of rounds fired or any actual damaged caused. Air strikes are conducted by the USAF on the locrep, which was the deserted village of Long Phouc. Army Intelligence also suspected this to be a Viet Cong base. Result of Air strike: 12 houses were destroyed and 22 damaged. Estimated 3 enemy killed.

12 June – An enemy mortaring incident occurred with a locrep obtained by a radar recording the baseplate near the village of Hoa Long. It is believed to have been fired at an Australian infantry patrol. No record of CB fire recorded.

17 August. - Appointment: Officer Commanding Det 131 (TFAIO) Captain Barry L. Campton.

Prelude to a Battle.

2:43 am. - Det 131 Listening Post (LP) 31 Alpha reports 'Mortrep' (Mortars firing report). The Task Force is put on alert.

2:44 am. - Det 131 LP 31 Charlie reports Mortrep.

2:45 am - Bravo Radar (A12) is ordered a search bearing, Alpha Radar out of action. Bravo Radar reports searching

2:50 am - 1 Fd Regt artillery conduct counter bombardment (CB) fire. This first engagement was fired on information supplied by Det 131 LP's and co-ordinated with the prepared CB fire plan by TFAIO.

4:10 am - 1 Fd Regt CB ceases fire.

Bravo Radar (A12) failed to record a locrep (a location of a mortar) although many bombs were 'seen' on the screen. Because of clutter the radar (The radar screen was classified as being 'swamped' with noise) could not electronically lock on to a bomb long enough to record a firing point. This was probably the first real test of the radar, not only the number of projectiles on the screen but heavy rain created a large amount of 'electronic clutter' on the screen which also confused the operators creating an impossible task of tracking any projectile. This was an inherent problem of the radar.

1 ATF base at Nui Dat was heavily mortared and at first light a search of the task force area by Det 131 Artillery Intelligence operators (Arty Int Ops), from reports received, located 67 mortar craters many in pristine condition and crater analysis was conducted. The actual number of mortars fired at the base was not recorded or not known. Strangely the calibre of the mortar/s is not recorded

The southern edge of 103 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty RNZA reportedly received a number of rounds of incoming enemy fire (the number reported ranged from seven to twelve), five craters where found which proved to be 75mm artillery shells. Shell fragment identification and subsequent information from infantry patrol of the suspected firing site, believed this weapon to be a WWII Japanese 75mm mountain gun.

Mortar craters were located within 100m of both Bravo Radar living area and Alpha Radar command post site. The number of these last craters were not recorded.

As a result of the enemy mortaring 24 1ATF personnel were wounded (2 seriously) Among the recorded wounded were:

L/Bdr Karl Doehrmann 131 Div Loc Bty WIA 17 August 66 Arty Int Operator; Shrapnel wounds.

Gnr Terrence Hayes (Lofty) 131 Div Loc Bty WIA 17 August 66 Radar Operator; Shrapnel wounds.

Web Photo



75mm Ammunition



USA 15 Field Artillery Regiment web caption reads - 75mm Japanese WWII mountain gun captured by Americans during Tet 68 and captured Ammo.

Authors Note: *Although the caption above identifies weapon as Japanese, it may be in error as the weapon more closely resembles the American 75mm Pack Howitzer M1, Which saw service with US, UK, and Australian troops in WWII. It may also been supplied to the French and left behind in Vietnam. The photo (AWM072309) on right depicts Australian gunners using the M1 during WWII.*

There is no suggestion that the Americans did not capture this weapon from the VC.

It is shown here as an illustration as being the type of weapon suspected of firing on Nui Dat on 17 August 66.

18 August - Operation SMITHFIELD commenced, this was the start of Battle of LONG TAN, included in the infantry patrol orders was an order to search out and confirm the suspected mortar base plate positions located by TFAIO from reports by LPs and the crater analysis team and other sources.

Once the battle had commenced, many Det 131 personnel, including radar operators, assisted the gun batteries in carrying ammunition to the guns from the ammo supply areas, thus enabling the gunners to continue their support of the infantry during this battle.

Next month we'll get into **Venturing out...**

. Vietnam – Calender of events ...December

January	1969	Vietnam	Australian military commitment to Vietnam reaches a peak of 8,300 service personnel.
11 January	1973	Cessation of hostilities in Vietnam by Australian forces	The proclamation by the Governor-General, Sir Paul Hasluck, ended 11 years of Australian involvement in Vietnam, the longest duration of any war in Australia's history.
24 January	1967	First contact at Bien Hoa, South Vietnam	Fighting at Bien Hoa involved a series of contacts between units of the 1st Australian Task Force and communist forces in the area of the Bien Hoa - Long Binh complex near Saigon. Australian and American units sought to dominate the area and prevent enemy rocket attacks on nearby military bases and installations.
30 January	1968	Tet offensive begins in Vietnam	While the Tet Offensive, named for Tet, the Vietnamese lunar new year holiday period over which the attacks occurred, was a military defeat for the Communist forces it proved to be a propaganda victory accelerating the American public's growing opposition to the war and causing United States military planners to question whether victory was possible.

...latest from the email Dept...

. **Derek Hinde** was quick off the mark (the day of going on the web!!) to identify some of the blokes in John Dellaca's photo in November's E&Es – **"Photo at left – At the sand bag point**
Can you name them ? Photo supplied by – John Dellaca"



" Hi Paul, greetings from Pottsville Beach NSW where I live. The names in the photo sent in by J. Dellaca Esq....at the sand bag point are; back row left to right; Unknown, Phil Mulgrew and John Dellaca. front row; (me) Derek Hinde, Graham Lee and Stuart McAlpine. Regards."

. **Kim McGrath** could have taken a while to recover from the Australian Artillery Association's National Gunner Dinner by the looks of the great photos – see what he's got to say...

"Hi Paul,

The aerial photograph of the old Gallipoli Lines at Holsworthy brings back quite a few memories. If possible could you please send me a copy of the photo? (In last month's E&Es and yes it's been sent)

As Allan Harrison stated; The Australian Artillery Association's National Gunner Dinner at the Events Centre Caloundra Sat 23 Aug 14 turned out to exceed all of our objectives and expectations. When Graham Hampton and I set out to organise this function we aimed to bring as many Gunners together as possible and promote Esprit De Corps on a level playing field. We even had Kiwi Artillery mates over making it a true ANZAC event.



Obviously, I was having a better time than Allan- Detective Chief Superintendent Jenny Hayes (nee Kampouris) and Major Bernadine O'Shaunessy remember their old Training Sergeant.



Ted Stainsby and Mal Scott



WO1 Don Donkin
MBE - what a
living legend.



There are a few locating
years here – Kev Salter,
Alan 'Clacker' Cleasby
and Tony Foley.
What a great bunch of
blokes.

PS: All of the photos from the dinner are at: <http://ubique.smugmug.com/2014-National-Gunner-Dinner-Ph/> and you are free to copy all or any
Ubique, Kim"

. **Ian "Scotty" McNicol** sent **Grahame Dignam** the following email – "Hi Grahame, I've just recently stumbled onto the association website & noticed a photo in the galleries section titled 'Enoggera Reunion 2014'. It shows the James Menz Club sign hanging outside the current James Menz Club.

I'm curious as to whether it is the original sign I made for the Rec room at Nui Dat in 1968. I was the storeman at the time of Jim's death, and was instructed to design and make the sign by Bdr Ray Hutchinson. I made it out of 3/4" plywood & the letters were carved by chisel. The original had the letters painted in yellow. I've often wondered if the sign was saved when the unit pulled out of Nui Dat at the end of the conflict. I'm not chasing any accolades. Just curious as to whether the original sign survived. Regards..... Ian (Scotty) McNicol."



Where did this get to?



Where did this come from?

...then Grahame responded with – "G'Day Scotty, good to hear you are still around.

Mate, it looks like they liked your work, and like all good artists, you have been copied. You can sue but I would take a little pride in that they tried to keep as close to the original as possible.

I have put both signs side by side and you can see your original "A" and their "A" in "James" is slightly different. The new one looks a squashed together too.

It is not a matter of getting accolades but if you don't tell us and the fact gets recorded, the truth gets lost in time.

You have raised a good point about the location of the original sign. If you get to read the Eyes & Ears", you will know that "Dicko" loves to put these type of questions out there and we get some good responses. We sometimes find out the truth too. I have copied Dicko in so he might be in touch and give this a run in *E&E* next month - keep an eye on the "Newsletter" tab in early Jan '15.

We have members spread over all years of SVN service and some have provided photos of the "Jim" club as time passed - some do show the name so I will go look. If I find anything I will give you a "hoy!"

Keep in touch. We have a plaque Dedication at the Vietnam Vets Memorial Walk in Seymour on 4 May 2015 and we hope to get a roll up of 50 or so guys to the ceremony and Dinner at the RSL after. Detail will be in Events TAB.

Regards Dig"

...then "Scotty" responds – "Thanks mate,

Yes, I'm still around and in pretty good health. The fitness level is rapidly deteriorating though, and it would be nice to lose a few kgs. I try to keep myself busy & healthy by travelling to exotic places with my Fly rod & camera. I arrived back from across the ditch last Sunday, and have a 3 week trip planned back to NZ in March & again in October 2015. Also, Christmas Island, (the one near Hawaii) is a frequent destination.

Re the James Menz Club sign. I'm not interested in suing. I was just curious. I never thought to compare the 2 photos, (the brain, like my body, is getting slower to react with age). There is an obvious difference though, but I'm glad the original design was kept. I would have thought that shipping the original sign back to Australia may not have been a priority at the time.

Anyway, I will certainly consider a drive to Seymour in May. I've lost touch with most of the guys over the years. I believe there's a couple of ex locators living in my area around Bairnsdale in Vic, but our paths have never crossed. I'll review the newsletter occasionally for more details.

BTW. In the interest of truthful facts, I should point out that in the members list, someone has made me 2 days older than I really am. My birthday is 23/01/45. Now THAT could be a reason to sue.

Take care.....Scotty. PS. It's visiting places like this that keeps me alive."

...Grahame responds... "Scotty, A great past time but to be honest, I couldn't do it. I tried to teach the kids when they were toddlers but I failed -caught nothing. I don't see any pics of fish dangling off the end of your rod! Don't tell me they ALL got away?

I will get the website details changed but, the official file is WRONG! see attached"

...here's a reply from Scotty... "No problem mate. FYI, I was discharged as a full Bombardier as well. I guess there are a lot of little mistakes floating around the system. I once checked with CARO as to why I hadn't received a medal I was entitled to, & had applied for. I was informed that I was listed as deceased. Apparently I died in December 1988, but they couldn't tell me the cause of death. I'm glad they got that one wrong.

No mate, they didn't all get away. Here's photographic proof....Scotty."

...Grahame gets more interested... "Dead Set, and I bet they made good eating too or do you release?.

You are not the only guy to come back from the dead. Stan PABLO Briggs was mixed up with another Briggs from 1Field Bty and we received word he had passed away.

Bob Billiards was a mate and said " I will check it out so he rang him up"

Stan said "it was nice of you to ring Bob, but sorry to disappoint you I'm alive and kicking! The reports are overstated! After we sorted that out another guy was reported dead too. We got that one sorted out real quick as it looked like we getting rid of them only to bring them back to life.

That must have been when the website started up as you are not mentioned on there and we don't have a picture album for you. I was going to get Dicko to put your fishing pics on there. Also we didn't have you on the email database - have you been getting the Eyes & Ears newsletter? Dicko stopped sending it out in the last 6 months as the idea was to get the guys to go to the web site which we pay BIG BUCKS for ??? well small bucks." **...Scotty continues...** "Re coming back from the dead. A few years ago I was at an Anzac day march in Sydney & we were informed that Shorty Gow had passed away. A few minutes later Shorty arrived at our forming up point. It was comical seeing guys checking out his hands looking for the nail holes. Also, I shared a tent in SVN with Geoff Reid. I'd heard that he died soon after he arrived back in Australia. I was certainly surprised when I read in the newsletter that Geoff had become a member. I was even more surprised to learn that the 'Reidy's Lures' I often bought were made by the same Geoff Reid. I hope both Geoff and Shorty are still with us now.

Most fish I catch are released unharmed to fight another day. The odd Flathead or Whiting might make it to the dinner table now & again, but i'd prefer a piece of Atlantic Salmon from Tassie any day. I also use barbless hooks. Makes it easier to remove from both the fish & myself when I get careless.

Yes mate. I did resign from the Association before the newsletter went electronic and for personal reasons I requested that I not receive the newsletter any more. You can start sending them again if you want, and I may even consider rejoining the association. I think I still have my badge somewhere. I know I still have the round badge from the original association.

I think it was you who sent me the attached photo of myself, Keith Ayliffe, Tony Dodds and an unknown player, I think from HQ Bty. (If you didn't send it to me, then I've no idea who did) – see photo at right.

When I was a member I sent a lot of Bty related photos from SVN to Dicko. Whether he ever used them, or if he even still has any of them I wouldn't know. Regards.....Scotty"

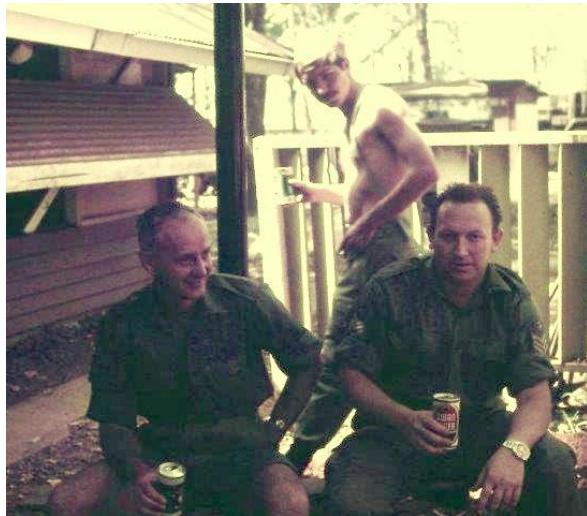


. Bert Blink got in touch with us concerning an operation **John Richmond** was about to have, so we dropped him a line and John responded with – "Hi Paul. Home again, thanks for your note - very much worse for the experience. Have a bag hanging of me and is it interesting to go to the toilet and empty it rather have having a leak. Have several appointments with specialists over the next week or so. All the best for the coming season. Regards John"

. John Blake responded to the email with regards to "Bring Them Home Petition..." instigated by **Steve Boutlis** - "Paul - Done with the following comment...

I am signing because these soldiers were sent away by their country to serve overseas and must be brought back by their country. If they had remained alive their country would have fed, clothed them throughout their remaining service and brought them home. I suspect the cost of keeping them as living service people would have been greater than boxing them up and bringing them home on the empty hold of a ship. Apparently relatives want them back so it is the responsibility and duty of the country to bring them back out of respect for these service people and for closure for their families. JB"

. **Wayne Jeffery** sent the following in with a couple of photos of **Norm McManus** to Grahame Dignam – “Sorry about the image quality, slides, like me are getting old. Norm is helping to dig hole for the pig we had at Xmas 1970, not sure who the Sgt. is next to him in 2nd pic. Regards Wayne”



. **Steve Boutlis** sent in some late mail – better late than never Boots! -



“Hi Dicko, Some reprobates who attended the VVAA Sunshine Coast Memorial Service at Caloundra RSL Memorial on 18 August 2014. Sorry its late. Just came across it while clearing out my E-mails. Cheers, Boots”

. **Ernie Newbold**, a great mate, a devoted supporter of ALL things Loc Arty, lost his Mum on the 29th November. “Mollie” as she was affectionately known was 91 years young and was - **AWARDED THE MEDAL (OAM) - IN THE GENERAL DIVISION** in 1997.

The Queen's Birthday Honours - Mrs Lillian Mary NEWBOLD, Croydon Park, NSW: For service to the community, particularly youth, through scouting, fundraising and craft works.

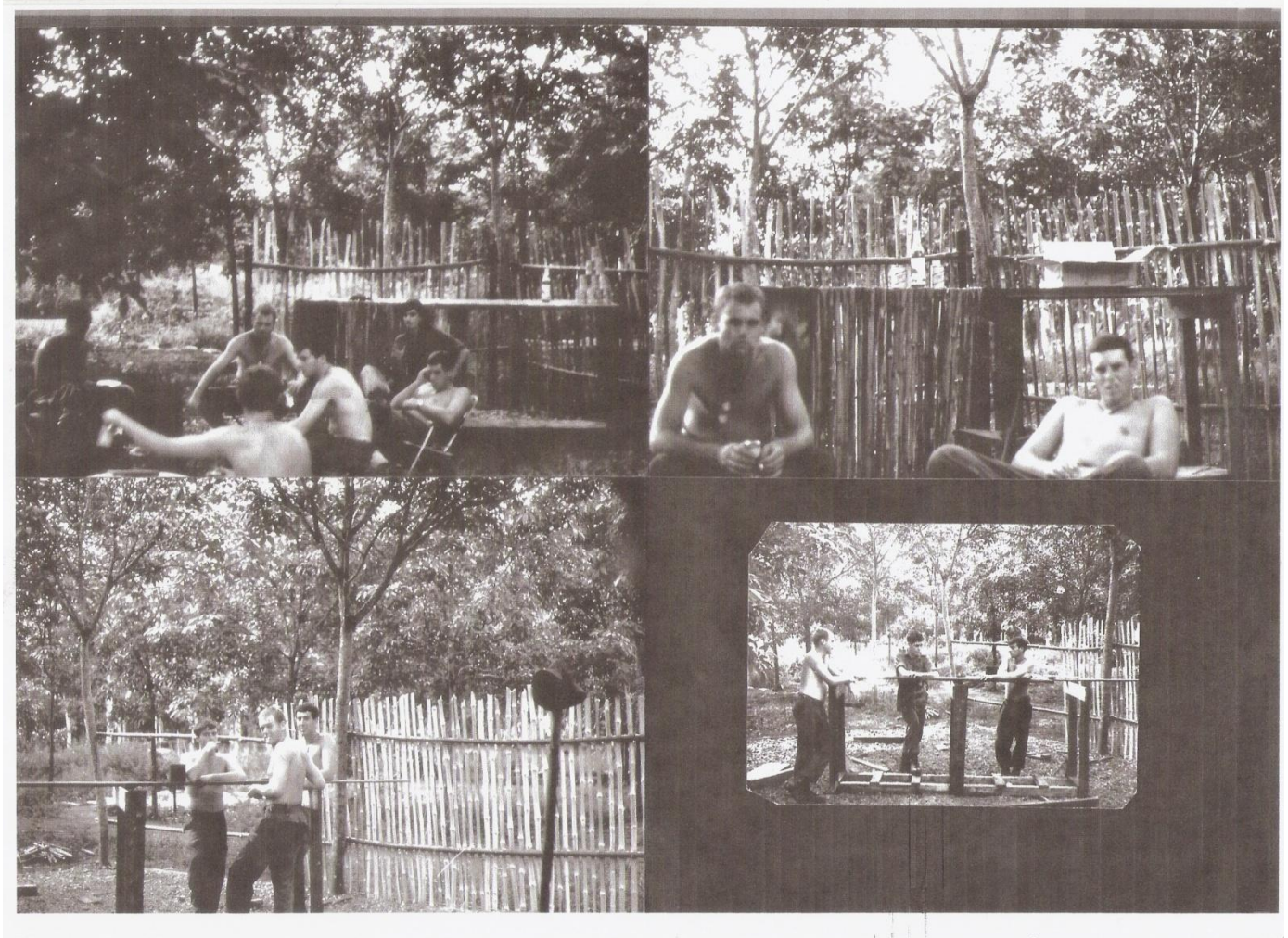
Our thoughts are with you Ernie.

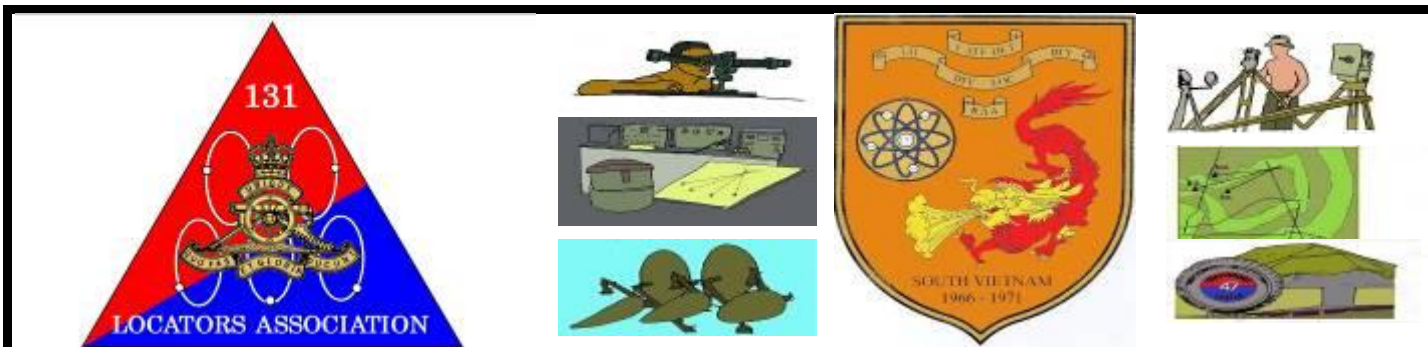
. **Jim Fitzgerald** sent in the following with regards to the part story of the “Opening of the Battery Club” in 1967 in November’s *Eyes & Ears*” -



“Paul, Looking at the photo it is dated incorrectly. It probably should be December 66 as the bar area was built November, December 1966.

I have attached photos of the construction. Bamboo from Nui Dat and sand from Vung Tau. In the photos you will see Garry Worral, Bob Ness, Mick McDonnell, Bob Tanner and myself. I hope this helps. In the photo in the *Eyes and Ears* (above), some of the people are Keith Dean, Lofty Hayes, Les Frost and I think myself. Jimmy FitzGerald”





Committee members:
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Vic (Melb) – Alan Adams, **WA** - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

Welcome – It was a quiet month for new members, we'll just have to wait and see what 2015 brings.

. Presidential perambulations

I know that in about two week's time, plus a couple of days, I will be writing 2014 when it should of course be 2015. Did I do that in my correspondence home when 1967 morphed in 1968? I don't know, and the letters have long ago disappeared.

So perhaps it is time to look back at 2014 for 131 Locators Association, for what I see as some highlights and lowlights:

I survived New Years Eve in Sydney

Our member numbers grew, slowly but surely

Unfortunately, so did our Honour Roll; vale 131 Gunners

Twelve editions of *Eyes and Ears* were published; thanks Dicko for your commitment to the task

The 131 Locators website suffered a significant software glitch, although it did not go off the air; thanks for getting us viable again Bob Billiards

Your Committee held 11 meetings and progressed our Association program; thanks fellas, a job carefully and conscientiously done

Our first official off-shore event took place at Warbirds Over Wanaka in New Zealand at Easter

Several of us attended our first event with 20STA at Enoggera during the year

The daily reports from the Detachment were discovered by Gunner Dignam, and copies are now in our possession thanks to Bert Blink

Canberra was named as the World's Most Liveable City; says it all really.

At this celebratory time, I know that some of our number are not in good circumstances. Your Association is here to help where we can. For everyone I extend season's greetings and wish the best to you, your family and friends.

Best wishes

Allen Morley

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 24th February, 2015 at 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/> You're all welcome

. Pertinent Points from the Association General Meeting - held on 16th December, 2014...

.Allen opened the meeting by welcoming all the attendees.

He then moved a condolence motion to express his regret at the passing on 29 November last of Mrs. "Mollie" Newbold, mother of Ernest Newbold, our committee member. He offered sympathy on behalf of the Association to Ernest and his entire family in their bereavement.

.Presidents report.

DVA Grant –please confirm MP's letter of support via follow up email.

OCs' recollections - excellent contribution so far - hopefully more to come.(SEC/T will provide personnel list to those whose contribution have not yet arrived, as an aide.)

2015 projects – Seymour ; North Head – publicize and ask via website and E&E newsletter for "notice of intention to attend" to facilitate planning for accommodation & activities; Grants. Final figures required by 28/2/2015

.Plaque for National Vietnam Veterans Museum Phillip Island.

Alliance Casting and Engineering Solutions were contacted to confirm a finish date and delivery option of Plaque to the Phillip Island Museum. The plaque will be completed in early Jan 2015 when we will be contacted to make payment and confirm transport arrangements

The Museum was also contacted to confirm that previous commitments will be met. We await their reply.

.Enoggera "a living museum".

Keith Ayliffe contacted Terry Erbs regarding this project. Joe Kaplun also is interested and is seeking a working party to assist. We will contact Terry to find out what is in mind and how we can be of assistance.

.Work Party –Puckapunyal Arty Museum Feb 2015.

Joe Kaplun is also interested in this project and has requested people to spend some time sorting out items moved from North Head to commence stocking the Museum (a valuable contact to facilitate the Museum tour in May 2015).

. web Performance...

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

. Birthdays in the Battery...January –

On the table below there are still 16 blokes we have no info on...it's time to put our thinking caps on as we're getting into 2015 and it's getting long in the tooth as to where the hell are they?

Any hint of possible whereabouts would be a start – how about a phone number, an email address, last known address – we need a starting point to find these guys who were and are our mates!

. 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.

Let's get down to some tin-tacks with the "Locate a Locator" programme which has been rumbling along.

Now at the end of November we heard from **Mike Davis** (he contacted us with a condolence message for Graham Greenland) and possibly inadvertently let us know about a bunch of blokes he was still in touch with. I replied to Mike and Cc'd (on purpose) the blokes and heard back from **Robin Torrisi**, which was fantastic. Of the 13 blokes listed, we know 7 of them as they are on our *Eyes & Ears* email database, however I won't mention names here, but it was great to "Locate" them. I've removed them off the "Birthday List" from the "white background not locateds".

According to the stats I keep, we have now Located - we've identified 176 Regulars and 286 Nashos from the total list of blokes (that we have on record) who served in the Battery and we've Located 347 (so far, including 76 on our Vale list), still looking for about 142 out there somewhere, we regularly contact 276 blokes via email (there's few we snail mail to and a few who don't want contact). We've still got a fair bit of ground to cover – we could do with some help! We respect your privacy, we just want to know that you're still with us! C'mon help make our day!!

January	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	VICTOR DANKO	2783210	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
1	JOE LIBRIZZI	5716081	1947	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	
1	CHRIS CHAPPLE	5716208	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
1	RICHARD CHAPLIN	2791166	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
2	JOHN BROWNE	218367	1949	27 08 1969	13 08 1970	
3	GARY NAVAS	2793162	1949	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
4	PETER PETTIFORD	3792038	1947	08 11 1968	04 06 1969	
5	GRAEME SMITH	6708707	1946	12 04 1968	20 08 1968	
6	ARTHUR DOVE	217348	1950	13 01 1969	28 11 1969	
6	ALLAN ROBOTHAM	6709864	1950	25 05 1971	18 11 1971	
9	PETER SADLER	15138	1941	20 05 1966	28 04 1967	† 2008
9	ROBERT NESS	4717755	1945	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	† 01.01.2001
9	GERARD PIRES	5717069	1949	03 03 1971	12 08 1971	
11	PAUL TRAVERS Maj.	47027	1940	{09 09 1965	19 09 1965	VISIT
	" "			{25 02 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME
11	PETER PIORO	2790931	1948	27 11 1969	04 05 1970	
12	PETER HOPPER Sgt	3787938	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
12	DAVID REILLY	3794901	1948	24 03 1970	13 08 1970	
12	BRIAN JOHNSON	4720991	1949	29 05 1970	05 05 1971	AACC
	" "			14 05 1970	27 05 1970	1st Armoured Regt.
12	LASZLO FALKAI	4721836	1949	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.

13	ROGER HOLMES	3795910	1948	22 07 1970	25 02 1971	
15	GEORGE STAZIKER Lt Col	2108436	1838	14 04 71	01 05 71	† 29.12.12
15	PHIL. ENDICOTT	2783419	1945	06 01 1967	27 09 1967	
16	EDWARD COOPER	44231	1950	26 08 1969	21 01 1970	
16	LESLIE SAURINE	2791863	1947	24 03 1970	17 12 1970	
18	PETER SZABO	38752	1947	26 03 1969	25 03 1970	
19	BARRY HEARD	3788324	1945	02 04 1967	25 10 1967	Honorary 131
19	PETER FIELDEN	3797872	1949	25 11 1970	12 08 1971	
21	PETER SUCKING SGT	55141	1943	05.02.1971	15.11.1971	
22	KEVIN BROWNING Sgt	217743	1948	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	131
	" "			05 04 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.
22	MICHAEL BARLOW	2792252	1949	19 08 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
23	DONALD CHALMERS	3793171	1945	01 07 1969	03 12 1969	
	IAN "Scotty" McNICOL	216327	1945	{12 09 1967	17 09 1968	131
	" "			{09 04 1970	02 05 1970	VISIT
24	TERENCE ERBS	3791713	1947	28 10 1968	04 06 1969	
24	DAVID NEGUS	3794728	1947	24 02 1970	13 08 1970	
25	WALLY FRANKLIN	1411285	1949	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
26	RAY HUTCHINSON	37669	1940	17 04 1967	02 04 1968	
26	GEOFFREY TODD	54254	1943	18 12 1967	10 12 1968	
27	ALAN ADAMS	3788792	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
28	ROBIN TORRISI	1735572	1948	20 08 1970	12 03 1971	
29	PETER MACKIE	2184557	1949	20 08 1970	08 02 1971	
30	ALAN McDONALD	511355	1947	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
31	COLIN GORDON	16975	1945	15 03 1968	26 03 1969	† 28.03.10

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 126 and we've sent out 126. Ed – we can always do with a few more though!



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.

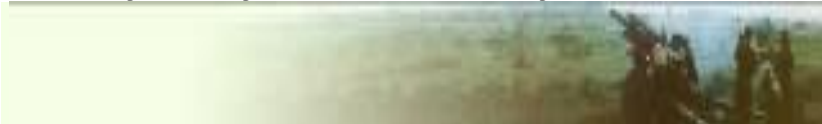
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam** sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add 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

see the LS & TAA website for up to date information – <http://www.locatingartillery.org/http://www.locatingartillery.org/>
Future Committee meeting dates - Sun 22 Feb 2015 at Paddington RSL. / Sun24 May 2015 at Paddington RSL. / Sun 19 July 2015 AGM at Paddington RSL.



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

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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