

THE EYES and EARS

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



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Nui Dat Hill circa 2014...



as recorded by **John Stanford** on a recent trip – the following are his pictures and dialogue of a re-visit into what was familiar territory, but may stretch the imagination of some of us now. Nui Dat hill has been extensively quarried and you cannot drive to the top anymore to where the LP used to be located.

...Nui Dat Hill circa 1960's (photo taken from the soon to be completed airstrip)



John continues...

"Paul

I hope these shots of Nui Dat that I took in May are useful for *Eyes & Ears*. I know a few of the locators have returned but there may be a few who find them interesting. Very little remnants of our presence are evident and much of the area is heavily vegetated.

The first one is looking out to the "Warbies" with the Bty lines behind you. This is where the radar lines were located. It is now a rubbish dump and some sort of storage facility.



The next one is looking in the direction of the front gate with the Bty lines on the right.



This the road that used to run down towards Task Force HQ with the Bty lines on the left. The rubber trees have virtually taken over this area as is the case with much of the 'Dat' now.



The drive to Vung Tau is a quick trip, as you can see it is a four lane highway with no blown bridges. The roads in the area are excellent and it is obvious that a lot of money has been poured into the province, now named Baria - Vung Tau Province.

The money comes from oil rigs off the coast from Vung Tau

which is being exploited by the Russians to repay the war debt.

I wonder if the Americans knew there was oil there in 70s if we would have had a different result?

Regards, John Stanford"

Ed – I guess like everywhere it's hard even to recognize heaps of places from 40+ years ago and in that group I include Holsworthy from then to now!

. 1st Australian Task Force – (source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>) The following is the continuation of the account of Australian involvement in the South Vietnam conflict focusing on The Battle of Long Tan...

The Aftermath...Casualties

Viet Cong and North Vietnamese casualties included 245 dead left on the battlefield and three captured, while many more were thought to have been removed as they withdrew. Others had been so badly mutilated their remains were unidentifiable. Approximately half were estimated to have been caused by artillery and the remainder by small arms. In addition to those found on the battlefield, the Australians believed the Viet Cong had evacuated up to a further 350 casualties, including an unknown number of dead which had been buried along the withdrawal route.

With such losses representing the operational strength of two battalions, Australian intelligence later assessed that the 275th Regiment, which had borne the brunt of the fighting, would not be capable of mounting a regimental-sized operation for several months after the battle. Meanwhile, D445 Battalion, which was thought to have played only a supporting role was believed to have suffered less heavily, and with a remaining strength of 300 men it was assessed as still being capable of engaging forces up to company strength. Weapons recovered included: 33 AK 47 and five SKS assault rifles, seven RPD light machine-guns, four RPG-2 rocket launchers, two 57 mm RCLs, two M1 carbines, one PPSH-41 submachine-gun, one SGM heavy machine-gun, one M1 Garand, one Thompson submachine-gun and one Browning Automatic Rifle. More than 10,500 rounds of small arms ammunition was also found, as well as 300 hand grenades, 40 mortar rounds, 22 RCL rounds and 28 RPG-2 rockets. Australian losses were also heavy and amounted to 17 killed, one died of wounds and 24 wounded; approximately one third of the initial force engaged. A high proportion of the dead and wounded were National Servicemen, a statistic which later drew criticism in Australia where conscription for overseas service was increasingly controversial. The Australian government later issued a directive limiting the proportion of conscripts to no more than 50 percent per unit, requiring a rapid reorganisation within 1 ATF which caused considerable disruption.



Australian memorial at Long Tan, 2005.

In the aftermath both sides claimed success. Heralded as an Australian victory against overwhelming odds, the battle was widely covered in the Western press, with its results making headlines in both Australia and the United States.

In the days that followed 1 ATF received congratulatory messages from the American, South Vietnamese and Australian military commands in Vietnam and from the Prime Minister, Harold Holt. Westmoreland thought it one of the more spectacular allied victories of the war to that point, coming after the early successes against the communist offensive had run their course. Yet regardless of their losses the Viet Cong also claimed to have inflicted a heavy defeat on the Australians. Shortly after the battle leaflets circulated throughout the province stating that "...700 Australians were killed, one battalion and two companies were destroyed, and two squadrons of APCs..." Similar assertions were repeated on Radio Hanoi on 27 August 1966 and the following day on Radio Peking. In contrast, the communist history of Dong Nai Province published in 1986 gave little attention to the battle, although claimed to have

"...eliminated 500 Australians and destroyed 21 tanks...", while Viet Cong and North Vietnamese losses were not recorded. D445 Battalion was later honoured by the PAVN with a heroic unit citation, while the 275th Regiment may have received a similar award. Meanwhile, many Viet Cong soldiers were awarded Certificates of Commendation for their role in the fighting.

D Company, 6 RAR was awarded a US Presidential Unit Citation by Lyndon Johnson on 28 May 1968. The Royal Australian Regiment and 3rd Cavalry Regiment were later awarded the battle honour "Long Tan", one of only five presented to Australian units during the war. Seventeen Commonwealth decorations were awarded to Australian and New Zealand soldiers, including Smith who received the Military Cross (MC) and Kirby the DCM, while Roberts, Kendall and Sabben were Mentioned in Dispatches, Stanley received the Order of the British Empire and Buick the Military Medal. Both Townsend and Jackson later received the Distinguished Service Order (DSO), although these awards were made on the basis of their entire period in command, rather than solely for their actions during the battle. Twenty-two Australians also received South Vietnamese gallantry medals, although due to official policy regarding foreign awards they were not permitted to wear them until 2004. The limited number of awards later became the subject of considerable criticism. At the time the allocation of awards under the Imperial honours system was based on a quota and this resulted in a number of the original recommendations being downgraded or not awarded. Indeed, Smith had originally been nominated for the DSO, Sabben and Kendall the MC, and Sharp a posthumous Mentioned in Despatches. In March 2008 a review recommended awards made to three of the officers be upgraded by the issue of the equivalent medals in the modern Australian honours system. Smith was subsequently awarded the Star of Gallantry and Kendall and Sabben the Medal of Gallantry. Following further review in 2009 Dohle's award was upgraded to the Distinguished Service Medal, while D Company, 6 RAR was awarded a Unit Citation for Gallantry on 18 August 2011.

Assessment

Despite being heavily outnumbered, D Company held off a large assault of regimental strength supported by heavy artillery fire, before a relief force consisting of cavalry and infantry fought their way through and finally forced the Viet Cong to withdraw. Although initial estimates of the Viet Cong force ranged from several companies to a battalion, following the battle Australian intelligence assessed it as having totalled between 1,500 to 2,500 men, while 1,000 men were believed to have directly engaged D Company. Achieved against odds of ten to one, the fighting left one-third of D Company killed or wounded. A decisive Australian victory, Long Tan proved a major local setback for the Viet Cong, indefinitely forestalling an imminent movement against Nui Dat and challenging their previous domination of Phuoc Tuy Province. Although there were other large-scale encounters in later years, 1 ATF was not fundamentally challenged again. The battle established the task force's dominance over the province, and allowed it to pursue operations to restore government authority. Yet such battles were atypical of the Australian experience, and although 1 ATF invariably inflicted heavy casualties on the Viet Cong when encountered in large numbers, such actions were less important than routine patrolling in separating the guerrillas from the population and maintaining constant pressure on them, coupled with pacification operations to extend South Vietnamese control. Nonetheless, Long Tan represented a watershed in the campaign, increasing the confidence of the Australians in their ability to defeat the Viet Cong and enhancing their military reputation. Fêted in Australia ever since, in time the battle became part of the legend of its involvement in the war. The best known of the Australian Army's actions in Vietnam, it has assumed a similar symbolic significance as battles such as Gallipoli, Kokoda and Kapyong. The date it was fought is observed annually as Long Tan Day and is also known as Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day, the national day of commemoration of the Vietnam War.

Although halted at the time of the clash, prior to the encounter the 275th Regiment had been advancing with two battalions forward and one in depth, while at least two companies from D445 Battalion were on its southern flank. The six to eight-man squad first contacted by 11 Platoon was probably a standing patrol moving into position ahead of the main force, and may have been the first indication they received of the Australian patrol. 11 Platoon had drawn ahead of the others due to its rapid follow-up and was isolated when the remainder of D Company was forced off the line of march by mortar fire and then halted. As a result it could not be supported and had become cut-off. Regardless, their steadfast defence was critical in holding up the Viet Cong as they moved east, gaining time for the relief force to arrive. After pinning down 11 Platoon frontally, the Viet Cong repeatedly attempted to outflank them but were interrupted by 10 and then 12 Platoon as each tried to move to their aid. The initial dispersion of the Australian platoons made it difficult to locate their flanks, while after D Company concentrated it had been attacked from the south-east, with supporting efforts from the east, north-east and south, all of which were halted by small arms and artillery. The combination of indirect fire and the reverse slope on which they found themselves afforded a degree of cover, while mist from the heavy rain provided some concealment. Meanwhile, a large force—likely a company from D445 Battalion—had been observed moving around the southern flank, and was only broken up by the cavalry after fears it might be ambushed on leaving Nui Dat proved groundless. Although D Company had initially been protected by indirect fire, the mobility and firepower of the cavalry proved decisive. On the verge of being surrounded when the relief force arrived, they would have been quickly overrun had the Viet Cong succeeded. "A very close thing indeed...", Jackson believed another 15 minutes would have seen D Company destroyed, while A Company and 3 APC Troop "...undoubtedly saved the day."

Next month we continue with the Long Tan Cross...

The following is an interesting aside dug up from one of the points contained above article -

“At the strategic level, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and the South Vietnamese government had both rallied after appearing on the verge of collapse and the threat to Saigon subsided by late 1965. Yet further troop increases were required if General William Westmoreland, Commander US MACV, was to adopt a more offensive strategy, with US forces planned to rise from **210,000 in January 1966 to 327,000 by December**. The Australian government increased its own commitment on 8 March 1966, announcing the deployment of a two-battalion brigade—the 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF)—with armour, aviation, engineers and artillery support; in total **4,500** men. Additional Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and Royal Australian Navy elements would also be deployed, **with total Australian strength in Vietnam planned to rise to 6,300**. Meanwhile, 1 RAR's attachment to US forces had highlighted the differences between Australian and American operational methods. Whereas the Americans relied on massed firepower and mobility in big-unit search and destroy operations as part of a war of attrition which often resulted in heavy casualties on both sides, the Australians—although not eschewing conventional operations—emphasised deliberate patrolling using dispersed companies supported by artillery, APCs and helicopters to separate the Viet Cong from the population in the villages, while slowly extending government control. Consequently, 1 RAR would be replaced at the end of its tour by 1 ATF which would be allocated its own Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) in Phuoc Tuy Province, thereby allowing them to pursue operations more independently using their own methods.

By 1966 Phuoc Tuy Province was dominated by the Viet Cong. With forces dispersed across South Vietnam to defend against the growing communist insurgency, the ARVN was stretched with only limited resources available to counter penetration of the province. Politically, Phuoc Tuy was controlled by the province chief, an army officer appointed by the central government, and was divided into five districts, each with a district chief. Although the government controlled Ba Ria and the Vung Tau Special Zone, it only partially controlled the village of Long Dien, the western parts of Dat Do and the villages of Long Hai, Xuyen Moc and Phu My during the day. Only the route from Ba Ria to Vung Tau was secure, and beyond this South Vietnamese forces were likely to be ambushed. Although the mostly Catholic village of Binh Gia opposed communist influence, it was isolated with the Viet Cong cadres controlling the remainder of the province, collecting taxes and subjecting the population to extortion and violent intimidation. The Viet Cong operated in parallel to the South Vietnamese administration. Part of the larger communist province of Ba Long—which also included Long Khanh and part of Bien Hoa Province—the Ba Long Province People's Committee co-ordinated activity in Phuoc Tuy under the direction of the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN), an organisation controlled by North Vietnam. Meanwhile, a network of cells and committees known as the Viet Cong Infrastructure provided support and extended control into the villages and hamlets. The military forces which supported the political apparatus consisted of main forces, local forces and guerrillas. Collectively they comprised the People's Liberation Armed Forces. Although purportedly separate from the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN), the North Vietnamese increasingly provided reinforcements to the Viet Cong, while PAVN units themselves would operate in Phuoc Tuy in later years.

...Ed just thought it was an interesting read.

. 131 Div Loc Bty dates – July...

8th July, 2010 saw the establishment of the 131 Locators Association Inc.

22nd July - the first edition of *Eyes & Ears* was published in **1967** – 47 years ago.

. July in SVN...

31 July	1962	The advance party of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) arrives in South Vietnam	Colonel Ted Serong, Commander of AATTV, flies into Saigon, ahead of the main body of the AATTV, which would arrive on 3 August. The arrival of "the Team" signalled the beginning of more than ten years of Australian involvement in the Vietnam War
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. **Ian “Stretch” Amos** responded to a birthday wish sent to him with the following – yes great news that he made another birthday, BUT best of all was the news of his “grand-fatherhood” – “Thanks Paul. I'll be celebrating later with a swim and a trip to the gym, maybe a couple of beers tonight. We finely tuned athletes can't interrupt training for such a mundane event as a birthday!!!. Next year, of course will be very different when myself along with a swag of others become certified geriatrics.

The other momentous event in my recent life happened on 28 May when my daughter gave birth to a son, Oliver Amos COGAN, in WHANGAREI NZ. All went well and I'm looking forward to seeing him in a couple of weeks.
Ian”

. **Warwick “Brookey” Brooker** helps us out with a **Leigh Hemming** photo where one of the blokes was not identified. The bloke in question – second from the left is **Peter Fuhrmann**. Peter is a member – let’s see if we hear from him??

Ed – now to be completely off the planet – who is/was the bloke looking decidedly ARVN standing between Des and Leigh?



. **Ernie Newbold** responds with another ID this time in one of **Bruce Irvine’s** photos used in the Vale section last month for **Peter “Pappy” Gault** -
“G’day Allen and Paul, the guy in the middle of the front row, between “Napoleon” Gault and our old mate **Keith “Chop Chop” North** looks very much like **Mick Luff**. Unfortunately I don’t seem to be able to copy the photo so as to enlarge it for a better look.
Paul, would you be able to send me a copy ?
Mick Luff’s brother Ian was in a Sigs unit at Moorebank when we were at Holsworthy.
Before he was called up for National Service Keith North was a “Technical Director” at the Channel 9 studios in Sydney. Keith and I were in the same hut and 11 platoon, Charlie Company at 3TB, Singleton. The well-known T.V. presenter of years gone, Anne Deveson is/was Keith’s cousin.
Regards, Ernie.”



Ed – C’mon Mick is it you?? And how about the rest of – ‘fess up!
Ernie you never cease to amaze me – got any more “out of left field” snippets?

. **National Gunner Dinner** is getting closer –

“Dear Gunners,
I am sending this email out to all those Gunners on my contact list to inform you that we are at the stage of preparation for the **National Gunner Dinner Sat 23 Aug 14** where those personnel who wish to attend this grand and significant event should not delay in Registering to Attend and also make payment.
This can be done at: http://australianartilleryassociation.com/2014_national_gunner_dinner.htm A list of those personnel already registered is at:
http://australianartilleryassociation.com/2014_national_gunner_registered_attendees.htm
If you have already Registered and Paid then please ignore this email. For those that have yet to Register and Pay, please do not delay lest you miss out on being able to join with your Mates in this once in a lifetime event.
We will be able to accept late comers up to a certain point, however, the seating arrangements are soon to be finalised and, once that is done, seating will have to be allocated on an as come basis.
This is going to be a fantastic occasion. One that will be remembered for many years to come. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to renew old acquaintances and share in the Esprit-de-Corps.
Ubique,
Kim
President
Australian Artillery Association”

. **John Blake** sent a heap of photos in recently and they're now in his album on the web site. However, I thought I might run a few over the next issue or six just to whet your appetites, especially our colleagues from the 1st/83rd as there are some extraordinarily good shots of the "monsters" they had there protecting 31D!!

The "beast" on the right must have been driven into the ground firing at that angle of trajectory – were they aiming at the DMZ or lobbing it onto 31D?



Craig Castona, known to us when he came with John to the Plaque dedication Ceremony in May 2014 has a very interesting backdrop – no doubt the same "beast".

. **Bert Blink** sent in the following item which involves **Rebecca Clark**, daughter of one of our Locators **George Clark**, who wrote the following article which was published firstly in the Canberra Times (as the article states) then in "FROM WARFARE TO WELFARE - Number 59 June 2014" publication by the Vietnam Veterans & Veterans Federation ACT



"Testimonial from a daughter of one of our veterans.

My name is Rebecca Clark, and as the daughter of a Vietnam Veteran I recently did an interview on the intergenerational effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder ('PTSD') in a February special editorial of the Canberra Times, arranged by Picking Up the Peaces founders Kate and Dave Tonacia. This, and being a new member of the Federation, prompted Len to invite me to share a little bit about my dad and myself with other members.

I am a single parent with two teenage children and a university graduate with a dual degree in Law and Arts with a major in politics and government. I have currently put further training for admission as a legal practitioner on hold. I aim to volunteer with the Federation in the near future to assist in the pension applications process, as it can be quite daunting and convoluted, and am hoping that y'all will come and say hello to me (please approach from the front to avoid startling us both, thanks).

My father, George, served with 131st Div. Loc. Bat. from January to September 1967, and January 1969 to January 1970. His first tour was ended early with a shrapnel injury. He was nineteen years old on his first tour, like many veterans.



Rebecca Clark

Also, like many veterans, my father has long term-delayed onset PTSD. Due to the fact that my father was undiagnosed and untreated for PTSD, the at-times extreme symptoms we all suffered ultimately resulted in his marriage breakdown, and later he was unable to work. My father was granted a full TPI pension in 2009.

My brother and I, of the three children, have also been diagnosed with long term-delayed onset PTSD. It is my belief that there are peculiarities that relate specifically to the lived experience of a Vietnam Veteran with delayed onset PTSD and his or her children, and that these peculiarities are barely understood by authorities or society. It goes beyond living with the symptoms or “walking on eggshells”, but includes the imaginings of children who needed to feel a sense of closeness and attachment to a father or mother whom they knew to be damaged by war, and yet were unable to talk to him or her about it.

These peculiarities are highlighted by confirmation of the high rate of suicide in veterans' children. They are also reflected in the paucity of research and the limited reach of services for the children of Vietnam Veterans who require ongoing, sophisticated and coordinated responses to their medical issues.

I am heartened that the Federal Government has invested considerable time and resources into undertaking a health study of the children of Vietnam Veterans. It is hoped that strategies can be put in place to, at the most, facilitate a return to health for the children of Vietnam Veterans whose illness is not yet entrenched, and a lessening of the financial burden for those whose illnesses are chronic; and in the very least, a change in military culture to inoculate serving personnel and their families from the insidious and destructive nature of undiagnosed and untreated PTSD. PTSD is not all doom and gloom, at least, it need not be. Post traumatic growth is a field that has attracted considerable interest, as it focuses on the recovery of an individual and the positive transformations that are possible. I marvel at what I have been able to accomplish at the height of my undiagnosed, untreated symptoms; and I now know that with the right support and effective treatment, that recovery is possible. What I accomplish next, well, that's anyone's guess.

*484 female personnel served in Vietnam, in addition to 59 036 males.

Rebecca Clark”



George in SVN

. **Jim Menz** – while searching the following link on the internet -

https://www.google.com.au/search?q=nui+dat+hill+south+vietnam&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=iG-tU_-GH9eQqAaMsiGgCg&ved=0CEwQsAQ&biw=1366&bih=599

the link has a myriad of photos including some of the Det Group which I've seen before and we have archived.

However, **Ed** came across the following photo of **Jim Menz** (at right) – I have a feeling I've seen it before, but can't place where.

Ernie Newbold adds a thought to the photo as it being the basis for the painting that has been done and proudly hangs in the Menz Club in Enoggera. Now this raises a couple of questions as to -

- 1.Can anyone enlighten us as to possibly where the photo was taken and a date?
- 2.The painting – who painted it?





Allen Morley sent in the photo, at left, which shows the painting of Jim which is in the reception area of the Menz Club at Enoggera, then **Ernie** forwarded the following form the **RAA Historical Company** website Obituary Resource section -

AUSTRALIAN GUNNER OBITUARY RESOURCE

James Leslie Menz

(1 February 1946 – 18 February 1968)

By Peter Bruce, OAM

Nearly all locators will be familiar with the Menz Club. Initially set up in South Vietnam in the base at Nui Dat and eventually transferred to the home of locators at Enoggera in Queensland. The Menz Club was named after Jimmy Menz who was killed in action in South Vietnam on the 18th of February, 1968.

James was born in Melbourne and grew up in the small forestry town of Buxton in Victoria. His family were involved in the timber industry. Jimmy left school and worked in the building industry. At the age of 19, Jimmy joined the Army and was allocated to

Artillery and trained as a surveyor. He spent time at Holsworthy and with the 131 Divisional Locating Battery in Brisbane. Jimmy married Helen in August 1967, only months before deploying to Vietnam.

Bill Howe recalled in a letter to Jim's wife Helen that:

"Jim was one of the most conscientious men under my command". He went on to say "His pleasantness and kindness of character singled him out as a man to be proud of. Jim was a country boy, his sincerity in caring about people gave him the touch of humanity that many of us lack."

Another mate of Jims wrote: "We always found him easy to get along with and provide a good and human balance to the other NCOs".

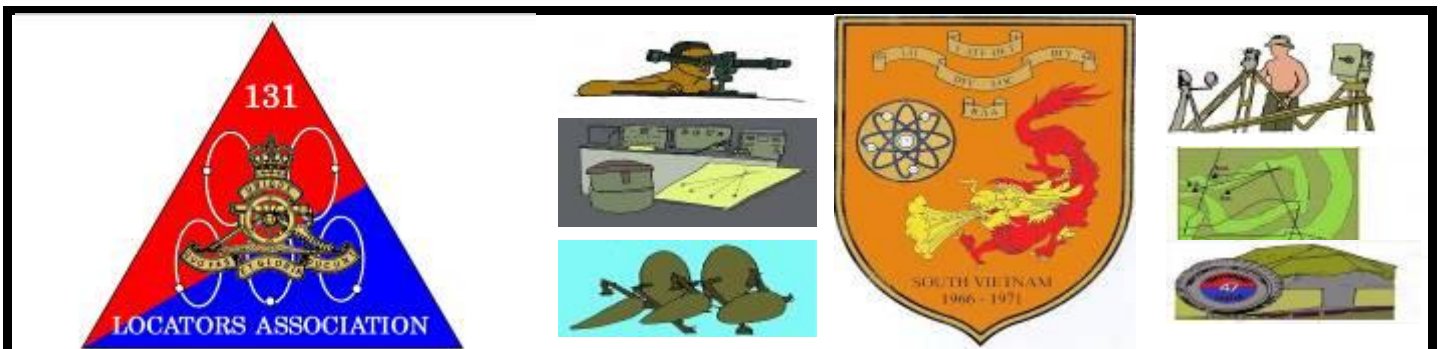
Jim deployed to South Vietnam on the 10th of October 1967 and served with the Detachment of 131 Divisional Locating Battery attached to 4th Field Regiment. By this time Jim had been promoted to Lance Bombardier.

On Wednesday the 2nd of January 1968, Australian troops commenced Operation Coburg to the north of Nui Dat near Xuyen Loc, east of Bien Hoa. The Locators including Jim were trucked to Xa Tran Bom on Route 1 and dug in on a small hill about one kilometre north of that village. Listening Posts were established to support the operation. The next day, Jimmy was with the Survey team at Fire Support Base Anderson and they formed a Listening Post, 31G. This as the time of the TET Offensive and VC and North Vietnamese staged massive attacks all over South Vietnam.

On the 13th of February, several Listening Posts were set up in and around Fire Support Base Anderson. On the night of Saturday the 17th of February, there was an initial contact in the rubber about 1500 meters away from their position. In the early hours of the morning of Sunday the 28th, the VC blew up the magazine in Bien Hoa and a green flare was fired from Xa Tran Bom and the VC launched a mortar and rocket attack on the Fire Support Base. One of those mortar rounds was to kill Jim near their listening post 31G. The VC had dug small pits and had been covered with sand and they jumped out of the holes and killed most of the Australian Standing Patrol in front of the American lines. They then charged across the wire and were killed after causing considerable damage. A green flare from the village ended the attack. A helicopter gunship arrived and shot up the rubber trees as the VC were removing their dead and wounded.

Jimmy had been home with his family on R and R only two weeks earlier.

My thanks to Jimmy's brother Tony and his family for sharing special family photos, articles and letters.



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>

The Association thanks the blokes who responded to the renewal of membership call – it all helps to maintain our future.

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: 22nd July, 2014 at 1100hrs

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

Presidential perambulations:

I have decided that next month should provide a celebration of Luddites Week. Because, we are losing many of the standards we have grown up with.

Does anyone remember when, soon after return from SVN, a little plastic thing called a Bankcard appeared, unsolicited, in the mail? I think that card has gone the way of the trilobites.

And at our Committee meeting earlier this week, one of our number (name and address withheld to protect the innocent), explained that he no longer had a cheque account. One account that he wanted to pay had no provision for payment to their organisational bank account. From August we will no longer be permitted – a one sided decision by the banks – to sign for purchases or services when using a credit card. Tap and pay is the way. To more fraud I suspect.

Yesterday in the mail my copy of *Classic Wings Downunder* arrived in the mail. This is a subversive Kiwi magazine that I enjoy reading. Now there is provision for a digital subscription. I just cannot do that. I enjoy holding the magazine and moving it from one reading spot to another until cover-to-cover reading is complete.

Certainly I communicate via e-mail and occasionally use a landline and mobile. Stashed away somewhere is my original, fairly large mobile phone. I can still remember my parent's home phone number from a time when many did not have a telephone. I now pay most accounts online. Nevertheless I absolutely refuse to try to comprehend the need for facebook, instagram and twitter. My ludditious perception of them all is they represent ego-evils.

Please join me in celebrating Luddites Week for those things we have lost that were so dear to our hearts, but are only now a distant memory. Including rainbow cake.

Best wishes

Allen

. 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...July –

Hey, **Ted Doust** cracks 75 on the 14th. We hope it's a good one Ted – a photo or 6 would be good to get?



Here's what **Peter Summers** was up to in 1987 – he was at North Head after being one of the instigators of the "Welcome Home" re-union. Pete – have a great day on the 21st and enjoy your 66th!!

July	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	STEPHEN FOWLER	217186	1948	16 09 1968	17 09 1969	
2	PETER O'DONNELL Sgt.	213115	1941	24 03 1970	05 11 1970	
3	BRUCE FOWLER	2795238	1949	16 12 1970	29 07 1971	
4	GEORGE WEARN Capt.	2251140	1937	05 08 1968	20 08 1968	133 Div Loc CMF
7	PETER JOSCELYNE	2792023	1945	03 06 1970	17 12 1970	
12	NEVILLE ATKINSON	1733449	1947	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	† 14.12.96
13	GRIFFITH DEREK	310867	1927	1970	1971	† 02.04.05
10	BILL FINLAY Sgt.	37818	1944	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
10	ROBERT PELHAM	55342	1949	16 11 1968	19 11 1969	
10	REX ARNOLD	424096	1949	16 12 1970	29 05 1971	
	" "			29 05 1971	16 09 1971	Ind 161 Recce Flt.
11	JOHN JAGGARD	4721862	1949	03 03 1971	02 08 1971	131
	" "			02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt

13	ALASDAIR GOUGH	2105130	1947	27 03 1970	04 03 1971	
14	EDMOND DOUST Sgt.	53111	1939	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
14	FREDERICK KRUMINK	6708867	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
15	IAN EARLE	3166824	1951	19 08 1970	10 12 1970	131 / 4 Fd Regt.
	" "			11 12 1970	23 06 1971	33 Dental Unit
16	GEORGE ADDISON WO2	2410040	1930	16 04 1969	16 04 1970	† 27.12.12
18	KEITH AYLIFFE Sgt.	217354	1941	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	131
	" "			08 07 1971	24 07 1971	HQ AFV
18	ALASTAIR McLEAN	312524	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
18	JOE KOCKA	1202703	1951	20 08 1970	29 07 1971	
19	MAXWELL McPHERSON	3795560	1947	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
21	GRAHAM WILLIAMS	2789698	1947	03 06 1969	25 03 1970	
21	WILLIAM SLADE	44464	1950	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	
21	WILHELMUS Van ZETTEN	3794919	1947	17 03 1970	17 12 1970	
21	PETER SUMMERS	3796803	1948	09 11 1970	09 06 1971	
22	JOHN HOMER	5717596	1949	17 03 1971	02 08 1971	131
	" "			02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
23	DAVID DODD	2790139	1947	03 06 1969	04 06 1970	
25	WILLIAM DOYLE	4719912	1947	17 12 1968	04 01 1969	4 Fd REGT
	" "			05 01 1969	28 11 1969	131 † 05.09.78
25	JOHN SMITH	610231	1949	16 11 1968	12 11 1969	
25	PETER BARRY	2794949	1949	17 03 1971	04 08 1971	131
	" "			04 08 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
28	MALCOLM MUSGRAVE	214359	1943	03 06 1969	04 06 1970	
29	RICHARD EDWARDS	218595	1949	03 06 1970	14 05 1971	

Ed – 11 blokes not highlighted is is exactly the same as last year – ok we need a bit more movement with the July mob!

. Locator Profiles – we’ve received **124** and we’ve sent out **124**. **Ed** – time for a bit more inspiration from the pool of non-subscribers!

. 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 or 5 years. Hope we hear from you?

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

. Other related sites...

. Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

“Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush”

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

This website seeks to make contact with the Artillery Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty. We welcome

your relevant contributions of photos, insights and observances so we might endeavour to expand 131 Artillery Surveying Vietnam record, beyond this window. Please use the [contacts page](#) for details:

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

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

. Locating , Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...notes taken from the LS & TAA website – Committee meetings are held regularly with most held at Paddington RSL commencing at 11.15am.

The next **Committee Meeting and Annual General Meeting** will be held on **20th July 2014** at Paddington RSL. Members are cordially invited to attend.

Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the Association's Newsletter LOCREP.



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/

John Blake had his photo album on the web site raided to get the blokes from 1st /83rd excited with the following photo – now there have to be some hearing problems encountered after they fired a few of these!!



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

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