

THE EYES and EARS

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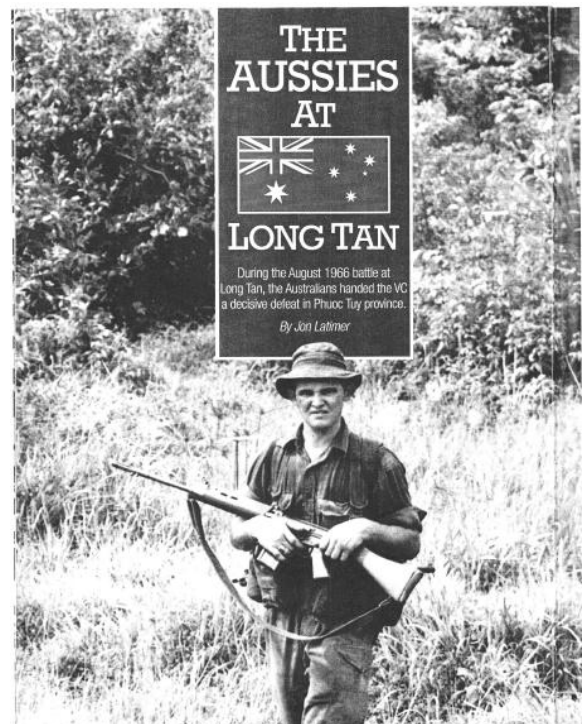
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Happy 6th Birthday to the new series *Eyes and Ears*

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**. Battle of Long Tan –
Australia's Finest Hour
in Vietnam...**



. **Bill Taggart** , of 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery fame sent in the following article taken from a publication called VIETNAM, dated December 2005. It's an interesting article from Jon Latimer, who has written several stories of the Vietnam Conflict. Bill wrote – "Hi Paul, Happy New Year I hope you and your family are well. I came across this article in my files that I thought would interest you. It is from the December 2005 issue (yes I save everything) of Vietnam Magazine, titled **The Aussies at Long Tan**. It's attached (and quite a large file size). Bill"



By 1965 more than 100 Australian soldiers of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) were *in situ* to support U.S. forces and the general training of ARVN regular and militia units. They were mostly Special Air Service personnel with experience in Malaya, where the British had defeated a Communist insurgency in the 1950s, and in Borneo, where an ongoing confrontation was in progress against Indonesian forces. So when President Lyndon B. Johnson, on April 23, 1964, called for "more flags" to be represented in South Vietnam, the Australians were already there.

The decision to deploy the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR), for the new enclave strategy was therefore unsurprising. The unit was reinforced from both Australia and New Zealand to create an ANZAC battalion group (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps-named after the formation originally created for the 1915 Gallipoli operation of World War I). The fledgling ANZAC force operated closely with the 173rd Airborne Brigade based at Bien Hoa, and proved extremely effective in search-and-destroy operations around Saigon. At this stage, however, participation in the war was very unpopular domestically. It was only after the Australian federal elections of March 1966, fought largely on the issue of Vietnam, that the 1st Australian Task Force (ATF) was formed and 1 RAR replaced with 5 and 6 RAR, supplemented by two companies from the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment and 103rd Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, while the armoured personnel carrier (APC) detachment was expanded to a squadron-"A" Squadron. 4/19 Prince of Wales Light Horse.

This would be the Australian method of relief, replacing entire units, which each included a high proportion of National Service conscripts who had volunteered for service overseas, following a 12-month tour. The Kiwis (New Zealanders), meanwhile, adopted the U.S. system of individual replacements for permanently deployed units.

The establishment of a brigade-size grouping meant the ANZAC could now take responsibility for their own area of operations. They were given the province of Phuoc Tuy, a coastal region southeast of Saigon. Rear echelon operations were established at the town of Vung Tau on the coast itself, but the task force headquarters and base of operations was at Nui Dat, more centrally located in the province and better able to facilitate movement of support swiftly to the provincial capital at Baria. When the ANZACs arrived, they encountered a region swarming with VC activity, which had long proved troublesome to the allies.



Measuring some 30 kilometres north to south and 60 kilometres east to west, and divided by two principal roads running through flat open paddy fields with villages to provide recruits and supplies, the region also encompassed large areas of hills and jungle to give VC units shelter. In December 1964, the Viet Cong 9th Division had destroyed two battalions of ARVN troops at Binh Gia. Seven VC battalions were operating in the province, and Main Force units had developed political cadres and control over most of the villages together with a series of jungle bases. With the Main Force 5th Division operating in the May Tao hills and the VC 445 Battalion in the villages, the VC seemed to have already won the war in Phuoc Tuy.

Brigadier David Jackson, Commanding 1 ATF was not overly concerned. Nui Dat was a small hill less than 20 miles north of Vung Tau from which the Aussie and Kiwi artillery backed by heavy batteries of American 155mm guns, could dominate a large area of ground. Private Hal "Horse" Esler, a national service draftee, had a different opinion: "They stuck us on a plane and flew us to Vietnam. We landed at a beach and I thought, this is it. This is going to be great. A nice little beach at Vung Tau. Then they whipped us up to Nui Dat into the middle of a rubber plantation. When we got

there it was all mud. There was no machinery to help us, we had to do it all by hand, using entrenching tools."

Nui Dat had few facilities. The infantry lived in tents and the artillery had to be dug in, all during the monsoon. But the choice of Nui Dat also unwittingly put the Australians directly on the path the VC used when moving from the west of the province to visit Long Tan and Long Phuoc villages. They posed a direct threat to the VC's supply and communications systems, and that made violent retaliation a certainty. Jackson was well aware that 1 ATF was at its weakest with the base camp in its infancy. His men also were largely inexperienced soldiers, and few in the junior ranks had any combat zone service.

The 1 ATF plan was for Special Air Service teams to begin deep penetration of the province while the infantry immediately set to work with aggressive



patrolling, ambushes and logistics denial-techniques learned in Malaya-plus the systematic clearing of VC from the villages in order to drive a wedge between their 5th Division and the main population areas in the south. The villages of Long Tan and Long Phuoc to the south and east would be searched and some of the inhabitants moved to more secure locations. However, 1 AIF was plagued by shortages of just about everything, especially helicopter support. Still more distressing, given the nature of the conflict, was the difficulty in obtaining reliable intelligence. The intelligence staff had trouble with Vietnamese sources, and by August 1966 the 1 ATF staff was regarded as "the boys who cry wolf." The subordinate units were displeased at repeatedly searching areas of wet jungle and finding nothing, and some soldiers even made references to "the mythical enemy battalion that is supposed to be around here." Thus, when the VC launched a mortar and recoilless rifle attack on Nui Dat early on August 17, 1966, killing one man and wounding 22, the Aussies were taken completely by surprise. The response was also disjointed, since Jackson was already overstretched, having just two battalions available, of which all of 5 RAR and A Company, 6 RAR, were out on patrol. Jackson recalled his patrols in case the mortar attack proved to be a prelude to something more serious, and sent the understrength B Company, 6 RAR, on a sweep to the east of the base. Finding nothing on the 17th, B Company's men were ordered back to base the next day to be replaced by D Company. Unknown to the Aussies, however, seven VC battalions (some 4,000 troops) were in the process of closing in on Nui Dat for a sustained assault. Three of those battalions swung north while the other four advanced from the east, planning to use the Long Tan rubber plantation as an assembly area.

Commanding D Company was Major Harry Smith with 108 men in three platoons (Nos. 10, 11 and 12) and a small headquarters element. Smith's radio operator, Private "Pom" Rencher, described Smith as one of only two men he would unquestioningly follow anywhere. Tasked with continuing the sweep initiated by B Company, D Company left Nui Dat early on the morning of August 18 and linked up with B Company around 1300 hours. After the D Company troops were shown a number of mortar pits discovered on the western edge of the plantation about 2,000 yards from Nui Dat, Smith decided to follow a track running eastward. It split some 300 yards farther on, one trail leading around the northern edge of the plantation and the other running straight through it among the evenly spaced trees.

Second Lieutenant Geoff Kendall's 10 Platoon was detailed to follow the northern route while 2nd Lt. Gordon Sharp's 11 Platoon took the lead directly through the plantation, followed by 12 Platoon and company headquarters. The company frontage, therefore, was about 400 meters with a similar depth. With visibility of 150 to 200 meters, the subordinate units were all in visual contact, but never the less more dispersed than usual, given the terrain and conditions. The VC, therefore, would have greater difficulty in identifying the size and location of the force. D Company set off shortly after 1500 hours. Forty minutes later, 11 Platoon's lead section encountered six VC. Private Allen May, a scout, described them as "a bunch of kids sitting around a fire having lunch." The Aussies opened fire, wounding one as the group scattered. The Aussies pursued them deeper into the plantation past a rubber-tapper's hut toward a small clearing that marked the eastern edge of the plantation, beyond which was the dense forest of the jungle. At

1608, as Sharp's men entered the clearing, they were met by a wall of fire. According to Private Peter Ainslie, "a million little lights seemed to come out of the rubber, from knee height to above our heads, and a helluva noise." Two Aussies were killed immediately. The rest sought cover and began to return fire while parties of VC tried to manoeuvre onto their flanks. Simultaneously, Smith's HQ element and 12 Platoon to the rear came under mortar fire and were halted. That left 11 Platoon in a perilous position. But once the initial shock of contact was overcome, the Australians began to pick their targets and the enemy began to fall.



Members of 6 RAR fire a mortar from within their APC during Operation Smithfield, the pursuit of surviving VC after the Battle of Long Tan.

Of enormous significance was the fire rapidly brought to bear from the 105mm howitzers of 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, comprising Nos. 103 and 105 batteries, together with the Kiwi gunners of No. 161 Battery, Royal New Zealand Artillery, controlled by Captain Maury Stanley, a Kiwi forward observer with Smith's group. They also were supported by the American 155mm M-109 self-propelled howitzers of A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery. Often under intense fire himself, and with deteriorating weather conditions that hampered his view through the trees.

Stanley controlled the fire of the four batteries throughout the battle. For the duration of the action they produced a steady 24-gun barrage that ultimately proved decisive.

The men of 11 Platoon were surrounded by VC in a cauldron of noise, and were soon fighting for their own survival, but their training was good. Brian Halls recalls: "For the full duration while we were out there by ourselves, it was very well controlled. Everybody knew what the bloke next to him was doing and how he was reacting. It was like a very tight family." The control came from Sharp, and when he was killed soon afterward, it "was still there in Sergeant Bob Buick who took over the platoon," said Halls.

Kendall's 10 Platoon was some 200 meters behind when its troops tried to move from the northern track to relieve the pressure. It began to rain, "and when I say rain," recalled Kendall, "it rained like it rains in Vietnam in the afternoon. It absolutely started to pour monsoonal rain."

D Company set off shortly after 1500 hours. Forty minutes later, 11 Platoon's lead section encountered six VC. Private Allen May, a scout, described them as "a bunch of kids sitting around a fire having lunch."

Visibility was quickly reduced to little more than 50 meters, and this, combined with the crashing of artillery and crackling of small arms fire, enabled 10 Platoon to approach the VC firing onto 11 Platoon's position. Kendall ordered his men to open fire. "We all sort of dropped to our knees and lipped into them ... I don't think they even knew where the firing was coming from," he said. Nonetheless, the VC quickly responded, and return fire soon forced 10 Platoon to ground. They were only saved from counterattack by Stanley walking artillery fire back and forth across the vicinity of the enemy as they tried to form up. But 11 Platoon was still totally isolated and in deep trouble, and Kendall's men were some 100 meters short of 11 Platoon. "I'd stopped moving forward at this stage and put the guys on the ground, to establish what had or had not happened," he said. "We were still under very heavy fire from all sides, coming through a foot or eight inches above the ground, so you had to stay low or take the chance of being bowled over." Harry Smith began to realize he had the makings of a serious situation, especially when the wounded began to filter back to his command group. Lieutenant Colonel Colin Townsend, the commanding officer of 6 RAR, was monitoring the battle over the radio from Nui Dat and realized that a relief force was essential. He began to assemble one from A Company, which had only just come back into base from patrol and was looking forward to showers and a barbecue. Hastily, they were told to mount the 10 "rather old and tired" M-113 APC of A Squadron, 4/19 Prince of Wales Light Horse, led by Lieutenant Adrian Roberts.

The APCs suffered from a number of deficiencies. Some had no armoured shields for their .50-caliber machine gun. Others had no functioning intercom systems; in true cavalry style they were controlled by the track commander pulling two strings attached to the epaulettes on the driver's shoulders. All the same, everyone was aware that a big fight was in progress and they mounted up and left Nui Dat at 1745, heading for a crossing of the Suoi Da Bang River. Two vehicles were detailed to collect Townsend, but Roberts was confident he could affect a relief. This was just as well since D Company was beginning to run short of ammunition. These preparations took time, during which the VC assaults were repeated and intense. Brian Halls heard a lot of yelling from their side. "I suppose this was to get their adrenalin pumping so they would have the courage to stand up and walk in," Hall recalled. "They were not running in, just walking in, groups of 10 to 15, no more than that. There was only one wave at a time."

An abortive attempt was made by two sections of 12 Platoon to fight their way through to the beleaguered 11 Platoon from the northwest, but at 1700 Smith ordered those untrapped to pull back onto his HQ group, situated in a small hollow slightly to the west where the wounded were already being collected and a defensive perimeter was hastily formed.

Number 11 Platoon was now reduced to a dozen men under Buick, and they were forced to fend for themselves as best they could. Buick decided to call fire on his own position because, with practically no ammunition, they could

hope to survive for no more than a few minutes. "Captain Maury Stanley reminded me of the rules of artillery fire when I requested the fire mission, but I told him of our situation," he said. "The fire came and landed about 50 to 100 metres to our front, and right amongst the heaviest concentration [of enemy]. That's the 5 percent luck." Ainslie saw "people blown away almost in front of your face; it was very, very close and we were very, very grateful."

Kendall's radio operator had been wounded and the radio was out of action, so Smith sent Private W.A. "Yank" Akell forward with a spare. Meeting two VC, Akell killed them with his Owen gun, an obsolete submachine gun of World War II vintage. Kendall remembered: "He came running through the rubber from behind us singing out 'Mister Kendall! Mister Kendall where are you?'" At a time when it was almost bloody fatal to stand up. He was probably a little lucky not to get knocked over." Anyway, he got the radio to us, which was a big relief, and I got onto Smithy and told him what was going on and where I was."

The radio was absolutely vital to the Australians' continued survival, and Smith ordered Kendall to withdraw onto his HQ group. They hurried back under cover of another artillery salvo, away from Buick's isolated outpost. Pom Rencher looked around and saw Smith like "a rock, always cool and collected, but the calmest an in CHQ (company headquarters) was Maury Stanley," he recalled, "calmly working out fire orders as if he was on exercise back home."



Lance Corporal George Richardson, D Company medic, and Sergeant Bob Buick of D Company's 11 Platoon give first aid to Private Jim Richmond of 11 Platoon, one of two wounded soldiers whom 6 RAR found upon its return to Long Tan 12 hours after the battle. Shot twice through the chest, Richmond had lain face down at his section post all night before being found and cared for.

With most of the company concentrated, at least it could be resupplied with ammunition brought in by two Bell UH-1 B helicopters flown by No. 9 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force. Arriving around 1800 during a pause in the artillery fire, and guided by coloured smoke, they hovered low over the HQ group and dropped out ammunition boxes wrapped in blankets by rolling the aircraft slightly. They were just in time. As the artillery fire resumed, the VC launched a human wave assault that was only beaten back with difficulty. Buick and the survivors of 11 Platoon, meanwhile, had been able to identify the company perimeter by the arrival of the helicopters and were under marginally less pressure. The VC apparently were unable to establish the size of the force they were attacking but were in any case determined to wipe it out. They therefore began to concentrate their attacks on the main company position, and in the ensuing lull, Buick and 11 Platoon rushed through the trees to re-join their mates. Attending to the wounded from all three platoons was medical orderly Corporal Phil Dobson. According to Private Harry Esler, Dobson "should have been awarded the Victoria Cross for what he did. You'd see him run up front, out of sight, bring back a wounded fellow, patch him up, and away he'd go again. He was champion, that bloke." Esler was certainly not going to let the situation get him down. "I lay next to Doug Mitchell," he recalled, "and said to him, 'OK, you're supposed to be a crash-hot shot'-and this is true, I'm not exaggerating – I'll bet you a can of beer you can't hit that bloke in the stomach.' He'd have a shot, then say to me, 'a can of beer if you can hit him in the head.'" The two mates spent the battle steadily picking their targets. Despite having suffered horrendously, particularly from the artillery that continuously sought out their assembly areas, the VC's determination to wipe out the "Australian mercenaries" was undiminished. Part of the wall of sound that surrounded the battlefield was the constant blaring of bugles, because shouted orders could easily be drowned out. There appeared to be little melody, just simple blasts that indicated wait or go. Private Brian Reilly heard someone suggest, "All we've gotta do is hit the f-in' bugler!"

It was the D-445 Battalion (known to the Aussies as "Phouc Tuy's Own") that was now sent around to the west to complete the encirclement. But the VC ran straight into Roberts' APCs approaching across the Suoi Da Bang River. The surprise was mutual, and for an instant neither side reacted, but suddenly a fierce fire-fight developed with the machine guns of the APCs supplemented by the rifles of the infantry. This caused confusion among the VC, who had not been expecting to meet armour. Lieutenant Peter Dinham did not know of the presence of the D-445 Battalion "until we were right in amongst them," he recalled, "and these people suddenly stood up, in the thick scrub and rubber immediately in front. We had come out of the rain, surprising them as much as us." Dinham's platoon sergeant, Frank Alcorta, jumped down and took on the VC single-handed. Unwilling to leave him exposed, Dinham dismounted his platoon and as they formed a line abreast, the VC hastily broke contact and withdrew. Roberts kept his vehicles moving forward, and although one APC pulled back with its exposed track commander badly wounded, the remainder

fought on, crushing an attempt to stop them with 57mm recoilless rifle fire. It was touch and go whether they would get to D Company, whose ammunition was once more dangerously low, in time.

The company sergeant major, Jack Kirby, continually toured the perimeter handing rounds and magazines to the soldiers in their firing positions, asking, "Do you know who that is? No? Then shoot the bastard!"

Esler heard Smith speaking into the radio: "If you don't come in half an hour, don't bother to come at all." Then came a sound that seemed like a couple of bulldozers. Roberts and the relief arrived at 1840, greeted by cheers from the battered remnants of D Company. Sergeant Buick recalled that he and the remnants of 11 Platoon "jumped up, yelled and waved to identify our position, just like in the movies. I felt like one of those Yankees saved from the Indians."

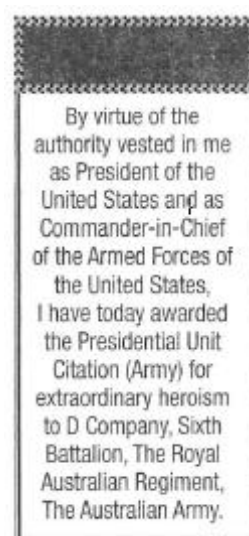
B Company, 6 RAR, which had approached the battlefield on foot, also broke through, and although those reinforcements were small in number, they were enough to break the VC's spirit. Communist fire slackened and Townsend took command of the situation. Ordering a withdrawal to a clearing in the west from which the dead and wounded could be evacuated by helicopter. Darkness fell and the rain stopped, but conditions remained difficult and very tense. Throughout the night the Aussies could hear the VC moving about on the battlefield looking for their casualties, but no further attacks developed. More supplies were brought forward from Nui Dat and as morning broke Townsend organized a sweep of the field led by D Company. The devastation they found astonished them: "As big as two or three football pitches and several hundred bodies spread over the place," recalled Townsend.

Two wounded Aussies were found and hurriedly evacuated. Most affectingly, their mates of 11 Platoon were found clutching their rifles. Pom Rencher said, "as if they were frozen in a drill and it only needed a touch to bring them back to life again. They hadn't been touched by the artillery, thank goodness, and the rain had washed off any blood," he said. "They looked very peaceful and dignified, dying in place, doing their duty. And that's when the tears started."



Corporals David Newland (left) and Gordon Black play the pipes at a service commemorating the members of 6 RAR killed during the Battle of Long Tan. Also present from D Company are (from left): Corporal Richard Brown, Lance Corporal Malcolm Campbell, Corporal Reilly, Sergeant John Beere, Corporal William O'Rourke (who was with the cavalry troop that brought relief forces to the battle zone), Sergeant Neil Rankin, Corporal George Richardson, Corporal William Akell, Corporal Brian Halls and Corporal Bill Roche.

The Australians lost 17 dead at Long Tan, but 245 VC bodies were found and buried, and there was evidence of many more found later. During the action, the guns had fired no fewer than 2,639 rounds of 105mm and 155 rounds of 155mm, a hammer for the anvil of D Company. As a result of the action, Brigadier Jackson and Lt. Col. Townsend were both awarded the Distinguished Service Order, while Major Harry Smith was awarded the Military Cross. Maury Stanley was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire. Two Military Medals (one to Sergeant Bob Buick) and two Distinguished Conduct Medals were also awarded. Seven other members of D Company received Mention in Despatches. The company was also awarded the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation.



The effect of the battle was to hand the initiative firmly to the Australians in Phuoc Tuy, and they did not waste it. The VC 5th Division was now forced onto the back foot in the May Tao hills, and 1 ATF was able to extend its control over the entire province. Although contacts continued to be made, they were now on a much smaller scale. (By far the largest was when two companies of 5 RAR supported by Centurion tanks from 1st Regiment, Royal Australian

Armoured Corps, fought a 24-hour battle at Binh Ba in June 1969, killing some 43 VC.) Patrolling became the routine together with cordon and search operations, and the province remained quiet until the departure of the ANZACS in 1971-whereafter, the VC rapidly returned to fill the vacuum.

Frequent contributor Jon Latimer writes from Wales, in the United Kingdom. For additional reading, see: The Battle of

Australian and New Zealand Decorations

THROUGHOUT THE VIETNAM WAR THE ARMIES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, AS PART OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH, USED BRITISH MILITARY DECORATIONS. WHILE MANY BRITISH AWARDS HAVE A DIRECT AMERICAN EQUIVALENT, FEW AMERICANS REALLY UNDERSTAND THE COMMONWEALTH SYSTEM. THE VICTORIA CROSS (VC) IS THE MOST WIDELY KNOWN BRITISH DECORATION. EVERY BIT THE EQUIVALENT OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR, THE VC WAS AWARDED ONLY FOUR TIMES DURING VIETNAM. BELOW THE LEVEL OF THE VC, THE SYSTEM WAS CONFUSING BECAUSE IT WAS SPLIT INTO PARALLEL SETS OF AWARDS FOR OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN. THE LEVEL OF PRESTIGE WAS THE SAME. BUT THE AWARDS HAD DIFFERENT NAMES, MEDALS AND RIBBONS. EQUIVALENT TO THE AMERICAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS, THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER (DSO) WAS AWARDED ONLY TO OFFICERS. AND THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL (DCM) WENT TO NCOs AND ENLISTED MEN. AT THE LEVEL OF THE SILVER STAR. BRITISH AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICERS RECEIVED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC), AND ENLISTED MEN THE MILITARY MEDAL (MM). THE MOST PRIMARY LEVEL OF RECOGNITION FOR ACTIONS IN COMBAT WAS THE MENTION IN DESPATCHES, WHICH COULD BE AWARDED TO BOTH OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN. THE VERY ROUGH EQUIVALENT OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL, MENTION IN DESPATCHES WAS DESIGNATED BY A PALM DEVICE ATTACHED TO THE RIBBON OF THE APPROPRIATE CAMPAIGN MEDAL.

FINALLY, THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE ROUGHLY EQUATED TO THE AMERICAN LEGION OF MERIT (LOM). ALTHOUGH THE LOM CAN BE AWARDED TO ALL RANKS IN THE U.S. MILITARY, IT GENERALLY GOES ONLY TO SENIOR OFFICERS AND TO THE MOST SENIOR NCOs. THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE WAS FOR OFFICERS ONLY, AND CAME IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT LEVELS. THE MOST COMMON WERE MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (MBE), AND OFFICER (OBE). WITHIN THE LAST 20 YEARS, MOST OF THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES FINALLY ADOPTED THEIR OWN SYSTEM OF MILITARY AWARDS, AND IN ALMOST ALL CASES THERE ARE NO DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN. BRITAIN ALSO RECENTLY REVISED ITS DECORATIONS SYSTEM TO ELIMINATE THE DISTINCTION.

-DAVID T. ZABECKI

Long Tan, by Lex McAuley; and Vietnam Fragments: Oral History of Australians at War, by Gary McKay.

. 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**

Venturing out.

06 November - Operation HAYMAN was the first operation, in which a radar set was deployed outside Nui Dat. This was a preliminary battalion operation, to cordon and search Lang Phuoc Hoa (an area of about 0.5 sq km in area, with an estimated population of 500), on Route 15, eighteen km south west of 1ATF base. This was followed by a battalion search-and-destroy operation covering the adjoining Long Son Island.

At this time the unit had no operational radars, however, sent a complete radar section by road with 103 Fd Bty. This was done to:

- A. Test the units resupply system for rations, fuel and stores.
- B. To enable local Commanders to appreciate the problems of a radar deployed in their area.
- C. To train operators in site duties and maintenance in the field.

From records it is unclear as to what radar system this was, an assumption could be made that it was Charlie Radar, as WKSPS were working overtime trying to produce two working radars. At this time, since the unit had insufficient working radar generators, a 2KVA generator was used to simulate the noise factor. The radar section was ordered to shut this off after three nights as it created too much noise.

12 November - Operation HAYMAN ended the radar returned to Nui Dat by road.

1967 – From Zero to Operational.

January to May - all radars were classified as non-operational. The radar operators were employed in a myriad of occupations that included; LP operations, TFAIO, cordon and search with the Civil affairs, perimeter defence and checkpoint duties. Also in this period the preparation of the Nui Dat radar command posts were ongoing.

02 January – Sgt Frank Halliday replaced Sgt D Simmons as Alpha Radar No.1.

11 January – 2Lt. Willis Wight replaced 2Lt. A Opie as Radar Section Commander.

02 March – WOII Ron Chalky' Royal became first Detachment Sergeant Major (DSM) for unit.

17 April - Appointment: Officer Commanding Det 131 (TFAIO) Captain Warwick R. Hamilton.

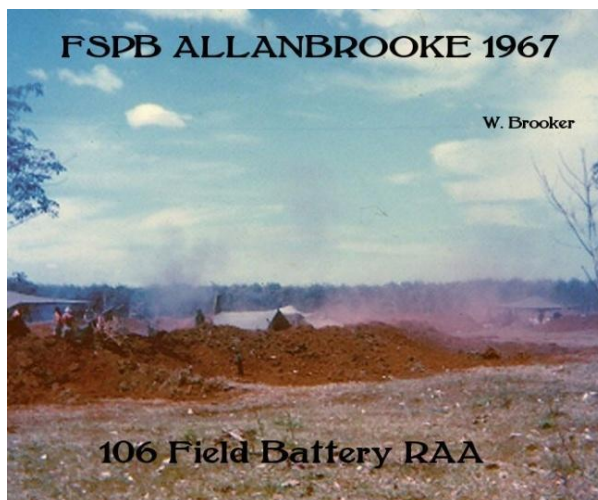
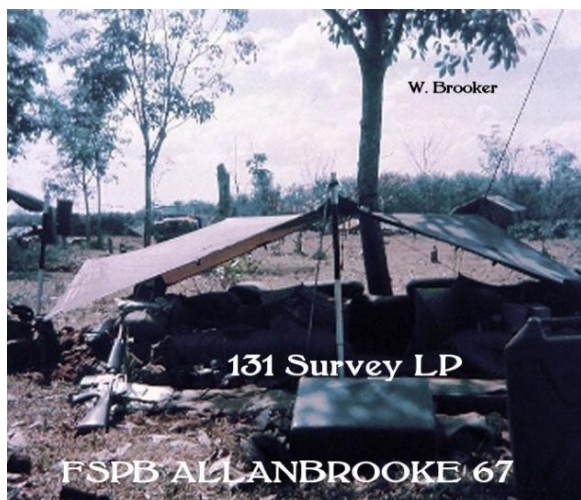
04 May – Sgt Edmond (Ted) Doust replaced Sgt F Lennon as Bravo Radar No 1.

June - replacement radars had arrived in SVN and classified as operational, the unit had a changeover of replacement radar operators who all had to be acclimatized and trained in radar deployment.

31 August - Operation AINSLIE commenced in the Phuoc Tuy province, III Corps, the northern Area of Operations (AO) 16 km north of 1ATF base, a route clearing, resettlement and search-and-destroy operation, in conjunction with 11th Armoured Cavalry (US). Bravo Radar (A7) deployed by road to the Horseshoe feature – YS4962 to support the operation. Supporting artillery A Bty 2/3 5th Arty (US), A Bty I/83d Arty (US)

04 September - Bravo Radar (A7) return to Nui Dat. No record of any mortaring incidents.

On return of Bravo, Alpha Radar (A6) moved by road to a FSB ALLANBROOK- YS 4578, 1 km west of Route 2, 11 km north of Nui Dat, 5 km west-north-west of Ngai Giao, to give further support. This is the first record of operational radar moving out of Nui Dat/Horseshoe locations on active participation. Supporting artillery 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty. Det 131 deployed two LP's one staffed with Det 131 Surveyors. Horseshoe feature – YS4962 to support the operation. Supporting artillery A Bty 2/3 5th Arty (US), A Bty I/83d Arty (US). Det 131 deployed two LP's one staffed with Det 131 Surveyors.

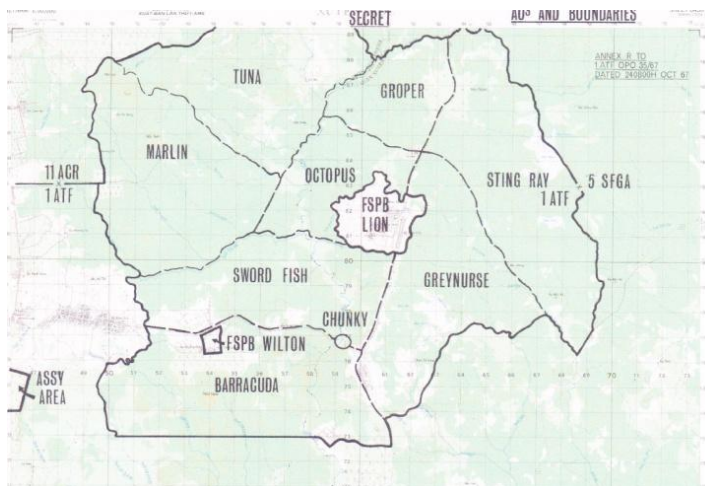


23 September - Operation AINSLIE ended and Alpha Radar (A6) returned by road to Nui Dat.

No mortaring incidents recorded. Both radars moved into their new locations at Nui Dat.

27 October - Operation SANTA FE, a search-and-destroy operation, on a co-operating multi-brigade basis; the I ATF AO was 266 sq km centred 14 km north-north-west of Xuyen Moc, and astride portions of routes 327, 328 and 330.

03 November - Bravo Radar (A7) carried out the first operational air movement of a radar when it deployed by air into FSB LION which was established at Thua Tich – YS 6181. Supporting artillery 108 Fd Bty and 106 Fd Bty



06 November - An enemy mortaring incident occurred during a ground attack on FSB LION, Bravo Radar (A7) recorded seeing nine (9) mortars on screen but only one locrep was recorded. From the TFAIO report about 20 mortars (calibre not recorded) were fired at FSB Lion, while a gun Bty was conducting H&I's. Many of the mortar rounds fell short of the FSB and many base personnel were unaware that the mortaring had taken place.

No report on any action arising from this locrep. Det 131 Arty surveyors were acting as perimeter defence for the radar at this time and came under small arms fire. There was also one Det 131 LP deployed to the Horseshoe feature – YS4962 to support the operation. Supporting artillery A Bty 2/3 5th Arty (US), A Bty I/83d Arty (US)

16 November - Bravo Radar (A7) returned to Nui Dat by air.

18 November - Operation SANTA FE concluded.

Results - Casualties:

Own: Aus - KIA 3, WIA 8;

US – (3/5th Cav) - KIA 2, WIA 14.

VC - KIA 38, wounded/escaped 9, PW 5.

There were 54 weapons, 3000 rounds of ammunition captured, large numbers of mines and grenades destroyed, over 6 tonnes of rice and a large quantity of medical supplies either captured or destroyed; also 69 camps, 813 bunkers, 237 military structures and 1600m of tunnel were destroyed.

26 November - Operation FORREST commenced – this was classified as a rice denial operation in an AO in the Phuoc Tuy province west of the 71 easting and south of the 83 northing.

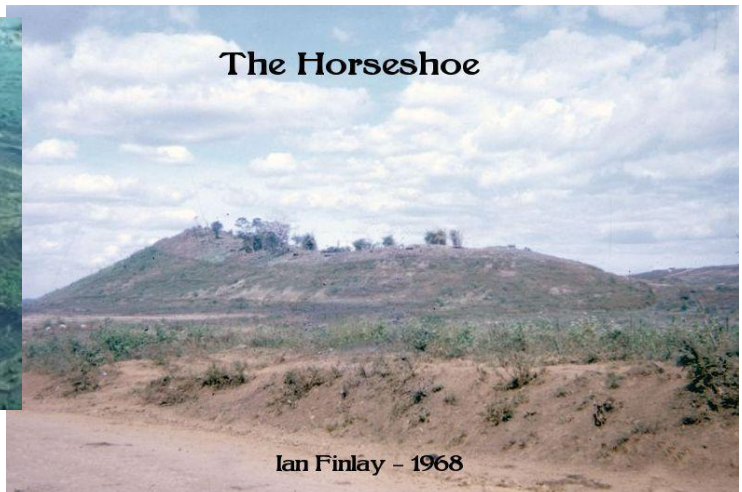
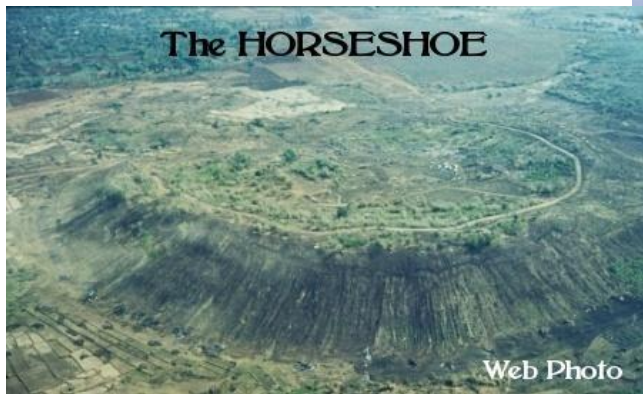
Alpha Radar(A6) under command of Sgt Ted Doust deployed by road with 108 Fd Bty to the Horseshoe feature in support.

27/28 November - Long Dien came under enemy mortar fire, Alpha Radar (A6) recorded six (6) Locreps, however, no record of resulting action can be found.

13 December – Sgt James Lawler replaced Sgt Halliday and becomes Bravo radar No.1

21/22 December - The Army Republic Vietnam (ARVN) outpost of XA BANG was mortared twice, radars were ordered to search bearings, neither radar reported seeing any bombs and no locreps were recorded. Crater analysis by Det 131 Arty Int operators, the next day confirmed the mortaring as 60mm mortars. It was recorded as 20 rounds fired in first attack and 12 rounds in second attack Alpha section was ordered to build a command post at the Horseshoe feature and stay until Operation FORREST was complete.

The Horseshoe feature was actually the rim of an extinct volcano and composed of solidified lava and granite rock, so digging a command post took a great deal of work. A request went out for engineer jackhammers to break through the rock a request that was granted. Another hazard of building this command post was the myriad of small black scorpions that inhabited the area. A number of the radar operators reported bites which caused redness, localised swelling and a touch of nausea. No long term ill effects were



25 December – Alpha radar section would spend XMAS at the Horseshoe, with drinks supplied by W (whiskey) company New Zealand Infantry.

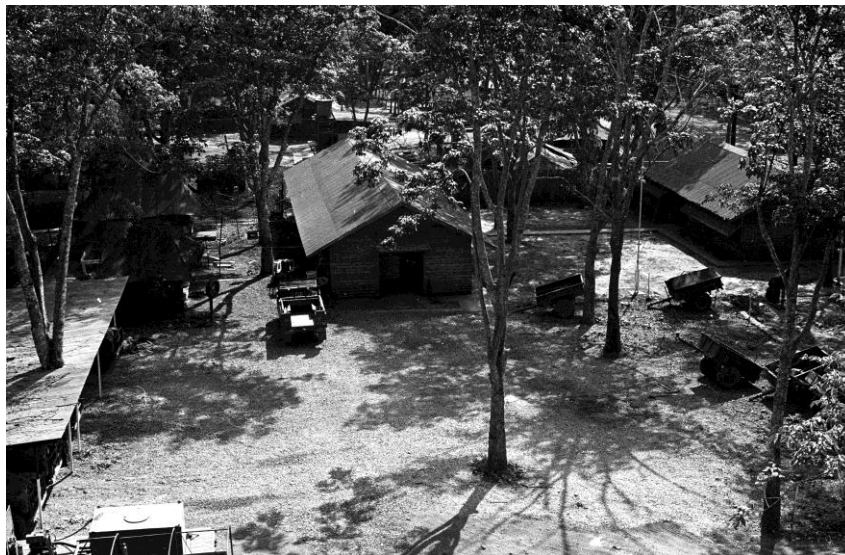


Next month we'll get into 1968 The longest year...

. Vietnam – Calender of events...February –

2 February	1968	Baria recaptured	The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment , recaptured Baria after the Tet offensive. The effects of the Tet Offensive were felt most acutely by the Australians when the Viet Cong attacked targets around Phuoc Tuy's provincial capital, Baria. The attacks were repulsed with few Australian casualties, though the Communists suffered heavy losses.
24 February	1971	Captain J.J. Smith, MC and Bar	Captain J.J. Smith, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, performs the action for which he is awarded a Bar to his Military Cross in July 1971.
29 February	1972	HMAS Sydney arrives at Vung Tau	On this voyage Sydney embarked 457 soldiers. HMAS Sydney made 21 voyages to Vietnam during the war.

. **Bob King** sent the next couple of photos taken some time early '68 or before – they scrub up fairly well from “damaged” negatives. It never ceases to amaze **Ed** as to the almost spotless condition of the Det's areas. The photo from the water tower is a ripper and also a great one of the James Menz Club. I can never quite remember the surrounds looking that good. Got any more photos to surprise us with?



. **The** following was sent in by a few of you and we thought it was really worth a run –

“Dear Presidents, Committee Members, Members and Friends,
Unprecedented attack on disabled veterans’ pensions continues

The New Year brings a continuation of the government’s unprecedented attack on the pensions and benefits of disabled veterans and war widows.

It wants the Senate to agree to the following measures.

.The downgrading of the indexation of the Service, TPI, other veterans’ disability and War Widows pensions as well as the Income Support Supplement and the equivalent MRCA payments.

This may not be noticed at first because the initial reduction will be small, but over time it compounds and progressively makes a greater and greater difference. Mark Riley on 7 News reported on 11 April 2014 that by 2020 the Service Pension would be round \$100 a fortnight less than had no downgrading of indexation taken place. The Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association (CPSA) estimate is much higher than that.

.Ceasing for three years any indexation catch ups of income means test free areas.

This will hit Part Service Pensioners such as those whose also receiving a Military Superannuation Pension (eg DFRDB/DFRB/MSBS).

Part Service Pensioners are allowed a small means test free amount before their Service Pension begins to lose 50cents for every dollar of their income. That means test free amount is indexed so that it catches up with increases in the cost of living (inflation).

The government intends to cease this indexation so that, in real terms, Part Service Pensioners’ pensions will be reduced.

.Part Service Pensioners will also be hit by the government’s intention to cease indexation of the maximum amount of income allowable before the pensioner becomes ineligible for any amount of Service Pension.

It means that Part Service Pensioners are to be squeezed at both ends.

.Part Service Pensioners will be hit yet again by the government’s intention to reduce deeming thresholds then cease their indexation for three years.

This will effectively reduce the real value of pensions.

The government wants these changes to take effect in 2017, which is soon after the next Federal election.

The combination of these changes would, as the years pass, drag disabled veteran and war widow pensioners further and further behind community income standards.

And that’s not all.

.Gold Card holders presently receiving the much needed \$886 Seniors' Supplement will be stripped of it.
 .The three months' backdating of disability pensions will be scrapped. This is a mean one because the backdating recognises the unique nature of military service and the medical expenses that accumulate prior to a claim being lodged. Should the government get its way, it would be a considerable loss to disabled veterans.
 These unprecedented attacks on veterans' and war widows' benefits are spread amongst three bills the government will bring before the Senate for a vote early this year. Their spread between three bills is presumably a ploy to hide their combined effect, to sneak them through in diluted form.

Those three bills are:

- . [Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment \(2014 Budget Measures No. 5\) Bill 2014.](#)
- . [Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment \(Seniors Supplement Cessation\) Bill 2014.](#)

The question is: 'Why is the government attacking disabled veterans and war widows?'
Haven't they already sacrificed enough?

We know Labor Senators and Senator Jacqui Lambie will vote against the bills and we understand the Australian Greens Senators will also vote against them.. But this will not be enough to defeat them. The votes of Senators from the minor parties and of Independent Senators will decide.

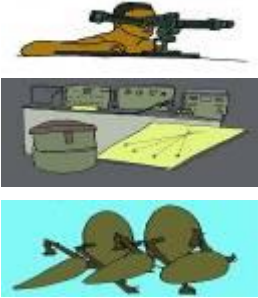
Here is a list of the Senators whose votes will be critical. If you would like to help having the nasty bills voted down, you could send this e-mail or one of your own to any or all of these Senators.

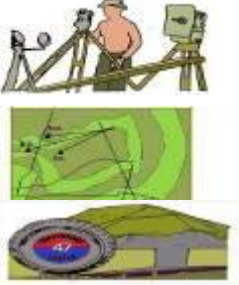
Senator Glenn Lazarus, Palmer United Party, senator.lazarus@aph.gov.au
 Senator Zhenya Wang, Palmer United Party, senator.wang@aph.gov.au
 Senator Nick Xenophon, Independent, senator, xenophon@aph.gov.au
 Senator Ricky Muir, Australian Motoring Enthusiasts Party, senator.muir@aph.gov.au
 Senator Bob Day AO, Family First Party, senator.day@aph.gov.au
 Senator John Leyohjelm, Liberal Democratic Party, senator.leyohjelm@aph.gov.au
 Senator John Madigan, Independent, senator.madigan@aph.gov.au
 Senator Whish-Wilson, Australian Greens, senator.whish-wilson@aph.gov.au

Tim McCombe
 National President"

(We would be grateful if you would distribute widely)

Please see more sad news re: the Passing of Tim McCombe in Vale below.



Committee members:

President – Allen Morley, **Vice President** – Bert Blink, **Treasurer/Secretary** – Grahame Dignam,
Public Officer – Victor Danko, **Webmaster** – Bob Billiards, **Research Officer** – Ernie Newbold,
Designs and Development Officer – Nick Proskurin, **Eyes & Ears Editor** – Paul Dickson
General members – Ian Amos, Ged Carroll George Lane.
Regional Representatives: **ACT** – Bert Blink, **Qld** – Terry Erbs, **SA** - Geoff Blackwell,
Vic (Melb) – Alan Adams, **WA** - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

Welcome – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming **Ted Jux** who made it to SVN in 1970-71 – keep an eye out for his Locator Profile which will be hot off the press next week or so.

Presidential perambulations

The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk (the Seymour Walk) is located in Seymour, Victoria. For those who did their recruit training at Puckapunyal, Seymour was the closest civilisation to Pucka, and for the first four weeks of training, a forbidden destination.

The Seymour Walk was officially opened in May 2013, and is intended to commemorate the service of all who played their part in what turned out to be a significant part of Australia's military and social history. The Seymour Walk is a meandering red earth path set in native trees and grasses that – so the marketers tell us - resemble rubber trees and rice paddies, two plants synonymous with Phuoc Tuy Province, Vietnam. The centre piece of this Walk is the wall, made up of glass panels with the name of every Serviceman and Woman who served, in their various capacities in the Vietnam conflict.

131 Locators Association funded the above paver at the walk in 2014. A number of personal pavers have been placed adjacent to the 131 paver.

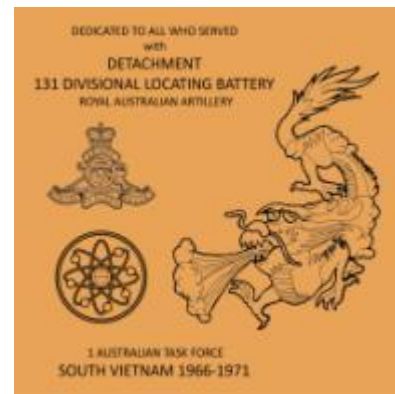
2015 represents the 49th anniversary of the Pioneers' departure for SVN. So, on the anniversary day, Monday May 4th 2015, it seemed appropriate to celebrate.

This will take the form of a dedication and remembrance ceremony at the Seymour Walk, followed by a dinner that evening. On Tuesday May 5th we are planning an inspection of the military museum at Pucka. Did I hear someone say, 'I'm never going back to the bastard of a place, ever!!!'

We will be sending out further information and an event registration form within a couple of weeks. Additionally, information about accommodation will be on the Association website. Then target is to involve as many members, family and friends as possible.

I would like to see you on this parade on May 4th.

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 – we'll just have to wait until next month and see what the Committee blokes got up to this month.

. 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...February –

Ok there are ONLY 13 blokes listed below (one of the better months) that we have no info on. However, we can't give up on our pursuit of finding these mates.

Someone somewhere has got to have a possible clue, doesn't matter how daft, of the possible whereabouts would be a start – how about a phone number, an email address, last known address – we need to find a starting point to find these guys who were and are parts of our lives!

. 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.

Joe Librizzi was Located by **John Lochore** after he spotted his name on the January Birthday list in *Eyes & Ears* – this is what has percolated so far –

"Hi there, Paul,

Here is the email address, and a message, from Joe.

Wishing you a happy New Year, and keep up the good work.

John" ...

...here's how it started...

"Hello John,

Yes I remember you, Happy New Year to you and family, very nice to hear from you, I have no problems with you sending my details to Paul. I have been too lazy to fill in the application form to join the association.

Also my dear wife reminding me at least once a month, to fill out the form, I am going to do it in the next couple of days.

Cheers and a Happy New Year. Joe"

February	Name	Regt NO.	DOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	JIM MENZ	38838	1946	10 10 1967	18 02 1968	† 18.02.68 KIA
2	ROGER McDONNELL	2784019	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	

3	ROBERT GIBSON	2787361	1947	29 01 1968	07 02 1969	
3	EDWARD HENSON	2788331	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
4	OLAF ASMANIS	3796272	1947	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
5	IAN YERBURY Capt. " "	43129	1944	{05 05 1967 {05 02 1971	05 03 1968 18 11 1971	131 † 1989 12 Fd REGT
5	RICHARD FLAVELL	3791902	1945	23 09 1968	04 06 1969	
5	GEORGE CLARK	2412252	1947	{20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
	" "			{09 01 1967	27 09 1967	1 ARU/131
5	STEPHEN HALL	4720327	1948	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
6	MICK HABBen	3788307	1945	05 05 1967	20 12 1967	
7	LINDSAY BLACK Sgt. " "	213794	1940	30 04 1970 05 08 1970	04 08 1970 12 03 1971	131 † 2009 4 Fd REGT
8	ROBERT RAMSAY	2788108	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
8	IAN CAMPBELL	3798378	1949	10 02 1971	07 06 1971	131
	" "			07 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	GEOFF WOOD	2783898	1945	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 26.04.07
9	CHRIS ARMShAW	2781291	1945	04 05 1966	27 10 1966	† 10.02.70
9	GARY WORRALL	43796	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
9	NEVILLE HASTINGS	1730813	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
10	ERIC WILLIAMS	1735449	1948	13 02 1970	04 02 1971	
10	GRAHAME SMITH	2792939	1947	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
11	DENNIS MALLOY	3795057	1948	22 07 1969	16 07 1970	
12	ROSS GUNNELL	5714499	1945	05 05 1967	27 09 1967	
12	LEIGH BAKER	3789657	1945	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
12	ANTHONY SHeLDRAKE	5716358	1948	04 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	ERNEST NEWBOLD	2783771	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
14	KEVIN HEENAN	3794777	1948	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	MARCUS ROBINSON	2791229	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
16	DAMIAN McMANUS	3787689	1945	20 05 1966	29 05 1967	
16	LUIGI LANERA	3795443	1947	25 11 1969	12 11 1970	RAEME
16	TERENCE HUNT	3792120	1947	19 02 1968	21 02 1969	
17	ADRIAN SPENCER	3794631	1948	28 10 1969	13 08 1970	
18	TERENCE McMANIS	44277	1950	30 05 1970	09 10 1970	
21	WILLIS (BILL) WIGHT 2Lt.	39136	1945	12 01 1967	23 04 1968	
23	GEOFFREY JEBB WO2	24660	1930	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
23	GRAEME SALTER	3792618	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
23	GRAEME JENNION	3796241	1947	24 03 1970	04 03 1971	
24	GREG GREEN	2784565	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
24	ALBERT JACKA	39856	1950	16 12 1969	11 03 1971	AACC
27	DONALD PERRY WO2	38675	1936	15 04 1970	19 11 1970	
28	NORBERT KROLL	218285	1948	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
28	BRIAN MITCHELL	2412582	1949	14 03 1968	26 03 1969	
	KIM MCGRATH	2295249	1950	N/A	N/A	

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

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 127 and we've sent out 126. Ed – we can always do with a few more though!
Ted Jux's Profile is in the pipeline!

. Remembrance –

Menz, James Lesley – not even the passing of 46 years will dampen the memories.

.Vale –

. Tim McCombe - The following news has only just been received and is taken from the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia Inc website -<http://vvfagranville.org/> - at this stage we can offer no more information, but will send out more information as it comes to hand.



Tim McCombe headed to Vietnam in 1967, a 23 year old rifleman about to face the atrocities of war. His experiences have left scars both physical and psychological but that hasn't stopped Tim lending a hand to other veterans and current soldiers.

Tim McCombe is the president of the Vietnam Veterans Federation Australia (VVFA). The VVFA is designed to support Vietnam veterans and work with those returning from current and recent deployments.

Tim saw many of his mates die in Vietnam. His worst experience of the war was the loss of his best friend. Five months into Vietnam, Tim was severely injured by a mine. He returned home with other victims on a Hercules transport plane and was taken straight to hospital. He was there for over 12 months, followed by 18 months of rehabilitation. The years that followed were not easy. "It took the stuffing out of me," Tim explained.

He joined the VVFA after hitting a low point. He was drinking heavily and going through significant personal issues. A former association president and good friend suggested that he volunteer a few days a week. This slowly became a full-time commitment.

"[It] gives a bit of meaning to life," Terry said.

"We were up against it, they were a good enemy and it was difficult for us from the start," Tim said. "Australian troops performed very well, and personally I believe I performed well too."

Part of the VVFA's role is to help current troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Tim sees the men coming back with the same issues, same physical problems and same psychological damage. "It is just history repeating itself," Tim said.

- See more at: <http://www.afom.org.au/index.php/supporters/item/58-tim-mccombe#sthash.mj4SZ83s.dpuf>



. Tom Uren -



MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SENATOR THE HON. MICHAEL RONALDSON

MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC

SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE

VALE THE HON. THOMAS UREN AC

28 January 2015

VA003

It is with great sorrow that I extend my condolences to the family and friends of The Hon. Thomas 'Tom' Uren AC. Mr Uren, a Second World War veteran and former Labor Minister, passed away earlier this week. Mr Uren was dedicated to serving his country and will be greatly missed.

Born in the Sydney suburb of Balmain, Tom Uren wanted to pursue a boxing career, but his dream was cut short by the start of the Second World War. At 18 years old, Mr Uren joined the Army and served as a Bombardier with Artillery's 2/1 Heavy Battery which was deployed to West Timor in December 1941. When Timor fell to the Japanese he was taken prisoner.

From Timor he was taken to Singapore and spent time in Changi before being sent to work on the Burma–Thailand railway. On the railway, he considered himself one of the 'lucky ones' who was placed under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Edward 'Weary' Dunlop. Having survived the brutality of the railway he was sent to Japan and was there when the war ended. Mr Uren's wartime experiences, especially his time as a prisoner of war, shaped his thinking for the rest of his life, and was central to the values he took into his political career. He once said:

I've travelled a long way in my political spectrum but I still stand back to those basic fundamentals of life that it is right of the strong to look after the weak and the young to look after the old and the fit to look after the sick.... That's what life's all about. And that simple philosophy that I drew out of my experience of serving under Weary has grown.

Following the war and another brief stint in the boxing ring, Mr Uren joined the Australian Labor Party, entering Federal Parliament in 1958. In 1972 he became Minister for Urban and Regional Development in the Whitlam Government, setting up the Australian Heritage Commission and the National Estate and creating new national parks. He served his electorate of Reid in Western Sydney from 1958 until his retirement from politics in 1990. Mr Uren was one of Australia's most respected politicians and will be greatly missed. He stood by his beliefs, never wavering in his constant fight for peace and justice.

I send my deepest sympathies to Tom Uren's family and friends during this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

Media inquiries: Minister Ronaldson: Mark Lee 02 6277 7820 or 0408 547 381

Department of Veterans' Affairs Media: 02 6289 6203

May They Rest In Peace



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.

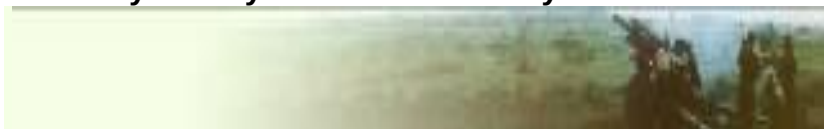
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add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



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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