

THE EYES and EARS

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



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Seasons Greetings to all of our readers



Hey it's almost that time of the year again and according to Ernie Newbold (who supplied the artwork above) let's give it our best shot and wish you ALL a -

Great Christmas and a very Happy New Year!!

. Gallipoli Lines – Kokoda Barracks, Holsworthy...

We're continuing with a series of "Places" where we spent a bit of time some fifty years ago. We gave "Recruit Training" a crack a couple of months back, now we get to our Corps Home – **Kokoda Barracks, Holsworthy...**the following photo is about circa 1956.



...some explanation of the history detailed by Ernie...

"G'day Paul,

My feeling is that the photo (above) was taken long before we arrived at Holsworthy. The buildings (huts) appear to be the same as when we were there although possibly newer or had some ongoing "taxpayer" maintenance. This photo was probably taken when the camp was still fairly new. My guess is that it was probably taken twenty odd years prior to our arrival, maybe even more, note the lack of trees that were well established when we were there, the ground between the buildings and the roads do not appear to be paved (bituminised) either.

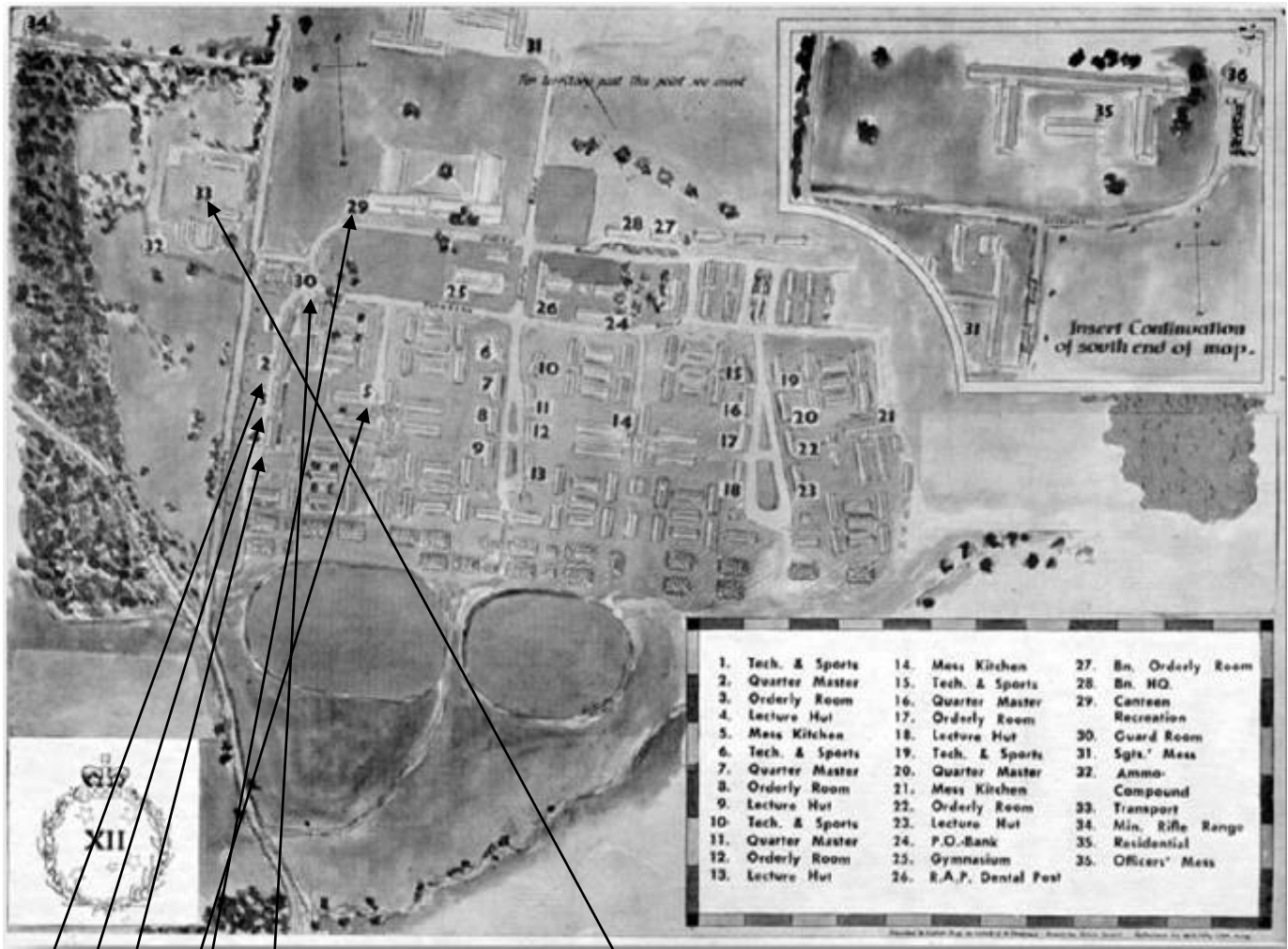
Following WWII Holsworthy became a major base for the permanent component of the Australian Army in NSW. When we were there the section we were in was known as Kokoda Barracks which leads me to believe that they were constructed in the post WWII era.

Not only has Holsworthy Barracks been home to many Regular Army units since its establishment, it also has a unique heritage reflecting Australia's historic tradition of compulsory military training, or National Service. In particular, Gallipoli Lines, which is one area of Holsworthy Barracks, has an interesting history, being one of only a few army camps in Australia constructed specifically to house men conscripted under Australia's National Service Scheme in the 1950s.

Ed – The photo at right was taken in late '66 outside "our" hut – Al Keeble, self, Roger McDonnell and below Leigh Hemming. That's the late Mick Campbell standing in the doorway.



Then a bit more from Wikipedia - The area was named after Holsworthy, Devon, England, where Governor Lachlan Macquarie married Elizabeth Campbell, on 3 November 1807. It was originally spelt as Holdsworthy until after WW1.



And the following identification data for the photo above, supplied by **Ernie** as well..

Here's some history - the barracks were built in 1951 for the then new National Service scheme.

Building No. 2 was our Q Store,

Building No. 3 was our old Orderly Room,

Building No. 4 was our Training Room,

Building No. 5 was our Mess/Kitchen,

Building No. 29 was our Canteen (Boozier),

Building No. 30 was our guard house at the front gate, Building No. 33 was our Transport Compound.

Outside of buildings 3 & 4 was the roadway where we used to parade each morning for roll-call.

The Kokoda Lines (Barracks) appear to be a part of the larger Gallipoli Barracks at Holsworthy.

I don't know when the document was published but suspect that it must have been fairly recently as I have searched for this sort of information in the past without success.

Regards, Ernie."

Ed – we are going to continue in a similar mode (more locations) in forthcoming editions of *Eyes & Ears* with the following places –

North Head,

Tianjara,

Barra Winga/Shoal Water Bay,

Canungra,

Wiangaree (extension of Canungra)

and

Fire picket duty at Holsworthy

Just a bit of survey - can you please answer "Yes" or "No" in a reply email as to whether you attended the above locations, because in a bit of a survey we've discovered that not everyone attended some of them. If you could also add any stories/memories/photos it'd be great to get some additional history. I didn't do "Fire picket duty at Holsworthy" as I could only have done one in '66, but got leave – phew! Tending fires in Holsworthy in Summer, give me North Head any day!

First Battle of Coral - 12th - 13th May 1968

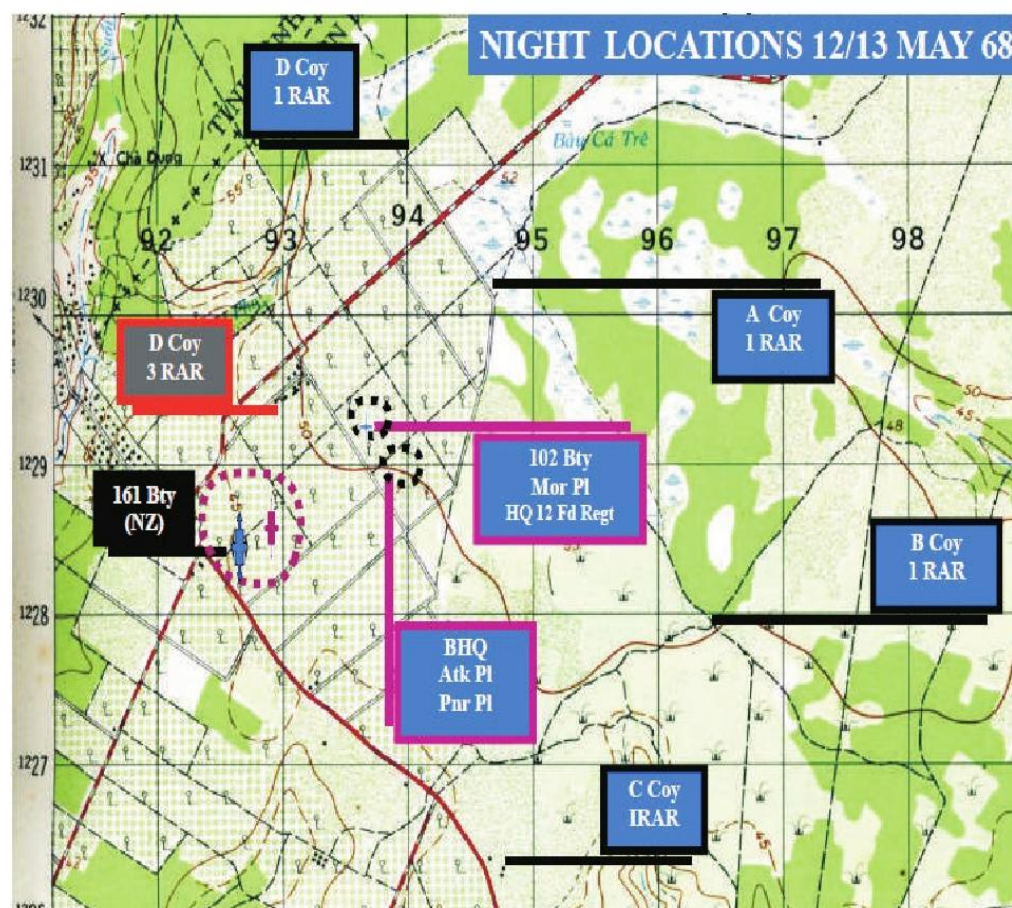
The Real Story

Colonel I.F. Ahearn (Retd)
Gun Position Officer
102nd Field Battery, FSPB Coral 1968

The Enemy Responds –

Unbeknown to the Australians and New Zealanders, the deployment of 1 ATF into Coral had been watched by elements of 7th North Vietnamese Army Division (7 NVA Div) and the enemy commander quickly decided to respond to this incursion. One battalion of 141 NVA Regiment augmented by 275 and 269 Infiltration Groups were tasked to attack Coral that night. It was a bold move that, along with surprise, would take advantage of the nascent state of the local defence preparations at Coral.

The NVA converged on Coral marching through the early hours of darkness and ultimately digging in a forming up place for the attack only 250 metres from the guns and mortars. The deployed infantry companies of 1 RAR detected the approach of the enemy to the FSPB. D Company 1 RAR reported a sighting of enemy at 1809 hours; a contact resulted with one North Vietnamese killed and one Australian wounded. At 1936 hours B Company 1 RAR fired at a party of enemy without any result. A Company 1 RAR reported the firing of two red flares which were acknowledged by two others and D Company 1 RAR reported green tracer being fired vertically into the air from different locations. These tracers were also noted by the sentries at the 102 Fd Bty gun position. Green tracer was a certain sign of enemy forces since the allies only used red tracer.



Night locations 12th-13th May 1968. Note: The purple circular area shows the area to be occupied taken from Annex A to FragO No 6 to OpO 19/68. The purple cross is the location given for K Pad which B Company 3 RAR did not use and the reconnaissance parties did. The 102 Fd Bty position lies 1000 metres outside the original area.

At about midnight the Mortar Platoon machine gun opened fire on three enemy soldiers who were sighted at the edge of the Mortar position. Stand to was ordered during which an enemy machine gun returned fire which caused the Regimental CP to accuse Jensen of firing at them; Jensen replied that he only had red tracer and that the incoming tracer was green! No further incidents occurred and 'stand down' sent most of the gunners and mortar men back to bed as the machine gun sentries resumed their vigil.

At approximately 0215 hours the machine gunner of 12 Platoon, D Company 1 RAR, deployed in an ambush some 2,000 metres north of 102 Fd Bty, opened fire on a group of the enemy moving southwest towards Coral. Retaliation by the enemy was swift and deadly as a salvo of Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG) exploded in the trees above 12 Platoon and in a blink of an eye eleven of the platoon became casualties. The 102 Fd Bty Forward Observer with the company, Gordon Alexander, quickly called in a fire mission and the tranquillity at the 102 Fd Bty position was broken as 'Contact! Contact! Fire Mission Battery' roared out over the tannoy system. The gunners tumbled out of their weapon pits and wrestled the six 2.2 tonne howitzers around to the north and began delivering their deadly 105 mm projectiles in support of the infantry company. 'End of Mission' was received some twenty minutes later and the details of the final target recorded as a Defensive Fire task.

Bob Lowry had fired the mission but the Battery Commander, Major Gavin Andrews, probably reflecting the concern of the 1 RAR Commander, asked for the GPO and Ahearn was called to the CP. Andrews was obviously worried about the activity around D Company 1 RAR, probably reflecting Bennett's concern, and asked if the Battery could handle two Final Preventative Fire (FPF) tasks. Such a task involved guns being laid and loaded on the most likely target so that they could be fired immediately. It was agreed the Battery would have two FPF tasks, one using Number 1, 2 and 3 Gun laid to the east (B Company 1 RAR) and one using Number 4, 5 and 6 Gun laid to the north (D Company 1 RAR); a decision that would prove the 'value of luck' in battle.



Aerial photograph showing state of 102 and Mortars at of last light 12th May 1968. Note: 1 RAR HQ is located to the south-east. The purple smoke is the 102 Fd Bty LZ. The bunding of the guns is incomplete with only Number 4, 5 and 6 Guns protected. The proximity of the Mortars to the guns can be clearly seen. The area to the left has been 'blanked' as it contained elements not present on 12th May 1968.

The decision to adopt two FPF tasks and the associated 'divided' orientation of the guns resulted in some individual accounts of the battle describing their position as being located in 'front of the guns' - in fact this was not the situation. The gun detachments cleaned up the residue from the fire mission around their gun platforms and most returned to their personal pits; the detachment on Number 4 Gun stayed up, preferring a coffee and cigarette to sleep. This action would also have a bearing on the events that were to follow.

Let's see what happens after "0230hrs" next month...stayed tuned.



August 2016 in Canberra – Vietnam Veteran's Day

Not to be missed.

50th Anniversary Battle of Long Tan.

Function Great Hall Parliament House.

Vietnam Veteran's Day Service Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Det 131 DLB Commemorative Dinner.

. **Allen Morley** forwards in the following from **Kim McGrath** and it's worth making a very early note on your calendar as a possible event **NOT** to miss –

"Mr Allen Morley
President
131 Locators Association

Dear Allen,
Following the success of our 2014 National Gunner Dinner and the, what could only be described as an avalanche of enquiries with regards 'when is the next one' that followed, the Australian Artillery Association has decided to hold another **National Gunner Dinner on the 27th May 2017**.



The dinner will once again be held at The Event Centre in Caloundra given the suitability of the facility to hold such a large catered event; the close proximity of the 1st Regiment and 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment and Royal Australian Artillery Band of the 1st Regiment and one of our principal organizer's is a local which enables the event to be well managed in the lead up and execution of the 2017 National Gunner Dinner. The full details of the dinner can be found on our website at www.australianartilleryassociation.com.

Our aim on this occasion is not only to bring the Gunner community together again, and this time we are hoping for a turnout of between 400 and 600, we intend to use the event to raise funds for the Regiments. All monies raised by the dinner will be donated to each of the Regiments, inclusive of the School of Artillery and the Royal Australian Artillery Regimental Fund. Once again all promotional material used at the dinner such as banners (which will be of a generic type, themed Artillery) and other items will be gifted to the Regiments at the completion of the event. To enable us to get the word out there to as many people as possible it would be greatly appreciated if you would place a notice in your next few Newsletters using the attached image and place an ad on your associations website (should you maintain a website).

The Australian Artillery Association recently designed and had made a Lapel Badge featuring the logo "Once a Gunner Always a Gunner". The profits from the sale of this Lapel Badge are all to be returned to the Regiment in one form or another and to date we have made the following donations:

- a. \$500 has been donated to the RAA Regimental Fund,
- b. \$500 has been donated to the 'Veterans of the Street Australia' appeal, and

c. We are currently in the process of providing assistance to one of the Batteries by way of designing and gifting them a number of pull up banners. With the continued sale of the Lapel Badges coupled with other initiatives we hope to be able to outfit all of the Batteries within the Regiments over time (should that be permitted and they so desire to be outfitted).

Your assistance in helping us get word of the **2017 National Gunner Dinner** spread as far and wide as possible is sincerely greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions in relation to the above information, that contained on the webpage advertising the 2017 National Gunner Dinner or the Australian Artillery Association in general please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Kind Regards,
Ubique,
Kim"

. April 2016 at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, Brisbane

— OK 2015 is drawing to a close which means that it's going to be 2016 and the penny drops about...

"Heck I haven't organised, let alone given a second thought to getting my act together re: attending the re-union weekend in Brisbane in April!!"

It's going to be a great event to catch up with old mates, make new ones and meet the new 131 bliokes who serve in 20 STA Regt.

DON'T MISS OUT!

. **Graham Williams** – his quest for photo information...

. **Jeff Schafer** sent in the following response to **Graham Williams** item asking for help identifying blokes in some of his photos –

"Hi Paul,

On page 15 of Eyes and Ears October, the bloke on the left of four is most likely Paul Smith-Lester. I last saw him in June 30-odd years ago.

I can't pick any Lieutenant in the photo.

Cheers, Jeff Schafer"

Chris Chapple sent the following in with regards to one of the photos – "Regarding Graham Williams and his photo number 7 ("Whose head is it appearing bottom left in this photo. 7"?).

The occasion was a farewell drink for me, Dave Reilly, Les Connell (dec'd) and Dave Negus on the night before we left for home. We used the RAEME workshop courtesy of "Buck" our ANKPQ 1 fix it man. The guy whose details you are after was his assistant, also a RAEME man. Do not recall his name (we drank whisky).

Chris Chapple"



. Research Assistance - Unattended Ground Sensors - Phuoc Tuy

The following article was instigated after receiving the following email from **Eddie Tricker** -

"G'day Paul,

On the artillery association web site, in the July 2011 newsletter edition of 131 Div Loc Bty, "Eyes and Ears newsletter, you have two black and white photographs of all those soldiers who attended the 'Unattended Ground Sensors' devices course in Vung Tau, during the first week of July 1970. One photo names the diggers, both American, (the trainers) and Australian, (the trainees), whilst the other one is the 'normal' copy of the photo.

I am interested in obtaining electronic copies of both these photos, (as TIF files), for future publication in a manuscript, if approval can be obtained from all the soldiers in this photo. If that is possible?

I am wondering if you would be able to help me?

I am a former soldier of Defence & Employment Platoon, Headquarters Company, 1st Australian Task Force, ('D&E'). During my time in this unit, I was a rifleman and then forward scout, 2 Section, for the bulk of my tour.

I am currently documenting all my experiences with D&E in a manuscript, in particular at the moment, the period of work that 'my' unit carried out initially during the period of 28 to 31 July 1970, in the Suoi Chau Pha valley, in Phuoc Tuy province.

You can see my service in South Vietnam at the URL below:



<http://www.vietnamroll.gov.au/VeteranDetails.aspx?VeteranId=1275802>

The work during this period of time involved the emplacement of various Unattended Ground Sensor (UGS) strings on tracks, track/river junctions and those areas that the local VC forces used in their movements from their bases in the Nui Dinh mountains and the Suoi Chau Pha valley to their supply hamlets of the village of Hoa Long, etc, (in particular). We covered particular areas from below and to the west of Hoa Long right up to the west of Ap Suoi Nghe. This work as you may be aware involved **Sergeant John Brewer**.

These sensors, as you are aware, were monitored back at Nui Dat by Detachment, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, (Det 131 Div Loc Bty).

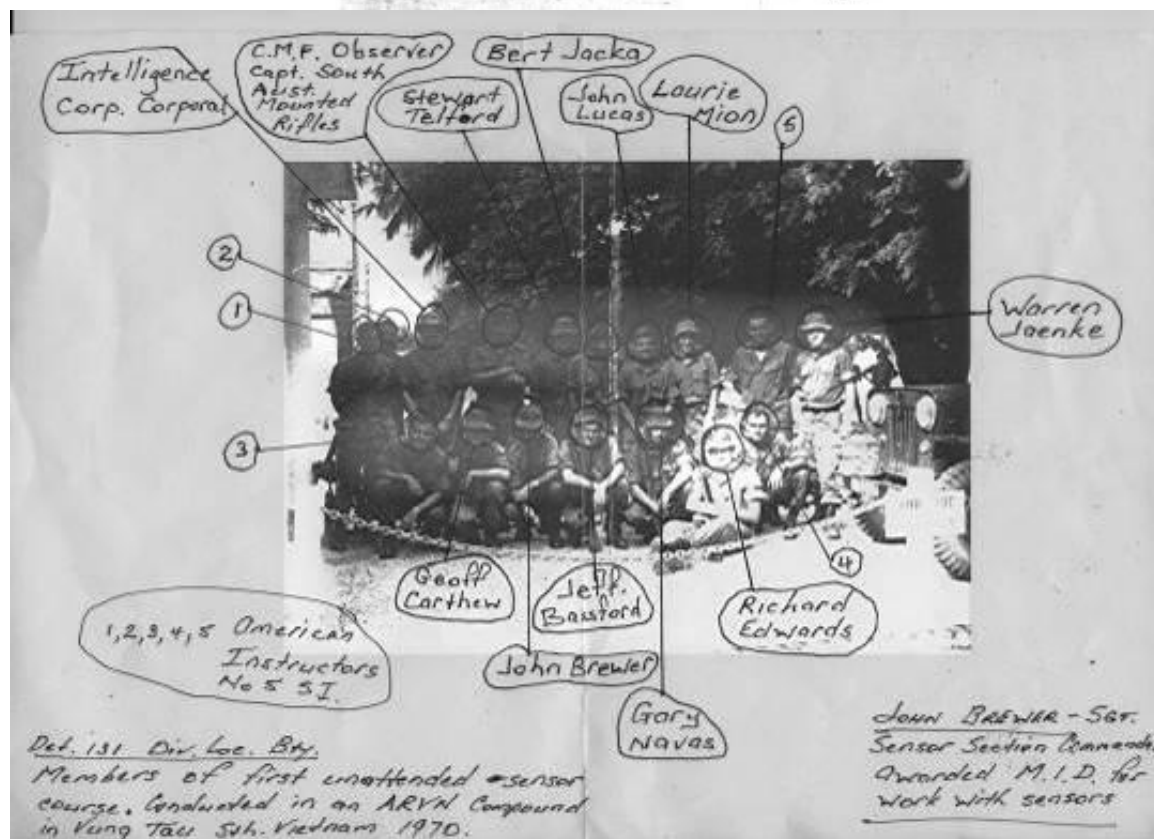
We laid these sensors in various 'string' combinations, as indicated above, so as to obtain confirmation sequences from each string.

The D&E platoon also tested the Patrol Seismic Intrusion Device, (PSID), but right at this time it is the former UGS sensor devices I am particularly interested in.

Your assistance or help for me to obtain electronic copies of these photographs (as TIF files), would be greatly appreciated.

Hear from you in due course re this inquiry

Regards, Eddie Tricker"



Ed – I replied to Eddie and copied **Grahame Dignam** and **Ernie Newbold** for assistance. Things do progress and the following is the correspondence it generated...

...a response from Eddie –

"Hi Grahame

I have just arrived back from my research trip to AWM Canberra.

My sister tells me that she has collected mail for me from yourself.

I will see her tomorrow and will collect the CD ROM disk, (I hope), from her then.

However in the mean time I have attached a short news item for your 131 Locators Newsletter, and was wondering if you could see it published in the Association newsletter.

It deals with the man standing in the back row, 4th from the left hand end, he has his arms folded across his chest.

This man is: Captain Norman Frederick GOMM.

The MS Word attachment explains more about him and includes his entry from the NRVV and has a colour photo of him also.

Apparently Captain GOMM at the time was a FORS specialist hence his attendance at the first "Unattended Ground Sensor / Sensor Course.

Also I am lead to believe that **Captain Brian William Kennedy**, OC, Det 131 Div Loc Bty also attended this course but from the 'photo caption' photo in the newsletter is not included in the group photo.

I wonder if anyone of the original attendees remembers the name of the "Intelligence Corps Corporal at all?
regards, Eddie"

...then Grahame responds -

"Hi Eddie,

I will pass the news item on to our Editor (Dicko) and explain it is feedback from the original photograph and then pose the question if any of the attendees has any other memories of the course or the " unknown Intel Corp Corporal"? It is amazing sometimes what memories are sparked by another name!

I will also see if I can chase up Capt Kenneddy for his memories. The last I heard he was heading for the USofA and I don't know if he is back in town. I will let you know.... when I know..

Regards Grahame"

...this arrives in from Eddie and could (I said "could") be the one that fits Eddie's "bill" -

"G'day Grahame

I have also been talking with John Brewer through email and I asked him a similar question as to the identity (name} of the Intelligence Corporal.

Yesterday, he came back with a reply, in which he said he thought the Corporal's name was John Anderson.

I immediately searched in the Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans, (NRVV) for all the Army John Anderson's and came up with the result below:

Veteran Search Result

Name: ANDERSON, John
Service No: 214114
Service: Army
Date Of Birth: 20/10/1943
Rank: (Temporary) Sergeant
Place Of Birth: North Sydney NSW AUSTRALIA
Corps: Australian Intelligence Corps
National Service: No

Summary of Unit Name(s)	Start Date	End Date
Headquarters, 1st Australian Task Force	23/04/1970	21/04/1971

This person seems to fit the 'bill'; right Corps; right time frame; and right rank. No doubt he could have been a Corporal at the time of the course, but ended up a Temp Sergeant before he left SVN in April 1971.

This could be the name of the man I am trying to ID.

Sorry this seems to be moving fast, I guess now I am wondering if the other original "Unattended Ground Sensor" course participants can confirm that this is the right "Intelligence Corps Corporal" shown in the captioned photograph?

Thanks for your continued assistance.

regards

eddie t"

Ed – Ok so we have the photos above – the second one (not as clear) actually has names written on it. So from these can ANYONE help Eddie out by identifying the blokes he's asking about?



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>

Memberships have slowed down so if anyone wants to send in their Membership Applications or renewals now is the time – Get in early and be ready for Enoggera in APRIL 2016.

Enoggera 2016 Accommodation

Accommodation suggestions : As activities are going to be at the Kedron-Wavell Services Club anything close by would also be convenient to Enoggera as well as bus pick up if required on Sunday for travel to Enoggera for Dedication and BBQ lunch etc.

Presidential perambulations

The smell of bbq smoke is permeating the air in Sydney as summer is just around the corner. A couple of very hot days suggest that there may be more 40C days to come.

I was at the gym today and experienced two surprises. One, I had to change an age setting on some of the equipment to one ending with a zero. The second was a talk show suggesting one of the least expensive destinations for Australians was Mexico. Mainly because of the good A\$ exchange rate. So if you are tempted to travel that way give Ed a heads up that you are on the way. With his new house there seems to be plenty of room for visitors.

One of the other destination recommendations was South Africa for the same currency reason. But I no longer know anyone living there. They seem to have migrated to St Ives in Sydney or to Perth.

The association AGM was held in the middle of November. Elsewhere in *Eyes and Ears* are the details. But congratulations are due to all who were elected to Committee roles.

My personal appreciation to our Committee members who helped guide the 131 ship during 2014-2015. There have been many successes during the last year and the Detachment and Battery story are now widely known.

Best wishes

Allen

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 15th December, 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 – extracted from the **131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 17th November, 2015 at 1100hrs...**

Presidents report.

Presented in Allen's absence by Chairman VP Bert Blink –

President's Report for FY 2014 – 2015

I am delighted to write the President's Report for the financial year 2014-2015. This period represents our fourth full-year of operation and shows a continuing growth in all aspects of the Association's activities. Unfortunately I am unable to attend this year's AGM and Vice-President Bert Blink has kindly agreed to present my report to the meeting. The Association remains financial, viable and, sustainable for the immediate future. The age of the members still remains our limiting factor. Many of the early Nashos have celebrated or will celebrate their 70th birthdays within a year of this meeting. Contact with those who served in the Detachment and those who served at Holsworthy remains incomplete.

The reporting period saw another anniversary for the Pioneers, that is the first group to be sent to SVN – 49 years ago. They paved the way for others who followed as part of the 131 Detachment.

The Association website, www.131locators.org.au continues to give us both a web presence and a defined identity. Bob Billiards has continued as our Webmaster, providing an essential role in doing so. Thank you Bob. There was a small hiccup in operation of the website earlier in the year due to a software issue, which was quickly resolved. The site statistics which are regularly reported in Eyes and Ears demonstrate the ongoing interest in our activities. Some of the contact source countries are unusual, to say the least.

Eyes and Ears, under the editorial guidance of Paul Dickson, appears monthly, with editions of 18-20 pages. That is an amazing measure of our Association success. Members contributions illustrate that we are recording more of relevance from our military past for both history and information. The June 2015 edition was the 82nd in this new series.

A range of other activities, meetings, reunions and events were part of the year's program.

Highlights for 2014-2015 included:

- twelve editions of Eyes and Ears; extremely well done Dicko and your enthusiasm is infectious; and thanks to all of our contributors for stories, photos and some history
- attendance by a major turnout of 131 Veterans at the Seymour Vietnam Veterans Memorial Walk in May 2015; we now have a large plaque celebrating the Detachment role in SVN in Seymour
- after the Seymour celebrations in May a 131 plaque was laid and commemorated at the Vietnam Veterans Museum at Phillip Island in Victoria
- production and publication of four locator profiles; we need more to be submitted to assist our recording of 131 history
- a \$200 donation to Australian Artillery Historic Company toward the restoration of an 18 pounder which was unveiled in Canberra on Anzac day
- at the end of June 2015 there were 146 members of the Association, which represents a slow, but nevertheless meaningful growth
- regular Committee meetings to manage the Association and the involvement of Regional Representatives to help spread the load
- contributions from former Detachment OCs setting out their recollections of their time in SVN
- national Anzac Day march attendances and social follow up in each State
- attendance at national Vietnam Veterans' Day events on August 18th, and
- an ongoing growth in material, photos and stories on the website.

A special mention for the Committee members for making things happen for the Association. Bert Blink accepted the role of Vice-President and is generous of his time in attending our Committee meetings, driving from Canberra each month.

Grahame Dignam, Treasurer/Secretary, has been the 'glue' for the Association's financial arrangements, records and operation of the membership database. Ernie Newbold, Nick Proskurin other Committee Members – Vic Danko (Public Officer), Ian Amos, George Lane and Ged Carroll are acknowledged for their ongoing involvement and support.

Our regional representatives provided local overview and contributed to our planning program. I thank Bert Blink (ACT and doubling up as a Committee member), Al Adams (VIC), Geoff Blackwell (SA), Barry Guzder (WA), Stuart Sporn (NT), Terry Erbs (QLD) and forward scouts in rural Victoria, Ron Mason and Rieny Nieuwenhof, for their collective contribution. A note of appreciation to our Honorary Auditor, Jim Fitzgerald, for keeping us on the financial straight and narrow.

Sadly the names of more of our number have now been etched onto the Association Honour Roll. Lest we forget them.

Allen Morley

November 2015

Webmaster Update.

Bob provided an email of website stats which showed a steady level of activity on the website.

Public Officer Report.

Vic proposes to have Health reminder published monthly in the Eyes and Ears with subjects on a rotating basis but all designed to remind Vets not to neglect their health check-ups.

Other Matters.

Nick is gathering information on the best option for the "Names" plaque for Enoggera 2016. We need to liaise with 20STA as to placement, size, material (Bronze or parchment under glass) and precedents that may be set.

. 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...December –

December	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	DAVID DOUGHERTY	2786594	1946	17 01 1968	04 02 1969	
1	KEVEN BUSH	3792069	1946	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	
1	NEVILLE SMITH	1734352	1946	01 07 1969	25 03 1970	
3	RAYMOND MINNS	4410744	1941	20 05 1966	28 02 1967	† 24.05.97
3	CLIVE DREIS	2785766	1945	05 02 1968	03 12 1968	
6	ALAN ROBB	5715343	1946	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
7	ANTHONY O'MARA	38334	1940	15 03 1968	18 03 1969	RAEME † 01.01.85
7	TERRY WESTERWAY	215818	1945	04 05 1966	07 05 1967	
8	ROBERT WHITE	311537	1937	22 04 1966	16 05 1967	† 1992
9	ANDREW OPIE 2Lt.	43611	1944	04 05 1966	06 01 1967	
10	HANS WEBER	3789591	1945	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
12	MICHAEL DAVIS	4720736	1948	20 01 1970	30 01 1971	
12	CHRISTOPHER BRAZIER	2792185	1948	24 02 1970	25 02 1971	
13	JOHN STANFORD	217765	1949	29 01 1969	21 01 1970	
13	LAURENCE D'ARCY	215649	1945	04 03 1968	04 02 1969	12 Fd Regt.
13	" "	215649	1945	20 05 1971	05 08 1971	131
14	PETER FLETCHER	2783429	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
14	CHRISTOPHER SELF	66981	1949	1969	1970	† UNKNOWN
14	TOM KING	1411018	1937	12 12 1966	12 12 1967	
15	GEOFFREY PRICE	5715931	1947	08 05 1969	25 02 1970	
16	PHILLIP PERRIN Capt.	53105	1936	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
17	TONY GOLDSMITH	1732029	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
18	JIM HOGNO	2783680	1945	03 01 1967	27 09 1967	
18	TOM CHECKLEY	311534	1938	22 04 1966	05 08 1966	† 05.08.66 KBA
19	GEOFF BLACKWELL	4718307	1945	20 06 1967	21 05 1968	
19	PETER GAULT	2783644	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	† 24.05.14
19	RODNEY BEASLEY	3797746	1948	04 03 1971	05 08 1971	
19	MICHAEL FERRIS	1733794	1945	23 12 1968	28 03 1969	1st Armoured Regt.
	" "			30 03 1969	03 12 1969	131-RAEME
21	BOB RETROT	1731922	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
21	MICHAEL BOYLE Lt.	217004	1946	17 02 1970	11 02 1971	
21	BLAIR SHEPPARD	1735563	1948	01 04 1970	04 03 1971	
22	JOHN MCGREGOR	3787376	1945	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
22	MICHAEL BURGESS	242895	1938	24 03 1968	26 03 1969	RAEME
22	PETER MEANEY	4719804	1947	03 06 1969	25 03 1970	
22	RONALD RYAN	2793176	1948	19 08 1970	09 06 1971	
24	RON. EVANS	3789614	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
25	STEWART McALPINE	2787471	1946	08 07 1968	04 06 1969	
25	ROBERT HOLDSWORTH	3793058	1945	04 01 1969	03 12 1969	AACC
25	PETER BREMNER	1734544	1947	16 04 1969	16 04 1970	
26	CHRIS BOULLY	4717884	1945	17 04 1967	12 12 1967	
26	DAVID BILLINGS	2793071	1946	19 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
28	GEOF. MACAULAY WO2	35753	1936	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	† 27.04.13
28	LIONEL OUTEN	1732195	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
28	JOHN MARTIN Lt.	43613	1941	25 02 1968	21 02 1969	
29	BRIAN HAWKEY	1200572	1946	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	AACC
29	FRED LENNON Sgt.	29712	1927	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 25.07.13

Ed – 10 blokes not highlighted is possibly one of our best months – we could improve it though by **Locating** a few more!! Got one – have a look at Bruce Irvine's email in Located below....

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **129** and we've sent out **128**. **Ed** – Ok can we get two more this month??

. **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.

. **Bruce Irvine**

"Hi Paul,

Hope this finds you well?

Had a chance meeting with another Locator today. He's had no contact with anybody (he now has a copy of this latest *E&Es*) and he is still "white" in the Nov 2014 (**Ed – not any more Bruce!**) edition for birthdays in December. However, his name did ring a bell so someone may have mentioned him in an earlier edition this year (haven't checked them all).

We had given the RSL service at a Memorial service for a WW2 Veteran and this bloke approached after the service asking when I was in Vietnam and where. I told him and asked who he was with – "131 Div Loc Bty" comes back the reply!

Stewart McAlpine, Radio Op. July 68 – June 69. Turns out he's the son-in-law of the WW2 Vet and he had spoken at the memorial service.

Anyway, Stewart and his wife are in the process of moving to Tasmania (been in Qld) so he can't be contacted for another three weeks or so but he's happy to be contacted – just won't get emails until then.

Kind regards

Bruce Irvine"

Ed – OK Bruce you state that he was mentioned in an earlier edition of *Eyes & Ears*? **Bingo! Well it was in December 2014's edition when the following item appeared...**

"**Derek Hinde** was quick off the mark (the day of going on the web!!) to identify some of the blokes in John Dellaca's photo in November's *E&Es* – "**Photo at left – At the sand bag point**" (now below)

Can you name them? Photo supplied by – John Dellaca"



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

Ed – Let's hope Stuart is on the internet soon.

. **Vale**



Name	Rank	Regt No	SVN	DoB	DoD
Black, Lindsay Colin	W01	213794	1970	07.02.40	2009

Whilst doing some research **Ernie Newbold** came across the following information on Lindsay on the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company website. We had Lindsay's DoD year (but even that is not complete), but we thought the publishing of a type of Locator Profile was appropriate – please read and get to know Lindsay...

In Nov 1960 at the age of twenty I enlisted in the Australian Regular Army for six years and completed 3 months recruit training at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion at Kapooka (near Wagga Wagga NSW).

Posted to the School of Artillery, North Head Sydney in Mar 1961 for training as a gun number on the 40mm Bofor Anti Aircraft Gun.

On completion of training posted to 111 Light Anti Aircraft Battery Holsworthy NSW in Jun 1961. Promoted Lance Bombardier (one stripe) in Apr 1962. Promoted to Bombardier (two stripes) in Apr 1963. In Aug 1963 I was posted to Army Team of Lecturers, Northern Command Recruiting Unit, Victoria Barracks, Brisbane, as a driver/film projectionist, who with a Major, travelled all over Queensland to all High Schools briefing senior students on the wonderful benefits of going to Duntroon Military Academy, Canberra, Portsea Officer Cadet School or becoming an Army Apprentice at Balcombe Victoria.

Margaret and I had been going steady since I was eighteen and became engaged when she turned twenty (she is 2 years younger than me) We were married on Sat. 17 Aug 1963 and next day we were driving to Brisbane. Had a week to find a flat in New Farm Brisbane before leaving her for six weeks to travel outback Qld. We had our Honeymoon two and a half years later!

Posted to Woodside SA in Jan 1966 to assist in the raising of 110 Light Anti Aircraft Battery, which was to replace 111 LAA Bty who were defending the RAAF Base at Butterworth, Malaysia, against Indonesian Confrontation. The Indonesian President Sukarno was violently opposed to Malaya, Sabah and Borneo uniting to form Malaysia. This unit was one of the first to receive the newly conscripted National Servicemen into its ranks. Very good soldiers. Margaret who was pregnant with our first son accompanied me to Butterworth in Jun 1966. Russ was born at the British Army's Minden Barracks, Maternity Hospital, Penang in Nov 1966.

Promoted to Sergeant (three stripes) in Nov 1967 as a Gun Sergeant.

We returned to Aust in May 1969 with Margaret pregnant again with our second son. She stayed in Sydney with her mother and I returned to Woodside SA. Mick (he hates Michael) was born in Aug 1969 and I was posted to 12 Field Regiment, Holsworthy, NSW, in the same month as a 105mm howitzer gun sergeant programmed to go to South Vietnam.

Was not at all impressed with being a gun sergeant on the howitzers as it was all too robotic for me, so when a friend who had served with me in Malaysia, whispered that there was a vacancy in his unit as a radar sergeant, I volunteered for the job and was accepted (knew nothing about Radar) So in Dec 1969 I was posted to **131 Divisional Locating Battery as a Radar Sergeant** and sent to the School of Artillery for three months to learn all about it. Passed the course and was now a qualified Mortar Locating Radar Sergeant and in a couple of months was on my way to Vietnam, leaving Margaret and our two sons in an Army Married Quarter in Holsworthy. Fortunately both of our families were in Sydney and she had the car so at least she could get around.

Served a year in Vietnam and on return to Oz was posted to 4 Field Regiment in Townsville as a Technical Sergeant in the Q Store. Didn't like that one bit so after one year I applied to be posted back to Air Defence in Woodside or Divisional Locating in Enoggera Barracks Brisbane. My request was denied, so I wrote a submission to the Commanding Officer and told him what I thought of his Regiment and was promptly kicked out and posted to 16 Air Defence Regiment in Woodside SA, that was in Feb 1972.

The Commanding Officer of 16 told me I needed more 'experience' as a gun sergeant, I advised him that I was already the most 'experienced' gun Sergeant in his Regiment and what could be done with his antiquated bofors gun so 'please sir could I go to the new missile troop that was being raised?'

Whilst outside the CO's door and rubbing my newly kicked bum, the Regimental Sergeant Major decided to take a big chunk out of me and screamed in my little shell-like ear, things like insubordination, reduction into the ranks and extra duties for the rest of my natural born life, so I had better get my arse into gear and get back to being a gun sergeant and learn a bit of humility on the way.

Knowing him to be a wise man and having no other option I took his advice and went back on the guns. On the first major exercise the CO watched me like a hawk and I only had to flatten my gun bombardier once to convince the diggers we were going to do things my way and I wanted them done yesterday.

The CO couldn't fault me on anything, so a week after the exercise I was not only in the missile troop but was the Troop Sergeant. I couldn't get promoted as there was no vacancy for Staff Sergeant and that meant I couldn't get any more money either, but I had the honour of being in charge of nine other missile sergeants, a whole bunch of diggers and a dopey Lieutenant, who unless he was standing in front of an open door couldn't find his way out of a room.

I remained a Troop Sergeant in a couple of different Troops until Nov 1974 when someone made a terrible mistake and promoted me to Warrant Officer Class 2 and I was put into the Battery Orderly Room as the Warrant Officer Assistant Administration (whatever that all means) and I became a pen pusher!

In the meanwhile the Vietnam War had finished (we were winning when I left) Gough had got himself elected for a little while, National Service was all over and funds to the armed forces were dramatically reduced. As I had War Service I was eligible for a War Service Home Loan and we decided to build our house at Woodside in the Adelaide Hills. In Sep 1975 one of the Battery Sergeant Majors was found to be in the wrong wife's panties and was kicked out of the Regiment in disgrace and I was given his job (thanks Arthur) My title was now Battery Sergeant Major, Headquarter Battery, 16 Air Defence Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. How impressive is that!

In Nov 1976 the army thought I was enjoying myself too much and subtly asked me how our house was going, I told them all the concreting of the paths and retaining walls was completed and the lawn was doing well. They replied, "Good pack your bags you're off to Fort Fumble, better known as the College of Knowledge" and I found myself back at the School of Artillery, posted as the Battery Sergeant Major Regimental Training Wing (also known as the King of the Kids)

There were many long days and long nights but I felt a great sense of achievement in the job which lasted until Dec 1979 when another stuff-up occurred and I was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One and posted to the Land Warfare Centre, Canungra, Qld.

This time I was an Instructor of Military Law at the Warrant Officer Wing teaching sergeants how to become Warrant Officers. Now that was hard yakka! There were 80 students per course which started on a Tuesday and 8 weeks later on a Wed they marched out. The Instructors were given four days off and on the Mon prepared for the next 80 to march in the next day.

The criteria was after every lesson the instructor had to give a written test on that particular subject, which the students did as homework that night and handed in to the instructor the next day which the instructor marked that night. It was not unusual to give three or four lessons a day and have to mark up to 320 papers a night, then take the students for physical training at dawn the next morning.

I did this for one year and the next was put in charge of the course as the Section Sergeant Major, which meant my life became less hectic. The boys loved Canungra as it had formally been the Jungle Training Centre and was surrounded by rain forest and the married quarters had plenty of kids in it. They were in the Venturers and Scouts, with army guys as leaders of course. They would come home after an afternoon of fishing with catfish nearly as big as them.

Margaret and I enjoyed the social life and made a few lifetime friends from there. It was one of the most enjoyable postings we had, but all good things must come to an end and in Dec 1981 I was posted to 16 Air Defence Regiment, this time as the Regimental Sergeant Major, and we returned to our own home.

As Regimental Sergeant Major I only answered to the Commanding Officer who was a god-like figure in the Regiment and that made me Jesus Christ to all the other officers and soldiery. I was responsible to the CO for the discipline of the Regiment and it was very empowering to march along in the Barracks with my pace-stick under my arm and watch the soldiers clear the way by getting out of my sight in case I was in a bad mood. A bit like old Moses parting the Red Sea with his staff. I was also the President of the Sergeants Mess which had a membership of about fifty Warrant Officers and Sergeants.

In Aug 1983 I was posted to Keswick Barracks in Adelaide as the District Sergeant Major of the 4th Military District, which in simple terms means SA and the Broken Hill Area. The Commander of the District was a Brigadier and again he was the only man I had to answer to. This time I was responsible to him for the discipline of every military unit in the district. Again I was President of the Sergeants Mess this time with a membership of about three hundred and fifty Warrant Officers and Sergeants and about fifty Honorary Members.

We stayed in our own home in Woodside and I drove down the hills every day to the city to work. The Commander travelled the District on a regular basis and I of course accompanied him where ever he went. It was not unusual to be working in my office in the morning yet spending the night under the stars at Woomera. As President of the Mess I had to do a lot of entertaining of interstate visitors and general socialising with local dignitaries.

Fun at first but it tended to wear thin after a while, both boys were in High School and I was due to be posted interstate, probably to Canberra, which did not please me, so I gave the army six months notice and in Nov 1985 I retired after 25 years service. With another army mate we pooled our money and bought a 44ft steel ketch with plans to sail around the world, but that's another story.

May He 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.

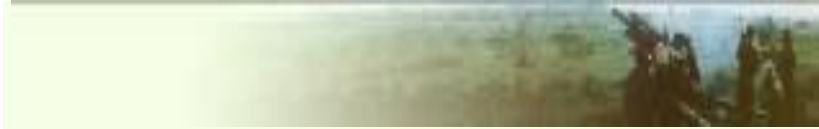
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam: sectreas131locators@gmail.com** and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add 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](http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/contacts_page) for details: <http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/>
<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/operations/coburg.html>

. Locating , Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...notes taken from the LS & TAA website – *the last in the series of Coffs Harbour re-unions will take place next year (2016) on the October long weekend (30 Sep-1-2-3 Oct 2016)*. Please note this in your calendar and start planning travel and accommodation early.



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/



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

<http://www.rnzaa.org.nz/>

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

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