

THE EYES and EARS

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



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Let's wander through some Memorial Walks...



Tom Checkley

Jim Menz

...Terry Westerway...“I guess most people have heard of the Memorial at Seymour – but I wonder how many know (or have ever seen) the memorial at Muswellbrook? FYI, the memorial is on the New England Highway, on the northern side of Muswellbrook (right hand side travelling north). The pikkys below and above were taken by Spike Chase. I have marked the memorial wall to indicate the two 131 guys who did not make it home.”



then...Peter Ravelje did a trip to Seymour on Australia Day and took these photos...



Ed - It's been a while since I did this walk in Seymour and it's great to see the surrounds maturing and everything settling in. It is worth the trip and even a revisit to see what's been added.



. AN/KPQ-1 RADAR South Vietnam

Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery South Vietnam 1966 - 1970

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

Keith R Ayliffe BEM
Ex 131 Div Loc Bty

1968 – The longest year.

02 January - To assist in Operation FORREST, Bravo Radar (A7) deployed by road to FSPB ALLENBROOKE (YS4577) with 106 Fd Bty.

06 January - Bravo Radar (A7) returned to Nui Dat. No mortaring incidents were recorded.

08 January - Operation FORREST ended and Alpha Radar (A6) returned to Nui Dat.

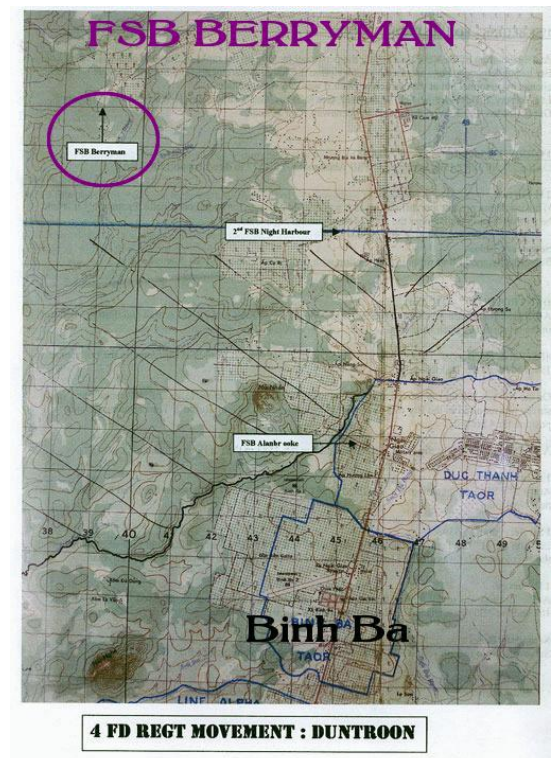
Results: Casualties:

Own: KIA 4, WIA 35;

VC: KIA 47, wounded/escaped 17, PW 42, detainees 360.

Captured were 108 weapons, a significant quantity of ammunition, 11 mines and 10 grenades, 300 lbs of documents and 0.5 tonne of rice. (Source: AWM95-3-7 4 Fd Regt Narrative 1 – 31 Dec)

10 January - Operation DUNTROON commenced as a blocking action in the Phuoc Tuy Prov, III Corps, followed by a search-and-destroy operation, in co-operation with 1st Infantry Brigade (US). The 1ATF AO for both actions totalled 120 sq km.



11 January - Bravo Radar (A7) deployed by air from Nui Dat into FSB BERRYMAN - YS 39-86, 5 km south west of the Courtenay Rubber Plantation, 20 km north, north west of NUI DAT and 13 km north west of Ngai Giao. Other artillery units deployed in that FSB were 161 Bty RNZA, 108 Bty RAA and B Bty 2nd/35th US Arty. Det 131 LP was also deployed.



Radar Ops disembarking FSPB BERRYMAN – Photo E. Newbold - (r to l: unknown, John Vickary, Leigh “Mouse” Baker?, Allen Morley, Unknown, Lionel Outen?)

While no enemy mortar fire was recorded on Australian units in and around FSB BERRYMAN the LP reported mortar firing to the east of the FSB to which the radar produced a locrep. The location was bombed using B Bty 2nd/35th US Arty's 155mm guns. The next day a Cavalry patrol located a hurriedly vacated VC base camp at the grid reference of the Locreps.

21 January - Operation *DUNTROON* ended and Bravo Radar (A7) was extracted by air at 0730 am and returned to Nui Dat.

Results: Casualties:

Own: WIA 3;

VC: KIA 13. Crew-served weapons (3) and 15 small arms, 6 RPGs, 1800 lbs of rice, some equipment and documents were captured, while 800 m of tunnel complex and a number of RPG rounds, grenades and anti-tank mines were destroyed.

24 January - Operation *COBURG* commenced - a reconnaissance-in-force operation in AO Columbus, of 386 sq km between the Song Dong Nai and Route 1, east of Long Binh. It was intended to deny enemy access to suitable sites from which to bring 122 mm rocket fire on to Long Binh or Bien Hoa airbase complex.

Bravo Radar (A7) with Sgt Ted Doust as No 1 deployed by air to FSPB HARRISON (Grid YT1617). No mortaring incidents were recorded at this FSB. Two LP's were also deployed.

29 January - Appointment: Officer Commanding Det 131 (TFAIO) Captain Phillip M. Perrin.

31 January - Bravo Radar (A7) redeployed by air to FSPB ANDERSEN (Grid YT208128), in War Zone D, 22 km due east of Bien Hoa and 7 km south east of FSPB HARRISON.

FSPB ANDERSEN was deliberately sited on a low bulldozed hill astride a known VC main avenue of communication. Det 131 also deployed in FSPB ANDERSEN a Listening Post (LP) made up mainly of Det 131 surveyors and for the first time a forward TFAIO which would control the radar, LP's and co-ordinate data directly with the supporting Artillery.

01 February - Nui Dat came under enemy mortar fire during the Tet offensive with 20 rounds reported to the TFAIO. Locreps were recorded by Alpha Radar (A6) and within 8 Minutes the suspected base plate position and possible escape routes were engaged by 105mm Bty and 8 howitzers. An infantry patrol was sent to the base plate position the following morning and reported that it appeared to have been rapidly vacated. The enemy left behind 25 X 81mm

mortar bombs. It was also reported that possibly three separate mortars were used, identified from the indentations of mortar baseplates in the ground.

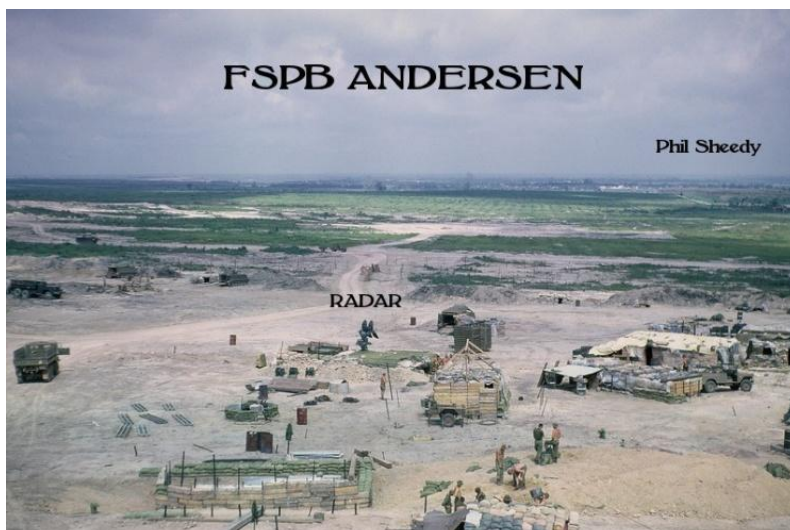
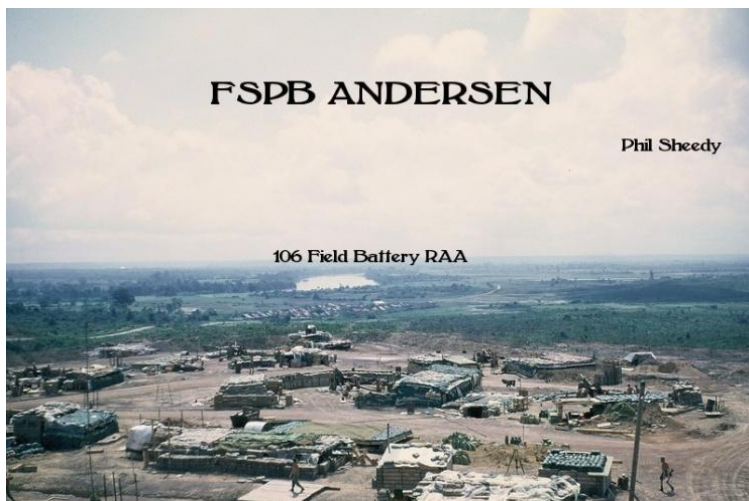
02 February – Sgt Lawler Replaced WOII Ron Royal as unit DSM. Bdr A. Dodds commands Alpha radar as No.1.

18 February - Following 150 round enemy mortar barrage, two (2) waves of VC attacked FSPB ANDERSEN resulting in 8 Aussie KIA and 22 WIA. At least 5 rounds straddled the 131 LP which was situated on the perimeter in the northern section of the FSPB . During this attack LBDR Jimmy Menz was killed and Gunner M.H. (Dutchy) Van Driel wounded as a result of the mortar fire. Both were surveyors manning the LP.

Bravo Radar (A7) recorded 5 mortar Locreps with three separate locations, which resulted in CB fire by infantry mortars and 105mm guns. Confirmation of mortar base plate positions from infantry patrols at Grid YT221125; YT220125:YT213120. This proved the locreps to be accurate to 25 metres of the firing points. An unexpected find at grid YT 220125 were a number of charge bags (exact number not recorded) and a primer for a 120mm mortar not previously used against Australian troops.

The radar received many unwarranted remarks, after the first attack, being blamed as a marker for enemy targeting (this remark was consistently levelled at the radar), even though the radar itself received no battle damage in this or subsequent attacks on FSPB ANDERSEN. After the first enemy attack, the radar detachment was ordered' to build a dummy radar close to the southern perimeter, this was completed using an empty 44 gal drum some star pickets to hold up ration pack cardboard, cut to the shape of the radar AN/KPQ-1 dishes. This object was then lightly sandbagged around the base. It may be noted that no enemy fire (mortar or rocket) came close to this object or the radar which might suggest these items were not the targets of the enemy.

20 February - A second attack occurred on FSPB ANDERSEN and was similar to the first in that a ground attack occurred after an initial mortar barrage. The number of rounds fired in this barrage appears not to be recorded but from eye witness accounts, estimated between 60 and 80 mortar bombs, however, there were many rocket (RPG) and grenade explosions at this time which could easily be mistaken for mortars. Bravo Radar (A7) produced a number of locreps on which CB fire was initiated. The Det 131 LP became involved in the ground attack when incoming small arms fire struck their position. The LP was also responsible for directing our own infantry mortars onto one of the enemy attacking formations. The following morning two unfired RPG 7's were found in that location.



28 February - FSPB ANDERSEN was attacked for the third time again a similar pattern emerged, with a mortar barrage followed by a ground assault. It had been well observed that preceding the first two attacks a red flare had been fired by the enemy. On the report of a red flare from Det 131 LP, Bravo Radar (A7) laid the beam on the LP's bearing to the red flare and as luck sometime plays a part, an enemy mortar opened firing from this general area, the result being that the radar for the first time was able to produce a locrep almost as soon as the first round detonated inside the FSB. The TFAIO was able to conduct CB fire well within a few minutes of the first round being fired. It is believed that only 10 to 15 mortar rounds impacted on the FSB and the remainder of explosions were RPG and grenades. The firing position was the same as one used in a previous attack - YT213120.

In all attacks infantry mortars were used as first response for CB fire and proved very effective.

161 Fd Bty RNZA (105mm), 3 RAR, TF tactical HQ, 'A' Troop of 'A' Squadron, 3rd US Cavalry, Engineer Troop and 155mm howitzers of — B Bty 2nd/35th US Arty were deployed there during those battles.

Whilst at FSB ANDERSEN Bravo Radar (A7) had confirmed locreps of a 122mm rocket firing, which was engaged by eleven (11) Batteries over the III Corps fire direction net.

1 March - Operation COBURG ended, Bravo Radar (A7) and all Det 131 personnel returned to Nui Dat.

Results

Casualties:

Own: 17 KIA, 1 NZ KIA, 57 WIA, 8 NZ WIA, 1 US KIA, 6 US WIA

Enemy: 167 KIA (BC), 7 KIA (Poss), 27 WIA, 5 POW.

Material;

Captured: 9 crew served weapons, 94 small arms, 10 RPG2 launchers, 3 RPG7 launchers, 5 transmitter/receiver radios, 2 compasses, and 3500 lbs of rice.

Destroyed: 49 RPG2 rockets, 8 RPG7 rockets, 9 RCL rounds, 13 claymore mines and 99 grenades.

(Source: AWM95, 1/4/80 - 1-31 January 1968)

2 April – Bdr Colin Gordon replaced Bdr A Dodds as No1 on Alpha radar AN/KPQ-1

2 April – Bdr Keith Ayliffe replaced Sgt Ted Doust as No1 on Bravo radar.

Next month we'll get into **FSBs Harrison, Wattle, Clowes and Anderson...**

. Kevin Thornton responded to the “**Venturing Out**” section of “**AN/KPQ-1 RADAR South Vietnam by Keith Ayliffe**” in last month's *Eyes & Ears* – “Editor Paul "Dicko" Dickson

The story in above *Eyes and Ears* concerning "Venturing Out" which the writer talks about the radar system taken out on Operation HAYMAN could be Charlie Radar unit. As a member of Alpha Radar unit, I clearly remember going on this operation with Alpha radar unit.

Kevin Thornton”

...anyone else got any memories of this era??

. Vietnam – Calender of events...February –

5 March	1970	HMAS <i>Sydney</i> arrives at Fremantle, en route to Sydney	On board was 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, which had completed a tour in Vietnam. HMAS <i>Sydney</i> made 21 voyages to Vietnam during the war.
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. Grahame Dignam keeps us up to date on things from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and this item was thought to be very poignant to follow on from our Calender of Events section...



MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SENATOR THE HON. MICHAEL RONALDSON

MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC

SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE

REMEMBERING THOSE LOST DURING THE BOMBING OF DARWIN

Thursday, 19 February 2015

VA012

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, today encouraged Australians to honour those who defended Darwin against Japanese air raids during the Second World War.

On 19 February 1942, Darwin suffered two horrifying air raids that caused widespread devastation. These attacks were followed by more than 60 raids over the next twenty months. Luckily none had the same horrific impact.

“The raids took Darwin by surprise, with Japanese fighters and bombers about to begin their first attack when air raid sirens sounded,” Senator Ronaldson said.

“The raids claimed more than 240 lives including both civilians and defence personnel. Many others were injured and a number of ships sank as a result of the raids including three warships.

"The bombing was the first time Australia had been attacked during war time with later raids on Northern Australian towns and cities also inflicting casualties in Broome, Katherine, Wyndham Townsville and Horn Island," Senator Ronaldson said.

In 2011, 19 February was officially proclaimed as 'Bombing of Darwin Day', a national day of commemoration recognising this day as the anniversary of the war coming to Australia.

A memorial service takes place every year with a Second World War air raid siren to be sounded at 9.58am to mark the precise time the first attack took place.

. Rob Retrot sent in his initial email with regards to Ted Doust's passing see Vale below – and I followed up with the following...**Regarding Bill Wight:** I (Rob Retrot) think somebody at the reunion at Coffs Harbour told me he was deceased. It might have been Chris Bouilly but I'm not sure. I think Ernie and Dig might be the way to go. Rob Retrot"

...Bill Wight has passed!! - can anyone add any light to this fact?

We know that Bill was a Nasho then signed on, but we have no idea of anything past his SVN service dates. We'd been keen for ANY further info on Bill – PLEASE?

...Rob did get back to me with some info on what he's been up to – the following are some extracts -

"Hi Paul,

Jude and I are both well. We went on a 10 weeks journey through Europe last year, starting in Paris. Visited some of my rellies in Maastricht (Limburg). Then took a Viking cruise from Amsterdam down the Rhine, through a million locks and "bergs" (Miltenberg; Bamberg; Wurzburg; Regensburg etc. to Vienna and ultimately Budapest.) Very nice; very fattening! I put on nearly 5kg but the food and wine were too good to pass up! Then we had a one week stopover in Hong Kong where Judith lived and worked for a number of years and wanted to show me some of the sights (Female jargon for "going shopping" :-)

Last November we camped for a week or so at Broadwater (south of Ballina) and we called in on **Tony and Helen Dodds (Doddys)** on the river at Woodburn. They are both going strong but neither of them have kept up with computer technology so no email. Here is a photo of them, taken as we were leaving.



We like camping occasionally so going to Stradbroke Island next month, camping on Flinders Beach for a week. Later this year we will take a bit of a drive to Uluru, The Olgas and Kings Canyon. Apart from that we are planning on building a house on a small lot we intend to subdivide off our current house block. Early stages with that; but the intention is to build something we can live in until we turn our toes up. Apart from that, life is good and assuming it will go on forever!

Regards, Rob Retrot"



This was us (Rob and Jude) on the Strzelecki Track which really is on the other side of Tibooburra!

...I think Rob should team up with Warwick Hamilton and start up an Outback Camping Safari business – though Warwick might drive a bit too fast!!

. **Ernie Newbold** sent the following article in as it contains photos and references to a couple of well know Locators...

WWI centenary: Horse-drawn 18-pounder artillery piece and gun carriage to be restored in Anzac commemoration. By [Melissa Clarke](#)

Video: [Centenary gun a commemoration of the fallen](#)

Photo: [A WWI 18-pounder gun will tour the country after the Anzac centenary in April.](#) (ABC)

A tin shed in Sydney and a paddock in Goulburn are far from the battlefields of World War I, but they are the sites of an ambitious project to commemorate the soldiers killed in the Great War.

Dozens of people are pitching in to faithfully restore a pivotal weapon of the era - the 18-pounder gun.

They hope to have the gun, complete with a six-horse team to haul it, ready for Anzac Day.

"The project's been going for a couple of years now," Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) chairman Tim Ford said.



"We had an 18-pounder and we felt that this was a great idea to bring together a gun, a limber and a team as part of the Anzac centenary celebrations for the next three years."

The 18-pounder has been housed in a tin shed at North Head on Sydney Harbour.

'New national treasure' to honour WWI centenary
Carriage-maker Jim Frecklington has been painstakingly restoring it over the past two years.

"This gun needed a major amount of work to bring it up to standard," he said.

Photo: [Kevin Browning, Jim Frecklington and Tim Ford inspect the WWI-era 18-pounder gun.](#)

"Over 100 years, rust gets in around the rivets and bolts, so that's all had to be taken apart and sandblasted.

"Parts that were damaged had to be restored and the parts that were missing had to be replaced."

Mr Frecklington previously made a state-coach for Queen Elizabeth but said he was thrilled to work on something that would stay in Australia.

He hopes, once finished, it will be "a new national treasure" to commemorate the men, women and horses that served in World War I.

Named after the weight of its artillery, the 18-pounder was used extensively on the Western Front and in Gallipoli.

Artillery expert Kevin Browning said it was "the one gun that the infantry relied on for protection".

"The 18-pounder was used to lay down a screen of fire in front of infantry, as they were advancing, to try to keep the enemy troops down and particularly the machine gunners from being brought back to the surface," he said.

Horses in training to bring carriage to life several hundred kilometres away from where the carriage is being restored, Max Pearce in Goulbourn has been training horses to pull the gun and limber.



Photo: [Horses are being trained to pull the 18-pounder gun and limber.](#) (ABC)

Since October, he has whittled down about a dozen former harness racers to a team of six.

"There were quite a few horses we actually sacked that weren't suitable," he said.

"They thought they were at the racetrack. When they got beside each other they wanted to race off."

It was a new challenge for the experienced horse trainer.

"Learning about the artillery harness, how it works, it's all quick release," he said, "I found that fascinating."

Gerard Hogan has pulled together the team managing the horses and taken charge of finding and restoring the harness.

The saddler sourced parts from around the country and hand-stitched the pieces that were beyond repair.

With the help of donations, they want to take the gun and team of horses to schools, RSLs and be part of activities going on to commemorate Australians in WWI.

Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company chairman Tim Ford

"It's taken a long time just to get the right harness," Mr Hogan said.

"Some of the pieces are original," he said, pointing out stamps in the leatherwork of 1917 and their origin. But some of the leather had deteriorated and was replaced with careful replicas.

"The only things that changed is the thread, but all the techniques used to make it are the same," he said.

Gun, horses to go on tour to commemorate WWI centenary

The dedicated team behind the project are on track to take part in the Anzac Day Parade at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

But after Anzac Day, they hope it will become a "mobile memorial" over the next few years.

"We are planning that this gun will be available to go to various community centres," Mr Ford said.

"With the help of donations, they want to take the gun and team of horses to schools, RSLs and be part of activities going on to commemorate Australians in WWI.

"There are several hundred thousand dollars involved in this ... We need more support if we can get it."

(131 Locators Association has made a donation to this project)

. **Kevin Browning** caught in a "mind wandering" moment sent in the following and is an interesting item. He also raises the point of **can we identify the two other Locators in the Rover with he and John Las????...**

"Hi Dicko,

Many issues back I recall information being published on M60's mounted on vehicles with the question whether Det 131 ever had one. The other day whilst looking for something else I found the photo I knew I had and attach it for your information. Driver is John Las, myself with the gun and cannot identify the other two in the vehicle. In all likelihood we have just come back from escorting the Div Int people on a visit to one of the village chiefs.

Regards, Kevin"



. **Allen Morley** with some careful advice...

THE FOX HUNT ... priceless!

It doesn't matter who you are. Sound advice.

WHEN YOU ARE IN DEEP TROUBLE, LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD, KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT & SAY NOTHING



. **Max Troynar** sent the following email and photo – it was supposed to have gone to **Nick Proskurin** but **Ed** received it - "Hey Nick. Hope you like this photo and it brings some good memories. From an old digger mate ."

...Nick responded with...

"Hi Paul and Max,

Long time no hear from you, Max. Hope you are well.

Sorry, I cannot remember when/where the photo was taken.

Doesn't look like an LP, so could have been at Arty Tac when I was there for a short while.

Thank you for the photo.

Regards, Nick".





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, **Honorary Auditor** – Jim Fitzgerald,
Eyes & Ears Editor – Paul Dickson
General members – Ian Amos, Ged Carroll George Lane.
Regional Representatives: **ACT** – Bert Blink, **Qld** – Terry Erbs, **SA** - Geoff Blackwell,
Vic (Melb) – Alan Adams, **WA** - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

Welcome – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming **Ian Campbell** and **Ted Jux** to the Association fold.

Presidential perambulations

February is a three-day-short month, nevertheless it has been a busy one.

Huge snowfalls along the US East Coast, cyclones in our north, one day World Cricket Cup in Australia and New Zealand, a potential spill against the Australian PM, VVA's Tim McCombe's funeral plus a new government in Queensland. Not sure what the degrees of separation involved here are, but I am certain that somewhere there is a computer model to explain it all.

But for me the biggest issue revolve around Jihadist David Hicks. The US Court of Military Commission Review vacated Mr Hicks' 2007 guilty plea to providing material support to terrorism, the first conviction of a prisoner at Guantanamo Bay. The court last year ruled that material support was not a legally viable war crime.

This finding did not stop his lawyer from stating emphatically before the cameras that the court had found Hicks 'innocent'. Not quite. And 'Shrill Bill' Shorten comes out with the observation that Hicks had suffered an 'injustice'. Hicks said he was "having a holiday" when he was picked up in Afghanistan in 2001.

Hicks said he did not want an apology from the Australia Government, whence Tony Abbott confirmed Hicks would not get one. Abbott noted that Hicks, on his own admission, was up to no good. Against the shrill cries for compensation (lawyer talk for higher fees) Hicks demurred and said he just wanted someone to pay for his medical costs for his back, leg and arm, and of course his teeth which he had not been able to clean in Guantanamo Bay for five years. Poor David.

In other circumstances, because he had fought in overseas military actions he might just be permitted a DVA Gold Card to look after him medically. Imagine the furore if something like that happens.

Cheers

Allen

PS Don't forget our paver commemoration and 49th Detachment anniversary celebrations at Seymour starting on May 4th. Check the website www.131locators.org.au for full information.

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 24th March, 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

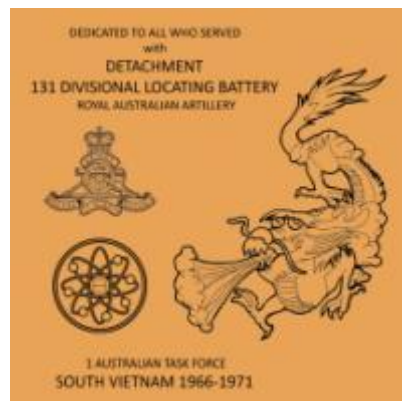
Then there's Seymour...



Roll Up! Roll Up!

TO: 131 Locators Association Members and other interested parties

WHAT: The Commemoration of the 131 Locators Association paver at the Seymour Vietnam Veterans Walk in Victoria



WHEN: Monday 4th May 2015 – the 49th Anniversary of the first detachment arrivals, 'the Pioneers', in South Vietnam

PROGRAM: The following is the proposed multi-day program, which is subject to alteration, depending upon numbers and availability of access –

- 11am, Monday 4th May – unveiling and dedication of the Association paver and inspection of the Seymour Vietnam Veterans Walk;
- 7.00pm Monday 4th May - Commemorative dinner at the Seymour Club;
<http://www.seymourclub.com.au/>
- 11am, Tuesday 5th May - inspection of the Puckapunyal Museum – subject to access approval; <http://www.armytankmuseum.com.au/>

- 8.00am, Wednesday 6th May – coach/ car trip to Phillip Island National Vietnam Veterans Museum and unveiling of Association Plaque and return to Seymour; <https://www.vietnamvetsmuseum.org/>
- 8am, Thursday 7th May – group breakfast and end of program

WHAT DOYOU NEED TO DO: We need confirmation of your/partner/family intention to attend some or all of the above events so that we can work the numbers, eg for dinner, the coach and closing breakfast.

Please complete the form at the bottom of this page and return it with a holding deposit of \$50 per person. Cancellation before April 1st 2015 will provide for a full refund of the deposit; Cancellation after that date will not result in any refund.

We have applied for a DVA grant to help defer some of the costs but will not know the result of this application until April 2015.

ACCOMMODATION: A selection of hotels for accommodation has been identified. These are –

Name & phone	Chain	Room Type/No.	Beds	Approx cost
Wattle Motel Ph : (03)57922411	Golden Chain			
		Twin share	1 Q, 1 s	\$ 140.00
		Family 2BR	1 Q, 3/4 S in 2nd bed room	\$ 180.00
Tarriff shown for 2 people, extra person \$20.00 / night.				
The Coach & Bushman's Ph :(03)57923744	Comfort Inn			
		Twin share	1Q, 1s	\$ 125.00
		Family 2 BR	1Q, 2 s	\$ 165.00
		Family 2 BR	1Q 2s Renovated	\$ 185.00
Auto Lodge Motor Inn Ph : (03) 57921700	(None)			
		2 BR (Rm 8)	1D, 2s	\$ 125.00
		2 BR (Rm 7)	1Q, 1s, 1s Bunk	\$ 125.00
		2 BR (Rms 4 & 5)	2 D	\$ 100-115
		2 x interconnecting rms 1Q, 1 s.	1Q, 1s,	\$ 100-115
		rooms with same format		
New Crossing Place Ph: (03)57922800	Best Western			
		Family 2 BR		\$ 180.00
		Twin DeLuxe		\$ 135.00

Goulburn River Tourist Pk	Top Tourist Parks	Cabin (No 23)	2 D	\$105/2 pers
Ph:(03)57921530	(caravan park)			
		Cabin (No 34)	2 beds	\$100/ 2 pers

Make your own accommodation arrangements direct with the hotel.

Questions - Grahame Dignam 02 9822 9218 or Allen Morley 02 94283275

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Registration form: Please complete and e-mail to sectreas131locators@gmail.com with payment to 131 Locators Association, BSB: 032166, A/C No 264133 or post this form plus deposit to Grahame Dignam, 8 Darling St Abbotsbury NSW 2176

Name	Deposit \$50	
Name	Deposit \$50	
Name	Deposit \$50	

Total Deposit

We wish to attend the following Dinner 4th May

Puckapunyal Museum 5th May

Coach to Phillip Island 6th May

Farewell breakfast 7th May

\$	
Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No

RSVP April 1st 2015

. Pertinent Points – extracted from the **131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 24th March, 2015 at 1100hrs...**

Donation to Mitchell VVA – CCTV camera for security of Vets Walk \$400 (copy of Bank transfer available)

Payment to Alliance Casting for plaque and transport to Phillip Island \$880.00. (Receipt to hand)

Financial Membership is currently 134 (130 Dec Minutes s/been 132, Associates 2, Affiliates 9 = Total 145

Presidents report.

DVA Grant – MPs letter of support have arrived – handed to Sec/Treas.

DVA Grant - DVA office was closed on 3 Jan 15 when I attempted to hand deliver the Grant . We await outcome .

2015 projects - Seymour – have offered to assist with details of ceremony on 4 May which we need to develop.

North Head –cost of major sponsorship \$1500 .

Publicize the Seymour event and ask via website and E&E newsletter for “notice of intention to attend” to facilitate planning for accommodation & activities; Grants. Final figures required by 28/2/2015

Attended LSTAA meeting on Sunday last- Joe Kaplun confirmed that 4 rooms have been allocated for the Artillery display and items have been moved in. The set up is similar to that at North Head.

Joe also handed over the military records he has custody of for our perusal. On inspection it appears that items are available from the AWM.

A document written by WO “Chalkie” Royal detailed the creation of the design of the unit plaque and will be placed on the website.

May event – Seymour and Phillip Island - Alliance Casting and Engineering Solutions confirmed that plaque was dispatched to Phillip Island. The National Vietnam Veterans Museum also confirmed that previous commitments will be met.

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...March –

March	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	EZIO LOMBARDO	216284	1946	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
2	GEOFF HOLDEN	2785828	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	JAMES TOWNLEY Maj.	17072	1939	14 06 1963	22 06 1963	103 Fd Bty FARELF
	" "			22 04 1966	19 08 1966	131
	" "			30 04 1970	28 05 1970	HQ AFV
2	PETER BENNETT	3794060	1948	26 08 1969	04 06 1970	
3	RIC. MARQUES	3790008	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
3	RAY SMITH	3787666	1945	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
3	GRAHAME LEE	2787457	1947	23 04 1968	23 04 1969	
3	ROGER STANLEY	2788155	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
3	RALPH MITCHELL	2788073	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
4	JOE CLENDINEN	17648	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
7	RODOLFO MARSANI	3796861	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
8	RUSSELL JACKSON	3793090	1945	24 02 1969	28 11 1969	
8	BARRY COOKE Sgt.	54886	1946	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	RAAOC
8	DES McGIUGGAN Sgt.	214722	1944	20 01 1970	21 01 1971	
11	BOB TANNER	6708362	1945	21 05 1966	28 04 1967	
11	PETER McKIE	2787728	1947	22 04 1968	23 04 1969	
12	JAMES FITZGERALD	2782044	1945	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
12	GREGORY LUCAS	1735725	1949	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	29 10 1970	4 Fd Regt.
13	JOHN (JACK) HEYES	3791085	1945	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
13	ALLAN CAMPBELL Sgt.	18257	1946	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 2009
	" "			05 02 1968	31 03 1968	
14	NEVILLE WORTLEHOCK	54941	1947	29 04 1968	30 04 1969	
17	GEOFF LOCK	2782439	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 09.09.10
18	VIC MOREAU	1200577	1939	22 04 1966	23 01 1967	
18	ROY CLAUSCEN	214873	1941	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
20	BRIAN CAMPBELL	2781310	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	
20	BARRY FOLLINGTON	2783144	1945	12 12 1966	27 09 1967	
20	IAIN KENNEDY	3791023	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	RONALD ROBARDS	216900	1948	21 02 1968	21 02 1969	
21	GARRY SMITH	2792048	1947	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	† 19.01.12
21	MICK KING	216504	1948	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
21	WARREN JAENKE	1735584	1946	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
22	GREGORY PECK	2790401	1948	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
23	DEREK HINDE	2787403	1947	01 07 1968	14 05 1969	
23	MARTIN KRYNTJES	5715291	1947	26 08 1968	04 06 1969	
25	GARTH NICHOLLS	216381	1948	{05 02 1968	11 02 1969	
	" "			{05 11 1969	28 11 1969	1 Fd REGT
25	ROBERT HARGREAVES	2790343	1948	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
26	GEORGE LANE	2781630	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
27	ERIC WINN	219656	1951	30 05 1970	07 08 1970	131
	" "			07 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
29	JEFF REID	3790495	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	† UNKNOWN
30	FRANK HALLIDAY Sgt.	215105	1937	02 01 1967	13 12 1967	RAEME
30	EDWARD CHASE	2782043	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
31	LESLIE CAHILL	2412281	1947	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	

31	GRAHAM HISLOP Sgt.	15290	1935	22 04 1966	03 03 1967	
31	PHILIP SHEEDY	4719418	1947	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	

Ed – 17 blokes not highlighted is not a great result, so c'mon fellas let's get the grey matter working!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 127 and we've sent out 127. **Ed** – we can always do with a few more though!

. **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.

. **Vale –**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>In SVN</u>	<u>Out SVN</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>DOD</u>
Doust, Edmond George	53111	Sgt	05.05.67	02.04.68	14.07.39	26.12.14

Ken Osborne was the first person to notify us of Ted's passing – “Dear Paul , In case the information has not been passed onto you I am informing you that my good mate of 52 years and an ex locator Ted Doust passed away on Boxing Day 2014 . For me he will be sadly missed , and it makes me feel a little vulnerable as I am not getting any younger , so regards Ken Osborne.”

Peter Suckling has some memories re: Ted - “I had the pleasure of being with Ted Doust in Woomera 64/65. He played a hard game of Rugby League but as he was in Missile Troop we did not work together. Another of the Woomera crew from that era gone. "Bones" Gordon being the other. Ran into Bob Brown at the National Dinner. For those who may remember John and Terri Stocks, I still keep in touch. Terri was the voice at the other end of the intercom during firings.
Regards Peter.”

Stuart Sporn gets some thoughts and memories on paper -
“Just got back home from travelling.

Teddles was a great bloke and was our Den Mother at North Head for Corps Training and a subsequent course. He escorted us to the land of Nui Dat and the night we arrived all of the Australians sleeping in full greens on the floor were decidedly sweaty except the sole Territorian who was used to the tropics
I think Hans Weber has a photo of a stripped down Teddles sitting on a 9mm ball ammo box with one Sgts Knacker dangling down the bottom of his shorts
A bloody good bloke with an empathy towards the troops and sad to hear he is on permanent leave
Best wishes to his family and mates”

Rob Retrot sent in the following – “My condolences to Ted Doust's family. He was one of the good ones. Here are a couple of photos of him, at the Horseshoe, Christmas 1967. Vale Ted!

Robert Retrot

p.s. The photos – they were taken at Xmas 1967, we were on the Horseshoe and Wight brought us the mail. Ted was our radar sergeant. Sorry, can't remember any tall tales about him. Just that he was a reasonably laid back sort of a bloke (for a regular army guy) and got on pretty well with us Nashos.”



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.

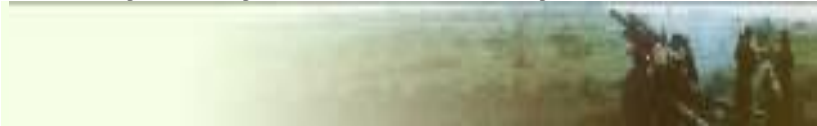
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add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

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

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

. Locating , Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

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



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



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



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://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

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

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