

THE EYES and EARS

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Is this a holiday Resort?
Maybe even a time share location?



Close...but it was the home to the School of Artillery, a place a most of us called “home” for short period/s of time - North Head.

Ah, this photo is more recognisable...



Hey, and a great location for a memorable photo to be taken in 1987...



From 1934, defence facilities were installed on the headland but were wound down in 1945. From 1953, there was a School of Artillery and it used the former defence facilities. The harbour reserve was established in 1979. The School of Artillery relocated to Puckapunyal army base in Victoria in 1998.

Grahame Campbell sent the following story and photos in of a visit to North Head and by the looks of the photos not much has changed over a fairly long period...

“Following 3 months at 2RTB in Puckapunyal I was moved to Holsworthy to do basic artillery corp training before transferring to the School of Artillery at North Head for the Arty Int course, Operator Command Post - Locating.

North Head was a great place to be posted, much better than Holsworthy so after graduating with the other gunners from the course and we spent as much time as we could back at North Head doing General Duties in the dining room and kitchen until departing for SVN in early 1970.

So...nearly 40 years later, my wife and I went for a day trip to Sydney and decided to visit North Head to see how the school has lasted. We took the Manly Ferry from Circular Quay, grabbed a quick lunch at a café overlooking Manly Surf Life Saving Club then hopped on the local bus to ride up to the School.

The school is now a military museum and is still looking magnificent.

The Officers and Sergeants mess were not open but looked in good condition. The OR's mess is now leased out to a business.

The museum is in the guard house that straddles the archway that leads out of the school to the street.

The gunner's accommodation, 4 or 5 man rooms, have been stripped of the fitted furniture and are now just bare rooms. These are not open to the public but you can peer in the window and remember it as it was.

The parade ground is a perfect as it was in 1970 and I can still hear the BSM's voice bellowing out demanding that you "Get off my parade ground" if you foolishly took a short-cut across it.

I can recommend a trip to see the old place, it sure brought back some memories.

Gunner IR Campbell"



North Head. Guardhouse and Museum



North Head. Admin and Gunners Accommodation



North Head. Officers Mess

. **"Places" Survey** – We mentioned a "survey" in last month's *Eyes & Ears*, well here are some responses –

Here are some stats taken from what the blokes sent in –

Can you believe that out of ALL the respondents there is one, yes one (well for this sample) that didn't do a stint at North Head (see if you can find him?), about 75% got to scenic Tianjara (well scenic maybe in summer or when it wasn't raining), almost 65% got to **Stan Brigg's** old stomping ground north of Rocky at Shoalwater Bay, 90+% did "Jungle Jim" stuff at Canungra, but 50% missed out on climbing up and down all over Wiangaree just south of the border from Canungra in NSW and believe it or not almost 50% did Fire Picket Duty at Holsworthy, then think about the blokes who either never got to Holsworthy or for only about 15 minutes!!!

Here are some of the expanded responses...

Ron Mason – "Dicko, you requested a response about who went where. I was based at Holsworthy after Pucka, also spent some time at North Head prior to Vietnam, I guess North Head was better than Canungra! The powers to be could not send a person to both places at the same time, so I missed out on the latter, what a shame!

I do remember spending half of one Friday night in the back of a truck out next to Lucas Heights as a bushfire approached - ie someone hit the panic button – I don't think the fire come close - just as well because our boots were the only fire fighting equipment we had, as I recall.

After Vietnam it was back to Holsworthy – I seem to recall an issue with Civil Aviation – something about the old radar interfering with the planes flying out of Sydney. Sent on leave soon after that till my time expired!

Ron Mason."

Ron "Mook" Evans -

"1968-03-23 Holsworthy until 1968-06-07
1968-02-20 Saigon to Sydney on 727 then on to Melbourne, on leave until 1968-03-23
1967-12-11 Involved slightly in the investigation of the murder of Lt Birse at Fire Support Base Bravo
1967-08-21 R & R in Singapore, Hotel Shelford until 1967-08-26
1967-05-05 To Vietnam, Hercules to Vung Tau then Caribu to Nui Dat
1967-05-04 Sydney to RAAF Base Darwin
1967-04-25 Leave until 1967-05-01
1967-04-04 Canungra Jungle training School
1966-11-14 Holsworthy Barracks Holsworthy Barracks with 131 Divisional Locating Battery (Training at
Tianjara 25 November to 13 December)
1966-09-21 School of Artillery North Head Sydney to 1966-11-14
1966-07-13 Started National Service at Pukapunyal Vic to 1966-09-21 Fifth Intake

Take care Mate, Mook"

Ernie Newbold – "G'day Paul, perhaps you should also ask if any of us got to Holsworthy too. Some of us apparently went straight to SVN from North Head, or spent only a few days at Holsworthy prior to embarkation. I certainly spent a fair bit of time at Holsworthy with you, 4th Intake, into Holsworthy around end of July '66, straight into an "Arty Sig" course run by WO2 Percy Ovenden.

I went on two exercises at Tianjara and finally got to North Head for an "Arty Int. Operators" course but I don't recall going to the "Can" at Manly. The "Can" was the Canopus Room at Millers Manly Pacific Hotel which was a popular night spot for off duty personnel from North Head. I did go to the "Three Swallows" hotel at Bankstown and the "Sundowner" hotel at Punchbowl with other diggers from Holsworthy, both very crowded and very noisy venues. The only one of those three still operating is the "Three Swallows" at Bankstown, but a much quieter venue now than what it was in the 60s.

Canungra is also on my list, a "Battle Efficiency" course based at Canungra itself with only a two day/two night exercise out in the bush somewhere out of Canungra. I think that the worst part of Canungra was the overnight train trip either way to and from Holsworthy.

The places on your list that I didn't get to were Shoalwater Bay (Barrawingia) and Wiangaree, I also missed out on the Christmas Fire Picket duty at Holsworthy.

And finally, last but not least one place that we both went to was the trip of a lifetime to Nui Dat in South Vietnam, not everyone from the Battery was lucky enough to go there ! Regards, Ernie."

Then there's more from Ernie..."G'day Paul, there is one more trip that I forgot to mention, 5 days R & R in Singapore followed by what may have been the worst night of all, an overnight stay at Camp Alpha, Saigon when there was no flight back to Nui Dat after returning from Singapore. Regards, Ernie."

George Clark – "Gooday Paul, how are you?

In response to your query, I apologise for not answering earlier, but I can tell you that I received several postings to North Head between 1965 and 1968. I also attended an exercise at Tianjara, when they re-activated the Med Bty. I was on the first exercise in Sept 1966 at Shoalwater Bay, I think, and I attended Canungra before leaving for SVN, I have never heard of Wiangaree, but I did several stints fighting fires on the range at Holsworthy, especially when they started to get close to the village of Ingleburn.

On another matter, as I have told you before, (Leslie) Paul Smithlester, the last I heard lives in Goondiwindi, and if you really want to know I can find out for you.

All the best for the festive season and the new year Paul .Whatever you do or go, keep it safe and have a great holiday! Yours in fellowship, George Clark."

John l'Anson - I got to North Head ,Canungra and Shoalwater Bay.

Richard Chaplin - "Hi Paul, Sorry for my tardiness...

Kind regards, Richard Chaplin

North Head, YES, Tianjara, YES, Barra Winga/Shoal Water Bay, NO, Canungra, YES, Wiangaree (extension of Canungra) NO, Fire picket duty at Holsworthy NO"

John Lucas – "Hi Paul,

I did my recruit training at Pukapunyal as part of 16th intake, core training at North Head then on to 131 at Holsworthy. I clearly remember arriving at Holsworthy from North Head as they were not expecting us and didn't know what to do with us, we were subsequently tagged as the "funny little lot" Cheers, John"

Murray Smales – "Hi Paul,

I don't remember Tianjara (but remember doing some training south of Nowra), Barra Winga or Wiangaree but did attend Shoal Water Bay, we used to travel to Mt Etna each day and carry the gear up for Surveying, then climb down and have a beer at the local Pub.

North Head was our home before moving on to Holsworthy and Middle Head before going to Vietnam, I also attended training at Canungra and did do Picket duty at Holsworthy. Regards Murray."

Joe Librizzi – "Hi Paul, Yes, North Head, Canungra, Fire picket at Holsworthy, Xuan Moc for three months on a Pacification Programme, and a couple of other places.
Merry Christmas to all. Cheers Joe"

Peter Fletcher – "Hi Paul, I got to North Head, Canungra, and Fire Picket Duty in Holsworthy. Fletch"

David Negus – "Hi Paul,
We did our corp training at North Head, which was a great location, except that we did not escape fire picket. In fact we fought fires raging across the headland during the summer of '68. Yours truly got caught up in a barbed wire fence when the wind turned and blew the fire back on to us and we had to run for our lives. Finished the night in hospital being treated for smoke inhalation and getting stitches to barb wounds across chest and shoulder.
Re the photo referred to be Chris Chapple, with Les Connell in background, I recognise the guy in the foreground, might he be Bert? Can't remember surname though.
Great job with the newsletters, keep up the good work.
cheers, Davidn"

Bruce Irvine – Covers the questions as asked, then Bruce goes on to add some really interesting photos with the "Who are the blokes in them?" and one of is this part of the Tianjara activities...read on and see what you think - "G'day Paul,

Yeah, I can own up to North head, Tianjara and Canungra/Wiangaree. Need a bit of time to recall stuff though. Attaching a couple of photos that may help (or not.....in trying to recognise who and what they are).



Scan10031 and Scan10034 (left and right) are Canungra.



Scan10056 and 10060 (Left and right) are Tianjara and **wait for it...**



Scan10061 also – did we hit the beach when at Tianjara??!?! I have no idea but the scan is in that sequence!

Scan10072 (at right) is on the roof at North Head.

Hope these help you out. All the best for Christmas Paul, to you and yours. Kind regards, Bruce"



Lionel Outen – "Hi Paul, I spent some time at North Head on courses. I also visited Tianjara, Canungra/Wiangaree and did pickets at Holsworthy but didn't visit Barra Winga/Shoal Water Bay.
Cheers, Lionel Outen"

Nick Armstrong – gives us a thorough details on activities – “Hello Paul,

North Head

Because I did a Corps transfer from R A Svy Corps to RAA, I went straight to ‘C’ Troop, 130 Gun Loc Bty. Colloquially referred to as ‘F’ Troop.

Consequently, I never did any of the normal Corps training of those who went directly to RAA after Basic Training. I sometimes feel culturally deprived at RAA reunions.

My only experience at North Head, was a short ‘Sound Ranging Course’. I believe it lasted for about three weeks. It occurred to me that while Holsworthy did not have a lot going for it, the Army certainly knew how to pick prime real estate at North Head.

I was amused at the way the troops were roused by whistle in the morning. It sounded like a football umpire who had mislaid the game he was umpiring!

Shoal Water Bay

I went to Shoalwater Bay after I returned from Vietnam. Somehow I scored a job carrying an AR/PRC125 radio while 7 Bn did their last big exercise before going to Vietnam. I think I was with the Fire Control Officer. As a Regular soldier, I still had about nine months of residual service before my discharge. That time was spent with ‘8 Medium Regiment’. I think I learnt in Vietnam that for me, life was much simpler as far from ‘Bullshit Castle’ as possible.

Wandering around the scrub in North Queensland for a few weeks seemed a reasonable alternative to killing time in Holsworthy.

Upon reflection, I think that philosophy has served me well through the intervening years in my Earthmoving Career.

The more remote the location, the happier I am

Canungra

Like most people, I did my mandatory three-week Jungle Training Course. Just as our life in Vietnam seemed to involve being in small isolated groups, the group in my six-man tent comprised Naval Clearance Divers, a person from the Medical Corps, and a person from ASCO (Canteens).

Holsworthy Fire Picket Duty

I do recall the occasional picket duty, particularly wandering around the car park and transport compound. I don’t recall any formal training in the use of the Pick Handle we were issued! Because I was with ‘C’ Troop, we probably contributed numbers to the duties performed by ‘131’. I don’t remember having too many. When I was elevated to the rank of L/Bdr, I seem to remember manning the telephone in the ‘C’ Troop office. I don’t recall too many calls, and diverting incoming calls involved using a little button on the telephone and directing the call back through the PABX. I don’t recall the exact procedure now; in fact, I don’t think I really understood it properly even then.

Regarding the other places mentioned, I think they may have been Exercise areas. I never experienced them, and was merely a mildly interested outsider when they were being discussed.

Cheers and best wished for the future. Nick Armstrong”

Geoff Price – “Hi Paul, I got to North Head about four times with corps training and followed up with other training courses while based at Holsworthy eg radar. Went to Canungra for jungle training and was sent into the mountains to fight bushfires once, but I don’t know if that was classed as fire picket duty.

Thanks for the great job you’re doing for everyone. Regards, Geoff Price”

Keith Dean – “Hi Paul, I went to North Head, Tianjara, Canungra and Fire Picket Duty at Holsworthy.

Regards, Keith Dean”

Dave Crowther – “Hi Dicko, Yes, I was at North Head School of Artillery for 18 months in radar troop with Warwick Hamilton and then with 131 at North Fort until our departure after St Barbara’s Day 1965. Whilst there we did exercises at several locations including Tianjara. I did not do Canungra nor Shoal Water Bay as I was on an exercise with 5 RAR with Maj. Paddy Gowans, his driver Barry Uren, Fred Lennon, a Gnr Signaller, and Paddy’s batman Garth Nicolls – I think. We were a liaison team with the Battalion and the exercise was in the Corricudgy region (between Singleton and Ryleston). It was the same area the Wollemi ancient pine was discovered some years later. I did fire picket at Holsworthy and I well remember our visits to the drive-in on various nights, thanks to the bargaining skills of Huey Hoddy (our then Tpt Sgt.). We also did fire watch on the Holsworthy range and being trapped on our normal exit and having to take the long way out. My detail were not deterred with it all. We stayed on the range overnight and I had the luxury of a sleeping bag. Spike Chase and Mick Mc Donnell, obviously jealous, zipped me up with my arms on the inside. All had a laugh at my expense. Our duty was to climb the lookout towers and give bearings to fires/hotspots.”

John Brewer – “Yes, went to all except BARRA WINGA as I was in Malaya at the time. Regards, John Brewer”

Mike Butler – “Hi Paul,

I attended: North Head - Survey course - Jan/Feb 1970, Canungra - Nov/Dec 1969.

Didn’t do any of the others except I did do picket duty on the Holsworthy Firing range in pouring rain - we all had to be rescued at about midnight after our hutchys were flooded !!! Cheers, Mike Butler”

Allen Morley – “Hi Dicko, In response to your request I can advise that this Gunner (Ret’d) was either seen or not seen in the following locations in 66-68.

North Head: Never was invited there by the CO nor anyone else. At Pucka they told me I was going to Manly, and so my goods and chattels were despatched to NH. I was sent straight to Holsworthy where I waited for my stuff for over a week

Tianjara: Coldest place in NSW in 1967 and no fires – supposedly - were allowed. Cold rations and little sleep.

Barra Winga / Shoal Water Bay: I was there. The ground was extremely hard so my weapon pit was only a bit of a scrape hole. I shared a double hootchie with Mick Luff. The train journey was endless and we fought over the luggage racks as sleeping quarters

Canungra / Wiangaree: Canungra was probably one of the more enjoyable parts of my two years in retrospect, though I never got to Wiangaree.

Fire Picket Duty in Holsworthy: Christmas 1966 saw me as part of the fire picquet at Holsworthy. I clearly remember drinking warm, smuggled in beer, but saw no fires.

Watsons Bay: For my sins I attended a Q-store course at the Navy base at Watsons Bay. It was easy stuff and a terrific location for a couple of weeks. I was classified as a surveyor but never surveyed anything.

Nui Dat: The holiday time for me was from May 67 to January 68. I was too late for Long Tan and thankfully a day early for the start of the Tet offensive. Cheers, Allen”

Bob Billiard – “Dicko, Not sure if I replied, but my Artillery experience was North head – 3 months, 131 Holsworthy 2 weeks possibly only one. Canungra – 3 weeks?, 131 SVN 1 year 6 days, 12 Fld Regiment Holsworthy 6 weeks.

In all of my extensive Army experience I really liked North Head and was ready to do another 6 week course until the battery found us, and I really liked the time in SVN, except for those occasions when someone was trying to kill us, but we was only 20/21. I spent my 21st birthday at Nui Dat. When I got back to OZ, I was lost and just wanted to get the next plane back for some strange reason. Maybe it was all of the resettlement reorientation we received!!

Thank God for unjust and ill-conceived wars, but then the Vietnam incident is still referred to as “The South Vietnam Conflict” here in OZ. If it had never been, our paths would never have crossed and we would be lacking so many great and lifelong mates. Bob”

Ed – Bob’s comments are poignant – coming home was full of mixed emotions, especially from some of our countrymen/women, but the “lifelong” mates have made it worthwhile.

I cracked the whole lot that were on offer, except for the Fire Picket duty. I wish I had taken photos out on North Head when we were doing radio communication exercises – the vista was magnificent.

I had my 21st at Shoalwater Bay – photo (at right) with Bob “Woofer” Bruce and me doing justice to the cake Mum had carefully packed and sent!



. Holsworthy – a memory by George Clark. George and **Ed** have recently exchanged a couple of emails and the following response is a ripper as it poses a question and **Ed** adds a request at the end –

“Great Paul, it will be good to catch up again (**Ed** mentioned he would be in Brisbane in April to attend the 50th Plaque Dedication / ANZAC Day events at Enoggera). Just on another subject, concerning Kokoda Barracks at Holsworthy, I note no one has mentioned the WW2 V2 German Rocket that used to stand near the entrance. It was painted in a distinctive checker-board black and white scheme much the same as the winning flags they use today at motor sport events.

All the best for the festive season Paul, George.”

Ed – OK here’s the question / request – does anyone have a photo of the German relic – if so can you **please** send me a copy??

Now to add this... whilst having a gander – in search of a possible photo **Ed** Googled photos of Holsworthy and came across the site below – give it a crack! I discovered totally unrelated “rocket” photos, but on closer examination found a few “snaps” from our website. In the collection are photos of **Pete Fletcher** sans surf board atop the “FJ”, one of **Ernie Newbold’s** best (Iroquois with the sun), a RTA photo with a heap of you, even one of **Ed** on the radio at Arty Tac etc. Can anyone identify others?

Here’s the website -

https://www.google.com.au/search?q=photos+of+kokoda+barracks+at+holsworthy&biw=1366&bih=599&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiDiqqfyN_JAhVM4CYKHbQ1A_0Q7AkILw#imgsrc=6PIIXqJiw3bAsM%3Ahttps://www.google.com.au/search?q=photos+of+kokoda+barracks+at+holsworthy&biw=1366&bih=599&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiDiqqfyN_JAhVM4CYKHbQ1A_0Q7AkILw#imgsrc=6PIIXqJiw3bAsM%3A

. Now for more things Holsworthy – in January’s 2011 edition of *Eyes and Ears* we published a couple of photos sent in by Keith Ayliffe and had them identified by Bob Wilson. **Ed** just the photos were worth a re-run to have another look at parts of Holsworthy -

“I’ll leave it to your members to see if they can identify the two people posing in the photos below?”

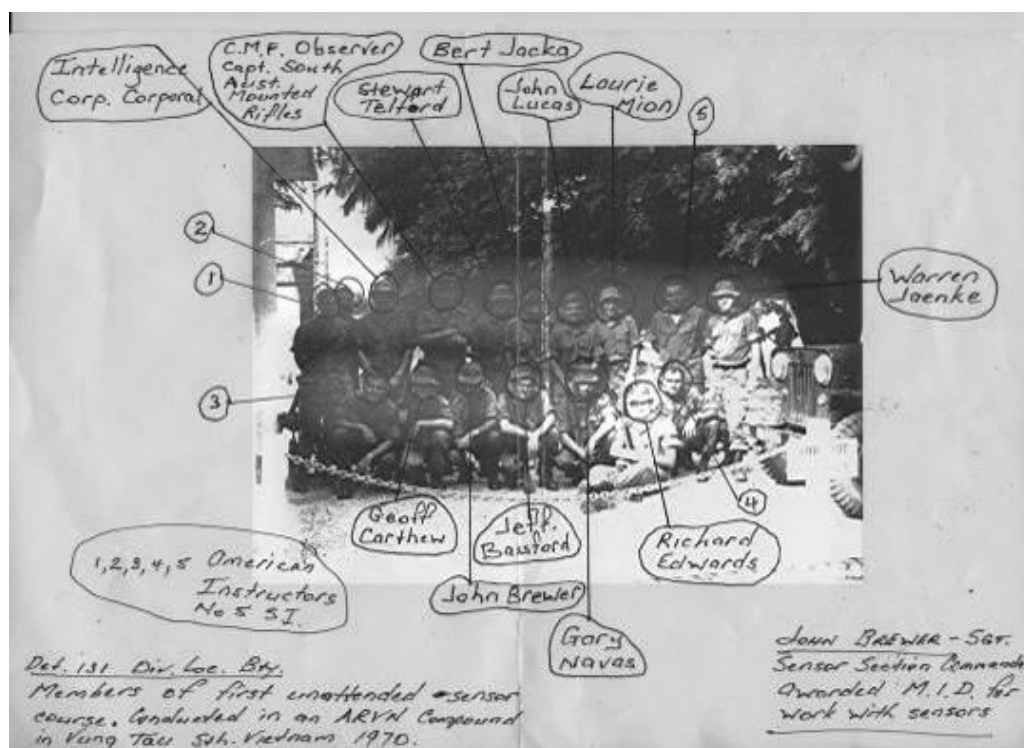


Here's a response - "Hi Paul, The two photos your need names for are Ken Jones aka "The Werris Creek Warrior" and Vaughn (Mitch) Miller. Would have been taken Sept / Oct 1967
Regards, Bob Wilson"

. Research Assistance - Unattended Ground Sensors - Phuoc Tuy...a note in response to the *Eyes & Ears* article published earlier - "Hi Paul...thanks for another great year of *Eyes & Ears*...I think I can clear up a few missing names....I've matched a couple of old photos and this what I have come up with.

no 1 ...Pfc.RYDER
no 2 ...Pfc ROSENFELDT
no 3 ...Pfc PATTERSON
no 4 ...American,name unknown
no5 ...American..I believe he was the CO

Also the photo was taken by me and printed off in 131's darkroom.



A couple of favours if I may. I have been trying to track down ex Gnr Ken Eric Winn who was in 131 from 30 May 70 to Aug 70 then, I think 12 Fd. If anybody has a contact would you ask them to contact me.....
Secondly I noticed in the *Eyes & Ears* that John Brewer has an e-mail...I would like to get in contact with him as he was SGT...
Hope my info helps..Have a happy and safe festive season
Kind regards, Grahame Smith"

Ed - We have contact with John, but no trace of Ken - can anyone give us a hand please?

Terry Erbs - We need radar photos!!!!

It's planned to present an album, showing the history and service in Vietnam of the AN/KPQ – 1, at the 131 Unit plaque and A12 radar dedication at Enoggera on Sunday 24th April 2016.

Keith Ayliffe, our historian and radar expert, has already published articles about the AN/KPQ-1 radar in “*Eyes & Ears*” and he is prepared to provide the story to go with the photos. Although Keith has several suitable photographs, we would like more, with names, dates & location if possible!!!



This is my photo, not bad quality either, can anyone help me, I can't remember which radar it was!!!!???? So if you have any suitable photos please email them to me - terry.erbs@gmail.com Or if you have slides please post them to 14 Craigan Crescent Aspley Qld 4034 - I will return them immediately after scanning.

Any photos & slides printed in the album will have the photographer appropriately acknowledged – so fellas please have a look through your photos!!!



This photograph shows the restored A12 radar currently sited in front of 131 Bty. HQ. Thanks to Keith's tremendous efforts, an application for funding has been submitted, to have the radar suitably protected and displayed. Hopefully a decision re funding will be known before the end of January, then it will be a rush to complete the build before the dedication.

In the proposal, the new radar site is about 100m down the road and beyond the large trees, which is across the road from the Unit's memorial wall and Regimental HQ.

. A timely reminder from Ron Mason for our fellow Victorian Locators -

“Paul, for your information and to share. On the **21st of February 2016** a short service will be conducted at the grave of Vietnam Veterans who were killed in Vietnam and are buried in Victoria. This will be a synchronized event across the State.

L/BDR James Menz is buried at Marysville, the service there is being organized by Outer Eastern Melbourne branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association. If any locators knew James and wish to attend the short service I could give them some contact details.

Ron Mason”

Ed – It should be a date that we **ALL** share wherever we are, to remember and reflect on OUR fallen and other Veterans of our era.

What sort of WAR was it? ...an interesting side note has also come to light...Australia NEVER declared war on North Vietnam. Was it just a "Conflict"? The following is a copy of a letter written by the then Leader of the Country Party in response to a letter written by a Myles Chappell from Bundaberg back on 16th October 1970...

Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600.

16th October, 1970.

Dear Mr. Chappell,

I have received your letter of 8th October, telling me you have been troubled by the Government's inconsistent attitude to conscripts in Vietnam.

As a senior Minister of the Government I want to reassure you that the Government's attitude on this issue is, and always has been, consistent.

As Leader of the Australian Country Party, I have made it clear in my public statements that Australia must ally herself with the United States.

With the Government's aim being to create an environment that fosters economic growth there is a serious and legitimate need to preserve our safety.

The prospects for our future growth are boundless but we are vulnerable. Geography has placed this wide, empty, richly endowed country close to turbulent, crowded areas less well endowed with the basic needs of life.

All history shows that no nation can stand alone and it is the Government's policy to stand with America, whose massive military strength protected Australia from invasion during the last war. If the danger of attack should ever come again there is only one country on earth with the power and the will to save us - and that is the United States.

. . . /2

2.

Concerning your query about declarations of war, in Vietnam (and elsewhere) the position is that the communist operations in South Vietnam have been carried out mainly through the use of guerilla warfare, involving the use of subversion externally inspired and supported by North Vietnam. The objective of Australian participation in this kind of warfare is a limited one, namely, to assist South Vietnam, which has sought our help, to secure its territorial integrity against this form of attack.

Our objective is not to destroy or overthrow the Government of North Vietnam or of any other country assisting North Vietnam, but simply to prevent North Vietnamese forces and revolutionary groups trained and armed by them from over-running South Vietnam and imposing a regime which the South Vietnamese do not want. Because of our limited objective, and because Australia is not on a regimented war footing, as it was in the Second World War, a formal declaration of war would be inappropriate.

In saying this, I might mention that, since the Second World War, Australian forces have been engaged in armed combat in defence of the independence and territorial integrity of a number of countries, without there having been a declaration of war by either side. This was the case in Korea, in Malaya during the Communist Emergency, and more recently in support of Malaysia against Indonesia during the period of "Confrontation". On that latter occasion, Australia even maintained diplomatic relations with the Indonesian Government while our forces were engaged in hostilities against its forces in Eastern Malaysia.

In a speech of 18th May, 1966, when he was the United States Secretary of Defence, Mr. McNamara said that "in the last eight years alone, there have been no less than 164 significant outbreaks of violence . . . 82 different governments have been directly involved. What is striking is that only 15 of these 164 significant resorts to violence have been military conflicts between two States and not a single one of the 164 conflicts has been a formally declared war.

Indeed there has not been a formal declaration of war - anywhere in the world - since World War II".

In covering the period 1958-1966, Mr. Namara was presumably thinking of conflicts such as the Lebanon crisis of 1958, the conflicts of Vietnam, Laos, Kashmir, Cyprus, Algeria and the Congo, the Indian/Chinese border conflict, Indonesian "Confrontation" of Malaysia, and so on.

. . . /3

3.

Between 1945 and 1958, there were other such conflicts, none as Mr. McNamara noted, involving formal declarations of war. Countries involved included Palestine and later Israel; Egypt, Britain and France (over the Suez Canal); Indonesia and the Netherlands; Korea; Hungary and so on.

Other incidents of a warlike character have occurred since 1966, including those in the Middle East, Cambodia and Czechoslovakia. Again, none of these has been formally declared as war.

I appreciate your concern on these issues and because of your interest I enclose some recent statements I have made on them.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Myles Chappell,
Rubyanna Road,
M.S. 108,
BUNDABERG. Q*LD. 4670

. Allen Morley found some good news for NSW Veterans -

NSW has a transport card called **Opal**. Veterans can obtain a free travel Opal card by emailing concessions@transport.nsw.gov.au

including • Your name • DofB • Home address

The Opal provides free rail, bus and ferry transport around Sydney, as well as parts north and south. For those in rural areas there is an entitlement for two rail journeys for free within NSW each year.

That should help some of our 131 Vets.

I suspect the same sort of arrangement applies in other States, eg Miki in Melbourne.

Cheers, Allen

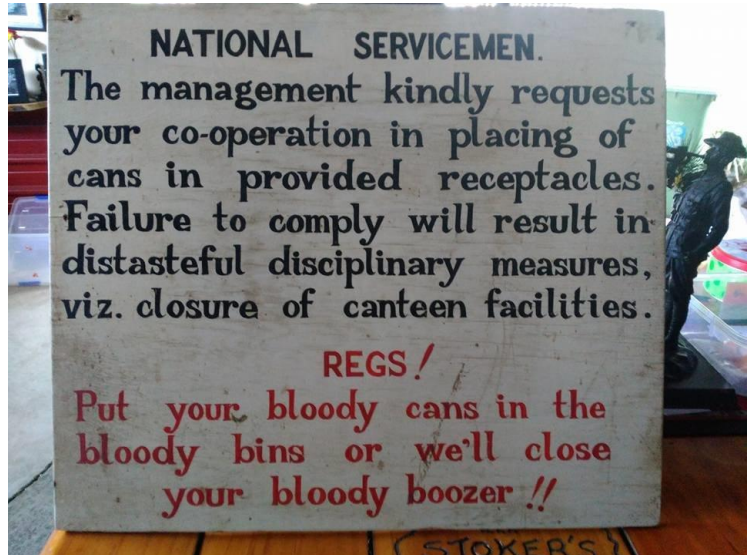
. **Russ Hamsey** sent in the following photo and has a question...

"Gentlemen,

As you can see from this email, we believe we have found another piece of 131 Bty history. Can anyone confirm this for us?

Russ Hamsey

RW HAMSEY
MAJ
2I/C
20 STA Regt
Gallipoli Barracks



...Here's the answer which appeared in *Eyes & Ears* in August, 2010 –

. **Kevin Browning** sent in the following...



Paul,

Attached is another sign from over there. It was in the James Menz Club and clearly shows the thoughtfulness of the Nashos towards us mere mortal regulars in providing some simple interpretation.

Regards

Kevin

. **Rob Retrot** got a great 70th surprise, organised by his wife **Judith**..."Hi Paul, Judith organised a surprise party for me on 12 December and I was indeed totally surprised. Especially to arrive home to find **Chris Bouilly** and his wife, **Vanessa**, there from South Australia! Chris is having a birthday bash in Adelaide on 17 January and we had already told him we were coming. Friends also came from Melbourne and various areas closer to home. We had live music and catering and it turned into a very enjoyable night. In retrospect "it ain't so bad turning 70!" There is nothing you can do to stop it so you might as well enjoy it. Rob"
Rob is the one in the red Birthday Bow Tie, if you were wondering!



. **Gold Card eligibility**....Just a timely reminder as the Veterans 70 Years and over "Club" numbers are increasing it's worthwhile noting the following –

The Gold Card - The gold card is issued to veterans of Australia's Defence Forces who:
Are veterans who served in Australia's Defence Force **after** World War 2, who are aged **70** years or over and have [qualifying service](#) under Section 7A of the Veterans Entitlements Act. Get cracking and apply if you already haven't!

. Another day in Arty Tac circa 1967...

Ed – Over time lots of people have asked me “What did you in SVN?” Well, I thought the following extract from the depth of the diminishing grey cells might enlighten a few, plus luckily I have a photo (below) of the actual event...



I received an incoming call on the OC's designated line (had to be kept clear for OC emergencies, plus contacting **Pete Fletcher** re laundry, Rover cleanliness etc), anyway I digress. The conversation went along these lines –

“Three zero over...you want to speak to the OC, Captain Hamilton?, over...roger, but I need to ask you a security question, over ... roger...can you please give me the OC's security code name, over...roger “Blueleader” that is correct, ok he's a trifle busy at the moment as there is a war going on, over...roger ...can I take a message?, over ...roger...ok, hang on and I'll grab a biro ,over...roger right, you have more Aussie acts coming to SVN and would he be interested in having them come to our Rec Hut as per “Little” Patty and Denise Drysdale were

organised?, over...roger though I thought we hijacked them, over...roger, oh ok I won't say that “hijacked” word again, over...roger, if it's affirmative you'll get back with some names like “The Easybeats”, Johnny Young and so on – maybe Normie Rowe if his number is drawn? over...roger...you realise that we're only a small unit, over...err... roger... I'll get the Captain to call you back as soon as there is a lull in the fighting, seeing that you've directed me to do that Mr Dayman, ok Ivan. I actually thought you might have been involved in Gospel Music because of the number of times you said “Jesus Christ”, over...roger...err yes, you've made yourself very clear...out”

I think I earned my medals in one way or another, considering all of the above was done while taking in-coming mort reps from the LPs plus their laundry requirements, Radar wanting RAEME assistance as they were having trouble streaming Armed Forces TV on their screens, Survey wanting to know when the next entertainment concert was?, then there was the RAEME blokes complaining about the Rec Hut not being open earlier and the mob from the Det HQ and Q Store not having enough lead in their pencils – it was full-on every day, hey and I was late for lunch! I almost forgot – Ivan Dayman - The late Ivan Dayman played a major role in the Australian music industry in the mid-1960s.

Has anyone else got some memories not having seen the light of day? Send them in, hey, it's 50 years and the Statute of Limitations has surely expired (I hope!).

.STOP THE PRESSES!!! Allen Morley has some amazing news about the finding the only copy (we believe at this time) of **Vol 1 No 1 of Eyes and Ears** – published way back in 1967 -

A major archaeological discovery has been unearthed this month. Not the real Hitler Diaries, not Tutankhamen's tomb annex, not even an unexploded 500 kg German bomb in London.

Carbon dating suggests its conception was mid-1967 AD +/- one year. Yes, dear reader, it is the long lost Vol 1, No 1 of *Eyes and Ears*. It appears below in all of its original glory, thank to the persistence of “Blue Leader”, Warwick Hamilton, who finally cleaned his garage up.

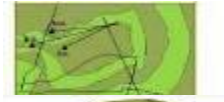
Our apologies for the poor quality of parts of this historic document, but the original wasn't very good anyway.

Ed – We'll have a crack at seeing if we can make a clearer copy and put it in next month's *Eyes & Ears*. Great news!!










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 – Numbers are holding up, but we have plenty of space to accommodate many more!!!!!! Check out our Website merchandise on the News and Events tab page for the post XMAS sale where Nashos can get the SPECIAL limited edition 131 Ribbon decal for their car and if you need ANOTHER 131 POLO watch this SPACE!

Presidential perambulations

Soon it will be time to turn the calendar over for 2015. And then we have to learn to write 2016. Next year is a leap year, as was 1968 for the fourth and some subsequent Nasho intakes, we had to do a slightly longer stint in the modern army because of that. So long ago now.

We look forward to the new year which offers some important opportunities to celebrate several 131 milestones. The 50th 131 Detachment Pioneers' anniversary get together in Brisbane next April. The 50th yearly cycle of the Battle of Long Tan and the associated Vietnam Veterans Day will be a highlight on August 18th. Then the Coffs Harbour reunion, to be held for the final time in that town, in October 2016. Please attend any, and/or all of the above to celebrate, remember or be reminded of the things we did together and individually, both during and post South Vietnam.

Now quite regularly we hear of one or more of our number experiencing poor health. DVA helps where required. Provided of course that contact is made with the Department. As an association of ageing Gunners we can collectively, but more often individually, aid those in need by maintaining contact. It does not require a lot of effort but is so important for all involved.

On behalf of your Association Committee I extend to all of our readers a Happy Christmas and best wishes for a terrific New Year.

Cheers

Allen

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 19th January, 2016 at 1100hrs

**Venue: NORTH FORT Museum site,
North Head**

and lunch will be at your cost on the verandah



. Pertinent Points – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 15th December, 2015 at 1100hrs...

Presidents report.

Allen advised : There is a tellurometer and ANKPQ/1 Radar complete at North Head which is destined for the NVVM Phillip Island - a project we need to facilitate and arrange.

.The placement of the 131 Det. flagstone paver has been delayed due to the engraver ceasing business. Further discussions are proceeding with updates to be advised.

.The DVA Grant application for the reunion and dedication at Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera ANZAC DAY 2016 has finally been accepted after massaging the paperwork to comply with DVA standards for the Grant.

.An order for Polo shirts is ready to be placed as soon as our contact returns from her UK holiday and should be available for ANZAC Day 2016.

Public Officer Report.

Vic advised via email that Services NSW have processed our AGM return but then advised:

Re: 131 LOCATORS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED - INC9893637

I refer to your Annual summary of financial affairs for the above Association that was received by NSW Fair Trading on 26/11/2015.

The document has been processed and now forms part of the association's record.

The Register of Incorporated Associations records the Public Officer as VICTOR DANKO and the official address of the Association as CREMORNE NSW 2090.

Only the Form A12 is required to be lodged by Tier 2 associations.

The financial statement presented to members at the AGM and other documents such as the minutes, agenda and notice of meeting are not required or suitable for the Public Register.

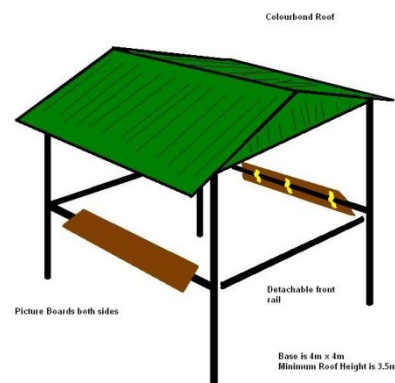
Webmaster Update.

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

Special events 2016

Nick presented a sample for acceptable size of the "Names" plaque for Enoggera 2016. The finer detail is yet to be settled. Cost is being sought for a version in bronze as the 1st option as this was the preferred option of the committee. Bert emailed an "Expression of interest" matrix for the coming events which will be expanded before dissemination. Agenda and transport arrangements for Enoggera were discussed and will be incorporated in the expression of interest request along with a cost estimate.

A depiction of the cover for the Enoggera Radar is at right for your information courtesy of Keith Ayliff



. web Performance...

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

. Birthdays in the Battery...January –

January	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	VICTOR DANKO	2783210	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
1	JOE LIBRIZZI	5716081	1947	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	
1	CHRIS CHAPPLE	5716208	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
1	RICHARD CHAPLIN	2791166	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
2	JOHN BROWNE	218367	1949	27 08 1969	13 08 1970	
3	GARY NAVAS	2793162	1949	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
4	PETER PETTIFORD	3792038	1947	08 11 1968	04 06 1969	
5	GRAEME SMITH	6708707	1946	12 04 1968	20 08 1968	
6	ARTHUR DOVE	217348	1950	13 01 1969	28 11 1969	
6	ALLAN ROBOTHAM	6709864	1950	25 05 1971	18 11 1971	
9	PETER SADLER	15138	1941	20 05 1966	28 04 1967	† 2008
9	ROBERT NESS	4717755	1945	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	† 01.01.2001
9	GERARD PIRES	5717069	1949	03 03 1971	12 08 1971	
11	PAUL TRAVERS Maj.	47027	1940	{09 09 1965	19 09 1965	VISIT
	" "			{25 02 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME
11	PETER PIORO	2790931	1948	27 11 1969	04 05 1970	
12	PETER HOPPER Sgt	3787938	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
12	DAVID REILLY	3794901	1948	24 03 1970	13 08 1970	
12	BRIAN JOHNSON	4720991	1949	29 05 1970	05 05 1971	AACC
	" "			14 05 1970	27 05 1970	1st Armoured Regt.
12	LASZLO FALKAI	4721836	1949	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.
13	ROGER HOLMES	3795910	1948	22 07 1970	25 02 1971	
15	GEORGE STAZIKER Lt Col	2108436	1838	14 04 71	01 05 71	† 29.12.12
15	PHIL. ENDICOTT	2783419	1945	06 01 1967	27 09 1967	
16	EDWARD COOPER	44231	1950	26 08 1969	21 01 1970	
16	LESLIE SAURINE	2791863	1947	24 03 1970	17 12 1970	
18	PETER SZABO	38752	1947	26 03 1969	25 03 1970	
19	BARRY HEARD	3788324	1945	02 04 1967	25 10 1967	Honorary 131
19	PETER FIELDEN	3797872	1949	25 11 1970	12 08 1971	
21	PETER SUCKING SGT	55141	1943	05.02.1971	15.11.1971	
22	KEVIN BROWNING Sgt	217743	1948	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	131
	" "			05 04 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.

22	MICHAEL BARLOW	2792252	1949	19 08 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
23	DONALD CHALMERS	3793171	1945	01 07 1969	03 12 1969	
	IAN "Scotty" McNICOL	216327	1945	{12 09 1967	17 09 1968	131
	" "			{09 04 1970	02 05 1970	VISIT
24	TERENCE ERBS	3791713	1947	28 10 1968	04 06 1969	
24	DAVID NEGUS	3794728	1947	24 02 1970	13 08 1970	
25	WALLY FRANKLIN	1411285	1949	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
26	RAY HUTCHINSON	37669	1940	17 04 1967	02 04 1968	
26	GEOFFREY TODD	54254	1943	18 12 1967	10 12 1968	
27	ALAN ADAMS	3788792	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
28	ROBIN TORRISI	1735572	1948	20 08 1970	12 03 1971	
29	PETER MACKIE	2184557	1949	20 08 1970	08 02 1971	
30	ALAN McDONALD	511355	1947	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
31	COLIN GORDON	16975	1945	15 03 1968	26 03 1969	† 28.03.10

Ed – 14 blokes not highlighted is not acceptable – can we make an effort to find some of these blokes – please!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 129 and we've sent out 129. Ed – If we could only get 2 more to make it 131!!

. **Located...**

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



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

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

Hope we hear from you?

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

. **Other related sites...**

. **Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...**



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

"Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush"

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

This website seeks to make contact with the Artillery Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty. We welcome your relevant contributions of photos, insights and observances so we might endeavour to expand

131 Artillery Surveying Vietnam record, beyond this window. Please use the [contacts page](#) for details:

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

. **Locating , Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...**



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...notes taken from the LS & TAA website – the last in the series of Coffs Harbour re-unions will take place next year 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



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



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



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

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: www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com](http://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com)



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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